

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## VBS Benefits Local Food Pantry



Photo/Jessica Tickle

Kirby Viter laughs while watching Parker Neth takes his turn cracking a raw egg over Pastor Lee Wonch's head on the last night of Vacation Bible School on Thursday, June 10. The kids were challenged to bring goods for the Arnold Food Pantry throughout the four days. On the last night the goods would then be weighed to see if they were heavier than Pastor Lee and volunteers Merle Bierman and Corban Bigbee. The goods came in at 780 pounds resulting in a win for the kids to smash eggs their leaders.

### By Pastor Lee Wonch

The Tallin Church hosted a Vacation Bible School June 7th through the 10th that was well supported by the Arnold Community. The Vacation Bible School was titled, “Jesus, Name Above All Names.” Kids and adults learned lessons from God's Word about how Jesus is

God the Son, Jesus is the Master Teacher, Jesus is the Lamb of God, and Jesus is the King. The average attendance was 70 to 80 kids from ages four years old to sixth grade. A huge thanks to teens and adults who were willing to sacrifice their time to help put on this Vacation Bible School. A special thanks to Tania Bigbee for leading this

Vacation Bible School as director.

The missions project was the Arnold Food Pantry. The kids were challenged by Merle and Leron Bierman to see how many pounds of food and household supplies they could bring by the end of VBS. The final night they would bring their animal scale in and see

what the total was. At the beginning of the Tuesday V.B.S. Pastor Lee Wonch challenged the kids that he would let them egg him if they could bring enough food that would outweigh him. Uncertain that this would be a hard enough challenge, Merle Bierman added himself to the challenge. By the end of Wednesday night, Corban Bigbee jumped into the dangerous proposition.

The kids stepped up to the task. By Thursday night at the grand closing, where parents and the community were invited to attend, the weigh down took place. After Pastor Lee and Merle were ordered to play fair, they were weighed one by one along with Corban. First, Pastor Lee's challenge was met after several baskets of canned goods and supplies were weighed. Second, Merle's challenge was met as the un-weighed pile grew smaller. Finally, the crowd went wild as Corban's challenge was met when the three men's combined weight was beat with an overall total came to just over 780 lbs.

The three were then marched outside egged by a few kids who won the drawing after the closing was over. Hopefully, the kids have learned that it is important, as well as fun, to show the love of Christ by seeking to help others. When we understand who Jesus is, then we will follow His lead to have compassion and we will obediently care for others.

Thank you for the wonderful support that the community gives the food pantry and all the other ways in which our area seeks to help one another. The Arnold Food Pantry is only supported by our local community and helps to keep business here in our community as well as helping anyone who could use the support and encouragement.

## Kulp Will Finish Out Term

The Arnold Village Board of Trustees met in special session on Monday, June 7, to consider filling the vacancy on the Board created by the resignation of Scott McDowell.

Brent Kulp was the nominee and members voted to have him finish out the term.

## Foundation Announces Spring Grant Awards

Custer County, NE - The Custer County Foundation reviewed grant requests for the period ending April 30, 2021 and they are awarding a total of \$68,232 to 18 Custer County organizations and one non-traditional student.

“It's always an exciting time when we get to announce our grant recipients,” said Lindsay Cook, Executive Director of the Foundation. “The generous support we receive from our donors through our annual Gala & Auction in December enables the Foundation to continue to have a county wide impact through the grants we are able to award.”

The Foundation Grants committee recommended, and the Board of Directors approved, the following awards:

Anselmo-Merna Public Schools - \$5,000: To help provide computers needed for the STEM lab.

Ansley Rural Fire Protection District - \$7,500: To help purchase a power cot load system for the ambulance.

Arnold Community Theater - \$2,000: To help improve the sound quality at the theater.

Arnold Public Schools - \$3,600: To purchase a kiln to help expand the ceramics program.

Broken Bow Area Rotary - \$450: To help with the “Fly the Flag” project in Broken Bow.

Continued on page 2.

## Historical Marker Honoring Town's Founders Placed at Allen's Park

A historical marker has been placed at the city park (now called R.E. and L.L. Allen Memorial City Park), detailing the history of the couple that donated the land for the park. A project of Arnold Rotary, Berni Crow is in charge of compiling the information for the signs. The park marker reads as follows:

### ALLEN'S PARK

Richard Eliada, Lovira Lydia Allen and infant daughter Gertrude arrived in Custer County in late May 1880. Their keen insight of rapidly advancing land opportunities to the west had helped them realize the need for immediate action and they had endured a difficult seven-week 700-mile journey from Linn County Iowa. They hoped to acquire free land, build a home and earn a living that would ensure them comfort in their later years and likewise provide amply for their children. With this thought in mind, they had said goodbye to their family and friends. They set up camp not far from the banks of the South Loup River just to the south of this park site along with their loaded prairie schooner wagon and three horses. The Allens soon filed the required paperwork that started the process on what would be the area's first homestead which consisted of a quarter section, 160 acres, of free government land. In February 1881 a daughter, Myrtle, arrived and became the first child born in the area.

In 1883, after completing the process of “proving up” the original homestead, they filed a preemption at the North Platte land office for another quarter section of land. The new land adjoined to the north of the original homestead and it became known as the “R.E. Allen Addition”. Soon they built on that land what was perhaps the most modern frame home in

the area at that time. The house has since been moved next to the library and is still in use today. In August 1883 daughter Blanche was born and in September Richard set his plan in motion for the area to be a town. He summoned the County Surveyor from Broken Bow and they platted 6 square blocks of the original homestead and in 1884 another 16 square blocks of the R.E. Allen Addition. The main street was named “Walnut” as a reminder of the trees at their old home in Iowa. Anticipating new settlers arriving, the Allens set aside areas and donated them to churches and one square block for a school. Another area they provided for permanent use in 1884, the current city park, was set aside as a gathering place for the townspeople that became known as “The Allens Park”. They planned for community housing and businesses and with the earlier help of townspeople, it had been determined that the town would be named “Arnold” in honor of early resident George Arnold. Mr. Arnold had left the area a few years before and died soon after. He never learned of the honor he had been given. Arnold then became one of the earliest inland towns of Nebraska.

With the survey completed and the growing needs of the community always on their mind, the Allens had built a large pioneer store on the southwest corner of South Walnut Street and West Arnold Avenue. This was the only store in the community at the time. Over the next several years Richard and Lovira managed the growing business and promoted the town. They placed advertisements in newspapers in several states as far away as New York and they talked Arnold up to most everyone



Photo/Debbie Connelly

A photo of R.E. and L.L. Allen has been placed on the right side of the new brick entrance to the city park. On the left side of the entrance is a marker detailing their history of coming to the area and when they donated the land for the park.

they met. Many free home and business lots were offered as incentives to settlers who would come with a trade. They were particular regarding who they wanted and noted in the advertisements “Only good, honest, ‘square-toed’ men of family are solicited.” Their efforts were successful, and folks did soon arrive. Among them were a much-needed blacksmith, printer, butcher, carpenter, lawyer, harness maker and doctor. One blacksmith saw an advertisement in a Missouri paper and traveled by himself to North Platte. From there he walked a day and a half to see Arnold. He liked what he saw, settled in, raised his family and built a fine business.

Not only did the Allens provide a vision and foundation for the town of Arnold, but they

did everything within their power to help build it and make it a beautiful place, contributing their time, energy, land and income to every undertaking for the town's growth and improvement.

On December 15, 1938, the people of Arnold and the surrounding territory provided a large public dinner celebrating the 60th wedding anniversary of the Allens. The opportunity allowed the chance to thank them for all they had done for the community. Richard and Lovira were married 64 years until Richard's death on September 15, 1942. He was 85 years old. Lovira died at the age of 95 on April 15, 1953. Both are buried in the Arnold Cemetery.

In 1983 the Arnold Centennial was held. This park was the center of the action as it has

been for many celebrations and gatherings. In attendance at the Centennial were the two surviving grandchildren of the four the Allens had been blessed with and they were honored to be named Grand Marshals for the event. Also attending were most of the Allen's great and great great grandchildren. It was a wonderful event and gave all a chance to hear and experience more about their proud heritage.

The extended Allen family offers a sincere thank you to the Village of Arnold, Arnold Rotary, the Arnold Economic Development Corporation and all others who supported and helped in placing this beautiful memorial sign to honor the Allens.