

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 13

## The Arnold Sentinel Announces Website e-Edition Now Available

Extra, extra! Read all about it! Not just in print, but on the *Arnold Sentinel* website too!

The *Sentinel* team is excited to announce its new website and e-subscription services. It has been several months in the making, as the staff had time to settle in after the major remodel of their building, adjusting to the addition of printing and business services, and becoming an independent newspaper office.

Debbie Connelly and Diana Coleman, who share part-time hours, have been training in the newspaper end and services already offered since mid-March. Everyone in the office is now ready to take on the additional responsibilities.

“The website is easy to use and navigate,” said Debbie, who uploads the e-Edition each week.

The website's main objective is to be an access point for new and current subscribers of *The Sentinel*. A paywall is set up through eType services for customer convenience to purchase *The Sentinel* online and access e-Editions. The pages read online will be populated with beautiful color photos in each issue. This is a great way to present news of our community.

The site, at [www.arnoldsentinel.com](http://www.arnoldsentinel.com), offers accessibility of *The Arnold Sentinel* news to all reader demographics, whether in print or online.

“I’m excited to purchase an e-Edition subscription for my daughter, Kerri, who lives in Turkey, so she can read *The Sentinel*. If I tried to mail it to Turkey, it would be hit and miss,” said Diana.

On the website, readers will be able to find featured news stories and highlights that can be shared through social media pages. The Business & Professional Directory, content sponsors, classifieds and advertisements can also be viewed on the website. Customers can

get a quote for printing services and advertising, send news tips or utilize contact us forms which are easy to fill out and send to the office at the click of a button. This will be an easy way for readers to submit news.

With the advent of social media, Managing Editor Janet Larreau said there has been a sharp decline in people who submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements. There are hundreds of *Sentinel* readers who do not own or care to use a computer, and they would appreciate reading about these milestones in young people's lives. Through the website and social media, the staff will focus on encouraging young people to return to submitting these important events, which will be archived in *The Sentinel* files.

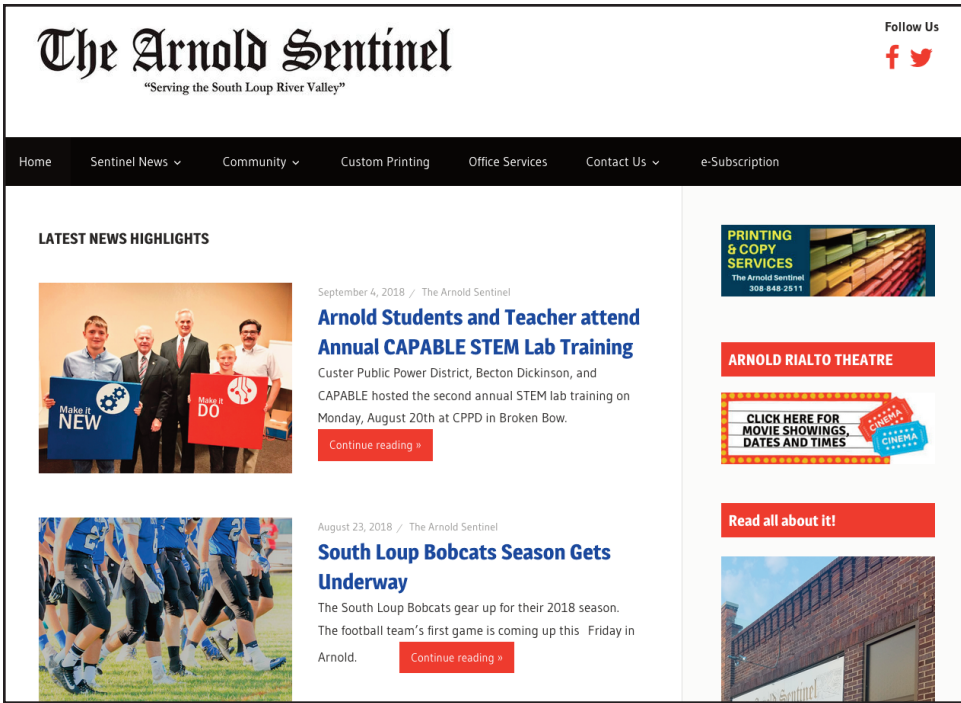
If you are currently a *Sentinel* subscriber, you will have free access to the online edition. Simply fill out the “already a print subscriber” on the subscriber registration form. After subscription verification, you will have access to *The Sentinel* online, which you can view with your username and password through the site or in your email box.

How do I subscribe for myself, college student, family member or friend? Are you wondering which is the best way for you to get your news or give it as a gift? Here are the options for access to your community newspaper:

IN PRINT: “I enjoy holding the newspaper in my hands, picking it up from my mailbox or news stand.”

- Contact us through the website, email us directly at [arnoldsentinel@gpcom.net](mailto:arnoldsentinel@gpcom.net), call or stop into our office to purchase a subscription.

- News stand at The Arnold Exchange - .75 per copy (You can save 30% off news stand pricing by subscribing).



Pictured above is a partial screenshot of The Sentinel's new website, where people can now subscribe to our e-Edition, submit news and photos, and keep up with current news.

ONLINE: “I like to get my news via email, open it up on my tablet, computer or phone for reading.”

- Go to [www.arnoldsentinel.com](http://www.arnoldsentinel.com) and subscribe to online only.

PRINT AND ONLINE: “I go back and forth. Sometimes I read online, sometimes in print. I'd like the paper mailed to me and also the online edition.”

- Go to [www.arnoldsentinel.com](http://www.arnoldsentinel.com) and subscribe to online and print.

ADDITIONAL NEWS SOURCES through social media. “I like, follow, share, hashtag and tweet all day and love to hear about what is going on through facebook, instagram, and twitter.”

- Find and follow us on facebook [arnoldnews](https://www.facebook.com/arnoldnews) and twitter [@arnold\\_sentinel](https://twitter.com/arnold_sentinel) for featured news stories and advertising.

## Weekend’s Activities Include Parade, Automotive Show & Shine

Don’t miss out on this Saturday’s Fall Festival and the Sandhills Automotive Show & Shine. The Festival will begin with a parade starting at 10:30 a.m. Line-up starts at 9:30 a.m., and there’s still time to pick up an entry form at Mills Hardware (see map of route inside this issue). The day will continue with kids games at the city park, Show & Shine at the community center from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., a free barbecue in the city park, awards and entertainment, teen cosmic bowling at the bowling alley and a street dance downtown. For more information and times of events, see the schedule inside this issue.



Sentinel photo

Part of Gary Larreau’s growth in his business over the years was building a shop with a comfortable office to work in close by his home in Arnold.

“I like to switch it up. It's not fun doing the same thing repeatedly like I was when I traveled and built retail stores,” Gary explained.

Gary has been in business long enough to see major increases in the cost of construction.

“When I built the first house, it was \$80.00 a square foot. Now it is double that price in this area. Labor is more expensive, and materials have certainly gone up as well. Most of it is the customization with specialty finishes, appliances and fixtures. Quality is really important in a custom home.”

There was a time when Larreau Construction employed 12 people working in three counties, and even Ft. Collins, Colorado. It was a little too much, so Gary trimmed down to four employees after those projects were completed. Nowadays, he usually has two. There have been typical worker challenges over the years, however. He told a story about putting an ad in the paper for a carpenter's helper. Without a response, he posted the ad again. Still no response. The third time he posted an ad for a “warm body”, and he received some hilarious remarks.

“The hands-on trade classes are being lost. Those are the fields that are in highest demand right now in the country – HVAC, electricians, plumbers. A good mason would be able to handpick his projects and command a high price. It's just a shame that schools focus on

the four-year degree when the technical degrees are what is desperately needed,” Gary explained. “Friends in bigger cities share the same concerns of who will follow them. Every now and then there is a diamond in the rough that appreciates quality and true workmanship, but not often.”

When Gary was asked what he would still like to build if given the chance, and if money was no object, he had this to say, “I’d like to build a house in the mountains before I’m all done with construction. I would want to use the native stone and timbers of the area. It would be a great experience to tie the home to the environment. If I could figure out how to build it 'off the grid' and be totally self-sufficient, that would be the ultimate.”

If Gary had one piece of advice to give to a young person starting out in the construction field, it would be this, “Go for it. Don't be afraid to make a mistake. If you're actually doing something, not standing around, you'll make mistakes and learn from them - but be willing to pay for it.”

Larreau Construction, Inc. offers remodeling, new construction from the ground up, turn key options, residential/commercial and custom work. 205 Cedar Street Arnold, Nebraska Call Gary at 308-539-5545 anytime.

## Get To Know Your Hometown Businesses Larreau Construction, Inc.

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

By Pepper Werner

Raised in Arnold, Gary Larreau has been the owner of Larreau Construction, Inc., with his wife Janet since 1984. It hasn't always been a straight, easy shot, but Gary feels it was a path well chosen.

Gary showed a natural ability in the field of construction at a young age, starting with Industrial Arts classes in high school and helping build the family's dairy barn.

“Industrial Arts classes in high school gave us an insight on construction phases, and we were exposed to mechanical drawing, welding and small engine repair. Building the dairy barn exposed me to many parts of construction,” said Gary.

Gary and Janet moved to Colorado right after high school where he worked on the Colorado pipeline from Greeley to Brush during the summer of 1978. A couple more employment opportunities in Colorado, helping build homes and pole barns in Ft. Collins, and drywalling and framing high-rise offices and apartment complex in Denver, were all a learning curve for Gary.

Now back in Arnold for good, Gary went to work for Arnold Ready Mix driving a cement and gravel truck. This was another learning curve, as he observed how cement was poured in different applications. He was then hired on with a local contractor and former Industrial Arts teacher, remodeling homes and building some of the earliest Brass Buckle stores.

“That was the time when I gained the confidence to finally start my own construction company. I went to Sears and Roebuck and bought all of my tools on a credit card. Each job brought on more work by word of mouth. I started with basic plumbing calls soon found myself adding septic systems.”

After some roofing jobs and his first

two-car garage, the company was off and running in both residential and commercial work.

“My goal from the beginning was to be remembered for doing quality work. People would always bring up the names of carpenters like Homer Koch and Quin Conley. I aspired to be like them,” he said.

When he does retire, he will be remembered. He estimates that he has worked on about 70 to 75 percent of the houses in the town of Arnold alone.

In commercial work, remodeling Pinnacle Bank was one of the more challenging jobs that involved adding the shoe cobbler's store next door into the floor plan. A vault was added in the back room, and there were headstones found in the crawlspace. Gary said it was never determined how they ended up in such a small area below the floor.

The new Arnold bowling alley was dried in and tin was added for a new project, while the dilapidated Hotel Custer was gutted and remodeled to include office spaces in the lower level and apartments on the upper.

Over the years, Gary has become known for taking on some rather challenging remodeling and addition projects, and one of his biggest involved a rural farmhouse outside of Arnold that gave new meaning to “whole house remodel”.

“After adding on to the east and south sides, building all the way around, bricking the two-story structure and enlarging the basement, there was one original wall left standing with the original fireplace. It would have been much less expensive to have torn it down and started over, but the customers wanted the house to be in that exact location over the original basement which has a one-of-a-kind tornado shelter,” he said.

As for project preferences, Gary said that he likes residential and commercial equally.