

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 109, NUMBER 50

## Alumni Will Reunite This Weekend

Arnold High School alumni will gather this weekend for the annual reunion. Individual class reunions will be held over three days at various locations, and everyone will gather in the school gym on Saturday evening for the big event – the Alumni Banquet & Program. A social hour will be held from 3:30 to 4:30, followed by the meal catered by Winfield Sweets N Eats, serving from 4:30 to 6:30. Kirk Crawley, Class of 1978, will emcee the program with this year's theme of USA 250.

Kirk grew up on Garfield Table with his sister, mother, and great uncle, and spent his entire K-12 journey in the Arnold education system.

Crawley said he is so grateful that he could pursue his interest in sports

and music in the public school system. Teachers like Don Hardin, Lloyd German and Gaylord Johnson gave him direction, and English debates with Mr. Miller also proved useful. As a teenager, he helped at home, but also worked for Fred Blummer, Maurice Andrew, and several years with Gaylord Johnson. Those summer jobs put cash in his pocket and helped pay for a college education.

In 1978 he attended KSC and received his BA in elementary education with PE minor. He landed a job in Broken Bow in the fall of 1982, and this proved to be the perfect stop for him. He spent the next 34 years teaching, coaching, and serving as an administrator. During his career, he met

his wife Alberta and were married in 1998, and with her two sons, Nick and Tom, have enjoyed life since. Kirk retired in the 2016-17 school year, and spends his time traveling to Big 10 wrestling tournaments, helping out at the local radio station with calling football games and wrestling matches, and helps out Govier Brothers Mortuary in Broken Bow. He said this job has given him the privilege to attend and honor several people from the Arnold community.

Serving on the Arnold Alumni Board this year are Darlene Hagler Rimpley, Josh Magill, April Mills Tickle, Kenny and Patty Goodenow, John Rosentrater, Tammy Milne Weinman, Mary McKain Dymond, Allison Rosentrater Goodenow,



Kirk Crawley '78  
2026 Alumni Emcee

and Cheryl Mills Uhrmacher, who is the current president.

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Alumni banquet tickets will be sold at the Rialto Theatre on Friday, May 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Saturday, May 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Tickets will then start selling at the school at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday through 7:00 p.m.

## Memorial Day Services

Monday, May 25, 10:00 a.m.

Arnold Cemetery

American Legion Post 130 and VFW Post 6157  
(In case of inclement weather, the program will be at the Baptist Church)

9:45 a.m. ...Honor Guard Commanded by Mike Harvey  
10:00 a.m. ....Post Colors at Memorial Monument  
Welcome..... John Phillips  
National Anthem

Address.....Kristy Wallace  
Presentation of Wreath.....Gary Mills  
Salute to Fallen Comrades.....Honor Guard  
Taps

Benediction.....Chaplain Gary Halstead  
Presentation of Memorial Wreath to those  
who died at sea at Loup River  
Salute to Our Fallen Comrades.....Honor Guard  
Dismiss Honor Guard

## Wallace Will Speak at Memorial Day Services

Kristy Wallace, a veteran, wife, and mother, will give the address at Memorial Day services. Wallace served in the Air Force from early 2001 to late 2002, and in the U.S. Army from early 2007 to mid-2008.

She and her husband of 11 years purchased a home in Arnold one year ago. They have three children, two dogs and a cat.

## WCNDD Nuisance Officer Gives Update at Village Board Meeting

Edward Dunn of the West Central Nebraska Development District (WCNDD) presented an update on Arnold's Nuisance Program in his role as nuisance officer for the Village at the Board's regular meeting held on May 11.

WCNDD had earlier conducted windshield assessments as part of a formal, multi-step nuisance

abatement program, aimed at identifying property violations like inoperable vehicles, junk, and dilapidated structures from public rights-of-way. This impartial process includes photo documentation, courtesy letters, and scheduled follow-ups to ensure code compliance. Dunn reported that out of the 150 properties reviewed in Section 4,

which is the south part of town beginning at Highway 92, 33 courtesy letters were issued to property owners regarding nuisance violations. After the notices were received by the property owners, seven of the properties were voluntarily brought into compliance. An additional six properties were granted extensions, with a compliance deadline set

for June 1, 2026.

The WCNDD has assisted with nuisance abatement and code enforcement in a large number of communities across its 18-county region. With that said, Dunn had a lot of good things to say about Arnold's residents after the notices were handed out.

See Nuisance Officer Update, page 2

## Primary Has Low Turnout

Custer County Clerk Kelly Jacobson reports that voter turnout was low for the May 12 Primary Election. Of the 581 total registered voters, only 28.4% cast a ballot in the Village of Arnold.

In Custer County, 1,653 ballots were cast (1,405 republican, 182 democratic, 4 libertarian, 3 Legal Marijuana NOW, 59 nonpartisan, 6 blank), for a voter turnout of 21.8%.

Please turn to page 7 for unofficial county results.

## Ribbon Cuttings Scheduled

The Arnold Economic Development Corporation will host three ribbon cuttings on Friday, May 22. Please turn to page 5 for more information.

## Arnold students receive helmets, school grant through Small Towns Matter program

ARNOLD, Neb. — NEWS CHANNEL NEBRASKA by Peter Rice

Elementary students at Arnold Public Schools are starting the summer with new bike helmets and a renewed focus on safety after being selected for the 2026 Spring Small Towns Matter Award.

News Channel Nebraska, Medica and the Exarmin Foundation visited the school this week to present free helmets to every elementary student and award the district a \$2,500 grant.

Students packed the school gym for the surprise presentation, cheering as organizers announced Arnold as this year's winner.

The event comes as school leaders continue conversations around bike and scooter safety in the community.

Principal Allison Goodenow said the school recently brought in local EMTs, firefighters and sheriff's deputies to talk with students about the importance of wearing helmets.

Goodenow said some students told staff they did not own helmets, making the giveaway especially meaningful.

“Now that they all have one, they don't have the excuse to not wear one,” she said.

Students put the helmets to use later in the day during Arnold's annual bike-a-thon, organized by the school's Interact Club.

High school students help lead the event each year, guiding elementary students on a roughly 3.3-mile ride through town. School staff are also

discussing ways to encourage students to continue wearing helmets throughout the summer. Goodenow said one idea includes partnering with local businesses to reward students spotted wearing helmets while riding bikes or scooters around town.

Superintendent Joel Morgan said smaller communities can sometimes overlook bike safety because of lighter traffic, but the risks still exist.

“We think safety about a lot of things, but not always bike safety and bike helmets,” said Morgan. “You don't think you always need a bike helmet in a small town because there's not as much traffic, but it's still just as important.”

Organizers say the Small Towns Matter program highlights rural Nebraska communities and provides resources aimed at supporting local schools and students.

Medica Market Leader Pat Bourne said the organization partnered on the project because of its focus on community health and safety across Nebraska.

“As a not-for-profit health insurance company, we're interested in the health and safety of all Nebraskans,” said Bourne. “This is the best part of my job, just handing out those helmets. Kids are always very excited to receive them and it's a good feeling that they're excited about it and also knowing that we're doing something to help keep them safe this summer.”



News Channel Nebraska, and representatives from Medica and Exarmin Foundation were on hand to present free helmets to all Arnold elementary students and a \$2,500.00 check to administrators of Arnold Schools on May 11. The presentation was quite the surprise, as the school learned it had been selected for the 2026 Spring Small Towns Matter Award. Kelly Morgan, who wrote the grant, is pictured right of the podium holding a bouquet of flowers that were presented to her by the representatives. - APS photos



Wearing their new helmets, a group of boys get ready to ride on the annual bike-a-thon, organized by the school's Interact Club. The bike-a-thon just happened to be planned right after the surprise Small Towns Matter presentation.