

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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2020 Grads Finally Get Their Moment

By Janet Larreau

Would it happen at all? Just a few weeks ago, members of the A.H.S. Class of 2020 were unsure if they would be able to receive their diplomas in a traditional ceremony that dates back to 1913. And then COVID-19 health measures were lifted. School administrators and board members wasted no time, scheduling commencement on the first day possible - Monday, June 1.

Wearing caps and gowns in their class colors of platinum and turquoise, the nine happy students took their places on the stage with each allowed to have 15 guests to watch the ceremony. Each group of guests was social distanced.

For the first time in A.H.S. commencement history, these students were unable to shake the hand of a board member and receive their diploma; instead, a small podium was placed on the stage, where the graduates picked up their diploma after having their picture taken.

They were also unable to present a flower to their mother or grandmothers during the flower song; instead, they were handed flowers by escorts Drew Vickers and Bailey Schwarz as they walked out, presenting them to their loved ones later with an emotional hug.

Family members and friends who weren't able to attend watched the 107th annual commencement via live-stream, as Valedictorian Kenna Rogers and Salutatorian Jace Connell gave their speeches.

Principal Joel Morgan introduced salutatorian Jace Connell, who welcomed everyone. “Wow, what a crazy year this has been,” said Jace. “As most of you know, this class, myself included, could not wait for our last day of high school. We just didn't expect it to come as soon as it did. A day that was supposed to be full of fun, laughter, and reminiscing of high school memories, was instead filled with worry, fear, and sadness. “We didn't know what the fu-



Julie Mohr photos

A.H.S. Class of 2020 Valedictorian, Kenna Rogers.

ture held for us in the upcoming months of quarantine. We didn't even know if we would have a proper graduation, but look at us now, about to walk across the stage and receive our diplomas. Although not the graduation ceremony we expected, it is a still a graduation celebration surrounded by the people we love. More specifically, 15 of the people we love... per graduate...separated by 6 feet...as regulated by the COVID-19 guidelines.

“Our adult lives have started in a crazy way, but this is not necessarily all bad. Our class will not be defined by the COVID-19 pandemic; our futures will be defined by how we respond and react to this event. (Hunter, Dawson, and Landry will all be thrilled that I have included this next quote, which

should help to guide our whole class in the years to come). It goes like this, ‘What separates the winners from the losers is how a person reacts to each new twist of fate,’ President Donald J. Trump.”

“Finally I would like to end this speech with an analogy that I think is great for this, graduating class of 2020... Our lives are like glow sticks. We must first be broken before we can shine. Once glowing, we can outshine any darkness with our true colors and make it light again.”

“Thank you class of 2020 for all the memories. Thank you teachers for bestowing your knowledge upon us. Thank you Mr. Morgan for pushing us to do more and to push ourselves, even when we were quite stubborn sometimes. But most of



A.H.S. Class of 2020 Salutatorian, Jace Connell.

all, thank you parents for providing your love and support for us as we took on high school and for being there for us at all times. You will always be our rock and we will always know where to go when we are in need of help because of your love and commitment to us. Thank you.”

After her introduction, Kenna said, “I would like to start off by saying thank you to our families, community, and school faculty and administration that looked on with eager eyes, held our hands, and molded us into the young adults we are today. Without you we wouldn't be on this stage, so on behalf of the class of 2020, thank you. I

“This has been a year for the history books. I have heard so many people talk about how well we have done to adapt, but the truth is we were sad about the things that we didn't get to do.”

Class of 2020
Valedictorian Kenna Rogers

would also like to address a senior that is not on the stage with us tonight, Federico Piva, who sadly had to return to Italy when Covid-19 broke out.

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Historical Marker Placed at Triangle Lanes

A fifth historical marker was placed at Triangle Lanes Bowling Alley last week by Rotary project organizer Berni Crow, who has several more ready to be placed. A reminder that Berni is seeking historical photos and information on buildings in Arnold to complete the project, which will include placing 40-plus signs on buildings.

The Triangle Lanes marker reads as follows:

Triangle Lanes Bowling Alley - 1961

Triangle Lanes Bowling Alley has had an interesting exis-

tence, ever since it started out as a lumber yard. It is located where Dierks Lumber and Coal Company had been built in 1912. Dierks bought lots west of the Finch Drug Store without waiting for the trains to extend lines to Arnold, then built and stocked temporary sheds. (In those days, having a train line pass through your town was a BIG deal, and the best way to get supplies. Even though the town wasn't sure of the exact date the train would arrive in Arnold, a momentous celebration was held June 14, 1912. Things started off with a bang

when Joe Henry and friends rolled several barrels of kerosene to an open spot and set them on fire, breaking several windows, but nobody minded, Arnold was finally a railroad town!) After the trains came, larger permanent lumber sheds and an office were built by young carpenter Homer Koch. “Small frame houses occupied by John and May Finch and Mrs. Will (Lucinda) Mills were moved off the lots to make room for the new lumber sheds.” In 1940, Glen Myers bought Dierks Lumber Yard and converted the lumber

storage sheds to a roller skating rink and dance hall. Since the lumberyard sheds were built open to the elements, Myers had to put up walls and windows on the structures. Arnold folks were known to enjoy dancing, so the building was used regularly. Glen and Margaret Myers had also opened a Tavern in the newly vacated Dierks Office (Jake's Horses and Harley's). In 1961, when Stuart Watson bought the building, he converted Myers Hall into Triangle Lanes Bowling Alley. In the fall, during the grand opening of “Triangle Lanes”, Stuart gave free bowling for a day to anybody coming in that day. Watson added on to the north end of the original lumber sheds to accommodate the bowling machines. (The original sheds were long enough for the lanes, but not long enough for the bowling machines.) Watson also had to cover the windows of the original lumberyard sheds. Stuart added a drive-up window on the side of the bowling alley to serve ice-cream. Dell Cerny bought the Bowling Alley from Stuart in the fall of 1979. When asked why he bought it, he responded, “Stuart Watson talked me into it.” Dell had been bowling on a league for five years and had helped with repair work, so Stuart felt Dell was the perfect person to operate the machines. When Dell said, “Yes”, Stuart offered to finance him. Dell has owned “Triangle Lanes” Bowling Alley ever since (41 years total in the fall of 2020). When Dell bought the building, he continued to

Great Parks Pursuit Begins

Arnold Recreation Area Is on List

LINCOLN, Neb. - Enjoy an outdoor adventure with family or friends. Join the Great Park Pursuit for a chance to visit Nebraska's many park areas, engage in healthy recreation - and possibly win prizes.

As a safety measure, the start of the traditional Great Park Pursuit was delayed until it aligned with Directed Health Measures. With travel restrictions lifting, the program now has opened to receive submissions, and the deadline has been extended to Oct. 31, 2020.

The Great Park Pursuit is a free program encouraging participants to visit up to 20 official sites across the state, consisting of community, regional, state and federal parks. Participants register a team of up to 10 people online and then follow clues from the website or Great Park Pursuit mobile app to find a program post located somewhere within a park area. Once they find the post, the team can use the mobile app to mark their visit, or make a pencil impression of the post to prove they were there.

A number of prizes are up for grabs, including Nebraska state park entry permits for 2021, an iPad, and the grand prize, an outdoor recreation package valued at \$1,500. Prizes and entry into drawings are based on the number of post impressions



Julie Mohr photos

From left: Chyrel, Barb Gunther (holding grandson Rex, and Dell Cerny stand beside the new historical marker placed at Triangle Lanes.

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