

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Photo/Debbie Connelly

Chamber Reorganizes

(From left) Brandi Corbin (vice-president), Margie McDowell (secretary/treasurer), and Sal Hilderbrant (president) are new officers elected to lead Chamber in 2019. “Our focus will be to promote and grow our hometown businesses. We’re working on by-laws and a mission statement - something we believe the organization has never had before,” said Sal. The new officers also plan to try to start Business After Hours again, where new residents will be welcome. Another project will be to bring back business welcome packets for new residents. A mass mailing of dues reminders were just sent out to area residents. Chamber hopes to continue its strong membership of 94-plus businesses and residents in the new year. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend to help grow Arnold.

Arnold Senior Accepted Into RHOP Program

Arnold senior Lydia Connell has been accepted into the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) at Chadron State College.

The RHOP is a cooperative agreement between Chadron State College and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The purpose of the program is to recruit and educate high school students from rural Nebraska who will return to practice in rural areas of the state. The program represents a commitment and dedication to the education of Nebraskans and quality health care for citizens of the state.

Each participant will receive a tuition waiver for the years they attend Chadron State College, and receive guaranteed admission to UNMC upon graduation at Chadron.

Numerous factors are a part of the selection process; however, special emphasis is placed on the academic potential of the student as demonstrated by the application and interview process: a commitment to return to the rural areas of Nebraska to practice their profession, and their involvement in their community and leadership activities.

Up to five participants can be chosen to participate in this program.

Lydia said she has always had a passion for learning and has developed a passion for the world of healthcare.

“My experiences job shadowing, working, and interning have left me thoroughly excited to begin my career as a physician,” she said. “I often get



Lydia Connell

asked which field I want to pursue, and that I have yet to decide. I most likely won’t make that decision until medical school; however, I have enjoyed my time spent in family practice and was incredibly fascinated in my time spent job shadowing in general surgery. Wherever I end up, I am so grateful for the opportunity to receive my education through the RHOP program. Traditionally, medical school applications and interviews can be a long and very particular process, so already having acceptance into UNMC is very exciting for me. I look forward to returning to a small town and being able to give back to a community what my community has been able to give to me.”

Lydia is the daughter of Heidi and Clint Horst and Randy Connell.

Foster Pup Turns Drug Detection Dog

Cedar Ridge Dog Rescue pairs with sheriff’s office to gives Gunny a job

By Janet Larreau

Gunderson “Gunny” is one lucky dog. At 7 months old, the German Shepherd/Belgian Malinois/Belgian Tervuren mix was a bouncing, hyper, full-of-energy pup. With too much energy, for a couple’s young child, he was banished to an outdoor kennel.

“I got him off the Market Place in Omaha on November 19, 2017. He was free to a good home,” said Custer County resident Larinda Burgess.

Burgess, who had started Cedar Ridge Dog Rescue and Sanctuary near Callaway, said Gunny was her first rescue. She took him to the Omaha Spay/Neuter Clinic on November 22 to get his shots, an exam, and to get neutered.

“I was supposed to keep him calm for 10 days while he healed. This was almost impossible. Gunny hated crates. He would tear up anything that was too close and he could get his teeth on. It was a fight with him every time I had to put him in one. If he was left out and no one was home, he would drag pillows through the dog door into the back yard and have a party with them. We left for an overnight trip over New Year’s, and he destroyed every pillow in my house. I think we still have feathers and stuffing all over our back yard. He pulled the two chairs in the living room into the middle of the floor and chewed the arms off of them. I knew from that moment on that Gunny needed a job. He was - and still is - very bullheaded. He learned things very quickly, but had to be motivated to listen.”

Burgess had contacted several law enforcement and military agencies to see if anyone could use him. Lieutenant Gordon with the Nebraska State Patrol kept in touch with her.

“The State Patrol gets their dogs from a vendor and do not take personal donations. (The lieutenant) did tell me that he has other agencies that contact him regarding dogs on occasion, so he kept my information,” she said.

During the first week of October 2018, Burgess received an email from Deputy McHale of the Howard County Sheriff’s office asking if she still had the dog. Arrangements were made for the deputy to come to the rescue site and meet Gunny.

“After about 20 minutes of playing with him, Deputy McHale told me that he thought Gunny would work good for them. Gunny was adopted out to the deputy for a cost of \$50.00 and some dog food for the shelter. While living with the deputy, Gunny got just the job he needed.

On December 17, 2018, Gunny and McHale qualified as a narcotics detector dog team, working for the Howard County Sheriff’s office. The former pillow destroyer turned detective can detect four different drugs, and was recently deployed to a traffic stop where he detected a distribution amount of methamphetamine.

“They are talking about training him now for patrol and bite work,” said Burgess. “I was told by Sheriff Tom Busch that they are so happy with Gunny, and that he fits right in.”

Gunny is a huge success story for Burgess, who said it has been her life-long dream to open a dog rescue.

“I have always loved dogs,” she said. “I also want to be a part of the solution to stop the use of euthanasia to control the pet population. I want to teach people that spay and neuter is the answer to unwanted and abused and neglected animals.”

Cedar Ridge Dog Rescue and Sanctuary is located between Arnold and Callaway, at 41370 Hwy. 40, 3 miles east of the Hwy. 47/Hwy. 40 junction on the south side of the highway.

Burgess said she takes in all dogs of any shape or size. Breed does not matter. The operation is set up as a 501c3 and operates strictly on donations.

Foster dog parents go through a short interview process.

“Right now I don’t have any foster parents or volunteers. I’m hoping with help from newspapers and television we will get people interested in contacting us and wanting to



Courtesy photo

This once unwanted German Shepherd mix named Gunny became certified as a narcotics detector dog with team member Deputy Matt McHale of the Howard County Sheriff’s Office on December 17, 2018, all thanks to the local Cedar Ridge Dog Rescue and Sanctuary ran by Larinda Burgess.

help,” said Burgess.

So far, Cedar Ridge Dog Rescue has taken in other dogs:

Luna, a 1-year-old deaf Australian cattle dog that was either dumped or lost out by the vet clinic in Arnold, was adopted out the same day Burgess took her in, and her new family is teaching her sign language, and a 7-year-old German Shepherd named Elsie.

“I took in Elsie from a friend who I went to junior high school with in Alaska,” said Burgess. “He was living in California and passed away from cancer last summer. His family could not keep the dog, so they brought her to me. She has a stomach problem like Crohn’s Disease and is on medication every day. Elsie stays in Bellevue with my husband, Dave.”

Currently, Burgess now has taken in two little dogs. One is a 10-year-old Chihuahua named Carlos and a 10-year-old

Cairn Terrier named Cooper. They have been together their whole lives, and Burgess said she would prefer that they be adopted together.

As of yet, Burgess doesn’t have any kennels or electricity set up in her building. She really doesn’t have a space for these two dogs right now, but has made a temporary space for them in the workshop.

“I would love to have some foster parents for these little dogs if anyone is interested in volunteering,” she said.

Burgess and her husband bought the property from her mom, and the couple is splitting their time between Call-

away and their home in Bellevue, Nebraska, where her husband is still holding down a full-time job.

“We spend a lot of time on the road in order to spend time with each other, so if anyone would like to volunteer to come and play, take dogs for walks and feed and water these two little dogs when I have to be gone, it would mean the world to me,” she said.

If you would like to volunteer, foster a dog, or happen across a dog who needs rescued, please visit www.cedarridgedogrescue.com, go on Facebook, or call 402-707-0933, 308-848-2814, or 877-336-4765.

Cedar Ridge Mission Statement:

Cedar Ridge Dog Rescue and Sanctuary believes that, through rescue, we will give dogs the love and touch of human beings while providing a safe sanctuary for lost, abused, neglected, and unwanted dogs for as long as it takes to find loving forever homes.