

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

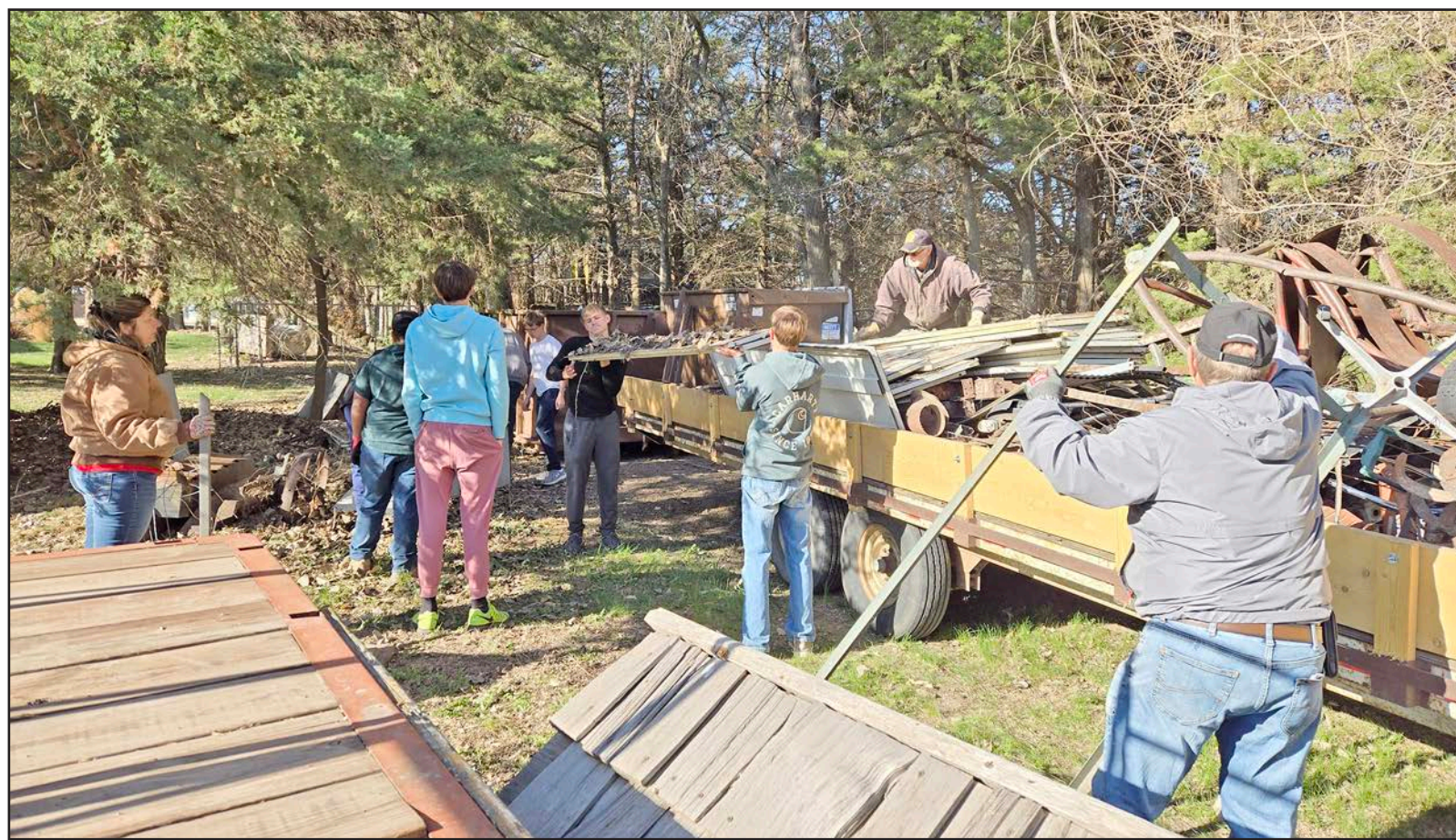
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VOLUME 109, NUMBER 46

Our Town, Our Responsibility

School, organizations join forces for annual clean-up day



A crew of students and Legion members were at Lisa Geiser's property on Monday, loading rubble into a roll-off and onto the Legion's scrap metal trailer. Lisa was one of 15 residents who got on the Community Clean-Up Day list to receive some help making their property shine. Groups of volunteers spread out across the town, washing tables and chairs and cutting back grasses and laying new mulch at the community center; raking and cutting bushes back at Koubek Gardens; cleaning up at the ARA; cleaning out flower beds and hauling off tree branches and trash at Riverview Apartments; picking up trash in alleys and the railroad right of way; trimming evergreens and raking the cemetery; and picking up trash at the football field and at Devil's Den Look-Out. Legion was collecting iron and Village crews were assisting where needed. Donuts were served in the morning at the community center before the crews went out, and lunch was served by Chamber to give everyone the fuel they needed for the day-long event.

- Debbie Connelly photo

Nuisance Abatement Process Begins

The West Central Nebraska Development District (WCNDD) conducted their first windshield review on April 16 as part of the Nuisance Abatement process. The review identified properties in Section 4 (south part of town) that will receive courtesy letters. A second windshield review will be conducted on May 4. After the second review, WCNDD will prepare a list of items to be placed on the May 11 Village Board agenda.

The Village has contracted with WCNDD for nuisance abatement. The Board selected Section 4 for 2026. The initial review of properties is done from public rights-of-way only; there is no trespassing on private property. WCNDD documents potential nuisance items using a standardized checklist. During the review, photos are taken on properties and specific nuisance violations are date-stamped for evidence collection. The assessment is conducted without prior knowledge of ownership to ensure impartiality.

Zoning Articles Amended at Board Meeting

At their regular meeting held on April 13, the Village Board of Trustees held a public hearing to consider two zoning amendments that if passed, would help pave the way for vehicle awnings to be installed on the west side of Riverview Apartments. The first adds permission for multi-family dwellings in residential districts to construct canopies over on-site parking spaces. The canopies may have a

zero setback in any yard, provided they are designed to be breakaway if struck by a motor vehicle. The second reduces front yard setbacks from 35 feet to 20 feet for arterial street and from 25 feet to 20 feet for collector, local streets, and frontage roads. The Village Clerk told board members that the Planning Commission had met before the meeting, held a public hearing regarding the amendments, and recommended that

two articles be amended. Comment from the public were received during the Commission's public hearing. After discussion, two ordinances to amend the articles were introduced and both were passed by the Board.

Concern Expressed

Arnold Fire Chief Andrew Tickle was at the meeting to discuss the Village's tree and grass clipping piles. He expressed concern about the growing size of both

piles, noting that the Village has been unable to conduct controlled burns due to the lack of rain or snow. Various options were discussed, and the matter will be revisited at the May meeting.

Seasonal Help

Village Superintendent Eric Holmberg informed the Board that Kyser Tiede has been hired for seasonal employment.

Patricia Lamberty reported that the 2026 pool personnel is as follows:

Manager/WSI Instructor: Shavonne Schacher
Assistant Managers: Amaiya Carlson and Aliyah Carlson

Lifeguards (provided all the qualifications are met): Adalyn Carlson, Braxton Cozad, Claire Kulp, Riley Leetch, Tysen Schacher.

Open Office Position

Discussion was held regarding advertising for a full-time office assistant position, which is intended to transition into the

Village Clerk/Treasurer role. Patricia Lamberty said that the job description must be updated prior to advertising the position. The item will be placed on the May 11 agenda for further consideration.

Community Concerns

Donnell DeLosh reported that a local business owner expressed the opinion that the Arnold Economic Development Corpora-

See ZONING ARTICLES, page 8

Arnold Community Foundation Fund Hosts Wisconsin Authors and NCF Group

By: Melanie Chesley, ACFE Board Member

Twenty of Arnold's organization leaders heard from two Wisconsin authors and community builders during an impromptu meeting last Wednesday hosted by the Arnold Community Foundation Fund (ACFF) at the community center.

Tom Mosgaller and Mike Breininger co-authored "Pulling Together: A Handbook for Community Change," published in 2025. They have collaborated for more than a decade helping rural people in the work of finding shared values, forging trust and building stronger communities. Last week Mosgaller and Breininger were on a journey across Nebraska with several Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) staff, including CEO Jeff Yost and Elizabeth Troyer-Miller, NCF's affiliated fund development coordinator for central Nebraska.

Arnold was fortunate to be a stop on their travel route. After spending the day in Red Cloud and Bertrand, the traveling

group arrived in Arnold in the late afternoon of April 8. ACFE member Renee Bubak gave them a tour by car of Arnold's points of interest, including the Arnold Rec Area, Old Mill Park, the city park, the school with its greenhouse, and the recently completed Veterans Memorial. Then the group set out on foot and explored the Cornerstone museum, BrewBakers, the Rialto theater, Dahlia Valley Ranch's storefront, and Oakbrook Physical Therapy, before walking to the community center to meet with assembled Arnoldites.

Bubak, acting as Arnold tour guide, said the group thought Arnold's multiple park areas were impressive. "They marveled that we had a nine-hole golf course with grass greens in such a small town." Breininger also commented on Arnold's weekly newspaper and its well prepared content, a noteworthy asset for any small town. In general, the visitors were amazed at Arnold's wide array of services and assets and the number of ongoing projects.



Elizabeth Troyer-Miller explains her role as Arnold's affiliated fund development coordinator. Standing at right is Jeff Yost, CEO of Nebraska Community Foundation. Seated right of Troyer-Miller are speakers Mike Breininger and Tom Mosgaller. - Courtesy photo

Organizations represented were the Arnold Chamber, Arnold Rotary, SORC, the Village of Arnold, and various boards including the Finch Memorial Library, Cornerstone museum, Rialto theater, Arnold Public Schools and Arnold Cemetery along with the Legion's Auxiliary. Arnold Community Foundation Fund members rounded out the group.

Participants were asked to introduce themselves by telling Mosgaller and Breininger where they would take the visitors in or around Arnold and why that place is important.

The benefit of such an introduction was immediately apparent. Not only did Mosgaller and Breininger learn about Arnold's best features,

but also the entire group became more familiar with what each participant values. This set the stage for the presentation about the importance of knowing one's community and trusting the people in it.

The two presenters were both raised on Wisconsin farms but have taken very different paths to their current work of building

community. Breininger is a former banker turned evangelical pastor who raised a large family of biological and adopted children. Mosgaller, raised on a northern Wisconsin dairy farm in his family since the 1880s, served in the military before beginning hands-on training as a community organizer in Chicago and Philadelphia.