

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 27



Photo/Suzanne Jones

Arnold High School's State Championship One Act Team and coaches pose for a quick group shot after performing at the state competition on December 9. Pictured are: (back, l-r) Trey Connell, Rio Remund, Grace Neth, Delaney Rogers, Jesse Connell, Johnathon Lamphear, Alex Shown; (middle, l-r) Coach Lana Cool, Drew Vickers, Jadeyn Bubak, Shayla Tickle, Logan Peterson, Kacee Dvorak, Halie Recoy, Logan Recoy, Coach Leta Connell; (front, l-r) Lance Jones, Reagan Cool, Colbi Smith, Colby Streit, Landyn Cole, Jayden Hanna-Miles.

One Act Makes History Arnold Claims State Title

By Jadeyn Bubak
A.H.S. Senior

On December 9, the Arnold One Act team earned the title of Class D2 State Champions on the Johnny Carson stage in Norfolk. Winning a state championship is an incredible feat. The whole Elephant Graveyard cast and crew's hard work and dedication displayed to everyone watching as the team gave their best performance of the season on the state stage.

To celebrate Arnold's historic

state win, the team, family, and friends gathered at Grazer's Bar and Grill. Everyone watched the live-streamed award ceremony together, and the crowd erupted with each award-winning announcement.

The entire cast was exceptional, and the judges noted several standouts. Colbi Smith not only received an Outstanding Performance Award for his portrayal as Charlie Sparks, the circus's ringmaster; he was also named the Most Outstanding Male Performer. This is an

award of a high caliber, and Smith should be extremely proud. His commitment to the team and the manner in which he bettered himself as an actor all year show how deserving he was.

"It was really a dream come true. It was an incredible feeling to see all of our hard work pay off. Also, being able to celebrate our state championship with each other and our families made it just that much better. This team has been like a second family to me this sea-

son, and I couldn't be more thankful for each and every one of them. This is Charlie Sparks... signing off," said Smith.

Other actors that received Outstanding Performance Awards were Landyn Cole, Jesse Connell, Reagan Cool, Lance Jones, Delaney Rogers, and Trey Connell. These actors left their hearts on the stage with each production and are worthy recipients of this

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On-Line Auction Raises \$46,000 for ACFF

Where there's a will, there's a way.

Although the Arnold Community Foundation Fund's annual banquet and auction was cancelled this year due to the pandemic, it didn't detour the committee from raising only slightly less than in previous years.

"We didn't know for sure what to do, and looked into options. Tony Eggleston offered to do an on-line auction through Agri Affiliates' website. It worked out thanks to Tony and Joel (Morgan). They did a lot of work," said ACFF President Shane Cool.

It was the first time Agri Affiliates has ever done a multi-item on-line auction, and offered the service free to the Foundation.

One-hundred-seven items were donated and auctioned off from November 30 to December 6, raising a total of \$46,000.00. Payment and pick up of items was held at the school's East Campus.

After the total proceeds were tallied up, the committee thanked all of the auction donors, all of the buyers for selflessly opening up their wallets, and Tony and Agri Affiliates for making it happen on such short notice.

Missing this year was the presentation of the annual Philanthropic awards, which are presented during the banquet and auction.

Proceeds from the auction will help build the Foundation's unrestricted endowment - an account that provides a steady stream of resources for community needs, projects, programs, and opportunities forever.

The funds raised support local entities each year as they make continued improvements to our quality of life in Arnold. The Arnold Public Schools, Arnold Public Library, Rialto Theatre, School House Graphics, Village of Arnold, Arnold Golf Course, Arnold Economic Development Corporation, and Arnold Cemetery have all received funding since the formation of the ACFF.

Christmas Around Town Moves to Main Street



Courtesy photo

Santa leans over to get a good look at Beckett Preston's well prepared, handwritten Christmas wish list, which was double sided. Santa's visit was part of Christmas Around Town events held December 9 in downtown Arnold.

The Annual Chamber-sponsored Christmas Around Town was presented a little differently this year due to COVID-19, but ended up being one of the best in years. The appreciation supper - normally held at the community center - was cancelled, and everything was moved downtown, where holiday decorations twinkled in business windows, welcoming what ended up being hundreds of residents to town.

"I feel like it was one of the best years," said organizer April Tickle, owner of Touch of Grace Massage Therapy & Spa. "I was worried with COVID that we wouldn't get the crowd, but at my business alone, I sold more gift certificates than in the past."

Holiday decorations were set up at Koubek Gardens, where kids visited Santa, received a sack of treats from Santa's elf, and moved on to pet two live

reindeer brought to town by Stable Productions out of Seneca. Chamber packed 100 treat sacks, and surprisingly, that amount ended up being short by three or four. Last year, only 80-85 bags were handed out.

BrewBakers Coffee House & Gifts owner Jodi Carlson said that this year, Christmas Around Town was greatly supported by many.

"It was a beautiful December

day, and having the Christmas activities at Koubek Gardens increased our traffic flow considerably. We had significant foot traffic and revenue increase compared to last year. I am so grateful that the Chamber moved the activities back to Main Street. There was a contagious holiday buzz around town this year, which made for a very enjoyable evening for patrons and businesses. I know these events take a lot of organ-

izing and workers to pull them off. Kudos to all that made this happen for our town."

"It's a go from here on out that Santa and his reindeer will be at Koubek Gardens. It helped the downtown businesses, was more festive and gave that hometown Christmas feel," said April.



Photo/Debbie Connelly

According to his mom, Carter Nansel wasn't too interested in visiting with Santa, but was excited to move on down candy cane lane to pet the live reindeer brought to town by Stable Productions.