

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Photo/Nathan Aguallo

Synchronicity

Flames danced high into the air, billows of black smoke rose across the horizon, and a pink moon appeared in the evening sky on Tuesday, April 7, north of Arnold. The two events drew residents out of their homes to view two of nature's spectacles simultaneously. The controlled, prescribed burn just outside of Arnold to the northeast, along and on the west side of Devils Gulch road and east of the Dunning road, was held to rid pastureland of invasive red cedar trees and not many people have been this close to viewing a large burn.

The full moon of April, called the Pink Moon, is the biggest "supermoon" of the year.

Arnold Science teacher Melissa Sandagar explained the science behind it: "This full moon coincides with the lunar perigee - the moon's closest point to earth in its monthly orbit, which gives it the appearance of being bigger."

When it became a full moon at about 9:30 p.m., the moon was just 221,851 miles away from the Earth. Despite its name, the moon doesn't actually turn pink - the name is linked to the spring season and a wildflower native to North America called moss phlox that blossoms in beautiful pink colors.

In Arnold's case, the moon actually did appear to be pink due to the fire.



Photo/Mindy Peterson

A view of the pink moon and black smoke from the controlled burn from the vantage point of Highway 92 looking north towards Mills Hardware.

Egg My Yard Fundraiser Nets Over \$900 for Chamber Organization

Twenty-two homes in Arnold were "egged" last Friday evening, as volunteer bunnies tried to beat the forecasted Easter weekend snowstorm. Hopping from house to house, the bunnies hid candy-filled eggs for Chamber's "Egg My Yard" fundraiser.

The idea of organizing the project was spotted on-line by Brandi Corbin a couple of years ago.

"I had seen some other towns and groups hosting an Egg My Yard event and thought this would be a great fundraiser for Chamber and our community," she said. "After bringing my idea up to several in our community and getting great feedback, I knew this was the year to step up and make it happen."

Brandi began asking for plastic egg donations last winter and started advertising on March 1. Her beginning goal was 15 yards. Once that was achieved, she upped it to 20 and ended up with 22, which

totalled 1,168 eggs.

Carroll Street Designs donated 300 plastic eggs, with the rest provided by community members who recycled eggs from past Easter egg hunts. Riverview resident Lois Johnson kindly donated the money to cover the cost of candy to fill the eggs, making the fundraiser 100 percent profit. The total amount brought in was \$920.00. That amount included a \$200.00 anonymous donation that was made to pay off remaining orders that had not been paid.

Four "bunnies" volunteered their time, with several more on a call list if needed. The majority of eggs were hidden Friday night for a Saturday morning deliver. Those who still wished for a Sunday delivery received their eggs in a festive bag at their front door that included a letter from the Easter Bunny.

"To go over my goal was fan

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COVID-19 Cases Rise In Custer County

Burwell, NE - According to an April 6 press release, Loup Basin Public Health Departments (LBPHD) identified an additional positive COVID-19 case in Custer County that resulted in death. The male, in his 80s, was in contact with a known positive case. In an April 11 news release LBPHD confirmed nine additional cases of COVID-19 in Custer County. The cases are all related and involved one staff and eight residents of Callaway Good Life Center in Callaway. In an April 12 news release, six additional cases were reported. Five were at Callaway Good Life Center (two residents and three staff members). The sixth case is a male, in his 20s, who has been isolating at his home since April 6. Health department staff have conducted contact tracing to identify any individuals who were at risk of being exposed and those identified have been asked to quarantine.

Callaway Good Life Center is working in conjunction with Callaway District Hospital, Nebraska Infection Control Assessment and Promotion Program (ICAP), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Great Plains Health and Loup Basin Public Health Department. This team is working together to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all staff and residents involved. Through the collaboration of these agencies, a decision was made to move those residents who tested positive or are symptomatic out of the facility. A deep clean of the empty rooms is being done so that the residents who tested negative can remain in the facility. They will be closely monitored for a change in health status. Staff is

utilizing proper infection control procedures to care for those who remain in Callaway Good Life.

Residents are at a heightened risk of serious complications from the illness because of a multitude of threats including age, underlying health conditions and close living conditions. Callaway Good Life Center had taken early precautions and halted visits from families, volunteers, non-essential medical personnel and vendors as of March 10. In addition, staff have also been monitored for symptoms upon arrival for each shift including temperature logs.

The nursing home cases are examples of community transmission of the virus, meaning the patients did not have a known history of travel. LBPHD is doing contact tracing and reaching out to everyone who may have possibly been exposed to any confirmed cases. Health officials say for every person who's tested positive, they've been in contact with an average of 90 people.

As of April 12, at 4:00 p.m., LBPHD has identified 19 positive cases, all in Custer County. One death has been reported. One hundred and ninety-three tests have been performed within LBPHD's jurisdiction where the virus has not been detected (negative test).

Today's (April 12) state case total, as of 6:30 pm Central Daylight Time, is 814. DHHS launched a new data dashboard that updates the state's COVID-19 case totals daily.

LBPHD encourages all Nebraskan's to follow Governor Ricketts' proclamation of "21 Days to Stay Home and Stay

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Photo/Julie Mohr

Para educators Jackie Sonnenfeld and Shavonne Schacher pack grab-n-go meals for kids in the district last week. The number of meals delivered on the bus routes and curbside keeps increasing.

Number of Grab-n-Go Meals at School Increasing by the Week

Administrators at Arnold Public Schools made the decision to close the facilities on April 7 due to the proximity of cases in Custer County. All that remained as of last week were office staff and food service personnel, who are providing a valuable service to district families.

The number of breakfasts and lunches being delivered and picked up curbside has increased substantially since the doors were closed to students. Head cook Rose Bierman said that the first week, just 25 grab-n-go meals were prepared. Last week, that number had grown to 87 breakfast and lunches.

Rose and assistant cook LeaAnn Edelman prepare all the meals. Paras Jackie Sonnenfeld and Shavonne Schacher pack them up and they are

whisked away on the routes by bus drivers Craig Furne, Dynette Oberg, Maurice Andre and Todd Phelps. Jackie and Shavonne hand out the rest of the meals at the east end of the school. Parents just drive up and the girls take the meals to the vehicles.

Principal Morgan and secretary Heather Hagler keep the

cooks informed and updated on any changes that need to be made.

"This is a very trying time, both emotionally and financially for our community. Our being able to help out with meals gives parents one less thing to worry about," said Rose.

Notable Quote

"You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope."

— Thomas Merton