

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 106, NUMBER 16

A Path to Serenity and Peace

Father places water feature in Koubek Gardens in Memory of His Daughter

By Janet Larreau

How do you find the words to describe the essence of the late Katelynn Ann Koubek? Her sister, Amanda Koubek-Wehnes, knew her well and found those words.

“She was a very loving and affectionate person. She was an artist, photographer, loved music, and loved animals. She was the baby of the family and never lost her free and child-like spirit. She was a modern gypsy, enjoying Mother Earth and the gifts of the outdoors. Camping, fishing, and being outdoors filled her heart with joy. She was a kind, warm soul who was loyal to her family and friends. She would do anything for the people she loved, without question. She had no enemies and knew no stranger. Katelynn loved old rock music, especially the Beatles. One of her happiest days was when she went with Mom and Tom to see AC/DC live in concert. She also loved movies, especially scary ones or anything with Johnny Depp, who she said she would marry someday,” said Amanda.

Katelynn Ann died on June 19, 2019, at the young age of 26 in an auto accident in Dawson County.

Last week her father, Pete Koubek, had a water feature built in Koubek Gardens to honor the memory of her. Amanda related the story of how the feature came to be.

“Dad was leaving North Platte one day and saw a similar fountain in someone’s yard and he really liked it. He had been looking for something to do to



Photo/Debbie Connelly

The Koubek family, including (from left) Amanda Koubek-Wehnes, Peter Koubek, and Dustin Koubek with his children, gathered for a picture last Sunday afternoon after the completion of the new water feature at Koubek Gardens in downtown Arnold. Amanda is holding a photo of Katelynn Ann Koubek, who the feature is in memory of.

honor the memory of her. When he saw this water feature, it really stood out as something he wanted to do, so he knocked on the homeowner’s door and asked them about theirs,” she said.

Pete then went to Cheryl Carson at the AEDC to see if there was anything they could do to help with the project. Cheryl and Pete came up with the idea to ask the Village if they would

be willing to pay for the power and water for the feature if the family paid for the fountain and did the upkeep of it. Stone Creek Landscaping of North Platte took about a month to get the project scheduled and start construction.

The water feature cost just a little over \$10,000.00 and looks much bigger up close than it did from the road when Pete first saw it.

Amanda will be the primary caretaker for the lighted water feature, but she will make sure husband Jason takes his turn helping. The family has the option to leave it on year-round or shut it off during the cold months. They haven’t decided what they will do yet. They do know they will not be putting fish in it, though, due to the maintenance.

“Providing a peaceful place

for people to relax, reflect, meditate, and enjoy the gifts of the Earth will be a wonderful addition to our community. We are so thankful to the Village for being willing to partner with us to make this a reality. We hope that others who knew Katelynn will find some peace here and those who are grieving can find solace in the peacefulness of the fountain, too,” said Amanda.

Rialto Theatre Will Be Venue for Stand Up Comedy Show



Billie J.



Nancy Rose



Tyler Walsh

Ticket holders will be in stitches on Thursday, October 6, when three comedians take the stage at 8:00 p.m. at the Rialto Theatre.

Comedian Billie J., who plans on producing more Comedy Theatre Shows all over Western Nebraska, lined up the talent, and said she thought it was only fitting to have her first show at the Rialto.

“My first one hour show was in Arnold on March 14, 2020. I’ve been in sales my whole life and have always told funny stories to make sales. I find the Arnold community very supportive and inviting. My friend, Diane, talked me into asking Grazers if I could have a comedy night there. The place was packed with friends and neighbors that couldn’t wait to see what kind of funny stories I would tell!” she said. “When I called up Mary Becker and told her what I wanted to use the theatre for, she was very supportive and excited. The Rialto Theatre has a great history and ambience. We are going to use the theatre’s original spotlight. At least it looks like the original? You know how they change the color of lighting with film paper? Yah. It has that!”

Nancy Rose – a comedian who hails from the “small town” of Los Angeles – will appear on stage. She has traveled the world with her husband in the military circus for 19 years before settling in the Black Hills.

She has acted in commercials, reality shows, independent films, sketches, and web series. She has performed stand up in L.A. at Flappers Comedy Club, The Tao of Comedy, Comedy Chateau, and various states in the Midwest. When not performing comedy, she’s a practicing psychotherapist.

“Nancy and I became friends when she came to a show I booked to ‘see another female comedian.’ We have traveled together and done lots of comedy in the last two years. You are sure to enjoy her humor,” said Billie J.

Billie J. found out about Tyler Walsh from some friends who had a son that was a college

roommate of Tyler’s and have been following his journey in comedy. He has over 70,000 TikTok followers.

The Rialto has seating for 80 and there will be additional seating available. Billie J. did the presale on sponsorships with discounted tickets to get the word out about the show and to make sure she could pay the traveling comedians.

“I realize life is busy and some of the presold tickets won’t make it to the night of the show, so we will have plenty of room for everyone,” she said.

There will be a concession stand ran by the theatre personnel that night, so everyone can consider it a “date night.”

Junk Jaunters Roll Through Town

Beginning last Thursday, Arnold served as a gateway to the Nebraska Junk Jaunt - a 500 mile looping route on two of the most beautiful Scenic Byways in Central Nebraska. In the gateways and on the loop, thousands of jaunters find garage sales, collectibles, antiques, and vintage items.

It is estimated that hundreds rolled through Arnold from several states, including Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Kansas, and Tennessee,

with most stopping at the eight vendor sites that were registered here.

Betty Yeagain, who organizes the Arnold locations each year, said she heard some good reports.

“On Thursday we catch people coming through, and Friday and Saturday are the better days. Some even come through on Sunday. Gene Purcell said he brought in seven loads and went home with one,” she said.

Arnold Man Killed In Two Vehicle Accident

On September 21, 2022, the Custer County Sheriff’s Office investigated a two-vehicle fatality accident 2 miles west of Merna on Nebraska Highway 92. The accident occurred at approximately 1:05 p.m.

Nathan A. Rosentrater, age 39, of Arnold, Nebraska, was driving a 2005 Lincoln LS westbound on Highway 92. Robi J. Brose, of Sibley, Iowa, age 53, was driving a 2016 Peterbilt semi and trailer eastbound on Highway 92. The Lincoln crossed the center line and struck the front driver’s side of the semi.

Both drivers were transported by ambulance to the Jennie Melham Hospital. Rosentrater was pronounced dead at the hospital. Brose was treated and released. Rosentrater was not wearing a seatbelt; Brose was wearing a seatbelt.

The Nebraska State Patrol, Merna Fire and Rescue, Broken Bow Fire and Rescue, Hunters Towing, and Trumbull Towing all assisted with the accident.

Thoughts and prayers go out to all affected by this accident.

Dan Osmond,
Custer County Sheriff



Photo/Leta Connell

Homecoming Royalty

Arnold High School seniors Talli Martin and Silas Cool were crowned Homecoming Royalty Friday afternoon following the South Loup vs. Leyton football game at Callaway. Turn to page 5 for more coverage of the activities leading up to the coronation and dance.