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KENDRA VEIRS PHOTO

New Year's Eve Celebration Draws 200 to Community Center

Two hundred people from the communities of Arnold, Callaway, Stapleton, Theford, Hershey and Sutherland were at the Arnold Community Center on New Year's Eve to celebrate the beginning of a new year - and a new decade.

A large volunteer committee planned a night to remember, complete with decorations, an open bar, catered meal, entertainment and a dance.

Lana Cool, who came up with the idea of providing a safe and fun way for residents to celebrate the new year, said bringing in a hypnotist for entertainment is something she's been wanting to do for years. She experienced the same type of entertainment years ago, as a marketing director for a North Platte bank.

"Now we have the community center," she said. "We don't have to drive somewhere and can have fun in our hometown."

With most everyone dressed in semi-formal attire, people began arriving at 6:00 p.m. for the social hour, with an open bar provided by Jim's Bar. At 7:00, Lundgren's Catering from Lexington began serving a delicious meal, featuring an entree of smoked pork loin and dessert. Tables were decorated with silver candles and balloons and, of course, party favors. Helping serve were five junior high girls and one high school girl, dressed in white tops and black slacks.

One-hundred-fifty people took in the entire night, and

50 arrived later to take in the entertainment and dance.

Twelve volunteers took a seat on the stage to be hypnotized by professional hypnotist Tim Heuertz. Only two - Katie Champagne from Arnold and Karen Brosius from Stapleton - were successfully hypnotized, but the show these women of two different generations put on was unforgettable and brought roars of laughter from the crowd.

While the women were "asleep," Heuertz touched their shoulders and suggested that when they opened their eyes, he would have no back in his pants. Brosius opened her eyes, he turned around, and she immediately covered her face in horror. When they were told the crowd would have no clothes on, Champagne opened her eyes and said in shock, "You people are crazy!"

After cheering their horses on at the "horse races," Heuertz then threw play money on the floor and suggested that the women hide their winnings anywhere they could. The women stuffed the money down their clothes and then were told it was covered in spiders. Both women frantically helped each other try to get the money out of their clothes.

Heuertz then suggested that their chairs would be extremely hot each time he pulled on his ear. The women quickly switched from chair to chair. At one point they were told they had no belly button and

searched the crowd for the person they knew had taken it.

Champagne said after the show that she only realized the rest of the 10 other volunteers were gone when she was brought out of hypnosis. She said she awoke refreshed, just as Heuertz said they would.

Tim Rosentrater served as D.J. for the dance, using Sandy Connell's equipment. Cool said the very energetic danced until 2:15 a.m., when the lights were finally turned on.

The event came out money ahead.

"We are pleased we will be able to make a donation to the volunteer fire department and the Rialto Theatre," said Cool. "A lot of Stapleton people said, 'Only in Arnold could you do this.'"

"A lot of people invited friends from out-of-town, who got motel rooms. Arnold embraces new events and new ideas. Arnold is a unique community. The town really supports you when you try to do something fun."

On the event committee were: Jennifer Brosius, Tami Smith, Amber Downing, Randi Atkins, Katie Gracey, Sheila Preston, Sara Buchholz, Leta Connell, Heidi Connell, Tiffany Paulick, Renee Bubak, Becky Dailey, Heather Hagler, Kendra Veirs, Helen Cool, Jessica Tickle, Della Bowers, and their husbands.

"It was a huge committee and so many people worked before, during and after," said Cool.

While under hypnosis, Katie Champagne "auctions" off her hat to the New Year's Eve celebration crowd at the community center, at the suggestion of professional hypnotist Tim Heuertz, while Karen Brosius remains "asleep." At Champagne's urging, the hat eventually brought several hundred dollars. The debt was never paid, because Champagne didn't remember the auction ever took place when she was eventually brought out of hypnosis.

2009...The Year in Review

Continued from last week, *The Sentinel* takes a look back at what - and who - made the news in 2009.

PEOPLE

Arnold resident Velma Morrison displayed her beautiful Amarellysis plant that was over 80 years old, in a February story.

Clara Chaffin, who became a part of the Arnold community for two months in the summer of 2007, presented her completed thesis to members of the AEDC and the hardbound, 219-page thesis became a part of Arnold's history.

The SORC team, Alan Dailey, Shane Cool, Clay Mohr and Lindy Dailey, won first place in the second annual Polar Bear Tank Race, held during the winter on the Middle Loup River.

Mrs. Carlene Lanham, APS librarian and government teacher retired in May, after teaching school some 26 years.

Brittany Gunther, Arnold graduate and Nebraska Wesleyan University student, works part-time at Mourning Hope, a grief center. Her story was featured on the school's Web site, about how she found the center at a very difficult time in her life.

APS 2009 co-valedictorian Natasha Dodge, was accepted into several Ivy League schools and started Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in August.

Garfield Table resident, Lee Auble and the family farm that has been running for 125 years, was featured in May's Salute to Beef Producers Tab.

New Arnold residents, Buzz and Kay Lohmiller, made the decision to make Arnold their permanent residence, moving

here in 2009 from the Ozark Mountains.

Long-time Arnold resident Marvin Cain, who made sure the elderly, shut-ins and people down on their luck had enough to eat by directing the Food Pantry, will be missed by the Arnold community after his 20 years of service and move to Kansas in June.

Arnold youth, Cole Jacobson, Kali Blevins, Dayna Larreau, Haley Jacobson and Drew Bowers, were among 42 Custer County delegates who traveled 4,000 miles through 14 states and Canada as delegates of the Citizenship Washington Focus.

Allison Rosentrater, a 2009 APS graduate, returned from a 12-day trip to Australia and Hawaii with a silver medal from the 4X400 M relay, in the 20th annual "Down Under" Track and Field Sports Tournament.

Steve Ruggles, driver of car #134 and his first time at the S.O.R.C. raised awareness and money for a good cause - "Autism Speaks."

Car #54, Ray and Linda Warner of Arkansas, are hooked on open road racing and attended Arnold's event for the sixth year.

Mary Carlson received the Ak-Sar-Ben Good Neighbor Award at the Custer County Fair on August 2.

Several Arnold students experienced cultural traditions in a once-in-a-lifetime experience, when they helped celebrate Mayra Barraza's Quinceañera on September 26.

Arnold Veteran Fitz Harris was featured in the Veteran's Day issue of *The Sentinel*, because he is part of the Defense POW/Missing in



JANET LARREAU PHOTO

Frosty Ferguson (left) of "Frosty's Fabrications" fame and Bobbie Smith (right) visit with an out-of-town guest while waiting for the entertainment to begin at the New Year's Eve celebration.

Action Office, formed by the U.S. Government in 1993.

Arnold resident, Miriam Brower celebrated her 103rd birthday on November 11, 2009, and was featured in the Senior Lifestyles Tab.

Tiff "Moose" Varney was one of 77 organ donors who was remembered with a flora-graph on the "New Life Rises" float in the New Year's Day Rose Parade in Pasadena, California.

SCHOOL HONORS

APS technology coordinator Nicole Badgley and Superintendent Robert Brown attended an Apple conference in California, where they made podcasts, speaking about Arnold's laptop initiative.

Hannah Magill, an eighth grade student at APS, and the daughter of Jack and Dru Magill, won the state-level of the Patriot's Pen theme, "Why America's Veteran Should Be Honored," in the Veterans of Foreign Wars essay contest. She then went on to compete at the national-level.

APS Technology Coordinator Nicole Badgley was one of 50 chosen to be named as an Apple Distinguished Educator.

Kali Blevins, Dayna Larreau, Brandon Peterson and Sarah Magill were inducted into the National Honor Society on May 4.

After placing fourth in the LVC One-Act play production, Arnold's play "Supercomics" won first at dis-

tricts and went on to compete at the state-level on December 10.

Arnold Elementary was honored nationally when they placed second in the Keep America Beautiful contest. Berni Crow presented the program, "The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle," as part of the STEP program.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

APS faculty and para-educators now use a system called AIMsweb to screen and monitor students' progress in reading and math for grades Kindergarten through eighth grade.

Fifty-two teachers from a number of Nebraska schools attended the two-day Exploring 1 to 1 Learning at APS's Apple Day.

Mrs. Crow's fourth grade classroom skyped in 2009 and the resulting program, "Connect Nebraska" connected the Arnold fourth graders with Papillion-LaVista on the east side of the state.

Some 80 children in Grades K-6 at APS started learning and benefiting from a new enrichment program H.A.L., previously known as S.T.E.P.

Author Douglas Polk, who wrote *The Legend of Garle Pond*, spoke to both junior high and high school students for Read Across America Day on March 20.

On May 9, 18 seniors received diplomas at the 96th annual Arnold High School

Commencement.

Among summer projects for the APS School House Graphic Products - Beyond the Classroom, was a contract with Regal Awards, where the student employees assembled 12,000 National American Miss trophies during the summer.

School House Graphic Products spent nearly two years working on the 9-1-1 identification of rural roads in Custer County. From planning to installation, the project was over three-quarters complete in September and the 807 intersections will all be marked by the end of the school year.

SCHOOL LOCKS DOWN

A report of three escaped convicts in the region on March 26, forced the lockdown of several area schools, including APS. This was the first time Arnold school was locked down for any reason.

SCHOOL BOARD OF DISTRICT 89

Budget woes in March forced the school board to consider cutting the third grade teaching position. A large group of parents and teachers attended the March meeting, to speak out.

At their April meeting, the school board decided to eliminate the third grade teaching position. Fifth and sixth grades were combined for the 2009-2010 school year, under the direction of Melva Geiser

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