

# The Arnold Sentinel

"Serving the South Loup River Valley"

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## School Board Holds Workshop to Discuss Preschool Proposal

On Tuesday, January 2, school board members and administrators held a workshop to discuss the possibility of adding preschool to Arnold Public Schools. Dr. Dawn Lewis said the reason for the meeting was a board member had been approached by some parents asking for a preschool option that offered more hours than the current privately ran preschool. When Dr. Lewis looked into other schools that have added early childhood education programs, she found that out of the 249 public schools in the state, 209 of them offer a preschool option.

The proposed option would be two half-day sessions lasting 3-4 hours. The first session would be for three-year-olds and the second would be for four-year-olds. There would be no cost for children to attend as long as they reside in the school district. There would not be a lunch option, as the children would not be there at the corresponding times to eat. But the children would be able to attend music, P.E., library, etc. Requirements would be the same as for kindergarten; the child would need to be either three or four on or before July 31. One possible negative would be according to state law, 79-1101(3)(b), center-based early childhood education programs cannot enroll children

who are age-eligible to attend kindergarten (with the exception of a child with a disability). This would mean that if parents felt that their child wasn't quite ready to start kindergarten, but they were of age to go, they would not be able to attend another year of preschool. Dr. Dawn Lewis said that there could possibly be a way around that by letting the child attend with the four-year-old group, but they would be given more work.

If the decision is made to add the program, it was proposed that the preschool would move into the current kindergarten classroom and all of the elementary classrooms would just move over one. This option would make the most sense as the current kindergarten and first grade rooms share the size appropriate bathrooms. This would be helpful as it would be required that all children be potty-trained.

There were parents in attendance as well as Homegrown Kids Daycare employees and owner, Heather Hagler. A board member asked Heather if this would have an impact on her business. She stated that it would unfortunately have a very negative effect, as it would force her to have to close one of her locations and lay off as many as four employees.

There are some requirements

that the school would need to meet. One of those is required by Rule 11 that there is a size and age appropriate play structure on the playground that is completely fenced in. Another requirement is that the preschool teacher must have completed early childhood development in addition to their teaching degree. One teacher can have up to 10 students, but if there are more than that, a Para educator who would need to have early childhood development training as well, would need to be hired.

Dr. Lewis stated that there is a start-up grant that the school could apply for to help with funding or at least help offset costs. The grant must be filed no later than February 15, ideally, earlier as it is very competitive. This would mean that in order to add the program to the '18-'19 school year, the board would have to have come to a decision no later than the board meeting on February 13.

The board thanked everyone for attending and giving information to think about. There was no definite decision made, as this was just a workshop to discuss some options and collect information. More discussion was planned for the next regular board meeting that was held on Tuesday, January 9, at 7:00 p.m.

## Bellevue University Will Reach Out To Arnold Community

Lori McCullough is with Bellevue University and works with rural communities to support continuing education. She will be at the Arnold Economic Development Corporation, 109 North Walnut Street, on Friday, January 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for an informal introduction to what the University has to offer.

"Starting to visit Arnold regularly is really mirroring what I have established at the Callaway library over the last couple of years. I would like to get into a routine of coming over to Arnold maybe once a quarter or so to be available for drop-in traffic. Meeting people where it is convenient for them and in a low-key atmosphere helps generate good conversations. Going back to school is a big decision and I am wanting to make myself available for folks who are considering the prospect," stated McCullough.

The most unique part of the Bellevue University relationship/devotion to the rural communities is the partnership with local community colleges, the Premier Partnership Network. There is a very generous transfer credit program, accepting associate's degrees in their entirety. The program gives the student credit for the college-level coursework as completed where the time and money was invested. The local community college partner is



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Mid-Plains Community College and Lori's office is located on the Broken Bow campus. The Premier Partnership Network has grown considerably in the five and a half years that McCullough has been working for the university. What was once a regional network in Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota is now a nationwide model with several community colleges establishing articulation agreements.

Most of the degree programs are totally online, just requiring the students have access to a computer and good, reliable Internet. This is where local libraries and businesses that offer wireless guest access can benefit students who would otherwise be at a technological disadvantage at home. Bellevue University believes that everyone deserves the opportunity to gain career-relevant knowledge and skills no matter where they live. Routinely ranked among the nation's top military-friendly and open access institutions, the University serves students at the main

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## Get To Know Your Hometown Businesses Nails for Starz

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

By Pepper Werner

Barb Gunther has been a long-time resident and business owner in Arnold.

Relocating to Arnold in 1974 with her family, for her dad's job with the State Fire Marshall's office, Barb Gunther went on to graduate high school in Arnold and attend Joseph's College of Beauty in Kearney. After a year and a half stint in North Platte as a beautician, Barb returned to Arnold to manage a beauty shop for Judy Hendrickson.

Barb and Mike married in 1989 and had two daughters, Brittany and Shandell. She decided to leave the beauty field to stay home and raise her children while Mike drove a long haul truck. When her youngest daughter, Shandell, went to first grade, Barb took a part-time job at Jim's Bar, owned by Lee Eastburn, that lasted 14 years. In 2000, when the time was right, Barb made the decision to return to the beauty arena. That change led to updating her education and in April 2001, opened Nails for Starz. Originally Barb's business was with Sue's Beauty Shop where she remained for 12 years. In 2013 she moved to the main street area within the Cutting Crew and Kreative

Edge.

Due to some health issues, it was difficult to stand for long periods of time and Barb decided not to continue doing hair. There are variety of other services offered at Nails for Starz; manicures, shellac/gel service, pedicures, hot rocks, paraffin wax, nail designs, foot treatments, shower blast, cuticle oils and retails sales of lotions and bath bombs.

Along with nails, Barb joined the Scentsy business in 2010. It is a wickless, scented, fragrance bar that is used in an electric warmer that is sold through independent consultants. She received her first Scentsy as a gift from her daughters and decided to join the team after Shandell graduated in May of that year. From September 2010 to January 2011, Barb earned a trip to the Dominican Republic, Punta Cuna with her successful sales with the company. She sells her wares at craft shows, holds home parties and hosts online parties.

There is a third business that Barb created after seeing an opportunity with 'recycled goods'. Heavy Metal Angel was formed after an inspiration on Pinterest- corrugated metal. The tin from the original bowling alley found its way to the roof of



Barb Gunther, owner of Nails for Starz, gives Barb Peterson a manicure in her business located in The Kreative Edge. (Pepper Werner photo)

Barb's garage instead of being discarded. With a lesson from her dad, Dell, Barb learned how to operate a plasma cutter and the creativity began. She duplicates ideas that she sees online as well as unique projects that she comes up with on her own. Nothing seems to be off limits. An old gas can became a Nebraska "N", rusted metal was turned into a seasonal pumpkin, ghost or angel wings and

the highlight of the year was a deer head with antlers that she added LED lights to. She couldn't keep them on hand.

Barb's niece Kayli, has played a big role with providing ideas. Kayli finds the inspiration, generally online, and then presents the idea to Barb. The greatest challenge in the process is the temperature outside. It is a very seasonal job, so Barb has to be thinking ahead on project

topics - Christmas ideas in April and spring topics in the fall. It can't be too hot or too cold when cutting the metal.

One of the latest trials was to see if the metal could be painted. Not all of the metal works with this treatment. Barb really likes the rusted metal and doesn't want to cover the antique patina. She prefers the raw metal to the painted, but newer metal doesn't hold the same look, so painting is an option. If the metal is left natural, Barb can add a clear coat to seal it for outdoor use.

Barb's metal items can also be purchased at Grain Bin Antique Town in North Platte. She has numbers, letters, seasonal pieces and will even make a custom piece or two. The latest request was ducks and chickens. If she, or the customer, have an idea, she will try to make it.

Another time-consuming project that Barb has is helping her family with the bowling alley. She participates in the bowling league, maintenance and cleaning. Since there are private events held at the alley, there is added work. It can be rented for family gatherings, birthday parties and seasonal events. With foot surgery and knee replacement, maintenance is getting a little more challenging.

Five year goal? Grow old with her grandchildren. Right now, she and Mike only have one - a five-month-old grandson. But she sees more on the way. She is also planning for her daughter Brittany's marriage in June in Omaha and that is occupying the last of her spare time. Something new will be on the horizon for sure.

Appointments at Nails for Starz can be made by calling 308-636-6068. The location is: 115 West Arnold Avenue, Arnold, Nebraska.

## AVFD Does Courtesy Check On Automated Defibrillators

The Arnold Volunteer Fire Department did a courtesy check on all of the area automated defibrillators which are located at the Arnold Public School, Arnold Community Center, Arnold Baptist Church, United Methodist Church, and St. Agnes Catholic Church. All batteries were found operational and functioning. Some of the defibrillator pads were going to be expiring, so new pads were ordered for all of the defibrillators. In the past, the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department has used memorial money to pay

for updating batteries and pads as a donation to the churches, village and school. Memorial money will be used again to replace all of the pads, which cost over \$500.

An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a small portable electronic device that analyzes the heart's rhythm and tells the user to deliver a defibrillation shock only if it is needed.

Unlike defibrillators used by health care professionals, AEDs are designed to allow trained non-professionals to respond to

medical emergencies like sudden cardiac arrest. The devices are programmed to analyze the heart's electrical function. Voice prompts and screen displays explain how to attach electrodes onto the victim, then instruct users to stay clear while the AED analyzes his or her heart rhythm.

If anyone associated with the churches, school, community or village that would like a refresher on how to check the batteries and pads or how to operate the defibrillator you can contact Tammy Weinman at 308-530-3111.

