

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Courtesy photo

April Tickle and Dusty Stutzman take aim at humanoid training targets at the gun range south of Arnold. Laura Garrison's son, Gage, brought the targets from Denver for the new all-female organization, Second Amendment Sisters, to try out and to help his friend launch his business. At this special shoot, an exception was made, and males were also invited to test their skills.

Second Amendment Sisters Organization Growing In Arnold

A new organization was formed in Arnold in July of 2020, when several women gathered at the gun range south of town to learn the basics of how to handle a gun. Aptly named the Second Amendment Sisters (SAS), the group's instructor is Lori Stutzman.

“For the last several years as a firearm instructor, I had multiple women tell me, ‘I want to learn to shoot,’ or ‘I want to get better at shooting’; however, due to the restrictions at the Arnold gun range, the group couldn’t be under a national organization, which presents the training for you. This summer just seemed like the right time to teach women with all the unrest that was happening. People were worried and scared, and I needed to act. I think it is important for a woman to be able to protect herself, whether it is with a gun or non-lethal methods,” said Lori.

The women started with the basics of gun safety and shooting fundamentals and focused on that for several months because of the number of new shooters coming in each month. They have also worked on drawing from a holster and from a concealed holster. In February and March, they plan to meet at Triangle Lanes – their go-to place when the weather doesn’t cooperate – and learn how to properly clean their gun. Another presentation will be held on awareness and confrontation avoidance and resolution. In the spring, they will hit the range again and continue to build on their skills and abilities.

The Facebook group has over 60 members, with an average of five to 12 members showing up at group meetings since the first shoot. They are currently meeting once a month on the first Saturday at 3:30 p.m. Any female, currently age 18 or

over, is welcome to join. There are no requirements. The membership cost is on a pay as you come basis. A \$2.00 donation is requested to help pay for targets or anything special that members will do or need.

At some point, Lori hopes to bring in another female instructor as a special guest for training.

“Someone else can always teach you something new or different to better your knowledge and abilities,” said Lori.

She welcomes any woman interested in learning how to be safer to attend the awareness presentation.

Lori described the number of women who keeps joining month after month as “awesome,” and encourages more to join in the coming year.

For more information go to Second Amendment Sisters Facebook page and ask to join.

School Board Reorganizes, Votes to Add Pre-School

The Arnold School Board reorganized for the new year at its meeting held on January 12. The oath of office was administered to new board member Justin Strasburg. Officers elected were: Duane Bowers, president; Joe Cool, vice-president; Eric Nelson, treasurer; and Shane Cool, secretary. The president appointed several committees to serve during the year.

At the start of the regular meeting, out-going board member Diana Coleman was recognized for her 12 years of service as a Board of Education member.

Superintendent Joel Morgan said the vaccinations for school staff is part of the next phase for the COVID vaccinations, and the school will be transitioning away from masks as part of the school day. The district is still seeing some active cases, but we are now at the yellow level. With some mandates still in place, the school will be looking at upgrading its cameras that are used for live streaming of home games.

In action items, both the negotiations committee and teachers have settled on a \$400.00 increase on the base salary,

along with insurance adjustments, resulting in a 2.99 percent increase.

After discussion, a pre-school program was approved by a 5-1 vote for the 2021-2022 school year. About 14 patrons turned out to listen to the discussion and give their input; Mr. Morgan said the majority was in favor. Concerns expressed at the meeting were the additional cost to the budget and if there are other options out there. The pre-school will start next year on the East Campus. The administration and board will still have to finalize details of the program and what the structure will look like.

The school will apply for an Early Childhood Education Grant offered by the Nebraska Department of Education. If accepted, District #89 will have the potential of receiving anywhere from \$25,000.00 to \$50,000.00 to help get the program started.

Mr. Morgan reported that the school will begin to advertise for Mr. Peterson's position. The lunch program is expanding the salad bar offering down to grades 3-5, as well as upgrading the breakfast bar, offering more fruit and yogurt.

Rezoning Request Denied by Village Board

A zoning request to change a residential district to a general commercial district in the south part of town was voted down by members of the Village Board of Trustees at their regular meeting held on January 11.

The first step in considering the request was a public hearing held on January 4, when Planning Commission members heard public comments. Several residents turned out at the hearing, with the majority opposing rezoning the property for various reasons. Zoning Administrator Doug De Laune, said that Commission members disapproved Dennis Conner's request for rezoning the property for use as storage units based on three reasons: comments from the public, the proposed zoning change is not consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, and it would set a precedent to allow other residents to request rezoning in the residential district.

The second step was a public hearing held during the Village Board's regular meeting, when

several members of the public once again turned out to voice their opinion. After the public hearing, the Village Board based its vote on the recommendation from the Planning Commission.

Gun Club Request

Dusty Stutzman attended the meeting to inform members about the newly reorganized Arnold Gun Club. Stutzman is

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Fire Dept. Responds to Several Calls

Arnold Volunteer Fire Department members responded to four calls last week, starting on January 13 with a call coming in at 11:20 a.m. for a pasture fire 8 miles west of Arnold on the Eldon Christensen place. The fire burned 25 acres and at press time, no one was sure how it started. Arnold received mutual aid from Stapleton to contain the fire.

High winds gusting to 60 to 65 miles an hour made for quite the long day for the department on the 14th.

At 2:00 p.m., the department answered a mutual aid call from Stapleton to help with a grass fire. The fire started from an old burn from two weeks prior or longer. Sparks were picked up by the high winds.

At 3:00 p.m., members were called to assist Custer County with traffic control when a semi blew over east of Arnold.

At 4:00 p.m., a fire that started 10 miles west of Arnold behind some buildings out by Craig Halstead's. The small fire was contained quickly.

Then at 12:40 a.m., on the 15th, with the wind still howling, firefighters received a mutual aid call from Gothenburg and Brady on a large grass fire 20 miles south of Arnold. Fireman Robbi Smith said the Arnold department was back in Arnold by 5:00 a.m., but Gothenburg and Brady were still on the scene, monitoring for quite some time. This fire, which was several miles long, got into some pockets that were hard to get to. It was a big group effort, with nine or ten departments and at least 30 fire trucks on the scene. This fire started from a New Year's Day burn and the high winds got it going again.

“There were a lot of corn stalks. The wind would pick them up and carry them and the air was full of embers. It was not only the wind, but the dirt made zero visibility,” said Smith.



Courtesy photo

Arnold High National Honor Society students (new inductees in sashes, previous members are in stoles): back row: Landyn Cole, Bailey Schwarz, Kacee Dvorak, Kylee Lehmkuhler; middle row: Carly Gracie, Halie Recoy, Shayla Tickle, Devin Peterson, Faith Bierman, Talli Martin, Reagan Cool; front row: Clay Witthuhn, Sam Cool, Eli Taylor, Lance Jones, and Silas Cool.

Not Pictured: Jayden Bubak and Colbi Smith

The Future of National Honor Society

By Kacee Dvorak,
NHS Historian

On January 14, 2021, the

Arnold National Honor Society

proudly inducted eight new

members. The inductees in-

cluded: Sam Cool, Silas Cool, Talliana Martin, Devin Peter-
son, Clay Witthuhn, Lance
Jones, Halie Recoy, and Shayla
Tickle. A ceremony for school
students was streamed live
through the South Loup Strive

channel. A celebratory supper
for members and their parents
happened later that night. It is
a great accomplishment to be
inducted into National Honor
Society. The Arnold National
Honor Society is excited that so

many new people get to be part
of this amazing group. Congratulations new members, the
future of Arnold's NHS is very
bright!