

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Harvey, Eickhoff Receive Friends of High School Sports Award

By Janet Larreau

Mike Harvey of Arnold and Ben Eickhoff of Thedford were presented the Friends of High School Sports Award at the Nebraska Coaches Association 52nd Annual Awards Banquet held July 21 at the Old Lincoln Train Station - Great Hall in Lincoln. The award is presented to those making a significant contribution to the Nebraska Coaches Association by giving their time or expertise to the association.

This duo from Central Nebraska has volunteered to evaluate sportsmanship at the girls' basketball tournaments since the evaluations began 20 years ago. Six years ago, when evaluations were started for the state volleyball championships, Mike and Ben both volunteered again.

“We have a form, with each school listed, and everyone starts off with 5 points,” said Mike. “If they do things that are good, like applaud or clap for the other team, then they get points for that. If they turn their backs and pretend to read newspapers, then they get negative points. When the tournament is finished, we total up everything, turn it into the executive director, and that determines who wins the sportsmanship awards in the tournaments. We also evaluate administrators. Schools are get-

ting so they want to win that big plaque.”

Darin Boysen, executive director of the Nebraska Coaches Association, said Mike and Ben were nominated by the NCA Board of Directors for the award.

In introducing Mike and Ben at the banquet, Boysen said he only sees these two gentlemen twice a year, but like clockwork, Ben and Mike are mainstays of the state tournament sportsmanship evaluation process. Annually, they make the trek to Lincoln to evaluate sportsmanship for both tournaments. He shared what that commitment includes annually for these two Sandhill residents:

- A round trip drive to Lincoln for both volleyball and girls' basketball.
- Three days with a hotel stay of two nights for each tournament - out of their own pocket.
- They watch and evaluate players, coaches, students and fans for every game in one classification - eight games per tournament.
- They're extremely thorough, unbiased and will help in any way possible.
- As students and schools began to use themes like USA or red/white & blue, they helped educate schools about flag edict.

In conclusions, Boysen thanked them for their servant leadership and service.



Courtesy photo

Ben Eickhoff (left) and Mike Harvey (right) sit back at the Nebraska Coaches Association Awards Banquet in Lincoln before receiving the 2019 Friends of High School Sports award.



Photo/Diana Coleman

New interim superintendent for Arnold Public Schools, Mark Sievering, said he will work to keep the school district moving forward in the coming year. Intending to retire, he was intrigued, and took the position after the resignation of Dr. Dawn Lewis.

New Interim Superintendent is getting to know the community

By Diana Coleman

Retiring just doesn't seem to be in the cards for new interim Superintendent of Arnold Public Schools, Mark Sievering, who has intended to retire twice. The first time following the 2017-2018 school year, but due to a late resignation, he filled in as an interim English teacher. Intending once again to retire at the completion of the 2018-2019 school year, Mr. Sievering was intrigued by the possibility of continuing in education for an additional year on a part-time basis after former Arnold superintendent, Dr. Dawn Lewis, contacted him about applying for her position due to her resignation.

Mark Sievering grew up outside of the small town of Moorsville, Missouri and dreamed of becoming a professional football player. “That dream was squashed,” Mark shared, “due to his lack of speed, size, strength and overall athletic ability.” By his high school years, he had refocused his interests toward becoming a math teacher, a chemical en-

gineer, a military officer or a business owner.

Following graduation, he attended one year of college, but left to work for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. Mark returned to college and completed his degree in Elementary Education. He then obtained his Master of Science degree in Education followed by an Education Specialist degree, both from UCM. Mr. Sievering spent several years as an educator. First as a sixth-grade teacher, followed by teaching 7th and 8th grades, serving as an elementary principal, assistant principal and as a superintendent. Mark began studies at Kentucky Christian University to pursue a ministry degree. He completed this degree in 2017.

Mark and his wife Dena have been married for 41 years and have three grown children and five grandchildren.

Mr. Sievering has numerous and unique hobbies and interests. He and his wife enjoy camping and riding their tandem bicycle, (they own two!) Mark enjoys and plays several musical instruments. “Though

I do not play them well”, he admitted, two of his favorites are the bass and ukulele. He also enjoys leatherwork and scroll sawing when he has time. Additionally, he is a novice model railroader (N gauge) along with attempting to golf occasionally. But his most loved hobby or obsession is making waffles. “I love to make waffles,” he said. Mark's waffle making equipment includes one “regular” waffle iron, three double irons and a “waffle on a stick” machine!

Mr. Sievering is enjoying meeting new people in Arnold and learning more about the community. His biggest challenge he believes will be balancing his time between the interim superintendent position and his “other job” as a pastor. He believes that his spare time will be minimal.

He has researched the Arnold community and the school district. He is finding it to be a great community and school district. “My primary goal is to keep the district moving in a positive direction during the school year.”

Village Board discusses Disaster Project, other agenda items at special meeting

Advertising for bids for flood repair improvements was among agenda items that were discussed at a special meeting of the village board on July 22.

Previously, board members voted to advertise for bids that would be publicly opened August 12, with work to be completed by October 31, 2019. Brent Burklund, P.E. with T.C. Engineering said that bids might be more favorable if the project did not have to be completed by then. All streets listed in the FEMA Disaster #4420 Project, with the exception of the 100 Block of North Haskell, will be bid for asphalt paving. Haskell will be bid for asphalt

vs. concrete.

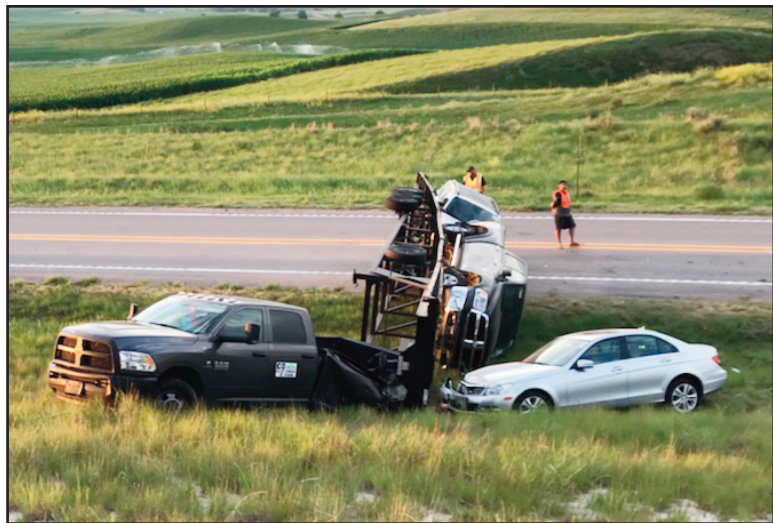
Board members voted to advertise for bids and publicly open them on August 26. The completion date was changed to June 1, 2020.

Streets included in the project include: 100 to 500 block of North Cedar Street, 100 block and 200 block of East 2nd Ave., 100 Block of West Adams Ave., and 100 Block of North Haskell.

Landscaping

Landscaping at the community center and Koubek Gardens was discussed. Tiff Varney said that he will take care of the landscaping at the community

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Photo/Logan County Sheriff's Office

A Dodge pickup pulling a car trailer with three vehicles on it crashed west of Arnold last Friday. The Logan County Sheriff's Office and Arnold Fire Department members were at the scene to assist with traffic control.

No injuries reported in one vehicle crash west of Arnold

On Friday, July 26, at approximately 8:00 pm, the Logan County Sheriff's Office responded to a one vehicle crash at mile marker 246 US Highway 92. The driver was identified as Bahodir Saitokhunov 38, of Denver, Colorado. Saitokhunov stated he was westbound on US Highway 92 at the Logan/Custer County line when he noticed a light blue Honda Civic which was eastbound cross over into the westbound (Saitokhunov's) lane and back into the eastbound lane. This caused Saitokhunov to lose control of his 2018 Dodge pickup which was pulling a car trailer (with three vehicles on it) in which the car trailer tipped over onto its side coming to rest on the south side of the US Highway 92 roadway. There were no injuries in this crash. The Custer County Sheriff's Office and Arnold Fire and Rescue were called to assist with traffic control.