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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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One of the Last Left Standing

You've got to hand it to tiny Kirby Viter. She was one of the last kids standing at Saturday morning's Easter Egg Hunt, as cold temperatures and high winds forced most kids and their parents to find an egg and rush back to their vehicles and the comfort of home. The Arnold Ministerial Association, with help from National Honor Society students, organized the hunt, filling the eggs with candy. The Easter Bunny was there, and passed out gift sacks filled with coloring books, crayons, bubbles, crackers and fruit snacks. Kids finding gold and silver eggs received large stuffed Easter animals. The event is sponsored by the Arnold Chamber. (Kendra Veirs photo)

Another Business Loan Approved

At the request of the Arnold Economic Development Corporation, the Village Board of Trustees gave their approval for a new LB 840 business loan and grant at their regular meeting held on March 14. Echo Pelster of Thrivent Financial Services will use the \$10,000.00 loan and \$2,000.00 grant to remodel the Arnold Insurance Agency building, which she has purchased from Joe Bob Atkins.

In her monthly update, Carson said Custer County Grow meetings will resume on a monthly basis. Custer County Economic Development is looking at starting a web page on their website dedicated to available housing in Custer County. This would be a centralized page for Custer County communities to list what is available in their communities for individuals looking to buy or rent. To maintain integrity, the AEDC will agree to provide a link to the arnoldne.org website to di-

rect people to our community information directory.

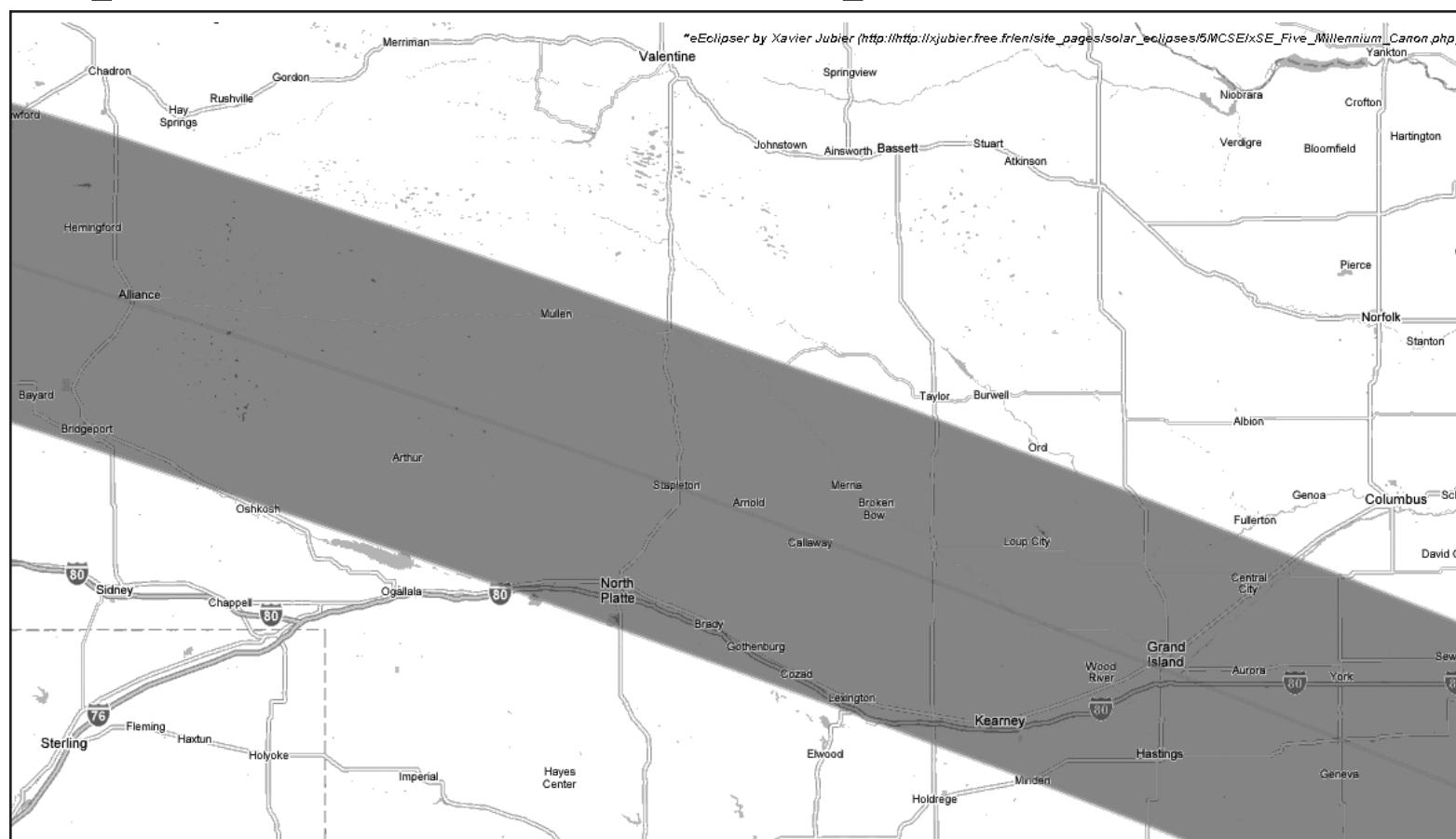
In February, the *Custer County Chief* featured a spotlight article about Arnold's progress in a special insert. Carson, who helped with the process, said Arnold was one of the few communities interviewed. Chief editor Mona Weatherly spent time visiting with Carson about Arnold, and later toured some of the businesses while interviewing owners.

Arnold has been chosen to be among communities toured on the annual Custer County Historical Tour set for April 23. There will be a drive around town for those on the tour bus, and afterwards they will gather at the community center for lunch and a presentation about Arnold and its history. This will be their last stop, so tour guests will be spending a lot of time in

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Expert: Towns Should Prepare for 2017 Solar Eclipse



The August 21, 2017, total solar eclipse will travel across Nebraska. Arnold is just north of the center line, making it one of the best locations within the band to view the eclipse. Those farther away from the center line will have fewer minutes of totality, and people outside of the band will miss the show entirely.

On August 21, 2017, millions of people across the United States will see nature's most wondrous spectacle - a total eclipse of the Sun. It is a scene of unimaginable beauty; the Moon completely blocks the Sun, daytime becomes a deep twilight, and the Sun's corona shimmers in the darkened sky.

This is truly a great American eclipse because totality will sweep the nation from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Nearly everyone in the U.S. can reach this total solar eclipse within one day's drive.

Residents of the Arnold and the surrounding area, however,

can simply walk outside because we are in the path of totality.

Astronomy enthusiast and teacher Derryl Barr visited Arnold last Tuesday night, gave a Power Point presentation, and told the small group of residents that many thousands of U.S. citizens and an estimated 50,000 people from around the world will travel to locations in the U.S. that are within the totality band. The longer the totality, the more likely those towns and cities are to see a huge influx of people. Arnold will be among cities and towns with an excellent totality of 2

minutes, 33 seconds.

"The Sandhills will be a good viewing spot," said Barr, who has traveled the world and witnessed 17 total eclipses, just shy of 50 minutes totality.

Barr said this will be the first eclipse through the continuous United States since 1979. The state of Nebraska will have 468 miles of the state in the path of totality, and it will take only 17 1/2 minutes for the eclipse to go across the state.

"You've got to be within the path or you're going to miss the show," he said.

Barr told the group that people who travel to see the eclipse

will consider six things: security, high prospects for clear skies, long duration, accessibility and mobility, accommodations and room and board, and finally, diversions.

As far as the prospects for clear skies on August 21, 2017, he has studied the weather since 1995, and projects that this area has a three out of four chance of having good weather for viewing.

Barr said total solar eclipses are very rare.

"These eclipses are called 'The Goldilocks' because everything has to be just right," he said. "Nebraska's last total solar eclipse was in 0310 - 17 centu-

rys ago. The next one will be on July 31, 2744. Only one in 10,000 of any living person ever will ever see a total eclipse. There's a sunset every direction you look. It's an amazing experience. It's literally our chance to stand in the shadow of the moon."

Barr spoke with the group about how important it will be to plan for the influx of people that will travel into the band. He passed out examples of eclipse shades, and emphasized the importance of having these available to protect people's eyes. People traveling into the totality areas will also need places to stay or camp, bathroom facilities, water and food.

"It is a billion dollar industry, and communities need to be prepared," he said.

AEDC Director Cheryl Carson, who organized the meeting, said that without sufficient volunteers, Arnold is not making any formal plans for events to entertain the people who travel here. What is needed are camping spots, lodging and viewing locations, and this will be a great opportunity for people who own land to welcome the visitors for a fee. Organizations will also be able to make money selling water, food, eclipse shades or t-shirts.

"Many communities have been planning for the in-flux of people for months, and people are booking sites," said Carson. "I have had calls from people looking for places to camp and view the eclipse here. People are on eclipse internet sites searching for the best viewing places with accommodations."

Landowners, campground owners or hotels that are interested in being listed on eclipse websites, and organizations that are interested in fundraising can obtain more information by contacting Carson at the AEDC office.