

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 15



Photo/Debbie Connelly

Renee Trooper assists customer Kathy Halstead last week, as she started her position as Arnold's new NTFT. Long-time Postmaster and NTFT Ann Griebel retired from the position at the end of August.

## New NTFT Welcoming Customers at Arnold Post Office

Renee Trooper took over her duties as the new NTFT at the Arnold Post Office on September 12, replacing Ann Griebel, who retired.

Renee started with USPS in January 2015 at the Stapleton office and has been serving as the NTFT at Tryon for the last three years.

“I chose to transfer simply because it's a busier office with more opportunities to grow as a person and in my career,” said Renee.

Renee grew up in California, but graduated in North Platte. She and her husband, Jason, have been married for 25 years and moved to Stapleton nine

years ago. She plans to commute to Arnold.

“The kids were going to school in Stapleton at the time and we decided to move there because we liked the smaller community. We bought a home that was stuck in the 70s and considered it our project. We love to DIY and do projects together around the house. We have made it ours,” she said.

Jason works for the Lincoln County Department of Roads. Their daughter, Jayla, is the oldest. She graduated from Stapleton in 2014 and has a bachelor's degree in Biology from Doane and is working on

her BSN at Wesleyan in Lincoln. Their son Jacob graduated from Stapleton in 2019 and is in the Army National Guard, joining when he was 17. He is a sophomore at Peru State College and wants to be a PE teacher and a coach. Now, Renee says, it's just the two empty nesters with two fur babies.

“People have been friendly and welcoming during my first week. I look forward to meeting others and learning more about the community,” she said.

More information on what this model project will mean for the town of Arnold, its rural residents and agriculture producers in the surrounding area will be published in an upcoming story as details are provided from Paige Wireless.

### Crosswalk and Signage

The Village has been considering installing a crosswalk and signage at the junction of Highway 92 and Broadway and made its request to the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDT). As luck would have it, Arnold will be able to coordinate with NDOT's 2023 plan to repair the curb and sidewalk at the same location, which will save money.

At the meeting, Board members decided to plan for the project after discussing correspondence from NDOT's dis-

trict traffic manager. The Village was informed that it would be responsible for paying for the equipment, signage and installation and for all maintenance after the initial installation. A good estimate for the electrical equipment installation, along with the signs, could cost anywhere from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00. Correspondence indicated that the Village would also have to fix the curbs at the location the crosswalk is being installed and it would need to meet ADA requirements. The state also has improvement projects across the state periodically for the repair of curb and sidewalk at certain locations and Arnold is currently being considered for one of these projects in 2023, where a contractor would be hired to fix the curb and sidewalk at certain locations to meet the ADA standards. The junction of N-92 and Broadway is one corner that is proposed to be fixed. The Village could coordinate the installation of the crosswalk and signage with this future project.

### AEDC Update

As part of her update, AEDC Director Cheryl Carson reported that two lighted, weatherproof, lockable display cases for the Arnold Lake Campground and Recreation Area have arrived. These will be to hold single piece promotional material for Arnold's businesses, as well as event posters for community events in Arnold. Guidelines can be obtained from the AEDC OFFICE.

In other business, the Board:

- Considered selling railroad right of way property, adjacent to the 200 Block of West Washington, at the request of John Halstead. Discussion was held on the utilities and there would have to be easements. Members voted not to sell the property.

- Heard from Village Superintendent Doug DeLaune that there will be a household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, October 3, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

## Historical Marker Placed at Arnold Post Office

This week we continue our series on historical markers being placed on buildings in Arnold. A project of Arnold Rotary, Berni Crow is organizer. The marker placed at the Arnold Post Office reads as follows:

### Arnold & Ritchie Ranch - 1876

### Present Arnold Post Office - 1959

Arnold's Post Office story began long before 1959, the year that the present post office was built by W. B. Hagler, and is presently owned by the Erikson Family. Back in the late 1800's early 1900's, people needed to send mail, but frontier delivery was quite different from present day delivery. Arnold's first mail service consisted of delivery addressed to "Arnold & Ritchie Ranch, % (care of) Postmaster." Since 1876, mail was delivered to the Loup Valley every two weeks by horseback from Plum Creek (Lexington). The two ranching partners took turns handling the mail. By 1881 a change needed to be made, so Richard (R.E.) Allen offered to have the post office in his sod house. Richard Allen, Landis Correll, and George Arnold, met on March 21, 1881 to choose a name for the new post office; all three men's last names were considered. 'Arnold' was finally chosen and a letter was sent to Washington to procure a new rubber stamp. Sadly, George

Arnold, who was partially paralyzed from a stroke he'd had the prior year, may have never known that the post office with his name grew to be a bustling town. G. Arnold died in 1900 after moving back to his family home in Ohio, leaving no relatives in Arnold. (Before entering the cattle business, George Arnold had served in the Civil War and married Ella Taylor, daughter of the Omaha Bee editor, Edward Taylor, a one-term governor of the state by appointment. The Arnolds had four children when they came to the ranch. Their baby was the only baby in the country at that time.) In the spring of 1884, the little town and its people had a spirit of optimism, hoping to become the county seat, and expecting the railroad to arrive soon. In just a few years, the village reached a population of 1500. That spring, wagons coming to Arnold along the Loup River carried many land seekers who also had a vocation: blacksmith, printer, butcher, carpenter, lawyer, merchant, harness maker, and doctor, to name a few. With all the new arrivals, people began building as soon as the snow melted. Allen's Pioneer Store was the first to go up on the corner of Walnut and Arnold Avenue (Archie's Cafe/empty building 2020). R.E. Allen soon moved his supplies and the post office from his soddy to the Pioneer Store. Abner



Courtesy photo

Retired NTFT Ann Griebel stands by the historical marker placed on the Arnold Post Office.

Brown and Josiah Wilcher, Milldale homesteaders, were hired by Allen to haul the lumber and build his Pioneer Store. Allen then hired John Finch, nephew of Swain Finch, to clerk his store and manage the post office. John was newly married to May Kelley from Cozad, where he had been the postmaster and operator of a general store for two years. The post office, in those days, was often a room in the resident's home. In 1887, Ben and Edna (Sprague) Hardin secured a tree claim just south of town. Adjoining their claim was a pre-emption occupied by Solomon Case (Mary and Don Hardin Residence). They acquired the property by paying for the relinquishment. The "improvements" consisted of a sod house, sod stable, ten acres already broken, and a dug well. The Hardins made a deal with Case and moved in. It was well known that Ben had a fine education in vocal and instrumen-

tal music. Years later his grandsons, brothers Don and John Hardin, were members of "Sargent's Melody Masters" a young Arnold dance band in the 1950's. Don taught music in the Arnold School System for many years. Ron Sargent, pianist in the band, was an uncle to my husband Dave Crow. Not too long after the Case transaction, Hardins built the Hardin Store (Pinnacle Bank

See Historical Marker, Page 2