

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 106, NUMBER 31

A-1 Auto Expands Services In New Location

By Janet Larreau

Josh and Megan Bernt are celebrating 10 years of doing business in Arnold with a new location and added service. Josh purchased A-1 Auto Repair from Ray Pearman in January of 2013 and has been offering his services in the same building located downtown on Highway 47 since then. But things were getting a bit cramped.

In May of 2021, Josh and his wife, Megan, purchased a building and lot located on the south edge of town (former Central Implement building) from Midwest Kustoms, and went to work remodeling. They officially opened for business in the new location on November 28, 2022, and they're still slowly working on getting things moved from the downtown shop, but it's quite a task. Josh said if anyone wants to help move, they know where to find the couple.

“Bringing Megan into work as the office manager and service advisor really freed up some of my time,” said Josh. “With that, we were able to take on bigger and more frequent jobs. Along with that, came the need for more space. We found that with only three lifts in the downtown shop, limited park-

ing, a cat, a dog, employees, and soon-to-be a baby, that we were quickly running out of space.”

Parking was a huge inconvenience for their customers. Of course, they had dreams for the expansion of their building and the services they were able to offer, but they were stuck until the South building came into the picture. One of the first new services they were able to offer to their customers as a result of the expansion to the south building was alignments.

“We wanted our community to have the convenience of an alignment here in Arnold versus having to drive out of town to North Platte, etc. Our alignment machine arrived in October of 2021 and everything really grew from there,” said Josh.

The couple had been slowly working on remodeling the front space to be their new waiting and reception area, but they have been able to do many other updates to the building to make it more efficient that aren't as obvious, such as roofing and insulation. They were also able to section out a part of the building to use for auto body repairs and still have a space for automotive repairs.

“Thankfully, we are able to offer all of the services at our new location that we were able to offer downtown, such as all



Photo/Debbie Connelly

A-1 Auto Repair owners Josh and Megan Bernt (with new baby Riah and their dog who is just passing by) are pictured in the newly-remodeled waiting area of their new location on the south edge of town (former Central Implement building.)

major and minor vehicle repairs, servicing and maintenance, alignments, and tires. Now we are able to offer the convenience of all those services under one roof, with a spacious waiting area on top of that,” said Josh.

In addition to the extra space, the couple plans to use some of that extra room to be able to

offer different products for purchase. They currently stock a wide variety of Hot Shots Secret and Amsoil products in addition to having the ability to order many other products as needed. They hope to expand to be able to offer other items once they get settled in.

“Our main goal is to become the dealer alternative for our

area. By this, we mean to offer exceptional service, offer an industry-leading 3 year/36k mile warranty, and have the training and equipment to do any repairs required on today's newest vehicles,” said Josh.

Once the downtown building is cleaned out, a few repairs are made, and the space is cleaned. Josh and Megan plan to sell it.

Letters Sought for 2023 Edition of The Alumni News

Planning has started for the 2023 edition of The Alumni News. All alumni - especially honored class members - are encouraged to submit a letter telling about their life since graduation, or memories of high school days.

Letters may be mailed to The A.H.S. Alumni Association, PO

Box 21, Arnold, NE 69120, or e-mailed to: arnoldalumni@email.com

They may also be e-mailed directly to Alumni News editor Janet Larreau at arnoldsentinel@gpcom.net with the subject line “Alumni Letter.”

The deadline to submit is March 15.

Babies of 2022 Feature Is Coming Soon

The Arnold Sentinel will be featuring the “Babies of 2022” in an upcoming issue.

All readers, no matter where they live, are invited to submit photos and information for the feature, including the baby's name, birthdate, parents and grandparents by e-mailing arnoldsentinel@gpcom.net

with the subject line “Babies” or mail to PO Box 136, Arnold, NE 69120 or stop in at the office.

If you know someone who has had a baby in 2023, you can help us by spreading the word.

The deadline to submit photos is January 26.

LLNRD Board Proposes Changes to Groundwater Management Rules & Regs

A Public Hearing on proposed modifications and additions to the Lower Loup Natural Resources District's Groundwater Management Rules and Regulations will be held Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 4:05 p.m., at the Lower Loup Natural Resources District office, 2620 Airport Drive, Ord, Nebraska.

The proposed changes are: no fall application of commercial nitrogen fertilizer, flow meters being installed on all new irrigation development, and the combining of Phase 2 and Phase 3 water quality controls, which would eliminate Phase 3.

A copy of the proposed rules and regulations changes may be obtained at the Lower Loup Natural Resources District office in Ord or at www.llnrd.org.

Persons unable to appear at the Public Hearing or those persons with lengthy testimony may wish to submit their testimony in writing. In order to be considered by the Board of Directors for the purpose of this hearing, such testimony must be received by 2:00 p.m., January 26, 2023, at the Lower Loup Natural Resources District, 2620 Airport Drive, Ord, Nebraska, 68862.

The proposed rule changes will be discussed at a series of upcoming public information meetings prior to the Public Hearing:

- Jan. 18, 2023, 4 p.m., at the Genoa Fire & Rescue Hall, 515 Willard Ave., Genoa.
- Jan. 19, 2023, 2 p.m., at the Nebraska One Box Convention Center, W. Hwy 2, Broken Bow.
- Jan. 19, 2023, 6 p.m., at the Valley County Fairgrounds, 801 S St., Ord.

Members of the public who have questions should attend one of the public information meetings, the Public Hearing, or contact the Lower Loup NRD at (308) 728-3221.

Read the proposed changes at www.LLNRD.org.

Courthouse Notice

The Custer County Courthouse and all offices will be closed on Monday, January 16, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Weather...

Arnold and the area spent much of last week digging out from a winter storm. Turn to page 2 to view the report.



Photo/Debbie Connelly

With Peg Scott's recent retirement, Donnell DeLosh is now the new Arnold/Callaway/Stapleton location manager for Country Partners Cooperative.

Peg Passes the Torch to Donnell

After 41-plus years of service, Peg Scott retired as the Arnold/Callaway/Stapleton Location Manager for Country Partners Cooperative in December, 2022. She started her career in 1980 at entry-level in the ag business, working part-time at Arnold Feed & Seed as a truck driver and general laborer, and moved to full-time in 1981, running the mixer. She was young, graduating from Arnold High only a few years before in 1974. Peg moved up in the business, becoming manager in 1989. In that position, she was doing more sales, making recommendations for farmers, and making sure products and services were getting to the farmers. She was also dealing directly with the help who made it all work.

For over four decades, she drove a short distance from her home to the same business location that changed hands several times over the years. She started in the new building that was just built by Bellamy Grain, which just bought

Arnold Feed & Seed. Then it was Cenex Land O Lakes, Agrilience, All Points Cooperative, and Country Partners Cooperative.

Peg has seen some major changes in the ag industry and the services provided by the cooperative during her career.

“The biggest thing is the farms have gotten a lot larger and the small farmer is all but gone. The chemical companies have gotten larger and there aren't as many of them, and there is much more tech knowledge used in farming than ever before,” she said.

Donnell DeLosh will take over Peg's position at Country Partners.

“Donnell will do well in that position. He has a good working knowledge of what goes on and how to get it done. He has very good help around him who work hard and want to do things right,” said Peg.

Donnell started working for All Points Cooperative on January 3, 2011, as a sprayer operator and truck driver. In 2015 he

started filling a sales position role, and around 2018 started doing some supervisory work in Arnold as well. In 2016 All Points merged with Country Partners, but that didn't change day-to-day life.

Donnell is no longer doing sales. He is now in charge of watching the budget and expenses, helping to find and keep the current employees, and just keeping everything running as smoothly as possible.

“Peg is leaving an impossible task with trying to fill her shoes. She has been such a huge part of the Cooperative for so long and knows all the ins-and-outs of every part of the operation. She has been a great boss, mentor and most importantly, friend. I am extremely happy for her and her retirement, but she will be sorely missed around here by both the employees and all the growers she worked with,” said Donnell.