

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Callaway Dist. Hospital and Medical Clinics Announces Plans for New Arnold Clinic

Legacy of Care Gala Scheduled for April 18 to Support Project

ARNOLD, Neb. - Callaway District Hospital and Medical Clinics, in partnership with the Callaway Hospital District Foundation, is working toward the construction of a new medical clinic in Arnold to ensure long-term access to healthcare services for the community and surrounding Sandhills region.

Healthcare services have been available in Arnold for many years through the existing clinic, which has served as an important access point for primary care for residents in western Custer, Logan, Thomas, Blaine, and sur-

rounding counties. However, hospital leaders say the current building no longer meets the needs of modern healthcare delivery.

Callaway District Hospital, a nonprofit Critical Access Hospital based in Callaway, has a long history of serving rural Nebraska communities. In addition to hospital services, the organization operates medical clinics, pharmacy services, behavioral health programming through Senior Life Solutions, and public transportation services to help patients access care. Plans for a new clinic in

Arnold would allow for improved patient flow, updated technology, expanded services, and a space designed to support provider recruitment and retention in the community.

“The Arnold community deserves continued access to high-quality healthcare close to home,” said Cassie Penn, Chief Operating Officer of Callaway District Hospital and Medical Clinics. “Our current clinic has served the community well, but a new facility will allow us to better meet patient needs today while preparing for the future of rural healthcare.”

The estimated cost of the clinic project is approximately \$2.6 million, with funding expected to come from a combination of financing, grants, and community fundraising efforts led by the Callaway Hospital District Foundation.

To support the project, the Foundation will host the Legacy of Care Gala on April 18, 2026, themed “Celebrating Rural Strength. Building Rural Care.” The event will bring together community members, businesses, and supporters of rural healthcare for an evening of dinner, entertainment,

and fundraising in support of the Arnold Clinic project.

Gala tickets are available through the Callaway Hospital District Foundation. Individuals or businesses interested in attending, sponsoring, or donating can contact the hospital or Foundation office for more information. Hospital and Foundation leaders say community support will play an important role in ensuring continued access to healthcare services in Arnold for years to come.

For more information about the Arnold Clinic project or the Legacy of

Chili Cook-Off Cancelled

Chamber's Chili Cook-Off, originally scheduled for March 7, has been cancelled due only four teams signing up. Chamber voted at their February meeting that there needs to be at least six teams in order to hold the event and only four signed up.

While Chamber is disappointed to cancel the event this year, the organization will try to bring it back next year.

Miss Nebraska Tells Students: “Dream Big”

Makinzie Gregory spends a day in Arnold.

By Janet Larreau

Arnold Public Schools and Rotary welcomed Miss Nebraska 2025 Makinzie Gregory to the community on Thursday, February 26. Her day-long appearance at a Nebraska school was one of her major goals when she won Miss Nebraska.

“I wanted to visit as many small towns across the state as possible,” said Gregory. “Growing up in Western Nebraska (Scottsbluff/Gering), I only met one Miss Nebraska ever! I didn't know the organization existed or the potential it had to truly change my life. So, I want to be as visible to young people, specifically young ladies, across the state of Nebraska to encourage and inspire them to reach for their own dreams. Part of that meant reaching out to every single public school district in the state with the opportunity to speak and visit with students. Principal Goodenow took my idea and ran with it! I'm so thankful for the opportunity to spend the

whole day here in Arnold, not only speaking with students but also connecting with community members in the Rotary Club as well.”

Gregory was crowned Miss Nebraska on June 7, 2025, and her reign is exactly a year. She will give up the title this coming June. She said thanks to the incredible sponsorship from Wolf Auto in Ogallala, she has traveled over 50,000 miles already and has no intentions of slowing down in the last couple of months.

Gregory's Arnold itinerary included meeting with all of the students, from Pre-K through 12th grade.

“With preschoolers, I find that I'm able to connect best by reading a book and discussing it with them, my main goal being to be one more positive role model in their lives,” she said.

With the K-12 students, she spoke about dreaming bigger.

“When I started this journey in the Miss Nebraska program eight years ago, I NEVER believed that little old me could be worthy



After a luncheon of The Highlander subs at the Methodist Church, Miss Nebraska Makinzie Gregory interacts with a table full of girls. “Gregory took the time to autograph a photo for all of the girls there and spoke with each one of them,” said one observer.

- Debbie Connelly photo

of this title or worthy of these big dreams. I competed for Miss Nebraska five times before winning the title this past year. Through years of mindset work and participating in

the Miss Nebraska program, I have been able to improve my confidence, leadership, authenticity, and resilience tenfold, which are also the topics I enjoy sharing with stu-

dents,” she said.

The full school assembly was more general leadership, as Gregory spoke with the boys and girls of the school. Students from Anselmo-Merna

joined the all-girl assembly, where Gregory dove deeper into the topics of confidence, authenticity, and dreaming big.

See Miss Nebraska, page 5.

Business Community Congratulates Nansel's Best for 60 Years of Service

Brad and Bryce Nansel received a nice surprise last Friday, February 27, when four local business owners showed up with a gift to help them celebrate 60 years of service on the corner of Highway 92 and 40.

Terry and Dena Mills of Mills Hardware and Andrew and April Tickle of Touch of Grace Massage Therapy came up with the idea of filling a basket full of 60 each of Brad and Bryce's favorite treats. There were oranges, fruit snacks, trail mix, granola bars, and most exciting, Reeses peanut butter cups - 60 for each of them. They also presented them a congratulatory card signed by all of the downtown business people.

The gift arrived two days before the service station's 60 year milestone. Brad's father and Bryce's grandfather, the late Ralph Nansel, started working for the Dwight Best service station on March 1, 1966. In 1983, Brad came aboard, and Bryce came on in 2010, adding up to three generations of Nansels providing six decades of service to the community.

“It was very much appreciated. We're just glad to be here. I wish dad would have been sitting in his chair when they came,” said Brad.

Brad and Bryce thought the treats were way more than they needed, so they put the basket on the front counter to share with their customers, and no one could leave without one. The Reeses went in back to the fridge - a spot all the kids go to.



Bryce Nansel (holding gift basket) and Brad Nansel (center) were surprised with an anniversary gift celebrating 60 years of service last Friday. Presenting the gift were (pictured right) Dena and Terry Mills and Andrew and April Tickle. There to celebrate with them were Nansel's Service employees (from left) Jessi Viter, Quan Bamesberger, and Koy Kramer. - Debbie Connelly photo