

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Get To Know Your Hometown Businesses Carroll Street Designs

Seventh in a monthly series on what businesses and services the community of Arnold has to offer.

By Pepper Werner

With two children and plans for a bigger family, Brandi Corbin was considering the options for working from home. The cost of daycare wasn't justified in working a traditional day job. So after some consideration of 'stay-at-home' businesses (formerly, Brandi sold Tupperware and Jamberry), in October 2014, that dream became a reality.

Carroll Street Designs was in existence, along with a retail store in Arnold. Brandi occasionally helped the owner at the store with overflow printing projects and made an "off-the-cuff" remark that led to business ownership...in less than a week. Brandi mentioned to the owner that if she ever considered selling her t-shirt printing business, that she would be interested. Two days later, the owner told her she was ready to sell and that was

that. After moving the equipment into Brandi's basement, the new adventure began.

Brandi took some online courses, watched numerous videos, and with help from the previous owner, was on her way to a successful at-home printing business. One of the stipulations of the purchase agreement was the customers. Brandi wasn't starting from scratch in search of clients or projects. There were several large repeat customers that came along with the purchase, and that made the new business launch a lot less stressful. The first few months of business were a little slow with the holidays, new year and nothing in the works for the school. By February, Brandi had a 300 shirt order. The summer of 2015 was a huge success as well, with SORC, Devil's Den Motorcycle Rally, Arnold River Battle and preparing for the



Wearing her own design, Brandi Corbin, owner Carroll Street Designs, stands next to her new ink press that cuts the production time down tremendously of the t-shirts she designs. (Pepper Werner photo)

new school year. It has been improving every since.

The summer of 2017 was the most stressful so far with the added shirt printing for the eclipse event.

Brandi said, "I was so exhausted from the summer printing jobs, and I had no intention of taking on another project. I knew I had to print 500 shirts for Stapleton, but

didn't realize how big this project would be. I put a few shirts in two local businesses and it just took off. I sold nearly 2,000 eclipse shirts all the way through October, long after the event was over. I received emails from people all over the country wanting a souvenir shirt from Arnold, Nebraska."

Since purchasing the business, Brandi has added several

new pieces of equipment: a bigger ink press, a conveyor belt dryer (sets the ink faster), heat press, vinyl cutter, exposure lamp and a new computer for designing. As a whole, this equipment cuts down the production time from each shirt taking 20 minutes to 2 minutes. There are a series of steps that have to be taken on each item or the ink will smudge or wash out, and the customers won't be happy. On average, from May to December, Brandi spends ten hours per day/seven days per week printing shirts and hats. It is usually when her children are sleeping at night or napping in the afternoons.

Brandi stated, "The customers have to be happy with their products or they won't purchase again. My business is strictly word of mouth, so if people are happy, they recommend me to others and that has helped build my reputation over the last three years."

Brandi and her husband Shawn are expecting another child at the end of July. This is Brandi's busiest printing time. There are many reservations about hiring additional employees. You see, Brandi is very particular about her work, products and her business. She has worked hard for what she has accomplished and has done things a very specific way. She feels as though she doesn't have the time to teach someone else and that it is just faster to do it herself. Brandi said she doesn't

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Ready to Play Ball



With a large crowd of supporters supporting them, the South Loup Bobcats State Basketball team players (from left) Blake Schwarz, Landon Furne, Kalen Dockweiler, Cade Connell, Jack Rush, Drew Vickers, Jace Connell, Leighton Bubak, Brett Hidle, Spencer Johnson, Eddie Berger, Grant Jones, Cole Gracey and Phillip Rosfeld, get ready to take to the court and take on Hastings St. Cecilia at Lincoln Southeast High School on Thursday, March 11. The Bobcats, who drew a wild card for their first chance to play at state, received a big send-off by students and fans on their way to Lincoln on Wednesday. The boys lost in the first round of play by a score of 34-52, but the chance to play at the state level was one for the memory book. Freshman Landyn Cole has a complete report on the game inside this issue. (Renee Bubak photo)

Theater's New Projector Is On Its Way

The Rialto Theatre board received good news last week. Board President Mary Becker reported that insurance is covering the price of a new movie projector that was damaged by a power surge. One has been located in Belgium and should arrive sometime during the week of March 12. Installation is scheduled to take place the week of March 19, and the theater is expected to reopen its doors on March 23, with a free movie weekend planned.

Becker said the replacement cost of the new projector is \$37,000.00, and the theater has a \$1,000.00 deductible.

Along with the good news, came some bad. Jake Gilland, who has been the theater's sole volunteer projectionist since the theater opened, has decided to "retire." The theater board is currently seeking three to four people who would be willing to volunteer their time to run the projector on a rotating basis. Becker said there is no age limit, but the volunteers would need to have an aptitude for technology and be honest and dependable. Anyone interested may contact Mary at 308-530-7022.

Fire Department Members Honored at Annual Banquet



Arnold Fire Department members received well deserved honors at their annual banquet held Saturday night at the Legion Hall. (Above, pictured left to right) Receiving plaques were: Donnell DeLosh, Fireman of the Year; Cassy DeLosh, EMT of the Year; and Andrew Tickle, Runner-up EMT of the Year. Not present was Duane Gibson, who was voted Runner-up Fireman of the Year. (Pictured right) Nancy Cool was awarded a clock for her retirement gift from the fire department for her 29 years of service as an EMT and EMS instructor. More photos of award winners are inside this issue. (Tammy Weinman photos)

