

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Morning Fire Destroys Home



A raging fire consumed the home of Kenny and Ali Goodenow on Monday morning, December 8, in the south part of town. - AVFD photo



This photo shows the aftermath of the fire as flames were extinguished.

The Arnold Volunteer Fire Department was called to the scene of a house fire in the south part of town at 6:40 a.m., on Monday, December 8. Callaway and Stapleton provided mutual aid to control and extinguish the fire. The homeowners, Kenny and Ali Goodenow, and their family of three children escaped without injury. The house is considered a total loss. The cause of the fire had not been determined by press time.

The Red Cross arrived to help with the family's needs, and local churches are working together to also provide necessities. The Nazarene Church will be the drop-off site for donations. If you would like to donate, clothes and shoes needed are: Bo is 10-12 clothes size or youth large, and shoe size 2 or 3. Oli wears youth medium or 7-8, size 12 toddler shoe to youth 1. Kenny is a 5T and shoe toddler 11. Ali is a large top and bottom, jeans 13, shoe 9 ladies. Kenny is a medium top and bottom, pants 29 or 30, shoe 9 1/2.

One-Act Qualifies for State

Arnold's one-act team competed at the state meet on Wednesday this week, after taking the D2-5 district championship trophy December 3 at Thedford. Their performance at the Johnny Carson Theater in Norfolk on December 10 marked the sixth straight year that Arnold has punched their

ticket to state. Arnold's play, *All for One*, also placed 1st in the technical category at districts. Results of the state meet will be in next week's issue. Honorable Acting awards earned at districts were: Adalei Tullis - Queen Anne Josie Christensen - Con-

stance Noah Anderson - Athos Lindsay Christensen - Aramis Eli Rogers - Porthos Piper Strasburg - MiLady DeWinter Paxton Bierman - A'Artagnan Luke Tullis - Cardinal Richelieu

Gnome for the Holidays

Chamber Kicks Off Christmas Season



Dallee Downing, daughter of Danielle Lamb and Brad Downing, shows Santa her newly painted nails before getting down to her wish list.

- Debbie Connolly photos



Jason Jenkins laughs out loud, as his son Jhett gives Santa a mean mugging face and baby Jarrett proves to be a challenge for Mrs. Claus. Santa and Mrs. Claus were kept busy for three hours during the Gnome for the Holidays event at the community center, visiting with an estimated 150 children and handing out candy canes.

The town's streets were teeming with activity on December 3, as Arnold Chamber hosted its annual Christmas Around Town. New chairperson Jill Kulp gave the event a new name in 2025, calling it "Gnome for the Holidays." The new ideas that she introduced were a hit with all ages, and people from in town and out of town showed their support of both the business district and events held at the community center.

As families entered the community center, there was a lot to see and do. Mr. & Mrs. Claus were welcoming kids in a winter-wonderland area, and Mr. Morgan and Jr. Honor Society students were providing concessions, serving chicken tenders, mini corn dogs, and fried cauliflower in on-the-go food boats. At her table, Jill Kulp handed out 125 game

passports to kids to play eight games that were set up all around the gym. Choosing from Scavenger Hunt, Cornhole, Christmas Bingo, Grinch/Nerf Game, Antler Ring Toss, Snowman Bowling, Pin the Nose on Rudolph, and a hayrack ride, the kids had their passport punched, which was then entered into a drawing for Rialto Bucks. Winners were (with some last names missing): Brody Geiser, Kreed, Jude Carlson, Kasen, and Myah. Kids were also having fun at the photo booth, where costumes and accessories were provided.

Outside, Gregg Tickle helped families load up for a hayrack ride around town. Pulled by a tractor and with Christmas lights glowing, the hayrack filled up several times during the three-hour event.

The 1st Annual Tree Decorating competition was also in progress, with five official competitors being judged. April Tickle of Touch of Grace Massage Therapy & Spa was deemed the winner with her Grinch theme. As her prize, April received a tree trophy that she will keep until next year's competition.

Downtown businesses reported a steady flow all afternoon and people were still shopping past 7:00 p.m. Several vendors, including Schoolhouse Gardens, After Prom, Why So Sourdough? Lazy J Bar Woodworking, Scentsy, Out of the Grain Specialty Shop, Pampered Chef, and holiday treats and decor were set up in the community center and downtown.

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April Tickle, owner of Touch of Grace Massage Therapy, was declared the winner of the Christmas tree decorating contest with her Grinch theme. Laura Garrison (right) presented her the tree trophy that April will keep until next year's winner is chosen.