

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 1

School Board Plans to Open School as Scheduled

By Janet Larreau

There are still some uncertainties, but at their June 9 meeting, Arnold School Board members made the decision to open the school as scheduled in mid-August. Interim Superintendent Mark Sievering said there aren't any details yet, but the plan is to proceed as the school ordinarily does. If there are changes that need to be made, they will be adapted to. There were quite a few action items to go over at the meeting, including a request that the school be released from part of the ESU contract for next year due to a change in who the school will be required to use as its physical therapist. “Mary Ross from TEAM Physical Therapy has provided this service for a lot of years,” said Mr. Sievering. ESU had the opportunity to hire someone and when we signed the contract in February, we didn't realize that (ESU) had made the change. We found out last month and after

discussion, we prefer to stick with TEAM Physical. Physical therapy isn't a huge part of ESU services and all other services would remain the same. If ESU says that we have a contract, we will have to stick with that.”

Unified bowling will now be offered to students at APS. It's something that has been in the state for a couple of years and is sanctioned by the Nebraska School Activities Association. Students with intellectual disabilities, who may not have the opportunity to participate on a sports team, will be paired with a couple other students to create a team and compete with other students. The season is short, running from mid-October to mid-December, and practice is held once a week.

“It gives some students a sport to participate in and creates some student contact that might not otherwise take place. In places like Arnold, there's more student contact than in a bigger school, but it gives them a new circle of friends. Everybody wins with that one,” said Mr. Sievering.

Junior high cross country will also be added this year. With the addition of high school cross country last year, interest has been expressed to have a junior high option so the kids will know what it's all about. There will only be two meets and no travel. Arnold will practice at Arnold and Callaway will practice at Callaway.

In his report, Mr. Sievering said that Department of Education rules require that the mechanic who does the inspection for school vehicles be appointed by the board. Currently, Sandhills Motors does those inspections and unfortunately, with losing SM, the board needs to appoint a new mechanic.

Principal Joel Morgan reported that summer school, student services and sports conditioning begin June 8. Waivers are required for those who attend.

In other business, the board:

- Tabled classified staff wages/salaries to the July meeting as more information is gathered.
- Raised lunch and breakfast prices by 10 cents for students and 5 cents for adults. Because of reimbursement from the government, Mr. Sievering said the government controls what price is set on meals according to a formula and the increase was needed. The max increase is 10 cents.
- Opened two bids for the 1985 bus. Zach Hagler's high bid of \$500.00 was accepted.
- Declared projectors as surplus property.



Menacing Cloud

It resembled an alien spaceship hovering over his house, but when Rick Beshaler casually stepped out the back door to see what the weather was doing on Monday night, June 8, trees blocked his view of the monster black storm cloud. However, Jason Doty, who was picking up bales in a field to the east captured the scene. Jason reported that he spotted twister tails going up and down out of the cloud. His photo showed the size and scope of the cloud, as the house and barn near by resembled pieces from a Monopoly game.

Then it started hailing. “It scared the bajeebes out of me,” said Rick. “They were golf ball and ping pong size and were bouncing 10 to 15' tall in the air.”

Rick went out to get the vehicles in, but Kim yelled out in no uncertain terms to “Get back in the house. There's a tornado!”

Rick said they only got about 1/2" of rain out of both storms

that moved through the area.

“We're all lucky. We were without power for about two hours. When you're without Netflix, it's a real emergency,” he jokingly said.

Rose Bierman, who lives to the west of the Beshaler place, said they also had golf ball sized hail that came with such force that husband Roger had to dig pieces out of the ground.

Hail also hit town, keeping insurance agents busy answering phones for days after the storm.

The National Weather Service in North Platte reported that the series of strong storm systems resulted in a week straight of severe weather, torrential rainfall and non-thunderstorm high winds, from June 2-9. In their reporting area, seven tornado warnings and 79 severe thunderstorm warnings were issued. Six tornado reports were received on July 8. The highest non-thunderstorm winds were clocked at 71 mph at Broken Bow.



Have kayak, will travel

When emerging from the basement after a tornado sighting, most people assess damages from a storm. Not Jace Connell (pictured) and his brother Cade. They grabbed their kayaks and hit Highway 47, which was transformed into a river after the June 8 storm. The Connell boys took full advantage of kayaking from 4th street past Riverview Apartments.

Pool Set to Open

Measurements will be in place

Both kids and adults will be happy to read that the pool will be opening on Monday, June 22. Superintendent DeLaune gave a report at the June 8 Village Board meeting that Arnold Pool Company was scheduled to be in Arnold on June 10 to grind the rough spots and apply primer. After the pool season is over, the sandblasting and painting project will be done by Arnold Pool Company. Discussion was held on Directed Health Measures for opening of the pool. Gatherings are limited to 25 percent of rated occupancy, excluding staff, for swimming pools. Pool personnel will collect names and phone numbers in case contact tracing is needed. The patron log is nothing new and has been done for several years. Pool personnel will sanitize the

high touch surfaces around the pool and in the bathhouse on a regular basis.

Pool hours were revised to: Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 1:00 to 5:00 and 7:00 to 9:00; Tuesday and Thursday – 1:00 to 6:00 and 7:00 to 9:00; Saturday – 1:00 to 6:00; and Sunday – 1:00 to 9:00. Adult swim times will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5:00 to 7:00 and Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00 to 7:00. Pool fees will remain the same, with a family season pass costing \$90.00, a single season pass \$45.00, daily \$3.00 and adult swim \$2.00.

AEDC Update

AEDC Director Cheryl Carson gave her update, reporting that the post marker for the Great Park Pursuit has been installed at the Arnold Recreation Area. The official start was June 1

and the GPP website is live and updated with the 2020 stops.

Landscaping for the entry sign and check-in station will begin on June 12. Funding for the project was included in the original grant request. Plans have been drawn up and materials have arrived. National Honor Society students have stepped up to assist with the installation of landscaping. Utilities Superintendent Doug DeLaune and Carson will work with the students to construct the block retaining wall beds and plant the evergreens.

Arnold's website updates should be about done next month with the transition of the website to the new platform and the modifications to select pages and the business direc-

Sandhills Motors Approved (Again) For \$225,000 CDBG Loan For Relocation To Broken Bow

By Gavin Higgins
SandhillsExpress.com
June 9, 2020

CUSTER COUNTY— The Custer County Board of Supervisors held their first meeting of June on Tuesday, June 9 in person at the Custer County Courthouse. The main topic on the agenda centered around a public hearing on a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) loan to Sandhills Motors in Arnold. The loan had originally been approved at a May meeting, but due to a procedural misstep, the loan had to be approved again, but not before a public hearing was held.

CEDC Executive Director Andrew Ambriz along with Travis

Hansen, who serves on the CDBG Advisory Committee, spoke to the Supervisors and answered questions about the loan as well as the decision from the advisory committee. Hansen said the committee tries to look at each application as objectively as possible and what will be the biggest benefit to all of Custer County.

Hansen said that approximately a year ago the funds were repurposed to allow the money to be used as a performance-based grant if the project warranted it. As time went along, Sandhills Motors applied for the forgivable loan in the amount of \$225,000 and noted that if the funds were not made available the business could face closure.

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