

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Fire Department Members Receive Awards



The Arnold Vol. Fire Department presented Firemen and EMT awards at their annual awards banquet. Recipients were: Dave Smith, 2025 Runner-Up Fireman of the Year; Grady Lashley, 2025 Fireman of the Year; Amanda Wehnes, 2025 EMT of the Year; and Cassy DeLosh, 2025 Runner-Up EMT of the Year.

Annual banquet recognizes best of the best

The Arnold Volunteer Fire Department held its annual awards banquet on Friday, February 27, at the Arnold Legion. They enjoyed a meal catered by Around the Block Catering.

Tami Smith was the speaker for night. Tami is a provisional mental health practitioner, and her husband Dave serves on the department.

“I was asked to speak about how to deal with difficult calls — not from theory, but from what actually helps people stay

well in this work. There’s a framework used in high-stress professions. It’s not about forcing people to talk, and it’s not about pretending nothing happened. It’s called BICEPS, and it works because it respects how human beings — and nervous systems — actually function under ‘load.’ I want to walk through it with you as a way of downshifting together after heavy calls — a way of taking care of yourselves and your tribe,” stated Tami.

The acronym BICEPS

stands for B- Brevity (a short check-in with each other), I- Immediacy (support works best sooner rather than later), C-Contact (letting yourself be near people who understand this work), E- Expectancy (recovery is expected — not optional), P-Proximity (stay close to your people and your routines), and S-Simplicity (eat, hydrate, shower, and sleep).

“Having this information for first responders, especially after a tough year for Arnold’s first

responders, is important and we were privileged to have someone like Tami to present that information to our department and our family members,” stated Tammy Weinman, Rescue Captain.

Andrew Tickle, Fire Chief, handed out several awards for the night including: Tammy Weinman - The Overcomer Award; Robbi Smith - The Fastest Responder Award; Cassy DeLosh - Most Training Hours for 2025; Jane Lashley - The Comeback Kid Award; Dalton Swopes - The Nutcracker Award; Cassy DeLosh - Getting Over Your Fear Award; Amanda Wehnes

- Screech the Tire Award. Amanda Wehnes researched the department’s call data to award those that respond to the most EMS calls between midnight and 6:00 calling it the Red Eye Award. Award winners for this award were Tammy Weinman and Andrew Tickle with a tie among the EMT’s and fireman Robbi Smith.

Those receiving awards for responding to over 30% of all calls were Andrew Tickle, Gregg Tickle, Robbi Smith, Cam Meyer, April Tickle, Grady Lashley, Dave Smith, Tammy Weinman, Cassy DeLosh, and Amanda Wehnes. Re-

sponding to over 50% of all calls award were Andrew Tickle, Robbi Smith, Tammy Weinman, Cassy DeLosh and Amanda Wehnes.

Years of Service pins were given to April Tickle 15 years, Andrew Tickle 15 years, Heather Hagler 15 years, Jane Lashley 5 years, and Grady Lashley 5 years.

Dave Smith was awarded 2025 Runner Up Fireman of the Year, Grady Lashley 2025 Fireman of the Year, Amanda Wehnes 2025 EMT of the Year, and Cassy DeLosh 2025 Runner Up EMT of the Year. These awards were voted on by their peers.

Can’t Miss It



The Sandhills Open Road Challenge is rolling into the 26th race season with a brand-new welcome sign to promote the event and the town. The sign was set along Highway 92 on the west edge of town last week. Designed by Bailey Schwarz and placed on land donated by Robbi Smith, SORC said it took heavy equipment and all hands on deck to install the 16x8 sign. An identical sign will be placed on the east edge of town before SORC arrives in August. - Debbie Connelly photo

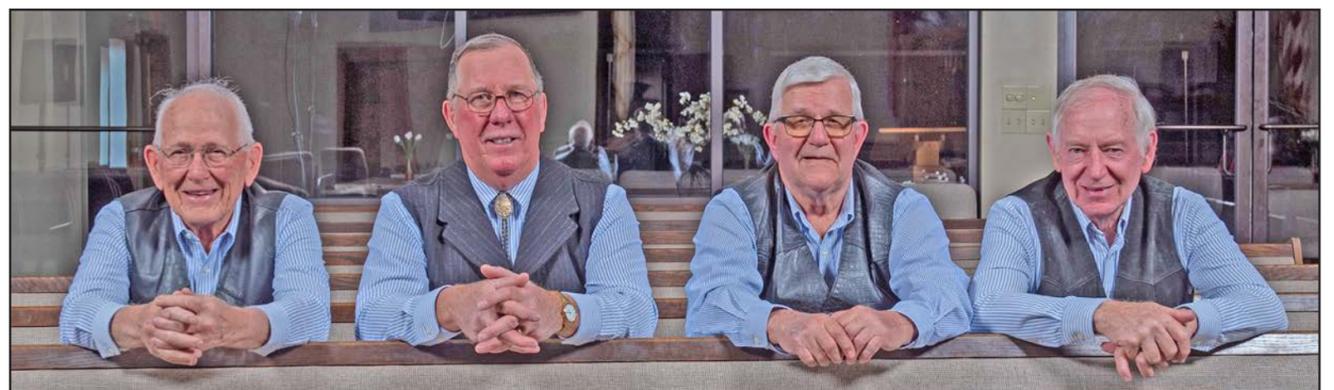
Final Curtain Call

Men on the Mountain quartet will perform farewell concert at Arnold

Editor’s note: The well-known quartet, “Men on the Mountain, will be performing their final concert for the public Sunday, March 22, at 4:00 p.m. at the Arnold Baptist Church, with refreshments following. Their long history together, from the beginning of forming the quartet to the present, follows:

Fourteen years ago the rudiments of a Gospel Quartet began to take shape at Arnold First Baptist. It appeared at Christmas time, 2012, when Ed Tullis was “discovered” for his singing voice as part of a volunteer group for the church program. Bob Hough and Dale Fletcher had long been involved in vocal ministry at the church and then there was Pastor Irving Jennings with that beautiful bass voice. It was no small effort to convince a hesitant Ed to sing a church special with the group. But we whined, so the group with wives gathered at the Fletcher’s for supper and to practice an ‘old familiar song’ (we promised Ed), “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.” Well, making that harmony in Fletcher’s small piano room caught fire and there was soon no looking back.

From the beginning it was Melody Jennings at the piano who pulled the voices together. With the ability to sight read anything placed in front of her, she could jump from



After 14 years of ministry, the Men on the Mountain quartet of (from left) Dale Fletcher, Ed Tullis, Bob Hough, and Irv Jennings will be presenting their final concert on Sunday, March 22, at the Arnold Baptist Church.

complex accompaniment to several measures of parts as she heard the need. And oh how those guys did give her skulduggery. She said it nailed down the reason why she was raised with all brothers!

Most of the early practices were in preparation for church specials, bedside comfort of ailing friends, or funerals. Then in September of 2013, Pastor held out the need for a new church-build in Sophia, Bulgaria. With this cause the quartet readied a well-received concert at our local Rialto Theatre with the community contributing wonderful financial help. Looking back, this time seemed to mark a dividing line in realizing the quartet might be called to more.

One of the songs the guys early loved is entitled “God on the Mountain” which is a hard earned truth of God being both

on the mountains of our lives as well as in the valleys. The quartet name, “Men on the Mountain” came from this song as well as the Scripture we wore on tee shirts: “Come up to Me on the mountain and wait.” - Exodus 24:12 The heart’s response is, “Where else would we go, Jesus? Only you have the words of eternal life.” John 6:68

On a Sunday in September of 2014 Bob Westbrook gave the quartet a heads-up that a quality amp system was to be auctioned that afternoon locally. He recommended that it would ‘fit us’ and with the cost being reasonable it was purchased. That evening the quartet sang at Burr Oak Church for a Valentine Banquet. The love gift given afterwards was the exact cost of the system. Eyes were moist that night with God’s affirmation of the ministry. Ed from the beginning

had great interest and did ever-increasing research for what it took to put together a sound system that would fit our needs and venues. After the mixer and speaker purchase, mics were soon added, followed by monitors, and later a ‘snake’ that would connect the guys to sound from the mixer positioned in the back of a room. We were blessed that Ed’s interest kept us abreast of and often repaired for the guys’ need to hear one another and of course for audience audio.

Our first ‘away’ tour was to sing on the Spirit of Brownville riverboat in 2015. There was a distant connection with the captain and we asked for opportunity to sing after one of their dinner cruises. We purposely invited area friends whom we hoped to encourage and it was a grand beginning.

While in Brownville, some of us also attend-

ed a church pastored by a longtime friend of the Fletchers. This Bob had sung in a successful Gospel quartet for years and he handed off a CD to Ed with words of encouragement. It was another boon to look UP for what God was doing ahead of us. We could not have imagined what our Father had in mind.

We forged ahead and once we sang in an area, word spread. So the invitations came to sing . . . and after some time it seemed there was never a pause in the list of those inquiring about a date. Early on we couldn’t have foreseen peoples’ openness and actual hunger for what God was calling us to do. In part what a concert seemed to offer was a time for folks to remember. The old Gospel harmony was a different door to recall hope . . . hope in Christ and the high cost that was funded by

love. We found an audience who needed an hour to rest in that. And in between there was laughter. Oh how we all did laugh - healing balm to life-weary hearts!

Prayer was essential if there was to be any lasting purpose to a concert. And at every turn it seemed that God taught a practical lesson to add to the list of skills ‘yet to learn.’ One of the first was to not attempt a quartet of “3” when one member wasn’t available. Not a good idea. If one leg of our ‘platform’ was absent, the guys felt the three-part harmony disjointing.

Another lesson was the difficulty of singing for an outdoor venue. It was difficult to funnel sound accurately and once we competed with a mud volleyball game next to us!

Then there was the time an interstate accident

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