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Arnold resident Craig Furne created these busts from sculpting foam and clay to entertain trick-or-treaters on Halloween night. Through the use of a projector and DVD, the busts came to life, with the leaner leading, and the remaining three joining in harmony to the Disney song "Grim Grinning Ghosts." (Janet Larreau photo)

Arnold Man Shows Talent for Re-Creating Disney on Halloween

When Craig Furne was a kid, he loved watching The Wonderful World of Disney every Sunday night. He was fascinated by the amusement park and the rides.

"The ones that I really liked were the rides with the animatronics, and the haunted house. The Grim Grinning Ghost singing was my favorite," said Furne, a resident of Arnold for the past 18 years.

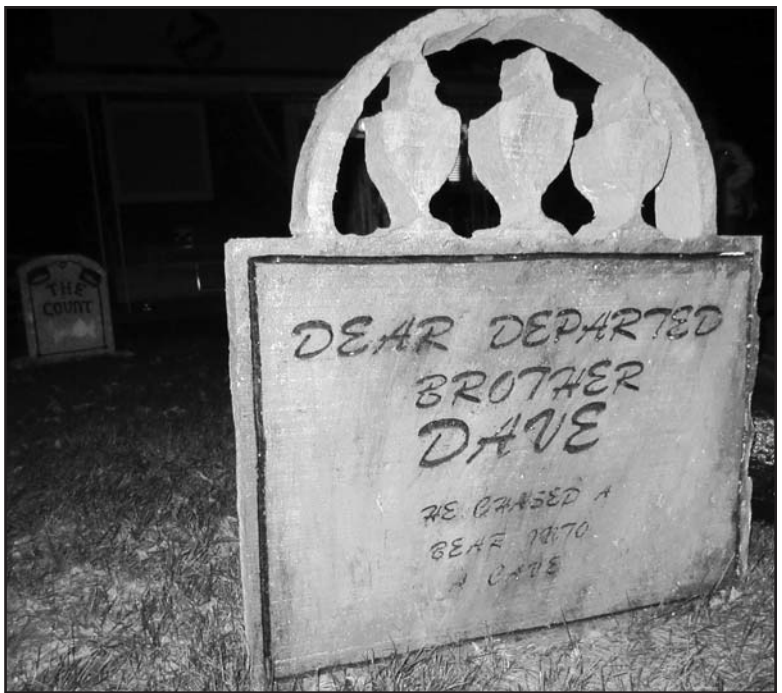
Five years ago, Furne set to

work on making his own Disney attraction, but this one only comes out once a year on Halloween. The creations are made in his garage and basement, and Furne says he works alone, with a lot of support from his family, including wife Heather, daughter Olivia and sons, Landon and Ethan.

"I love to figure out how to make things through research and trial and error," said Furne.

The attraction - set up on the family's front lawn - features a new creation each year. Trick-or-treaters cross a bridge, where a hidden spider jumps out of the darkness. Through the fog created by a machine, visitors read humorous epitaphs on numerous tombstones of various sizes and designs.

"The tombstones are made out of foam, and I have foam sculpting tools that heat up to make the shapes. I use stencils



One of the several tombstones created by Craig Furne and decorating their yard on Halloween night. This epitaph reads "Dear Departed Brother Dave, He Chased a Bear Into a Cave." (Janet Larreau photo)

to make the wording. Some of the epitaphs are from the haunted mansion or ones I looked up on line, and some of them are mine," he said.

Four ghostly busts seated on pillars are the star attraction, as they glow eerily and sing, "Grim Grinning Ghosts." As the lead, leaning singer starts the song, the others join in, with expression and mouths moving perfectly with the song. It looks believable, but it's all an illusion. This project took about six months, with Furne sculpting them through trial and error, using a combination of foam, mannequin heads, white sculpting clay and a special powder used to adhere to foam.

A pirate skeleton appearing to steer an old ship at its helm is this year's new creation - a project that took about three months. Furne, who was dressed in costume as a pirate himself on Halloween, said the pirate operates with a windshield wiper.

As visitors stare in fascination at the skeletons dancing in the home's window, they need to be careful not to be bitten by the three-and-a-half foot spider lying in wait in the yard. The very entertaining skeletons are projected on a frosted shower liner behind the window, using a DVD. The spider, with glowing eyes, is made from sheets of foam and pipe insulation foam.

Furne, who is employed at Wal-Mart Distribution Center and has his own business, Flying Turtle Creations and Flying Turtle DJ Service, said he does it all for the kids.

"I love to make it a Disney experience for them because when I was a kid, I never got a chance to go to Disney Land, and I want to make it fun for them," said Furne. "I do love creating my attractions, and I hope that all the kids like them too, big and little."

Furne said he always has ideas and is working on them, but everyone will just have to come and see what he comes up with for Halloween 2016.



Talented Arnold resident Craig Furne in his pirate costume on Halloween.

Join the Pack!

Goal Set for 2015 Operation Christmas Child

In 2015, many Arnold children joined together at the community Vacation Bible School to raise money for Operation Christmas Child (OCC) - a project that has great success in Arnold for several years. Around \$700.00 was raised during VBS to buy toys, school supplies and basic hygiene

products.

Melody Jennings, who started OCC in Arnold, has handed the reins over to Dynette Oberg this season.

Oberg said the mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together



with the local church worldwide, to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Operation Christmas Child has delivered over 100 million gift-filled shoe boxes to needy children in the last 24 years.

Each year, a goal is set in Arnold, and this year's is to pack 400 boxes. The packing party will be held at the school on Wednesday, November 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the old gymnasium.

"To make this happen, we will need a mountain of stuff and lots of hands!" said Oberg.

Items needed include:

- Small stuffed animals (Beanie Baby size).
- Small toys (please, no army or camo items).
- Coloring books (small, shoe box size).
- Basic hygiene products: soap, washcloths, combs, hairbrushes, headbands, etc. (tooth brushes are not needed this year).
- Pencils, pens or markers, crayons, paper, scissors, pencil sharpeners.
- Matchbox cars, marbles, jacks, jump ropes.
- Socks or hats, bandanas, plain tee shirts (be careful of slogans).

Remember that all items must fit into a medium sized shoe box. No liquids, army toys, toy guns, chocolate or glass containers can be accepted.

If members of the community would like to pack their own shoe box, they can pick one up at the Baptist or Nazarene church or at Mills Hardware, and bring it to the school on the 18th. All boxes are opened and inspected in Denver, so please, do not wrap gifts closed.



Fun at the Halloween Carnival

Isaac and Jamie Tickle try their hand at a new marble game at the Chamber-sponsored Halloween Carnival held last Friday at the community center. The game was added to a list of several games, including Bobbing for Apples, Plinko, Darts, Pin the Bow Tie on the Black Cat, Bowling, Poke a Pumpkin and Miniature Golf. It is estimated that over 100 children attended and also had their costumes and pumpkins judged. After the carnival and judging, kids and their parents went on the annual parade through downtown businesses, where they received more treats. Rain moved in at noon so many finished the fun-filled morning just in time. Winners of contests are pictured on page 4 and 5. (Jessica Tickle photo)

Arnold Students Score Above State Average on NeSA Test

NeSA test results for 2014-2015 were recently released by the Nebraska Department of Education. Statewide, students in Grades 3-8 and 11 are tested in the areas of Reading, Math, Science and Writing for proficiency.

As a district, Arnold Public Schools had a 91 percent proficiency in Reading, 87 percent in Math, 76 percent in Science, and 77 percent in Writing.

Arnold scored higher than the state average of 80 percent in Reading, 72 percent in Math, 72 percent in Science and 72 percent in Writing.

In 2013-2014, as a district, APS had a 94 percent proficiency in Reading, 88 percent in Math,

and 97 percent in Science.

"Though we are not at 100 percent proficiency, we continue to work very hard and evaluate our progress so that our students can be successful," said principal Mr. Morgan. "As a district, we strive to provide a well-rounded education and help our students develop their many skills and talents that will be utilized in real life applications."

NeSA statewide tests in grades 3-8 and 11 were administered for the first time in spring 2010. The tests measured the newly revised Nebraska reading standards and determined whether Nebraska students were proficient on standards.

Vets Day Program Planned at School November 11

The American Legion and VFW will be hosting a veterans day program at the school on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. The school, VFW and Legion members would like to invite parents, grandparents and patrons of the district to attend this program.

The program will start with the posting of the colors by the honor guard, a welcome by the Legion Commander and the

National Anthem played by the school band. This will be followed by:

- The Pledge of Allegiance by Kindergarten students
- Song by Kindergarten and First Grade
- Music by School band
- Song by second grade
- Fifth grade essays
- Poems by seventh grade
- Essay by Tatum Cool
- Essays by Middle School students

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