

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Photo/Debbie Connelly

New Downtown Building Owners

Casey and Nicole Cozad have purchased the former Pretty Petals Floral building south of the post office from Mitch and Lisa Geiser. The couple has been sprucing up the outside, adding some flowers and seating and working on the interior for future plans for the space.

NCF Study Shows Billions of Wealth Will Pass From One Generation to Another

A Nebraska Community Foundation study completed in 2021 shows that billions of dollars in Nebraska wealth will pass from one generation to another over the next ten years.

There is always a transfer from generation to generation, as parents pass away and leave their estates to their children. But if the heirs no longer live where they grew up, those critical resources leave as well. Once that wealth leaves the community, it is gone forever.

But, imagine a future where everyone gifted 5% of their estate to Arnold. Giving just 5% to local charitable causes would paint a very bright future for our area.

“If just 5% of the transfer of wealth were endowed, think of

the impact that kind of money could have on education, health, prosperity, and quality of life,” said Nebraska Community Foundation President and CEO Jeff Yost. “Think of how it could contribute to a community’s ability to attract quality talent and young families. Harnessing just a small percentage could be a game-changer for the future of our hometowns.”

An estimated \$1.3 billion will transfer from one generation to the next in Custer County over the next ten years. In 50 years, that number exceeds \$13 billion. The wealth may be held in real estate, securities, retirement accounts, and other assets. Most will go to heirs. Due to outmigration, many of those heirs no longer live where the

wealth was built.

This is your opportunity to enrich Arnold and Custer County’s future. When you leave just 5% of your assets, you can secure your family’s legacy and help our community thrive.

There are three ways to donate:

Donate online: <https://www.nebcommfound.org/give/arnold-community-fund/>

Email us at donate@arnold-communityfoundation.org

Contact a fund member: Jen Dalrymple, Joel Morgan, Renee Bubak, Holly Hornung Remund, Gary Blevins, Shane Cool, Becky Dailey, Cord Heseltine.

Historical Marker

Scavenger Hunt to Support New Museum Efforts

The Arnold Area Historical Museum Committee is challenging community members to go back in time much further than the 80s to compete in their Historical Marker Scavenger Hunt. Luckily, you are being given extra time to traverse this new Fall Festival event by starting as early as Thursday, September 8. As a fundraiser for their proposed website and building, here is how you can participate.

Scavenger Hunt clue cards can be purchased with cash or check at these local businesses: Four County Boutique, First State Insurance, or BrewBakers Coffee House & Gifts. Completed clue cards should be returned to one of these locations by Friday, September 16 or be turned in to a designated area by noon at the city park during the Fall Festival on Saturday, September 17. Winners of the drawing will be announced at the park, though you do not need to be present to win. The committee’s goal is that at least 50 teams will take the challenge to travel through our town’s history to support this kick-off fundraising event for a hometown museum.

Lightning Strike Too Close for Comfort

Brady Weinman was watching the weather from a hill 8 miles south and 2 miles west of Arnold on the afternoon of August 31, snapping with Frank Potter, who serves on the Callaway Fire Department.

“I was looking at radar and it looked pink, so I was making sure no crazy storm was going to happen. Frank was asking if the weather was getting bad out by our farm. In the middle of that, a lightning bolt came down. It was the closest one I’ve ever been to. The sound on the video doesn’t do it justice. It rattled the ground, my pickup, and everything,” said Brady, who captured the moment at 3:20 p.m.

Brady surveyed the area where the lightning bolt struck, and amazingly enough, didn’t find any signs of damage. The good news is, there was a down-

pour of rain for about 20 minutes, resulting in .80 hundredths of badly needed moisture.



Brady Weinman captured this lightning strike south of Arnold while snapping on August 31.

Marker Relates History of Central Implement Co. Buildings



Courtesy photos

Ray Pearman (left), former owner of the A-1 Auto building, and Josh Bernt and wife Megan, current owners of both the A-1 Auto and Central Implement buildings, are pictured by the new historical marker placed on both buildings. Central Implement Co. was originally established in this building.

Another historical marker has been placed in town by Rotary Historical Marker Project coordinator Berni Crow. The text of the marker reads as follows:

Central Implement - 1947-1997
A-1 Auto Repair - 1979 - Present

Willis “Bill” Hagler opened a feed store in 1933 in the old frame post office in partnership with Mac Coleman. By 1938, Hagler sold his Pleasant Hill Store and bought a lot south of Walter Skinner’s service station (Nansel’s presently). He put up a cement block structure for a garage and truck stor-

age. In 1940, W.B. Hagler added another brick building to the south. By 1947, Bill Hagler and partner, son-in-law, B.R. (Bill) Conner, owned the building and named their business “Central Implement”. They sold Massey Harris equipment, General Motors pickups, Benjamin Moore paint and Norge Appliances. A new service shop, used for mechanical work, was added to the south side of the building in 1950. In 1953, LV purchased W.B. Hagler’s half of the Central Implement building and became partners with his brother, B.R. Conner. At that time, B.R. & LV continued to sell Massey Ferguson equipment, GMC, and Ben-

jamin Moore paint. Then in 1959, Conners took on the John Deere contract and dropped GMC; there wasn’t enough room in the shop for both. They also no longer sold appliances due to selling more John Deere equipment and in 1966 Massey Harris dropped their Central Implement contract. In the year 1970, they began selling Reinke pivot systems as well. By 1976, the building had become too small to accommodate the size of the new equipment. The equipment had outgrown the shop – it just wouldn’t fit through the door. Hence, Central Implement moved to their new building located south of Arnold, near the

South Loup River where they remained in business until 1997. After a half century, this family-owned business finally came to a close. In addition to the business information that Marcia Conner Hill and her father LV Conner provided, they also gave me some very interesting “fun facts” about their Central Implement store: ~Conners would empty out the service shop to allow the community to have room for their exhibit booths for display during the Arnold Fall Festival. ~Central Implement always hosted a customer appreciation night when the new tractors or equipment arrived. Families in Arnold and surrounding communities were well represented. ~Also, Central Implement often purchased oranges, peanuts, and hard candy for the children’s “goodies bags” at Christmas time. Of course, Santa would arrive on the firetruck to hand out the bags to the children. ~In the winter, it was not unusual to find several community members drop by Central Implement to play a game of pitch or have a cup of coffee. (Fortunately for me and other Callaway students, LV’s wife Ruth Conner was our Home Economics teacher when I was in high school at Callaway. I went on to pursue an endorsement in that field but ended up teaching elementary as Home Economics began to fade as a high school course. Ruth also took our entire H.E. class on a house tour in Arnold. Little did she know that I married the man who grew up in one of those homes. Ask me about a poster he had on his wall.) After LV and Bill Conner had moved to their new location, the south half of their original building downtown became the new auto repair shop for Lou Shipley. “Shipley’s Auto Repair Shop” was used for two years, until he sold it to Harvey Collins and Ray Pearman of Gothenburg. Pearman and Collins dubbed their new business “A-1 Auto Repair” in 1979. After Collins passed away in 1982, Pearman continued in operation. Josh Bernt took over “A-1 Auto” in 2013, and in his time there, has been able to expand the services of his business. ~It is likely that the

See Historical Marker, Page 8



LV Conner (left, pictured with wife Ruth) purchased W.B. Hagler’s half of Central Implement Co., in 1953, becoming partners with Bill Conner (right, pictured with wife Alice).

