

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## Attendance Down at Rialto In 2025

Board members forced to increase prices

The Rialto Theatre started the new year off with a meeting of board members to discuss finances and updates to the building.

Members went over the financial report for 2025, revealing that the theater operated at a loss; both attendance and concession sales were down.

“Choosing movies was difficult last year, so we weren’t surprised that we had a loss, but we were surprised at how big of a loss it was,” Mary Becker said. “We just didn’t have a lot of choices of movies. We thought the movie buyer did a good job, considering what was out there. We usually get a couple of blockbusters a year, but that didn’t happen. We kept hoping that we would get a good movie towards the end of the year, and Zootopia 2 helped immensely, but it wasn’t enough. It was our first really big loss that we’ve had since taking over in 2017.”

One of the Rialto’s biggest source of revenue is money that comes in from movie sponsors, and it was discussed that the theater couldn’t operate without them. The three big costs are insurance, utilities, and paying a company for tech support. In 2026, the theater will be part of the downtown sidewalk project, and that will require a substantial amount of money for the match.

“We added two heat pumps over the years to keep the projector cool, which is critical, and adding the heat pump in the lobby has made all the difference in the world. We

have improved the theater for everyone – the volunteers and patrons – but it all comes at a cost,” said Becker.

Discussion was held on what to do going forward. The cost of concessions are going up, and those have been at the same price for 15 years. Board members have simply been putting off any kind of an increase, but all agreed that the time is now to bridge the gap. Members voted to increase candy prices by a \$1.00 from \$2.00 to \$3.00, and to increase ticket prices to the following:

Adults: from \$7.00 to \$8.00  
Children: from \$6.00 to \$7.00  
Seniors (Sunday only) from \$6.00 to \$7.00  
Popcorn and drinks will remain the same.

### Updates

Updates to both the lobby and the meeting room continue. The lobby will get a refresh of new paint in neutral/gray colors. The meeting room, however, is getting a needed make-over, with new dry-wall and paint, flooring, crown molding, and the installation of a donated antique door. These updates started when it was noticed that the mortar on the brick wall was disintegrating.

“We’re trying to add a vintage feel back into the room,” said Becker.

Theater board members are Becker, Patty Lamberty, Rose Bierman, Cindy Urbanovsky, Heather Furne, Natalie Cool, and Debbie Connelly. A handful of volunteers work the theatre ticket sales and concessions on rotation

and more volunteers are always needed and welcome.

### Sponsors

Movie sponsors in 2025 and early 2026 who have helped keep the theater operating follow:

#### 2025 Sponsors/ Individuals

Harvey and Barb Foran  
Mary Becker and Mike Harvey  
Carolyn Watkins  
Pam and Craig Smith  
Melanie and Lane Chesley  
Lana and Shane Cool

#### 2025 Sponsors/ Businesses

Loup Valley Construction-Scott and Sheila McDowell  
Preston Precision Ag-Michelle and Jeff Preston  
Same 24 Fitness-Jessica and Matt Fletcher  
Aurora Meat Block-Brent and Andrea Winfield

Arnold Insurance Agency-Joe Bob and Randi Atkins  
Homegrown Day Care-Heather and Zach Hagler

EN Ag Transport LLC and Dahlia Valley Farm-Lisa and Eric Nelson

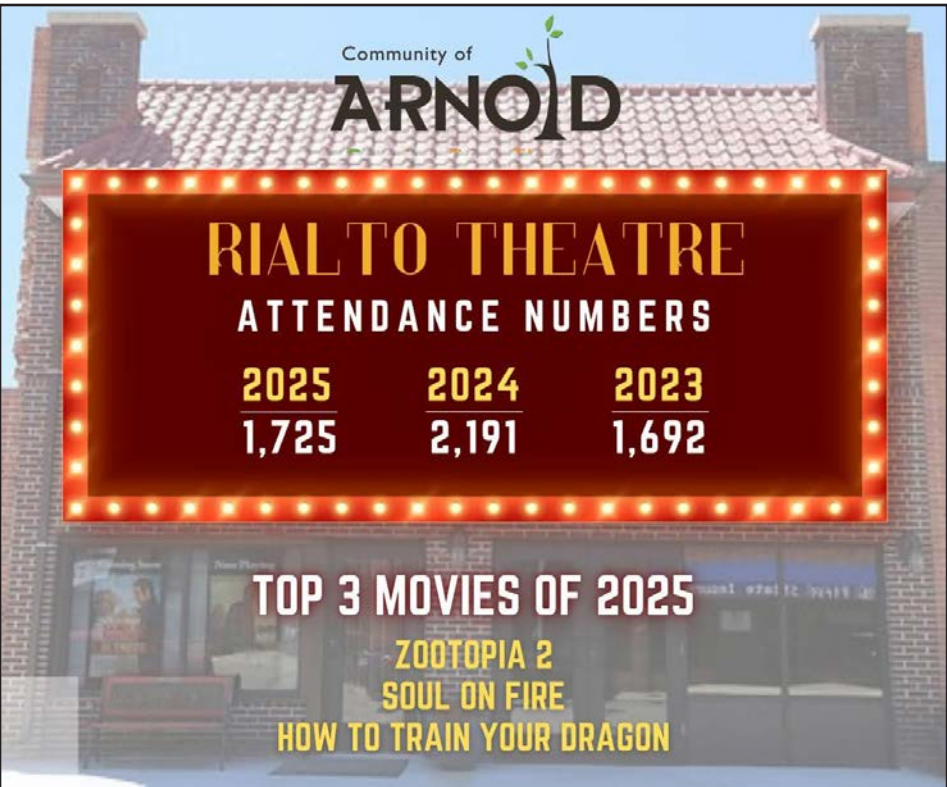
Pinnacle Bank  
A1-Auto-Josh and Megan Bernt.

First State Insurance-Becky Dailey and Taylour Snyder

Weinman Land and Cattle-Tammy and Darren Weinman and Brady and Makenna Weinman

#### 2025 Sponsors/ Organizations

The Arnold Rotary Club  
The Arnold Chamber  
Devil’s Den Motorcycle Club  
SORC  
Arnold Fire Department



Attendance numbers graphic courtesy of AEDC.

The American Legion  
St. Agnes Ladies  
2026 Sponsors/  
Individuals  
Berni and Dave Crow  
Lamberty Sisters: Pat-Lamberty, Sue Delosh,

Pam Long  
2026 Sponsors/  
Business  
Reed’s Food Center-Gail and John Reed  
BrewBakers-Jodi Carl-

Pawsome Motel and Dog Grooming-Sal and Dave Hilderbrant  
2026 Sponsors/  
Organizations  
The Arnold Education Association



## A Big Milestone

Friends and family gathered at the Callaway Good Life Center on January 30 to help long-time Arnold resident celebrate her 100th birthday.

Alice was born January 31, 1926, in Phoenix, Nebraska, and has lived in Custer County since age three. Her parents, ran a general store from 1927 to 1936 in Pleasant Hill, 11 miles east of Arnold.

She attended a two-room school up to 10th grade, and graduated from Arnold High School in 1943. She married Bill Conner. The couple had four children together: Allen, Dennis, Marla, and Bob.

## Platte River Fitness Series Has Good Showing from Arnold

### Ladies Are Chasing Their Goals

Eleven-year-old Paisley Brown has a passion for running that began almost as soon as she could walk. She ran her very first race at just three years old at the Lincoln County Fair, and hasn’t slowed down since. Blessed with a natural gift for running, the Arnold fifth grader runs nearly every day – whether it’s laps around the house, a sprint to the mailbox, or racing across the pasture to catch her horse.

Paisley has been a dedicated competitor in the Platte Valley Fitness Series in North Platte for the past eight years. During that time, she earned a Women’s 12-and-under-runner-up title once and has claimed the Overall Women’s 12-and-under championship for the past three consecutive years. Her racing experience also includes two marathon relays, a ruck, and three triathlons.

The Platte Valley Fitness Series has given this young runner the opportunity to run with what has become a family of runners – all with ties to Arnold – and all with different reasons of why they run.

Her grandmother, Liz Brown, has been competing in the series for the past 11 years. She strongly believes that keeping your body moving and running is vital to longevity, and her favorite thing is running with her grandkids. She completed every single race for the 2025 race season and says that the race series has built a strong sense of family and community for her. She will do her second half marathon at Mt. Rushmore this September. She is excited to spend her next chapter in life traveling and running.

Cheryl Mills Uhrmacher has ran her whole life. At A.H.S., she was a state qualifier in the sprints in the late 60s and early 70s. At around age 30, she continued to run for enjoyment. She used to travel to competitions, but now competes mainly once a year in Lincoln and North Platte. Cheryl says she’s slowed down with age, and now uses the walk/run method.

Cheryl is good friends with Lois Nansel, another Arnold native, who started running as a mental health thing. She ran her



(From left) Paisley Brown, Liz Brown, Cheryl Mills Uhrmacher, and Lois Nansel display their awards from the Platte River Fitness Series annual awards night held in January. - Courtesy photo

first event race some 20 years ago, and last year, she hit her goal of competing in all 18 events. As a four person team, she ran with Paisley, Liz, and Cheryl in a marathon relay from Sutherland to North Platte. She said she likes to think she runs the whole time, but like Cheryl, sometimes slows down to a walk.

Cheryl said she recently discovered that she and Paisley are distant relatives on the Philpot side, which has a lot of runners in that lineage.

The running season begins each February with a virtual race, followed by in-person events starting in March. Races continue throughout the year, wrapping up with a festive Christmas-time run.

While Paisley enjoys playing other sports, running remains her favorite – something she loves for its simplicity, focus and freedom from drama. Her next big goal is to compete in a half marathon within the next year, and she’ll have plenty of supporters, including her Grandma Carol Watson, cheering her on.

“Like many dedicated runners, Paisley has a love for good running shoes and is always on the lookout for her next favorite pair. Her big dream is to one day win a gold medal at the Nebraska State Track Meet when she reaches high school,” said her mom, Aubrey.