

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Insurance policies have a 10 day grace period, not 30 day as most people believe.
- You only have 4 days of automatic coverage when you buy a new car.
- If an item is not listed on your blanket policy, then it is not included for coverage.

THANK YOU FOR THE BUSINESS, JOE BOB ATKINS

Hello, I am excited to be writing in our first quarterly newsletter. All of us at the Arnold Insurance Agency want to thank you for your business. We are going to be supplying information in our quarterly newsletter that relates to insurance in general. The articles will supply you with items to think about and tips that will help you understand different types of insurance. I have decided to add this to our website and Facebook page so all of our customers can have the benefit of viewing it.

At our agency, we have the motto, "COME SEE OUR FAMILY TO TAKE CARE OF YOURS". This is something that we believe in, not just put at the bottom of our letter head.

I believe that one of the best ways we can take care of our customers is by knowing our products.

There are 6 license agents in the office with 3 of them having a designation and the others with only a few classes/test left before they obtain theirs.

I have set up our office to be the most efficient for all of our insured's. This is done by having each agent specialize in a line of business. Heather Harwager works with commercial and large farm accounts. Heather Hagler specializes in personal lines, life and health insurance. Sheila Preston works with personal lines. Sara Buchholz specializes in small farms. Shelley Smith works with

crop insurance. Randi Atkins is an owner and also does the bookkeeping. That leaves me, with 6 women that all tell me what I can and can't do! I do all the sales, management, claims, and appointments.

I am also a firm believer in reviewing your policy. Starting this January, all Homeowner, Farm, Commercial, and Crop customers will be sent a check list to fill out each renewal year to help us make sure you have the right coverage in place.

These are a few examples of how we live up to our motto. Thank you for the business, we look forward to working hard for you for years to come.

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**COME SEE OUR FAMILY,
TO TAKE CARE OF YOURS**

COMMERCIAL AUDITS

Premium Audit's what are they? If you have a commercial account you maybe familiar with a premium audit. An audit is an examination of the business accounting records to determine the correct premium and classification for the covered period. Since it is impossible for the insured to know exactly what their exposures for the policy term will be, the premium for workers compensation, general liability and garage policies are based on an estimated exposure in the gross sales or payroll area. At the end of

each policy period, the company asks the insured for the actual exposure for the period. This sometimes may cost you additional premium if your estimate was lower than your actual sales or payroll OR it can also mean that you may be entitled to a refund.

When an audit department does contact you they will request the information below, this may vary from account to account:

Gross Sales: this is the total sales, less sales tax paid, credits given for return merchandise and any finance charges.

Gross Payroll: this includes wages, overtime, commissions, bonuses, holiday pay, vacation pay, sick pay, etc. Keep in mind to always keep any overtime pay separate as this is not included in payroll for insurance.

What happens if you do not comply with a company's audit? The company has the

right to choose to estimate the payroll or gross sales. This usually never benefits the insured as the auditor's estimates can be high. It is always in the best interest of the insured to conduct an audit each year.

*Heather Harwager

FARMERS CONCERNS

Did you know that you can extend coverage on your farm policy to cover loss to your livestock due to freezing or smothering in snowstorms or ice storms? With temperatures steadily dropping, now is a good time to review your coverage on your livestock. Give us a call, we'd be happy to help you determine how much coverage you may need.

With the amounts of snow we tend to receive here in Central Nebraska it would also be a good idea to think about

insuring your outbuildings for collapse due to weight of snow or ice. Most outbuildings only have basic coverage, which does not include collapse. We would be more than happy to review your policy and ensure that you have this valuable coverage.

One final thought with the declining temperatures is that it's a good time to make sure the heating units in your outbuildings are in good working order. We hope that everyone can make it through the holiday season without

any claims, but please remember that if something happens we are here to help you! Happy Holidays!

~ Sara Buchholz

"The real cost of insurance is your premium, plus the amount you don't get paid at the time of loss"

NEW TOYS

It's that time of year, gift giving and receiving season!! When you get that special diamond necklace or earrings, camera equipment you've been eyeing, or that new gun you really wanted....don't forget to schedule these precious items on your homeowner's policy. When these items are scheduled; they are covered at their value (appraisals required) and are covered for all perils. Another thing to

remember when sending that college student back to school with that new laptop, you have 10% of your personal property covered off premise, i.e. college. Here's wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

~Heather Hagler



HOLIDAY TRAVEL

This holiday season, the staff of Arnold Insurance Agency would like to wish everyone safe travels. We would also like to remind everyone 'tis the season for deer. The I.I.I estimates there are more than 1.6 million deer-vehicle collisions each year, resulting in tens of thousands of injuries and over \$3.6 billion in vehicle damage. Now is a good time to make sure that you have Comprehensive coverage on your vehicles.

Also be sure to ask about adding Roadside Assistance to your policy. This would come in handy if you would have any mechanical problems with your vehicle or even just a flat tire. With this coverage we can get you back on the road, and to that special holiday destination!

Sheila Preston

HARVEST TIME

Harvest has been a new adventure this year, both for farmers as well as their insurance companies. As moisture contents linger near 20% for many producers, concerns over the end of the insurance period rise. The end of the insurance period is December 10th. Any producer who will not be finished with harvest by that date needs to contact our office prior to December 10th. We will turn in a delay of harvest claim. This claim gives the farmer additional time to harvest (or attempt to har-

vest) crops in order to settle losses based on production. So if your crops will be harvested on or after December 10th, please give us a call! Happy holidays everyone! ~

Shelley Smith

BUYING A NEW CAR

I have heard a lot of people tell me that they bought a new car but didn't come into the office for 2 weeks. I let them know that they may not have had coverage for that full amount of time!

If a named insured purchases a new car, titled in their name, they have full coverage on it only if another

vehicle on the policy has full coverage, for 14 days only. If no vehicle has full coverage they get only get full coverage for 4 days. The same rules apply when you are replacing a vehicle.

The main point on this is that the vehicle needs to be titled in the named insured's name. That means if Farmer

Bob buys a car for his daughter to go to college in and he titles the car in her name there would be no coverage for the daughters vehicle! It has to be titled to the named insured. The daughter would need her own policy if it were titled in her name.

Joe Bob Atkins

"The best way to make sure you are covered is to have good communications with your agent, they can't insure what they don't know"



We are on the web, come visit us at

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**COME SEE OUR
FAMILY,
TO TAKE CARE OF YOURS**

UNDERINSURED & UNINSURED, JOE BOB ATKINS

Why should I pay for someone else's responsibility to buy their own insurance? That is a question that is given to our agents almost each time we review an auto policy.

The UM/UIM limits on your policy are required by state law and state law requires a minimum limit of \$25,000 per person of bodily injury and a minimum of \$50,000 of bodily injury per accident.

That is one reason everybody has to have the UM/UIM coverage. This is not the only reason we want you to have that coverage!

Claims under UM/UIM coverage are on the rise. There

are two main reasons for this:

The first reason is the uninsured motorist. This is a person that might buy auto insurance and pay for only one month of it (so they can license the vehicle at the court house). If this person were to hit you and injured you and your passengers, this person has no insurance, so you are the one that is going to have to pay for the medical bills for yourself and your passengers. This claim would be placed under the coverage you have under the limits that you have for UM/UIM.

The second reason is the underinsured motorist. This is very common due to what I

mentioned with the state minimum limits. Now-a-days, a broken leg can add up to more than \$25,000 in medical bills. If the driver of a state minimum limits car caused bodily injury to you or to your passengers, there could be a problem.

Our office recommends that you have the same limits on UM/UIM as what you have on your own car. This way if you get into an accident with someone who has no or not enough insurance, you and your passengers will be covered and get the care that you need.

