

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

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## Snow Finally Arrives

A fast-moving storm dropped about 8 inches of snow on the area on Thursday, February 19, prompting Village employees Eric Holmberg (operating the Bobcat) and Tory Edwards (in the loader) to get out the snow removal equipment for the first time in the 2025/2026 winter season. The storm gave Holmberg the chance to use the Village's new snow pusher attachment. “(The pusher) free-floats, and it's making it a lot easier to clean the alleys and pile snow,” he said, adding that the snow started melting fast as it hit the warm ground.

With the area recording some record-breaking warm temperatures, people have been out and about – apparently in the parks. “I got a call telling me that the city park's trash was overflowing. Who thinks of that in the winter?” he said.

The storm also brought Arnold School's its first official “snow day” on Thursday, followed by a late start on Friday. With some snow on the ground, local fire departments breathed a sigh of relief for a few days at least. This week's forecast calls for warm weather to return.

- Debbie Connelly photo

## School Board Working to Cut Costs On Proposed Facility

Arnold School Board Members met in special session last Tuesday, February 17. The purpose of the meeting was a workshop to discuss the proposed facility layout. All board members – Duane Bowers, Jen Dalrymple, Justin Strasburg, Merle Bierman, Joe Cool and Shane Cool – were present at this meeting as well as Superintendent Joel Morgan and Michelle Preston. The latest design, “Option F,” was presented to the public on September 4, 2025. Board members have since been working along with Jacob Sertich, Managing Architect of Wilkins, to improve the

flow and better utilize the square footage of the proposed facility and to cut costs. At this meeting, board members spent an hour discussing main issues such as parking, drainage, the best location for the entrance, and placement for areas that are used by both the elementary and high school, such as the library, music room, gymnasium, special services, and administrators' offices. Members discussed likes/dislikes of other school facilities that they have toured or have visited recently. By the end of the hour, they had created a visual plan to send off to Sertich with

hopes of receiving an updated floor plan by the March 10 meeting.

The second half of the meeting was spent going over the itemized list and estimates received from Austin Larson, Construction Operations Director/Estimator with BD Construction Inc. In discussion, they all were in agreement to save on manager fees and overhead by having the old high school torn down at a later time by a local contractor. Removing the playground and building a new playground would also not be a part of the BD portion of the project. Bowers said he would like

to incorporate parts of or a piece of the old high school into the new build. One board member stated the overall cost is still high and that at the end of the day, it's just a metal building with other members in agreement.

The board is now considering a 15 year bond, which would save quite a bit on interest compared to the 20 year bond presented back in September. The down payment amount and the amount to be financed will be calculated once the updated designs are received by the board.

## Two File for Re-election on School Board

Joe Cool and Merle Bierman filed for re-election on the Arnold School Board by the incumbent deadline of February 17. Incumbent Jen Dalrymple did not refile. All non-incumbents have un-

til March 2 to file with the Custer County Clerk's office. The three open positions will be decided on in the General Election, but if more than six register to run, the field of candidates will be narrowed

down in the Primary Election.

Charles Blowers filed for re-election on the Custer County Board of Supervisors, District 5, by the incumbent deadline.

There will be three open

positions on the Arnold Village Board. Incumbents have until July 15 to file and all others have until August 3.

## Local Spell-Off Decides Who Will Compete at County Bee



Custer County Spelling Bee qualifiers: (front, l-r) Charlea Fletcher (local champion), Brody Blowers, Kowen Dalrymple, Beckett Preston, and Ruby Hagler; (back) Jewel Withuhn, Sophia Cool, Scout Evans, Makenna Weinman, Addison Dalrymple, Isaac Jarmin, Dagen Fletcher.

By: Sophia Gronseth, APS Sophomore

ARNOLD: After a grueling 13-round spell off, Charlea Fletcher, 4th grader was crowned this year's Arnold Spelling champion.

Charlea had the opportunity to win in round 10 vs.

Makenna Weinman. Makenna could have won it in round 11. They both could have won in round 12 but both missed their words. Then round 13 decided it with Charlea spelling the word “delphine.”

The 17th Annual Arnold Spelling Bee was held Tuesday, February 17th

with 22 participants in 4th-8th grade.

The first round of the local spelling bee is a practice round, where all participants come to the front to announce their name for the audience, get used to the microphone, and get comfortable with the routine (say it, spell it, say

it) of spelling their name.

By round four we were down to eight students competing as the words quickly escalated in difficulty. We lost three more in round five.

In second place was Mak-

See Spell-Off, Page 2.

## Goal Set: People Answered

The Arnold Area Historical Society's goal of 100 people (families, AHS classes) each choosing to give \$1,000 or more to support our Cornerstone Museum has been achieved! We are actually at #105 and have received news that a few more are on the way. To date, we have raised over \$310,000 in our efforts to restore the old Archie's building and create a lasting legacy to share the ongoing story of Arnold, its people, and the fortitude that has kept our rural town strong and thriving.

The interior brick work is complete except for the double-door opening on the NW corner and the exterior west wall was rebuilt brick by brick. Soon the rafters will be cleaned and the window openings covered with tin so some other interior work can be completed in the bathroom/utility room areas. Once the exterior brick work on the north and east side is completed in the spring and summer, new windows and doors can be installed. Our dream is to have the building finished before Alumni 2027, but it will be dependent on the generous giving of those who love Arnold and value preserving our history. We continue to seek funding sources and welcome donations of any size.

**100** for \$1000 **Be ONE of the 100**  
Arnold Area Historical Society/Museum  
PO Box 241 • Arnold, NE 69120

### DONOR / IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF...

Beshaler Farms / Bud & Sue Beshaler  
72 Ranch Trust (Mildred Smith) / Don Smith  
72 Ranch Trust and Craig & Pam Smith / Don Smith  
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Craig & Pam Smith / Todd Smith  
Class of 1964

Elizabeth Romano / Ellen (Sue) Beshaler  
Dallas & Shelley Beshaler / Ryan Kelly Beshaler  
Rick & Kim Beshaler / Ryan Kelly Beshaler  
Arnold Winsome Inn & Suites / Lois Johnson  
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Ron & Nancy Cool / Scott B. Cool  
Max & Joan Smith / Mynor & Cecil Smith  
Fran Hagler / Mark Hagler, Zach Hagler, & Abby Hagler  
Doug & Carlene Lanham / Jennifer Lanham Goff  
Doug & Carlene Lanham / Robert “Bobby” Lanham  
Carolyn Watkins / Bill Watkins

Pam (Holman) Smith, John Holman, Paula Holman, & Brenda Holman / James & Helen Holman  
Ed and Holly Tullis  
Class of 1988 / Scott Cool & Michael Davenport  
Sandhills Open Road Challenge  
Dennis & Susan McGuire / R.E. & L.L. Allen  
Class of 1962

Ted, Renee, Leighton, & Jadeyn Bubak / Bill & Carolyn Watkins and Gary & Margaret Bubak  
Joe & Bonnie Watkins and Carolyn & the late Bill Watkins / Lowell & Arvilla (Mills) Watkins  
Class of 1973

Watkins Family Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren / Lowell & Arvilla (Mills) Watkins  
Anonymous / Joe Watkins

Anonymous / Bill & Carolyn Watkins, Watkins Farm & Ranch, and 17 Ranch  
Cecil Trenkle / Carlene & Doug Lanham  
Bob & Carolyn Foran  
Allan & LaDonna McClure

Roger & Sulin Best / Arnold Area Homesteaders Lyman Pierce & Ada Cordella Hansberry Pierce  
Cynthia & John Timmermier, Melanie & Lane Chesley, Stephanie & Charlie Delp / Darrel & Sunya Peters  
Max & Joan Smith  
Joan Adcock

Dan Eastburn, Brad & Deb Atkins, Gerald & Joan Eastburn, Connie & Gary Geiser, and Lee Eastburn / Jim & Margaret Eastburn  
Class of 1970

Sue DeLosh; Marie, Artie, Jaydon, & Jaxon Parker; Donnell, Cassy, Bexley, & Dekker DeLosh / Kent DeLosh

Rodney & Donna Anderson / Robert & Alberta Anderson and Vicky Boston  
Mark Koubek / Bob Koubek  
Max & Joan Smith / Lindy Smith

Lane & Melanie Chesley, Roger & Marion Chesley, Carol & Tim Boyle, and David & Josephine Chesley / Orren & Lucy Shaw  
Dan & Jackie Keyser

The Wilson Family Farm / Florence (Tietjens) Wilson  
Class of 1975 and 1985  
John, Beth, Sarah, & Anna Watkins / Tom & Gertrude (Lathrop) Watkins

Robert & Joyce Howe / George James Halstead  
John Hardin / Hardin Family, Pioneers of Arnold, Ben & Edner Hardin, Homer & Martha Hardin  
Carolyn Watkins / John Watkins & Renee (Watkins) Bubak

Richard Duponchee Memorial  
Ted, Renee, Leighton, & Jadeyn Bubak / William & Lucinda (Stark) Mills

Roger & Sulin Best / Dwight & Eva Best  
Bret Morris & Jill Morris-Chapman / Norene Hall-Mills & Laclede Mills-Morris

Justin, Jaily, Piper, & Parker Strasburg / Darrell & Pat Crow

Joe Bob & Randi Atkins / Al & Arvilla Atkins  
Bob & Penny Allen / Darrell & Pat Crow  
Doug & Carlene Lanham / Earl & Ila Dailey  
Doug & Carlene Lanham / Bob & Shirley Reed

Roger & Sulin Best and Shirley Bassett / Arnold area's committed community builders

Donna (McGuire) & Mark Haddon; Dennis & Susan (Becker); Jed, Mindy, Aaron, Akari, Kay McGuire; and Frank & Melissa Vasquez / William F. & Ara L. (Forth), and sons Richard & Allan McGuire

Mark & Linda Miller / Gerald & Genevieve (McGuire) Miller and brother Michael Miller  
Melvin Nielsen

Kristi & Rich Dvorak / Stupplebeen family



ARNOLD Area Historical MUSEUM

TOTAL RAISED AS OF 2/6/26:

\$105,000