

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Grazer's Open For Business

With big push, doors open on schedule

By Janet Larreau

After purchasing Jim's Bar from Lee Eastburn on October 4, 2018, and starting demolition that day, business partners Annie Vettel and Jesse Halstead achieved their goal of opening the doors of Grazer's Bar & Grill on May 24, 2019, for one of Arnold's biggest weekends of the year.

"The weeks prior to opening and days leading up were insanely busy as we finished big projects and small. It was our goal to be open for Alumni weekend, and with the combined efforts - and a lot of hard work - of our contractors and volunteers, we were able to meet the deadline. We owe a huge thank you to them," said Annie. "We had - and still have - things to finish and bugs to work out, but seeing the crowds gather and enjoy time with family and friends reminiscing and making new memories in the old stomping grounds made it all worth it!"

Anyone who had been in the bar before the restoration was amazed at the transformation. Because of fire damage, the building was taken down to the bones. Structurally, a 16'x30' addition was added onto the northwest corner to enlarge the new bar area and accommodate another bathroom. A 12'x48' addition added to the south side houses a walk-in



Courtesy photo

Business partners Jesse Halstead and Annie Vettel are pictured in the west side of Grazer's Bar & Grill after the complete renovation of the building. Formerly Jim's Bar, the couple brought the building back from the ashes of the March 27, 2018 fire, and opened just in time for the Alumni weekend.

freezer, mechanical room, and office. The layout of the building was reversed with the restaurant now on the east.

There were many challenges faced, as the crew braved snow and cold temperatures, working with only propane heat throughout most of it. Finding affordable equipment and furnishings was another challenge.

Some of the new features include a new Bose sound system, big screen TVs, an online dart machine, skill machines, and an ATM. A unisex restroom was built on the west side along with the main men's and women's restrooms on the east side, all of which are handicap accessible. The new beer cooler

houses all of the table service and package beer. The restaurant seating can be arranged to accommodate families and large groups for dining or private events, parties, and business meetings.

"Our new head chef Don Meyer answered an ad that we placed, and with his 30-plus years experience we were excited to have him, as well as his wife and right-hand assistant, Kammi Myer, and nephew, Josh Walsh. We were fortunate to have most of the rest of the staff come to us, and we're thrilled to have them on the team," said Jesse.

On Sunday after Alumni, Grazer's closed until Wednes-

day to reboot and launch their "official opening." Annie and Jesse said they started with a small, temporary menu. They've since added some additions and daily specials such as homemade chicken fried steak on Wednesdays and prime rib on Saturday night to give people a taste of what's to come with the full menu, which will be released after the grand opening.

There are a few things left to do, including completing a 40'x60' beer garden that will span the entire west side where Grazer's can host outdoor concerts and games, such as cornhole tournaments. The partners plan to adorn the

walls of the restaurant side with SORC photos and memories Jim and Margaret Eastburn's family have graciously allowed them access to.

The one fixture that remains is the "red table."

"Luckily it survived," said Annie. "It represents people's pasts and memories, and thankfully, even a fire can't destroy that."

The community support has been, and continues to be overwhelming. It's their support, encouragement, and excitement that fuels our passion and commitment to provide great food, cold beer, and a place "Where Good Friends Meet."

“(The red table) represents people's pasts and memories, and thankfully, even a fire can't destroy that.”

- Annie Vettel
Business partner with
Jesse Halstead

Temporary Fix



Photo/Debbie Connelly

Impassable since the March 13 flood, the bridge leading into to Old Mill Park has been temporarily fixed by village crews. Plans are for a second culvert to be installed to handle water flow.

Village Board votes to pursue FEMA funding at special meeting

By Janet Larreau

There's a lot of work to be done in the Village of Arnold after a 200 year storm hit on March 13. Several streets were broken up, and until just last week, Old Mill Park was inaccessible due to damage from flooding.

"We know it was a 200 year storm because our engineer said that the sewer plant was built to withstand a 100 year flood. It fell into the next cate-

gory because we had to pump it out," said Village Board Chairman Glen Bowers.

How to get emergency funding to make all the repairs was fraught with loopholes, until board members learned there is a big difference between NEMA (Nebraska Emergency Management Agency) and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and what they require.

"We were given the wrong details from NEMA. After 40 min-

utes on the phone with a FEMA representative, I learned that we didn't have to go through all of the loopholes we were told that we had to," said Bowers.

As a recap, at their May 13 meeting, Board members decided not to pursue funding for three reasons, based on the facts they were given. The first was due to the NEMA's requirement to join the National Flood Insurance Program, which the Village did not want to do at this time. The second reason

was during a procurement training attended by Doug De Laune and Patty Lamberty, they learned that the village engineer was unable to submit a proposal for engineering services since he prepared the preliminary damage assessment. And the third reason was timing. The Board decided to have the village employees just get it done and not procure for an engineer or solicit bids to do the

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A.H.S. Grad Will Be Inducted into Eight-Man Football Hall of Fame

Joining the third class to ever be inducted, Bob Jensen will be inducted in the Nebraska Eight-Man Football Hall of Fame next Saturday in Hastings.

The hall of fame is presented by the Nebraska Eight-Man Football Coaches Association and sponsored by Pinnacle Bank of Nebraska. Induction ceremonies will be held at half-time of the 42nd annual Sertoma Eight-Man All-Star Game played at Hastings College next Saturday, June 15. Kickoff for the game will be 6:00 p.m.

Jensen has been the publisher of The Central City Republican-Nonpareil since 1989 and publisher of Nebraska's only high school sports weekly, Huskerland Prep Report, since 1990. He will be inducted as a contributor to the game of Nebraska eight-man football, primarily through his publication of Huskerland Prep Report, as well as his work as Nebraska high school publisher for Rivals.com, a national football internet network.

Bob and his wife Penni have served as publishers of the Central City newspaper since 1989, and prior to that they were publishers of The Callaway Courier from 1985 to 1989. Previously, Bob served as sports editor at the Broken Bow, AL-

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