

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2019

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 11

Collegiate Tracksters Ready to Coach All Ages

First of its kind organization forms in Central Nebraska



Photo/Debbie Connelly

Star collegiate track athletes Caleb and Julia Franklin have settled down in Arnold and are offering to help and coach area residents of all ages in Track & Field through their new organization called Quantum Athletics.

By Janet Larreau

Arnold resident Caleb Franklin is ready at the starting line to take anyone of any age who has a love for track to the next level through Quantum Athletics – Central Nebraska’s first and only Youth, Post-Colle-

giate and Masters Track Club. Caleb, 27, graduated from Oakland-Craig High School, and is married to Julia (Hauser). He attended Midland University. Although he didn’t run track in high school, Caleb excelled in the sport during his college years. He was a 2015 NAIA 2nd

Team All American, Midland University collegiate record holder in the 100m, 8 time GPAC All-Conference Sprinter, and 3rd All-Time Midland University History in the 60m. He is currently a pro sprinter for Boom Athletics, a 100-400m expert, and specializes in speed, agility, explosiveness and bio-

Arnold School Awarded \$150,000 Grant

Arnold Public Schools is among 10 schools in the state that has been awarded a 2019-2020 Perkins reVISION Action Grant. With this grant, the district is now eligible to receive up to \$50,000 a year for the next three years. In order to become eligible for the action grant, APS completed the initial reVISION process using a reVISION initial grant. The competitive Perkins reVISION Action Grant program provides Perkins funds for secondary school districts to help implement the reVISION Action Plan developed in the reVISION process. Only activities that align with high-

skill, high-wage, and high-demand occupations are considered for funding. Seventeen districts received awards totaling \$536,995.00. The Nebraska State Board of Education awarded reVISION grants to 10 schools across the state to help develop Nebraska’s talent pipelines for economic growth and workforce development, while strengthening high school Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. Working in collaboration with postsecondary education and regional workforce/economic development leaders, the reVISION process links career edu-

cators, school administrators, school counselors, industry professionals, and community leaders. Through this process, schools will have the opportunity to analyze and transform their current CTE systems to improve their ability to educate a qualified workforce that meets employers’ needs. This will help ensure that high quality CTE programs are in place in all Nebraska schools, and that such programs are aligned with college and career readiness standards as well as the needs of employers, industry, and labor.

Brast Steps Up to be New Cooperative Weather Observer

By Janet Larreau

When the National Weather Service in North Platte posted the need for an official Cooperative Weather Observer in Arnold on Facebook, it only took Eric Brast about 30 minutes to call and volunteer. “I happened to be on Facebook and saw the share. My wife and I discussed it, and thought it would be a good thing to do,” said Eric, who lives with his family 4 miles west of the city center of Arnold. The Brasts are within 100’ of the elevation required, and that was one of the main determinates to be accepted as a NWS observer. The equipment was set up last Thursday morning, which measures rain totals and temperatures to the 10th of a degree. NWS used a range finder and positioned the equipment away from the house and the barn so the read-

ings and measurements wouldn’t be interfered by the trees or buildings. Eric said snowfall totals will be measured daily with both the device that is used as a rain gauge and a board. He will simply remove the internal workings of the rain gauge and it becomes a snow gauge. Snowfall will collect in a stainless steel drum overnight, warm water will be used to melt the snow, and once that is done, he will be able to measure the amount of water coming out. Then, with the board, he will measure snow depth by going to the flattest spot around and get a good average depth from 4 or 5 measurements. Eric said he has always been interested in recording weather. He has a pretty high tech wireless rain gauge going on about 10 years. It’s not officially certified by the NWS, but takes readings every three seconds of wind speed, gusts and direction, humidity, dew point and the heat index.

“We used it in Texas and brought it to Nebraska when we moved here. The weather’s affects on cattle performance in feed yards is how I got interested in it, and since then, it has kind of grown into a hobby,” he said. Although Eric’s high tech wireless equipment isn’t officially certified, he will be providing The Sentinel with comments that he makes to the NWS on related weather beyond temperatures and moisture. “The heat and cold index is what affects people the most – the cold and heat end of the extreme,” he said. Eric is joining the NWS Cooperative Observation network that is a national program with over 11,000 observers. There are around 53 official observers within the North Platte office area of responsibility that report weather data on a daily basis. During severe or adverse

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mechanics. Quantum Athletics is an original organization. “The main reason for creating the organization was because there isn’t anything like this in our area. You see a lot of youth track clubs in the Northeastern part of the state, but they are limited to just being a ‘youth’ club establishment,” said Caleb. “As I have traveled and competed throughout my college and post-collegiate career, I’ve seen countless times athletes who are competing way past their 30’s, 40’s, and even 50’s. I want Quantum Athletics to not only be a place for youth and high school kids to put in extra work, but for it to also be a place for people who still love to compete and train as they get into the latter stages of their lives. Track and Field is a sport that people of all ages can do.” He added that the focus on Masters Athletes (ages 30 and above) is to give them a place to have coaches who are willing to work with them and give them

“I’ve seen countless times athletes who are competing way past their 30’s, 40’s, and even 50’s.

- Caleb Franklin, Quantum Athletics

an opportunity to compete for a club and a community other than themselves. Quantum Athletics will be a year-round club, and it is absolutely free. There is no set time, day or schedule for athletes to train. “I want this to be as convenient and fun for them as possible,” said Caleb. If anyone is interested in joining Quantum Athletics contact Caleb by phone at (402) 380-4716 or email: cfranklin.sprints@gmail.com

School Looking Into Handicap Accessibility

School board members discussed handicap accessibility to the 2nd floor of the high school at their August 13 meeting. Interim Superintendent Mark Sievering said the discussion was a non-action item on the agenda, but administrators and board members have become

aware that this will be a real need very soon in the school year. Currently, the school is looking at its best options to be in compliance with ADA. “There are a handful of different options, and the stairways

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Chestnutt Sentenced In District Court

Jane Chestnutt received sentencing in the Custer County District Court on August 22. Represented by P. Stephen Potter, Chestnutt was found guilty of Count I, Criminal Attempt, a Class IV Felony, and Count II, Criminal Mischief, a Class IV Felony on June 20, 2019. The charges stemmed from a fire started at Jim’s Bar on March 27, 2018. At the time, Chestnutt was the owner.

As to Count I, Chestnutt was sentenced to five years on Traditional Supervision Probation. As to Count II, she was sentenced to five years on Traditional Supervision Probation served concurrent to Count I. She was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$5,861.07 to Lee Eastburn through the Clerk of the District Court.

Enrollment Up at APS

Enrollment is up at Arnold Public Schools, with a total of 176 students in Grades K-12. Elementary has an enrollment of 43 boys and 44 girls, and high school has 45 boys and 44 girls. The Junior class is the largest with 20 students, followed by eighth and second grades with 19 each. Freshmen and sophomore classes are the smallest, with eight students each. All but three classes are in the double digits.

Following are the total number of boys and girls in each class:

KINDERGARTEN	
Teacher: Traci Kennedy	
Boys.....	5
Girls.....	7
Total.....	12
FIRST GRADE	
Teacher: Molly Atkeson	
Boys.....	5
Girls.....	9
Total.....	15

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Courtesy photo

Eric Brast, who has volunteered to be the official Cooperative Weather Observer for Arnold, stands by weather recording equipment set up by the National Weather Service in North Platte last Thursday morning at his home 4 miles west of Arnold.