

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 109, NUMBER 37

New Eatery Opens to Great Reviews

The Highlander - A Watering Hole offers new service options

Arnold's newest eating establishment, The Highlander, held a soft opening starting Monday of last week, and by mid-week, owner Danielle Lamb said it was going wonderfully.

“We still have a couple of weeks until our shelves are fully stocked, and we have the fountain machine installed, but we are very happy with the first week,” she said.

Lamb purchased the former Jake's Horses & Harleys building on the north side of Highway 92 on January 14, and was ready to open the doors on February 9.

“We didn't have to do many updates, we just did a little rearranging and change of paint scheme. The brands remain hung on the wall, and in the future, I would like to have more people update the brands to start another generation of décor,” she said.

The store is now set up as two stores in one. The front is a small convenience store with grab-and-go options of fresh food, pop, snacks, and fountain options soon. The back part of the store is sit down dining for lunch and dinner with a full menu. Lamb plans on rotating daily specials in the next couple of weeks, as well, and will post the specials for the week online to give people a heads-up.

In the future, she plans to offer take and bake meals, allowing options for the farmers, ranchers, businessman, and whoever else needs a quick meal that can be thrown in an oven and ready to go. The Highlander also plans to correlate with the surrounding schools to offer large sub or pizza orders that it can deliver. The business will have smoothies, loaded teas,



Lana Tiede, Gracee Downing, and owner Danielle Lamb are cooking up fresh food for residents and travelers on Highway 92, starting with breakfast at 6:00 a.m.

- Debbie Connelly photo

and dirty sodas available in the next month as well.

Lamb said their food is as fresh as they can make it. The sub bread and pizza dough is made fresh daily. All of the meat is sliced in-house daily, and the food is fried in beef tallow for a healthier op-

tion. There's gluten free options as well; cauliflower crust for the pizzas, GF buns, and egg bites in the morning.

Currently, Lamb has two people on her team, daughter Gracee and sister-in-law Lana Tiede. Current hours of opera-

tion are 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., but Lamb plans to expand to 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., starting in March. She will start accepting applications, as well.

“I felt Arnold was such a great central location for a business that I have always wanted to have,”

said Lamb, who also has two other daughters, RayLee and Dallee. “I fell in love with Arnold when I came here five years ago and worked at Grazers. The traffic that comes through this town is amazing, and I wanted to capitalize on that and be

here to serve the village and surrounding areas. I have worked at a few fun places over the course of time, and I wanted to bring those different ideas to our little town.”

Village Receives Scrap Tire Grant

The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment announced February 11 that the Village of Arnold has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$26,487.00 to collect 150 tons of scrap tires.

Funds are awarded through DWEE's Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants Program and its Litter Reduction and Recycling Program. In 2026, the awards total over \$7 million dollars to support 126 waste and litter reduction projects across the state.

The grants will help fund waste and litter reduction projects, recycling programs, pay costs for scrap tire cleanups and collections for household hazardous waste, electronic waste, and pharmaceuticals. Funding is also provided to support public education programs on litter reduction and recycling through a variety of school and community activities. Cleanup grants provide funding for Nebraska residents of all ages who pick up litter and debris along Nebraska's highways, wa-

terways, recreation lands, urban areas, and other public use areas within the state.

“DWEE is pleased to support local initiatives such as those that help residents properly dispose of various household materials,” said DWEE Planning and Aid Division Administrator Sarah Starostka. “Many of the funded projects provide the added benefit of educating Nebraskans about the importance of reducing the waste we generate, reducing litter, and improving recycling to keep our communities clean and vibrant.”

The Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants Program is funded by fees on solid waste disposed of in landfills, annual retail business sales fees, and fees assessed



on the sales of new tires. The Litter Reduction and Recycling Program is funded by fees charged to certain manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers of products that commonly contribute to litter, and a fee assessed on the sale of new tires.

Grant applications for 2027 will be accepted starting in June 2026. Please check DWEE's website or contact [dwee.wastegrants@nebraska.gov](mailto:wastegrants@nebraska.gov) for more information.

Two Wrestlers Are State-Bound

Arnold seniors Josiah Coleman and Paxton Bierman competed at districts at Bartlett last Friday and Saturday. Both earned medals and qualified for the state meet set for February 19-21 CHI Health Center in Omaha. See the report on page 4.

Board Approves Project, Looks at Pool Rates

Arnold Village Board members held a public hearing on the One & Six Year Street Improvement Plans, discussed the gun range, heard an update on the tree grant, discussed pool rates, and were informed about the date for community cleanup during their regular meeting held on February 9.

Village Engineer Tom Werblow presented the plans for street improvements that include armor coating various streets and sidewalk improvements. Casey Cozad asked about the sidewalk improvements. AEDC Director Cheryl Carson said that the Phase 1 of the sidewalk improvements is the 100 block of South Walnut. With no other comments heard, the hearing was closed, and Resolution 2026-1 was approved and adopted.

Carson told the Board that on January 22, she and Bernie Straetker, Professional Engineer with T.C. Engineering, met with the available business owners to review the current plan for the sidewalks.

Gun Range Discussion

Board members continued discussion on insurance for the gun range building and liability. At the January 12 meeting, it was stated that the gun club would disband since it does not have enough revenue to purchase a director's and officer's policy (the policy would cover each individual board member's liability) and that the gun range will be open to the public. Joe Bob Atkins told the Board that there must be some type of control at the gun range for it to be insured. He compared the gun range to the pool, which is open to the public, but still has control. A certified pool operator must be on duty and fees must be paid to use the pool. Discussion was held on the liability of the gun range, and it was noted that the Village does not have the necessary staff to operate the gun range. Members then voted to close the gun range by a 4-1 vote, with Jenkins voting nay. After that vote, members voted to insure the gun club building.

Forestry Grant Update Mary Becker gave the board an update on the

Urban and Community Forestry grant which was approved on December 1, 2025. Wade Viter, DBA Viter Tree Solutions, started removing trees that were approved for removal on December 26. These trees were located on residential properties and at the Arnold Recreation Area. The grant allowed the Village \$50,000.00 in Year 1 to remove trees. Board members voted to issue a check to Viter Tree Solutions for \$46,700.00 for tree removal. The Village will be reimbursed from the Urban and Community Forestry Grant.

Community Clean Up The month of April has been designated as Community Clean Up Month. Community Clean Up Day will be Monday, April 20, with a storm date of April 27. Volunteers will provide help to those that need assistance that day. Arnold Chamber and Arnold Legion will provide a meal for the volunteers. Board members voted to provide refreshments to the volunteers on Community Clean Up Day.

See **Board Approves Project**, page 2