



Serving the
South Loup River Valley

The Arnold Sentinel

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First Community Yearbook Goes to Press Cover to Cover, Yearbook Documents Full Year in Arnold

By Janet Larreau
"That Small Town Feeling" has been captured in the first-ever Arnold Community Yearbook. The completed yearbook went to press early this month and is a one-of-a-kind publication in - at least - the state of Nebraska.

Arnold school yearbook advisor Julie Mohr came up with the idea of not only documenting school activities, but those of the community, last year, when publishing a school yearbook in future years came into question. She pitched her idea to yearbook publisher

Jostens, and they went for it. The on-line layout allowed Mohr, student yearbook staff members, teachers and community volunteers to work on the book together, starting last spring. From cover to cover, the full-color, 121-page book documents happenings from June 2010 to May 2011.

The first step in creating the book was designing a "page ladder" for everyone to follow. By going to the Jostens on-line site, everyone involved was able to view the book's progress, as they worked on their own assigned pages.

Many people who were not directly involved in designing, contributed by uploading photos during the year.

The ladder includes the traditional lay-out of high school and elementary days, then advancing to the "Arnold Year" section, featuring month by month photos, headlines and news, from the pages of *The Arnold Sentinel*.

The next division page is "Our Town - How We Serve," featuring the activities of all community organizations - big and small.

The "Activities - How We Keep Busy" division (and you know Arnold stays busy) features kids and adults at work and play in activities such as youth leagues, 4-H, swimming, golfing, Red Hat Society, the SORC, Blues Festival, 4th of July Blow-Out, Alumni and at the theatre, to name a few.

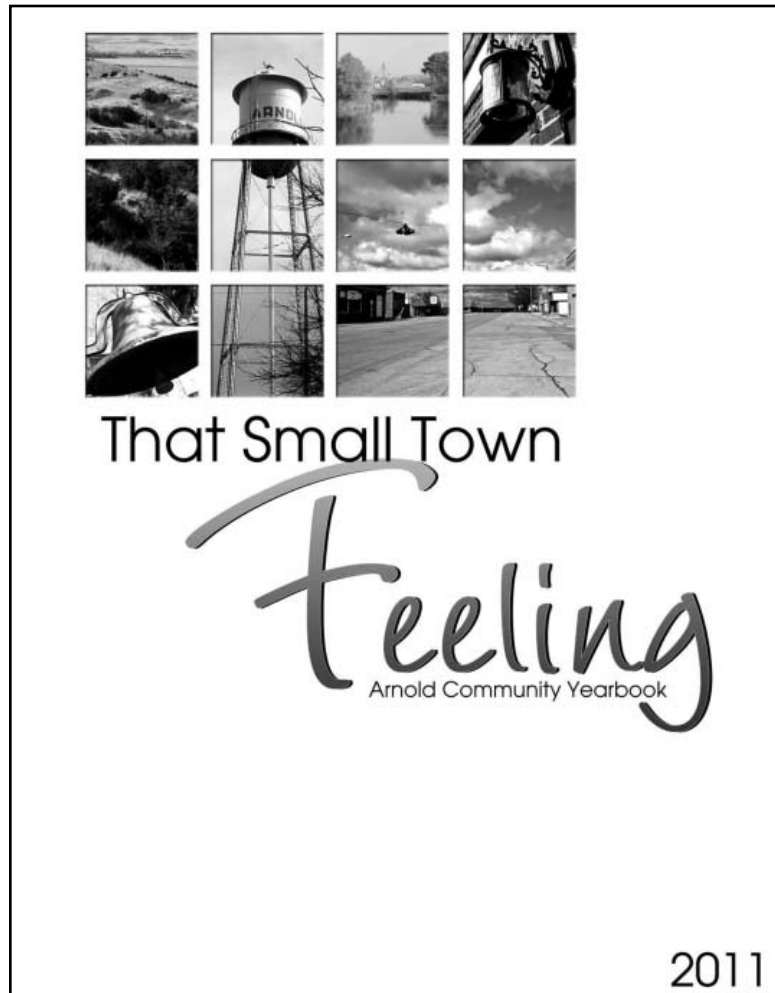
Documenting the businesses and taking photos of owners and staff was one of the bigger undertakings of the yearbook for the final division. Several pages are dedicated to the vibrant business community, including home-based businesses.

And finally, the book ends with an index listing of each person pictured and the page number they are on.

Because all of the year's activities are documented, a good percentage of the town's residents - and some out-of-towners who took part - are pictured in the yearbook. In the history of the school, no graduating senior or student has possessed a yearbook on this scale, and for the community, it will become something of historical significance.

Jostens publishes about three million yearbooks across the country each year. They have helped the school promote and market the book through sales campaigns and post-cards.

Ryan Heffner, the Jostens rep



"That Small Town Feeling" is the theme of the 2011 community yearbook. The cover of this first-ever publication is pictured above.

Arnold Community Foundation
Newly formed foundation vows to keep that small town feeling alive

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... your community foundation.

The Arnold Community Foundation Fund is dedicated to the improvement and long-term vitality of our community and its surrounding area.

A volunteer Fund Advisory Committee works actively to increase charitable giving and award grants to worthy organizations that are addressing the emerging needs and future opportunities in our community.

Committee members include: Shane Cool, Dean Wannman, Holly Homing Remund, Mary Becker, Edwin Johnson, Peg Scott, Ken Wehman, Bobbie Smith, and Carolyn Watkins.

The Arnold Community Foundation Fund enhances the quality of life and helps create new opportunities in the Arnold area by:

- Supporting and strengthening local nonprofit organizations
- Providing innovative ways for donors to benefit their community
- Identifying needs and making grants in our community
- Participating in partnerships with other community groups

For more information on the Arnold Community Foundation Fund, you can reach the Fund Advisory Committee members listed above or contact:

Arnold Community Foundation Fund Secretary
PO Box 376 Holly Homing Remund
Arnold NE 69120
www.arnoldcommunityfoundation.org

As an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation, all contributions to the Arnold Community Fund are tax-deductible. The Nebraska Community Foundation is confirmed in compliance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations, and has met the nation's highest philanthropic standards of operational quality, integrity and accountability.

Pictured above is an example of a division page. The "Our Year in Headlines" division documents people and events that made the news in *The Arnold Sentinel*.

who works with Mohr, said, "I love working with Julie. She always does some of the best work I see throughout the state. Not only is she extremely knowledgeable about the creation, but she's very good at teaching the students. Each and every year I've worked with her and the class, the students are very involved and thoroughly understand some of the most advanced programs used. I hope the new community yearbook works mainly to strengthen community and school pride."

Mohr said she is pleased on how well everyone worked together to create the book.

"All members on the yearbook staff, students, community members and myself, learned a great deal," she said.

"We feel that we put out a great first community yearbook and are excited to apply our knowledge to next year's book, which we are starting on already! We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this book and encourage you to submit new stories and pictures of Arnold's events, businesses and people for future use."

Orders for the yearbook can be placed through the end of June. You may order and pay for your yearbook directly from Jostens by going to: <http://jostensyearbooks.com?REF=A04801100>. On Facebook, search for Arnold Community Yearbook. You may also order by contacting Julie Mohr at the school at 848-2226.

School Board Approves Mastery Reading Program

By Janet Larreau

Outdated textbooks, increased emphasis on standardized tests and the resulting need to maintain fidelity of a comprehensive, school-wide program, has led the Arnold School District to adopt a new reading program. At their regular meeting held on June 7, the board of education approved the "Mastery" program, with one descending vote. A good majority of the almost two-hour long meeting was spent discussing whether or not the school needs a new program, and if so, deciding from which program to choose.

The curriculum committee of Joe Cool and Al Bishop has been working with the faculty and administration to hear evidence and assessments for selecting a new set of reading texts for several months. The candidate selections were reduced from a field of five or six down to just two - Reading Mastery and Treasures - by a process that began in February. The faculty reviewed texts, attended specialty programs across the state and district and solicited input from both colleagues and textbook professionals.

It was mentioned that there is professional disagreement, with some preferring one program over another, but both agree on the need for a new program.

Principal Dawn Lewis presented points in favor and points that gave pause on both programs, but the administration's ultimate recommendation to the curriculum committee was the Mastery pro-

gram.

"We have been in the process of reviewing the reading curriculum since school started. It was pretty revealing that holes were everywhere," said Lewis. "The Mastery program has a straight-forward approach and provides a template that is put in place to guide teachers through the program."

Lewis stressed the need for fidelity in the program. With the current method, teachers may substitute when they do not like something.

"It's the way it's been done for years," she said. "The idea is when you get the series, we want teachers to teach that way to be a success. Mastery is very structured. It has been developed since the late 1970s. In the schools where it's in place, it has been in place for some time with good results."

Board members raised some concerns over teachers being restricted in how they teach, where students will be placed if they are ahead or behind of level, and if the Mastery program is really what the teachers want.

Lewis said that as far as fidelity, teachers can come together and pool their ideas to reach out to all of the children. Students who are advanced will be caught and challenged, and students who are falling behind will also be caught and sent to corrective reading and be taught by someone who is specially trained before they are sent to special education.

"We are not going to put (the children) in a position where they are uncomfortable," said

Lewis. "There are novel units. The literature is very strong and the children will be exposed to the Classics. They are really going to be doing special things if they finish the program in the fourth grade."

She also addressed the concern over the teachers and what program they want.

"The teachers verbally agreed at the (final) meeting to support whatever is adopted," she said.

Superintendent Osmond gave his input, saying, "The teachers have to do their part to teach, and we have to do our part by supporting the teachers. I told Dawn that we absolutely have to make sure they get that support."

Special education teacher Renee Bubak said the nice thing is that the teachers have been part of the process and they appreciate that.

"It is very encouraging that the board has taken this seriously and has been involved," said Lewis.

Tuckpointing Project

During the meeting, board members took a short field trip outside to look over the finished repair of mortar on the high school building. The nice work on the chimney was pointed out, along with the dramatic difference in masonry signage surfaces that were cleaned. Everyone agreed that the trim color looks good. Rain run-off on window ledges is the only item left to be re-addressed.

"It's a pretty dramatic improvement, and (the contractor) did a super job," said Osmond. "We will request the same crew back. They were

very professional and nice to work with. We can consider our money well spent."

Building and Grounds

A meeting of the buildings and grounds committee was set for June 13, at 8:00 a.m., to look over the track and the grade school building.

Osmond said the condition of the track was discussed at the last sports co-op board meeting. The track, which was last re-done in 2000, needs re-rubberized and re-lined. There is \$12,000.00 in the track fund and some rubber is left over from 2000. The difference in the cost would come from the building fund. It was mentioned that the track has lasted 11 years and was only supposed to last five. The committee will also look at the school buildings to consider a five-year plan on continued tuckpointing.

Principal's Report

Principal Lewis reported that school ended well. Several students and their families have yet to pick up report cards, and there are several that owe library fines and/or office and computer fees. She said the school will attempt to collect fines and fees over the summer.

An Adolescent Literacy Workshop was held June 1-2, with the intent to bridge the RTI gap between elementary and middle school/secondary students.

Lewis informed the board that Dayna Larreau was chosen as an Academic All-Star by the North Platte Telegraph. The awards ceremony and luncheon was attended by Dayna's family, Mrs.

Moninger, Mrs. Ayres and Mrs. Lewis on May 26. There were 12 students chosen from many, many area applicants.

Coach Cole was a coach and Chase Schwarz played in the All-Star Basketball games. She noted that Chase had a great game.

The new computers are in. Mrs. Badgley will put her summer contract days in in June and July to get the computers ready for the students and teachers.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Osmond drew the board's attention to recently passed LB 397. This bill sets a negotiations timeline that will start on September 1, 2011.

In other business, the board:

- Reviewed a spreadsheet provided by the superintendent on teacher negotiations.
- Approved the audit contract with Miller, Neihardt & Associates.
- Set next meeting date of July 12, at 8:00 p.m.

VBS Kicks Off June 26

Volunteers are gearing up for an exciting week of Vacation Bible School in Arnold June 26 to June 30. This community-wide (non denominational) summer kids' event called "PandaMania" will be hosted at the Arnold United Methodist Church. Kids will participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games and experience electrifying Bible adventures.

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