

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Funding Available for Businesses During COVID-19 Crisis

Funding available for business during the COVID-19 crisis to keep paying employees. The Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”) authorizes up to \$349 billion in forgivable loans to small businesses to pay their employees during the COVID-19 crisis. All loan terms will be the same for everyone.

Starting April 3, 2020, small businesses and sole proprietorships can apply for and receive loans to cover their payroll and other certain expenses through existing SBA lenders.

The loan amounts will be forgiven as long as:

- The loan proceeds are used to cover payroll costs, and most mortgage interest, rent, and utility costs over the 8-week period after the loan is made; and
- Employee and compensation levels are maintained.

All businesses – including nonprofits, veteran’s organizations, Tribal business concerns, sole proprietorships, self-employed individuals, and independent contractors – with 500 or fewer employees can apply.

You will need to complete the Paycheck Protection Program loan application and submit the application with the required documentation to an approved lender that is available to process your application by June 30, 2020.

For more information please visit our website, www.cnedd.org/disaster-relief or call Judy Petersen at (402) 340-0106.

Romaine calm and carry on

Reed’s Food Center makes it through surge in buying

“The Reed’s Center headline takes me back to the good old days when all we had to be afraid of was romaine lettuce. We could all use a little comic relief right now.”

— Dayna Larreau,
Headline contributor

By Janet Larreau

You know how it goes. A blizzard is in the forecast and everyone runs out to stock up on supplies. For Reed’s Food Center owner John Reed the biggest “blizzard” he has seen in his career in the grocery store industry came on March 13, when the state and local health departments warned Nebraskans that the COVID-19 pandemic was coming and they should “stock up” and stay home.

And they did – well, stocked up at least.

Their main goal was loading up on toilet paper, any kind of disinfectant product, milk and bread.



Courtesy photo

Wearing gloves as a safety precaution, Reed’s Food Center employee Chris Winfield rings up customer Alicia Tucker last week. The store is sanitizing several times a day to protect both customers and employees from the coronavirus.

“The virus was really taking off. When they started issuing what to do, people reacted and got scared. At that time, there was a lot of misinformation going out,” said John.

Some shelves were empty within a few hours. The warehouse exhausted its six-week backup within a week. What came in on Tuesday was gone within an hour on some prod-

ucts.

It got out through social media that the store had a supply of paper products and peo-

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Loup Basin Health Department reports confirmed case of COVID-19 within its jurisdiction

All 93 counties in Nebraska placed under Directed Health Measures

Burwell, NE – A patient within Loup Basin Public Health Departments (LBPHD) jurisdiction has tested positive for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The person is a male in his 80s who is a resident of Custer County. He is

hospitalized and stable. LBPHD is working in conjunction with Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to ensure proper patient care and infection control practices are being followed. Patient information is consid-

ered protected health information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and will not be provided to protect the patient’s privacy.

Due to an increase in known community spread throughout

the state, all 93 counties in Nebraska were placed under Directed Health Measures (DHM) on April 3, 2020, at 10:00 p.m. This remains in effect through May 11th unless renewed.

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Working Remotely

Going from dress shoes, to flip flops, many are now working from home



Courtesy photo

Sheila McDowell, a licensed agent at Arnold Insurance Agency, is one of the agency’s 15 employees who are working remotely from home during the COVID-19 crisis.

By Janet Larreau

People are finding themselves urged out of the office workplace and into the safety of their homes as the COVID-19 pandemic sweeps across the nation. Dress shoes have been replaced with flip flops and business attire with sweatpants and t-shirts.

Arnold Insurance Agency, with offices in Arnold, Grant, Ogallala, Cozad, Brady, and Holyoke, Colorado, prepared early for the transition from office to home.

Owner Joe Bob Atkins made the COVID-19 action plan for the agency the first week of March. This entailed travel to its clients, attending company meetings, continued education/designation classes, office hours to the public, employee hours, and work from home operations. Several parts of the

plan started in March. The work from home was implemented March 9 to go into effect for the 11th of March and return to the office location was set for April 6. Weekly assessments are made and the agency continues to monitor the situation.

With 15 employees working in the six locations, Joe Bob said he feels responsible to promote a safe and friendly working environment to both his staff and customers. There is a range of staff members, from parents of small children, parents of kids that have high risk, pregnant staff, staff that looks over their parents, to staff in the high risk health and high risk age.

“This was the week that all the schools in our locations sent the students home,” said Joe Bob. “Our staff has 20 children that are affected from the school, preschool and daycare

exposure. Just with the sheer number, the children spread the flu and colds bad enough in each location in a regular year.”

The agency has been working remotely for years. When an employee can’t get into work due to weather, sickness or sick kids, they are prepared. The agents have taken their office computers home at night and on weekends for years now and have worked from home.

“I, for example, always have my computer with me and get on it when I am on the road seeing clients and work while I am at a truck stop or at lunch. I knew we could keep up our service to our clients during this pandemic,” said Joe Bob.

When offices were remodeled (Arnold, 2016; Grant, 2017; Cozad, 2018; and Brady, currently), all were set up to have high speed Internet. A new VOIP phone system was installed from Great Plains Communications in the Arnold office. This has been a key piece of equipment for all of the locations to communicate between each other and the public at large. It has allowed each office to have one receptionist to

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Cruise Night Postponed

By now, many have heard that a Cruise Night was planned for this Friday night, April 10, in Arnold, to give residents something to look forward to. Curbside food orders and delivery was planned to help businesses. Due to concerns that have been expressed and for public health and safety regarding the development of COVID-19 cases in Custer and Logan counties, the event has been postponed indefinitely.

Happy Easter!



Courtesy photo

Five-year-old Charlea Fletcher happily shows an egg that she painted for the community social distancing egg hunt that is underway. She was among many kids and adults who colored and painted paper eggs to hang in their homes’ windows for people to find.

Residents jump on board for social distancing egg hunt

What do you do when your community’s much anticipated annual Easter Egg Hunt is cancelled due to a pandemic? How about a social distancing egg hunt?

Jami Green found the idea on Facebook.

“I thought it would be fun and if no one else is, I’ll get it started!” she said.

Word spread through social media, and colored and

painted eggs started popping up in home and business windows all over town. From April 1-12, participants drive, bike or walk around town to see how many eggs they can find.

Last week, a family counted 100-plus eggs, and more have been appearing every day. Some are hidden, so hunters really have to look.