

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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APS students go through the re-configured lunch line in what used to be the hallway leading to a single door that would take them through the line and into the gymnasium to eat. Now, they file into the new commons area. (Leta Connell photos)

were hired to complete most of the renovation project.

Dr. Lewis commented, “We saved the cost of a general contractor and contract labor by utilizing the skills of Mr. Mohr and SHGP employees.”

The Board chose to compensate foreman Clay Mohr, for hours worked beyond his extended contract. Mr. Mohr, along with his wife, Mrs. Julie Mohr, run the SHGP program during the school year and in the summer.

Mr. Mohr explained, “I thought this would be a great project for a number of reasons. It would give the kids a job over the summer, plus experience with real world construction. There are not a lot of contractors that will give kids this age a chance. It was a great educational opportunity. By completing the work in house, it could be done for considerably less money.”

Renovation work officially began on May 22, although a few things were already “coming down” in the old gym the last two weeks of April. The summer crew of Mr. Mohr, Cooper Taylor, Eli Taylor, Brett Halstead, Cooper Atkins and Eddie Berger worked hard and accomplished a lot with at least three of them on duty every day. Keep in mind the renovation work was happening along with kids still participating in summer athletic and academic camps, family vaca-

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Change Looks Good at APS

By Leta Connell

From the outside things look relatively the same...the front lawn is a vibrant green and the brick building filled with the students and faculty of A.H.S. looks as it has for many decades. On the inside, however, there is a story to tell...

For a couple of years, the Arnold school board has been discussing renovation possibilities of the current school building. In fact, in 2016 a renovation project was proposed, but not approved. Initially, the renovations were a solution to student flow throughout the day, helping to protect the finish on our resurfaced gym floor and gaining better accessibility of the gym for classes during the day.

Unfortunately, last spring a broken drainpipe was discovered leading from the kitchen directly underneath the gym floor. It was not feasible to fix the pipe in that location. The gym floor would have had to be torn up, concrete removed, and a whole new gym floor installed, and that would have been extremely expensive!

The more cost-effective option was to reroute the drain.

This required a change to the kitchen layout, and the domino effect was the students could no longer pass safely through the kitchen to grab their food trays.

Dr. Lewis, superintendent of APS, elaborated, “We needed to change the way kids picked up their lunch, and it seemed like the natural time to move forward and create a cafeteria/commons space.”

So plans were set in motion. Hours of discussions became a reality, and estimated renovation costs were presented at the April 2017 Board meeting. The projected cost of the budget, with all bids put together, minus the cost of the plumber for the kitchen renovation, was \$93,561.36. The plumbing estimate, which was necessary regardless of the rest of the renovations, was \$19,800. The combined estimate costs were \$113,360.44.

However, Arnold’s staff had cost savings plans. Dr. Lewis reports, “We were under budget in some areas and slightly

over in others. Without having an actual general contractor bid the project, there is no way of knowing exactly how much was saved. One could speculate however, the cost may

have been doubled and not on schedule had we outsourced the entire project.”

Clay Mohr, along with the summer School House Graphics Production employees,



After going through the lunch line, students eat in the new open commons area that used to be the band room.

Focus On Your Hometown Businesses Triangle Lanes

First in a monthly series on what businesses and services the community of Arnold has to offer.

By Janet Larreau

“Stuart Watson talked me into it.” That’s the response Triangle Lanes owner Dell Cerny gave when asked why he purchased Arnold’s bowling alley way back in 1979. “I bowled for five years, and Stuart was going to close it. Due to the work I did for him in repair, he told me I would be a good person to operate the machines. When I said yes, Stuart financed it for me.”

Dell said those were the heydays of bowling. A game cost .45 and there were nine, five-man teams.

In 1982, Dell started making improvements, purchasing pin setters to replace the AMF leased setters, insulated the building, put in a new heating system and lowered the ceiling.

In 1993, Dell had the old

building torn down and erected a new steel structure in its place. Improvements that have been made since that time include painting the interior a new color, adding a mural in the front, and changing out the lighting to LEDs.

Over his 38 years of ownership, Dell said he has seen the number of bowlers decline.

Starting in 1988, the league teams started dropping to four-man teams. Then in 1996, the leagues dropped to three-man teams. In 2007, the number of teams started to drop off. At present, he has an eight-member league of four, two-member teams on Tuesdays; a 12-member league of six, two-member teams on Wednesdays; and a 24-member league of six, four-member teams on

Thursdays.

People schedule maybe three or four parties a year, and other than league nights, the alley is open only by request, as there has to be enough bowlers to offset the expenses.

Dell said the alley isn’t really that difficult to maintain, but one does have to be mechanically inclined to understand the operation of the machines and how to replace the parts. In the early days, his wife, Chyrel, helped run the alley, but as the couple has aged, daughter Barb is the main helper. “The bowling has dropped off so it doesn’t require two people. We do have some help cleaning the alley,” he said.

Even with the number of bowlers declining over the years, Dell noted that financially, the alley is okay at this time and pays its utilities and taxes. There isn’t much income to consider a salary, but the business would supplement another income.

“It only requires about ten hours of time a week to run the place and 1 1/2 hours of maintenance. Machine parts are high priced, and I try to find used parts or make them myself. Pins are replaced every three to four years at a cost of \$16.00 each,



Arnold’s bowling alley features a mural above the six-lanes. It’s one of the many improvements made to the well-maintained business.

and every five to seven years, the lanes need recoated for around \$2,400.00 or completely refinished for around \$4,500.00 to \$5,000.00,” he said.

Arnold is very fortunate to still have a well-kept, bowling alley that is up and running. Dell estimates there are less than five towns of a population of 800 or less that have a bowling center. He said he would like to see more people take advantage of this

unique, small-town recreation opportunity, and there are plenty of open spaces on the leagues he has now.

To sum it up, Dell said bowling is fun, good exercise and a good place to get to know who is who in the community, and best of all, it’s not an expensive sport.

Thanks to Dell, Chyrel and Barb, residents still have the opportunity to participate in this fun sport close to home.