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KENDRA VEIRS PHOTO

Pictured is what is left of the Upper Powell Canyon Road before nature's elements, in the form of heavy rains, washed out a portion of the road, creating a 75-foot drop-off into the existing canyon. The Arnold Township is now working with FEMA to repair the road.

Rains Wash Away Upper Powell Canyon Road

FEMA Provides Funds for Repairs and Mitigation

By Janet Larreau

Drive seven miles northeast of Arnold, and you'll come up on a section of Upper Powell Canyon Road that has become impassable. Actually, "impassable" is an understatement. Where the road once was is now a canyon in miniature form - and growing.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has stepped in to help the Arnold Township with this costly and continuing problem.

"If FEMA didn't provide assistance, the road would be closed," said Arnold Township Board President Blaine Hagler.

Big rains in 2007 started the huge wash-out. Twice, the township worked with FEMA and filled it in.

During June 5-26, 2009,

severe storms and flooding created a circular slope failure which encroached across the roadway and washed out integral embankment supporting the roadway.

The resulting wash-out, Hagler said, is 75 feet deep and 150 feet long.

Earl Imler of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency is working with FEMA to try to make sure they won't be back a fourth time.

Along with repairs, FEMA will pay for hazard mitigation.

"Through mitigation, we seek cost effective ways to harden the structure to prevent the damage from happening again," said Imler.

Nancy Morgan, Public Assistance Task Force Leader for FEMA, out of West Virginia, said, "Because of the

two previous events, a cost benefit analysis was done that gives us more money to do it properly."

FEMA will fund up to \$60,000.00 for repairs and mitigation and \$10,000.00 for engineering fees.

Hagler said affected landowners, Ron and Darrell Schmidt, will give the township more right of way and provide dirt for the project. An estimated 4,000 yards of dirt will be needed to fill the hole.

Larry Maupin, Public Assistance Supervisor for FEMA, out of Leavenworth, Kansas, said 50 percent of the project will be mitigation.

Mitigation will involve building a dam and adding 160 LF of 36 inch single corrugated metal pipe to transfer high volume water flow from the upper side of the road to the lower side. This action will reduce or eliminate loss of road surface and sub-grade in future similar disaster

events.

"It is always the objective that if we can make repairs and not have it happen again in the future, we're willing to spend the money. Our first objective, under the letter of the law, always is to make them whole again," he said.

Hagler said the township will have the money in a week or two and they will be ready to start the project.

"If it's not done, years from now it will be a smaller version of Devil's Den," he said.

One-Act Play Community Night Set for Nov. 16

Supercomics Save The Town

Faster than a speeding bullet, it's a bird, it's a plane, it's... Supercomics by Charlie Lovett.

The economic recession has hit Comedyville, so the mayor (Rachelle Preston) persuades movie director P. G. Gruffman (Hector Rodriguez) to visit Comedyville in hopes that he'll see the potential present in Comedyville for his newest film. Unfortunately, Vladvon Vladovich (Jon Magill) and his evil sidekicks, Gobsnacker (Natasha Sage) and Solemn (Sarah Magill), use this as the perfect opportunity to ruin the Laugh Riot's Comedy Festival and destroy Comedyville for good.

In the darkest days of Comedyville, a team of superheroes emerge who pledge to fight for truth, justice and the hilarious way of life. This is the story of these mighty warriors.

Everything in Comedyville was a laugh-riot, until Vlad the Exhaler unleashed his dastardly plan to rid the town of its sense of humor. Now that he and his humorless henchman - including a disgruntled Vaudevillian (Casandra King) turned secret enemy spy - have doused the town with anti-laughing spray, the citizens of Comedyville find themselves buying trench coats from Vlad's factory and brooding about the emptiness of life.

The familiar "rimshot" after each punch line falls silent.

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Applications Being Taken For Census Takers

The North Platte Census Office is now taking applications for census takers in this area.

According to Vic Gentry, LCO Manager of the North Platte Census Office, 5,000 applications will be sought and 1,000 people will be hired for the 2010 United States Census.

"Many people do not realize how valuable the Census is. \$1,114.00 is received for every person counted in Nebraska," Gentry said.

Nebraska had a 75 percent final Census response rate in 2000, second only to Iowa, in the nation.

"Iowa had a 76 percent response rate, so we are trying to do our best to come in at number one," Gentry added.

With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Households are asked to provide key demographic information, including whether a housing unit is rented or owned; the address of the residence; and the names, genders, ages and races of others living in the household.

You will receive your questionnaire in March 2010, either by U.S. mail or hand delivery. Some people in remote areas will be counted in person.

The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years to count the population and determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Census takers will visit households that do not return questionnaires to take a count in person and that is very costly," Gentry said.

In the 2000 Census, no data was received for Thomas, McPherson, Grant, Arthur and Thurston counties.

Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.

The Census has been taken every 10 years since 1790. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

For more information on how you can become a Census taker, contact Bobbi Thompson, assistant manager for recruiting in the North Platte office. She may be reached by calling 308-221-3040.

Housing Tour is Saturday

Tickets are on sale at Classic Coyotee and Nebraska Farmhouse Antiques for the Saturday, November 14, housing tour in Arnold. The day will include a salad luncheon, beginning at noon at the community center, and the tour that follows.

Tickets may also be purchased at the luncheon. Homes to be toured include those of Ron and Nancy Cool, Al and Ruth Bishop, Dave and Berni Crow, Keith and Jodi Carlson and Allen and Angie Crow.

Honey Sunday is Nov. 15

AHS National Honor Society members will be going door-to-door on Honey Sunday, November 15. Your purchase of a jar of honey for a suggested donation of \$5.00 will go to the Arc of Custer County.

The Arc is committed to helping children and adults with disabilities secure the opportunity to choose and realize their goals of where and how they learn, live, work and play.



KENDRA VEIRS PHOTO

Farmhouse Antiques Re-opens

Nebraska Farmhouse Antiques and Coffee Shop owner Kim Beshaler (second from right) visits with customers last week in her store. After the recent retirement of Oasis Coffee Roasting Co. owners, Connelley and Julie Barton, Beshaler closed for three weeks to remodel the kitchen area and re-organize the antique store. She re-opened on November 5, offering the same great fresh roasted coffee beans and specialty coffee drinks in a more spacious area. Beshaler said she will also offer monthly specials. Pictured seated around the antique oak table are (clockwise from left) Billie Linn, Ruth Yanken, Mildred Smith, Nancy Cool, and (back) Dru Magill.