

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 40

Battling the Blaze



Tammy Weinman photo

Fire department members use a holding tank to draft water into water tanks on grass rigs at a grass fire south of Arnold on March 12. Several departments responded to Arnold's mutual aid call to contain and finally extinguish the massive fire.

Thousands Of Acres Burn South of Arnold

18 Fire Departments Respond to Call for Mutual Aid

By Janet Larreau

A broken power line ignited a grass fire south of Arnold last Thursday, March 12, calling for the largest mutual aid response to our fire district that Arnold Fire Chief Eric Nelson knows of.

The fire started along Lincoln County Spur Road - a paved road that leads off of Highway 47 to the west. The fire burned

to the south into the Gothenburg and Brady fire districts, destroying approximately 3,890 acres.

“The conditions were excellent for a fast moving fire, with 30 mile an hour winds and low humidity,” said Nelson.

After the call came in at 1:58 p.m., Arnold put out a call for mutual aid. Eighteen departments responded from Dunning, Halsey, Thedford, Tryon,

Stapleton, Merna, Broken Bow, Callaway, Oconto, North Platte, Maxwell, Brady, Gothenburg, Cozad, Lexington, Eustis, Farman and Curtis. Two planes also responded.

When those departments arrived at the scene, no coordination was needed.

“They know what they’re doing, and they know where the areas are that need help,” said Nelson.

Country Partners Cooperative provided tankers, farmers showed up to help, and several residents brought food and water for the volunteers.

“A big thank you to all the landowners that helped out, moved livestock, brought water and helped with shovels,” said Nelson, who was the last to leave the scene at approximately 9:45 p.m.

COVID-19: Protocol In Place at Callaway Hospital

Brett Eggleston, CEO of Callaway District Hospital, said that as of last Friday, March 13, the hospital had not even had a patient considered to be under investigation for the coronavirus, but protocol is in place. The hospital is in contact and sharing information with the Loup Basin Health Department and Custer County Emergency Management.

Anyone who has had exposure to someone with the virus, or suspects that they have the virus, is asked to call the hospital first. Arrangements will then be made to care for the patient in their car, or in the ambulance, if that is the case. Since the symptoms are about the same, the patient will first be tested for influenza, which is a rapid test. If that test is negative, then the doctor will move down a different path and start researching at that point. Every effort will be made not to bring the patient into the hospital, but Eggleston said that is not always going to be possible if emergent care is needed. The patient will then be quarantined into a specific room.

Eggleston met with Callaway, Arnold and Oconto EMTs last week and made plans with them about what to do if they have a patient with a suspected coronavirus. EMTs will wear personal protective equipment when answering a call. The hospital is also working closely with Callaway Good Life Center and has a plan in place for them.

“They are our most vulnerable,” he said.

School Closure Announced

The Arnold School Board held an emergency meeting on Monday night, March 16, to approve an effective closure date of the school due to COVID-19. The meeting was held as a result of Nebraska State Education officials recommending that same day that all 244 school districts in the state close their classroom doors and move to remote learning.

The school will close on March 19 with a possible re-opening of Monday, April 6. The closure will be reevaluated on Thursday, April 2, at 7:00 p.m.

Enrichment activities for students will be provided through online resources or paper and pencil packets during the closure. The school will communicate with students and their parents through Schoology.

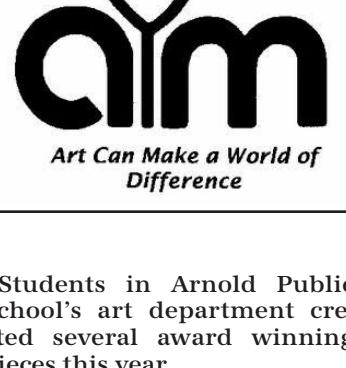
Pre-School Discussed at Board Meeting

A fairly significant amount of time was spent talking about implementing a pre-school program within the school system at last week's school board meeting.

“We had some folks talk to us about the possibility,” said Interim Superintendent Mark Sievering. “We recognize that with a private preschool in town, we want to be respectful of that situation, but some parents want more time than what is offered otherwise.”

He said the board would like to hear from people if they are willing to pay for a preschool in

Continued on page 2.



Students in Arnold Public School's art department created several award winning pieces this year.

APS placed 2nd overall at the MNAC Art Show.

“Though we didn’t have near as many entries as some schools, we took home the 2nd place award as a school,” said art instructor Julie Mohr.

After the competition, Suzy Campbell, the art instructor at Callaway, said, “Arnold brought quality over quantity of work and it paid off!”

Artists are recognized on MNAC teams just like the sports teams. Junior Cecilia Wonch was picked for First Team MNAC Art. Her painting, “My Father’s Love,” was also in competition for Best in Show.

Following is the MNAC results for Arnold students:

Cecilia Wonch (11th Grade): Watercolor - “Ancient Statue” - 4th place; Watercolor - “Old West Perspective” - 1st place; Acrylic/Oil - “My Father’s Love” - 1st place; Acrylic/Oil - “Remembrance” - 2nd place; Acrylic/Oil - “Grandpa Sam” - Honorable Mention; Colored



Courtesy photo

Arnold art teacher Julie Mohr (center) had the privilege of presenting her students, Colbi Smith (left) and Cecilia Wonch (right) their awards at the Scholastic Art Awards ceremony held February 29 in Omaha. Some of the pieces of artwork that received awards are pictured inside this issue.

Drawing - “Rustic Horse” - 2nd place; Computer Generated - “One Cold Day”/Self Portrait - 2nd place; Computer Generated - “Just in Case” - 1st place; Colbi Smith (10th Grade): Photography - “Camouflage” - 1st place; Faith Bierman (10th Grade): Photography - “Quiet Summer Evening” - 4th place; Grant Jones (12th Grade): Photo-

tography - “The Boss of the Plains” - Honorable Mention.

Reagan Cool (10th Grade): Photography - “Painted Waters”

- 5th place.

Jace Connell (12th Grade): Photography - “Solemn Winter Reflections” - Honorable Mention.

Lance Jones (9th Grade): Computer Generated - “A New Dimension”/Self Portrait” - 3rd

place.

Dawson Hanna (12th Grade): Computer Generated - “F.O.E.”

- 4th place.

Two art students, Colbi Smith and Cecilia Wonch, were selected for Scholastic Art Awards, and accompanied their teacher to the ceremony on February 29 at Omaha.

Scholastic Art Awards are

Continued on page 2.