

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 4



Photos/Jessica Tickle

(Above) Little Maddison Nansel cools off while participating in the 4th of July baby pool scramble at the Arnold Pool. (Right) A beautiful fireworks display lights up the sky at Old Mill Park.



## Celebrating Independence Day

Residents and out of town visitors were offered two events to enjoy on the 4th of July. At the pool, festivities included a baby pool scramble, relay, mermaid race, best cannon ball splash and shallow end scramble for ages 2 to 8th Grade. Pool manager Shavonne Schacher said around 40 kids participated in the events and lots of families took advantage of free swimming. “It was the best turnout for older kids that we’ve had for the festivities,” she said.

The annual fireworks display started at Old Mill Park at dusk. Sponsored by SORC and set off by the Gunther Fireworks Team, the event drew a very good crowd. The display included Posting of the Colors by Legion Post 130 and V.F.W. and music provided by Westbrook Audio. Arnold Chamber was also a sponsor of the event, providing publicity.

## Historical Marker Placed at Theater



Courtesy photo

Arnold Community Theater board members, (from left) Rose Bierman, Mary Becker, Sue Beshaler, Lori Stutzman, Heather Furne and Berni Crow, stand by the new historical marker placed at the Rialto Theatre. Not pictured are board members Patty Lamberty, Kay Lohmiller and Sulin Best.

The historical marker project continues to move forward, with several more completed and now in place. One of the latest markers to go up is at the historic Rialto Theatre.

The Rialto Theatre marker reads as follows:

### Rialto Theater (1924)

The Arnold Community Theater (Rialto) is the only theater still in use, of three that have existed in Arnold. The construction of the present brick Rialto building was completed in 1924 by Hawley Wehrley. (It was erected on the spot where Mrs. Ulysses Twiss' Busy Bee Café had burned down shortly after Frank Yost had taken ownership.)

The Rex Theater, which had opened about 1916, was sold to be used as the Nazarene church in June of 1921. (On Thanksgiving day, December 1922, two basketball games were played in the new Baptist Church - Walnut and Jefferson corner. Before that time, the Rex Theater had been used for basketball games.) The Isis Theater was owned by Amos and Annie Ervin who had rented the north store of Fred Brown's building (Reed's Food Center). Tickets were 10 cents for children and 25 cents for adults. The Ervins ran the Isis for three years (1922-1924) before selling their equipment

to Hawley Wehrley, who then moved it to his new brick building. To attract customers to his newly built Rialto Theater, Hawley made a deal with an Ohio China company. Each movie ticket purchased by a lady on Wednesday night earned the patron a free piece of china (toward a complete 60 piece set). In 1929, the first talking picture show in the theater featured Al Jolson in "The Singing Fool". Hawley made further improvements to the theater, including lush seats and drapes, before selling it to U. A. (Ulysses) and Dolly Brown in 1934. (An ordinance was

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## Rialto Theatre Marks 10-Year Anniversary

Reopening date still uncertain due to pandemic

The Rialto Theatre marked its 10-year anniversary of showing movies in the newly-renovated building on July 2, 2020. A big birthday celebration was planned, but due to the pandemic, the theater stopped showing movies in late March and has not reopened since.

"We're in the same boat as the big theaters are in. There are just no new movies being released to theaters. We don't know if the movie companies are willing to release when there aren't a lot of states still open due to COVID. We're not just talking about movie theaters in the U.S., we're talking worldwide," said Rialto Theatre Board President Mary Becker.

"Both Patty Lamberty and I are diligently watching when movies may be released, but to be honest, we have no clue; reopening in July or even August is doubtful. Movie companies are going directly to streaming some new releases, but I think they will stop as soon as movie theaters are able to reopen."

Some theaters that are open are running old movies and

getting sponsors, but Mary said they just don't know how big of a turnout the Arnold theater could get. Yet, the board hasn't ruled it out.

A birthday celebration will be held when the theater does reopen and Mary said it will be special.

(sub-heading) Work completed on exposed south wall

Before the pandemic started, the theater board hired Brent Urbanovsky to fill in rafter holes with mortar that were left after Koubek Lockers was torn down. It wasn't something the board was aware of and Mary said they lucked out, because there are three layers of brick on the south wall, which helped to keep moisture out and ruining the new drywall on the interior. Arnold resident Ron Cool drove by and noticed the work being done in June. He offered to pay Brent to take off all the loose plaster on the exposed wall.

"That was very helpful and appreciated. We should be good to go for quite a while," said Mary.

## Township Board Needs Community's Help

The Arnold Township Board needs pictures showing road damage from the Bomb Cyclone in March 2019. There are several locations, identified by FEMA, that the board does not have photos of documenting the disaster damage.

The board welcomes any photos of damaged roads from this storm; however, if you know a location, please include the information with the photo.

Photos received with no location will be used to demonstrate the extent of damage in

our township.

Please e-mail Roger at arnoldtownship@gmail.com or text pictures to Dan at 308-520-3435 or Tony at 308-530-6200.

### 4-H Council Meeting

The Custer County 4-H Council will meet on Monday, July 13, at 7:30 p.m. via ZOOM. A meeting agenda will be posted at the Custer County Courthouse in Broken Bow, after July 6. The meeting is open to the public.