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COURTESY PHOTO

Mrs. Berni Crow's fourth graders, (l-r) Antonia Oberg, Blake Schwarz, Cade Connell, Madison Reed and Avery Atkins, munch on homemade pretzels, in just one of Crow's agricultural lessons. The students ground the wheat, went through the process of making dough into pretzels and enjoyed the tasty treat. Crow implements agriculture into teaching and she was named Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom 2010 Teacher of the Year.

Crow Receives Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year Award

Arnold fourth grade teacher Berni Crow has been named Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom 2010 Teacher of the Year.

As one of two Nebraska Teacher of the Year award recipients, Crow will spend six days in Baltimore, Maryland, attending the National AITC Conference.

Crow teaches all subject areas in a self-contained classroom. Because every student has a laptop computer, technology is incorporated in every phase of learning along with agriculture. In Crow's class she has her students use the iMovie program on their computers to create and organize the history of a local family, concentrating on families who have farmed the same land for 100 years or more. When the families send photos, each are scanned and used in the movie, which is presented to the students.

Another project Crow does with her class uses Skype, a software application that

allows users to connect through video conferencing over the Internet. Last year, Arnold students communicated with the Papillion School District; questions and answers dealt with agriculture and economic forces in each community. Because Papillion is in a metropolitan area, their students learned about the economics of farming from the Arnold students. The project brought fourth grade students 200 miles away from each other together in real time.

Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) is a nationwide educational program to help students develop awareness and understanding that agriculture is our source of food, clothing, shelter and other essentials of life. In Nebraska, the program is managed and funded by the Nebraska Foundation for Agricultural Awareness (NFAA), a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization with headquarters at the Nebraska Farm Bureau office

in Lincoln.

The Nebraska AITC Program provides resources and training to K-12 teachers on ways to use agriculture as the vehicle to teach across existing curriculum. These resources use an integrated/hands-on approach to learning. Each of the resources is correlated with the Nebraska State Standards in the basic subject areas.

Nebraska students learn that the agricultural industry includes the production, processing, distribution and marketing of the products that we use every day. This program provides the students with the knowledge of the agricultural industry, thereby allowing them to support wise decisions concerning agricultural policies. It is AITC's goal to educate these future consumers.

This year's other Teacher of the Year award recipient is Kathy Schellpeper, a third grade teacher at Calvert Elementary School in Lincoln.

Rotarians Have Been Flipping Cakes for 50 Years

Annual Pancake Feed is Thursday

The smell of hotcakes and the sizzle of sausage has been a lasting aroma in the Arnold community for almost 50 years. Each year Arnold Rotarians fire up the grills, whip up a tasty batter and serve a delicious meal of pancakes and sausage. The world has changed much in half a century, but some things are constant - Arnold Rotarians are still flipping the cakes to raise funds to help alleviate suffering world-wide.

This year the annual event is set for Thursday, March 4, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Arnold Community Center. Donations will be taken to

help fund a Shelter Box for homeless people in Haiti. Through your past contributions to the pancake feed, Rotarians have been able to help fund a variety of projects, both for Arnold youth and for world-wide disasters. The Arnold community and area residents have been generous in their giving and this generosity has resulted in alleviating some of the pain of being homeless and hungry.

Fifty-years-ago Rotary had people lining up at the door to attend the Arnold Pancake Feed. They'd like to see that sight once again. For good food and good fellowship, join Rotarians Thursday at the community center. You'll be glad you did.

Nine Teams Signed up for Chili Cook-off

The Chamber-sponsored Chili Cook-off is set for Saturday, March 13, at the community center.

Co-chairpersons Pat Turley and Jody Bailey report that nine teams have signed up for the competition, including: Westbrook Audio, Bryce Nansel team, Randy Bailar team, The Cutting Crew, First State Insurance, Dave and Sally Hilderbrant, Arnold Insurance Agency, Cool Farms and the Zach Hagler team.

Cooking of competition chili will begin in the afternoon. A panel of judges will decide the winners. Turley said they have

added a "People's Choice" award, so everyone is encouraged to come early, sample the chili and cast their vote.

Public serving of chili, potato and chicken-noodle soup will be from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The entertainment that follows promises to be very entertaining. Arnold School kindergarten teacher Katie Gracey is in charge. Her kindergartners will match wits with adult residents in, "Are You Smarter Than a Kindergartner?" - a take-off on the popular television series, "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?"

Several More Filings Received for School Board

Eight residents of School District No. 89 have filed for positions on the Arnold School Board. As reported last week, incumbents Kathleen Schweitzer and Gary Blevins refilled by the deadline. Nathan Mills was the first non-incumbent to file.

By the March 1 deadline, five more added their names to the list of filings. They are: Tammy Weinman, Joe Cool,

Tony Eggleston, David Smith and Rick Beshaler.

County Clerk Conni Gracey said that in the May Primary Election, residents will be asked to vote for three. The field of candidates will be narrowed down to the top six vote getters, and those names will appear on the November General Election ballot to fill the three open positions.

"Every 32 Minutes" Program Makes an Impact on Students

By Janet Larreau

Every 32 minutes someone in the United States dies in an alcohol-related crash. Today, you died. I never got the chance to tell you that I am so mad at you right now that I can hardly see straight. And you are thinking... 'Why is grandpa mad at me? He should be sad because I died.' I am mad because you are gone, and I am left in this world to deal with a loss that is and will always be unbearable. I am mad because I will never see you play sports, graduate, marry and have children of your own. It just took one foolish moment to end your precious life... A moment you can never take back. It's gone, you're gone, and I have no clue what to do now...

These emotional words were written by a grandparent to an Arnold School student as part of "Every 32 Minutes," a program focusing on middle and high school students. The challenge: to get students to think about drinking, personal safety and the responsibility for making mature decisions when lives are at stake.

Ten students were chosen by a selection committee to participate in "Every 32 Minutes."

"Our goal was to find a cross-section of the student body perceived as a student leader - students who would have the most influence over the other students in gaining acceptance of the program," said Arnold guidance counselor Lynne Ayres, who assisted the Safe Communities for Custer County (SCCC) organization in putting the program together at Arnold Public School. Parents and/or grandparents



TAMMY WEINMAN PHOTO

"Death notices" of 10 Arnold students line the school's hallway as students were introduced to the harsh reality that every 32 minutes, someone dies in a drunk driving related accident in the U.S. The program was brought to Arnold Public School through volunteers from the Safe Communities for Custer County organization.

of the selected students were given a letter explaining the program, and asked them to write a letter beginning with,

"Dear _____,

Every 32 minutes someone in the United States dies in an alcohol-related crash. Today, you died. I never got the chance to tell you..."

They were asked not to discuss the program with their

son or daughter until after the events of the program.

"We wanted the students to have a spontaneous reaction; therefore, we were asking for confidentiality," said Ayres.

Events started on February 19 during first period, when the first student was called out from the classroom by a group of volunteers from the SCCC.

In their presence was the "grim reaper." Students remaining in the classroom were read a "death notice" explaining how the student "died."

Every 32 minutes during the day, a gong went off over the public address system, and another student was called out. Once called out, the student later returned to class as

the "living dead," wearing a black t-shirt with the graphic "Every 32 Minutes" on the back. From that point on, the "victims" were asked not to speak or interact with other students for the remainder of the school day; they could, however, speak to other "victims."

While with the SCCC volunteers behind closed doors, "victims" were read their own "death notice," the letter written by their parents, and then were asked to write a letter saying "goodbye" to their parents.

At the end of the school day, an assembly was held with middle/high school students. Deputy Dan Osmond spoke to the students, as a silent slideshow of the day's events was shown in the background.

Osmond was emotional when he said, "We're trying to give you this message today. I've seen so much of it. I would give anything for you to understand, so I'll never have to knock on your parents' door."

The program was concluded that evening at the basketball game, when parents and the selected students participated in an emotional ceremony. Portions of the letters were read, with names and identifying information omitted.

The primary focus of the presentation stresses the theme that the decision to consume alcohol can affect many more people than just the person who drinks it. The audience was guided through the devastating effects of losing a loved one due to a decision not well thought out. Police officers

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