

Happy New Year

*"The bad news is time flies.
The good news is you're the pilot."*
- Michael Altshuler

The Arnold Sentinel

"Serving the South Loup River Valley"

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2021: The Year in Review

Appreciative. It's the perfect adjective to describe how residents felt in 2021, as life returned to some normalcy after the 2020 pandemic waned. Throughout the year, the community was allowed to come together to celebrate milestones and enjoy activities. Not surprisingly, many major goals were achieved, as the town moved forward with projects.

Following are just some of the highlights of the year that was:

JANUARY:

Arnold EMTs Susan Nelson, Tom Dennis, and Tammy Weinman were among the first to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations as part of Phase 1A of the vaccination plan for COVID-19.

The theater, which shut down due to the pandemic in mid-March of 2020, announced this week that it will reopen January 15-17, showing "News of the World."

Jimmy Davenport was finishing laying new flooring in Hotel Custer's entire lower level, replacing the wornout carpet.

A series on couples who are serving together on the Arnold Fire Department featured Cassy and Donnell DeLosh, and Cameron and Jacklyn Meyer.

The Arnold School Board met to receive input on a potential school-ran preschool program, with about 30 people turning out to ask questions. At a meeting held on January 12, the Board voted 5-1 to add the program.

The oath of office was administered to new school board member Justin Strasburg at the January meeting. Duane Bowers was re-elected president.

Rotary program director Berni Crow placed a historical marker at the former Railroad Depot Site, now owned by the Merle and Leron Bierman family, and at the former hospital.

The new Second Amendment Sisters organization (SAS) was growing, with Lori Stutzman as the group's director and instructor.

A zoning request to change a residential district to a general commercial district in the

south part of town was voted down by members of the Village Board.

Arnold grad Kirk Crawley was named the newest addition to the Mid-Plains Community College Board of Governors.

FEBRUARY:

The second round of Payroll Protection Program loans was eclipsing the first round at Pinnacle Bank, mainly due to the beneficial update for farmers and ranchers.

Dolores Weber was featured in "They've a Story to Tell," a series written by Darlene Rimpfley.

Governor Pete Ricketts announced that the State is moving from the "blue" to "green" phase of its coronavirus pandemic response plan, changing some of the restrictions.

A historical marker was placed at a building with a long history - now known as Grazer's Bar & Grill.

After enjoying a relatively mild winter, residents were reminded of the season when a snowstorm moved into the area, dumping a large amount of snow and bringing frigid temperatures that stayed that way for several days. Code Red notified residents of rolling blackouts due to temperatures plummeting to 45 degrees below zero.

The Central Nebraska Economic Development District announced the launch of a statewide broadband speed mapping initiative.

Arnold Chamber reorganized for the coming year, with April Tickle, Corin Bowers, Ali Goodenow, Brandi Corbin and Makenna Johnson elected as officers.

Arnold sophomore Halie Recoy was named a winner in the U.S. Senate Fall 2020 Photography Contest with her photo taken on the River Road titled "The Road Home." Also a sophomore, Devin Peterson's photograph "Celebrating Work," featuring a typical day on the ranch, was also named a winner in the contest, making two winners from the same school.

The Village Board discussed



Photo/Jessica Tickle

One of the many highlights of the 2021 was the return of the Arnold Community Festival, when almost every business in town participated in one of the best parades in recent memory. Pictured above is Andrew Tickle and Terry Mills on the Mills Hardware float, celebrating 25 years in business.

the need for new flooring at the community center at a tune of over \$85,000.00 and passed a resolution to increase camping rates at the recreation area.

MARCH:

A decent crowd of about 150 people turned out at Chamber's annual chili cook-off, despite not being able to provide entertainment with COVID-19 restrictions.

John Holman received the 2020 Breeder of the Year award for herding events by the American Kennel Club.

The Ministerial Association was making plans to make improvements to the local food pantry with new flooring and shelving.

Andrew Tickle received the EMT of the Year award and Robbi Smith was named Fireman of the Year at the Annual AVFD awards night. Runners-up were Tammy Weinman (EMTS) and Cameron Meyer (Fireman).

Callaway District Hospital and Medical Clinics announced the new Senior Life Solutions Partnership.

Rotary hosted a higher-than-average attendance at their annual pancake feed, serving 228 people.

Arnold senior Cecilia Wonch won 12 awards in the Scholastic Art Competition, with three pieces moving on to Nationals.

Korean War veteran Max C. Smith was presented a certificate for 60 years of continuous membership from the Legion National Headquarters.

The Arnold Village Board approved a loan and grant Economic Development Fund to A-1 Auto Repair to purchase a tire machine and a pressure washer.

The Sandhills Open Road Challenge Board purchased a K-9 for the Custer County Sheriff's Office. The organization donated the full purchase price of \$8,000.00 to purchase Vader.

Landyn Cole and Reagan Cool received gold medals in Duet acting at the State Speech Meet.

APRIL:

After 80-plus years of vehicles being sold in downtown Arnold, The Sentinel reported that carports surrounding Sandhills Motors property sat empty as of the evening of March 21.

With last year's hunt cancelled due to the pandemic, kids ages 2 and under needed some instruction as they participated in their first community Easter egg hunt at the city park.

Loup Basin Public Health Department opened scheduling for COVID-19 vaccination clinics for all individuals 18 years old and older.

The community of Arnold came together to help Ryan and Cindy Tullis, whose country home completely burned to the ground.

The Duet acting team of Landyn Cole and Reagan Cool

learned they had been selected as the "Best of the Best" in the state in all six classes.

Students from Arnold and Callaway truly appreciated the moment as they enjoyed Prom in the A.H.S gymnasium.

After 39 years of teaching and coaching, Rick Peterson reflected on his career before retiring at the end of the school year.

Four County Boutique, Nails for Starz, and Smooth Aesthetics Spa all held open houses on the same day.

The Arnold Rotary Youth Soccer program had begun, with around 92 kids participating.

A sub-fund was set up under the Arnold Community Foundation for maintenance and upkeep of the Arnold Community Center.

A large number of landowners attended the Custer County Board of Supervisors meeting to speak against the 30x30 Initiative and the harmful effect it could impose on all landowners and residents of Custer County.

Volunteers, including Arnold students, administration and staff, tackled over 30 locations in town during the annual clean-up day.

Jayden Bubak, Landyn Cole, and Sam Cool were named to the MNAC All-Academic Team with ACT scores of 27-29. Named honorable mention were Alex Shown, Colby Streit, and Colbi Smith (25-26 composite).

Governor Pete Ricketts encouraged residents to make their voice heard on controversial NDE Standards.

April and Andrew Tickle were featured in the AVFD "Serving Together" series.

MAY:

Several sponsors purchased six Yamaha golf carts for golfers to rent at the Arnold Golf Course - one of many improvements made under the new leadership of elected officers.

The new children's playground at the Arnold Recreation Area was completed after three years of planning and work.

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Courtesy photo

Leading Chamber In the New Year

Chamber officers for 2022 were elected at the November meeting. From left are: Tammy Weinman, secretary; April Tickle, president; Ali Goodenow, vice-president; and Lacey Kramer, treasurer. These officers and other members will be planning several events in the coming year.