



# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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## Campbell Will Be SORC’s “Eye In the Sky”

### Veteran pilot returns to Arnold for 4th year.

By Janet Larreau

Volunteers will be out in force this Thursday, Friday and Saturday, as the Sandhills Open Road Challenge returns to Arnold for its 22nd year. On Saturday morning, residents will hear the distant sound of airplanes in the sky. The pilots flying them are an important part of keeping the drivers safe each year.

Flying his Cessna 182 Skylane 4 place airplane, 2022 will be pilot Kevin Campbell’s 4th year of providing a “birds-eye view” of the SORC race and course from Arnold to Dunning and back again. As of last week, Campbell said his right seat spotter would probably be his brother-in-law, Dr. Ted Evans.

“Our job is if we see something, to alert race officials what’s unsafe and where. We look for any livestock or other animals on the course that could interfere with the race,” said Campbell.

A resident of Gretna, Campbell will be flying about 220 miles to Gothenburg, where he can hangar his airplane until race time. It’s not a big deal, but he said it sure would be nice if Arnold had an airport.

So why is he returning for a 4th year to volunteer his time to the SORC?

“I enjoy flying, providing a community service, and the camaraderie of the racers and staff,” he said.

The 144 drivers from all parts



Courtesy photo

Kevin Campbell of Gretna will be flying his Cessna 182 to Arnold this week to monitor the SORC course for any dangers that may lie ahead for drivers. He is one of a number of pilots who have volunteered each year as a community service.

of the country will be in good hands with Campbell flying overhead. He began flying in the Army in 1966, after training and two tours in a Southeast Asian country. He had several assignments stateside and overseas. In 1975 he left active service and moved to Montana to continue his education at the University of Montana School of Forestry. He flew helicopters for fire support in Montana, Idaho, Washington,

and Wyoming, as well as general forest support for the U.S. Forest Service. He also flew for the National Park Service in Yellowstone and Glacier national parks, and other Department of Interior agencies - USGS, BIA, and USDA - for other projects.

He graduated from the University of Montana with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry, Forest Protection. At that time, he was recalled to ac-

tive duty and became an instructor pilot. Along the way, he earned his fixed wing rating and ended up in Alaska, and retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 in 1989. He continued to fly in Alaska commercially for another nine years. He also earned his Airline Transport Pilot rating for both helicopters and multi-engine airplanes, and commercial instrument single engine airplane.

“I have flown from the North

**“I enjoy flying, providing a community service, and the camaraderie of the racers and staff.”**

Kevin Campbell  
SORC volunteer pilot

Slope of Alaska to the panhandle of Florida, the Pacific Northwest and the Rockies Mountains, every inch of the TransAlaska Pipeline, and Prince William Sound for the oil spill. I’ve flown in several countries in South East Asia, Germany, and Africa. My final commercial job, and probably the most rewarding, was a helicopter pilot for the air ambulance LifeNet 1, operating off the Nebraska Medical Center where I retired in 2017,” he said.

Campbell became a part of the long list of SORC volunteers through his brother Bill Campbell’s college friend, Tiff Varney.

After over two decades, it would be quite the task to list all of the pilots who have volunteered for the SORC, as there are two pilots in the air each year.

“Most of the pilots are locals that we know. Dave Collins of Gothenburg volunteered the most years,” said SORC Board member Josh Cool.

## School’s Music Program Will Continue, Despite No Teacher

By Janet Larreau

Arnold students will be returning to the classroom on August 17, and for the first time in most likely the school’s history, there will be no music teacher.

Superintendent Joel Morgan feels that music is very important in our schools, and had the following to say as teachers and

students get ready to re-enter the classrooms:

“Unfortunately, even with advertising since winter, we have not been able to hire a new music teacher. We are not alone when it comes to an increasing issue of teacher shortages. There are still a number of openings across the state that will remain unfilled. The situation is still fluid in terms of

plans for music this school year. I will be teaching 7-12 music to ensure the school can still maintain a program. My only background is that I was in band and choir in high school. I just think it’s essential we still provide an opportunity for our students when it comes to music. We have a lot of talented kids here, and we want to make sure we can showcase

those talents. I feel everyone has some type of connection through music. It can be performing themselves, writing music, singing and playing in church, or just singing along with the radio. I hope to make this a successful venture by reaching out to many talented people in Arnold. We will have programs, with the elementary taking more of the reigns this

year to put together a program.”

The school is also struggling to fill the positions of assistant cook, a bus driver, and para-educators.

With this being the case, Mr. Morgan said: “We’ve been fortunate to have some great employees here, and I feel we will continue to get great people. It may take a little time.”

## “Where’s The Beef?”... It’s at APS

Joel Morgan  
Superintendent of Schools

With the Custer County Fair wrapping up this week, a unique opportunity presented itself regarding this year’s livestock auction. Traditionally, Pinnacle Bank in Arnold supports local 4-H by purchasing animals. They typically pay the premium on top of the pre-determined base. APS had the chance to piggyback on bank president Aaron Coleman’s efforts.

This spring, the Nebraska Department of Education awarded Supply Chain Assistance grants to school districts. This grant was meant to allow schools to purchase unprocessed foods, including whole beef. With these funds, we were able to purchase a 4-H steer at this year’s auction. Pinnacle Bank agreed to bid at the beef auction and pay the premium like usual and allow the school to buy the steer at a base of \$1.38, which fell right in the current buyer’s average. This allowed APS to purchase a local beef from a local student to be served as a part of our hot lunch program.

The greatest thing about this

opportunity was that no local tax dollars were used to purchase the steer, processing is covered by donations, which can be made through the Arnold Community Foundation Fund, and we had an incredible opportunity to partner with Pinnacle Bank to make this happen. To ensure the school would have no risk, I purchased the steer personally and will feed it until it goes in to be processed. Once it is processed, the school will then pay for the steer at the \$1.38 base with no feed costs.

It is our hope to continue to expand an opportunity like this through donations and sponsorships so that we can buy more in the future. I can think of no better way to support 4-H, local students, local producers, and provide quality beef to our students through our hot lunch program. If you would be interested in helping us make this grow, please give me a call or stop in.

### Take Note

The St. Agnes SORC chicken & noodle dinner will be held on Friday, August 12. Please turn to page 2 for more information.



Courtesy photo

Following the Custer County 4-H Livestock Auction, Arnold student Bree Blowers shows her 1,472 lb. steer that was purchased by Pinnacle Bank for the premium amount. Arnold Public Schools partnered with the bank, and will pay the base price. Also pictured are APS Superintendent Joel Morgan, Pinnacle Bank Branch President Aaron Coleman, and APS Elementary Principal Chanc McIntosh.