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PATTI SCHWARZ PHOTO

Dancing for a Good Cause

(Above) Buzz and Kay Lohmiller take to the dance floor to the sounds of "Chance" Saturday night at the community center. The Valentine Dinner and Dance, hosted by the Rialto Theatre board to raise money for the projector fund, included a sit-down meal, live auctions of valentine items and even dance partners, and several hours of dancing. Rialto Theatre Board President Deb Croghan-Pittman said the band helped the fundraising effort, with two members donating back their fee, and one member donating back the dollar pot he won. Residents also threw in extra donations. Croghan-Pittman said the Valentine Dinner and Dance will be an annual event.

Friday's Pep Rally Will Bid Farewell to Cardinal Mascot

This Friday, February 19, Arnold High School will say goodbye to the Cardinal mascot at a special pep rally starting at 2:30 p.m., in the school

auditorium.

As part of the pep rally, a video put to music will look back at Cardinal teams dating back to the 1950s. Students are

counting down to the final Cardinal basketball game this week with special events.

Alumni are encouraged to attend the pep rally and game.

Village Board Addresses Residents' Concerns

By Kendra Veirs

Chairperson Karin Moore opened the regular village board meeting on Monday, February 8, with approximately 40 residents present.

Moore first addressed the community center cleanliness issue.

She reminded everyone that comments from the floor and letters to the editor are just comments. If an issue needs to be addressed, it is put on the agenda. By law, no decision can be made if it is not on the agenda.

Moore also stated that employees will only be discussed in closed session, by law; and the board does not disobey the law.

Moore commented on several specific issues that were brought up on the community center cleanliness at the previous meeting.

The tables with mold were treated with a stain/mold remover. When tables and chairs are not completely dry and put away, mold can grow. This happens after events, when everyone is helping to put tables and chairs away quickly.

Moore directed people to call Village Superintendent Scott Winfield when a problem arises.

There was a consensus across the board that since the community center is open to the public seven days a week, it will not be kept in perfect shape.

"Since the community center is open to the public, everyone should take their turn to clean," board member Aaron Olson said.

It was noted that Glen and Cathy Bowers do a walk-through every evening when they lock the building up, at no cost to the village.

Moore responded to a comment made at the previous meeting that all rental fees should go toward the upkeep of the building.

Moore stated that if the rent was the actual fee needed for upkeep, "we wouldn't have people wanting to rent it."

Board member Ted Bubak said the cleaning schedule has to be flexible. For example, a person cannot be scheduled to clean on Tuesdays/Thursdays, because events are held on different days and it is always cleaned before and after events.

One resident stated that even though the center is not perfectly clean, it is nice it is open to the community. The only way to keep it clean would be for it to not be open to the public.

It was stated that two people have been hired to clean the community center.

Chairperson Moore announced that the board was going into closed session to discuss the employment status of Kim

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Budget, Principal Search on School Board Agenda

By Janet Larreau

Certified public accountants, with the North Platte firm Miller and Neihardt, attended the February 8 Arnold School Board meeting to offer members some financial advice.

Superintendent Robert Brown gave Tom Neihardt and Missy Kramer a brief rundown of the financial problems the school is now facing, including borrowing money to pay the bills as it waits for tax receipts to slowly come in.

"Years ago we could budget in a cushion. Now we are budgeting what we are going to get in and what we are going to spend. We've tapped the fund," said Brown.

Brown went on to say that the district was finally able to budget in a cushion this year, and expenditures underspent the budget by five percent to this point in the year.

Neihardt said Arnold isn't the only school borrowing money. Inflation on valuations has been keeping the school district in the ball game. Eighty percent of the total budget is teacher and administrator salaries. The school needs to be "revenue neutral," finding a way to cut back as expenses rise.

The bottom line, Neihardt said, is to look at the side that you want to and can control, and that is the expenditure side.

"Your hands are tied every other place. All governments are going to have to cut back - the people won't pay," he said.

At the board's January meeting, Superintendent Brown suggested that board members consider closing the Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund, relieving the school of paying back \$175,000.00 that it had borrowed from the fund.

Both Neihardt and Kramer agreed with Brown's suggestion, saying the fund is not necessary and if dissolved, would go directly into the General Fund. The fund can be reissued if needed.

New Coaching Assignments

Board members voted unanimously to approve the new coaching assignments as recommended by the co-op board (see page 5); but not without discussion first.

School board member Gary Blevins, who serves on the Arnold/Callaway co-op board, said the interview process was where the difficult decision on head coaching positions was made.

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COURTESY PHOTO

(L-r) Logan Coleman, Drew Vickers, Jarret Buchholz, Cole Gracey, Leighton Bubak, Cooper Atkins and Samuel James unload non-perishable food items at the local food pantry. The Cub Scouts collected the food from residents on February 6.

Cub Scouts Collect Food for Local Pantry

In early February, local Cub Scouts Leighton Bubak, Jarret Buchholz, Logan Coleman, Matthew Corbin, Samuel James and Cole Gracey hung food drive door hangers across

town to prepare for a local food drive.

Once again, Arnold proved itself a caring, giving community.

On Saturday, February 6, the

scouts collected 492 items from Arnold homes and Riverview Apartments and delivered them to the library basement. Martha Beeken and Rhonda Gilland had the food

bank open for the delivery.

"We appreciate the community support, as our scouts learn first hand the importance of helping others," said Renee Bubak.