

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Careers Lead Couple to a Place Called Arnold



Courtesy photo

While serving a wide region as veterinarians, Matt and Corrine Frugé (with new baby Augustin) found their dream home in the wide open spaces of the Sandhills west of Arnold.

By Janet Larreau

Veterinarians Matt and Corrine Frugé moved into their new home on top of the hill on Ave. 240 west of town on June 1, 2020, and with the addition of baby Augustin “Gus” in September of 2021, they are loving it.

“The views are spectacular! Particularly the sunsets. Family from back home can’t believe that it’s Nebraska and they love to visit,” said Corrine.

If you haven’t yet met the cou-

ple, it’s because their careers keep them traveling down the road.

Matt, who went to high school in a small town called Basile in Southwest Louisiana, received his bachelor and masters degrees at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and received his DVM from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. He specializes in feedlot production medicine, so his work entirely consists of on-site training and data management in cattle feeding oper-

ations. His clients are located in the surrounding six states, so this means an extensive amount of travel to be on site. He owns his own company, but works within a network of other feedlot consulting veterinarians called Production Animal Consultation (PAC) which consists of 11 feedlot consultants that consult for nearly 200 feedlot operations throughout the Great Plains.

Corrine, who graduated from Amos Alonzo Stagg in Palos Hills, Illinois, with a class of

620 students, received her BS in Animal Science at Iowa State University at Ames, Iowa, and her DVM at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. She works for The Maschoffs, one of the largest family-owned hog production networks in North America. The company's headquarters is located in southern Illinois, and spans several states, including Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Wyoming. Corrine works with eight other company swine veterinarians across that geography. She provides veterinary coverage for the Great Plains region, which consists of nearly 40,000 sows and associated finishing hogs. The majority of her herds are in the Arapahoe, Nebraska, and Albin, Wyoming, areas.

“Growing up in the suburbs of Chicago, I didn’t get much exposure to agriculture,” said Corrine. “Attending undergrad at Iowa State, I knew I wanted to be a veterinarian, but that want transformed as I spent time working with the swine nutrition department at ISU and the USDA. It’s the people and the animals that make my job fun. Now, as a swine veterinarian, I take a lot of pride in the fact that my day-to-day work helps to ensure we have a safe and healthy food supply.”

As a feedlot consultant, Matt’s day typically involves leaving home really early to get to one of his yards around sun-up. He spends the day evaluating health performance data and working with cowboys, processing crews and other animal caretakers to optimize health and performance through evaluation of health products and personnel training.

“As a company, we are also heavily engaged in research which we use to guide our decision-making process as well,” he said.

As a swine veterinarian, Corrine typically spends three to four days in-barn ensuring the health and care of the company’s pigs, most of which is done by designing vaccination, medication, and biosecurity

platforms, training the many caretakers and working with a great group of pig farmers.

Three years prior to moving to Arnold, the couple lived in Holdrege, and by now, you are probably wondering how they even met considering their geographical locations and where they studied.

“We met in vet school. I was starting my clinical year in the large animal hospital. I was in pig barns all morning and when I returned, I was concerned because there was a large burly guy standing in the back corner of my patient’s stall. Turns out we had a visiting veterinarian from LSU, Matt. He ended up getting paired up with me on that case and I haven’t been able to get rid of him since,” said Corrine.

Their families live far away. Matt’s brother and his mother and father all live in Basile, Louisiana, and Corrine’s parents live in her hometown of Palos Park, Illinois. Her brother and his wife live in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and her sister resides in Chicago.

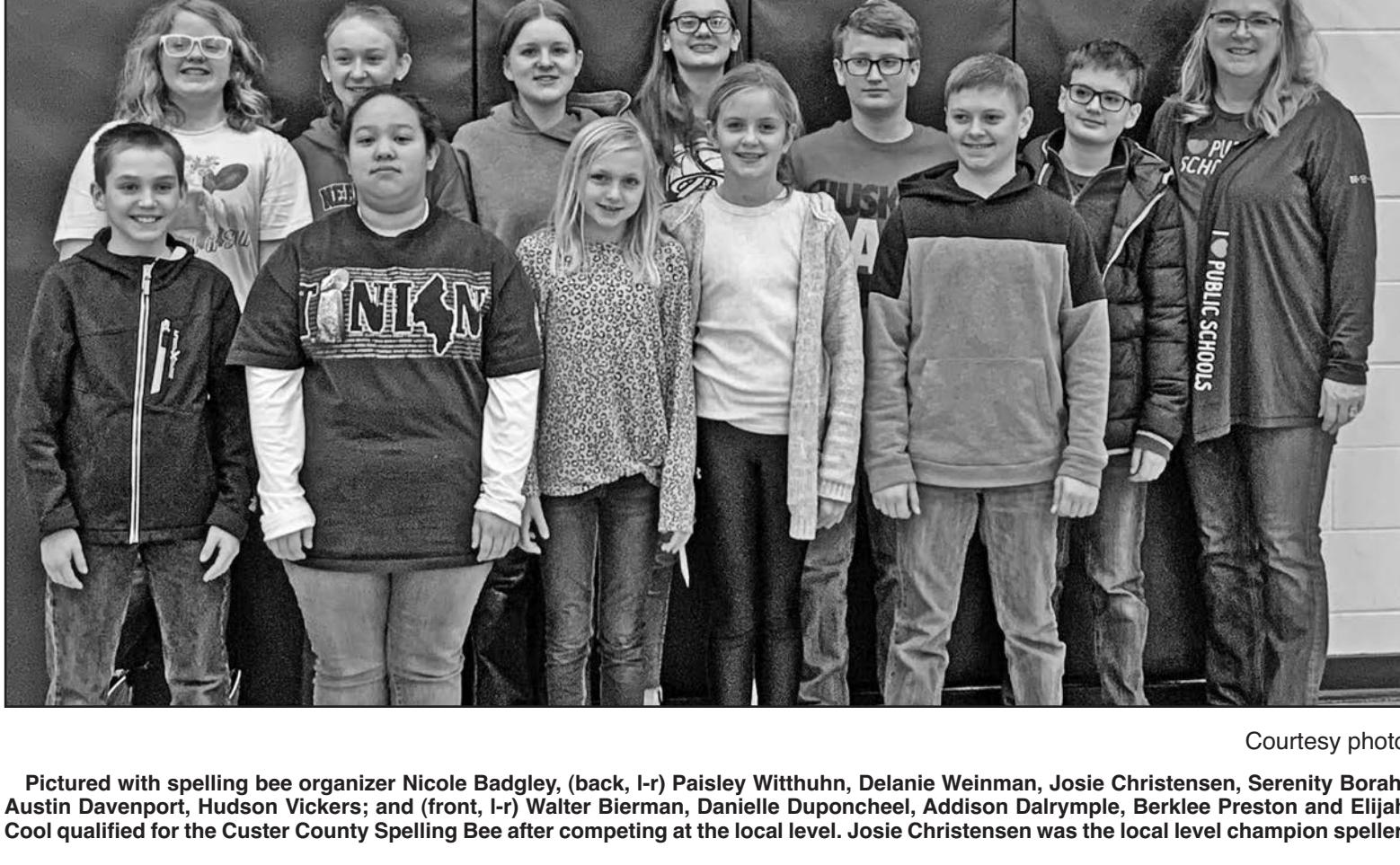
“We were looking for a home with some land attached where we could have horses and let our dogs have more room to roam around. I’ve always wanted to live in the Sandhills and this location helped to centralize our work due to both of us operating mostly in the West,” said Matt.

Corrine said she also loved the appeal of ‘small town life and values’ after growing up in a larger city.

They have a great relationship with Dr. Merle at Bierman Veterinary Services in Arnold, and are very excited to have them as their new ‘country’ neighbors.

“We love living in the community and look forward to raising our family here,” said Matt. “Corrine and I both come from very different parts of the country, so we are very excited to raise our kids in a place that’s so safe and offers so much to be involved in.”

“Everyone we have met has been so incredibly welcoming. Arnold truly is one of a kind,” said Corrine.



Courtesy photo

Pictured with spelling bee organizer Nicole Badgley, (back, l-r) Paisley Witthuhn, Delanie Weinman, Josie Christensen, Serenity Borah, Austin Davenport, Hudson Vickers; and (front, l-r) Walter Bierman, Danielle Duponcheel, Addison Dalrymple, Berklee Preston and Elijah Cool qualified for the Custer County Spelling Bee after competing at the local level. Josie Christensen was the local level champion speller.

Arnold Spellers Advance to County Bee

Josie Christensen Is Local Level Champion

By Carly Gracey
A.H.S. Senior

Arnold Public Schools hosted another annual school spelling bee with contestants from 4th grade to 8th grade. They started out with quite a few kids participating, but those numbers

were knocked down after each round. After a long and difficult process, there were only two contestants left - Josie Christensen and Austin Davenport - and both fighting for the 1st place title. After spelling yet another two more words, it was confirmed that Josie Chris-

tensen was the new Arnold Public School champion speller.

Before the spelling bee took place, younger classes hosted their own spelling bee within their classroom. Kindergarten through 3rd grade had an oral and written contest, while the

remainder of the elementary just had written tests. All of the teachers were very proud of all their students and the results at the end of both spelling bees.

Custer County Spelling Bee

After Arnold hosted their school spelling bee, the kids who qualified then moved onto

the Custer County bee. In this spelling bee, APS students compete against students from around the county. There were six schools involved with a total of 61 kids. The schools in the county they were competing against were: Ansley, Anselmo-Merna, Callaway, Sargent and Broken-Bow. The students from Arnold who qualified were: Paisley Witthuhn, Delanie Weinman, Josie Christensen, Serenity Borah, Austin Davenport, Hudson Vickers, Walter Bierman, Danielle Duponcheel, Addison Dalrymple, Berklee Preston and Elijah Cool.

In the first round, all of the contestants had to complete a 25-word written test. In the second round, their tests were corrected and they started cutting students out. By the time the third round started, they cut the entire group to half of what they started with. After the third round, they took a break to continue correcting the tests the students just completed. The difficulty level really stepped up during the fourth round.

The fifth round was the first round where the contestants had to verbally compete against one another. There were 12 kids in this round and two of them, Josie Christensen and Serenity Borah, were from Arnold. The girls had some tough luck and got out during this round, misspelling the words naire and schism. It was a very long day and all of the kids were very thankful to be able to participate in another spelling bee.

“The third list of 25 words was unbelievable difficult, so I’m very impressed we still had two kids in the final round of 12 spellers,” said Nicole Badgley.