

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Get To Know Your Hometown Businesses Mighty Mart

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

By Pepper Werner

As a liquor salesman driving through Arnold on a bi-weekly basis, Bob Nielsen always thought that the closed Sinclair station “on the corner” would make a great convenience store. As it turned out, he was right. In September of 1988, Bob made the purchase from Nick Harter and Don Flint. He had no previous experience with a convenience store, but made the purchase and opened the doors of Mighty Mart in October of that year.

Previously, the building had housed tack sales, gas and general vehicle services. Bob says that part of the building is at least 100 years old. There have been modifications to the store over the years, the biggest being eliminating the gas pumps a few years after opening. There was a time that a moratorium was available without accessing big fines, and Bob jumped on the chance to eliminate that service. He didn't believe it was worth the headache, so he let that service go.

After eliminating the gas pumps, a variety of other updates have occurred. The former garage bays were renovated to make room for more store square footage, coolers and storage. The retail space was made larger and windows were replaced.

Mighty Mart was one of the first convenience stores to have booths where customers could sit and have coffee. Bob recalls the only other place he was aware of was a store in Hershey that offered a place to linger and catch up on the local gossip. He's proud to serve the various coffee groups and prides himself on offering fresh iced tea at a great price.

In 1998, Bob purchased a convenience store location in Maxwell and sold it in 2000, leaving only his Arnold location to focus on. Living in Brady is not always so convenient, but Bob likes the Arnold community that he has served for three decades.

The biggest struggle that Bob has experienced through the years is keeping up with the changes in technology and the items that are being offered. Going from VHS rentals to DVDs was a big switch. It is expensive to house the inventory to satisfy everyone, and those will eventually be phased out. There is always the latest and greatest drinks and snack items that are being marketed by the vendors, and he can't possibly stock them all. Bob is willing to special order anything that might be wanted, so feel free to ask. Sandwiches, candy, pop - anything that he doesn't already carry can most likely be ordered.



Mighty Mart owner Bob Nielsen is celebrating 30 years of doing business in Arnold. He opened the convenience store on the corner of Highway 92 in 1988. (Pepper Werner photo)

A few years ago, Bob brought back the ice cream machine due to customer request. The slush machines were added last summer, and there are always fresh fryer foods and pizza available.

When asked what changes he would make if there were no limits, Bob had this to say, “Right now I am happy with the way things are going. My business is not sold. I'm not going anywhere. I am not retiring. I enjoy this community and people have been so supportive.”

In celebration of this 30 year

milestone in business, Mighty Mart is offering \$0.88 specials throughout the upcoming months. Right now there are bottles of soda and fountain drinks for the specialty price. Stop in often and see what items are being offered.

Mighty Mart is located at 101 South Carroll Street in Arnold. It is open Sunday 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., Monday - Thursday 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., and Friday and Saturday 6:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. They can be reached at 308-848-3270 to order pizza or fryer foods.

Tatum Cool Places 3rd at State Speech Championships



Tatum Cool receives her 3rd place medal in Humorous Prose at the Nebraska State Speech Championships at UNK. This was her first year of competing in Speech. (Courtesy photo)

Tatum Cool completed her successful speech season with an impressive showing at the Nebraska State Speech Competition held Friday, March 23, at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. With near perfect scores in the first and second rounds of the State Championships, she advanced to the final round to compete against the “best of the best.” Her outstanding final performance won 3rd place.

Tatum, a junior at Arnold High School, competed in the Humorous Prose category in Class D2. Her piece, titled “Thomas-Brady's First Day of Kindergarten,” by Chris and Ryan Wilkins, impressed judges all season winning 1st place at Ord, Loup City, as well as the MNAC Conference and District competitions.

Tatum was surprised at her success. “Three months ago, I had never even been to a speech meet. I didn't know the categories, rules, or really anything. I knew I wanted to per-

form something fun, but no idea how to put together a competitive piece,” she said. Her goal, however, was to qualify for the State Championships.

“It is an honor to qualify and compete at the state level in any competition,” said Tatum “The reality of how special State Speech is became apparent as the season went on. Every week the competition gets more intense. You realize how many incredibly talented people you are up against.”

The Arnold Speech team, under the direction of coach Berni Crow, qualified seven for state: the OID team of Jarret Buchholz, Dawson Hanna-Miles, Cooper Atkins, Sofia Atkins, and Kylee Lehmkuhler, as well as Toni Oberg in Poetry and Entertainment.

Tatum is the daughter of Shane and Lana Cool and the granddaughter of Ron and Nancy Cool and Patty Parks-Nelson of Arnold.

Residents Feel Effects of Earthquake

On Monday morning, April 9, around 4:30 a.m., houses and buildings in the Arnold area shook, awakening all but the deepest sleepers.

“At first, I thought it was thunder,” said one resident.

In fact, it was an earthquake.

The National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colorado, confirmed the earthquake reached a magnitude of 3.3 on the Richter Scale. The quake's epicenter was 1.8 miles SSW of Finchville near Arnold, about 3.1 miles below the earth's surface.

The earthquake was felt in several neighboring towns.

Wet Weather Delays Clean Up Day

The annual community clean up day - set for last Monday - has been reset for Monday, April 16, due to recent snows. There's still time to get on the list for clean up day by calling Patty Lamberty at 848-2228 (cell 308-520-4495 or Becky Daley at 848-2522).

Prom Set for April 14

Arnold and Callaway students are busy preparing for prom set for this Saturday, April 14, at Callaway.

The 2018 theme is “Black and White - Masquerade.”

The schedule follows:

- Servers pictures and group pictures - 5:00 p.m.
- Junior pictures - 5:30 p.m.
- Senior pictures - 6:00 p.m.
- Class pictures for juniors/seniors (parents can come at this time) - 6:30 p.m.
- Line up for grand march - 7:00 p.m.
- Grand march (no one allowed in the gym) - 7:15 p.m.
- Meal - 7:30 p.m.
- Dance to follow.

First Early Ballots in Primary Election About To Go Out

LINCOLN - Nearly 25,000 Nebraskans who have already applied for their early voting ballots will begin receiving them when by mail voting starts statewide on April 9. Five days later, in-person voting will be available at county election offices, says Secretary of State John Gale. Currently, 1,195,515 Nebraskans are registered to vote.

“I am encouraged by the number of people who are registered ahead of the May 15 primary,” said Gale. “In fact, there are 50,000 more people registered now, than were registered in the 2016 presidential primary.”

Gale noted that historically, gubernatorial elections do not garner the largest turnouts. However, there are a number of races on the state and local levels that are highly contested and deserve serious attention.”

Some of those races include U.S. Senate, three congressional seats, 24 legislative districts and all five executive state offices. “In addition, elections to fill offices at the local level are also being decided - positions that affect us as citizens most directly.”

Registered voters wishing to vote early by mail must complete the required application. Those forms are available on the Secretary of State's website in English and Spanish (http://www.sos.ne.gov/election_forms.html). Once completed, they should be mailed to the appropriate county election office for processing.

“This is an exciting and no



Custer County Foundation Executive Director Lindsay Divan and Arnold Rialto Theatre Board President Mary Becker stand in front of new window coverings that were recently purchased for the theater with a matching grant of \$775.00 from CCF. (Pepper Werner photo)

Rialto Theatre Receives Great Financial Support

By Pepper Werner

Sometimes a stroke of bad luck brings about great change. The Rialto Theatre suffered a tremendous setback on February 24, when the movie projector experienced a power surge and fried the operating mechanism. Since that time, the theater has received financial support from several local organizations - Arnold Community Foundation, SORC and Custer County Foundation - in hopes of getting the theater up and running as quickly as possible. A projector was located in Belgium through Heartland Service, and it was installed at the theater on March 29. At that time, it was discovered that a portion of the server suffered electrical damage as well, and a movie was not able to be shown during Easter weekend - a real disappointment for those that worked so hard to meet a holiday “self-set” deadline.

Support from Arnold Community Foundation will be used to pay for a ductless heat pump to be installed in the pro-

jector room. SORC finances will add more insulation to the ceiling and an exhaust fan on the second floor, remove the old window air conditioner and add a new door. The insurance company will reimburse money for the electrical system in the theater. Previously, the Custer County Foundation donated money towards the cost of new, more efficient window coverings in the meeting room, and lobby and those have been installed. The goal for the ductless heat pump, added insulation, and any electrical upgrades to be completed by June 1.

Custer County Foundation Executive Director, Lindsay Divan, stated “Mary Becker applied for a matching grant on behalf of the Rialto Theatre. It was to replace the window treatments in the lobby and meeting room to improve the heating/cooling efficiency. Those were provided by Trish

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