

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

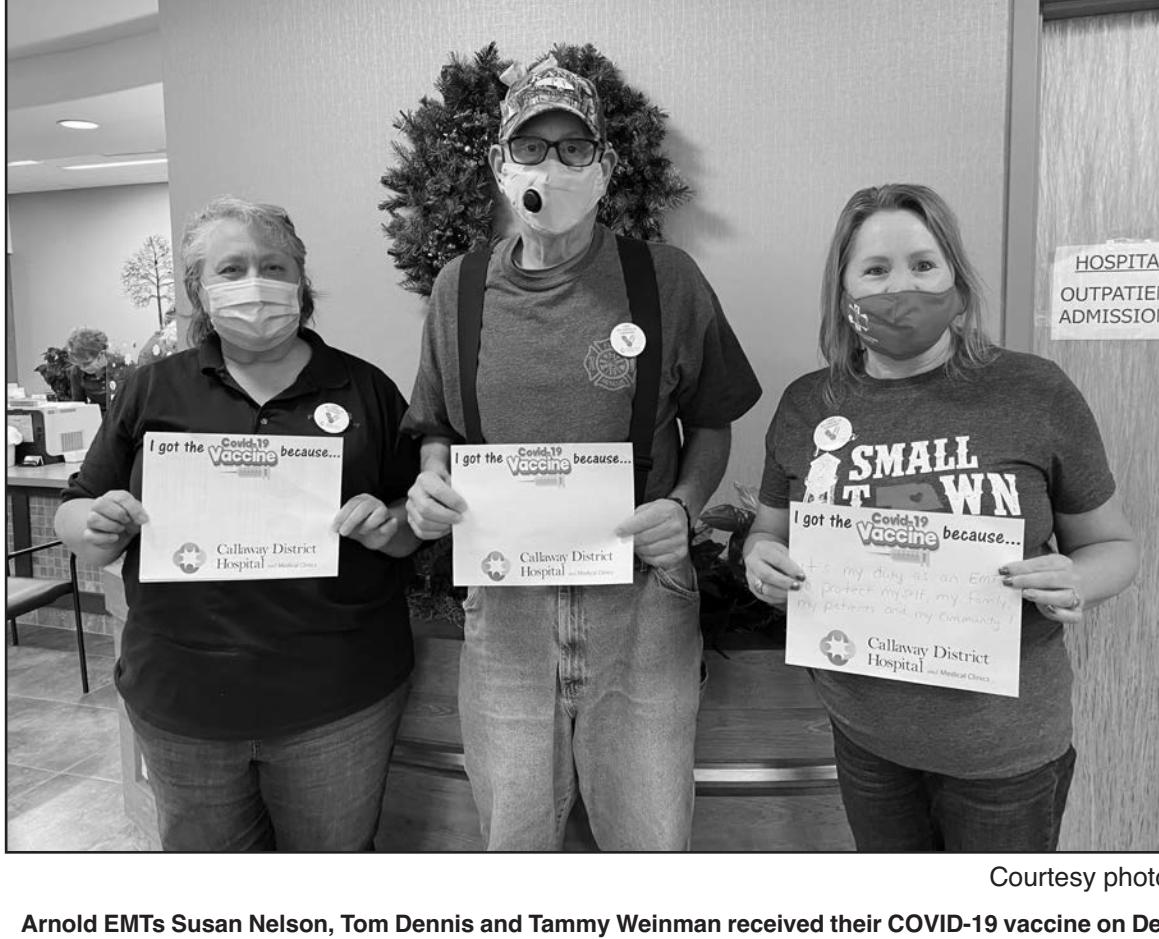
THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Courtesy photo

Arnold EMTs Susan Nelson, Tom Dennis and Tammy Weinman received their COVID-19 vaccine on December 31 as part of Phase 1A of the vaccination plan for COVID-19.

Custer County EMTs Are Among First to Receive COVID-19 Vaccinations

EMTs are included in Phase 1A of the vaccination plan for COVID-19. Phase 1A consist of healthcare system staff, primary care physicians, EMS, COVID-19 specimen collectors, home health/hospice staff, long term care residents/staff, pharmacists, dentist, dental hygienist, school nurses, therapist, mental healthcare providers, optometrist, chaplains, chiropractors, veterinarian staff and public health.

The Arnold Volunteer Fire Department was first contacted by their medical director, Dr. Williams, a few weeks ago to let them know that the vaccines were going to be available to the EMTs in the very near future. At AVFD's December meeting, Dr. Williams, Dr. Svoboda and Brett Eggleson joined members by Zoom to inform the department about the vaccine and answer any questions they might have. The department was informed that the Moderna vaccine would be the vaccine that would be available to them.

Brett Eggleson, CEO of Call-

away District Hospital, explained that the original plan was for everyone to go to the Loup Basin Health Department in Burwell to receive their vaccines, but he felt that was not very feasible for many of the EMTs. He worked with Loup Basin Health Department and brought the vaccines to Callaway himself to be administered by the Callaway Medical Clinic staff. Brett then set up times for Arnold, Callaway and Oconto EMTs and other healthcare providers to come in on Thursday, December 31, to receive their vaccines. These vaccines were free of charge and the Callaway Clinic waived the administration fees for the EMTs.

There is a lot of planning involved in administering these vaccines. Each vial contains 10 vaccines. Once the vial is open, they have to be used within 6 hours. After the first vaccine, a second vaccine must be administered within a few weeks so that appointment was also set up the day of the first vaccine.

The firemen will be included

in Phase 1B of the vaccination plan and Arnold Volunteer Fire Department has several firemen who will be getting the vaccine. If you have had COVID-19 in the last 90 days, you are not eligible to participate in the vaccination plan at this time, but can get the vaccination after the 90 days. The Callaway medical staff have been great to work with those individuals on getting them schedule for vaccines as well.

The FDA authorized the emergency use of the Moderna vaccine for ages 18 and older due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rialto Theatre Will Reopen In Mid-January

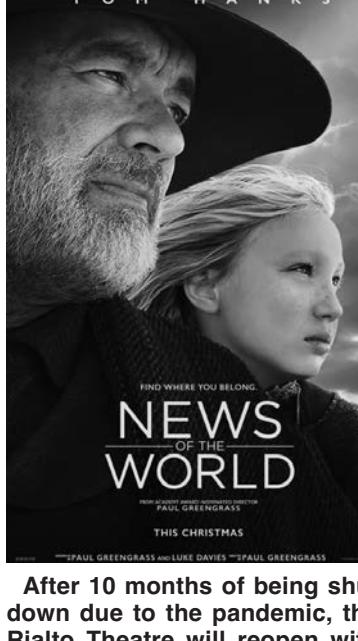
Who doesn't love a good Western and a Tom Hanks movie? The first film to be shown since the Rialto Theatre shut down due to COVID-19 in mid-March of 2020 will have both. The newly released "News of the World" should be a hit, and it was the main reason the decision was made to not wait until spring and re-open the weekend of January 15-17.

"News of the World" will run three consecutive weekends, and will be followed the next three weekends by the animated, adventure comedy "The Croods: A New Age," which was released at Thanksgiving time.

"There's so many COVID-19 cases in the cities that the movie companies are releasing very few new films. We thought if we held these first two for three weeks, it will take us through the end of February, and maybe by then we will see a few new releases," said Theater Board President Mary Becker.

Since the pandemic, movie companies have been releasing new movies via live streaming. This can be a big problem for movie theaters as people watch from home. How long new releases will be live streamed is anyone's guess, but Mary feels that some people want to get out and see movies in theaters on the big screen, and some movies are just better on the big screen. A lot of theaters have been showing old movies to keep their doors open. The Rialto chose not to do that.

Safety precautions will be put in place for both volunteers and patrons. Volunteers will wear masks and gloves when they pop popcorn, and only two volunteers will be allowed behind the counter. The recommendation will be made that people wear masks and stay six feet apart, but this is only a recommendation.



After 10 months of being shut down due to the pandemic, the Rialto Theatre will reopen with the showing of "News of the World."

Theaters can now operate at 75 percent capacity in Nebraska, and when Mary booked the two movies, she was required to send in paperwork on what the current mandates are for our state.

She said there are a lot of things happening in the movie theater business right now. In the new COVID bill that was signed by President Trump, money is earmarked for the arts, which includes movie theaters. The theater board will be watching to see whether or not that money will be available and trickle down to smaller theaters to help with operating expenses.

"There are movie theaters that are closed and will not reopen. Arnold is fortunate that the Rialto is reopening. The Board is excited," said Mary.

Movie times will be Fridays and Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

Reader Interaction Series Kicks Off New Year



Courtesy photo

Loyal subscriber Norvin Pearce sits back in his favorite place to read The Sentinel each week - a lounge chair in his residence in Kearney, Nebraska. A 1948 graduate of A.H.S., Norvin is the first subscriber to take part in the 2021 Reader Interaction series. This gives him the honor of making the front page.

The Arnold Sentinel is kicking off the new year with a Reader Interaction series that will highlight our loyal subscribers - whether in town, in Nebraska, or out of state.

"We have so many subscribers who tell us they don't like to miss a single issue," said Sentinel editor Janet Larreau. "This will be a fun way for them to interact with us through the year.

During the pandemic, as people have been confined at home, we have found that subscriptions have actually increased. People want to read some "good news" for a change and keep up with their hometown during these uncertain times."

Please turn to page 2 to learn all the details of how you can participate in the series, and read Norvin's responses.



Photo/Debbie Connolly

Improvements at Hotel Custer

Jimmy Davenport was finishing up laying new flooring in the north entryway of Hotel Custer last week with new Luxury Vinyl Plank, replacing the worn carpeting that has served its purpose. When completed, all of the flooring in the lower level - including the office and business spaces - will be replaced with LVP.

Three businesses are currently operating in the lower level - including Touch of Grace Massage Therapy & Spa, Sugar Sand Boutique and Natalie Coleman, who provides bookkeeping services. A fourth business - Smooth Aesthetic Spa, owned by Heidi Horst - will move into the space formerly occupied by an attorney when updates are completed.