

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 105, NUMBER 6



Photo/Tammy Weinman

Making Way for New Housing

Almost all that remains is smoke, as Arnold Fire Department members contain the fire from the Fitz Harris property controlled burn last Sunday morning south of the post office. Flames shot high in the air earlier as the house and nearby building were burned to the ground. Debris will be removed, making way for new housing at the prime location.

School Superintendent Says There Will Be Local Control Over Proposed Health Standards

Arnold Public Schools Superintendent Joel Morgan spoke about the Department of Education's proposed health standards at the Board's regular meeting held on July 13. The new standards, including how to teach sex education, have been a controversial topic across the state since the first draft was released in March.

“Since last spring, we've been hearing a lot of things about the health standards and some of the standards have created debate based on their content.

Looking at it, the human growth and development standards are raising a lot of concerns,” said Mr. Morgan. “The second draft will be coming out in August and there should be some changes. One key thing with these standards is that whatever the final form is, if we feel it doesn't align to our beliefs, we don't have to adopt those standards. At this point, we still retain local control in our decision-making. I'm glad that we're structured that way

to be able to commit to what we believe in.”

In his COVID-19 update, Mr. Morgan said that the application is opening up this month for the third round of funds for the American Rescue Plan - a bill that was passed in March. The school will be submitting an application and look at where the funds will be used in the future. The district is receiving approximately \$117,000.00. Since it is a government grant, there are cer-

tain things tied to what allowable expenses the money can be used for.

In action items, the Board approved an inter-local agreement to share the athletic director position with Callaway. The new athletic director will be Debra Liewer, who teaches at Callaway.

Lane Chesley, who was formerly a volunteer track assistant, was approved as the new head track coach, replacing

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Green Plans to Resurrect Community Festival

RT Green - a SORC driver from California who has now made Arnold his home - is working on resurrecting the Arnold Fall Festival. He attended the July 12 Village Board meeting to talk to members about the dates and his ideas for the event.

“I went to Callaway's Pioneer Picnic and was talking about how much fun I had with some folks. They told me that Arnold used to have a festival and I asked, ‘Why don't we now?’ They told me that everyone is overwhelmed and exhausted when SORC is over. I thought we should have some community fun,” he said.

The dates of September 17 and 18 have been chosen, since it works out that there is a Friday afternoon football game in Arnold. RT hopes he can get some of the businesses to put tents up there.

On Saturday, some of the events like the turtle races, golf cart races, and Redneck Olympics will be brought back. He's even thinking about having chicken poop bingo. The National Honor Society will help with kids' events at the city park. Some of those events will include face painting, a climbing wall, and a bouncy house. RT asked permission to use the railroad right-of-way west of the city park for some of the activities and received approval from the Board. A small parade will start at the school, go down West Madison and around the city park.

“It's kind of short notice, so it will be an abbreviated version of the festival. I started reaching out to carnivals, but they're already booked this year. That's kind of what I'd like to get us. We'll see what we can come up with next year,” he said.

RT will meet with Chamber on July 26 to talk with those members about his plans.

Board Gives Property Owners a Few More Days

Village Board members once again considered enforcing a section of the Arnold Municipal Code regarding offenses of weeds, litter, and stagnant water at their regular board meeting held on July 12. A notice was sent on June 3, 2020, and another notice was sent on May 17, 2021 stating that property located at 105 N Hillcrest was in violation. At the June 14 meeting, the Board gave the property owners until July 12 to comply, but not much progress has been made. One board member mentioned that there are two feet of weeds around everything. The owners said their weed eater needs repairs, and board member Brent Kulp said he would loan them his and personally donate \$200.00 towards the cost of disposal fees. It was also mentioned that Irv Jennings said he would help put up a building with lumber that is on the property. The property owners also mentioned that they are considering putting up a privacy fence.

The property owners were told that unless there is considerable progress in two weeks (by July 26), that the Board will proceed with enforcing the ordinance. Brent Kulp and Aaron Olson will be on a committee to oversee the progress.

“It's not just the Board that wants this done. The Board represents the town,” said board member Zach Hagler.

30x30 Land Grab

Board members moved on to consider adopting a resolution opposing the 30 x 30 Land Grab, which references the section of a Presidential Executive Order that states 30 percent of the nation's land will be placed in conservation by 2030. Vil-

lage Attorney Mike Borders said that if the village has a concern, the Board can adopt the same resolution that the Custer County Board of Supervisors adopted. It was agreed to adopt a resolution opposing the land grab. The matter will be on the August 9 agenda.

Give 4 Custer County

Clerk Patricia Lambert reported that as of July 12, there has been \$5,825.00 in donations for the Give 4 Custer County fundraising drive. The donations will go towards replacement of the floor in the community center.

In other business, the Board:

• Listened to a presentation by representatives of NMPP Energy and Dutton Lainson on AMI Metering that allows for remote collection of electric and water meters more frequently than monthly. The project will be further discussed.

• Held a public hearing for the discussion of the six month review of Arnold's Economic Development Program. AEDC board members Vicki Ambler and Karen Horst gave an update to the Citizen Advisory Committee, and the six month review report was read.

• Heard that the community webcams donated by RT Green are obsolete. Brent Kulp volunteered to work with Doug De Laune and RT to look at different options for the cams.

• Agreed to issue a check for \$49,200.00 to Tri State Paving for labor and materials to armor coat the streets.

• Considered a bid from Tri-State Paving for East 2nd Avenue. The total bid is \$36,200.00 for labor and mate-

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Photo/Kent Kilmel

Driving a jeep, Shawn Melton from North Platte and passenger Larry Simants from Gothenburg climb over an old station wagon on an obstacle course built on Blaine and Kris Hagler's sandpit east of Arnold.

The course was just part of two days of outdoor events hosted by Grazer's Bar & Grill.

4WD Fun, BBQ Competition and Music Draw Hundreds to Town

Grazer's Bar & Grill hosted two days of events last Friday and Saturday that drew an estimated 400 people to town. The 2nd Annual Pasture Crawl was held Friday on Halstead ground several miles west of town and the obstacle course was built on Blaine and Kris Hagler's sandpit east of Arnold.

Over 100 people enjoyed the Pasture Crawl and around 75 turned out to test their skills on the obstacle course on Saturday. Participants came from all

over to enjoy the weekend, with some coming from Omaha, Hartington, St. Paul, Syracuse, Halsey, and Paxton, as well as the surrounding area. There were even some fun-seekers from California.

Grazer's co-owner Annie Vettel said they did see an increase in numbers, as well as pulling in people from new communities that they didn't have last year.

At the Crawl, a variety of off-road and 4-wheel drive vehicles

were seen, including lots of jeeps, Razors, side by sides, pickups, and even a suburban. There were some who took advantage of both day's fun activities, as well as new entries for the obstacle course.

“The guys did an amazing job of creating a great obstacle course with many twists and turns, hills to climb, and dips and curves,” said Annie. “A criss-cross railroad tie area, lay-

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