

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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A sign was installed last week at the entrance to the Arnold Recreation Area to inform visitors of the Arnold Tree Project that encompasses not only the park, but the town as well. The three-year project began in 2025 and is made possible by a \$208,271.00 Community Forestry Infrastructure grant from the Nebraska State Arboretum (NSA). Mary Becker, who wrote the grant for the Village of Arnold, worked with the Arnold Sentinel to design and create the signage that will go up at all parks and placed next to new trees that are planted in town. Residents who receive new trees will be given a door hanger with instructions on how to care for their new tree. Becker said that at the ARA, this grant has provided money to remove nine dead trees and new trees will be planted sometime this fall. - *Debbie Connelly photo*

Arnold Earns 2025 Tree City USA, Growth Award Recognition from Arbor Day Foundation

ARNOLD, Nebraska - The Arbor Day Foundation has named Arnold a 2025 Tree City USA in honor of its commitment to plant, grow, and maintain trees to benefit its community. Arnold also received a Growth Award for demonstrating improved levels of tree care and community engagement.

“By recognizing the

role of trees as critical infrastructure, Arnold is helping shape a healthier and more resilient future. We're proud Arnold is among the Arbor Day Foundation's growing network of communities committed to creating positive impact through trees,” said Michelle Saulnier, Vice President of Programs at the Arbor Day Foundation.

In cities and neighborhoods, trees are proven to help mitigate the urban heat island effect, reduce storm water runoff, improve air quality, and boost mental and physical health. When the right trees are planted in the right places, they can also reduce traffic noise, increase property values, and lower energy costs for homeowners.

To earn Tree City USA recognition, a city must uphold four core standards including maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and participating in an Arbor Day celebration.



The Carter Family (from left) Daneo Urbanovsky, Kirby Viter, Brody Blowers, and Jerzie Sumpter, perform for a crowd of relatives and friends at the elementary spring music program on April 27. - *Jessica Tickle photos*

Elementary Students Present “Secrets of the Jukebox” The Story of America’s Music

Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, The Beatles, The Carter Family, Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson, Johnny Cash, and Britney Spears... Some big names in the music industry took the stage at the annual Arnold Elementary Spring Music Program on April 27. The musical journey, titled “Secrets of the Jukebox - the Story of America’s Music,” followed a group of students who discovered a mysterious jukebox hidden in their school basement. What began as a simple adventure, quickly turned into a trip through time, as they were transported across the rich and diverse 250 year history of American music. Along the way, the students encountered legendary artists and iconic moments, discovering that every generation leaves its mark through song.

The program included performances by morning and afternoon preschool students, the 5th and 6th grade bands, and the Cardinal Chorale.



Elvis (Braxton Nansel) appeared on stage with body guards Weston McMichael and Carlos Melendez.

A.H.S. Graduation

**113th Annual
Arnold High School
Commencement**
Saturday, May 9, 2026 - 2:00 p.m.
Arnold High School

Class Flower.....Stargazer Lily
Class Colors.....Black, Candy Pink
Class Song.....“Remember When” - Alan Jackson
Motto: “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.
1 Corinthians 16:13-14
Class Sponsor..... Ashley Nansel

Class Officers:
President - Crew Witthuhn
Vice-President - Haydn Stretesky
Secretary/Treasurer - Summer Morash

Class Roll:
*Brook Ann Bierman - Paxton Jacob Bierman
Serenity Marie Borah - Eli Charles Hunt
Jamison Kathleen Lamphear
Madelyn Lera Logsdon - Summer Lee Morash
Hayden Jay Myers - Eli Robert Rogers
Haydn David Stretesky - Luke Daniel Tullis
Crew Jeffery Witthuhn*

Attendants:
EvaLynn Wonch and Elijah Cool

Processional - Tonya Welch
Welcome - Joel Morgan
Salutatory Introduction
Valedictory Introduction
Scholastic Awards - Ashley Nansel
Presentation of Class - Alison Goodenow



PRIMARY ELECTION
MAY 12, 2026
8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
LEGION HALL - ARNOLD
Arnold Village - Arnold Rural-Hayes II

2026 Mid-Nebraska Activities Conference All-Academic Team

First Team (30 or above Composite on ACT)

Brandon Harden (Junior, Mullen)
Hayden Nelson (Senior, Sargent)
Tucker Housman (Senior, Stapleton)
Rhoshykee Bruns (Senior, Stapleton)

Second Team (27-29 Composite on ACT)

Josie Christensen (Junior, Arnold)
Elijah Cool (Junior, Arnold)
Haydn Thomsen (Senior, Brady)
Chenney Dishman (Senior, Callaway)
Dylan Pandorf (Senior, Callaway)
James Heinemann (Senior, Stapleton)

Honorable Mention (25-26 Composite on ACT)

Jaycen Hanna (Senior, Arthur County)
Ava Wenzel (Junior, Arthur County)
Angel Johnson (Senior, Callaway)
Hudson Kraus (Senior, Loup County)
Brayden McNutt (Senior, McPherson County)
Levi Goosey (Senior, McPherson County)
Alex Werner (Senior, Mullen)
Jason Kraus (Junior, Mullen)
Ellexis Hagen (Senior, Stapleton)