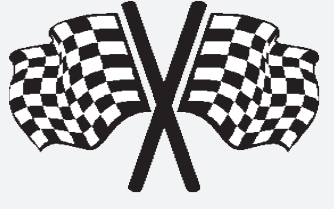


SORC
20th
Anniversary

SANDHILLS OPEN ROAD CHALLENGE

August 5-8



The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 8

Arnold Fire Department Receives Estimated \$158,000 In Donations and Equipment Over Last 20 Years from SORC



Courtesy photo

EMT Tammy Weinman, EMT/Firefighter Tom Dennis, EMT Susan Nelson, EMR/ Firefighter Dell Cerny are pictured with some of the equipment the AVFD has acquired over the years from SORC.

Thankful for the Support

The Arnold Volunteer Fire Department has provided Fire and Rescue services for the Sandhills Open Road Challenge for 20 years. Four members of the department have been there from the beginning and have provided EMS services all 20 years. Those dedicated members are: EMT Tammy Weinman, EMT/Firefighter Tom Dennis, EMT Susan Nelson, and EMR/Firefighter Dell Cerny. These members have many fond memories over the years.

Susan Nelson said, “The people and the adrenaline rush you get from the roar of the cars are my favorite part of SORC. I love how the drivers support the local kids and community!”

Dell Cerny remembers the year of 2001 the most. The

highlight for him was helping with the car show. “Every year is different. What stands out to me is how the racers handle themselves in such a professional manner,” said Dell.

Tom Dennis stated, “I remember one of the wrecks and being nervous about cutting the car apart. The helicopter landed on the road and the patient was flown out to the hospital. It was good to look back and see how well things went.” Tom also enjoys getting to know the drivers.

Tammy Weinman remembers all of the challenges. “There have been several wrecks over the years. Extrication is always a challenge with the different cars,” she said. “All of the EMS providers work well together and do a great job at providing support for the race. One of

the best improvements has been adding Priority Medical Transport - an ALS ambulance service - to the race. Lifenet also tries to be available if they are not on another flight. One of my favorite things about SORC is developing friendships with other EMS providers and the drivers. Lasting friendships have been formed.”

When SORC first started, the department soon realized it didn't have all of the equipment it really needed to provide the best care during SORC. Over the years SORC and the Winter Party have provided needed equipment such as helping pay for a 12 Lead, bunker gear, air splints, a command vehicle, a doppler, pulse oximeters, TNT Extrication Rescue Tools, a ranger, a gator with trailer, a skid unit, K12 Rescue

Saw, a thermal imaging camera and SCBA. The AVFD has received an estimated \$158,000 or more in monetary donations and equipment. The department is very grateful to all who have made these donations possible.

“I remember being at the Winter Party one year when they were raising money for a 12 Lead. I remember getting emotional seeing how much the racers care enough about our community that they would raise thousands of dollars to help us get equipment that can help save someone's life in our community. Our department and community have been so blessed over the years because of SORC and everyone that has made SORC what it is today,” said Tammy.

SORC Exceeds \$1 Million In Local Donations

Since the first race car pulled up to the starting line 20 years ago, the Sandhills Open Road Challenge has donated over \$1 million to a long list of projects and organizations in Arnold and surrounding communities.

The SORC Winter party has contributed a large percentage of the purchase price for several pieces of equipment donated to the Arnold Fire Department. This includes monetary donations made each year. Other fire and rescue departments that have received donations include: Broken Bow, Callaway, Anselmo, Dunning, Thedford, Stapleton, Oconto, Halsey, Tryon, Merna, Gothenburg, Wakefield and the U.S. Forest Service.

The SORC played a big part in the building of the Arnold Community Center, contributing to the building fund, building addition fund and providing money for the projector and drop down screen. The Rialto Theatre also benefitted, with money donated for dry-wall, the projector and seats.

Both the Arnold City Park and Arnold Recreation Area (ARA) have seen improvements due to

Continued on page 2.

Public Hearing Held on Placing KENO on Ballot

The Village Board of Trustees held a public hearing on July 27 to allow the public to give its input in placing the question of whether or not to conduct a lottery (KENO) in Arnold on the General Election ballot. One person in attendance spoke in favor of placing the question on the ballot, saying they think KENO would be a good thing because it would bring money into Arnold for the betterment of the community.

No one spoke in opposition. A resolution authorizing and directing that a ballot issue (KENO) will be placed on the General Election ballot will be on the August 10 agenda.

Pool Issues

Board members were informed that Arnold Pool Company will sandblast and paint the pool after it closes for the season at a cost of \$42,296.00. Arnold Pool Company will be asked by the village superintendent if they will do the project next spring instead of this fall. Pool manager Shavonne Schacher said that the pool is leaking and she is concerned about issues underneath the pool. A decision was made that \$15,000.00 will be included in the budget for those repairs. Shavonne suggested that the Board might want to look into the cost of a new pool and bond the project instead of putting more money into the pool.

In other business, board members:

Continued on page 2.

Board Approves Return to Learning Plan

By Janet Larreau

With the COVID-19 pandemic in focus, the Arnold School Board approved a Return to Learning Plan at a special meeting held last week that will provide transparency to all faculty, staff, parents and students as they return to school on August 13.

Before a plan was made, parents were surveyed through Schoology. Superintendent Joel Morgan said 65 responses were received. Eighty-nine percent indicated that they were going to send their kids back to school in August, with 87 percent suggesting that masks should be optional. Parents also had the opportunity to share concerns or questions they had regarding the reopening.

“It gave us feedback in creating the plan in what we felt was on the minds of the parents. Just in our conversations, the #1 issue was masks,” said Mr.

Morgan, who also worked with some other superintendents in the area and also relied on guidance from NRCSA, the health department and the Nebraska Department of Education.

“The most important thing was holding a special board meeting providing the opportunity for input and questions and gaining approval from the board. It is a plan that many people have an opinion on. There was a combination of parents and staff members in attendance,” he said. “I had met with some of the staff the week prior. They want to be back in the classroom. They understand we will have to take precautions and the daily norm really doesn't exist anymore. Both teachers and students will need to take time to wipe down desks and practice hand washing. These are things that will be in the schedule that weren't normally there. They want to do what it takes and get back to work.”

A big part of the plan is a “risk

dial,” with Green indicating little to no COVID cases in the school district and no cases in the student or staff population. Yellow will indicate mild COVID spread in the school district and very few cases in the student and staff population. Orange indicates moderate COVID spread in the district and enough cases in the student and staff population to disrupt learning. Red indicates significant COVID spread in the school district and enough cases in the student and staff population to force remote learning.

Signage has been created by Schoolhouse Graphic Products that will be on the doorways that will have the risk dial and a larger diagram showing where the school currently is.

“If we find ourselves changing the dial, we will communicate that and what our response is. We will make sure that we are very transparent and provide as much information as we can at that time,” said Mr. Morgan.

Following are key points of the plan:

- Conduct temperature checks to all staff and students entering our building each day. Children riding the bus will have their temperature checked before getting on the bus. Parents will be contacted if their child is not allowed on the bus.
- Masks will be required for students and staff when our risk dial status is at orange.
- No outside visitors will be allowed. This includes parents volunteering or wanting to eat lunch with their children.
- Parent meetings with staff will still be allowed but need to be scheduled. A designated meeting place will be established outside of the classroom.
- Parents dropping off materials and picking up students will be restricted to office access only.
- Social distancing will need to be followed during stu-

Continued on page 2.