

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Fire Department Reorganizes With Retirement of Nelson as Fire Chief



Eric Nelson, who has served as fire chief for many years, is retiring from the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department. He was a dedicated member, who will be missed by everyone in the department.

The Arnold Volunteer Fire Department is sad to have to announce the retirement of Fire Chief Eric Nelson, but wants to extend its gratitude to him for his years of service to the department. He took over as chief when Robbi Smith retired from that position.

“As fire chief, I enjoyed being part of the team and being part of something that is so important to the community,” said Eric.

“Eric was great as fire chief! He just had a great way of teaching and training members, he was a great role model,

was able to relate to department members, and was a very respected member of the department,” said Tammy Weinman.

Andrew Tickle has graciously accepted the position as the new fire chief.

“The department regrets that Eric is completely stepping away from the department, but we understand and accept his decision,” said Andrew. “This was an unexpected decision I’ve had to make, but I’m excited to step into this role. The department isn’t ran solely by the chief, it’s ran by its mem-

bers. The chief is the facilitator. It’s another way to give back to the community and I feel that’s important. We are always looking for other community members to do the same. When we become members we have a duty to act when we are available.”

Gregg Tickle will be the assistant fire chief and will help his brother Andrew with the chief duties. Gregg has many years of experience as assistant fire chief and is a great asset to the department’s leadership team. He has taken a lot of leadership training that will be important to this role.

Tammy Weinman will remain rescue captain of the department.

“Andrew has always been my assistant rescue captain. I had been training him to take over as rescue captain when I retire, but this unexpected change in leadership has made us re-evaluate the department’s leadership positions and make changes accordingly,” said Tammy. “Andrew has always played an important role in the EMS and patient care side of the department. He still plans on being an active EMT, but his role might change on some incidents. Scene safety and patient care will always remain first and foremost on any call.”

This will mean other EMTs will be stepping up and taking more active roles of being in charge of patient care. Heather Hagler has agreed to become the assistant rescue captain. Heather brings over 10 years of EMT experience, is very compassionate and has great leadership skills. She already serves as the Infection Control and Supply officer.

“Heather has a great personal-

“Eric just had a great way of teaching and training members, he was a great role model.”

Tammy Weinman,
AVFD rescue captain

ity, is easy to work with and I’m excited to have her as my assistant,” said Tammy.

Heather is excited for this opportunity to serve as the assistant rescue captain.

“Volunteering has always been a big part of my life and this role will give me a new way to serve the community and the fire department,” she said.

Gregg Tickle was voted in as president of the department, April Tickle will be vice president and Cassy DeLosh will serve as secretary/treasurer.

The department currently has 24 members with nine being EMTs. The department is at its lowest number of members in years. Membership is limited to 30 and has always been close to capacity. Arnold is very fortunate to have nine active EMTs, as other area rural departments are struggling to have enough EMTs to respond to calls - especially during the daytime hours.

The department is always looking for new members. If you are self motivated, have an interest in helping your community in the area of EMS, are a dedicated individual and would consider being part of the team as a firefighter or EMT, contact Andrew Tickle or Tammy Weinman for more information.

Arnold Hospital Board Disbands

The Arnold Hospital Board, which has served to oversee the funds left over when the Marion Dunn Hospital closed in Arnold in 1958, has officially disbanded. The remaining money, which was a little over \$34,000.00, was given to the Arnold Fire Department last Wednesday.

John Phillips, who has served as president of the Hospital Board for several years, said members voted last year to disband and hand the money over when the CDs came due this year. Historically, the money was used to pay half of the cost of a new ambulance for the fire department every five years, but that hasn’t been done in quite a while.

The last new ambulance the hospital board helped pay for was \$70,000.00, and the cost of a new ambulance has risen dramatically since then.

With no mill levy, no money coming in from the taxpayers for years, and negligible interest earned on the CDs, Phillips said the board served no purpose.

Many residents have served on the Board over the decades. The last members serving their elected terms on the board were: Phillips, Kim Beshaler, Heather Furne, Gary Larreau, and Geraldine Webb.

Newest Update to Nebraska 511 Promises New Tools for Winter Weather Season

(Lincoln, Neb.) — On November 29, the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), together with the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) and the National Weather Service (NWS), announced an updated Nebraska 511, which promises to bring better service to Nebraskans as they plan for winter travel.

Nebraska 511 has been a staple for Nebraskans and travelers alike for more than two decades. What originally started as a phone service has evolved to also include a web application as well as a mobile app.

The service provides information on construction, road conditions, closures, lane restrictions, highway cameras and other important information. From November of 2020 to October 2021, the 511 system was utilized by 1.5 million users.

At the press conference, NDOT highlighted the new features of the updated Nebraska 511, which includes integrated weather, dedicated information to commercial carriers, overhead digital signs and their messages, updated icons, and an improved user interface.

Also highlighted at the press conference is the importance of preparing for winter weather as the season rapidly approaches.

“Winter is often a long season in Nebraska, bringing cold temperatures, snow, and at times, dangerous wind,” said NDOT Director John Selmer. “NDOT is proud to partner with the Nebraska State Patrol and the National Weather Service to be as prepared as possible when winter weather strikes to keep roadways open, and when necessary, close them for the safety of the traveling public and our teammates. The work we do, together with the information provided in our 511 service helps keep motorist moving

See Nebraska 511,

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Arnold’s One-Act Team Wins District Title

Competes at State Dec. 8



Photo/Jessica Tickle

(From left) Ivy Tullis, Ella Cool, Gracie Neth, Taylor Hanna, Riata Remund, and Delaney Rogers react in a scene from “The Diviners” performed on stage at the District competition.

It was a repeat celebration in North Platte on November 29, as Arnold’s One-Act team received the D2-5 District Championship plaque for the second year in a row and punched their ticket to compete at the 2021 NSAA State Play Production Championships at the Johnny Carson Theatre in Norfolk on Wednesday, November 8. Under the direction of Director Lana Cool and assistant coaches Loleta Connell and Jason Wehnes, the kids performed “The Diviners” - a play

that they continue to perfect with each performance.

Additionally, Arnold’s team received the Outstanding Technical Award.

When it was all over, the judges were so impressed that they awarded every single cast member an Outstanding Performance award - something Coach Cool said she had never seen before.

The District competition was particularly special because every dedicated team member was recognized for

their outstanding contribution to the production,” she said.

Schools competing were: Arnold, Paxton, Brady, Eustis-Farnam, Maywood, Hayes Center, McPherson County, and Crawford. Paxton placed second with their play “Sherlock Holmes” and Eustis-Farnam placed third with “Wipeout.”

The judges’ comments follow:

“Fabulous characterization and blocking making this a production that deserves high praise.”

The stage literally seethes

with life. Never a static moment in blocking. Amazing.

Thank you, thank you for this wonderful show.”

“An exquisite show. So much attention to detail. Acting extremely strong...the best I’ve seen in a long time.”

In 2020 Arnold came away with the State trophy. Will they do it again? Depending on

when you read this issue, it’s most likely the team has already performed and State results will be in next week’s

issue.