

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120 (USPS 032480) SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS VOLUME 110, NUMBER 07

Thomsen Hired to Transition Into Village Clerk Position

With the approaching retirement of long-time clerk/treasurer Patricia Lamberty, the Arnold Village Board has voted to hire Clarissa Thomsen to transition into that role. At their regular meeting held on July 13, Board members considered four applicants for the full-time office position. As she trains Thomsen, Lamberty, who has served as clerk/treasurer since June of 1988, will continue full-time until the end of the year and will then transition into part-time as she phases out of the position. Thomsen will officially start at the Village office on September 8. She and husband Blake currently live on a ranch north of Valentine, but will soon

be moving to Wildhorse Creek Ranch north of Arnold where Blake will be employed. Until then, Thomsen will finish out her duties in the Cherry County treasurer's office. Thomsen, who grew up in Amherst, joined the National Guard in 2016, and is currently a sergeant at McCook Armory's 1075 Transportation Unit. She plans to serve ten more years. "I was going to school, but didn't think I was ready for college. I called my parents and told them I was joining the Army. I'm a hands-on person and love to travel. I've traveled a lot." She is currently dispatched in McCook one weekend a month and two weeks out of the year. Her

unit is currently un-deployable. In those periods, Clarissa said she has a tentative yearly schedule, she can plan her work schedule around that and someone will fill in. Thomsen found out about the open position at Arnold through a family friend, who knew she was moving to the area. "I put applying off. I was going to travel back and forth (to Valentine) and keep my current position," she said. "What intrigued me, was I called Patty (Lamberty) and she was really encouraging. I'm very active in the Valentine community, so it was a hard decision. I decided this new position would allow me to get to know the Arnold community and open the door



Clarissa Thomsen

to become one with Arnold like I have in Cherry County. I was so excited when I found out I was hired. I was really on the fence, and didn't know if I would get it. I'll be very new to the area, and I'm

See Thomsen Hired Page 2

Filings Received for Village Board

No filings received for open positions on Township Board

Arnold Village Board incumbents Zach Hagler and Jason Jenkins re-filed for a position on the Arnold Village Board by the filing deadline of July 15. Incumbent Donnell DeLosh did not re-file. Custer County Election Clerk Dawn Raber-Goodwin reported that an additional filing was received from non-incumbent Matthew Fletcher on Friday,

July 17. For the Arnold Township Board, none of the three incumbents - Dan Blowers, Roger Bierman, and Tony Eggleston - re-filed by July 15 deadline. All others have until August 3 to file for a position on either board. The General Election will be held on November 3.

Abatement Process Continues

Based on an early July review of properties, Edward Dunn of the West Central Nebraska Development District, who serves as the Village's nuisance officer, Village Board members authorized abatement and expenditure of funds on one additional property, and rescinded prior resolutions on six properties that were declared a nuisance, but have now been cleared. Five properties are now on the list for abatement and expenditure of funds.

Same Mission, New Vision: Welcome to Arnold Community Bible Church



On Thursday, July 2, Industrial Arts Teacher Todd Phelps and School House Graphics Student Jett Morgan installed a new sign they produced at the school replacing the old First Baptist Church Sign. Pictured sitting under the new sign are church members John Phillips, Brent Garrison and Jeremy Petersen.

The First Baptist Church of Arnold has been a part of the Arnold community since 1889 and has continuously been an evangelical congregation centered on teaching Biblical truth, sharing the love of Christ with the community and supporting missions work near and far. The church's constitution best describes our purpose, to "follow Christ's mandate to make disciples by equipping Christians to serve the Lord, witnessing to others in His name, using God's Word as He directs, challenging others to do the same, and reaching out in missions to serve others." While the core beliefs of the church body have not changed, the world around us is changing. In recent years, the American Baptist Convention has chosen to financially support organizations that do not align with our core beliefs. After multiple years of prayerful

consideration, the church voted in 2025 to withdraw from the American Baptist Convention. In March 2026, with a desire for our name to best reflect who we are, the church body voted to adopt the name Arnold Community Bible Church. The new name reflects our desire for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord to feel welcome among our fellowship. If you do not have a church home, we welcome you to worship with us. Sunday worship includes Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. with classes for everyone pre-K to adults; the regular service begins at 10:45 a.m. The church body is grateful for the prayers and support shown to our church over the years, and we look forward to continuing to minister to and serve alongside fellow believers in Arnold.

From Flips to Dives - It's Swimming Lessons Time

Sixty-two kids were enrolled to take public swimming lessons at the Arnold Pool in July. Pool managers and lifeguards gave lessons to toddlers and infants and kids in

Levels 1-5 during a two-week period, which concludes this week. The first session was delayed due to cool and rainy weather, but then things heated up. Pool manager Shavonne

Schacher said she is incredibly proud of how far Arnold's swimming program has come. "It makes a statement for our small town when we have families that come from six

other communities for lessons, and the parents who continue bringing their kids back each summer. One of my favorite things to see is how many of our kids are passing the deep-

end test at such a young age. Even the kiddos who start out shy, nervous, or clinging to the wall often end up becoming little fish before long. Watching that confidence grow

is one of the best parts of this job."



Level 3 participant Aden Corbin learns to flip in the water, under the instruction of life guard Aliyah Carlson. Also pictured is lifeguard Riley Leetch. - Debbie Connelly photos



Lifeguard Amaiya Carlson shows Jae'lynn Eastman the proper form to take a dive into the pool.