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"IF I WERE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT A NEWSPAPER OR A NEWSPAPER WITHOUT A GOVERNMENT, I WOULD NOT HESITATE TO CHOOSE THE LATTER." THOMAS JEFFERSON

50 cents
June 5, 2019

U-46 Board receives
academy update
See Page 3

Tidbits column:
Bias when cooking
See Page 4

U-46 CAC committee presents report to board

By Seth Hancock

The student safety committee of School District U-46's Citizen's Advisory Council (CAC) gave a report to the Board of Education at its meeting on Monday, May 20.

Megan Larson, a member of the CAC committee, said work during the 2018-2019 school year revolved around parent communication, website information, bullying reporting and a Student Code of Conduct (SCOC) review.

"We started by reviewing... the Stu-

dent Code of Conduct," Larson said. "We solicited feedback from the CAC members, we solicited feedback from the PTOs and the different parent organizations and we also attempted to solicit feedback from the community."

Larson added: "One of the challenges that we face each year when we do this is getting feedback and getting parents to actually review the Student Code of Conduct and understand what it's there for and why it's important."

The CAC committee recommends expanding communication to students

and parents regarding the code according to Larson who said the district should make it "more prominent and easier to access" on the district website in order to "inform them and to inform behaviors." She said the district should point out the code during registration and in district emails, and videos should be created as well as possibly holding town hall events.

The code also applies to off campus activity by students according to John Heiderscheidt, director of safety and culture, who stated during the most recent change to the SCOC that it "applies to social media comments." Parents and students also must agree to the terms of the SCOC in order to register for classes.

Regarding the district's bullying tool, Larson said it should be expanded to include assault and sexual harassment.

The CAC report recommends: "Create more focus on sexual assault, harassment, and stalking reports and data and report those on a regular basis to the board for monitoring. Improve support for students."

Larson said the bullying tool should

have easier access and metrics should be created in order to create bullying data and she claimed: "This is a problem across the country, and you don't know how big the problem is if you're not paying attention to it and without having the numbers."

The committee reports want more online safety training for students and staff concerning online bullying, radicalization, safeguarding personal information and trafficking.

"If we're giving them this technology, we should also give them the tools to protect themselves while they're using it beyond just having the technology in place for safe searches and students that are in crisis," Larson said.

Larson said the CAC held an online safety presentation this past school year regarding radicalization and human trafficking. She said it was poorly attended.

The CAC recommends hosting more presentations on assault and harassment, bullying and associated violence, online safety, suicide prevention, teen dating violence and vaping and it wants to vet speakers on those topics for schools.

Historic D-Day marks 75th anniversary June 6

By Joe Hyland

"Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force: You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hope and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you.

"Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

"But this is the year 1944! The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to victory!

"I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle.

"We will accept nothing less than full victory!

"Good luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking."

So said Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower on June 5, 75 years ago to the soldiers, sailors and airmen who would shortly commence the largest amphibious operation in history to begin the breaching of Hitler's Atlantic Wall.

The Normandy Invasion was not the first attack of the war on mainland Europe. That had already occurred when the Allies invaded Italy. In fact, Rome fell on the same day as the D-Day landings.

According to the Historyonthenet.com website, "the Normandy Invasion consisted of 5,333 Allied ships and landing craft embarking nearly 175,000 men. The British and Canadians put 75,215 troops ashore, and the Americans 57,500, for a total of 132,715, of whom about 3,400 were killed or missing, in contrast to some estimates of ten thousand."

The website noted that the total listed on the website does not include the 20,000 airborne troops who had begun landing in France via parachute drop and glider landing shortly after midnight, with the pathfinders jumping in first to mark the landing zones for the airborne troops.

In addition, the website provided some figures about other personnel levels as well as air power: At the time of the landing, there were nearly 3,000,000 U.S. personnel in England housed in over 1,100 camps; while there were a total of 23 infantry, 12 armored and four airborne divisions de-

tailed for the total of Operation Overlord (as the invasion was called), the actual beach assault force was comprised of two U.S., two British and one Canadian division; they faced off against 80,000 Wehrmacht troops including one panzer division; and the Allies enjoyed what was effectively total air superiority with a total force of 7,774 combat aircraft available for operations. This does not include the various transport aircraft used in the airborne operations.

The Military-history.org website provides a minute by minute timeline of the invasion, beginning with a rehearsal dubbed "Exercise Tiger" on April 22.

According to the website, following the airborne landings, the troops began embarking in their landing craft at 3 a.m. for the run to shore.

The landings were prefaced by a naval bombardment began at 5:10 a.m. by the 325 warships of the armada. The armada included, according to www.dday-overlord.com, six battle-ships, 22 cruisers, two monitors and 194 destroyers. While the bulk of the fleet was composed of British and American vessels, there were also ships flying the French, Polish, Norwegian, Greek, Danish and Dutch flags.

The troops landed on five beaches, with the first landings on Utah and Omaha by U. S. troops beginning at 6:35 a.m. The British and Canadian landings, on respectively Gold, Sword and Juno beaches commenced at 7:20 a.m. The landings were announced to the public at 9:17 a.m. While the troops on Gold, Sword, Juno and Utah beaches were able to achieve their objectives more or less on schedule, by 8:30 the attack at Omaha had bogged down enough that further landings had to be stopped due to a lack of space on the beach. However, by 1:30 p.m., troops were moving off all of the beaches and heading inland to link up with the paratroopers. There was still over a year of hard fighting ahead, with campaigns such as the Battle of the Bulge yet to come. There was also the horror of the discovery of the extermination camps yet to come. But, by 1:30 p.m. on the afternoon of June 6, 1944, a day that would add places such as St. Lo, Ste Mere Eglise and Pointe du Hoc to the world's vocabulary, there was a sense that the end of the war was finally on its way.



Memorial transfer

Capt. Katherine Serbin handing the flag to Miguel Aguilar to post at the village's annual Memorial Day ceremony. For story and more photos see page 12.

(Examiner photo by Juli Schatz)

Pet of the Week



New hutch still being sought

Tobias is a handsome, outgoing guy that was brought to the shelter when he was found wandering about outside. Tobias is overjoyed to be safe, warm, loved, and, most importantly, surrounded by tasty food to eat! All he's missing is someone to love him and provide lots of tasty greens (this is a priority) and plenty of space for him to move about. Tobias is 2 years old, neutered, and ready to be someone's best bud! For more information please call 630-407-2800 or email animalservices@dupageco.org.
(Photo courtesy of County Animal Control)

BEACON update given to District U-46 board

By Seth Hancock

A transition update for South Elgin High School's BEACON Academy, which has a media and digital arts focus, was given to the Board of Education in School District U-46 in early May.

Kinasha Brown, director of educational pathways, said that the BEACON Academy was redesigned in 2017 with the "purpose and intent of revising the career focus courses and aligning to a magnet programming model as identified by Magnet Schools of America (MSA)." U-46 is seeking magnet status for academies at all five high schools.

The work on South Elgin's academy includes four phases while the update focused on the first and fourth phases. Phase I includes curriculum alignment and professional development and Phase IV is MSA certification status, and Brown said Phase II (facilities and equipment) and Phase III (community and post-secondary engagement) work is running concurrent with Phase I and is "ongoing."

Doreen Roberts, pathways design and implementation teacher leader, said that two Advanced Placement (AP) capstone courses, a seminar course for juniors and research course for seniors, have been added to the BEACON curriculum and will be aligned to the district's dual language program. The courses were approved by the College Board last fall and will be classified as social studies electives.

The seminar course will be piloted in the 2019-2020 school year with 32 students registered to take the course. The capstone courses will be mandatory electives for the class of 2023 for

BEACON students.

"The seminar course equips students to accurately analyze and evaluate information to craft and communicate an evidence-based argument," Roberts said. "The research course provides the opportunity for students to reflect on their skill and development through a portfolio. This course consists of a year-long research investigation that has a culminating project at the end."

Tom Bozikis, a BEACON teacher, said current academy students have done commercials for clients and "we'll take the students and we'll teach them everything they need to know about creating a persuasive commercial." He said students create practice commercials and later meet with 14 to 21 business clients to create commercials for them to use on social media or other media outlets.

Roberts said the rubrics have been designed using standards based learning and assessment.

"This investment will help our students build their dreams and continue their passion in this field, and it will give them a choice and this will build them connections," Bozikis said.

Regarding Phase IV and MSA certification, Brown said that staff from all five high school academies have been having ongoing discussions between December and May. In February, each school wrote diversity and magnet goal statements.

This month, U-46 is taking part in its first MSA leadership retreat to develop timelines for each high school academy on goals to be able to earn magnet school status through MSA certification.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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Press Clippings 06/05/2019

---Daily Herald---06/05/2019

Elgin nonprofit wants to open boxing facility with focus on at-risk youth

By: Elena Ferrarin



The nonprofit Our Neighborhoods Empowered is working to open a fitness facility at 24 Tyler Creek Plaza in Elgin. Pictured are, front row, from left, volunteers Patrick Stephen, Myeshia Sanders, Vanessa Peterson, Marcus Banner, Anthony Barracks and Meghann Caspers.

An Elgin nonprofit is working to open a community fitness facility with boxing and mixed martial arts and a focus on attracting low-income, at-risk youths.

The effort has been a longtime dream for Marcus Banner, co-founder of the nonprofit Our Neighborhoods Empowered, which has been running a boxing program without a permanent home. Banner leads a team of about a dozen volunteers, mostly from Elgin, dedicated to the effort to open the facility at 24 Tyler Creek Plaza.

The group has raised \$1,655 of its \$20,000 goal on [GoFundMe](#) and has some funds in the bank, Banner said. His goal is to open by mid-August, he said. The city gave the initial OK last month.

"We've been in all different kinds of gyms, from Schaumburg to Huntley and all these different places training," Banner said. "But to be in our city and do it with our youth and be available to our city and the people in our city ..."

Anthony Barracks, Banner's nephew, is the founder of the nonprofit's boxing program, called "Hands Up, Guns Down." The goal is to promote positive change and show youths "the right way," Barracks said.

Boxing teaches discipline and helps young men and women stay out of trouble and gangs, said Eugene Dyker of Elgin, who will help teach classes. Dyker said he won a Golden Gloves title in the novice division in the early 1980s.

"You learn how to box and be a part of a group. Instead of the wrong kind of group, the right kind of group," he said.

Daniel "Donny" Villanueva of Elgin will teach mixed martial arts and Brazilian jiu jitsu. A boxing ring was donated by Luiz Claudio, owner of LCCT Brazilian Jiu Jitsu gym in Schaumburg, where Villanueva is an instructor.

"A lot of kids, especially these days, are not big on going outside. They like to stay in and watch TV, play with their iPads and phone ... This teaches them to burn energy," Villanueva said.

The facility also will offer after-school programming in a technology area occupying less than 10 percent of the 8,450-square-foot property, which has been vacant for a few years.

It's all about making a change, said Vanessa Peterson, a real estate broker from Algonquin who will serve as executive director.

"This is for generations to come," she said. "We've all been struggling for too long, and since we've all came over the hurdles and made it, we want to give back to our community and make sure everyone is in the same boat."

Peterson said she's been working on securing donations, such as workout equipment from Lifetime Fitness in Algonquin, and is in talks to get computers from **Elgin Area School District U-46**.

The gym plans to charge a minimum membership, possibly \$10 to \$15 per month, and will have special pricing for veterans and scholarships for youths, Banner said. "We are not trying to get rich or make money off of people, but we want the community to support the facility, which is there to support the community and the kids," he said.

Patrick Stephen, a software engineer from Elgin, will be in charge of the computer lab. He especially wants to reach young people who don't have enough exposure to technology and the opportunities it provides, he said.

The group needs materials, including rubber floors, ceiling and ceramic tiles, paint, elongated toilets and more. For more information email mbanner3653@wowway.com.

Gehrig returning to Larkin as head football coach

By: Jerry Fitzpatrick



Matt Gehrig

Larkin athletic director Ethan Karolczak sought a coach to stabilize a football program in flux.

He turned to a familiar face to Larkin fans.

Matt Gehrig, who coached the Royals in 2008 and 2009 and coached Huntley in 2010 and 2011, accepted an offer Monday to return to the Larkin sideline and teach Physical Education.

He replaces Ron Planz, who took the vacant Lake Zurich job on May 22.

"I'm excited," Gehrig said Tuesday. "Obviously, I wanted to have an opportunity to take a head coaching job again so I decided to apply when I heard that Ron Planz was leaving. I'm just excited to work with the kids there and get started."

Gehrig, 39, becomes Larkin's fifth head football coach in less than a calendar year. Dragan Teonic left after four seasons to become South Elgin's head coach on June 22, 2018.

The school announced the promotion of former assistant coach Jesus "Zeus" Gonzalez on July 12, but his tenure ended in the second week of the regular season with a suspension. He never coached again and was eventually let go for reasons the Elgin Area School District U-46 has refused comment on, citing personnel matters.

Offensive coordinator Jason Aubry took over and led the Royals to a 4-5 finish, matching the Royals' best record since Gehrig's 2009 team finished 5-4. Aubry departed in December to become head coach at Concordia University where his son, Jaxon, will play next fall.

Larkin hired Planz, the former Elmhurst College coach of five years, on Feb. 7. Planz was lured away two weeks ago by state power Lake Zurich.

Karolczak said he did not blame Aubry or Planz for decisions they felt were best for their families and careers. "You can never hold that against somebody," he said. "I wish them nothing but the best."

Nevertheless, the qualities he sought in Larkin's next coach differed this time around.

"At the end of the day, this hire was about the longevity and the sustainability of this program with everything that's happened in the last year," Karolczak said. "First and foremost, Matt's a teacher. Everyone I talked to about him talked about how great he is at taking complex things and breaking them down and communicating them effectively to people. That's something we need."

"And we were really impressed by his vision for righting the ship and stabilizing things. The more you talk to him the more you realize he's the kind of guy kids are going to be excited to play for."

Gehrig has served as an assistant coach at three schools since his time at Huntley. He assisted for one season at St. Charles East, two at Dundee-Crown and the last four at South Elgin.

The 1997 Burlington Central graduate was twice named all-conference and all-area. He started at guard and center for three seasons at Eastern Illinois between 1997-2000 and was named all-Ohio Valley Conference in 2000.

Gehrig and his wife, Kristin, live in Sycamore with sons Peter, 10, Benjamin, 8, and John, 6.

---The Courier-News---06/05/2019

U46 to consider purchase for dual-language expansion

\$106K for Spanish-language textbooks for high schools

By: Rafael Guerrero

The U46 School Board is being asked to authorize \$106,000 for the purchase of Spanish-language textbooks and other classroom materials needed to expand the district's high school dual-language program.

Board members were briefed Monday on the request to obtain 700 civics textbooks, 44 AP Macroeconomics textbooks and supplemental materials for AP U.S. Government classes for use by dual language 10th graders in 2019-20 school year.

The proposed purchase is necessary as the district gradually adds to the number of dual-language high school courses in offers.

The program allows participating students take some math, science, and social studies classes in Spanish.

"As our dual-language students roll up to 10th grade next year, you can see that they will be taking ... econ and civics in Spanish, or their AP counterparts," said Jacob VandeMoortel, district coordinator of K-12 social studies and world languages.

The economics books were easy to find, but it was tougher for the other subjects, VandeMoortel said.

"Finding an AP U.S. Government and Politics textbook in Spanish was difficult; there currently is not one on the market," he said.

Instead, they will use a civics textbook in Spanish for the class, which will be supplemented with additional materials they were able to get for free, VandeMoortel said.

The dual-language AP Macroeconomics class is exclusive to Elgin High School, which is why only a small number of books is needed, he said.

Dual-language students in the AP classes for U.S. Government or macroeconomics will still have to take the tests in English, said Annette Acevedo, director of U46's English Language Learners programs.

"We will have to provide the opportunity for students to practice taking the AP exam (in English)," she said.

The board will vote on the purchase at a later date.

Upkeep of buildings reviewed

By: Rafael Guerrero

A comprehensive review of maintenance costs for School District U46 schools and facilities is being conducted by district officials and the U46 Citizens' Advisory Council's finance committee. Committee Chairman Dan Blake told U46 board members at Monday's meeting that a comprehensive model of maintenance costs for schools and

buildings is going to be built and that will take time given the number of buildings involved.

The study will address such topics as maintenance and repairs that have been deferred, repairs and system replacements that are going to be needed, and the adequacy and appropriateness of all facilities. Work is expected to begin in a few months and could take more than a year to complete, Blake said.

The finance committee's eventual report must take this into account, as well as find a way to best present the data they have received and will receive from the district.

"What we wanted to try to get together was to consider everything about the ongoing maintenance costs of the facilities, in things like roofs that have not been replaced, HVAC systems that have not been replaced," he said.

Early preliminary findings suggest the oldest schools in District U46 may not be as bad as originally thought because many have had outdated features and systems repaired or replaced in order to keep a school functioning, Blake said. It is the next tier of aging schools that will likely warrant a closer look, he said.

"We did not make it far enough (this school year) to make enough conclusions," Blake told the board.

The work also must address the requirements of school buildings once career and educational pathways changes go into effect in a few years, any future grade-level restructuring, and any building changes that will be required because of overcrowded or undercrowded conditions, he said.

CEO Tony Sanders told Blake it will be important the district works closely with the committee.

"We need to make sure to continue the relationship with the finance committee so that we're moving in lockstep while you're doing your work to constantly help us vet what we're doing," he said.

The Citizens' Advisory Council is a group of parents and community members who advise and work with District U46 administrators and others on issues affecting the district. Last month, advisory council leaders made a presentation on its school safety and community engagement efforts and recommendations.

Bartlett soccer trio named to all-UEC team

By Seth Hancock

A trio of seniors from the Bartlett soccer team capped their careers with all-conference honors in the Upstate Eight.

Mikayla Brown, the Hawks offensive leader, posted eight goals and four assists to earn the honors. She will be playing Division-III soccer next year at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

"Mikayla is a passionate player who always pushes herself to her limit on the field," said Bartlett coach Vince Revak. "Her tenacity and drive make her a dangerous player on both sides of the ball."

A pair of defensive players, Paige Bednarke and Kaley Kowal, earned the all-conference honors after helping Bartlett finish with seven shutouts. Along with her defensive prowess, Bednarke added three goals and three assists.

"Paige has been our defensive leader in the back, but she contributes on offense with her aggressiveness in the box on set pieces, and has also set up countless opportunities

with her tremendously strong leg," Revak said of Bednarke. "She always battled, and would usually work herself to exhaustion every single game."

Of Kowal, Revak said: "Although Kaley lacks the major statistics of our other players, her presence in the back was obvious in each game. Kaley is tireless, and her speed covered us whenever we would let an attacker slip through. She's a gritty defender who always made it her goal to shut down the best player on the other team."

Bartlett finished the season 7-13-2 overall, 5-4 in the UEC, which included a strong nonconference schedule. Eight of the Hawks losses were by one goal.

The Hawks will lose 11 seniors which also include Jocelyn Carlos, Amber Fiedler, Abigail Hawes, Rachel Helgesen, Jessica Hill, Jasmine Mendez, Morgan Myers and Kelsey Sniatynsky.



Mikayla Brown straining to execute a header during a 2019 contest against Glenbard East.



Paige Bednarke scoring past Burlington Central keeper Kyla Butler for the Hawks following a Bartlett corner kick during an early April contest this past season.
(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

Storm land five players on all-conference team

By Seth Hancock

A complete team effort propelled the South Elgin soccer team to a banner season as the Storm captured the program's first Upstate Eight Conference title and first regional title since 2016.

South Elgin went 14-4-3 overall, 7-0-2 in the UEC, a year after a 3-11-2 season.

Leading the way was a freshman scoring phenom and four backline players, three juniors and a senior, who were named all-conference.

Katrina Barthelt, the freshman forward, and junior defender Kaleigh LaRue earned the all-conference honors as well as all-sectional honors. Senior midfielder Bridget Bondi, junior midfielder/defender Danielle Kucharski and junior goalkeeper Megan McClure were also all-confer-



Battling along a sideline, the Storm's Danielle Kucharski, left, working to ride Streamwood's Jennifer Voravong off the ball this past season.

ence who along with LaRue helped the Storm tally 10 shutouts and allow an average of only 1.1 goals per game.

"Our team never gets frustrated," Barthelt said. "First off, we have confidence the defenders will step to the ball. Our forwards love to work give-and-go's. They thrive on playing smart off the ball."

"Instead of just being a close-knit

team, we're more like a family," Kucharski said. "We help each other through any hard times. We keep each other going, and we're together on and off the field."

Barthelt set the Storm's single season scoring record with 33 goals putting her over halfway to setting the team's career scoring record. Savannah Uveges, a 2014 graduate, also set South Elgin's single season record as a freshman with 19 goals her first season and beat that mark with 23 goals as a sophomore. Despite missing much of her junior and senior seasons with an ACL injury, Uveges finished with 65 career goals for the Storm's



Katrina Barthelt firing off a shot during a scoring binge that resulted in four goals against East Aurora during an early season match.
(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

current career record.

For Barthelt, she said her successful inaugural varsity campaign is credited to her teammates.

"I'm surprised because you don't know how hard the transition will be to playing varsity," Barthelt said. "But I've got to say my teammates are simply great and have made it easy. They look for options to get me the ball. We always pick up our heads and not get in a rush, so the patience helps us connect passes."

With eight juniors and five underclassmen this season, the Storm's future looks bright but they will lose seven seniors including Sarah Boghossian (defender), Ashley Kopczyk (goalkeeper), Madeline Kordecki (midfielder), Nikki Nguyen (forward), Julia Wafford (midfielder) and Isabelle Zabat (midfielder).



Keeper Megan McClure rising above a crowd to intercept a corner kick for the Storm during 2019 season action.