

Pool Opening Keeps Parents From Going Off The Deep End

After weeks of being housebound due to the pandemic and with the uncertainty that public swimming would even be allowed, everyone was ready to jump in when the pool officially opened on June 22. Kids were burning off pent-up energy, as happy parents either dropped them off or joined them for a swim.

“We had over 75 people at the pool both Monday and Wednesday. It’s the most I’ve seen in one day. We had quite a few people from surrounding communities, as well,” said pool manager Shavonne Schacher.

Shavonne, who is assisted by Haley Reed and Tammie Gaites, said 11 lifeguards have been hired for the season. Due to the pandemic, the sign-in process is different this season, with names and phone numbers taken from everyone who comes into the pool each day. Every hour, personnel are spraying down the handles in high touch areas. The pool is limited to 122 people.

Because the pool opened almost a month late, there will only be one session of swimming lessons versus two. Once the pool closes for the season, it will be sandblasted and painted.

Sentinel Places in Three Categories in Better Newspaper Contest

The *Arnold Sentinel* came away with three awards in the 2020 Better Newspaper Competition among the newspapers of Nebraska. The awards were announced through an on-line presentation June 25 due to the cancellation of the Nebraska Press Association’s Annual Convention, normally held in the spring.

The *Sentinel* placed 1st in the Class A Single Feature Story category with the entry “Chester From Nebraska” written by Janet Larreau. The story, about unassuming farm boy Chester Oberg rocking it on stage at a concert, caught the judges’ attention.

A judge commented, “Great narrative style, great context for readers, and lots of personality through quotes.”

The *Sentinel* placed 2nd in the Class A Youth category. Three examples of youth coverage were submitted for this entry, including the *Sentinel*’s first-

ever 16-page 4-H Youth Tab, filled with stories about our local 4-H youth and supportive sponsor ads; a CAPABLE intern story focusing on Lydia Connell; and the story “How to Start a Business: 101,” informing readers about young entrepreneurs Ella Cool, Ryker Atkins and Macy Atkins, who were hard at work over the summer making and selling their individual products.

And finally, the *Sentinel* placed 2nd in the Heading Writing category with the headline “A Split Second” by Janet Larreau with Arnold resident Clint Connelly pictured going head-to-head with a 1,400 lb. bull.

More than 3,400 separate entries, representing 10 dailies and 59 weeklies, were judged by the Illinois Press Association. Entries were submitted from issues published from January 1 to December 31, 2019.



Photo/Debbie Connelly

Kids and parents were cooling off last week after COVID-19 mandates were loosened and the pool was patched and filled. The first week saw a record number of people enjoying swimming.

Red Cross Now Testing All Blood Donations for COVID-19 Antibodies

Urgent need for blood donors to help prevent summer shortage. Next Arnold blood drive is July 6

OMAHA, NEBRASKA (June 15, 2020) — Beginning today and for a limited time, the American Red Cross is testing all blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies, providing donors insight into whether they have been exposed to this coronavirus. At the same time, there continues to be an urgent need for blood donations as hospitals resume surgeries and treatments that require blood products.

The Arnold Community Blood Drive will be held Monday, July 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Community Center. All donors are required to wear a mask, but if you do not have one, the Red Cross will provide one for you. To schedule an appointment, call or text Amanda Koubek Wehnes at 308-660-6709.

All presenting donors will receive a free t-shirt from the American Red Cross.

Antibody testing will indicate

if the donor’s immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether they developed symptoms. Donations will be tested using samples pulled at the time of donation and sent to a testing laboratory where they will also undergo routine infectious disease testing. A positive antibody test result does not confirm infection or immunity.

COVID-19 antibody test re-

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Finch Drug Store Historical Marker Now In Place

A historical marker was placed on the building owned by Echo Pelster on West Arnold Ave. last week. The building was originally the Finch Drug Store.

Each week we will remind readers that project organizer Berni Crow is seeking information and vintage photos about Arnold buildings in order to complete more markers. She only borrows the materials and photos for a few hours, scans them and returns them on the same day.

The Finch Drug Store marker reads as follows:

Finch Drug Store - 1886

John Finch was another ambitious young man in early Arnold history. Ephriam “Swain” Finch and wife Sarah were John’s uncle and aunt. Brothers Swain, Thomas, and David had all come with their families to the Loup Valley, having prospered in Hardin County, Iowa. Free range for cattle was gone by 1873, so they drove their herd of cattle to Nebraska. They stayed at Pawnee Creek, near Brady, for two years before moving on to the South Loup Valley. While at Pawnee Creek, Swain and Sarah lost their only child, a 13 year old foster daughter. Brother Thomas Finch and three of his children all died of typhoid fever the year of the move, leaving two sons John Finch, who came to live with Sarah and Swain, and Will who came to the area around 1905. The David Finch family returned to Iowa. John Finch rode and “punched cows” for the “Olive” outfit, near Callaway, and became lifelong friends with Ira Olive. (A *Sentinel* article in a 1936 newspaper stated that

John Finch, “had received two prized mementos of the earliest pioneer days in this territory, which he had such an honorable and prominent part.” Those two items were Ira’s Colt 44 six-shooter, and a Winchester saddle rifle. John Finch’s grandson, Faylin Finch (deceased), became the new owner of the “prized” guns.)

In early 1886, John Finch, who had married May Kelley from Cozad in 1883, tired of working in R.E. Allen’s store as a clerk and postmaster for two years, bought out Virgil Cannon’s interest in the Long Drug Store. (John and May’s first home was a little house in back of the drug store, that had to be moved to make room for Dierks Lumber in 1912.) John hired Dr. Murray to run his drug store for him until Charlie Root took over. Root, a druggist from Iowa, had filed a claim east of Devil’s Den, staying until he proved up in the early spring. Realizing that Callaway was going to have a Railroad before Arnold, he backed his wagon up to the Drug Store, loaded all his possessions and proceeded down the river to Callaway.

After Root’s departure, Finch briefly hired retired druggist Long to run the store, then John took over. This was the beginning of John Finch’s sixty year business (1886-1946) as a druggist, learning about “every drug in existence” from Long and the “National Dispensatory, 1884 ed.” After 16 months in the Long Store, he moved to Editor Miller’s Print Shop (present site), which had been built in 1884. Miller was run out of town for his unpopular position on division of the county.

John and May added

a back room to the print shop, and used it for their drug store, until they built the new brick building in 1913-14, Finch Drug Store. Finch’s new drug store featured a splendid marble-topped soda fountain, and old-timers remember the spittoon that sat in the middle of the floor. The second floor of the Finch building was designed for use as a Lodge Hall, with both Masons and O.E.S using it for their meetings. May and John had two children, Rex who died as an infant, and Fay who became a business partner with his father. The Rex Chapter of O. E. S. was named for their child.

John’s son Fay married Ruth McFarland from Callaway in 1921, and their children were Faylin and Patsy (Mrs. Elvin ‘Bub’ Kilmer). The years 1940-1946 saw closings of four of the oldest businesses in Arnold including T.L. Jones Mercantile, John Jameson’s Custer Hotel, L.P. Rose Hardware, and the oldest of all Finch Drug Store. In 1946, John and son Fay Finch closed their doors and sold the store to Joe Hill, a Rex-all representative for the area. By 1951, Joe Hill had passed away, and his wife, Loretta, kept the store open until 1954. The business was then sold to Bill Frazier; the building and lot were sold to Mynor and Cecil Smith. Marge Corbin-Hagler used the building as a café for a short time, and Ken Myer used it as an electrical shop.

The Ken and Jeanne Myer family made their home in the spacious upstairs living quarters, 1987-1989. Myer Electric, Plumbing & Heating was their

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Courtesy photo

Business owner Echo Pelster stands beside the Finch Drug Store historical marker that has been placed on her building. This is the fifth marker that has been completed for the Rotary project by Berni Crow. A total of 40-plus signs for Arnold buildings are planned in order to complete the project.



Happy 4th of July!



Residents are invited to view the 4th of July fireworks display at Old Mill Park starting at dusk. Sponsored by the Sandhills Open Road Challenge, the fireworks will be set off by the Gunther Fireworks team and will include Posting of Colors by American Legion Post 130 and V.F.W. and music by Westbrook Audio. The display is brought to you by Arnold Chamber.

Fourth of July pool festivities will start at 1:30 p.m. for ages 2 to 8th Grade and include a baby pool scramble, relay, mermaid race, best cannon ball splash and shallow end scramble. The pool will be open, with free admission, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.