

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Photo/Debbie Connelly

Deb Hall has been keeping busy promoting Finch Memorial Library by writing columns, posting to Facebook and planning events. Her work is paying off.

Promoting Finch Library

By Janet Larreau

If you want to know what's going on at Finch Memorial Library, just ask Deb Hall, who willingly took on the job of promoting the library after moving to Arnold. Her column "Library Lowdown" is popular with Sentinel readers, but there's a lot more to her job than that. She spends about 4-5 hours a week working on her column, posting to Facebook and coming up with great ideas to draw both adults and kids into the library.

Deb, and her husband Tony, who works for TEAM Physical Therapy as a physical therapy assistant, moved to Arnold in July of 2019 to be closer to their daughter, Leron Bierman, and her family. They have a son, who lives in Shelton, and nine grandchildren to have fun with.

"We had been wanting to get out of Grand Island for a while and the kids were both wanting that for us as well. Our other choice was Biloxi, Mississippi, but that put us way too far from our family," she said.

In Grand Island, Deb did in-home childcare for a little over five years. In approximately 1996 she worked for a friend

that was doing an online news source for McPherson County. Online news was pretty new back then and no one was interested in financially backing it, so her friend had to stop. In 2002-2005, she worked at a public school as a para. While she was there, they automated their library and she helped enter books into the computer and place the labels.

After moving here, she was approached by board member Rose Bierman about promoting the library. She took the part-time job and ever since then, has been working on new ideas. One of her best ideas was the 2020 Reading Challenge. She spent a lot of hours making book lists that the library has in each category for the challenge. Pinterest is a big source of ideas for Deb, and she sometimes bounces them off of Leron for her input and she, in turn, sends her mom ideas when she sees them. She also works to find missing items and updates the library's contact information for its patrons.

Back in March - before the pandemic - Deb hosted a Dr. Seuss birthday party and children were invited to leave their stuffed animals for a sleepover that night. After the children left, she staged the stuffed friends "doing" some activities

with Sammy - the library's resident Cat-in-the-Hat.

She and library director Marcy Lucas attended a Summer Reading Program workshop in Broken Bow in late January of 2020 and are working on ideas for a future program.

Deb and Tony plan to stay in Arnold permanently, unless God has other plans at some point.

"We love the community because of the friendly, welcoming people, and of course those little Biermans. The community has been near and dear to us because of the support we have seen towards our daughter and her family through some tough times. You just don't get that in larger towns. The love for fast cars that I share with my son has brought me here many, many Augusts," she said.

The new book section in her column has definitely been a hit. Several patrons have stopped in the library to request a book after reading her column and they plan to come back.

"Reading is a very important part of our lives. It can keep you informed, take you on adventures, calm your mind and a wide gamut of other benefits," she said.

Area Students Selected for Believers & Achievers Award

The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) and U.S. Bank® are proud to sponsor Believers & Achievers, a state-wide awards program that recognizes Nebraska's future leaders. Believers & Achievers has been designed to reward high school students in Nebraska for their excellence in academics and participation in NSAA activities. Those students who show a commitment to citizenship, school involvement and community projects will be honored in the Believers & Achievers program.

U.S. Bank® and the Nebraska School Activities Association are proud to announce the 2020-21 local school winners of the Believers & Achievers award. Each NSAA member school is able to submit four senior students for recognition in this awards program.

Here are the students from the area that were recognized: Jadeyn Bubak, Kacee Dvorak and Landyn Cole from Arnold and Laney Badgley, Dalton Kunkee, Calyn Liable from Callaway.

Loup Basin Reports Nine New COVID-19 Cases Since Last Update

LBPHD: Nine new COVID-19 cases have been reported in the nine counties of Loup Basin's district since Wednesday.

The cases were reported from:

Custer (4) - community spread, contact with known positive

Greeley (2) - contact with known positive, travel out of the state

Valley (1) - community spread

Howard (1) - contact with known positive

Sherman (1) - community spread

All known close contacts have been asked to quarantine.

Two new recoveries have also

been reported from Howard County.

District Totals: Positives 274/ Recovered 225/ Deaths 10/ Negative Tests: 4758.

Custer County had 83 positives, 74 recovered and 4 deaths and 5 active cases.

Some statistics follow:

- Average age of positive cases: 49

- 78% of cases have reported symptoms

- 8% have been hospitalized during their illness

- 2.14 days is the average time frame from testing date to public health receiving notification of the positive test

New Online Service for DMV Temporary Driver License

LINCOLN - Beginning October 1, Nebraska drivers after renewing their driver license will have the option to print their temporary license at home. Previously, when renewing a driver license online, the only way to obtain a temporary driver license while waiting for the new license to be printed and delivered, was to visit a DMV office.

To accommodate the added convenience, design changes have been made to the temporary license to ensure it can be printed at home from any standard printer. The new design will be printable on an 8.5x11 sheet of paper and will no longer feature a photo.

"Most Nebraskans are able to renew their driver license online twice, meaning they only need to visit a DMV office once every 15 years," said Rhonda Lahm, Director of the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles.

"A permanent driver license can take up to 20 days to be de-

livered, so the added convenience of renewing and printing from home, creates a much more accessible option for our customers."

As with the current temporary license, the new temporary license is valid for driver purposes as a stand-alone document. Individuals may need to provide a secondary form of identification when used for any other identification purpose. If someone is unaware whether a business or organization will accept the temporary license for identification purposes, it would be best to contact them directly. The new temporary license is also available for those who renewed online but do not have a printer, by visiting their local DMV.

The Nebraska DMV has dozens of services available online. A full list of services is available at dmv.nebraska.gov/services.



Photo/Debbie Connelly

Junk Jaunt Draws Treasure Hunters to Town

Vern Pelster (3rd from left), owner of Sandhills Treasure Trove in Arnold, was keeping things organized as bargain and treasure hunters look over what he had to offer last Friday morning at his location along Highway 92. Vern and wife Echo had a busy three days, as they counted over 700 people stop at their Nebraska Junk Jaunt location. Echo reported that people stopped in Arnold from several states, including Minnesota, Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, Washington State, Iowa, Kansas, and South Dakota. That's as far as she knows. "I'm sure there were other (states). I wasn't out there all the time," she said. Arnold had about 9 or 10 locations to stop at, as shoppers made their way to the official Junk Jaunt route along on Highways 11, 91 and 2 in Central Nebraska. This year there were 33 participating towns and approximately 450 vendors. Arnold, which is outside of the loop, benefits each year. "It sure helps the community. They eat and go for coffee. We try to point them the right way when they're here," said Echo. Vern opened Sandhills Treasure Trove in the west side of the Principal Life building back in May and starting on October 9 will be open every Friday. The business is linked to Ebay and Facebook, where over 500 items are listed. A ship ready process is completed for those items. Someday, they would like to expand. "The fun part is the people we meet who come back sometimes just to say hello," said Echo.