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Arnold Resident Isn't the Oldest Nebraskan, But Close



Holding a popcorn cake with 108 candles on it, Miriam Brower was enjoying greeting relatives and friends at an open house in her honor last Tuesday, November 11, at the Arnold Nazarene church. (Janet Larreau photo)

Arnold resident Miriam Brower took a break from watching her favorite TV shows and playing Scrabble on November 11 to greet the many well wishers who showed up to help her celebrate her 108th birthday. The open house was held at the Nazarene church, where she has been a member for 74 years. Although hard of hearing now, Miriam was well aware of all that was going on around her, and accepted many hugs and even a kiss on the cheek now and then.

The event's hostess, Carol Watson, made one of Miriam's favorites - a popcorn cake - and adorned it with 108 candles. A framed letter from Governor Heineman, congratulating Miriam on her birthday, was also on display.

Miriam was born in 1906 in Emmett, Idaho, one of seven children. Three of Miriam's six brothers lived until they were almost 97 years old. She had nine children with husband Gerrit, four of whom are still living. At last count there are 19 grandchildren, 51 great-grandchildren and 25 great-great-children.

Up until only three years ago, Miriam lived in her own home. She now lives with her daughter, Ruth Yanken, who is 85.

"Mom can walk without the aid of a walker or a cane. We play scrabble every night, and her favorite television programs are 'Jeopardy' and 'The Price is Right.' We use closed captioning for Mom."

Ruth said Miriam used to read a lot, but her attention span isn't what it used to be. One thing she hasn't outgrown is her love for riding in a car and sightseeing.

"She loves to take rides, so if you say you are going some place, she's right there," said Ruth. "(Ruth's daughter) Rogene used to take us on long trips, but we haven't done that in the last two years."

Miriam has never had an operation of any kind and only one short hospital stay many years ago. One difficult year for her mother stands out in Ruth's mind.

"She had one child and twins in the same year," said Ruth. "Gerald was born in February and the twins were born in December. (The twins) were pre-

mature at about seven months and didn't survive."

On Tuesday, people were wondering if Miriam is the oldest living Nebraska resident. She isn't, but she's right up there.

Through the work of researcher E.A. Kral of Wilber, Nebraska, the Nebraska Nursing Facility Association and Nebraska Assisted Living Association maintain a roster of people who have reached the age of 107 and above. The roster is listed on the Nebraska Health Care Association (NHCA), website.

The NHCA said last Thursday they were unaware of Miriam, and the researcher will be most interested to place her on the roster.

Once added, Miriam is one of five centenarians ages 107 to 109 still living in Nebraska. There is one "supercentenarian," age 110, still living. Only 1 in 1,000 centenarians live to be a supercentenarian.

To view the roster, go to www.nehca.org, then link to Nursing Homes, Consumers and Oldest Nebraskans.



Arnold Public School's new website went live this month. The Home Page (above) is easier to navigate for both students and parents.

School Board Gets the Rundown on New Website

The school's technology coordinator, Nicole Badgley, gave board members a glimpse of what the school's new website looks like and how it operates last Tuesday at the board's regular meeting. The website, which went live on November 3, is more functional and a better fit with the school's technology. Most importantly, it presents a better image for the school.

"It has been a huge push in the last month to get the website up," said Mrs. Badgley, who worked with Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Mohr to provide content and populate the site designed by Sublime Artistry.

Mrs. Badgley said all teachers will have their own page on the site, with their education and teaching experience, schedules and blogs. On the Home Page, tabs provide links that kids use all the time, speeding up the places they need to go.

The new calendar feature is more up to date and can provide "to be announced" times as they come in. On-line forms are also available.

"The site will keep the public updated. We want people to see these things that are being populated on a daily basis," she said.

It was mentioned that Sublime Artistry styled 40 pages, although the school only paid for 25.

"We wanted everything to look similar for the teachers' pages, and Sublime styled them for us," she said. "(The site) is beautiful."

Board member Eric Nelson asked if the site was a bigger project than anticipated because it was supposed to be up a long time ago. Tony Eggleston said that Arnold's site wasn't put up until it was ready to go, and was gone through for grammatical errors.

"We have a very good school, and we have very particular people," said Eggleston.

Webmaster Position

School board member Tony Eggleston brought up the need to have one person in charge of the website so it stays fresh and up to date. He said the board needs to establish what to pay for the position and treat it like coaching, because it's going to be an every day thing.

Board members seemed to agree that Nicole Badgley

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Supervisors will Consider Increasing Feeding Operations Setbacks at Public Hearing

The Custer County Board of Supervisors will consider amending zoning regulations for Class A and B confined feeding operations at a public hearing set for November 25, at 11:00 a.m., at the courthouse.

The regulations now state that intensive/confined feeding uses and associated lagoons and composite sites should not be located closer than one-fourth (1/4) mile to any church, school, public use area or dwelling unit, not on the same premises and under the same ownership as such use. The amendment would change the minimum setback to one (1) mile.

The Custer County Planning Commission met on November 19 and will make their recommendation to the supervisors, who will then make the final decision.

The request to change the setbacks came from the Callaway area, where a hog confinement facility was recently built.

According to Custer County Zoning Administrator Darci Tibbs, 18 swine confinement (Class A) facilities have been approved in Custer County since zoning regulations went into effect in 2004.



One-Act Students Perform

Katie (Grace Magill) and Rosaleen (Olivia Furne) console Antonia (Claire Beshaler) over the devastation of her grandfather (Ashton Weinman) exhausting himself by dancing and remembering the homeland at Friday night's community performance of Arnold's one-act play "Stopping at Ellis Island." Both Arnold and Callaway students performed their plays for an audience of some 175 people on Friday at Arnold and performed again on Monday, November 17, at Callaway, before going into Conference and District competition. Before the performances began, Arnold hosted its annual soup and pie supper to benefit After Prom. Chili and chicken noodle soup and a large variety of pies were served. Bobbie Jo Christensen donated three homemade pies for auction which brought \$40.00, and with proceeds from the supper, approximately \$600.00 was raised. (Julie Mohr photo)