



Serving the South Loup River Valley

The Arnold Sentinel

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

VOLUME 95, NUMBER 11



KENDRA VEIRS PHOTO

Valley Blossoms Into Sea of Sunflowers

Breathtaking fields of bright yellow sunflowers are in full bloom in Mills Valley, northwest of Arnold. The hail storm that swept through the area in the middle of June destroyed various corn and soybean fields, and prompted some farmers to plant sunflowers, rarely seen in the area. Some fields were replanted to sunflowers, cane and soybeans - due to their relative short growing season. The sunflower fields belong to Max and Lindy Smith (L & M Ag).

Enrollment Totals at Arnold Public School

Another new student enrolled at Arnold Public School last week, bringing the total number of new students to 21. The new student, a boy, is in the junior class. Principal Dawn Lewis

released enrollment numbers on September 2. The total number of students is 126, up from 114 last year. Following is a break-down of the number of students in each class. Kindergarten10

First Grade	6
Second Grade	10
Third Grade	20
Fourth Grade	7
Fifth Grade	12
Sixth Grade	8
Seventh Grade	6
Eighth Grade	14
Ninth Grade	6
Tenth Grade	5
Eleventh Grade	13
Twelfth Grade	9

Horseshoe Tournament

A horseshoe tournament will take place on Sunday, September 11, at 3:00 p.m., at the Old Mill Park. Buy-in is \$5.00 and includes a meal. Pre-registration is preferred, but not necessary. Call Ryan Tullis at 508-530-7088 for more information.

Downtown Building Purchased With USDA Loan

By Janet Larreau

Kristi Dvorak has purchased and updated a downtown building thanks to receiving a USDA loan and grant through the Arnold Economic Development Corporation (AEDC).

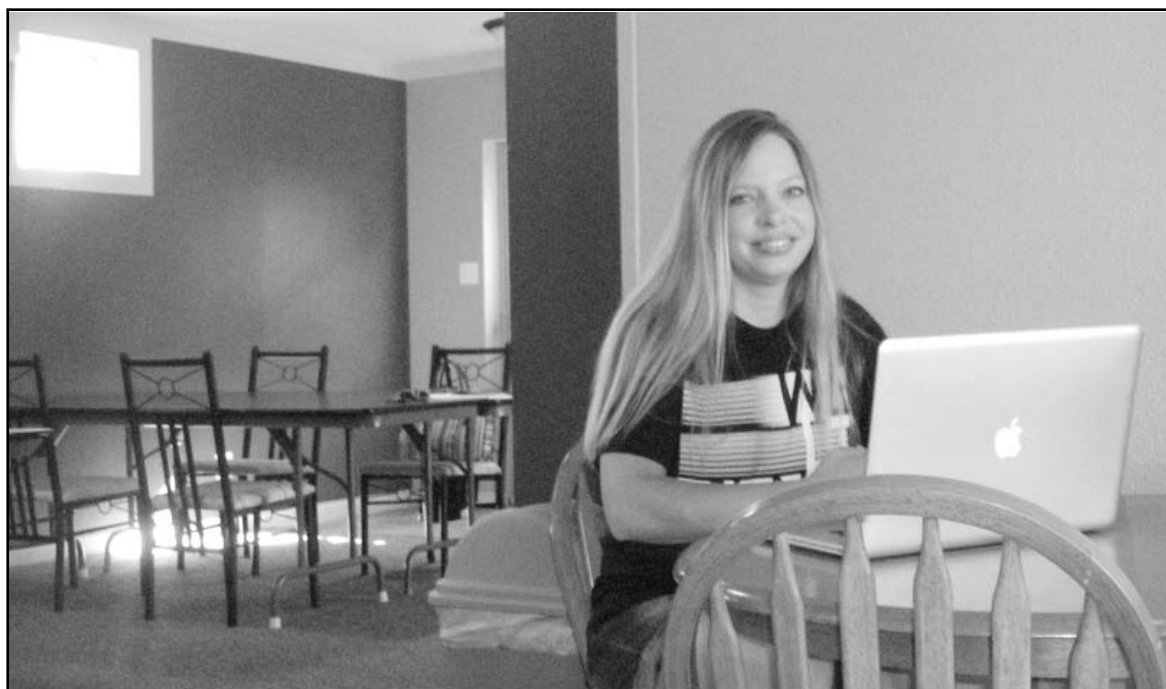
Kristi said she was ready to try a different career and expand her existing scrapbooking business. As a former director of the AEDC, she was well aware of how a small business loan could help her and at the same time benefit the community.

Kristi and her husband, Rich, have made several improvements to the building, including some changes to the inside structure, new windows, carpeting and paint. Shelving was added for her inventory of scrapbooking supplies, and tables were set up for workspace.

Kristi is also using the building as an office. From this location, she works with Melody Hanson of Sublime Artistry in Stapleton as a project director for the graphic design business. Kristi is also contracted by some of Sublime Artistry's clients for her services.

"For Melody, I work with the clients to figure out what they want. I initiate the project and set the timelines, which can be difficult," she said. I do anything she needs done and sometimes that can include writing, proofreading, populating Web sites or helping clients learn how to do it themselves. Some clients pay us to maintain their site. Most of our clients are located out of state, and we do most of the work through the internet and through meetings on the computer and through E-mail," said Dvorak.

In her own business, Kristi



JANET LARREAU PHOTO

Kristi Dvorak works at her laptop in her new downtown business. A USDA loan and grant through the AEDC helped her purchase the building.

describes herself as a "virtual assistant," helping businesses with marketing and advertising, writing and creating business documents, proofreading, E-mail campaigns and social media marketing. Kristi also assists businesses with Search Engine Optimization (SEO), finding the write key words that people will use in the search engine so the business will pop up higher in the search engine rankings.

Kristi continues to maintain the Arnold Web site and helps the AEDC and its current director, Heidi Kulp, with projects. She also voluntarily maintains the SORC Web site.

Kristi said she and Melody Hanson have more ideas to help their businesses grow,

including making some of their client's products available in their stores. In the future, she will be offering document and photo scanning. Kristi has yet to come up with a name that would best suit her business.

A lot of Kristi's experience came in Lincoln, where she worked for two different advertising agencies after receiving her college degree. In those jobs, Dvorak said she worked with a wide array of clients in anything from the hospital industry to the aircraft industry.

A 1990 graduate of Arnold High School, Dvorak and her husband moved to the area in 2002.

"We had (daughter) Kacee, and we were ready to be closer

to family and raise her in a small town environment," said Dvorak.

"The virtual business is the up and coming way to do business," she said. "It showcases how you can run your business in a small community."

For more information about the services Kristi offers, E-mail: kdvorak@gpcom.net.

For more information on how to apply for a USDA loan and grant for business start-up or expansion, contact Heidi Kulp at the Arnold Economic Development Corporation office at (308) 848-2211 or E-mail aedc@gpcom.net.

Through the revolving loan fund, principal and interest are paid back and made available to future businesses.



Exchange student Clara Fordtner

German Exchange Student Arrives in Arnold

German exchange student Clara Fordtner arrived in Arnold on August 17 and will be staying with host parents Jeff and Dynette Oberg for 10 months through the Education First program. She has enrolled in classes at APS and says she likes everything and everyone.

Clara comes from a town of 3,500 residents. She has two older brothers and one younger sister. She said she wanted to become an exchange student in America to have the experience of a different culture and a different school, and she hopes to improve on her English. As for American food, Clara said she likes it.

Sales Tax Update

For the tax month of June, receipts from the 1% city sales and use tax were \$4,266.15. Receipts from the motor vehicle sales tax were 683.68.