

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Film “Ocean of Grass” Showing at Rialto Theatre in September

Matinees will benefit ACFF

By Janet Larreau
Sentinel staff

The Rialto Theatre board is excited to announce that they have scheduled three matinee showings of the documentary “Ocean of Grass” in September. The film is an experiential, immersive documentary capturing a year in the life of a 130-year-old Nebraska Sandhills ranch in a lyrical, timeless manner. The 86-minute long documentary - filmed over a 22-month span in Custer County - presents the intriguing personalities and opinions of those individuals who choose this sparse, rugged lifestyle. The film showcases the incredible yet sublime beauty of the little-known Nebraska Sandhills using 4K, aerial and POV cameras. The project was conceived, produced, directed, filmed, edited and graded by first-time filmmaker Georg Joutras.

In his director’s statement, Joutras said, “My history with the McGinn Ranch began in 2003 when I stopped in for what I thought would be a couple hours’ visit. Almost a week later, I finally dragged myself away from the meditative essence and intriguing personalities of the ranch. Since then I have visited the ranch too many times to count. I find its Zen-like magic never ceases to reinvigorate my being.

“The people that call this place home are a unique breed: hard working, private, confident, honest, artistic and, as

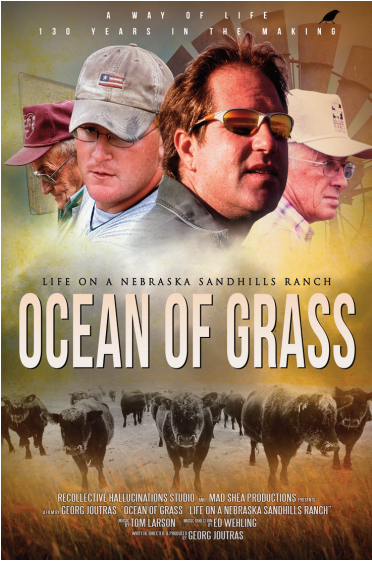
Laron McGinn states, ‘comfortable in their own skin.’ This area is a land of limited population, even more limited job opportunities, and a harshness brought on by climate. But the Sandhills of Nebraska can also be idyllic, sublime, and on those special days in the spring and fall, truly magical.

“My goal in making this film was to capture what makes this region, and specifically this ranch, so special. Those who have visited will know to what I refer. There is a relaxed, yet watchful, atmosphere here. Combine this with the personalities of many who are larger than life, “Ocean of Grass” provides a compelling and honest window into the ranching lifestyle, and a view back to many Americans’ historic vision of what makes this country great.

“I’ve been asked how would I explain the film. At a basic level, it can be simply stated as ‘a year in the life of a ranch’. But thematically, I am not necessarily telling a story, I am telling a feeling. If you go out there, driving through the hills in a pickup as the cows are fed, or helping with the rituals of roundup and branding, I hope you will find this film captures what you feel. It is the experience of the ranch, the realness and the rightness of this place and the Sandhills people in general.”

Three Sunday matinee showings of the film are scheduled at the Rialto on September 16, 23 and 30. After the showings, BrewBakers will be open for the public to gather. Joutras will attend the September 16 showing, and will be at BrewBakers for a question and answer session.

Proceeds from the general admission charge will go to the



Arnold Community Foundation Fund.

“We are hoping to have a good crowd and make this a community event and fundraiser. Even if you’ve already seen the documentary, please come and enjoy it again to help raise money for the ACFF, and join everyone at BrewBakers. Jody is excited to provide a place for people to gather,” said Rialto Theatre Board President Mary Becker.

Sunday showings of regularly scheduled movies have been moved to 5:30 p.m. on the dates the documentary will be shown.

Deadline Passed for Sept. 6 Issue

A reminder that as of Wednesday, Aug. 29, at noon, the deadline has passed to submit news or advertising for the September 6 issue. The issue will go to press on Thursday, August 30. The *Sentinel* office will be closed on Friday, August 31, and on Labor Day to provide staff some vacation time.



Photo/Tammy Weinman

Hands-On Training

Arnold Fire Department members April Tickle, Cameron Meyer and Donnell DeLosh, along with nine other department members, received some hands-on training last week to re-familiarize themselves with the pumper truck and other equipment for every day cases, and before a house burn training takes place next month.

Enrollment Increasing at Arnold Public Schools

Enrollment is up at Arnold Public Schools, with a total of 170 students in Grades K-12. The seventh grade and sophomore classes are the largest, with 19 students in each, and the smallest is the eighth grade with 7. All but seven classes are in the double digits this year.

Following are the total number of boys and girls in each class:

KINDERGARTEN

Teacher: Traci Kennedy
Boys.....6
Girls7
Total.....13

FIRST GRADE

Teacher: Katie Blowers
Boys10
Girls6
Total.....16

SECOND GRADE

Teacher: Todd Phelps

Continued on page 4.



APS Photo

Arnold students meet Lt. Governor Mike Foley and Senator Matt Williams at the BD/CPPD/CAPABLE STEAM trailer annual teacher/student training day. Pictured are (from left) Rio Remund, Senator Williams, Lt. Gov. Foley, Jamie Tickle and Mr. Neth.

Arnold Students/Teacher attend Annual CAPABLE STEAM Lab Training

Custer Public Power District, Becton Dickinson, and CAPABLE hosted the second annual STEM lab training on Monday, August 20th at CPPD in Broken Bow. Thirty-six teachers and students from across the area attended the training led by Chad Johnson, the education coordinator for Nebraska Public Power District. Attending from Arnold Public Schools was Rio Remund, Jamie Tickle and Mr. Neth.

The goal of the day was to give teachers and students the opportunity to become the lead

teachers and students for the trailer when it arrives at their school.

The trailer will travel to thirteen schools across CPPD’s service territory allowing students to utilize the labs in their schools from 2 ½ weeks out of the school year every year. The STEM Lab is a resource for schools to utilize a Makerspace Education model that encourages science, technology, engineering, and mathematics with the emphasis in open source learning and sharing. The ten lab stations give the

students the opportunity for hands on exploration using problem solving thinking, while reinforcing life skills needed in today’s workforce. The STEM Lab will be following NPPD’s “Pathway to a Technical Future” program which allows students to explore STEM activities related to technical careers for the future.

The program was funded through the Nebraska Developing Youth Talent Initiative (NDYTI) grant from Nebraska Economic Development and we were honored to have Lt. Governor

Mike Foley and Senator Williams attend the training to see the impact this program is having on our area students and their classrooms. The NDYTI grant connects young Nebraskans to careers in manufacturing and technology sectors. For more information on the STEM trailer and to find out when it will be coming to your school you can follow us on facebook at Central Nebraska STEM or contact Jenny Fox with CAPABLE at 308-870-0685.

Fall Festival Returns

Committee Organizing Events for Sept. 15

The Arnold Fall Festival is returning this year thanks to a small committee that was formed to bring back a community-wide celebration to town. For decades, the festival was held in September, but with the success of the Sandhills Open Road Challenge held in August and the large number of volunteers needed, the parade and events were moved to the 4th of July. In 2015, the festival was moved to August, but volunteer “burn-out” had taken its toll on Chamber.

All was quiet for two years - until now.

The 2018 Festival, set for Saturday, September 15, will bring back the parade, kids games, the free barbecue, entertainment, and a street dance. “Community Olympics” has been added.

Shavonne Schacher and Mike Nelson have been doing most of the organizing, with volunteers from Chamber and the community stepping up to help with various events.

On the same day, a new event - the Sandhills Automotive Show & Shine (S.A.S.S.) - is coming to town, organized by Margie McDowell and Sal Hilderbrant.

Margie and Sal have sent out invitations and hung flyers. Everyone who brings a car for the show has been invited to enter the parade. The automotive show will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., at the community center, with line-up starting at 12:30 p.m. There will be several divisions judged by Sandhills Motors.

“It will be a great way to bring people to Arnold. We are hoping to make it an annual event, depending how it goes,” said Margie.

More details on both events will be in next week’s issue.