

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Courtesy photo

Grazer's Bar & Grill owners Annie Vettell and Jesse Halstead are pictured standing by the two historical markers placed on their building last week.

Grazer's Bar & Grill building has long history

The Grazer's Bar & Grill building, situated along Highway 92 in Arnold, has a very long and interesting history. So long, in fact, that it took two historical markers to record the history of the building dating back to 1938. The Rotary Historical Marker project is headed up by Berni Crow. Following is the wording on the markers:

Art Buchfink and Herb Vogel's Liquor Store - 1938

Arnold's first liquor store was opened in 1938 by Herb Vogel and Art Buchfink. The village newspaper had a policy of not placing ads for any liquor store, so information on these first establishments is minimal, at best. "Buchfink & Vogel's

Liquor Store" building was built by Charlie McGuire in 1912, and housed Arnold's first post office. Vogel and Buchfink temporarily moved their liquor store (McGuire's building) across the street to the east of Glen Myers' Dance Hall (Horses and Harleys), so that they would not lose business while building their new store. Later, the McGuire building was moved once again, this time, to Carl Vogel's yard. Vogel and Buchfink attached their new liquor store to George Halstead's feed store. On opening day in 1938, beer was sold for one cent per glass. (A request for beer by the drink, had been granted by the state liquor commission after the Village Board

had denied Buchfink and Vogel's request for a license.)

In the year 1955, liquor sales in Arnold provided \$150 revenue to the state, \$100 to the village, and \$25 to School District 89. During that same year a petition was turned in to the Village Board with 205 signatures requesting "liquor by the drink". Speculation indicates that Arnold was the first Custer County village to make this request. It failed by a vote of 245 to 136. Finally in 1977, after a 1974 vote of 181 to 124, the measure passed. In April of 1933, 3.2 beer had become available and both Charlie Pierce and Floyd Mills filed for beverage licenses for their cafés. However, local boards were not allowed to grant or reject licenses at that time. In

the early days of Arnold, as was common in many small communities, there never seemed to be a lack of liquor. Whiskey could often be found at Merchants' stores 'for medicinal purposes'... perhaps being presented to the purchasers through the "back door". Moonshine was not uncommon in some of the local communities. "Tappen's Best" whiskey would often appear at local celebrations. "Heavy" melons and lighter melons were generally about the same size, but the heavier ones sold for \$3.00 as opposed to \$0.50 for the lighter ones. Stills and various quantities of liquor were found in several places outside the village borders.... it appeared that liquor was in

Arnold to stay. Through the years, that first bar changed hands only seven times, with Eastburns owning it twice. Herb Vogel continued managing the store for about 16 years selling it to Jim and Margaret Eastburn in 1954. Herb and Marie Vogel had built the present building in 1952. The Eastburns ran "Jim's Bar" for 25 years selling it in 1979 to Rich and Jane Hornung. At the time of Hornung's purchase, George Halstead still owned the building next door. Upon Halstead's decision to sell his feed store, Bellamy Grain Corporation closed the business, and the Hornungs purchased the grain store. They removed the partition between the two stores adding more dining space to the liquor store. Rich and Jane replaced the floor of the feed store with usable sections of the school gymnasium floor, which had been damaged by a severe storm. Also at that time, the Hornungs added exterior brick and shake shingles. The name was changed for a short time to "South Forty", but locally it was always known as "Jim's Bar". (However, the bar, pine paneling, red table, and the diagonal door remained the same as it had been since the Vogels built it.) On Hornung's opening day, their fourth child was due. Jane Hornung stated, "About closing time the baby would wait no longer and the customers had to clean up and lock up. There were always reliable considerate customers." Jane added, "...there were numerous recounts of individuals

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Babies of 2020 Featured This Week

The Sentinel is pleased to present our annual "Babies" feature this week. The number of babies submitted that were born in 2020 was down this year, but a quick Google search says another "baby boom" is expected in 2021 due to the pandemic; yet, other experts say it will be the opposite, with couples holding off on having more children due to their concerns about the future.

Only time will tell which hypothesis is right or wrong.

CNEDD launches a Statewide Broadband Speed Mapping Initiative

In an effort to better understand the state's broadband capacity, the Central Nebraska Economic Development District (CNEDD) is excited to partner with other development districts across the state to launch a statewide broadband speed mapping initiative. As broadband has become an increasingly important part of life, further intensified by COVID-19, creating an affordable and accessible statewide network is critical for growth. This project is funded through a U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) CARES grant.

"We know there are pockets of good internet services in our region, and many areas where service is limited or non-existent. Without robust internet service, our 14-county region will be challenged to attract businesses and people to our communities," said CNEDD Executive Director Judy Petersen.

CNEDD is partnering with the geospatial engineering firm, GEO Partners LLC to assist with the mapping initiative to determine availability, reliability, and redundancy of broadband. What makes this initiative unique is the data is both dynamic, meaning points are constantly being added, and it is to the "parcel-level," which helps internet service providers know exactly where they should invest.

The primary goal of the initiative is to give elected officials, businesses, and the public accurate data, so they know ex-

actly where they stand with broadband speeds. Information will support future broadband expansion grants and projects across the state. Community surveys will help identify the areas lacking high-speed internet.

CNEDD invites everyone to help them gather this data by going to cnedd.org/central-broadband and completing the speed test. Participation on multiple days and at different times is encouraged to improve the accuracy of the study.

For additional information, please contact Judy Petersen at 402-340-0106.

Residents Enduring Extreme Temps, Snow

Residents have enjoyed a relatively mild winter so far into the season, but February is reminding everyone that it is, indeed, wintertime. A snowstorm moved in last Friday night, bringing with it several inches of snow and extremely frigid temperatures dipping below zero. Numerous events were cancelled and driving was dangerous. The outlook for cold temperatures remains much the same for the next several days, as people dig out from the storm and farmers and ranchers protect their livestock.



Photo/Debbie Connelly

Chamber reorganizes, looks forward to the new year

A young group of gals will be heading up Chamber in 2021, including: (front, from left) April Tickle, president; Corin Blowers, treasurer; (back, from left) Ali Goodenow, vice-president; Brandi Corbin, secretary; and MaKenna Johnson, assistant treasurer. Chamber - which re-organized at its regular meeting held on February 1st - is looking forward to a year of holding all scheduled events, beginning with the Chili Cook-off set for February 27. The group's focus will be on promoting businesses and the community itself. Meetings are held the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m., at Triangle Lanes.