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South Loup River Valley

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Giving the G.I.F.T. of Christmas

G.I.F.T. stands for Giving It Forward Together. This year will be a first for the Arnold area. A group of caring community members are putting together a program for entire families, elderly and couples without kids. They want everyone to experience the joy of Christmas. The program will be available to anyone in the Arnold school district.

"The hope is every household will have a little bit of Christmas joy from this program, whether it is giving or receiving," said Lori Stutzman.

The process will be fairly simple. Anyone can nominate anyone or any family in the Arnold school district by filling out the nomination form that can be picked up at various locations in town. If there is a family outside of the school district and the children attend Arnold schools, they may be nominated. Any individual, business or group may also adopt by filling out the adoption form that can be picked up at the same locations.

After the forms are completed, they may be dropped off at the food pantry, now located in the old CPI office on Highway 92. Nominating and adopting is done anonymously. The committee's only request is that there is no self-nominating. The committee will make matches and get needed information to the adopters.

Adopters will not know who they are adopting, and will have only needed information such as ages, genders and possible shopping list or ideas. Examples of things might be groceries, toys, clothes, school stuff, and gift cards for Reed's Food Center or Nansel's Best Service. All forms should be dropped off by November 4 so that matches can be made and handed out the second week of November. Adopters will receive drop off instructions with the other information. If you would like to contribute but do not want to shop, monetary donations can be made. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Lori Stutzman at 308-530-4121.

Crop Progress Report

For the week ending, October 2, ideal fall harvest conditions occurred with minimal precipitation and near normal temperatures, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The dry conditions allowed grain moisture levels in standing crops to be drawn down and permitted easy access to fields. Soybean harvest was widespread. Winter wheat was being planted in southern counties. There were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 8 percent very short, 28 short, 61 adequate, and 3 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 7 percent very short, 26 short, 65 adequate and 2 surplus.

Corn mature was 85 percent, ahead of 77 last year and the five-year average. Harvested was 15 percent, near 14 last year, but behind 21 average.

Soybeans dropping leaves was 89 percent, near 86 last year and 85 average. Harvested was 27 percent, near 26 last year, and equal to average.

Winter wheat planted was 85 percent, ahead of 80 last year and 77 average. Emerged was 60 percent, ahead of 41 both last year and average.

Alfalfa fourth cutting was 79 percent, behind 92 last year and 85 average.

Dry edible beans harvested was 73 percent, near 77 last year and 74 average.

Sorghum mature was 89 percent, ahead of 72 last year, and well ahead of 66 average. harvested was 23 percent, ahead of 5 last year and 8 average.



Jodi Carlson has purchased the 1914 building that formerly housed Nebraska Farmhouse Antiques and Coffee Shop. She plans to renovate the building in the coming months, and have a storefront for her going business, Flour Girls. Her business plan also includes adding a coffee shop and selling home decor. (Kendra Veirs photo)

1914 Building Sells

Jodi Carlson Looks Forward to Storefront Business Venture

It's safe to say that Jodi Carlson is a little more than excited

to officially announce that she is the new owner of the previous Nebraska Farmhouse Antiques store in Arnold. She said this big decision took on its own journey.

"I simply started out looking for a kitchen space to move my home-based business 'Flour Girls,' as it is taking over my personal kitchen area," she

said.

Flour Girls was established in 2010 as a summer farmers market project and evolved into a small home-based business, taking special orders and serving special events throughout the year. Exploring several different options, Jodi decided to look at the possibility of renting a space in either Gothenburg or Arnold.

"Both my husband, Keith, and

I have roots and are graduates of Gothenburg, but all three of our children graduated from Arnold High School, and now a few of our grandchildren attend school in Arnold. We have a heart for both communities and the people," she said.

Early this summer, it came to Jodi's attention that Kim Beshaler was planning to close Farmhouse Antiques and Coffee House. She said many peo-

ple were very disappointed to lose a comfortable spot to get their favorite coffee or smoothie and visit. She found herself now not only contemplating the idea of a kitchen space, but the idea of running a coffee house as well.

"It was a big decision for me, as it would mean taking on the 1914 building and all its needed repairs, in addition to updates and renovating an area for a baking kitchen," she said. "Even though the building is very old and in need of many repairs, it has a certain charm and quaintness to it that I just couldn't seem to let go. Looking around the Arnold community, I gained confidence in making the final decision when The Arnold Exchange opened its doors. It seemed like a breath of fresh air and felt like a renewed vision for the village. I also saw Mills Hardware celebrating 20 years of a thriving business. So the final decision was made with the thought, 'Why not Arnold?' It is the perfect spot to get my feet wet and learn in a community that will be rooting for your success. A success for me, is a win for the town, too."

Jodi said she is excited for this opportunity and nervous, too, as this will be her first storefront business. Although this started out as a search for a kitchen for Flour Girls, it blossomed into something more. Her business plan is to open as a coffee house and gift boutique sometime this spring, after the building is renovated and her kitchen is in. She will have fresh baked goodies for customers to enjoy with their coffee each week, and continue to serve her current clientele. She is still contemplating on what to name it.

"This is all a work in progress, and I may have a few more ideas to reveal down the road, so stay tuned," she concluded.

The Metamorphosis of a Painted Lady

Second Graders Study Life Cycle of Butterflies



Pictured above are emerging chrysalis and the butterflies in their habitat in the second grade classroom before being released. Through the net, second graders were fascinated watching the metamorphosis of species Painted Lady.

On September 8, tiny black caterpillars in a sterile plastic container arrived in Arnold's second grade classroom. Only about 1 cm long, they came with a special food to eat. It was all part of the students' science project called "The Life Cycle of a Butterfly."

"We study 'life cycles' in second grade Life Science units," said teacher Melva Geiser. "The metamorphosis stage of a butterfly's life is fascinating and ex-

citing to watch."

Mrs. Geiser, who is in her seventh year of teaching second grade at APS, and in her 25th year of teaching in Nebraska Public Schools, said she did research on the Painted Lady butterfly, as it is readily available for purchase from a company in California called "Insect Lore." It has proved to be very successful in the classroom, they usually have at least five or six live butterflies as they emerge from the chrysalis. The

Painted Ladies are a part of the group of butterflies called "Cynthia," and several varieties of them are native to California.

Second graders watched with anticipation each day, as the caterpillars ate and grew. After about 8-10 days after they were received, the caterpillars were about 4 cm long and each crawled to the top of the container and attached itself to the inside of the lid. Soon, the caterpillar's skin split open from head to abdomen, revealing a brown case - the chrysalis or pupa. The children learned that the caterpillar would turn completely liquid before changing itself into a butterfly.

After about 8-10 days, the adult butterflies began emerging, wet and crumpled. The butterfly slowly unfolded its wings and began flying around the cage. The kids fed them sugar water on cotton balls and flowers from Mrs. Geiser's garden.

"The butterflies were basically self-sufficient," said Mrs. Geiser. "They had food, water and a habitat, so we didn't have to care for them on a daily basis. Instead, we observed them and shared our thoughts and amazement on how wonderful nature really is."

Some of the comments heard from the children while observing the butterflies included: "I didn't know they would turn to liquid!" "They turned to a chrysalis really soon!" "I thought they would die before we let them out!" "I thought it would take one month for them to hatch!" And finally, "It was sad to let them go."

The Painted Ladies were released on October 4. Before taking them outside, Mrs. Geiser and the students reviewed the butterflies' life cycle, talked about how they would be able to probably still lay eggs before a big freeze, and perhaps those eggs would hatch and the caterpillars would be able to make a



Painted Lady Butterfly

chrysalis, and the kids would see the new butterflies in the spring.

All 12 of Mrs. Geiser's second graders, Mrs. Geiser and their para, Mrs. Downing, were sad and actually got teary-eyed to know that they needed to let the butterflies have their freedom before their about two-week lifespan would end. The emotional connection was evident.

"We decided that our 'ladies' would soar to heaven and give butterfly kisses to our loved ones," said Mrs. Geiser. "With that said, it was still hard to let them go. However, when they began flying around our heads and in every direction, we were giggling and chasing after them. Somehow, deep down, we knew we did the right thing. We gave them their freedom!"

Mrs. Geiser, who is in her seventh year teaching second grade at APS, and in her 25th year of teaching in Nebraska Public Schools, saying they are "the best schools ever," said her teaching philosophy is rather simple: all children can and do learn. She believes in developing a student-centered environment for her students; she wants students to actively participate in their learning and self-evaluate their progress; she encourages children to be critical thinkers - referred to as "thinking outside the box"; and she believes everyone can be readers, writers and thinkers.