

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Businesses Change Hands In Town



Chrissie and Justin Stockall (with kids Emmy (age 1) and Okie (2)) became owners of the Exchange on March 30, and will be making many changes to the business.

Stockalls Buy The Exchange, Change Name to Punchy Poppy

Justin and Chrissie Stockall took over ownership of The Exchange in Arnold on March 30, 2026.

“Many may have tried to stop by or heard that we were closed that day. We had to shut down for a deep cleaning and to get the POS switched over, which ended up taking most of the day,” said Chrissie.

The Stockalls had been looking for a place to open a brick and mortar location in Arnold for a couple of years that would allow for Chrissie’s boutique and tack business and Justin’s feed, seed, and supply business. Everywhere they looked at around town either didn’t have retail space, didn’t have a big enough lot, or didn’t have the right parking. They heard rumblings that Eric Brast might be willing to sell, so they made an offer.

The new name of the business is Punchy Poppy.

The inspiration came while out checking cows one day. Chrissie came home talking about the prickly poppies in the pasture, and Justin jokingly called them “punchy poppies.”

“The name was catchy, and we ended up naming Chrissie’s business Punchy Poppy,” said Justin. “After our offer was accepted on The Exchange, we decided to change the name, and it made sense for it to take on the Punchy Poppy name. We understand this is going to be a massive change for the community. We understand that habits die hard.”

The couple is planning several changes for the location. The old dining room will be converted into a retail space for Chrissie’s business. Once it has some remodeling done, customers will be able to shop for quality working tack, saddles,

boots, hats, and clothing for men, women, and children.

While they are continuing operating the kitchen, they are also undergoing some upgrades, and that includes food and drinks.

They will be bringing back the convenience side full power, so people will start seeing many more snacks and drinks in the coming weeks. The front of the store will be remodeled to include a foyer to help manage the loss of heating and a/c. A walk-in beer cave is also on the agenda. The Stockalls are looking to get new signs installed as soon as possible that include the logo they had designed by western artist Teal Blake.

The Stockalls are looking to bring back specials every week and have a few more ideas for new menu items. They will be stepping up the quality of the ready to eat foods in the hot cases. And what

about ice cream, you may ask? Well, Chrissie and Lori are pushing hard for Justin may take a little more convincing, so the public is encouraged to reach out to him if they support the idea.

Currently, all staff is still on board: manager Lori Stutzman, as well as Tony, Jamie, Kammie, Rose, Ab-

igail, and Alexis.

People can also be on the look out for Justin’s business, which will offer CattleActive and Zesterra tubs, horse feed, Progressive Nutrition feeds, and Ralco mineral. Justin is also a dealer for Seitec.

The hours will remain the same, Monday-Saturday, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Sunday 8:00 a.m. to

6:00 p.m.

Justin and Chrissie are shooting for a grand opening in the middle of May, which will include the launch of the tack and boutique side.

“We are excited to bring this store back to its former glory, while adding to our businesses,” they said.



Joyce Bass is the new owner of Grazers Bar & Grill. She is planning a soft opening this week. - Debbie Connelly photos

Joyce Bass Purchases Grazers

Joyce Bass became the official owner of Grazers Bar & Grill in Arnold on January 22, when she closed on the deal with Jesse Halstead and Annie Vettel. She is planning to open the doors for a soft opening this week.

Bass grew up on a ranch in the Sandhills near Brewster and has lived on an acreage between North Platte and Maxwell for the past 21 years. Her family includes a son who lives in Ainsworth; a son and grandson in Albany, Oregon; and a daughter, son-in-law, granddaughter, and grandson who live in

Lincoln.

Bass said she plans to keep the name Grazers Bar & Grill and is excited to take this business venture on and learn along the way.

“I have always wanted to own a bar, and I’ve loved coming to Grazers over the years. It’s such a fun place, and Arnold is a wonderful community,” she said.

Bass said that with the exception of needing another server, all of the positions have been filled.

“I’m fortunate that a few previous staff members are returning, and I’ve

added some really amazing new faces that I’m excited for everyone to meet,” she said.

Grazers menu will remain mostly the same with a few additions. Business hours will be changed to being open on Sundays from 11:00 to 4:00 and closed on Mondays.

“I want to build on what people already love about Grazers while adding more specials and entertainment and creating a place people look forward to coming back to again and again,” said Bass.

Arnold Students Excel at Art/Music Competitions

The arts are flourishing at Arnold Schools, with students taking home awards from local competitions.

Art students attended the Mullen Art Show last week, with multiple schools competing. As a school, Arnold placed 2nd in high school and 6th in middle school. EvaLynn Wonch was a Top Artist winner, placing 3rd with 19 points. While at the show, students in attendance participated in an art challenge that was then judged. Josie Lehmkuhler and Asa Starr placed 1st and Serenity Borah placed 2nd.

Two ribbons were given for each placing in each category. Individual awards for Arnold are listed below:

1st Place Sculpture - Serenity Borah (glass dolphin)
1st Place Sculpture - Crew Witthuhn (windmill)
1st Place Special Projects - Noah Anderson (saddle)
1st Place Computer Generated - Eli Hunt (skeleton)
1st Place Textiles - Jami Lamphear (fabric heart)
1st Place Photography -

EvaLynn Wonch (donkey)
1st Place Photography - EvaLynn Wonch (dog)
1st Place Colored Drawing - EvaLynn Wonch (dog)
2nd Place Computer Generated - Eli Hunt (skulls)
2nd Place Watercolor - Adalei Tullis (sunset)
3rd Place Sculpture - Paxton Bierman (shark)
3rd Place Hand Built Ceramics - EvaLynn Wonch (cow)
3rd Place Black and White - Adalei Tullis (dragon)
4th Place Mixed Media - Kora Dailey (boots)
4th Place Special Projects - Noah Anderson (console cover)
5th Place Painting - Adalei Tullis (horse)
5th Place Photography - EvaLynn Wonch (football)
Honorable Mention - Eli Hunt (Billie Eilish)

Middle School
1st Place Textiles - Isaac Jarmin (sunset)
2nd Place Textiles - Kwyn Kramer (cowboy hat)
Honorable Mention Textiles - Montana Baldwin (sunset with road)
Honorable Mention Hand built Ceramics - Montana Baldwin (strawberry)



This group of art students went along to compete in the art challenge at the MNAC Art Show in Mullen: (l-r) Paxton Bierman, Eli Hunt, Haydn Stretesky, Crew Witthuhn, Asa Starr, Josie Lehmkuhler, EvaLynn Wonch, and Serenity Borah. Lehmkuhler and Starr placed 1st and Borah placed 2nd in the challenge. - Courtesy photo

Conference Music

Music instructor Tonya Welch released the overall results from the MNAC Music Contest held on March 30. Arnold came in 3rd place behind Arthur and Anselmo-Merna. She explained that basically, schools receive points for each entry that performs, receiving 10 points for 1’s, 7 points for 2’s, and 4 points for 3’s. So, the more entries you have perform and the better they do, the more points you accumulate overall. Medals are

given to the top performer who receives a superior in their category (specific instrument, high/low female/male voice, duets, etc.) This is based off score as well as judges choice. Following is the run-down for Arnold:

TOTAL POINTS
Arthur - 215 (23 entries)
Anselmo-Merna - 195 (24 entries)
Arnold - 148 (19 entries)
Callaway - 72 (8 entries)
Twin Loup - 61 (7 entries)
Sandhills - 51 (6 entries)
Brady - 28 (4 entries)

McPherson Co. - 7 (1 entry)

Medal winners were:

Madelyn Logsdon - High Female Vocal Solo - “Don’t Cry for Me Argentina!”
Rogers/Tullis Vocal Duet - “The Drunken Sailor”

Mrs. Welch gave a shout-out to Lindsay Christensen, who tied for the medal in the Low Female Vocal Duet but the judge, who is the tie breaker, gave it to the Arthur solo. Even though she missed it by a smidge, everyone was

so proud.

LARGE ENSEMBLES
Arnold came in 2nd behind A-M’s large vocal, trailing by 1 point.

“Overall, I cannot express enough how absolutely proud of these kids that I am! This is huge growth for our program over the last couple of years. Keep up the fantastic work and let’s keep giving Arthur Co. and A-M a run for their money!” said Mrs. Welch.