

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 110, NUMBER 08

Start Your Engines: SORC Is Coming to Town

Designers work behind the scenes to help pull off the event

One-hundred-fifty-five drivers and their support people from all over the country will be entering Arnold from the north, south, east, and west starting on August 5, for four days of meetings and racing in the 26th Annual Sandhills Open Road Challenge. For those driving in from the east and west, they'll be welcomed to the SORC by two large billboards on the outskirts of town. The SORC Board took on the project with brand new designer Bailey Schwarz, who has taken the place of veteran designer Julie Mohr.

Mohr, who taught art at Arnold Schools, jumped on board with the SORC from the minute meetings were held to organize the event.

“They needed a logo, and they had specific things they needed in it, which explains the first logo,” said Mohr. “It had to have a windmill, a soap weed, a red corvette, and of course, the road. It was more like a picture than a logo.”

Mohr's design jobs started with that and grew from there with t-shirts, flags, and banners. Her photography skills were also put to use at the mile and half-mile shoot-out site, where she shot pic-

tures of every driver and navigator as they turned around. Those photos were used on the awards plaques presented on Saturday night.

“Of course it was film, so I had to drive to North Platte, get the pictures printed, and get back. I had to work fast, as all volunteers did in their different roles,” she said.

Before the days of drone shots, Mohr also captured an aerial view of the first and second year of the downtown car show from high up in a bucket truck.

After 25 years of making good memories being involved in what she describes as an exciting and thrilling event, she asked Schwarz if she would be interested in the job.

“I knew this would be her career, and she was familiar with SORC,” she said.

Schwarz, who received her Visual Communications and Design degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney, said yes.

“I'm excited about being a part of it,” Schwarz said. “I had been around SORC so long, with School House Graphics and volunteering to apply car numbers. This way, I can still be a part of it.”

Schwarz is working re-



Bailey Schwarz worked with the SORC board to design two billboards welcoming everyone to town. This second billboard is located on the east edge of town on the north side. Schwarz is the organizations new designer, taking the place of veteran Julie Mohr. - Debbie Connelly photo



Julie Mohr, who served as SORC's designer for 25 years, created the very first logo for the event.



One of the versions of Bailey Schwarz's designs has been selected to be applied to the 2026 winner plaques.

motely with SORC from her new home in Virginia, where she works remotely for Syndicate Publishing designing for the Callaway Courier specifically. In her first year going it alone, she has submitted

multiple designs for this year's merchandise and publicity. One of those designs will be applied on the 2026 awards plaques. She said she finds it easy to do from a distance.

“I just email Becky (Dai-

ley) or Kristi (Dvorak) the designs, and from there we make tweaks and changes,” she said.

Both women are proud of their town for pulling off the SORC.

Julie and husband Clay

are still involved and plan to host four friends who are in college this year – all will race in 2026.

“You make lifelong friends through this event,” said Julie.

Sidewalk Project Discussed at Board Meeting

Village Board members had a full agenda to go over at their July 13 meeting.

The sidewalk improvement project was one of the agenda items, with Village Engineer Tom Werblow and Professional Engineer Bernie Stratetker meeting with the Board and several business owners to review the proposed project for the 100 block of South Walnut Street. The installation of ADA-compliant handicap access ramps throughout the project area was discussed. The following locations were identified for the new ramps: two at Hotel Custer corner, two at the museum, two at Touch of Grace Massage Therapy/Oakbrook Physical Therapy, one at Koubek Gardens, and one at the Arnold Sentinel. Board members voted to have the Village pay for the installation of the handicap access ramps.

The Board also voted to reimburse John Reed of Reed's Food Center for the sidewalk installed in June 2021. Since property owners participating in the sidewalk improvement project will be responsible for 50% of the sidewalk construction costs, Reed will be reimbursed for the portion he previously paid.

Advertising for bids for the sidewalk project was also decided on. Werblow asked whether the Board wished to include the installation of conduit for future development as part of the project, and the Board agreed this

would be the time. Sidewalk construction options were also discussed. The Board requested that the bid specifications include pricing for the 4-inch reinforced, 6-inch unreinforced, and 6-inch reinforced concrete sidewalks. Werblow was then authorized to advertise for bids.

Proposed Sewer Extension

Mark Deaton was at the meeting to discuss extending utilities and infrastructure, including water and sewer service, to property he recently purchased. The primary issue discussed was sewer service, as the property is located more than 100 feet from an existing sewer main. Deaton said he would prefer to connect to the public sewer system rather than install a septic system. It was noted that connecting to the existing sewer main would require obtaining an easement from an adjacent property owner. Superintendent Eric Holmberg said the sewer main is located at the edge of the State Highway right of way. Tom Werblow was directed to apply for a permit to occupy the right of way on behalf of the Village to facilitate the proposed sewer extension.

Proposed Lease Agreement

Dusty and Lori Stutzman attended the meeting to discuss a proposed lease agreement between DL Shooters LLC and the Village of Arnold for the

See Sidewalk Project, page 2.

ARNOLD, NE - Most people say they have never donated blood because they were simply never asked if they would. Even though a patient in the U.S. needs blood every 2 seconds, not enough people donate. In fact, only 3 out of every 100 people in the county donate, which makes the 29,000 units of red blood cells needed every day in the U.S. even more precious.

But one donor in Arnold, Neb., has spent the last 65 years giving blood whenever he was eligible and healthy. On a rainy Wednesday in July 2026, the community celebrated Charles Foran as he donated his 150th unit of blood to the American Red Cross at the Arnold blood drive with balloons, cupcakes, a thank you card, and lots of laughs.

Foran, a 1960 graduate of Arnold High School, started donating when he was 18 or 19 years old because he had an uncle who needed open heart surgery and the surgical team was asking for donations. His parents were regular blood donors who encouraged their children to roll up a sleeve as often as they could.

“It's a little thing you can do,” he said. “It doesn't cost a thing to help others.”

Foran, who took a break from donating while enlisted in the military, feels fortunate to be healthy enough to still be able to donate at 84 years old. While there is no upper age limit for donating blood, certain medica-

150 Units and Counting... Community celebrates Charles Foran as he reaches big milestone at July blood drive



Charles Foran doesn't miss a blood drive when the Red Cross comes to Arnold. Now 84, he's been donating since he was 18 or 19 years old. - Courtesy photo

tions such as blood thinners, and serious health conditions can prevent someone from safely giving.

Being a “semi-retired” farmer and rancher gives him the flexibility to be able to come donate when the blood drive comes to town every other month. Local blood program leader, Amanda Wehnes, looks forward to seeing Foran at each drive and celebrating his milestones.

“Charles is one of those people who makes your day a bit brighter when

you can spend time with him,” she said. “He genuinely enjoys helping people, even if he will never meet that person who gets that unit of blood he donated.”

While Foran has thought about retiring from giving blood, he looks forward to each milestone pin and has collected this token for each of the more than 18 gallons of blood he has donated. After his next donation, he will receive his 19-gallon pin.

When he first started giving, all donor informa-

tion was typed out on index cards by volunteers at the blood drive and donor privacy rules weren't as stringent. Now all data entry is automated through computers and held safe with encryption software.

The process for collecting blood looked much different then, too. The test to measure hemoglobin, an iron-rich protein in red blood cells, was collected from the earlobe and later the index