

# Happy Thanksgiving

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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## Foundation Has Most Successful Fundraiser to Date

Half of ACFF auction proceeds designated to Community Center flooring, needs.



Photo/Garald Horst

Shane Cool receives the 2021 Individual Philanthropist of the Year award from Arnold Community Foundation Fund Board member Renee Bubak, Saturday night at the community center during the ACFF's annual banquet and fundraiser auction.

Last Saturday night, the annual Arnold Community Foundation Fundraiser had its most successful auction ever, grossing \$67,000.00. One-hundred-eighty people attended the event, which included a social hour, meal, live auction, and presentation of philanthropic awards.

Wendell Brott served as this year's auctioneer, and residents were more than willing to raise their hand to build a better future for the community of Arnold. Committee

members attributed the large amount of money raised this year to the large number of donations received for the auction, and the thriving ag economy. After expenses, half of the proceeds will be donated to the Arnold Community Center Fund for flooring and other needs that will benefit the community center in the future.

ACFF Committee member Renee Bubak presented the philanthropic awards, and one was a big surprise. Her intro-

ductions follow:

### ACFF Philanthropist of the Year 2021

“Arnold continues to thrive because our community is made up of hard-working, forward-thinking entrepreneurs and doers. Most of the improvements that happen in our town, are through the generous time, energy, and funds from people and organizations who have the best interest of Arnold and its future in their hearts. Although the list of people we

could celebrate is long, this evening I have the privilege of sharing about one such outstanding community member.

If you have enjoyed the view from the new football stands, you can bet that our philanthropist was a key piece in hauling those bleachers into our new South Loup home team side.

If your kids or grandkids have been thrilled to play on the new equipment at our Arnold City Park, this person was integral there, too – bringing in his skid steer and crane to set up play structures and more.

How about the Arnold Recreation area? Construction of the fishing pier, building of the shower/restroom facility, welding and construction of the picnic shelter, going to dismantle the children's playground in North Platte that was hauled over to become our great new play structure at the Rec area – these are all ways he helped our local Rotarian projects come to fruition.

Another example is the facelift of our precious cemetery. He and his crew removed 40 or more dead or dying trees and he was part of the efforts to re-fence and put in water lines

for hydrants. We can look on with pride at these improvements.

Let's jump across the road from there.

All those golfers out there – do you remember the year we switched from having to rake our sand greens to enjoying our luscious grass greens? Well, this person was on the Arnold Golf Association Board to help make that development happen, too.

These are just a few of the highlights, but I hope you are noticing a pattern here – there are very few areas in Arnold that tonight's award recipient has not touched. Whether through his own time, his crew, his equipment, or his funding – our philanthropist has been the guy to call. I talked to Clay Mohr – another one of those in our community that is involved in a good share of the projects – and he said this about our recipient. ‘If you need something, just ask. He could be counted on to get things done.’ In addition to all of the projects in the community, there are countless project at the school, both big and small, that ‘this guy’ was a part of.

His impact is felt beyond the

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## Tree Lighting Ceremony Planned at Koubek Gardens

To kick off the Christmas season, the Arnold Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) will be hosting a fun tree lighting ceremony at Koubek Gardens on Saturday, November 27, at 6:30 p.m.

Free hot cocoa, provided by Melody and Irv Jennings, and popcorn, provided by the

AEDC, will be served. Rialto Theatre board members will be popping the corn for everyone.

To add to the festivities, Men on the Mountain will be singing Christmas carols.

The community is encouraged to come out and enjoy seeing Koubek Gardens light up for the holiday season.



Photo courtesy of Sandhills Express

An aerial view captures the scene, as combines work in tandem on November 16 to harvest corn for Greg Coleman, who is undergoing treatment for Stage 4 colon cancer. A total of 11 combines, 13 grain carts and 44 semis arrived at the field on Cliff Table that morning to make quick work out of harvesting 1,000 acres for Greg.

## A Harvest Like No Other

Community of farmers rally together to pick 1,000 acres in one day for farmer in need.

By Janet Larreau

It was the first of July, 2021, when area farmer Greg Coleman was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer while undergoing a heart procedure. His cousins, Jim and Gary Coleman, made a promise then that they would pick his corn for him. By the time harvest rolled around, it wasn't just Jim and Gary who came to help Greg – it was a community of farmers.

Greg, who is 65, farms between Arnold and Merna on what is known as Cliff Table. He got a lot of his corn picked while traveling back and forth

between his home and Lincoln for treatments, but there was still 1,000 acres yet to be picked.

Offers of help started pouring in to Jim, who became the organizer of something few have ever witnessed before.

On Tuesday, November 16, with perfect weather for harvesting, 11 combines, 13 grain carts and 44 semis converged at the site. They came from both the Merna and Arnold valley areas – seven trucks came from Arnold. Coming the farthest distance was a farmer from north of Broken Bow towards Sargent. The goal was to pick all 1,000 acres in one day.

“We turned away a lot of re-

quests for help because it had already been mapped out. There were multiple offers. Farmers from the other side of Berwyn wanted to bring their new \$750,000.00 combine and were turned down, but they did bring trucks to help,” said Greg's son, Chad.

Thomas Livestock Company from Merna and Adams Land & Cattle from Broken Bow provided valuable help with where to take all the corn in the fastest amount of time, allowing only Coleman corn to be taken that day. One lane was made for all of Greg's corn to weigh and dump, so they didn't have to wait in line. Thomas alone took just under 80 truckloads and

Adams took around 40 loads.

Bruning State Bank out of Broken Bow, which provided food for some 90 people, took on how to feed the massive crew. Off Broadway Apartments, where Greg's mother resides, furnished cookies, and Dairy Queen furnished Dilly Bars.

The farmers achieved their goal. The harvest started at 8:00 a.m., and was finished by 4:00 p.m. Normally, that number of acres would take weeks to pick.

Greg's brother, Neil Coleman of Arnold, said, “People stopped picking their own corn just to come and help – on a beautiful day that they could have picked their own. Greg is

in for the fight of his life. It's a great story of people helping people. It is rare in farming where it's so competitive. There was no competition – everyone was just there to help.”

“When we figured out dad had cancer, from that time on everyone extended help, even doing chores. It was just amazing what people will do to help. I don't know how many there were. It's a great community we live in, that's for sure. Greg is very humbled just to see that kind of a turnout to help. Just really, really humbled,” said Chad.