

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 46

Joining Forces



Photo/Debbie Connelly

Volunteers tackle over 30 locations during clean-up day

(Pictured above) Senior class members throw branches and limbs into a trailer at the former Fitz Harris property (now owned by the AEDC) south of the post office last Monday as part of community clean-up day. The students were also helping village employees haul away old windows and metal before the big project starts of clearing the property entirely in the future. Volunteers from the school and community cleaned up over 30 public and residential locations on Monday, landscaping at public areas, picking up branches and trash, raking yards, and hauling items to the roll-off container near the village shop. The volunteers, including students, staff, and administrators, gathered at the community center bright and early, where they were served donuts and given their instructions for the day. Inside work included disinfecting all the tables and chairs at the community center and installing and restocking shelves at the food pantry. Residents who needed an extra hand were encouraged to sign up in the weeks leading up to clean-up day. Legion members were also involved, picking up most any type of metal and Village employees were available anywhere needed. The first scheduled community clean-up date was moved to the 26th due to inclement weather, but it was worth the wait. Temperatures were in the 80s and everyone stayed well hydrated with free water provided by the Village. The Village designated the entire month of April as community clean-up month, providing the roll-off container to residents free of charge.

Goodwill Donation Drive Scheduled In Arnold

Goodwill Industries of Greater Nebraska is having a donation drive in Arnold beginning on Friday, May 28, and continuing daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. until Wednesday, June 2. People living in and the surrounding area can drop off their donations at the Goodwill donation trailer parked at the Arnold City Park.

Virtually anything in your home or garage that you no longer use is accepted; clothing, household items, shoes, boots, purses, belts, hats, books, computers, printers, monitors and computer accessories can be placed inside the Goodwill trailer. Due to limited storage space, furniture, television and large appliances are not accepted. Tax donation receipts are available at the trailer.

Goodwill appreciates the generosity of the people in your community and surrounding area. Revenue generated through the sale of donated items at Goodwill's retail stores supports services for people in living in greater Nebraska.

Students named to MNAC All-Academic Team

Six Arnold students have been named to the 2021 MNAC All-Academic Team.

Named to the second team with a 27-29 composite on the ACT were seniors Jayden Bubak, Landyn Cole, and Sam Cool.

Named honorable mention (25-26 composite on ACT) were seniors Alex Shown and Colby Streit and junior Colbi Smith.

The full list of area students name to the list can be found on page 6.

Governor encourages residents to make their voice heard on NDE Standards

By Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts

Earlier this year, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) published draft health standards for public comment that included several sex education topics. Like many Nebraska parents, I was deeply troubled by the standards. They would teach young children age-inappropriate content starting in kindergarten. They would also inject non-scientific, political ideas into curriculum standards. That's why I have called on the NDE to scrap the proposed sex education topics in the standards.

I want to be clear about how the Nebraska Department of Education is governed. Unlike many other state agencies, NDE does not report to me. The agency is governed by a board that's separately elected. I will not have the final say as to whether or not the standards are adopted. It's very important for parents to weigh in with their input as the State Board of Education decides what to do with the standards. We need to fight to keep our schools free from sexually mature content and partisan indoctrination. Parents, not bureaucrats, should decide how to educate children about sex and controversial cultural issues.

The proposed sex education standards represent a significant shift in approach to health education. Many of the new themes are sensitive topics that should be addressed by parents at home and not by schools. Children who are the same age often mature at different rates. Families approach many of these topics from different perspectives, and may choose to address them at different points in a child's development.

That's why parents, not schools, should be the ones deciding when and how to educate kids about many sex-related topics.

It's important to understand just how radical the draft NDE standards are. The standards would introduce kids to politically motivated and sexually explicit content at very young ages. The standards say that first graders should be taught to define gender identity. Fifth graders would be educated to "explain that gender expression and gender identity exist along a spectrum." At 12 years old, students would be taught about anal and oral sex. Many kids that age haven't yet reached puberty. This material not only sexualizes our kids, it goes far beyond basic biological facts about reproduction and clearly crosses the boundary of what's appropriate to discuss in the classroom.

There's a reason why NDE ended up with such outlandish standards: The process to develop these standards was flawed. While NDE did not consult with the State's Chief Medical Officer when drafting the standards, OutNebraska, a LGBTQ political activist group, was invited to participate in the development of the standards. Meanwhile, mainstream groups like the Nebraska Catholic Conference were denied a role in the process—even though Catholic schools educate about 10% of kids in our state. Given the non-inclusive approach, it's not surprising that the draft standards are out of touch.

Furthermore, it's not a requirement for the Nebraska Department of Education to write health standards. In the past, the Nebraska Legislature has specifically decided against this kind of approach to sex education.

After reviewing the proposed health standards, a bipartisan majority of State Senators wrote a letter calling on the NDE to remove "all sex education and other ideologically motivated content" from them.

The review process isn't over yet, and it's important that you make your voice heard. In the coming months, the NDE will re-evaluate the draft health standards in light of the public

input it has received. The draft was full of problems, and I continue to urge the NDE to scrap the sex education topics altogether rather than trying to modify them.

The State Board of Education met on April 2, 2021, to hear public input on the standards. An overwhelming majority of speakers voiced strong opposition to them. It was evident from the meeting that the standards lacked the public support

that should be expected for curriculum taught in schools.

I encourage parents in Nebraska to review the draft health standards at education.ne.gov and to provide feedback by completing the Health Education Standards Survey on the NDE's website. Nebraskans should also contact their district representative on the State Board of

See NDE Standards, Page 2

Serving Together



Courtesy photo

April and Andrew Tickle train and work together as members of the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department.

This week we continue a series on married couples who are serving together on the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department. Andrew and April Tickle are featured volunteers.

The couple said, "It is a great pleasure to serve the community on the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department. We are both very passionate about being there for someone in their time of need. We are like-minded and work well together in trainings and guiding each other to better ourselves with the equipment and the tasks at hand makes it enjoyable! The adrenaline and excitement of fires and calls just runs in our blood! We really do enjoy our AVFD family and giving back to our community."