



Serving the  
South Loup River Valley

# The Arnold Sentinel

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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A banner announcing that The Arnold Exchange is coming soon and is now hiring hangs from the front of the newly constructed building on the east edge of town. (Sentinel photo)

## Opening Soon New Convenience Store/Diner Near Completion

Over the past few months, a 60'x72' building has been going up on the east edge of town on Highway 92. Called "The Arnold Exchange," the new business is nearing completion. Flooring is going in now, and kitchen equipment will be delivered soon, as well as all of the convenience store fare. Also left to finish is hiring and training at least 10 employees.

Owners Blaine and Kris Hager came up with the business's unique and memorable name.

"They wanted a place for peo-

ple to exchange ideas and conversations. The Arnold Exchange was the perfect fit," said Jessica Fletcher, who is general manager.

The business will offer convenience store fare, a Pinnacle Bank ATM, ice cream, a f'real machine, Juice Alive, nachos, popcorn, deli sandwiches, salads, soups, a daily lunch buffet, pop, beer, wine, tobacco products and much more.

In the beginning, the business will focus on a hot and cold breakfast and a lunch buffet in the diner.

"We will evaluate the needs of our customers to plan for the future. Our number one goal is to serve our customers and we will take that into consideration as to our immediate and future needs," she said.

The building is surrounded by more than enough parking space, and Fletcher said their vision is to incorporate the outside with the inside.

"Our plan is to host outdoor activities for our town and visitors, and with plenty of parking, we can do that," she said.

Fletcher's duties are to assist

in opening the business, work with vendors to order all of the equipment and inventory, work with contractors to complete construction, make sure all licenses have been applied for and completed, hire and train all employees, and focus on customer service.

Hired as assistant manager is Paula De Laune. Her duties are to also assist in opening the business, working with the vendors to order all of the small wares and food, work on a daily menu, and help train employees.

## Early Deadline for July 7 Issue

Due to the 4th of July holiday falling on a Monday, *The Sentinel* will have an early deadline of Friday, July 1, at noon, for all advertising and news for the July 7 issue. The office will be closed on the 4th.

## Fireworks Display Set for July 3rd

Residents are invited to enjoy a public fireworks display at Old Mill Park on Sunday, July 3, at dusk. New this year will be the Posting of the Colors by Legion and V.F.W. members prior to the display. Sponsored by the SORC, the fireworks will be set off by Gunther's Fireworks, and Westbrook Audio will provide music.

## Website Offers Crop Water Use Info

Crop water use information is now available from the Lower Loup NRD for the 2016 irrigation season. Irrigators can access the information on the Lower Loup website, [www.llnrd.org](http://www.llnrd.org).

The data is compiled by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension and can be accessed by clicking on the "Resources" tab on the tool bar near the top of the NRD page. Then, follow the drop-down box to "Crop Water Use." The report includes information on daily crop

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## "One Hundred Years" Author Passes Away at Age of 99

Local author and historian Norene Hall Mills has passed away at the age of 99. She leaves the legacy of her book, *One Hundred Years on the South Loup*, that tells the history of the community of Arnold from 1883 to 1983.

Only 1,200 copies of the 410-page hardcover book were published in the first printing in 1983, selling for \$32.50 each. When those sold out, another 150 were printed. With printing costs going up by this time, these books sold for \$40.00. Mills' granddaughter, Amy, said Mills worried that the price was too high.

Local antique dealer Kim Beshaler, who sold the remaining books for Mills early on after the second printing, said the books are now highly sought after, and at present, go at auction for up to \$400.00, and the price keeps climbing.

Mills started compiling information for the book in 1979 or '80, while librarian at Finch Memorial Library. She served as librarian from 1967 to 1982.

"She spent hours in *The Sentinel* office, looking through the archives and bringing some of the books home," said her daughter, Suanne Lind. "My kids can tell you we had files and card tables in our house. It was the research center."

Lind said her mom was always interested in history, which probably started with her parents.

Recalling her childhood in a journal, Mills wrote, "I must have learned to read very early, because by the time I started to school, I had already read *Leatherstocking Tales* and *The Covered Wagon*. I was eight years old when I began school. Of course, I started in first grade, but after one week the teacher put me in second grade. A week later, she decided I was ready for third grade. After one week in that grade, she moved me up to the fourth grade where I was for the rest of the year. So I guess I can say I began



Dressed in period clothing and riding in a horse-drawn buggy, local historian and author Norene Hall Mills served as Grand Marshal of the Festival Parade in 1997. (Courtesy photo)

school in the fourth grade."

Lind said after writing the book, her mom received calls and letters from people for years who were looking for information.

"We saved a packet of letters, and it is very humbling," said Lind. "One woman wrote that her husband hadn't read a book since high school until he read mom's book. We are proud that she was able to write it. Mom was aware that people would refer to it in the future."

Up to her last days, and despite Macular Degeneration of

her eyes, Mills knew who her family members were, had a good memory, and was still a good speller.

"We would read excerpts to Mom from her book, and she would say, 'Did I write that?' And then she would say, 'It was probably the best thing I ever did.' Jokingly, I would say, 'Mom, what about having us (kids)?'"

"There's an old African proverb, 'When an old person dies, a library burns down.' The proverb applies to mom," said Lind.

## Arnold Alumna Receives Teacher of the Year Award

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Melanie Chesley of Lexington High School was awarded the Senior Division Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award for Nebraska. As a winner of this award Chesley is nominated for the National Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award at the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest in June 2016. The National Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award is awarded to one junior division (grades 6-8) and one senior division (grades 9-12) teacher who has shown outstanding creativity, commitment, and inspiration in developing student interest in history education.

Each of the 56 affiliates of National History Day® awards one teacher in each division \$500.00 and nominates him or her for the National Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award. Chesley is the Senior division winner from Nebraska and is now nominated for the national award.

The winners of the national award receive \$10,000 in honor of their outstanding efforts to encourage and support history education. The affiliate and national awards are sponsored by Patricia Behring in recognition of the pivotal role teachers play in the lives of students and to encourage creative and inspiring instruction in classrooms around the world. The two national winners were announced at an awards ceremony on June 16, 2016.

"National History Day firmly believes that quality teachers are the best educational resources students have," said National History Day Executive Director Dr. Cathy Gorn. "The teachers selected as Behring Award recipients are a credit to their discipline, and exemplify what it takes to be a quality educator."

Teachers can be nominated by their administrators, peers, or themselves.

To qualify for the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award, teachers must partici-



Melanie Chesley

pate in the National History Day Contest and demonstrate excellence in the classroom. Winners are chosen by a team of teachers, administrators, and historians. Their work must clearly illustrate the development and use of creative teaching methods that interest students in history and help them make exciting discoveries about the past.

After returning from D.C., Chesley said she took a student who won in the historical category.

"She had never been in an urban area, so it was an eye opener for her. I had a fabulous year with my students who were honored in several state and national contests," said Chesley.

A rural resident of Callaway, Chesley is a 1977 graduate of Arnold High School.

NHD is a non-profit education organization in College Park, Maryland. Established in 1974, NHD offers year-long academic programs that engage over half a million middle- and high-school students around the world annually in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. These research-based projects are entered into contests at the local and affiliate levels, where the top student projects have the opportunity to advance to the National Contest at the University of Maryland.