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The Arnold Sentinel

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Local Fire Departments Battle Deadly Anhydrous Leak



JANIS BLEVINS PHOTO

Anhydrous ammonia is one of the most potentially dangerous chemicals used in agriculture. Southwest winds, changing to straight south on Monday, July 18, carried the anhydrous ammonia northward from the Logan County Coop.

Marcia Hora

The Stapleton Enterprise

What seemed like a routine hot Monday July morning at the Logan County Co-op quickly turned into an emergency situation.

Dale Hollibaugh, Co-op manager, said the Stapleton Fire Department was called at approximately 8:48 a.m., July 18, after employees were in the process of bleeding off the line to replace a bleeder valve. "We had a leaky bleeder valve in the liquid anhydrous line going to the pumping station for the nurse trailers. Employees believed they had bled down enough anhydrous and were in the process of taking the valve off when it blew off, spilling liquid anhydrous," Hollibaugh said. "After calling the fire department, the premises were evacuated and closed off."

Stapleton Fire Chief Frank Kramer said that Hazmat was called and mutual aid summoned from fire departments in Thedford, McPherson County, Arnold, Broken Bow, Brady, Maxwell, North Platte Paid and Volunteer and Hershey.

"We first attempted to shut the valves off, but were unsuccessful," Fire Chief Kramer said. "After having a series of meetings and receiving help from the CERT team, we used water to dissipate the anhy-



JANIS BLEVINS PHOTO

Sixty-eight firemen were on the scene to help with the leak. Stapleton Volunteer Firemen were aided by Hazmat, Thedford, McPherson County, Arnold, Broken Bow, Brady, Maxwell, North Platte Paid & Volunteers and Hershey, along with the CERT team, the Nebraska Department of Roads, Nebraska State Patrol, Logan County Sheriff's office and Richard Cook, Logan County Emergency Management director.

drous and were able to shut off valves and bleed the product into another tank. Eventually we were able to get the leak under control when the North Platte Hazmat truck personnel plugged the leak at approximately 1:50 p.m.

A portion of U.S. Highway 85 was shut down. Traffic was diverted at Thedford. Southbound and northbound

traffic had to travel through Gandy.

Fire Chief Kramer said 68 firemen were on the scene and they were hampered by the hot weather.

"The heat index was 110 degrees and we had a southwest and then straight south wind," Kramer said.

Two firemen sustained exposure to the anhydrous, but

were not hospitalized. One fireman was hospitalized for heat exhaustion.

Firemen remained at the scene and helped with clean-up until approximately 3:50 p.m.

In addition to the firemen, Kramer said the Department of Roads, Nebraska State

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Contestants Urged to Sign Up Now for Arnold River Battle

Contestants are urged to sign up now for the 1st Annual Arnold River Battle, set for Saturday, July 30, at Hidden Valley Campground. Registration forms are available by calling Della Dailey at 308-520-5905, Heidi Kulp at 308-440-8042 or Michelle Preston at 402-984-1921. The entry fee of \$25.00 (\$35.00 day of the race) includes a T-shirt, bottled water and a meal. Contestants may register the day of the river battle, but will not be guaranteed a T-shirt.

Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m., and start time is 9:00 a.m. Categories include:

- Best Decorated/Themed: canoe, kayak or tube.

- Adult Class (18 or older): canoeing, kayaking and tubing.

- Youth Class: canoeing (must be accompanied by someone 18 or older) and kayaking and tubing (18 and under. Must have waiver signed by parent or guardian).

Rules include:

- All gear must be provided by competitor.

- Life jacket has to be in boat for each competitor.

- 18 and under must wear a life jacket.

The Arnold River Battle is a timed event. It's up to the competitor how fast or how slow they want to go down the river. Each team will start at different times, and prizes will be awarded.

The cook-out is open to the public and will be held at Hidden Valley Campground after the race. The cost will be \$5.00 a plate for non-competitors. Camp spots are available at Hidden Valley Campground and can be viewed on the camp's Web site.

Kids races will follow lunch at the campground. The cost is \$5.00 to enter. Kids can bring their own boat, paddle boat, canoe, tube or floaties. Life jackets are required for the kids races.

Home Schoolers Can Apply for Part-time Enrollment

A school board story published in the July 21 issue incorrectly stated in the headline that home schoolers will enroll part-time at Arnold.

Jon and Darcy Redden, who attended the meeting to ask about the school's policy on part-time enrollment, said last week that they are interested in what options are available, and it is a consideration.

"We know the school and those involved with the school are great, and the community is great," said Darcy. "There's the appropriate paperwork that needs to be done and approved, along with a few other things on our end that we have to make sure are in line, and sometimes these things take more than a couple of weeks."

Darcy said Principal Dawn Lewis was of great help in finding all the options available to home schoolers.

"It's not so much about us, but other home schoolers as well," she said. "There are a lot of other home schoolers that aren't aware of their options. We just happened to be the people inquiring about the options."

Principal Lewis said the law says home schoolers can take up to two classes for 90 minutes of instruction.

"Superintendent Osmond or myself would just have to approve the application," she said. "It is a pretty simple process. It is already adopted as board policy, and there is no need for board approval."

Theatre Marks First Year Full Year in Business

By Darlene Rimpley
Theater Board Member

Maybe we should have a birthday party to celebrate the Rialto Theatre's full year "in business." The fervent wish of the theater board and the community in general has been granted: WE ARE IN BUSINESS!

The success of our first year is due to the people of the community, as they have contributed in many ways. The attendance at movies is one of the most important ways that the community supports the theater, not only because of the revenue created, but just letting us know that you appreciate having the theater available for entertainment. Without your attendance, it would be no use to have a theater.

The monetary donations and all of the gifts that have come



JANET LARREAU PHOTO

The latest improvements to the Rialto Theatre are "Coming Soon" and "Now Playing" movie poster frames. School House Graphics Products created the frames, and Clay Mohr designed a clip that swings up and down to change out the posters.

in are certainly appreciated. Those who have donated popcorn, memorial monies, cleaning supplies and other donations, are giving gifts of love. Out of the 52 weeks that we

have been showing movies, 27 have been sponsored! We had a free movie weekend and have had two free movies for children (which, incidentally, had good adult attendance,

too), and we are looking at plans to show another free movie.

We look forward to the second year being as great as the first!