

The Arnold Sentinel

"Serving the South Loup River Valley"

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 110, NUMBER 01



Lifeguards this summer are: (back row, l-r) Riley Leetch, Amaiya Carlson, Aliyah Carlson, Claire Kulp; (front row, l-r) Tysen Schacher, Braxton Cozad, and Gabe Smith. Not pictured: lifeguard Adalyn Carlson and Managers Shavonne Schacher and Makenna Weinman. - Courtesy photo

Pool Season: Unlocked

Their happy place is open. The Arnold Municipal Pool opened on June 1 with 50-some kids taking their first dip, testing their cannonball skills, diving for treasure, playing popular games like Marco Polo and Sharks and Minnows, and, of course, having race-offs. As a special treat to celebrate the special occasion Tropical Sno was parked out front of the pool on opening day selling snow cones.

"We've had lots and lots of kids," said pool manager Shavonne Schacher. "It's nice that we have a full staff, and we've added a few more male lifeguards. The younger boys love it, and I love it because it gives them someone to look up to."

The Village added a few more lounge chairs this year for grandparents to relax and enjoy watching the kids.

"They were always full last year," said Schacher. The pool hours are: Monday - Friday: Public Swim from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Adult Swim from 5:30 p.m - 7:00 p.m.; Public Swim 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday: Public Swim from 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Swimming lessons will begin at the end of June.



(Above & Below) Kids were officially in swim mode last week with the opening of the Arnold pool. - Debbie Connelly photos



Searching for Good Deals



Bargain hunters enter garage sale #12 on Saturday morning during Chamber's city-wide garage sales. There was a good rush in the morning hours at 20 sales located all over town. The Goodwill truck pulled into town on Monday for a convenient way to donate items that didn't sell. - Debbie Connell photo

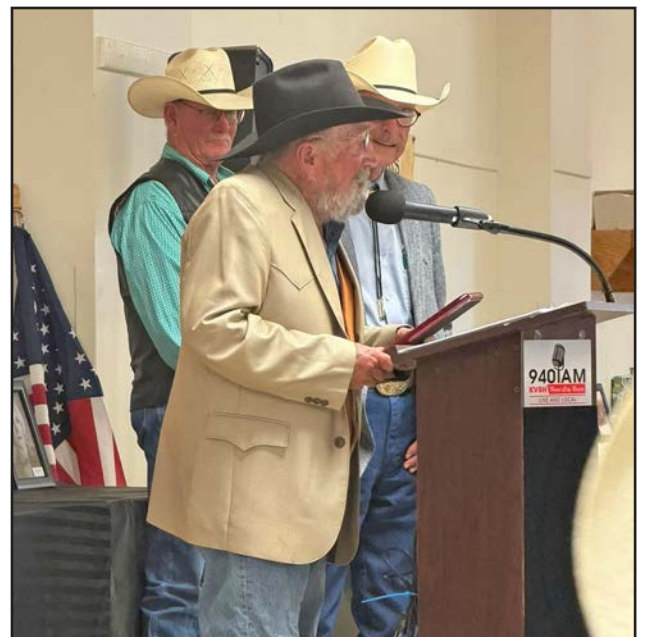
Connell Inducted Into Cowboy Hall of Fame

Sam Connell, 85, longtime resident of Tryon, and currently of Arnold, was one of 11 inductees to the Nebraska Sandhills Cowboy Hall of Fame at a ceremony held on June 6 in Valentine. Many family members from Arnold and the surrounding area were there to witness him accepting the award.

The following story about Sam's life was taken from the Nebraska Sandhills Cowboy Hall of Fame 2026 Inductees series.

Samuel Joe Connell was born June 18, 1940, in his maternal grandparents' home in the very southwestern corner of Thomas County. He was the fourth born to Dan and Fay (Paxton) Connell, joining siblings Daniel, Barbara and Carolyn. Later, the family grew to include Lora, Michael, Wilma and Wanda. The family also welcomed several foster children, including Colleen.

Sam attended District No. 12 for all his elementary years and completed his schooling at Thomas County High School, graduating with the class of 1958. He married his sweetheart, Phyllis Connell Jan. 10, 1960, and started raising a family of their own shortly after. All his children, Gor-



Sam Connell was inducted into the Nebraska Sandhills Cowboy Hall of Fame on June 6. - Bradee Schuett photo

don, Sandi, Casey, Mardel, DanDee and Luke, know they were raised by the best cowboy in the land.

Sam never left the Sandhills, working on some top ranches. He claims to this day, some of his favorite times were on the Hardy Bros Ranch, the Miles Ranch and Hershel Dobbins Ranch, along with working on the Connell ranch, as well as his own. The Milldale Ranch was one of his favorites where he worked until his late 70s.

While Sam was working ranches in the Brownlee area, he added a little fun

to his resume and spent a few summers jockeying for the Miles Ranch and Eatinger Ranch at the tracks in Valentine. Sam's work in the cattle industry included working at Cattle Growers Feedlot in Stapleton, Nebraska. He also worked for the Nebraska Brand Committee and is the first of three generations to be a Nebraska Brand Inspector. In the spring of 2025, at the age of 85, he retired from his longest employment endeavor. Sam worked for the sale barn

Big Check Presentation



Custer County Foundation representatives Andrew Tickle (far left) and Rilee Daffer (far right) made a big check presentation to Village of Arnold reps (from left) Tory Edwards, Eric Holmberg, Mary Becker, and Zach Hagler last Wednesday. The \$5,000.00 CCF 2025 spring grant will be used to build and fence in a new multi-use court on Carroll Street. The Village also received a \$3,500.00 award from the Mid-Nebbraska Community Foundation, specifically allocated towards painting the lines at the new courts.- Courtesy photo



After power washing and sanding the new cement pad at Carroll Street Courts, Pro Track & Tennis employees began the process of striping the south half basketball court with a brick red color last Wednesday, June 3. When work is complete, stripes will also be painted for a tennis court and one pickleball court.