

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 105, NUMBER 16

## 25 Years in Business

Good crowd turns out to help Mills Hardware celebrate milestone.



Courtesy photo

The gang was all there...Mills Hardware owners Terry and Dena Mills (center), with employees Angie Hopper, Jessica Tickle, Connie Downing, April Tickle, Andrew Tickle, Lillian Fletcher, and Lisa Nelson, were busy all throughout last week celebrating 25 years in business.

By Janet Larreau

Hundreds of customers from near and far turned out last week to help Mills Hardware celebrate its 25th year of doing business in Arnold. On Thursday, reps were on hand and Milwaukee tools were flying off the shelves, as people took advantage of discounts. Others were enjoying a free customer appreciation supper in the back room. It was all part of a week-long celebration.

When Terry and Dena purchased the existing Hardware

Hank store from Roger and Sharon Bombeck in October of 1996, no one foresaw how the business would grow into what it is today: an award winning store that draws customers from a very large region.

“At the time we were looking for something to supplement

our farm income. After much prayer and seeking of God’s will, we felt the doors were opened to move into the hardware business,” said Terry and Dena.

After a year in the small brick structure on Walnut Street, they said God provided the opportunity to expand and provided a buyer for the original building. They then began to rent the former Central Implement building at the south edge of Arnold from Dennis and Marla Conner. This move more than doubled their square footage, as well as providing room to expand into livestock feed and lumber. They were also able to sublease the large shop area to Weinman Tractor Repair. During these years, both daughters, Briana and April, were active and helpful in the hardware store, and April still works part-time in the business.

They enjoyed the location and those relationships for 10 years, but felt the Lord’s calling again to expand and move to a new location and busier highway. Once again, they said God opened the doors to this end.

The property where the current building stands on Highway 92 was purchased from Dena’s parents, Glen and Connie Weinman, in 2007. The Weinmans had purchased the land, cleared it, and hauled in a lot of dirt. Their dream was that there would be a business there someday.

On July 17, 2007, ground was broken for Mills Hardware’s new 12,000 square foot building. In February of 2008, the big move was made.

Over the 25 years, technical advances have been made to the business. Initially, charge business was hand written on tickets. In 2010, Terry and Dena installed their first computerized Point of Sale system; that system was again updated in 2017. In 2014 a computerized paint-mixing machine was added. A website was created and the store uses social media. A new LED display was added in 2020 that draws customers to the business off of the highway.

Future plans are to take advantage of United Hardware’s customer friendly website where customers can purchase products online and pick them

See 25 Years, Page 2

## Couple makes the leap into entrepreneurship



Courtesy photo

Rick and Paige Schweitzer, with their boys, Uriah, Zakeeus, and Elias, pictured with their trailer and KWM 5 and 6-inch gutter machine - the start of a new business named Schweitzer Seamless Gutters that the young couple started this summer.

The pandemic and the economy shutting down have led a young Arnold family to start their own business, and it’s off to a good start.

Rick Schweitzer and his wife Paige, started Schweitzer Seamless Gutters in July of 2021, but the idea actually came to them several years ago. Paige said back then, someone was already providing the service in town, and the timing wasn’t right.

Fast-forward to 2020, and Rick, unfortunately, was laid off from Union Pacific Railroad. With three children, they found themselves in uncharted waters.

Rick, who graduated from A.H.S. in 2007 and went on to

earn his welding degree from CCC in Hastings, had always had a job since he was a teenager. He had worked for Frank Hauser on and off since high school, learning a lot from him in the construction field. Paige, who graduated from Stapleton Public School and CCC in Hastings, was a stay-at-home mom who occasionally worked

as a substitute teacher or at a sale barn once a week. Knowing they wanted their kids to go to a smaller school, they moved back to Arnold from Hastings in 2013, when Rick started working for the UPRR as a carman. In 2014, the couple purchased Rick’s grandparents’

See Makes Leap, Page 2

## Arnold community makes vital contribution to patient care

ARNOLD, Nebraska — Giving blood is a selfless act. The hour it takes to give the gift of life can mean a lifetime to a patient with a serious medical need. At the Arnold Community Blood Drive on Sept. 20, a total of 33 people donated blood, each making a significant impact on the lives of others. A grand total of 27 units of blood were collected, which was the exact goal.

Donors hitting milestones were:

Ashlea Baldwin – First-time donor

Kati Pearman – First-time donor

Robbi Smith – First-time donor

Mo Sanford – 10 gallons

This drive was also special because it was a community service project for the senior class at APS, helping them to earn scholarship funds.

Every day, patients throughout our community and across the country rely on volunteer blood donors when receiving medical care. Cancer patients, trauma victims, organ transplant recipients, premature babies, sickle cell disease patients and others may need blood products.

The next blood drive in Arnold will be on Nov. 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Community Center. To make an appointment, call the school at 848-2226.