

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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A Kansas company came up to Arnold to erect carports at Riverview Apartments last week. It wasn't long before residents' vehicles were protected from the elements. - Debbie Connelly photos

Riverview Carport Project Is Completed

Carports were erected on the west side of Riverview Apartments last week, providing cover for residents' vehicles.

“Initially, we wanted to build garages because residents' vehicles didn't have any protection from the elements,” said Arnold Housing Authority Board member Aaron Coleman. “If we had built garages, rent would have gone up, and that was a deal killer for the residents. After a lot of back and forth, we decided on carports out front because of the proximity to the door and sidewalk. We would have liked to have put it to the east, but there was a longer walk and more cost. The carports are pretty heavy duty. They're supposed to withstand 140 mph winds - hopefully we never find out. We feel the carports will make it a more attractive place for people to come and live.”

Coleman said the project was something Ron Cool brought to the board. It was something he had wanted to do for a long time as a Rotary service project. Funding came from the Arnold Community Foundation Fund, Custer County Foundation, and lots of business and individual donations.

“Four units are currently open right now, and we're hoping that having cover for vehicles will attract more residents. We're really thankful to everyone who gave and helped, and Rotary for facilitating the project. From everyone's generosity, we received a little more money than was needed, so we're hoping to put lights in the carports in the future,” said Coleman.



Pen Pal Club

With a group of K-6 graders gathered around a table at Finch Memorial Library, Arnold Hometown Intern Gracie Neth led her first Pen Pal project session on June 8. In that session, the kids learned how to address an envelope and filled out sheets to pair them with a pen pal.

As a Hometown Intern, Gracie planned her summer projects ahead of time.

“In college I found out that one of my friends from Hebron was also a Hometown Intern, and she had thought of this project. We decided to do it together,” said Gracie.

The club meets every other Monday at the library and is open to all kids, grades K-6. When the kids start writing letters to their pen pals, they'll get to know them and the similarities and differences between the two communities.

“When I was a kid, I would get mail, and it was always fun to check the mail,” said Gracie. “Even if it didn't happen all the time, I was always excited. As I got older, I realized my younger siblings didn't have that same experience. I want to pay that forward to the younger kids. Also, Mrs. Nansel teaches seniors how to address an envelope every year, and I was amazed at how many didn't know how to.”

When starting the project, Gracie said she personally learned that stamps are really expensive. She and fellow intern Anna Tullis found funding to purchase stamps by applying for and receiving a Youth Engagement Grant from the Nebraska Community Foundation.

Future session dates for the Pen Pal Club are: June 22, July 6, July 20, and August 3. During the summer, Gracie will visit the Hebron club and her friend will visit Arnold's.



Arnold Hometown Intern Gracie Neth (far right) teaches a group of kids how to address an envelope during her first Pen Pal Club session at Finch Memorial Library. - Debbie Connelly photo



What are the odds?

Chesley mare gives birth to twins

A 9-year-old mare had twin stud colts on Tuesday, June 9, 2026. The mare belongs to Roger, Marion and Kari Chesley. The mare and the stud, H O Cowboys Sugardaddy, were both raised on the Chesley Ranch 10 miles east of Arnold.

Marion said that the mare had the twins all by herself in the pasture. “We didn't know she was carrying twins. During the ultrasound, one was hiding behind the other,” she said.

One twin is normal size and the other is about the size of a Labrador dog. Both are healthy and eating well. This is the third of four mares expected to foal on the ranch this year. According to AI, the success of twin live births are 1 in 10,000 in horses. It is even rarer if both survive. Twins are conceived in roughly 3% to 30% of equine pregnancies depending on the breed (e.g., Thoroughbreds have higher rates of multiple ovulations). The mare's uterus struggles to nourish two fetuses. Usually, her body absorbs one or both embryos early on or she will spontaneously abort them later. Less than 10% of twin pregnancies make it to full term. Of those, roughly 14% to 15% result in two live foals.

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