

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## Notable Quote

If you want something you never had, you have to do something you've never done.

## Filing Deadlines Nearing

Filing deadlines are drawing near for both incumbents and non-incumbents for the May 12 Primary Election.

February 18 is the last day for incumbents (any current office holder) to file for office, and March 2 at 5:00 p.m., is the last day for non-incumbents (new filers) to file.

On the Arnold School Board, the terms of Duane Bowers, Diana Coleman and Eric Nelson are up. Nelson and Bowers have re-filed for a position on the board. No non-incumbents had filed as of last Friday, February 7.

For Arnold Hospital Board, the terms of Heather Furne and John Phillips are up. Neither had re-filed as of February 7.

Custer County Clerk Constance Gracey asks anyone who is interested in filing to stop in. The courthouse will be closed on February 17 for President's Day.

There will be later filing dates for positions on the Village Board, Arnold Township, and Custer County Supervisors for the November 3 General Election.

An updated list of statewide candidates is posted weekly on the Secretary of State website. Other information for the May 12 Primary and November 3 General Election also can be found on the website. Go to: <https://sos.nebraska.gov/>

## Applications Being Accepted for 2020 Farm Family Awards

OMAHA, NEB. (Feb 3, 2020) – The Aksarben Foundation, along with Nebraska Farm Bureau and the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers, announces that applications for the Nebraska Pioneer Farm and Nebraska Heritage Farm Awards are being accepted now through May 5, 2020. These awards recognize Nebraska farm families who have consecutively held ownership of land in the same family for at least 100 years (Pioneer) or 150 years (Heritage), respectively.

“We look forward to recognizing and awarding these Nebraska farm families each year. The dedication and perseverance demonstrated by these families is a testament to the strong Nebraska values that set our state apart and have been making Aksarben proud, for over 120 years,” said Sandra Reding, Aksarben Foundation President.

Partnering with Aksarben in sponsoring these awards each year, Nebraska Farm Bureau President Steve Nelson has said, “Nebraska Farm Bureau is proud to help sponsor these farm family awards. Nebraska Farm Bureau's heritage and continuous mission is to serve Nebraska farm and ranch families, and these awards recognize the commitment to preserve and build Nebraska agriculture for future generations.”

Each honoree receives an engraved plaque and gatepost marker as permanent recognition of this milestone. The awards are presented during the annual county fair in which the land is located.

For more information or to apply online, visit [www.aksarben.org](http://www.aksarben.org).

## Vet Clinic Changes Hands

Arnold Animal Clinic sells to Dr. Merle and Leron Bierman



Photo/Debbie Connelly

Dr. Merle and Leron Bierman have purchased the Arnold Animal Clinic, changing the name to Bierman Veterinary Services. They were excited to hang their new sign last Saturday with their kids: baby Rosilyn (held by Leron), Lyla and Waylon (middle), and Maverick, Paxton, and Jack (front).

By Janet Larreau

Dr. Merle and Leron Bierman purchased the Arnold Animal Clinic from Dr. Matt Vickers effective January 27, and in their own words are “beyond thrilled” to have the chance to be business owners in Arnold. The couple changed the name of the clinic to Bierman Veterinary Services, and had everything in place by the closing

date, including creating a new brand and mailing out letters to hundreds of current customers notifying them of the change of ownership.

Dr. Bierman graduated from Arnold High School in 2001, and received his bachelor's degree in Biology from UNK in 2005. He went on to Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine and was awarded his doctorate of Veterinary Medicine degree in 2009.

Throughout his education, it was always his goal to return to Arnold to provide veterinary services. He wasted no time in joining Dr. Vickers at Arnold Animal Clinic that same year.

“It was a good working relationship. I learned a lot from him. I appreciated the way Matt shared his experience, but allowed me to develop my own skills and style of practice,” said Dr. Bierman.

It was an easy decision for the

couple to purchase the clinic. They consider Arnold a wonderful place to raise their family, including: Paxton, 12; Lyla, 9; Maverick, 6, Jack, 4; Waylon, 2; and Rosilyn, 4 months..

Considering their large family and their willingness to take on their own new business, saying that this energetic, young couple will be busy is an understatement. Bierman Veterinary Services will continue to provide the same large and small animal care, including herd work, calving assistance, large and small animal vaccinations and care, and emergency support. Right now, the clinic services clients in Custer, Logan, Lincoln, Dawson, McPherson, Thomas and Blaine counties.

As far as changes to the physical location of the clinic, they have a few minor updates planned for the time being, though they do look forward to hopefully expanding the practice someday.

The staff will remain mostly the same with Dr. Merle being the only full time vet. Dr. Matt is slowing down. While also doing his normal heifer spaying, he plans to help in the busier seasons of herd work. Tina Lehmkuehler will remain the main receptionist.

“Her 20 years at the clinic is invaluable for us during this transition,” they said.

Gay Brown works part-time, assisting with clean up and reception. Leron will join the staff keeping books and anything else that needs done. They look forward to being able to add additional veterinary staff in the future.

“Arnold is the best place in the world to raise our family, and it is an honor to be able to serve our community and the animal kingdom. It is our long-term goal to remain here providing veterinary care. We are proud to be able to put our name on the job that we love,” they said.

## NRDs and NRCS Sign New Agreement for Conservation

The Lower Loup Natural Resources District was one of 23 Nebraska NRDs that collectively signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Jan. 28. This agreement is a renewal of a long-standing commitment be-

tween the NRDs and NRCS that reaches back to the Dust Bowl days.

Lower Loup NRD General Manager Russell Callan said that the agreement with the federal partners at NRCS represents an on-going commitment to partner in the conservation of the state's natural resources.

The Lower Loup NRD Board of Directors approved the agreement at their December 2019 meeting.

“For more than 80 years Nebraska's NRDs and the NRCS have been working side-by-side to provide natural resource management assistance to Nebraskans,” said David Eigen-

berg, Upper Big Blue NRD general manager. “We are committed to continuing our conservation efforts with NRCS to protect lives, property and the future.”

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Soil Conservation Act. The law was designed “to provide for the protection of land resources against soil erosion, and for other purposes.”

A driving force behind the creation of the Soil Conservation Act was the severe drought that was occurring in the Great Plains. Beginning in 1932, persistent drought conditions caused widespread crop failures leaving soil exposed and vulnerable to wind. This period was prone to dust storms that would block out the sun.

The Soil Conservation Act formed the Soil Conservation Service, which today is called the Natural Resources Conservation Service. It didn't take long for the newly formed Soil Conservation Service to learn that they needed ways to extend conservation assistance to more farmers. There needed to be a locally led approach, and the idea for the conservation district was born.

In 1937, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) drafted the Standard State Soil Conservation Districts Law, which President Roosevelt sent to the governors of all states. This law created Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

In 1938, the Papio Soil Conservation District became the first conservation district in Nebraska. By 1972, the Nebraska Unicameral created the NRD system, which combined the responsibilities of the 154 special-use districts into what would become a modern network of 25 Natural Resources Districts



Photo/Debbie Connelly

A.H.S. grad Aaron Coleman is settling into his new office at Arnold's Pinnacle Bank, where he will serve as Market President.

## Coleman Is New Market President of Arnold's Pinnacle Bank

ARNOLD-Pinnacle Bank would like to welcome Aaron Coleman as our new Market President. He started at the bank on February 3rd. He comes to us from First State Bank in Gothenburg, where he has worked for the past twelve years. At First State Bank, Aaron served as a Loan Officer, Crop Insurance Agent and as the Gothenburg Market President for the past two years.

Aaron is an Arnold native, graduating from Arnold Public Schools in 1999. His parents are Dean and Melody Coleman of Arnold. He is married to Sara Coleman, and they have three sons. Please help us welcome Aaron with coffee, iced tea, and cake on February 21st from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the bank! During this time we'll also be recognizing Todd Thompson for his service to Pinnacle Bank and the Arnold Community.

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