

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2021

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 105, NUMBER 4

SORC, donators make sure show goes on.



Photo/Jessica Tickle

Independence Day celebration ends with a bang

Fireworks lit up the sky at Old Mill Park on the 4th of July. A good crowd turned out to view the 20 minute show, set off by the Gunther Fireworks team. Adding to the event were Posting of the Colors by Legion and V.F.W. members and music provided by Westbrook Audio. Sponsoring the display was SORC and in addition, a private donor and one business made generous donations. Barb Gunther, who has ordered and set off the display for 20-some years, said the cost of the fireworks went up \$832.00 this year and there's no end in sight when prices might come down. If you enjoyed the show, donation buckets will remain set up at local businesses to off-set the cost of next year's display.

Devil's Den Bike Rally Will Mark 10th Year This Weekend

Mike Nelson Memorial Poker Run Is Saturday

The 10th Annual Devil's Den Motorcycle Rally is set for this weekend, July 9th and 10th. The Arnold Recreation Area (ARA) will be sectioned off for the event and the gates will open on Friday night at 5:00 p.m., for everyone to participate in free activities, including a DJ, karaoke, biker games, food and cheap drinks.

This is a special year, as bikers will be participating in what has been named the Mike Nelson Memorial Poker Run, in memory of former president Mike Nelson. Registration is from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Show & Shine is from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and the poker run starts at 11:30 a.m. Bikers will draw their first card at Grazers, followed by the Fubar in Anselmo, Kinkaiders in Broken Bow, Legend's in Broken Bow, Shotgun Annie's in Callaway. The last card will be drawn at the ARA.

A barbecue will be served from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., at the ARA. Live music will be performed by Shoot to Thrill - America's greatest tribute to the band AC/DC. Also performing will be Cliche.

Admission for the poker run is: singles - \$30.00 and couples - \$50.00. The concert and barbecue are included.

Admission for the barbecue and concerts only is \$10.00. Children 10 and under will be admitted free. Minors 14 and under must leave by 9:00 p.m.

Two Locals in Junior Olympics and 4-H Nationals

A whirlwind 10 days of competition began when Laney Badgley of Oconto and Kylee Lehmkuhler of Arnold both qualified to compete in national-level shooting matches. With Covid-19 closures, the 2020 Junior Olympics and the 2020 4-H Nationals were not held at all, so both girls were ready to get back to shooting.

They both qualified as J1s (the oldest age group) to shoot Air Pistol in the postponed-from-April Junior Olympics in Colorado Springs beginning June 16th through June 20th. The event held at the Citadel Mall was moved from the Olympic Training Center where Olympians are preparing for the Tokyo Games set to begin July 23rd.

"I have competed at the Junior Olympics for 3 years now, but this year was a little different. The last 2 years we competed at the actual Olympic Training Center and it was amazing. But this year, because of Covid, the shoot had to be moved to a different location to keep the Olympic athletes safe. We shot in an old Macy's store in the Citadel Mall. The atmosphere was definitely different, but I liked how much more space we were provided. The range officers still played music and we still had electronic scoring, but we weren't as cramped as the training center," said Laney Badgley.

Over 114 shooters represented 27 different states. Also present were fully-masked and gloved Olympians, their coaches, and their alternates to get real-match practice. The number of participants seemed down because many states were not able to hold qualifying matches, or send shooters due to individual Covid health directives.

"The first year of taking one of my kids to Junior Olympics, as a coach and as a parent, I had to learn how things were done and we saw the level and quality of shooting and marksmanship that it takes to get there. It was also very educa-



Courtesy photo

Laney Badgley of Oconto (left) and Kylee Lehmkuhler of Arnold both qualified to compete in national-level shooting matches.

tional for Laney and Kylee so that they knew what kind of shooters then wanted to be. This was the sixth time I have taken my kids to Junior Olympics - Carson twice, Emma once and now this is Laney and Kylee's third time. They have worked their way up by practicing a lot in our basement. We made two shooting lanes down our hallway and into a closet. Their hard work got them a long way and allowed them to shoot with Olympic athletes and compete against the Olympic alternates," said Coach Clifford Badgley.

"Helping coach JOs has been a lot of fun," added Coach Mike Lehmkuhler. "Kylee and Laney both have come a long way in their skills and work ethics. Getting to go out to the

Olympic Training Center was the real highlight of these past few years. What an opportunity for the girls to be invited to compete for a place on the Junior Olympics team - not many can say that. According to ISSF rules, there has to be music playing during the match and the funniest thing is watching the boys standing behind the girls when they're dancing to the music while they are on the line shooting. It really messed with a couple minds!"

Lehmkuhler went on to say, "This year has been a challenge for both Kylee and I without Uncle Larry (Lehmkuhler) watching and cheering her on, but he had a front row seat to watch and thanks to a portion of his memorial money, the girls could buy new air cylinders for their guns. The old

ones were outdated and they would not have been able to compete at Colorado Springs with the old ones. Thank you Uncle Larry and his family for making this experience possible."

Laney shot a personal best of 511 out of 600 on day 2 and finished the competition with a total of 1,518 with 12 perfect Xs shots leaving her in 26th place in the women's competition.

Lehmkuhler shot her best round with a 468 out of 600 on day 1, and finishing the competition with a total of 1,378 with 11 perfect Xs shots leaving her in 47th place in the women's competition.

"I was fortunate to experience the Junior Olympics three times, each time getting to shoot next to the most prestigious shooters in the country,

including U.S. Olympians. No matter how well we did, we came out on top," said Kylee.

Laney and Kylee also qualified to shoot .22 Sport Pistol for 4-H Nationals beginning June 20th through June 25th. Over 600 competitors represented 30 different states.

They changed guns; they changed ranges; they changed indoor for outdoor; and the rules changed. They also had to change their approach quickly because Junior Olympics overlapped with the start of Nationals.

Laney and Kylee, along with Izzy Hoyt and Matt Kuhlmoos of O'Neill, were coached by Kyle Hoyt of Mullen and Clifford Badgley.

Many states were not able to hold qualifying matches, nor allow 4-H clubs to hold matches. In addition, many states would not allow 4-H shooters to participate within a team, or individually, due to individual Covid health directives.

"4-H Nationals involves quality shooters, but it is a different atmosphere. The girls went from world class shooters to top level 4-H shooters, who are also still learning and growing in their disciplines. They also had to shoot different parts of this discipline using the two guns in three different ways (slow fire, silhouettes and rapid fire)," said Badgley, Nebraska 4-H, 22 Team Coach.

The first day of shooting was the slow fire round. Kuhlmoos scored a 221, Hoyt a 312, Badgley a 343, and Lehmkuhler also a 343 with more Xs. Badgley and Lehmkuhler tied for 19th and the team placed 9th with a total of 1,219.

The second day of shooting was the silhouette round. They shot metal rams at 100 yards, turkeys at 77 yards, pigs at 60 yards, and chickens at 40 yards. Even though the wind acted as an extra competitor, they placed 10th as a team, with

See Junior Olympics and Nationals, Page 2