

THOMAS COUNTY

Herald

Your Source Of
News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166

(USPS 596-550)

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018

NO. 34

Notices

- Notice Of Organization Licking Properties, LLC
- Notice Of Organization Trina Mintle Wellness LLC
- Notice To Bidders
- Thedford School Board Public Notice



- Talysha Madyson Huffman

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Life Center Pancake Supper

Thedford's Life Center will be holding their annual spring pancake supper, Friday, March 16, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Thedford Life Center. Everyone is invited to attend!

Four file for County Commissioner

Four have filed for two positions for Thomas County Commissioner.

Thomas County Clerk, Lorissa Hartman, reports in addition to Republican incumbents John Seeley and Lewis L. Herbaugh, seeking re-election, James Purdum has filed on the Republican ticket and Norma Butler, Libertarian.

Other incumbents seeking re-election and are unopposed are:

County Clerk: Lorissa Hartman.

County Treasurer: Andrea Thomas.

County Sheriff: Gary J. Eng.

County Attorney: Kurt Dam Arganbright.

Airport Authority: 4-year term, Steven Reed; 6-year term, Ron Masten.

The filing deadline was March 1.

The Herald will be publishing a complete Notice of Election later this month.

Brown County Farm Bureau hosting Property Tax Forum

Brown County Farm Bureau is sponsoring a "Road to Property Tax Reform" forum on Thursday, March 8 at 2:00 p.m. at the Elks Club in Ainsworth. The event is open to the public.

Rob Robertson, chief administrator of the Nebraska Farm Bureau, will provide updates on property tax bills pending in the Nebraska Legislature and discuss the broader property tax landscape in Nebraska.

"Whether you are a homeowner, a business owner, or a farmer or rancher, it's important for everyone concerned about property taxes to learn what they can do to make a real difference. You don't have to be a farmer or rancher to come. This event is open to everyone," Tammy Fiechtner, north central regional manager for Nebraska Farm Bureau, said.

Putting families first...with three locations



Grant Chapin, left, is one of the three new owners of the Arnold and Mullen Funeral Homes. Tiff Varney, right, has sold his business to Govier Brothers Mortuary of Broken Bow.

Story & Photos By Marcia Hora

It's official. Govier Brothers Mortuary of Broken Bow has purchased Arnold & Mullen Funeral Homes.

Grant Chapin, one of the new owners, was on hand for a "meet and greet" to say hello to people in the area, and also wish Tiff Varney all the best at Tiff's retirement party, Saturday, February 24, at the Arnold and Mullen locations.

Chapin said purchasing Arnold & Mullen Funeral Homes was a good fit for Govier Brothers.

"Tiff was ready to retire, and we felt it was a good addition to purchase the business up Highway 2 from Broken Bow to Thedford and Mullen. We can now continue to be of service to the great people in the Sandhills," Chapin said. "We know a lot of people in the Arnold area, as well, and it is in close proximity to Broken Bow."

Although Chapin said miles will be a challenge, he and his two partners, Doug Gaston and Todd Eberle, are ready and willing to be of service to families in the area west of Broken Bow.

Gaston and Chapin took over as owners of Govier Brothers Mortuary in the early 1990's. The business had been started in 1950 by George and Everett Govier, although Chapin said the home which houses the business has been a funeral home since the early 1900's. Eberle later came in as a partner.

Chapin said he has always wanted to be in the funeral home business.

"My parents, Gene and Lola Chapin who own Chapin's Furniture, were good friends with the people who had the funeral home. Since the businesses were close, I would mow lawns, wash cars, and do odd jobs at Govier Brothers. When I was a senior in high school, our class toured the hospital. I asked my instructor if I could go job shadow at the mortuary."

Chapin went on to say he has worked on and off at the funeral home in Broken Bow since he was 16, and never thought of doing anything else.

"Funeral directors are very dedicated people. It has to be a calling and you have to want to do this. Your family has to learn to adjust, and above all else, you have to be willing to serve people and give a lot of yourself," Chapin said. "We here at Govier Brothers are very excited to be taking over the Arnold & Mullen Funeral Homes and help families in an even larger area geographically."

Chapin said there have been many changes in the funeral home business over the years.

"We are constantly adapting and changing to meet the needs of families," he said.

Chapin said the great help Tiff has at Arnold and Mullen has been nothing short of amazing.

"I cannot say enough about the people who helped Tiff over the years, and we know they will continue to help us," Chapin added.

Govier Brothers will be taking pre-arrangements. Chapin stressed if people have pre-need arrangements with Arnold & Mullen Funeral Homes nothing will change.

"It's safe with us and we are not closing the locations," Chapin said. "We are going to use Tiff's home for visitation and funeral arrangements to accommodate people. We will meet you in Mullen or Arnold, or we will visit with you in your home. If you call the Arnold or the Mullen Funeral Home numbers they will ring in to us."

Although Tiff has retired he will still be available to help.

"Tiff is a fully licensed funeral director and he will help us whenever and wherever he can. He needs to go and enjoy himself in his retirement. He's certainly earned it," Chapin said. "The last few years we have worked together to help each other, and that has certainly helped with this transition."

Tiff Varney said it was time to retire and sell the business.

"I've enjoyed working with the people in this area over the years, and it has certainly been good. Now it's time to enjoy my two grandchildren."



The Mullen Funeral Home location will be used as it always has. Chapin said he now knows the exact mileage between Broken Bow and Mullen.

Varney estimates he has driven almost a million miles and worn out 13 Suburbans since he purchased the Arnold & Mullen Funeral Homes in 1979.

The 1970 graduate of Broken Bow High School, attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for two years, and graduated from the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science. Varney worked as an embalmer in Vietnam, helped a friend in New Zealand with a funeral home, and substituted as a mortician all over the state of Nebraska.

He purchased the Arnold & Mullen Funeral Home in 1979 from Jerry Tickle and his partner, Gene Ryan, who had passed away.

"I came here with my dog, fishing pole, baseball glove, and a gun," Varney said.

Tiff and his wife, Barb, were married in 1982. Barb continued to work for Production Credit for four years until their son, Tiff, was born.

"Barb helped me in the funeral home after Moose was born. 'I've had to so many people who have helped with funerals over the years, and I've had to bury some. Those have been really tough.'"

For Varney, being funeral director at Arnold and Mullen hasn't been a job, it's been about working with, and helping people.

"My grandfather Varney always told me you shouldn't have a job, just



Tiff Varney will continue to live in his residence in Arnold. It will also be home to the Arnold Funeral Home. The location will continue to be used for family consultation and visitation.

do something you really love. That way you can give 100% to it and enjoy what you do - every day," Varney said. "You have to be dedicated and really love whatever you do. This is a 24-7-365 day a year (366 in a Leap year) occupation."

The loss of his son, Tiff, and his wife, Barb, a little over a year ago, has been difficult. He credits family and friends in helping him get through.

"There are fewer and fewer people graduating from mortuary school," Varney said. "I will continue helping Govier Brothers with funerals and families in any way I can. They definitely are covering the largest area of any funeral directors in the state."

After retirement parties

in Arnold and Mullen, hosted by his daughters, Liz and her husband, Joe Franssen and Alex Varney, it's time for Tiff to enjoy hunting and spending time with family and friends.

He has put 10,000 miles on his vehicle since January 1 for the organ donor program. Volunteering has always been a passion of the Varney family and will continue.

He will have to miss the 30th annual Chili Cook-off in Arnold on March 2 due to the second birthday party of his granddaughter, Tiffany.

For Grant Chapin, Doug Gaston and Todd Eberle at Govier Brothers Mortuary, they will be doing what they do best - putting families first - now in three locations.

New Agent Joins Arnold Insurance



COURTESY PHOTO

Cole Kinderknecht of Stapleton has joined the Arnold Insurance Agency. Kinderknecht lives in Gandy with his wife, Lacy, and son, Conner, 2. Lacy is the fourth grade teacher at Stapleton Public Schools, and also serves as school-community liaison.

Kinderknecht attended school at Stapleton until he and his family moved to Kansas when he was in grade school. He graduated from Northern Valley High School, attended Colby Community College

for two years, and graduated from Northwest Kansas Technical College with an engineering degree.

He has been an insurance claims adjuster for Farmers Mutual of Nebraska for the past seven years.

"Joining Arnold Insurance Agency is a great opportunity for me. I look forward to helping people with their insurance needs in the Sandhills area."

Kinderknecht enjoys calf roping and hunting in his spare time.

Murder Mystery rescheduled

The murder mystery, "Murder High Reunion," has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m., at the Thomas County Fair Building.

ST after-prom parents are hosting the event. A free will donation will be taken for those wishing to attend and watch the murder investigation unfold.

For more information, contact Jane Haake or PJ Higgs. This is a 21 and over event.

All proceeds will go to the Sandhills-Thedford after prom party. This year's prom is scheduled for Saturday, March 17, at the Halsey 4-H Camp.