

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Courtesy photo

A cornucopia of choices

(In view) Merri Jo Halstead (left), Sherry Linegar, Heather Furne and Dru Magill were having a good time last week, making their selections from a trailer filled with small pumpkins, gourds, and Indian corn of all colors, shapes and sizes last week on Arnold’s main street. Keith Carlson brought the trailer to town, inviting everyone to take what they wanted, only asking for a free-will donation to benefit the Arnold Food Pantry. Keith said he just threw some seeds out, and when it was harvest time, used it as an opportunity to involve the grandkids in some community service. “We had a tailgate party and barbecued while the kids picked them and filled the trailer. They would say, ‘Look at this one!’ We had fun,” he said. In just a couple of days, the community service project ended up raising \$470.85 for the pantry. The Carlsons thank everyone who stopped by and donated. Food Pantry Director Lori Stutzman said that for some time, the food pantry has not had much need, but now the need has expanded again. If you feel a conviction to help, following is a list of items needed: rice, tuna, soups, mac-n-cheese, canned fruit, tomato sauce, tomato paste, diced tomatoes, condiments, jello, pudding, meat that can be frozen, Kleenex, paper towels, toilet paper, laundry soap, and cleaners. Items can be dropped off at one of the churches or you may contact Lori.

Bull Riding Benefit set for Sat., October 5

Bull riding is coming to Arnold this weekend, and it’s going to be the “real deal”. Organized by friends of Tyler Long, who was injured in a bull riding event last summer, the benefit is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, at the Arnold Arena south of town. Gates will open at 1:30 p.m., and a Boot Race for kids 10 and under will be held at 2:15. There will be a calcutta at 2:30 p.m., and bull riding starts at 3:00 p.m. The Coors Man in the Can, Mr. Shawn Stutzman, will be there to entertain. Nebraska’s only PRCA Rodeo Clown, Stutzman is a 27-time Rodeo Clown of the Year in five different associations. The 1st place winner in the bull riding will receive a buckle and gun. The 2nd place winner will receive a custom belt. There will be a \$500.00 Bounty Bull and \$2,500.00 added money. There are many local sponsors making this event possible. An after party/awards ceremony will be held at Grazers Bar & Grill after the bull riding. Admission will be: \$15.00 (bull riding and after party); kids: \$7.00 (8 and under free); family pass: (\$35.00 limited to 5 people); after party only: \$10.00 per person.

Housing tour postponed

The 2019 Arnold Housing Tour, originally scheduled for November, has been postponed due to a conflict with the date and events. Due to the circumstances, Chamber felt it was best to wait until next year.

One phase at a time...



Courtesy photos

Demolition of the old Archie’s Cafe building was in progress in mid-September. Pictured left is the interior of the building before some of the old flooring was removed. Pictured right, workers have removed the flooring. Note the original exposed brick, which someday could be a key historic feature of the eventual restoration.

Restoration begins on old Archie’s Cafe building

By Janet Larreau

Sitting on the corner of Highway 92, old-timers refer to it as the “old Archie’s Cafe building.” One of the very first brick structures to go up in Arnold, it’s full of rich history dating back to 1913 when it was built to house the Farmers State Bank, and was considered the “town’s pride.” Although effort has been made in the past, the dilapidated building is weathered and worn down. An “eyesore” some say. Rural Arnold resident and 1999 A.H.S. grad

Justin Strasburg wants to stop the bleeding. He purchased the building with no idea of what it will become or used for. “It’s a cool building. I just want to save it,” said Justin, whose in-laws, Keith and Jodi Carlson recently completed the total restoration of the building connected to it that was built in the same time period. Just a couple of weeks ago, Justin employed a field crew that needed some temporary work to go in and demo most of the flooring. Seventeen loads of debris were hauled off in just a matter of a couple of days. Justin said the renovation will

be a slow process, and it will be done with “sweat equity.” “We’re getting it down to its shell. All the walls are brick, and I’m trying to save the old entry tile. The main goal is to keep the water out, so we’re going to temporarily put tin on the roof that can easily be pulled off once we decide what type of roofing to go with. The main goal next year will be the roof.” Currently, the building is unsafe for anyone to go into other than the owner, family or workers. “We really have no idea what we are doing, and we’re open to

suggestions of what the building can become. It will definitely not be a restaurant,” said Justin. According to “One Hundred Years on the South Loup” by Norene Hall Mills, the Arnold Cafe and the brick residence beside it, belonging to the Claude Pierce estate, was sold at auction in ‘54 to Archie Geiser. He opened a dining room in the south half that had been partitioned off for other uses, the last being Fred Henman’s barber shop and Ed Erickson’s office, and bricked up the street entrance that had been made for them. Claude

and Belle Pierce had owned the cafe since the bank moved out. Except for two years when he left to take over a North Platte eating establishment, Geiser was in the cafe until 1980 when he eased it briefly, then closed it in 1982. Several historic buildings have been renovated in the last 20-plus years in Arnold, and when finished, the building that was once a bank and then a cafe will be one of the last that needs done. It’s a testament to the determination of generations that followed those early men and women with a vision.