

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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UN-L Interns Helping AEDC Move Forward With Projects

By Janet Larreau

Two University of Nebraska-Lincoln students are serving as interns in Arnold, Callaway and Broken Bow through the end of July, and are helping pave the way for future growth in all three communities.

Hailey Walmsley, a Junior agricultural education major, is from Norfolk, and Megan Coan, a Senior agriculture leadership major with a minor in animal science, is from Platte Center. They are in Arnold and Callaway one day a week, and in Broken Bow the remaining three days.

Carson explained that as a member of the Custer Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), the AEDC was asked if it would be interested in splitting the services of interns over the 2019 summer.

“This was definitely of interest, as we are in the process of working on some very time consuming projects. Having some assistance would help move them along more quickly,” said Carson.

Andrew Ambiz, director of the CEDC, outlined the cost for the three interested communities to split the cost, but due to CEDC receiving a grant, the communities are able to share the interns and utilize their help and services this summer free of cost. However, they are still paid, housed, and fed through funding received from the Rural Futures Institute (RFI) program at UN-L. Both are staying at the Melham house in Broken Bow through the course of their internship.

The girls are working Thursdays in Arnold, arriving around 9:00 a.m., and leaving at 4:00 p.m. The AEDC is currently working on several projects, two of which are larger, have been ongoing and take a great deal of time and focus. While here, Megan and Hailey will be assigned tasks by Carson that will focus on working through Owner Occupied Rehabilitation (OOR) components. There are several components to this process,



Photo/Debbie Connally

UN-L agricultural student interns Megan Coan (left) and Hailey Walmsley (right) are in Arnold once a week through the end of July to help the Arnold Economic Development Corporation with some big projects. The girls are also serving as interns in Broken Bow and Callaway.

one of which is to account for every lot in the community of Arnold. Each home, no matter if occupied, vacant, or just a lot, needs to be photographed, cataloged, evaluated, and then classified. After this is done, each location and all of its information will then be added into a program for proper assessment of Arnold’s current conditions. Carson said this is necessary and required for any future funding that might be sought to assist owner occupied rehabilitation of homes in Arnold. Second, the girls will be assisting in the finishing up requirements for filing to be a Certified Leadership Community.

The girls first arrived on May 31, and Carson spent the first part of the day taking them around to businesses, meeting owners and community members, and seeing the sights.

They will be out and about more, as the summer continues, and as they are assisting with projects being worked on.

“This will give them the opportunity to meet more people and see what Arnold has to offer. They were already amazed that Arnold has as much as we do,” said Carson.

The girls are working on several projects, both separately and together, in both Callaway and Broken Bow, as well. These projects will also leave a mark on the communities long after they are gone.

After graduation, Hailey plans to become a high school agricultural education teacher and FFA advisor. She said she decided to take on this internship because it’s unlike any other internship.

“In this job, I get to work on projects that play toward my strengths and interests. We

aren’t just typical interns who come in and sit at a desk all day filing paperwork or doing the job no one wants to do. We have a lot more responsibilities than traditional interns because we are challenged with finding a project, and seeing that project start to finish,” she said.

Megan wants to further her education by obtaining her master’s degree. She plans on working as an extension educator or in the field of economic development. She chose to sign up for this internship because of her love and passion for rural communities.

Coming from a rural community, I have learned over the years how important it is to support one another and finding new ways to grow the community,” she said.

Both girls said the goal of the

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Farm Credit Services Donates Labor, Check, to Help with New Playground Structure

By Janet Larreau

Kids ages 2-5 now have a playground structure of their very own at the Arnold City Park thanks to help from Farm Credit Services, the village, and volunteers.

AEDC Director Cheryl Carson, who headed up the park improvement project, applied for a labor grant from Farm Credit Services (FCS). The grant was awarded, and in addition, FCS donated \$750.00, which Carson said isn’t always the case.

The crew of FCS organizer Jen Dalrymple, Jenny Denson, Kara Behrens, Ryan Coleman, Heather Wright, Jaci Peterson, Jamie Haun, Sandy Priest, Hope Janitscheck, arrived on the morning of May 23.

Village employees Tori, Rusty and Doug, had already brought the play structure, borders, and mulch out of storage and had it ready at the park when everyone arrived. In addition to erecting the new structure, borders were added again during this work day, extending the play area over to the small metal slide. Now children can slide down onto a softer - and not muddy - surface. The springy airplane now has rubber play material below it as well.

The small structure was placed in the northwest part of the play area, leaving a spot for placement of the future merry-go-round on the northeast corner.

Most of the FCS group



Courtesy photo

Farm Credit Services employees are pictured with the new playground structure that they helped assemble as part of a donation to the community.

worked on structure assembly, and the others helped with border setting and mulch placement,” said Carson.

Others helping were: Al Halouska and Lanny Smith from Country Partners Cooperative opened the play structure shipping packages, helped set

borders, and distributed mulch; Mike Harvey provided equipment; Jimmy Davenport took a photo of the group; and Heather Hagler and Carson worked on the project, as well.

As of this writing, \$4,584.60 has been raised through a fundraiser and from donations

for the last part of the upgrades of purchasing a merry-go-round and toddler swing set bay frame. The goal is \$7,836.40.

Donations can be mailed to: AEDC, P.O. Box 376, Arnold NE 69120. Please note playground donation.

Chestnutt Pleads Guilty to Amended Charges

By Janet Larreau

Fifty-four-year-old Jane Chestnutt entered a plea of guilty to amended charges at a hearing in the Custer County District Court on June 20. The charges of 2nd degree arson, criminal mischief, and burning to defraud insurer were amended in exchange for the guilty plea. The charges stemmed from a fire that investigations found she had intentionally set at Jim’s Bar in Arnold on March 27, 2018.

The state, represented by Steven Bowers, amended the 2nd degree arson charge to criminal attempt, and dismissed the third charge of defrauding an insurer.

Chestnutt, who was represented by P. Stephen Potter, entered a plea of guilty to Count I, criminal attempt, a Class IV Felony, and Count II, criminal mischief, a Class IV Felony. The plea deal also included an agreement by all parties to pay restitution in the amount of \$5,861.07 to Lee Eastburn for damages caused by the fire, and five years of probation.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered, and the matter is set for sentencing on August 22, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

Fireworks Display Set for the 4th

Residents will be treated to the traditional fireworks display on the 4th of July at Old Mill Park. The display will start at dusk, and will be set off by the Gunther’s Fireworks team.

American Legion Post 130 and V.F.W. will Post the Colors, with music throughout the display provided by Westbrook Audio. The fireworks are sponsored by the Sandhills Open Road Challenge, and brought to the community by Arnold Chamber.

Before the display, Chamber

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4-H Stories Wanted

Plans Underway for
Special 4-H Insert

By Kacee Dvorak

The Arnold Sentinel will be creating a new insert this year featuring 4-H that will be released in August after fair. This insert will highlight stories submitted by current and past 4-H members about special projects and experiences being in 4-H. It will also feature 2019 fair results and photos.

We need your help!

Past 4-H’ers are asked to submit a short story about a special 4-H project they did or how their experiences in 4-H helped them later in life. There is no age limit on submissions...we want to hear from all ages!

We are also needing sponsors for this special insert! Sponsorship includes a \$15 signature ad with your name and/or one-line message. Larger display ads are also available. It’s very affordable and will help us share about the value of belonging to 4-H and encourage membership.

The front and back covers of the insert will be a collage of photos submitted from 4-H members. If enough sponsors are received, we are hoping to print them in color!

Stories and sponsorships should be submitted by July 22 to The Arnold Sentinel, 113 South Walnut, Arnold, NE 69120 or email arnoldsentinel@gpc.com.net.

The Western Riders 4-H Club

would like to thank everyone

for their support and especially

to The Arnold Sentinel for

showcasing 4-H!