

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Arnold Students Connecting to Careers

By Diana Coleman
3rd in a series

A-1 Auto Repair in Arnold is a trusted business for vehicle repairs. Owner Josh Bernt is a mentor in the CAPABLE internship program. Arnold senior, Matthew Corbin has been interning with Josh since the beginning of the school year. He goes down to A-1 Auto every school day during eighth class period.

Matthew said, “My brothers got me interested working with engines and since then, they’ve been teaching me as best they can. I’ve been trying to learn as much as I can.”

It was around his freshman year that Matthew realized having the knowledge

and possessing the will to repair a project was a feeling that he really enjoyed.

Josh is exposing Matthew to many different aspects of mechanics. Matthew is learning about engine swaps, installing shocks, cleaning parts and lots of other interesting things. So far, Matthew feels that he has gained a better understanding of how everything works under the hood, but he admits that there is still so much he can learn.

Matthew feels privileged for the opportunity to learn in an environment with so many new and different projects to work on every day. His favorite project to work on is his 1978 Ford F250. He said he finds it easier to work on older vehicles. The newer ones have computers, and they are more complicated to repair.

Josh has hosted several other students in past years. He enjoys sharing his knowledge with them. He tries to show them the differences between an independent mechanic shop and a mechanic shop that is in a car dealership. He tries to give them a realistic view of what it takes to repair all kinds of vehicles.

This fall, Matthew will be attending Mid-Plains Community College majoring in diesel technology. He is hoping to learn as much as he can from the internship and have a good basic understanding of the vocation he is majoring in before he starts. Matthew is hoping that this internship will help prepare him for college and future career.

Corbin interning at A-1 Auto Repair



Photo/Diana Coleman

A-1 Auto Repair owner Josh Bernt is exposing senior intern Matthew Corbin to many different aspects of mechanics.



Photo/Debbie Connelly

Cloudfire Services owners Adam and Melani Wonch have purchased a building on Arnold’s main street that fits their needs perfectly.

Cloudfire owners buy the perfect building

By Janet Larreau

In January, Cloudfire Services owners Adam and Melani Wonch became the owners of one of Arnold’s historic main street buildings. After starting up their business four years ago in May of 2015, the couple said it was time to expand. Adam is an experienced HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning) tech with 20 years of varied experience in installation and service. In addition to the main part of the business, Adam also offers handyman services that include light plumbing, small remodels, commercial refrigeration, and repair and service of appliances. Kenny Goodenow is employed by Cloudfire on a regular basis, and Melani is the part-time office manager.

Up to this point, Adam and Melani were operating their shop in the back of Krista and Tony Eggleston’s building (Kreative Edge), and using an office space in the Eggleston’s newly remodeled Agri Affiliates building on Arnold Ave. Adam and Melani said the Egglestons have been super to rent from, but they simply needed more space.

“We have been very blessed to see our business grow very quickly these past four years. Enough so, that we decided we needed to expand our space which was the reason for our recent purchase of the building on South Walnut St.,” said Adam.

With the back part of the new building, Adam has more room for metal working and even has a parts room now.

Melani said she loved the fact that the building allows the kids (Isaac, 12; Ilias, 11; Anni, 9, Ian, 6; and Kai, 4) to bring their school as needed. They have desks in different corners and a space has been made in the loft for the kids to have a place to play while she works in the office. The couple hopes it gives the kids some experience in how to operate a business as a family.

“Kai was just about 5 months old when we started in May 2015, so his age is kind of the gauge of how Cloudfire is growing as well,” said Melani.

The Wonches have lots of ideas for their new building.

Adam said the purchase was initially made because it fit the businesses’s needs for more space, but they have hoped from the beginning of choosing it that they could offer appliances to their customers, as well as the service and repair that they already provide. It may serve other purposes while they work that part out as well, possibly a retail outlet for Doterra essential oils or a storefront for local artisans in the mean time. In the future, the Wonches hope to have the business open at least one day a week for walk-ins and by appointment other days of the week as needed.

“The community and the AEDC have been wonderfully supportive,” said Adam. “It’s great to see how much the town has grown and expanded with so many different businesses. We have been blessed that many people have asked us to be part of their dreams of a comfortable home or a functional business. We love the history of Arnold, and this is such a beautiful building.”

Countdown to Alumni Reunion Begins

Letters sought for The Alumni News

Sixteen weeks to May 25. The countdown to the annual gathering of A.H.S. alumni begins! But even before that - six weeks to March 15 - is the deadline for letters to be submitted for printing in *The Alumni News*.

The Alumni Board has been meeting on a regular schedule to plan for the May 25 banquet. Honored classes are being contacted to remind their class members to plan to attend, and to write a letter to be published in *The News*.

Caro Keyser Lehmkuhler is the 2019 president, Beverly Harding Engleman is 1st vice-president in charge of the program, and April Mills Tickle is 2nd vice-president in charge of the meal. She will be helping Cheryl Mills Uhrmacher and Marla Koubek Chrisp, who volunteered to plan and prepare the meal. Continuing the role of secretary/treasurer are Kenny and Patty Purcell Goodenow, at which they do such an excellent job. Janet Cole Larreau will be the editor of *The News*.

One more reminder: Get your letters in by mailing them to The Arnold Sentinel, PO Box 136, Arnold NE 69120, or e-mail: arnoldsentinel@gpcom.net. Letters may also be mailed to Arnold Alumni Association, PO Box 21, Arnold.

Girl Scout Cookie Sales Start February 1

Fifteen Arnold girl scouts will be out and about in the community selling cookies beginning February 1, introducing a tasty new cookie and celebrating the largest annual financial investment in girls in the United States.

The new cookie, Caramel Chocolate Chip, features rich caramel, semisweet chocolate chips and a hint of sea salt in a chewy gluten-free cookie. The remaining line-up includes eight varieties to choose from.

A cookie purchase is an investment in the Girl Scouts who are learning to become leaders. One-hundred percent of the net revenue from the cookie purchases stay in Nebraska. With their proceeds, Girl Scouts take part in formative leadership experiences in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), camping and outdoor adventures, and community service projects.

Girl Scout leader Michelle Preston said the girls will be setting up a cookie booth, with the date undecided as of yet.

Cookies are sold through March 9.

To find Girl Scouts selling cookies near you, visit GirlScoutsNebraska.org or use the official Girl Scout Cookie Finder app, free on iOS and Android devices.