

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## Organizers, volunteers pull off the return of festival



Photo/Jessica Tickle

Rudy Vickers adds a little extra fun trying to soak Jace Connell in the Bucket Brigade Friday at the football field. The events following the South Loup vs. Stapleton football game kicked off two days of community festival fun for all ages.



Photo/Debbie Connelly

A worker attaches a harness to Carly Smith before she can climb the giant portable rock wall that was set up Saturday at the city park. The line of kids waiting to climb the wall never stopped all day.

business has been Mobil, Conoco, and Sinclair throughout the years. The float featured the Sinclair sign and one of the original gas pumps.

After the parade, the line was long for the barbecue, prepared by Casey Cozad and Nicole Christine.

Another line that was constant from morning until the end of the day was at the towering rock wall set up at the park. The bouncy house located nearby was also in constant motion and everyone was enjoying some mini golf.

An adult amateur cornhole tournament started Saturday morning, paused for the pa-

rade, and then continued.

Kids enjoyed several games organized by the National Honor Society and Jr. High Honor Society students. And then everyone was off to watch the golf cart races, where the driver was blindfolded, and fun competitions at the Red Neck Olympics.

The weekend kicked off Friday after the South Loup vs. Stapleton football game, where some 15 vendors sat up and teams signed up for the Bucket Brigade Challenge.

Beautiful weather both days helped the organizers and everyone involved pull off a great return of the fall festival.

## School Board Approves Budget, Tax Request

The Arnold School Board approved a budget of \$3,345,719.00 for the 2021-2022 school year at their regular

meeting held on September 13. Budgeted for the General Fund was \$2,879,250.00 and \$407,621.00 was budgeted for the Special Building Fund. The tax asking, which was also approved, is down from 76.6 last year to 75.9 this year.

Superintendent Joel Morgan said property valuations went up 3 percent from last year, which affects the tax request. The asking is up \$59,046.00, but the levy is down.

The operating budget will see an increase of 16 percent.

“It seems like a large increase in the operating budget, but that increase is also based on what we have gained in assets, such as an increased balance in the special building fund. Our spending has not gone up 16 percent” he said.

At the hearing, no one spoke to the budget before it was approved.

Mr. Morgan gave a COVID-19 update, informing the board that the Governor doesn’t have any Directed Health Measures in place, so there are currently no changes.

“We’re fortunate that we’re starting the school year on a good note,” he said.

## Public Invited to Special Rotary Program

Botanist will present virtual wildflower journey

Members of the public are cordially invited to enjoy a special Rotary Club program scheduled for September 30 at approximately 7:15 p.m., at The Exchange. Don Eversoll, botanist from Ft. Collins, Colorado, will be taking everyone on a tour through the Rocky Mountains, the Foothills, and the Plains of Colorado to see up-close the hundreds of wildflowers in full bloom. The flowers range from the world-famous Blue Columbine, Indian Paintbrush, and Purple Penstemon.

In addition to being a botanist, Eversoll is an author, photographer, and Ecologist. He founded his well-known



Gathering around the cut-out of Norene Hall Mills at Finch Library are her relations, left to right: Sandy Mills (daughter-in-law), Suanne Lind (daughter), John Mills (son), Amy O'Neill (granddaughter), TJ O'Neill (grandson), Emily O'Neill (great-granddaughter), Natalie O'Neill (great granddaughter).

## Cut-out at library recognizes past and present librarians

The likeness of Norene Mills, former librarian and author of “One Hundred Years on the South Loup” will now grace the southwest corner of Finch Memorial Library.

The painted wooden figure was created by Marah Sandoz, who has made over 100 cutouts for the small town of Taylor, Nebraska, as a way to draw tourists.

The idea of placing a cutout to represent librarians who have served over the years came from Library Director Marcy Lucas and Board Member Carlene Lanham in general discussion.

Carlene said Norene was a logical choice, not only because she was a former librarian, but also because on a personal level, she documented the

town's history from 1883-1993 through her book.

From there, work began on sending everything needed to Marah to create the cutout. Norene's daughter, Suanne Lind, sent a photo of Norene, and Marcy and Carlene made a copy of the cover of Norene's book. Marah then researched what outfit Norene might have worn during the time period

that she served as library director and presented examples.

Norene served as a librarian for 16 years, from the late 60s, all through the 70s, and into the early 80s. She resigned when her husband became ill.

Board members said the likeness of Norene is remarkable, as is the outfit and the book.

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