

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 47

Primary Election Is May 12

Polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., on Tuesday, May 12, for the Primary Election. The polling place for Arnold Village, Arnold Rural and Hays II will be at the Arnold Legion Hall.

All Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided for poll workers. Voters will be provided with masks, pens to vote with and keep and hand sanitizer. Anti-bacterial wipes will also be available for use. All PPE equipment has been supplied by the secretary of state.

Election Commissioner Conni Gracey asks that if anyone is feeling ill, please stay home.

“We want everyone to stay healthy and be safe,” she said.

Photos Sought From Past A.H.S. Alumni Reunions

Due to the cancellation of the 2020 A.H.S. Alumni reunion, the Sentinel staff is coming up with some ideas for the Memorial Day issue and the 2021 edition of The Alumni News. Older photos from past alumni reunions - especially program pictures from the 70s - will be needed. If anyone out there has photos and are willing to share, please scan and e-mail to: arnoldsentinel@gpcom.net. Photos may also be dropped in the Sentinel's door slot or mailed to: The Arnold Sentinel, PO Box 136, Arnold NE 69120. Please include your name and return address, and the photo(s) will be mailed back to you. Photos are needed as soon as possible.



Clay and Julie Mohr stand by the newest piece of equipment that was purchased for School House Graphic Products - a 48" Epilogue Fusion Pro Laser Engraver. The couple, now retiring at the end of this school year, started the student-ran business in 2002.

By Janet Larreau

Long-time Arnold teachers Clay and Julie Mohr seemed to be just “kids” themselves when they set out to find a school system that would be a perfect fit for both of them. Clay, 23, and Julie, 22, had just graduated from Chadron State College.

With teaching degrees in hand, Clay was seeking a position in industrial arts and Julie was ready to teach art. With three interviews scheduled in one weekend, the Mohrs set out on a long trek, driving through flatlands up from Kansas. Arnold Public Schools was the last stop on their list.

“We came to Arnold through Grand Island and on up. We

stopped at the top of Clark’s Hill to change into nice clothes, looked around and said, ‘We could live here. We could do this!’ said Julie.

That exact, beautiful location - with its rolling hills, canyons and trees - ended up being the spot where they eventually built their new home.

Other than finding their own personal paradise, the Mohrs

chose Arnold Public Schools because it had openings for both of them. Clay said back in the day, some schools had openings for one or the other, but not both.

“Teaching in the same system was pretty important to us,” he said.

The day that Clay and Julie accepted a contract to teach at APS was a fortunate day for not only the school, but the community as well. Thirty-nine years later, after starting a first-of-its-kind student-ran business and winning numerous awards between them, they are now set to retire at the end of this school year.

Their entry into teaching at Arnold was filled with surprise and their exit comes at a historical time never before seen, as the school shut down in mid-March due to COVID-19.

The Mohrs had just moved here in June of 1981 when a big storm moved through the area, tearing the roof completely off the high part of the shop. Clay and other volunteers used stock trailers to move all the equipment out of the shop. The roof was repaired just a week before school started, and the process of moving everything back in and set up had to be done quickly.

Fast forward to 2020, and Julie said the coronavirus could be compared to a “big storm,” but much worse.

“It’s not what we had envisioned when we first came to town and this is not what we had envisioned ending our teaching career with no students,” said Clay. “This is much tougher,” Julie said.

In 2002 the Mohrs started a new program that they named

Continued on page 2.

Governor Ricketts Eases Some Restrictions for Nebraskans

On April 24, Governor Pete Ricketts announced upcoming changes that ease some restrictions on social gatherings and business operations in Nebraska as of May 4, 2020.

Maintaining the integrity of Nebraska’s health care system has been the State’s top consideration when making decisions about public health measures. Nebraska continues to have ample capacity to care for the state’s residents. As of April 24th, 48% of hospital beds, 42% of ICU beds, and 74% of ventilators are available for use statewide.

The following regional updates will apply to the Loup Basin Health Department.

Beauty/nail salons, barber shops, massage therapy services, and tattoo parlors/studios will be permitted to open. These establishments will be added to the list of gatherings subject to the 10-person rule. The new DHM will require both workers and patrons of these establishments to wear masks.

Restaurants will be allowed to serve dine-in customers if all of the following conditions are met:

• The restaurant limits seat-

ing to 50% of the rated occupancy maximum at all times.

• The restaurant seats parties at least six feet apart.

• All dining parties are restricted to no more than six persons (groups larger than six will need to sit at separate tables).

• Self-serve buffets and salad bars are prohibited. Restaurant staff must serve food directly to customers or implement buffet orders from the customer table. No customer self-service will be allowed.

• Bar seating is not permitted.

• Patrons may only consume alcohol on the premises if also consuming a meal.

• Bars that do not serve food will remain limited to carry-out sales and delivery only.

Childcare facilities will be permitted to have up to 15 kids per room/space. All other state provisions, statutes, and regulations (including child-to-staff ratios) still apply.

Bars, gentlemen’s clubs, bottle clubs, indoor movie theaters, indoor theaters/playhouses will remain closed statewide until May 31st, though the State may revise the DHM prior to that date.

Places of worship will have relaxed DHM requirements statewide beginning on May 4th. They will need to ensure six feet of separation between different household units. It will not be permissible to pass items among worshippers. A guidance document will be provided with the new DHMs to give instructions to faith com-

munities on how to comply with the updated health measures.

“Leading up to these changes to our DHMs, I want to emphasize how important it is to continue following our Six Rules during the rest of the “21 Days to Stay at Home and Stay Healthy” campaign,” said the Governor. “I also want to remind people that regardless of these changes, we will still be doing some level of social distancing (at least the six foot rule) until we have a vaccine. Just because we are able to relax some measures, does not mean life returns to normal. We will continue to protect our healthcare system so that Nebraskans can receive the treatment they need if they become infected with coronavirus.”

Goodwill Donation Drive Starts In Arnold Friday, May 29

Goodwill Industries of Greater Nebraska is having a donation drive in Arnold, NE beginning on Friday May 29th, 2020 and continuing daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. until Wednesday June 3rd, 2020. People living in and the surrounding area can drop off their donations at the Goodwill Donation Trailer parked at the Arnold City Park in Arnold, NE.

Virtually anything in your home or garage that you no longer use is accepted; clothing, household items, shoes, boots, purses, belts, hats, books, computers, printers, monitors and computer accessories can be placed inside the Goodwill trailer. Due to limited storage space, furniture, televisions and large appliances are not accepted. Tax donation receipts are available at the trailer.

Goodwill appreciates the generosity of the people in your community and surrounding area. Revenue generated through the sale of donated items at Goodwill’s retail stores supports services for people living in greater Nebraska.

Goodwill Industries of Greater Nebraska’s mission is

to help people with disabilities or barriers achieve their goals and improve their quality of life. The organization fulfills this mission every day by supporting people to find jobs that match their talents and gifts, teaching skills leading to increased independence, helping people through the process of recovery and empowering people to focus on their strengths and abilities rather than a diagnosis or disability.

Third COVID-19 Related Death Reported in Custer County

Burwell, NE - Fifteen (15) new cases were reported in Loup Basin Public Health Department’s (LBPHD) district since April 27 at 12:00 p.m.

A Custer County woman in her 90s and confirmed to have COVID-19 died on Tuesday, April 28, marking the third coronavirus-related death in the Loup Basin Public Health district.

Continued on page 2.

Next Blood Drive Is May 11 Every precaution will be in place

The Arnold blood drive will be held Monday, May 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

During this uncertain time, the Red Cross encourages healthy individuals to make an appointment to give blood or platelets to help keep a stable blood supply throughout this pandemic. There is no known end date in this fight against coronavirus and the Red Cross needs the help of blood and platelet donors to ensure blood products are readily available for weeks to come. It’s important to remember that blood is perishable and cannot be stockpiled.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control. To ensure the health of staff and donors, precautions include:

• Checking temperatures of staff and donors before entering a drive to make sure they are healthy.

• Providing hand sanitizer for

use before the drive, as well as throughout the donation process.

• Following social distancing between donors including entry, donation and refreshment areas.

• Wearing face masks or coverings for both staff and donors. (We will provide donors masks if they don’t have one)

• Routinely disinfecting surfaces, equipment and donor-touched areas.

• Wearing gloves, and changing gloves often.

• Using sterile collection sets and an aseptic scrub for every donation

The American Red Cross is encouraging donors to make an appointment, so that social distancing can be effectively implemented at all drives. Walk-ins will be taken as space allows. To make an appointment, please call or text Amanda Koubek at 308-660-6709 or Shirley Bassett at 848-3356.

