

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Back to School 2023-2024

Five Cousins Start Kindergarten Together

Graysen Schacher, Zicah Tickle, Zoyer Tickle, Kaedyn Weinman and Reese Hagler - all cousins from the Pete and Mary (Kuklis) Janesofsky lineage - started kindergarten this year together.

The noteworthy story of how these cousins ended up in the same classroom in 2023 at Arnold Public Schools is told here by Tammy Weinman.

Pete Jaesofsky was born in Bohemia, and when he was a few months old, he came to America with his parents. He spent his early childhood in America and had followed his family members to Nebraska where he filed a Custer County timber claim.

Pete had met Mary Kuklis, who also an immigrant from Bohemia, and they were married on August 13, 1894. Pete Janesofsky relinquished his timber rights when the drought took the trees he had planted in 1898 and he moved to a homestead six miles southwest of Sargent in Custer County. It was said that Pete was only able to attend school for six days before he had to quit to work on the farm. Despite the lack of education, Pete was capable and industrious. He was described as a self-educated man, honorable and had an admirable success with his farm. He is said to have brought his property to a high state of cultivation and improved it with good buildings and up to date equipment so

that it was one of the most valuable tracts in that vicinity at the time of his death.

The Janesofsky family belonged to the Catholic Church. Pete voted the Republican ticket. Mary never baked bread, but she kept a 20 gallon crock full of kolace (kolaches) that were served with every meal. Despite her considerable weight, Mary loved to dance. She was a great dancer and very light on her feet.

In addition to her weight, Mary had an added misfortune of a large hole in her knee. She was taking one of her babies with her to the field to pick corn for dinner. As she held her skirt up to form a kind of basket, in which to carry the corn, she was bitten by a rattlesnake. She made her way back to the house with the baby, but much of her flesh had to be cut away because of the snakebite.

Pete and Mary sent money to Bohemia to help Mary's family come to America, and most of them lived with Pete and Mary in the beginning. Those family members worked off their passage debt to the Janesofskys by working on their farm.

Pete and Mary had seven children - six daughters and a son - Emma, Barbara, Minnie, Katherine (Katie), Joey, and Frances. Emma married William Weinman, an agriculturalist from Round Valley, on October 16, 1912.



(From left) Kindergartners Reese Hagler, Zicah Tickle, Graysen Schacher, Kaedyn Weinman, and Zoyer Tickle all have the same family lineage. - Debbie Connelly photo

Minnie married Adolph Kokes, a Round Valley farmer. Barbara married Frank Parkos of Comstock.

Young Joey Janesofsky, Pete's only son, worked along side his father on the farm. On October 30, 1918, at the age of ten, Joey died after being accidentally shot by his father. Pete knew the gun had previously discharged accidentally, but it was the only gun they had. Pete - an avid hunter - never picked up a gun again after the accident. Katie Janesofsky, almost 18 at the time, was standing at the kitchen window, watching the hunters leave the yard and witnessed the accident. Katie was said to be in shock for several days after the accident and had to be medicated. Pete never forgave himself for the accident, and family

members always stayed close by him, in fear that he would take his own life.

Frances, Pete and Mary's youngest daughter, died a year later from Bright's Disease.

In January of 1920, Pete and Mary's daughter Katie, married Frank Koubek in Broken Bow. Then on April 19, 1921, the youngest remaining child, Mary, was wed to Stanley Seda.

Pete and Mary lived on the farm in the Sargent area until about 1929 when they retired and moved to Arnold because of Mary's health. Mary died on November 10, 1932. After her death, Pete lived with his daughters in Arnold, Sargent and Comstock. Five months after Mary's death, Pete died from a stroke, at the home of Frank and Katie Koubek.

Reese Hagler would be from the Frank and Katie

Koubek lineage. Reese is the son of Zach and Heather Myer Hagler. Reese's great-grandfather would have been John Koubek, youngest of six siblings born to Frank and Katie Koubek. John graduated from Arnold in 1949. John married Mary Jane Dunker in 1955 and they had nine children, Peggy, Joni, Bill, Deb, Skip, Phil, Bonnie, Connie, and Shanon. Reese's grandmother is Peggy Koubek Myer of Broken Bow. Peggy graduated from Arnold in 1977. Peggy's daughter, Heather Myer Hagler is currently the secretary at Arnold Public School. Reese also has two sisters, Rae and Ruby, who attend Arnold Public School.

Graysen, Zicah, Zoyer, and Kaedyn are all from the William and Emma Janesofsky Weinman lineage. They are all great-grand-

children (Kaedyn) and great-great-grandchildren (Graysen, Zicah, and Zoyer) of Paul Weinman. Paul was one of nine children born to William and Emma. Paul did not finish school, but three of his sisters graduated from Arnold: Joy 1939, Ploma 1935, and Virginia 1940. Paul married Marjorie Long on May 28, 1943. Marjorie is an Arnold alumna, graduating in 1938. Paul and Marjorie had five children Leon, Glen, Dale, Jim and Jean, all graduates of Arnold.

Kaedyn is the daughter of Cam and Katie Weinman. Cam is the son of Jim and Nickie Edelman Weinman and graduated from Arnold in 1999. Kaedyn's grandfather Jim, graduated from Arnold in 1973. Kaedyn is a fourth-generation attendee of

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Housing Development Money On Hold

Village Board members heard an update from Arnold Economic Development Director Cheryl Carson on the Rural Workforce Housing Land Development grant at their regular meeting held on August 14. Carson said that Arnold was awarded a \$222,770.00 grant for future housing land development. The Nebraska Department of Economic Development e-mailed the new sub-award agreements for the program on July 5. CNEDD, the Village attorney, Village staff, and AEDC are reviewing the updated guidelines.

Upon examination of the updated guidelines, Carlson said there are questions concerning the new implementation of the funds not being a grant as originally promoted during the application, but now a loan, which needs to be paid back. District Economic Development staff and awardees

are working with the State of Nebraska Economic Development to work out the changes to the program and funding awards. The acceptance deadline, originally set for August 15, has been extended to September 15. Among other updates, Carson said that the AEDC was asked by a representative of the Custer County Leadership program to host a tour of Arnold on September 25 for members of their group, showing what projects and developments the Arnold community has going on. The group will be touring five Custer County communities that day.

Canvas Prints

Garald and Karen Horst, DBA Cedar Shadows, LLC, spoke to Board members regarding canvas prints for the community center. Garald said the canvas print in the entryway needs to be replaced, and

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Retired? Almost, but not quite yet

Mr. Mohr steps back in while school continues search for shop teacher

By Janet Larreau

At the end of the 2022-2023 school year, Arnold Public Schools was in a quandary, when the shop teacher submitted his resignation to teach business in another school. The administration had time to advertise, but there were no takers for the position. Clay Mohr, who retired as shop teacher in 2020, stepped in and pretty much volunteered to save the day. How long he will be back in the shop room is up in the air, as there are some 55 to 60 openings for a shop teacher that aren't filled - just in the state of Nebraska alone.

"There's no way that I could let the program go away or sit idle when we have other choices. A lot of schools have done away with shop classes because they know there's no teachers out there. I'm hoping that it will be a limited time, but I just can't see me leaving before they find someone. I'm always willing to do what needs to be done because it's for the kids and the community, and it's important. I don't think I could put in another 39 years, though," he said.

Along with teaching shop, Mr. Mohr will also return as instructor for he and wife, Julie's, brainchild: School House Graphic Products. He is hoping that the school finds someone who wants to invest in the graphics program, as well as teach shop.

"(Art teacher) Katie Burglund and (former shop teacher) Pat Recoy have been running things with school house graphics. It wasn't quite the pace it was in the past, but it's still important for employment to get kids to understand what goes on in business. Not necessarily going into graphics, but business. Until you get in a real world situation, it's hard to emulate. Both (past shop teacher) Bryson Kennedy and Pat did a good job, but realistically, that's not what they wanted to do," he said.

Mr. Mohr has a great passion for teaching, and his main concern is the lack of kids going into the education field overall.

"It is concerning because teaching is one of those professions that's a thankless job. There's so much pressure put on the school system," he said. "In teaching,



After going into retirement in 2020, Clay Mohr has found himself back in the shop room due to the need for a teacher. - Debbie Connelly photo

you always put kids ahead of yourself. Your product is the most important thing you're putting out. You need to have balance with what you offer. You need soft skills and social skills to interact and learn how to learn. Everything you do at school is part of life. We need to have more conversations in schools and try to identify the kids who have the personality and drive to go into education and make a difference in the world. We need to do a better job."