

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

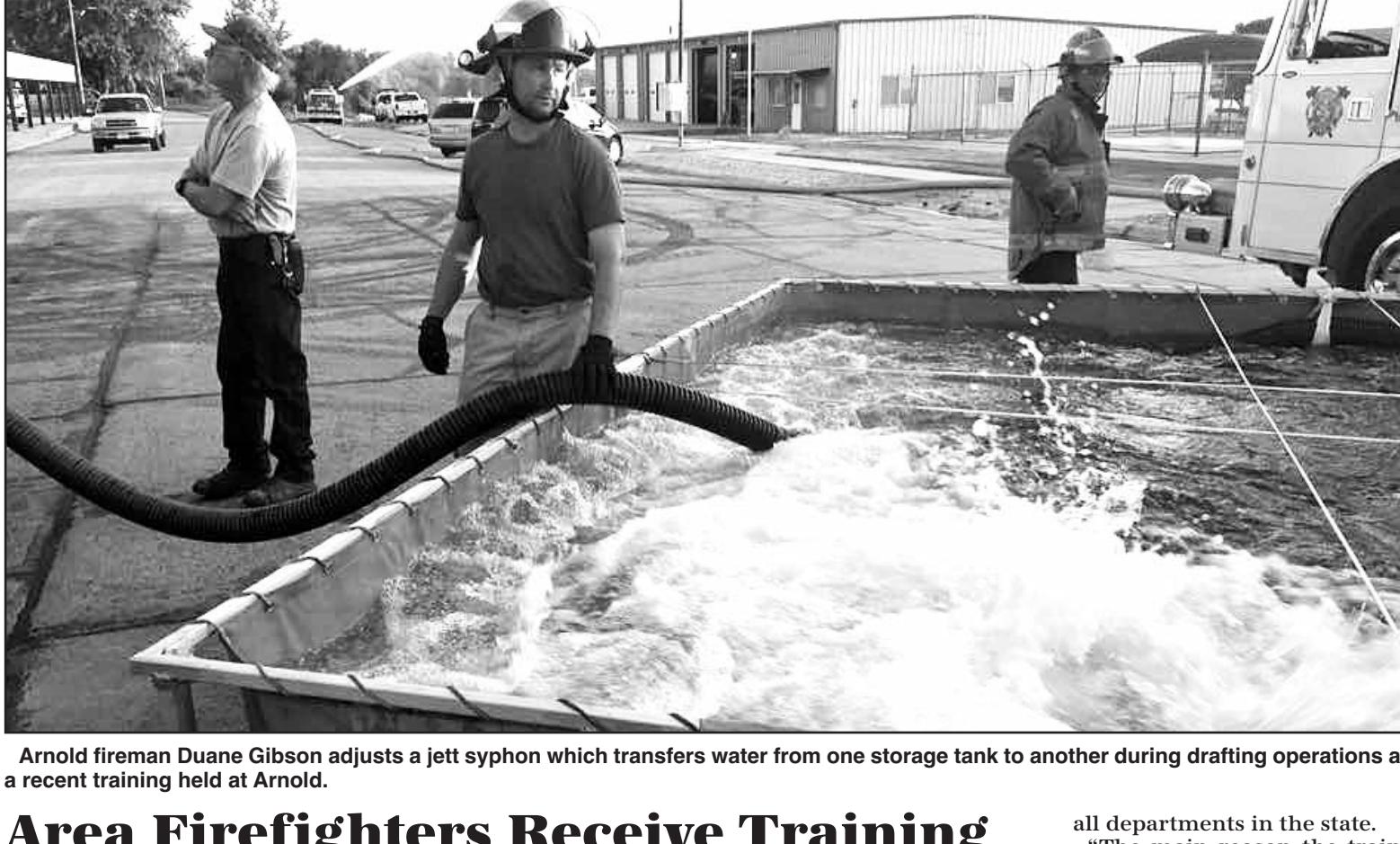
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Arnold fireman Duane Gibson adjusts a jett syphon which transfers water from one storage tank to another during drafting operations at a recent training held at Arnold.

Area Firefighters Receive Training on Pump Engine Operations

Area fire departments received valuable training at a pump engine operations class held at Arnold on August 21 and 24 and September 4 and 7. The class gave pump operators the chance to practice procedures on the pump and to keep familiar with providing a steady supply of water to the

firemen on the fighting end of the hose.

The classroom training on water supplies consisted of city water systems with fire hydrant operations and drafting operations from storage tanks. During hands-on training, firemen put the pumper into operation and began the flow of

water to fire fighting hoses under different fire fighting scenarios.

Eighteen personnel from departments in Arnold, Broken Bow, Merna, Oconto and Callaway participated in the training, instructed by the State Fire Marshal's Training Division which provides free training to

all departments in the state.

“The main reason the training was held is because pump operations is a perishable skill, and fortunately, we don't have many structure type fires in our district; therefore, remaining being trained in pump operations is very important when the time comes,” said Arnold Fire Chief Eric Nelson.

Village Electrical Rates Will Increase Oct. 15

The village board of trustees passed an ordinance to revise electrical rates at their September 11 meeting. Effective October 15, the residential monthly customer charge for single phase will be \$15.75 and for three phase, \$42.25. Residential summer energy rates will be \$0.12440. Residential winter energy the first 750 kWh will be \$0.11940, and the balance will be \$0.09940. Residential rates will take another hike effective October 15, 2018, when the residential monthly customer charge will go to \$16.50 for single phase and \$48.25 for three phase. Summer and winter energy rates will also increase at that time. For the full revision of rates, please turn to page 6.

Live Stream Cameras

In her monthly update, AEDC Director Cheryl Carson said

that Great Plains Communications has reviewed the equipment, accessibility and connections for the location of live stream cameras to the AEDC office. There are some concerns as far as distance between the equipment and internet base. Carson said the goal is to avoid a wireless system which would not provide the same visual quality as the current camera system choice. R.T. Green and Carson will be working on some minor changes to see if it is possible to keep the current choice. The live stream cameras will be used for Arnold events.

Village Receives Donation

Patricia Lamberty read a letter from Paul and Rebecca Godec of Denver, Colorado, who included a \$100.00 donation to the Arnold Recreation Area. The short note read, “We

just want to thank the Village of Arnold for your hospitality during the days around the solar eclipse. The recreation area was a surprise oasis - so clean - just made such a special time for us. We paid our \$6.00 fee and are so thankful that you didn't increase your prices! We have told everyone of this special place. This is a donation just to say thank you.”

Superintendent's Position

The board discussed an application for the village superintendent's position, and directed the clerk to send a letter to the applicant letting him know he wasn't hired for the position. The board then voted to appoint Ralph (Doug) De Laune as the interim village superintendent and to reevaluate the appointment in six months.

In other business, the board:

• After hearings were held

with no comments, passed the proposed budget of \$2,501,517.00 and the proposed property tax request of \$95,950.00.

• Accepted a quote from Johnson Services to jet, vacuum and televise an estimated 600' of sewer main for \$1,950.00.

• Heard a request from a resident to replace and pay for concrete on the alley between the 100 block of South Carroll and South Walnut St. The resident plans to put in a new sewer line, and the alley is in bad shape. The matter was tabled until the special meeting on September 25.

• Agreed to sell the village's radio equipment, which the employees no longer use.

• Was informed that employee Thomas Derr has given two weeks notice, and his last day will be September 22.

Junk Jaunt Is This Weekend

Shoppers from all over the state - and from out of state - will be coming through Arnold this weekend for the 13th annual Nebraska Junk Jaunt. Betty Yeargain, who heads up locations in Arnold, said 12 vendors are signed up here. Several vendors will be at the community center on Friday and Saturday, and the rest spread out at various locations. The Baptist women will be serving food at the community center on both Friday and Saturday.

To find out the locations of not only local vendors, but the over 700 that have signed up in 36 towns along the Loup River and Sandhills Journey Scenic Byways, stop in at Mills Hardware to pick up a guide. The guides will also be available at the community center.

The event, which spans 500 miles, grows each year.

School Board Approves Budget

The APS Board of Education adopted the annual budget at the September 12 meeting, asking for \$2,827,637.52 in taxes for the 2017-18 year. The levy was set at \$613,986. Superintendent Dr. Dawn Lewis said the general fund tax request is down by \$102,580.68, and the request in the special building fund is increased by \$112,230.30 to plan for replacing roofs out of warranty and exploring additional projects. The net increase is \$9,649.62 compared to 2016-17.

“Most of APS cost increases are fixed costs (salaries and benefits). Our budget increases of the last three years have been modest,” said Dr. Lewis.

Tony Eggleston, board president, asked for public comment, and none was offered.

Increase Substitute Pay

A current substitute teacher had collected information from schools in the area comparing how much substitutes are paid and passed it on to Dr. Lewis. A few that were named were: Stapleton - \$100.00 per day; North Platte - \$120.00 per day; Gothenburg - \$110.00 per day; and Callaway, which had recently raised its pay to \$110.00 per day. Arnold had raised their rate about two years ago from \$85.00 to \$95.00.

All members agreed that Arnold needs to raise substitute pay to stay competitive. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to raise the substitute teacher rate to \$110.00 per day.

Principal's Report

Principal Joel Morgan reported that it was a great viewing experience for the eclipse. The jr. high and high school students had planned activities for the younger students and traffic was light.

Homecoming week went great. The Arnold and Callaway Fire and Rescue crews came to the bonfire held at Hidden Valley Campgrounds, which also went really well; however, a lot of students did not attend the dance for reasons unknown.

Upcoming Events

September 21: Noon dismissal. Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.

September 22: No school.

September 27: 1:30 p.m. dismissal. Teacher Inservice.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Lewis reported on the Labor Relations Conference. She talked to a lot of interesting people and was asked to be interviewed by NET News about the substitute teacher shortage in Nebraska right now. The article is posted on their website netnebraska.org and is called “Nebraska Schools Scrambling for Substitutes.”

The next board meeting was set for October 10 at 8:00 p.m. in the APS commons area.



State Grand Champion

Arnold 4-H member Kylee Lehmkuhler, 14, and her Black Labrador Retriever, Mag, participated in the Nebraska State Fair at Grand Island on August 27 and received the grand champion award in intermediate showmanship. In addition, she also received a blue in agility and a red in obedience.

Kylee, who has competed with Mag in 4-H for the past four years, continues to advance at the county level, and this was her second trip to state - the first time was in 2015. Her mom, Ann, says Kylee hopes to earn another trip to state.

Her dad, Mike, is the dog project leader and worked with nine 4-Hers this year.

Although many Western Riders have earned the chance to compete at state in different projects, this is the first time in recent memory that a member has received a grand champion award. (Courtesy photos)

