

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Banking On A Win! Employees from Pinnacle Bank, (from left) Jessica Fletcher, Trish Vickers, Patty Goodenow and Carma Edwards show off their award winning float during the Arnold Fall Festival Parade. Embracing the “USA!” theme, the group dressed as “250 Cent”—a patriotic play on the name of American rapper 50 Cent—while branch manager Aaron Coleman donned an American bald eagle costume. The creative display earned the team the prize for Best Decorated Float.

Community Celebrates the U.S.A. With Fall Festival Activities

Organizers of the Arnold Fall Festival couldn't have asked for a more beautiful almost-fall day on Saturday, as they joined individual clubs and vendors in setting up for several events at the Arnold Recreation Area and the city park.

The day started out with Arnold Rotarians hosting their annual walk/run at the ARA. Participants signed-in and enjoyed a breakfast burrito before

the two hour event began at 8:00 a.m.

Starting at 8:30 a.m. in the city park, competitors had one hour to create their own design with chalk in the sidewalk decorating competition. Sponsored by the South Loup Cheerleaders, voting took place during the festival. Winners are pictured inside this issue (page 5).

The celebration of America's 250th anniversary

began at 11:00 a.m., as some 40 entries and an estimated head-count of 140 people started down the parade route, with most following the theme of U.S.A. The Legion Color Guard and honored veterans led the parade, with the Arnold Cardinal marching band and South Loup cheerleaders following behind. Spectators showed their respect, as the parade stopped, and the band played the national anthem. Kids scrambled with their sacks, as entrants tossed out candy to a good crowd that lined the route around the city park. Sounding their sirens, the Arnold Fire Department brought up the rear of the parade, driving seven rigs. Parade winners were: Most Patriotic – the Josh and Molly Magill family, owners of Oakbrook PT; and Best Decorated Float – Pinnacle Bank.

Spectators were then invited to enjoy a free-will lunch of hamburgers and hotdogs served by the South Loup 4-H Club. Kids ran to the free spider wall and bounce house, while others lined up for glitter tattoos applied by the South Loup Cheerleaders.

At 1:00 p.m., the National Honor Society brought back the popular turtle races. A good crowd of spectators watched, as

some 15 turtles competed for fastest, slowest, and top three best decorated.

Closing out the day at the park was the festival organizers own version of America's favorite past-time: baseball. Called “Slippery Kick Ball,” the event drew an enthusiastic bunch of boys and girls to compete.

The schedule also included the showing of “Young Washington” at the Rialto Theatre that evening.

Lady Liberty



Liberty Magill dressed as the Statue of Liberty for the USA parade - it doesn't get much more patriotic than this!



The Magill family (from left) Josh, Barrett, Jayden, Molly and (front) Liberty were deemed the winners as the Most Patriotic in the Arnold Fall Festival Parade.

Village Board Goes Over Agenda Items at Reg. Meeting

At their September 14 meeting, the Arnold Village Board heard an update from AEDC Director Cheryl Carson on the sidewalk renovation project that was scheduled to begin on September 15. Chairman Zach Hagler said that comments had been received regarding the Village not awarding the project to Dalton Greeley, a local contractor. Hagler said that the Village is required to follow the applicable state bidding requirements, including Nebraska Revised Statute § 81-1108.55, which provides that contracts subject to competitive bidding are to be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. The Village clerk contacted Village attorney Mike Borders regarding the bidding process. Borders said that he understands the Village would like to award the project to a local contractor; however, the Village must follow the applicable government bidding requirements when awarding the contract.

New Deputy Clerk/ Military Leave

Hagler introduced Clarissa Thomsen as the new deputy clerk. Thomsen thanked the Board for the opportunity to join the Village. She informed the Board that she is a member of the National Guard and will be away from work October 13 through October 26, 2026, for National Guard duty and may occasionally need to take a Friday off for additional National Guard obligations. Board members thanked her for her service.

The clerk informed the Board that the Personnel Handbook needs to be updated to comply with applicable federal and state law, providing that employees who are members of the Reserves shall be entitled to a military leave of absence from their respective duties without loss of pay. Members voted to amend the

handbook to comply with the laws.

In other business, the Board:

- Gave permission to Rotary Interact members Scout Evans and Piper Strasburg to paint the interior of the bathrooms at the city park.

- Accepted a quote from Sargent Drilling Company in the amount of \$11,602.41 for a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) for the northeast well. Superintendent Eric Holmberg said the VFD is designed to control and regulate the speed of the well pump motor and provides protection and operational flexibility for the Village's water system.

- Accepted the agreement with Pye Barker Fire & Safety for the following services at the community center: annual fire sprinkler inspection, semi-annual fire alarm inspection, annual fire extinguisher inspection, annual backflow inspection, for a base annual cost of \$945.00.

- Accepted a quote from EJS Supply for 36 side load containers in the amount of \$30,391.00.

- Accepted a quote from Ag-Land ATV for a 2026 Polaris side by side in the amount of \$17,500.00.

- Accepted a quote from Brent Urbanovsky for \$3,194.70 to tear down and rebuild the crow's nest at Old Mill Park.

- Introduced and passed an ordinance setting the salaries of employees and elected and appointed officials.

- Heard that Superintendent Eric Holmberg will be attending the Heartland Municipal Lineworkers Training Conference in Grand Island towards the end of September.

- Heard that a thank you card was sent to John Bell of Pharmacy Chemical for a \$1,500.00 donation to the Carroll Street Courts project.

Sidewalk Renovation Project Is Underway



It was noisy and busy on the east side of Arnold's main street last week, as contractor Paulsen, Inc. began the much anticipated downtown sidewalk renovation project. Starting on Tuesday, the large crew was making pretty quick work out of tearing out a full-length section of old curb and a portion of the sidewalk and setting forms. By Thursday morning, the workers were pouring and screeding the curb down the block. The *Sentinel* will continue keeping our readers up to date with photos as more progress is made.