

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 105, NUMBER 5

Several Agenda Items Decided on at Special Board Meeting

The Village Board held a special meeting on June 28 to discuss several agenda items.

Board members decided to accept a quote of \$4,223.00 from RU2 Systems, Inc. for a RU2 Fast 375 permanent mounted radar speed sign that will be placed at the east end of town. The recommendation to accept the quote came from board member Aaron Olson, who went through the quotes with Superintendent Doug De Laune. The Village will submit an application to the Nebraska Department of Transportation for the device.

The community center flooring committee met on June 28 and discussed the cost and time frame of the project. It was decided that the best time for the project is October, but in order to get on the schedule the proposal from Midwest Floor Covering needs to be accepted. The proposal from Midwest Floor Covering in the amount of \$92,592.00 includes demolition of the existing gym flooring and the installation of new Taraflex Sports Flooring. The cost doesn't include concrete. Board members decided to accept the proposal and author-

ized the village clerk to issue a check for the down payment when an invoice is received.

Board members decided that current pool manager, Shavonne Schacher, be paid a base wage of \$600.00 for the pool season, plus her hourly wage. The base wage would cover all of the paperwork involved in scheduling the life-guards and for swimming lessons. In addition, it would cover attending meetings, going through applications and stopping by the pool for a few minutes to check on things. The manager will be paid an

hourly wage when he or she is clocked in as manager/life-guard and for swimming lessons.

The Board discussed a memorandum from the Nebraska Department of Administrative Services stating that the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) has appropriated \$19.53 billion to states for distribution to tens of thousands of non-entitled units of government. The estimated allocation for Arnold is \$50,265.00 and the fiscal recovery funds must be used in one of the four eligible use categories. One of the categories is

to make necessary investment in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure. The Board voted to submit an application for the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

The village clerk told board members that LB148 has changed the requirements for public hearings on the proposed budget statement. The budget hearing will now be required to be held separately from any regularly scheduled meeting and will not be limited by time. At the hearing the governing body will be required for make at least three copies of the proposed budget statement available to the public and make a presentation outlining key provisions of the proposed budget statement.

Discussion was held on salaries for fiscal year 2021-2022. The Board agreed to the following:

- Increase the hourly salary of Tory Edwards, Doug De Laune, Harvey Foran, and Patricia Lamberty by 2%.
 - Increase the hourly salary of Rusty Wyckoff by 2 % plus an additional \$1.00 per hour for
- See Village Board, Page 2

Bike Rally Results

The 10th Annual Devil's Den Bike Rally poker run drew 104 participants on Saturday, with Julie Jacobson of Arnold placing 1st, Kerri Kleinow of North Platte placing 2nd, and Kevin Edwards of Arnold placing 3rd. The first card was drawn at Grazer's. The poker run continued on to Fubar in Anselmo, Kinkaiders and Legend's in Broken Bow, Shutgun Annie's in Callaway, and finally, the Arnold Recreation Area, where events were held throughout the weekend.

Show & Shine winners were: Best Custom - Dean Weinman, Old School - Zach Hagler, and Stock - Hunter Weinman.

New this year was a burn-out pit created at the ARA. Burning out were Darren Weinman, Robbi Smith, and Lawrence Paulsen.

Friday's free night's events included DJ music, karaoke, biker games, food and drinks. Participants enjoyed a barbecue and concerts on Saturday night featuring Shoot to Thrill and Cliche.



Courtesy photo

Former president remembered at Bike Rally

The Devil's Den Rally committee of: (l-r) Kevin Edwards, Tim Turley, Heather Hagler, and Tammy Weinman presented a gift to the late Mike Nelson family, Dylan Nelson, Kendra Nelson and Jasmine Nelson, at the 10th Annual Devils Den Rally held last weekend at the Arnold Recreation Area. The lighted box was auctioned off and bought by the committee and several other friends to be given to the family. The box was made by Kendra's brother-in-law Shane Streit and was a replica of a photo that has been taken of committee members a few years ago. Mike passed away September 19, 2020, and served as president of the rally for many years.

Long-lost half-sisters united through technology

By Janet Larreau

Today's technology has changed the way we all live, work and play. It has also made things possible that never would have been dreamt of before - like finding a half-sister you never knew existed and after over 70 years of life, finding out the name of your biological father and what kind of person he really was.

It happened to Arnold resident Chyrel Cerny.

Chyrel was born February 8, 1948, in Omaha with the birth name of Linda June Wright to Dorothy Fleshman Wright and was placed in the Nebraska Children's Home for adoption. She spent the first four months there before being placed for adoption with Rolland and Naomi Morgan. Her adoption was finalized on August 31, 1948, and she was raised with an adopted older brother, Ray.

Back in the mid-80s, Chyrel began searching for birth information. This hunt led her to a half-sister, Judy Mamot, and extended family on her mother's side. No information was known of her paternal side as her mother did not list the father on the birth certificate; extended family had no information to offer. At that time, Chyrel discovered that she had two younger sisters who died very young - one shortly after birth and another who died just shy of 3 years old.

Three-and-a-half years ago, her daughter Marcia gifted

Chyrel a DNA kit from Ancestry.com.

"We were just hoping to find genetic background related to countries of origin and ethnicity. We were happy to know of Mom's Scottish background. Finding blood relatives wasn't even on the radar," said Marcia.

A year ago, when visiting with extended family while on vacation, the subject of ethnicity surfaced and Marcia decided to log into Chyrel's Ancestry page. There were two messages from blood relatives awaiting answers. They were replied to, but neither answered through Ancestry. Looking for a way to contact these two people outside of the Ancestry page, the family employed Facebook searches to find them. One was found, as was another relative that seemed to be a good candidate to contact. Marcia sent direct messages to both and one - Devon Richardson of Colorado - replied within a few hours. He helped Marcia clean the information, narrowing the parental pool to a couple of brothers.

It was three months before another relative responded through Facebook. This relative was found to be Chyrel's nephew, Jeromie Bush. He facilitated a phone conversation between Marcia and a woman named Sherlene Stolley - thought to be Chyrel's sister on her father's side.

A DNA kit was purchased in hopes that Sherlene would be willing to submit her biological information. Marcia then met

with Sherlene the first week in January in Lincoln. Joining in was Marcia's daughter, Kayli Hamburger; Sherlene's cousin, Roxanne Kotschwar; and long-time friend, Patty Price. After visiting for three hours and sharing photos and stories, Sherlene agreed to submit the DNA test.

It would be 8 weeks until the test results would verify the suspicion that the two women were truly sisters. Through her newfound sister, Chyrel was then able to learn who her biological father was. William Darrell Bush was raised in Alda, Nebraska. He served in the Navy during WWII and then enlisted in the Air Force until 1953.

"He was a fun spirited man who loved his family. He never knew of his daughter Chyrel," said Marcia.

Plans were made to properly introduce the two sisters over Easter weekend. Chyrel had the support of her husband, Dell; daughter Marcia and Scott Gibson; granddaughter Kayli, and PJ Hamburger, their three children, Hadley, Hendryx and Hayden; and her good friend Judy Johnson. Sherlene introduced her husband, Robert; daughter Melisa; son Marty and wife April. Her two grandchildren, Dakota and Hunter were also present. Sherlene added a few more friends to the visit, as well.

The room became full of chatter and story telling and questions were bounced back and forth. Health history was dis-



Wearing matching t-shirts that read "Big Sister" and "Little Sister," Arnold resident Chyrel Cerny (left) and her half-sister Sherlene Stolley give each other a big hug. The two women - who never knew the other one existed - found each other in a complicated journey that began with Ancestry.com.

cussed and even though heart disease runs in the family, both women were found to have healthy hearts.

"Many times we heard Robert say, 'She sounds just like your dad,'" said Marcia. "Sherlene said she always wanted a sister after having grown up with two brothers."

Chyrel and Sherlene had an older brother, William Bush Jr., who passed away in December of 2019. His wife, Rozie, and three kids, Jeromie, Samantha and Brian, live in Nebraska and are close with the family. Sherlene also has a half-brother on

her mother's side, Dennis Crowell.

Chyrel was visited by Sherlene and Robert over memorial weekend while she was hospitalized in Kearney and the two have been in touch over the phone and through social media.

Sadly, Chyrel has lost contact with her half-sister Judy Mamot, whom she found over 30 years ago. With cell phones and social media available today, the hope is to keep the communication open and ongoing and to build more memories.