

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## MJK, CPA PC Purchases Building in Arnold



Photo/Debbie Connelly

Lacey Kenner will be greeting clients at MJK, CPA's new office building located on 109 West Arnold Ave. Owner Milissa Kramer purchased the building, allowing her more space to add additional staff.

By Janet Larreau

After renting office spaces in Arnold since August of 2012, Certified Public Accountant Milissa Kramer has purchased a building and moved in January 1. The building, located on Arnold Avenue (just east of Agri Affiliates), was formerly owned by Kristi Dvorak.

“Kristi approached me about purchasing, and I decided that I couldn’t pass up the offer. At the time, the building I was renting office space in was up for sale, so I decided I had probably better have a Plan B in case

it sold,” said Milissa.

Milissa, who does business as MJK, CPA PC purchased the property in November 2017.

“My procrastinator self didn’t do anything with it until December of 2018. It took about two weeks from start to finish, mainly due to the holidays,” she said.

The remodeling process included building a wall to create a separate reception area and some painting. New fixtures were purchased and decorating followed.

“I have enjoyed having two separate offices and extra space

for a conference table. With the extra space, there is more privacy and a second employee is able to work on the same days as me. Before, I never felt there was enough privacy for us both to be working at the same time,” she said.

Milissa has hired new resident Lacey Kenner, who moved here from Woodlake, Nebraska. She and her husband purchased the John and Karla Rockwell place. Lacey played a key role in getting the new office set up. She is currently working on data rollover and any other project that can be

sent her way that helps free up time to devote to tax preparation and consultations.

“With the extra help in the Arnold office, we will be able to add services for the Arnold community that I did not feel we had the time to do before. She will be able to handle more day-to-day bookkeeping work to help free up clients’ time spent in their office so they can be out doing what they do best,” said Milissa.

There are six ladies that work for the company - some in Arnold and Stapleton, and some from their homes. All but one have children at home.

“When I decided to quit working for a firm and go out on my own, it was so that I could be available for my children more,” said Milissa. “I allow my employees the freedom to work the schedule that fits best with their family needs as long as the work is getting done. We also have a lot of days that we have training or have work at clients’ offices. For these reasons, I do not commit to set office hours.

During tax season, Milissa is in Arnold every Tuesday and Thursday. Lacey will be in the office Monday through Friday depending on the school schedule. After tax season, Milissa will drop back down to being here only on Thursdays, and either Kathy Halstead or Lacey will be available in the Arnold office.

As for more improvements to the property, Milissa said she plans on doing something with the concrete in front of the office, but has not determined exactly what that will be. She will probably have to wait until spring to tackle that project.

## APS Eligible To Receive \$150,000 Grant

At the February 12 Arnold School Board meeting, Superintendent Dr. Dawn Lewis gave a report on the recent ReVISION meeting. She said the school has met the criteria to proceed with the planning and implement phase, and is now eligible to receive \$150,000.00 in grant money, dispersed as \$50,000.00 per year for the next three years. This money may not be used for facilities. It can be used for equipment, training, on-line CNA classes, skill training, OSHA training, and exposure to different careers, among other things.

In non-action items, the board discussed the retirement of long-time bookkeeper Karen Jacobson. The school will advertise to fill the position.

In action items, the board:

- Approved Mr. Phelps’ request to bring in a Civil War historian for a presentation in his classroom on April 24.
- Accepted the resignation of Science teacher Jerry Swingle at the end of the 2018-2019 school year, and approved application for early severance.
- Approved Principal Joel Morgan’s contract.
- On the recommendation of the co-op board, approved adding cross-country to the list of South Loup sports offered in the Fall of 2019.
- Appointed Mat Jageler as head football coach for the 2019 football season as recommended by the co-op board.

## Welcome Bag Project In the Works for New Residents

Arnold Economic Development Director Cheryl Carson is in the process of having fabric welcome bags printed for new residents to Arnold. The AEDC will be working with Arnold Chamber members to gather promotional materials from businesses to add to the bags.

Arnold businesses are encouraged to prepare materials and have them ready to be collected. Suggested items may include, but are not limited to: business cards, pamphlets, flyers, swag or coupons for a one-time new resident special. Other items will be added to the bags to promote the community, as well.

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## Arnold and Callaway Schools Accept Resignation of Shared Superintendent

### Schools will no longer share

By Janet Larreau

Arnold and Callaway Schools Superintendent Dr. Dawn Lewis officially submitted her resignation at a joint board meeting between the two boards on February 8 in the Arnold Public Schools commons area. Both boards accepted the resignation at the meeting. Dr. Lewis notified both boards on February 6 that she had been offered another position at Arlington Public Schools. Her contract there will

begin July 1.

Both boards expressed their congratulations and best wishes, and offered that she would be missed. Both said it will be challenging to find a replacement, and are set on finding a quality replacement as quickly as possible.

“The position at Arlington is a smart choice professionally and personally,” said Dr. Lewis. “The move gets me a little closer to home and my family, and the school offers a great professional challenge for my skills. The decision to seek new employment was difficult, but the shared superintendent position has left me feeling at times like I’m not accomplishing enough with my teams at either district. I love both of these communities and school

districts, but I have no desire to hold either school back from accomplishing their goals because I cannot be in two places at one time.”

Husband, Clint, who teaches 6th grade at Arnold, will be seeking employment in the Arlington area, as well, completing the transition for the entire family.

Dr. Lewis started serving as principal at Arnold Schools during the 2010-2011 school year, and was hired as a shared superintendent at Arnold and Callaway in 2014-2015, nearly four years ago.

Dr. Lewis said she has seen many changes at Arnold Public Schools over the years. During the past five years, enrollment went up nearly 50 percent from 121 students to over 180. In the

past nine years, nearly all elementary staff have been replaced, and the school added a full-time Title I instructor and full-time guidance counselor. Several improvements have been made, including updating the interior of the building with paint, carpet and tile; construction of a new commons/lunchroom, music room and weight/wrestling room, landscaping of the exterior; installing new HVAC units throughout the elementary wing and shop building classrooms; and updating the gym

## Village Board Decides on Several Agenda Items

Village Board members made several decisions at their monthly meeting held on February 11.

### Lights at Riverview

Chairman Glen Bowers said that he and Village Superintendent Doug DeLaune met with Housing Authority Board member Lee Eastburn regarding Bailar Power System’s bill for installing lights at Riverview Apartments parking lot. Board members voted to pay for 50 percent of the bill, with the village’s share amounting to \$723.50.

### Letter of Support for Recycling

Board members were told that the Custer County Board of Supervisors is considering dropping the recycling program due to the cost. At the request of Kelly Flynn, Manager at Custer County Transfer Station, Arnold will write a letter of support for the program.

### Resident Request

A resident attended the meeting to request that the village consider selling the triangular parcel of West Lincoln Ave. Another resident is also interested in purchasing a triangular parcel of West Lincoln Ave, as well. The first step is to officially close the 400 block of West Lin-

coln Ave. The street is platted on the map, but is not used as a street. Board members decided to proceed with closing the street. Discussion was also held about having the property surveyed. Bowers said that the cost would have to be split with the potential buyers. The railroad right of way also needs to be surveyed and replatted to include the existing street between West Lincoln and West Madison Avenue. The board voted to have both the triangular parcel and the right of way surveyed.

### Lawn Spraying

The board is considering having village employees do the lawn spraying and total kill, and discussed the cost involved of chemicals and equipment. More discussion will be held after advertising for and looking at bids.

### Community Clean Up Month

The month of April has been designated as Community Clean Up Month. Community Clean Up Day will be April 29, with a storm date of May 6. Volunteers will provide help to those that need assistance that day. Members voted to provide

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## BrewBakers Celebrates Valentine’s Day With Donation to Local Food Pantry



Photo/Diana Coleman

BrewBakers owner Jodi Carlson presents a check to Food Pantry Director Lori Stutzman.

By Diana Coleman

February 14 is a date that many celebrate and show their special someone how much they love them. Jodi Carlson, owner of BrewBakers Coffee House and Gifts, decided to show her compassion to the members of our community who are going through hard times or just need a little extra help by donating 14 percent of all sales on Valentine’s Day to Arnold’s food pantry. She presented the check to Arnold Food Pantry Director Lori Stutzman last Friday.

Lori thanked Jodi for the donation, saying, “Curiously, the food pantry use has been down the last couple of months. I’m not sure why.” She also shared that the community of Stapleton has shown support for Arnold’s food pantry. Stapleton does not currently have its own food pantry, so our local pantry has met that need. The students at Stapleton High School have conducted two food drives, donating a large amount of food.