

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Fall Back

Daylight Savings Time will end on Sunday, November 5. Be sure to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

Housing Tour Set For Saturday

Five homes will be on this Saturday's (Nov. 4) housing tour. Featured homes include: Zach and Heather Hagler, Jess Halstead, Frank and Sue Hauser, Kris and Jenni Joedeman and Ryan and Cindy Tullis. Tour guests will also be invited to see the progress of BrewBakers Coffee & Gifts, which is currently being renovated.

The luncheon begins at noon at the Arnold Community Center and the tour starts at 1:00 p.m.

Advance tickets may be purchased at the AEDC office, First State Insurance or Kreative Edge. Tickets will also be available at the door.

The event is sponsored by Arnold Chamber.

ACFF Dinner and Auction Is Nov. 18

The Arnold Community Foundation Fund board is gearing up for its annual dinner & auction scheduled for November 18 at the Arnold Community Center. Registration and social hour is from 5:30 to 7:00, meal at 7:00 and the auction starts at 8:00.

If you have any new items you would like to donate to the silent or live auction, please contact a board member.

You may purchase your dinner tickets from any board member and tickets are also available at First State Insurance. Board members include Holly Hornung Remund, Becky Dailey, Carolyn Bowers, Gary Blevins, Austin Snyder, Shane Cool, Joel Morgan and Dean Weinman.

The board would like to thank the Arnold community for their support of the Annual Community Foundation Dinner and Auction. All event proceeds help build a community savings account that contributes to the many projects and entities that keep Arnold a wonderful place to live.

Items Sought for OCC Shoeboxes

The Operation Christmas Child packing party - set for November 16 at the school - is fast approaching. Supplies may be sent to the school with students between now and November 10. Organizer Melody Jennings said the sooner donations are made, the easier it is to know what is needed and shop for those items.

Jennings said there are several ways to be involved, including purchasing items yourself, giving money to help purchase what is needed, pack shoeboxes at home, give your time by volunteering at the school during the packing party or give monetary donations to help with the shipping costs.

This is a community-wide project sponsored by local churches to help children around the world living in poverty and dire circumstances.

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Sandhills Motors Establishes Dealership in Arnold



(From left) Sandhills Motors partners (from left) Michael McCaslin, Thomas McCaslin and Chad Garcia stand in front of the Spargo building in Arnold, which will be renovated and turned into the main office space and showroom in the future. Garcia will be general manager of Sandhills Motors. (Sentinel photo)

As of this printing, there is a new business in town: Sandhills Motors. Three partners from Broken Bow - Thomas McCaslin, Michael McCaslin and Chad Garcia - are operating the Chrysler/Dodge dealership. Chad will be the general manager of Sandhills Motors, while Thomas remains the Gateway Motors general manager in Broken Bow. Michael is a silent partner who runs the family ranch in Broken Bow.

Gateway Motors opened in Broken Bow in 1974, and Thomas purchased the dealership in 2006. He is bringing his expertise to Arnold as an extension of his sales experience. Chad will be the daily presence at the dealership to oversee the sales and service.

Why did they choose Arnold? Thomas explains, "I saw a great franchise opportunity, customer convenience and the chance to expand the business.

Arnold is a great small town with a lot of growth potential. We will also have an online presence for sales and offer a new business plan."

Chad stated, "We are keeping all of the existing employees and offering new and used vehicles. There will be new technology and an updated parts department. I will remain living in Broken Bow which will allow service and vehicle trades back and forth."



Events Draw Good Crowds

Over 22 vendors from Lincoln, Stapleton, Brady, Gothenburg, Ainsworth, North Platte, Hershey, Arnold and Milburn set up in the community center on Saturday for the Chamber sponsored craft show, selling to a good crowd that turned out for the show. On Friday morning, close to 90 adults and 112 children attended the annual Halloween Carnival and Costume Contest, then braved breezy and cool temperatures for the parade through downtown businesses. Winners of the costume judging contest are pictured on page 5. (Sentinel photo)

The former Spargo Building will be the site of the new vehicle showroom, offices, bookkeeping and customer lounge. Sandhills Motors will offer Chrysler, Dodge and Ram. Once the renovations are complete, there will be a grand opening offered to the public.

The service department is still open for business in the former location and new vehicles will be arriving soon. The hours are Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and closed Sunday. They can be reached at (308) 848-2288.

Forrester's: The End of An Era

Last week's sale of Forrester's Dodge City to Sandhills Motors marked the end of what is no doubt the longest running main street family owned business in Arnold's history. Known far and wide, Forrester's was an award winning dealership nestled in a small town in the heart of the Sandhills.

Oliver Forrester, who had ran a battery shop on the corner south of the bowling alley, started the dealership in about 1935 and built the brick and mortar building that future generations of Forrester's would sell cars from for the next 80-plus years.

Oliver's son, Bob, bought the dealership in 1954 when he was only 24 years old.

"It was all I knew. I grew up in it," said Bob, who is now 87.

Bob was able to get a sub-dealership to sell Chryslers and Plymouths under Ray Nelson of Kearney. In 1960, all sub-dealers were cancelled, and Bob had the choice to terminate or go direct. He chose to go direct.

Over the years, Bob purchased property surrounding the original dealership, adding carports, a large storage building, and purchased existing buildings - including the Spargo building. He also expanded by providing services the public needed. Just by living in a farming community and small town, Bob knew what vehicles people were looking for.

Bob purchased new cars through Chrysler and used vehicles from auctions in Denver, Detroit, Kansas City and Phoenix. Clarence Romans and Bud Parks arranged the purchase and transportation of the vehicles. Key players in the actual transportation of the cars were Bud and Pat Parks, Clarence and Kathryn Romans, Cook and Ruth Conner, Mutt Shields, Lee Sargent, Roy Lehman and Bill and Cyd Miller.

Bob said his all-time high of sales was 93 vehicles in one month, and the most fun times at the dealership were the decades of the 50s and 60s.

Forrester's had the reputation and good deals people were looking for, and customers were willing to travel here from the states of Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, California, Washington and Florida to get them.

As adults, the third generation of Forrester's - Bob's sons Bruce and Brad - bought into the dealership, with Brad being the final owner.

Over the years, Bob has seen many changes in the auto dealership business. Vehicles are now purchased on-line at auction and shipped in, and the cost to own a vehicle has substantially increased, to say the least.

"After I got the Dodge sub-dealership, I sold the first new pickup to Skin Stewart for \$1,554.00. Recently, we sold a new heavy loaded Dodge pickup that listed at \$61,000.00," said Bob.

For 63 years, Bob has been a constant at Forrester's, going down to his "home away from home" most every day. Last week, he closed the door to his office for the last time to allow the new owners to step in.

"I wish them lots of luck and