

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Photo/Jessica Tickle

Colbi Smith (The Ringmaster) and Jesse Connell (Tour Manager) perform in Arnold's One-Act play “Elephant's Graveyard” at District competition December 2 at Ansley. Both Colbi and Jesse received Outstanding Performance awards, along with Landyn Cole, Reagan Cool, Lance Jones, and Trey Connell. Earning the Class D-2 5 championship trophy, the cast and crew moved on to the state level this week.

## Arnold thespians claim district champion title Punch Ticket to State

By Jadeyn Bubak  
A.H.S. Senior

On December 2, the Arnold play production team gave an outstanding performance at their D2-5 District competition held at Ansley. The crew was on point, and the cast delivered an extremely emotional show, leading them to claim the title of District Champions.

Winning districts wasn't an easy feat, but it was an achievable goal with a hard-working

group like Arnold.

“I believe that hard work has been the key for producing a state-qualifying show the past two years. Early mornings, late evenings, individual practices... the result is a high-quality product. The team this year has been incredibly motivated and dedicated, and it shows. The individual growth has been tremendous, and they also work beautifully as a team. I could not be more proud,” commented Head Coach Lana Cool.

It was a well-rounded effort by all, and several of Arnold's performers really wowed the judges. Landyn Cole, Jesse Connell, Colbi Smith, Reagan Cool, Lance Jones, and Trey Connell all received Outstanding Performer Awards.

Cole, a four-year veteran, was exceptionally excited to earn the chance to compete at state again her senior year.

“I think a lot of the returning actors felt a little bit of pressure to win districts this year after placing second at state last year.

If anything, though, that just pushed us to work harder this season. We all want the gold at state this year, and as a senior, I think that would be a pretty amazing end to my high school acting career,” she said.

The Arnold One Act team performed at the Johnny Carson Theatre on December 9. The time of the show was not released yet, but the Class D2 schools had the morning session on Wednesday. Stay tuned for the results from their state production!

## Coronavirus Vaccines Are Scheduled to Arrive in Nebraska This Month

LINCOLN – On December 2, Governor Pete Ricketts held a press conference at the State Capitol to provide an update on the State's work to slow the spread of the coronavirus. The Governor announced that the first coronavirus vaccines are on track to arrive in Nebraska the week of December 13-19, 2020.

Gov. Ricketts also reported that coronavirus hospitalizations in Nebraska are currently at 869. This is down from a high of 987 on November 20th. Nebraska remains in the “orange” phase of its pandemic response, which is the second most restrictive phase. The Governor reminded Nebraskans to be thoughtful when planning holiday gatherings to protect at-risk loved ones. He also urged Nebraskans to stay home when sick to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Incident Commander Angie Ling joined the Governor to discuss the State's vaccination plan. She announced that the federal government has forecasted Nebraska to receive about 100,000 doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines (combined) by the end of December. The arrival of the vaccines is contingent on final approval from federal regulatory agencies.

“It's vitally important that those on the frontlines in the fight against the pandemic stay as healthy as possible and that we reduce their chances of spreading this virus. This is why the first allocations will focus on healthcare personnel,” said Gov. Ricketts.

All Nebraskans are eligible for testing through Test Nebraska. Check out [TestNebraska.com](https://testnebraska.com) for the latest schedule and locations.

## Historical Marker Placed at First Baptist Church



Courtesy photo

Standing in front of the Baptist Church's original bell that is located at the new church, Pastor Irving Jennings and wife Melody hold the historical sign marker that depicts the history of the church.

Historical markers continue to be placed on buildings in Arnold. A project of Arnold Rotary, Berni Crow has compiled the information for the signs. This week we feature the First Baptist Church. The marker reads as follows:

### First Baptist Church (1889 - Present)

One hundred thirty-one years ago, eleven believers had been meeting in homes for worship and Bible study. On April 6, 1889, this group decided that it was time to establish an organized church. A sod building was erected in 1890 at a cost of around \$500. This church served them until around 1906

and was located just south of the old Methodist Church (Mildred Smith home). One of those first eleven charter members was a man named Timothy Maxson, who made the statement, “I will sign if its name will be Baptist Church!”. It was then that the group became the FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH. Maxson is the father of Ethel Maxson Scott, grandfather to Frances Scott, great grandfather to Melva Scott Phillips and Loren, and great great-grandfather to Jessica (Fletcher), Shawn, and Ty Phillips. Two of the youngest members of this lineage are continuing the tradition of liv-

ing in Arnold; Dagen and Charlea, children of Jessica and Matt Fletcher make their home in Arnold, representing the sixth generation of this line. Jessica Fletcher stated recently, “It's really neat to be a part of my church's history,” after seeing a news clipping announcing the 130th Anniversary of the Arnold First Baptist Church. (Their family continues to attend the same church started 131 years ago by the group of eleven that included her ancestor.) The 1890-1906 sod church was dismantled in 1920 to make room for a new home. (At that time, however, it looked like a framed church

because it had been enclosed by a frame structure and had kalsomined walls inside. Its walls were in perfect shape and the buffalo grass was preserved under the wooden floor. Circa 1906-1919, Kate Smith “Aunt Kate” had used the building as a hotel called Evergreen. It was also used to teach children in the “Evergreen School”. In 1905, the first frame church was built for the Baptists, after having had services in the sod church for sixteen years. Upon completion of the church, a parsonage was built on the north side. Six Mission Circle women picked 56 bushels of

corn to raise money for the ornate stained glass window. On a cold evening, December 26, 1920, the frame church was severely damaged by fire, perhaps caused by a heating stove, and was no longer able to be used. Fortunately, the parsonage survived. It was decided to build a brick and stucco building on the same site using the \$25,000 insurance money. A year later, the cornerstone was laid for a new church that was finally completed in 1926. (Work had stopped for two years in 1923.) A gymnasium was completed in the church

See Historical Marker, Page 2



An identical historical marker was placed on the sign at the old Baptist Church.