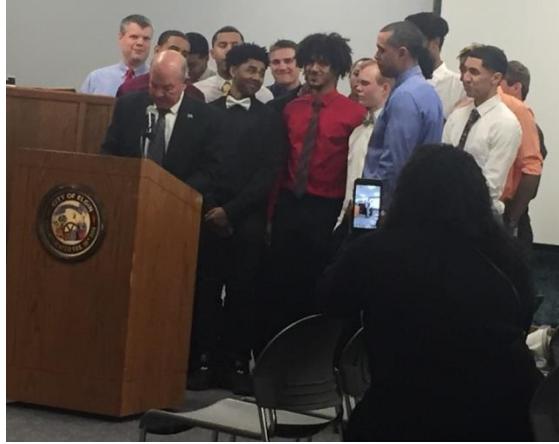


Press Clippings 4/13/2018

---Courier News--- 4/13/18

Elgin City Council honors Larkin boys basketball team's achievement

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO



Elgin Mayor Dave Kaptain reads a proclamation during Wednesday night's Elgin City Council meeting recognizing Larkin High School's 2017-18 boys basketball team. (Mike Danahey/Courier-News)

The Larkin High School boys basketball team continued celebrating its winning season Wednesday night when its accomplishments were recognized by the Elgin City Council.

Mayor Dave Kaptain presented a proclamation to the players and coach Deryn Carter honoring their historic 2017-18 campaign, which ended in March with a fourth-place finish in the IHSA Class 4A boys basketball tournament. It was Larkin's first appearance at the state semifinals for either boys or girls basketball. It also was the best showing for a District U46 boys basketball team since Elgin High School reached the state semifinals in 1955.

"We don't take it lightly," said Carter, a Larkin graduate who has led the Royals boys to seven consecutive winning seasons. "It was fun doing what we did on the court. But what made it so special, it made lifelong memories for these young individuals. It was the city's unbelievable support of us throughout the trip, throughout the playoffs."

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---Daily Herald--- 4/13/18

Unemployment, retail vacancy down in Elgin

BY ELENA FERRARIN

Elgin's unemployment is down and its retail vacancy rate is at its lowest in 12 years, which means things "are looking good" for the foreseeable future, Elgin Development Group officials told the city council.

In the last year, about 30 businesses started or expanded leases in Elgin totaling 1.6 million square feet, Tony Lucenko, economic development director for the Elgin Development Group, said Wednesday. The group is working with 17 more businesses that are looking at occupying another 1.7 million square feet of property, Lucenko said.

The city's unemployment rate hovers between 4 and 5 percent, Lucenko said. "Things for the foreseeable future are looking good," he said.

Data from the Illinois Department of Employment Security shows unemployment in Elgin was 4.6 percent in February, down from 6 percent in February 2017, mirroring a decrease in 12 other metropolitan areas across the state. Businesses added jobs in 11 metro areas, with the largest increases in Rockford, Kankakee and Elgin, the latter with 6,300 jobs.

The group uses data compiled by CoStar, a commercial real estate information company with listings of more than 5 million properties across the country.

Elgin's retail vacancy rate in 2017 was 4.3 percent, an all-time low since 2006, CoStar data shows. The industrial vacancy rate was about 11 percent -- it was 8 percent in 2006 -- and the office vacancy rate was about 21 percent, compared to 15.5 percent in 2006.

When compared to area suburbs, "Elgin is not unique with how vacancy performed through the recession and coming out of it," CoStar market economist Brandon Svec said in an interview.

Vacancy rates in Elgin have fluctuated the last 15 years, but jumps shouldn't cause concern if they are tied to new construction, Svec said, pointing out one industrial building can add millions of square feet. Vacancy rate increases in the 2011-2013 post-recession period -- when the supply remained the same -- were more concerning, he said.

City council members also were told the Elgin chamber will be involved in the expansion of high school career academies at **Elgin Area School District U-46**, expected to be in place by the 2020-21 school year. Students will have access to internships, job shadowing, business tours and business presentations, Elgin Development Group Director Bob Malm said.

The city of Elgin has a \$275,000 yearly contract for economic development services with the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce, which funnels the money to its in-house Elgin Development Group.

This was the group's second presentation this year to the city council, and City Manager Rick Kozal said he expects that to continue quarterly. That's a significant change from the past, when presentations typically took place before contracts were up for renewal. The current contract ends in December 2019.

"(Kozal) suggested maybe we give more frequent presentations, and that's a great idea. We thank them for that," Lucenko said. "It's good for us, and good for them, to show accountability and transparency."

---Courier News--- 4/13/18

‘Architectural gems’ featured in upcoming Elgin tour

BY MIKE DANAHEY

Among the 35 buildings to be featured in an upcoming self-guided tour in **Elgin** are an **elementary school** celebrating its 50th anniversary, the Scofield mansion and the Second District Appellate Court building downtown, representatives of the Elgin Development Group told the city council.

“It’s like walking into a museum,” Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce Chairman Mike Warren said April 11 of the court building.

The tour, scheduled for 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on April 21, follows the inaugural event last year that drew 1,851 visitors from 57 Zip codes to see 27 buildings.

One of the goals is “to bring our jewels to light for people who have never been here before,” said Denise Raleigh, Gail Borden Public Library public relations and development chief.

Raleigh and Judson University Communications Director Mary Dulabaum led the talk about the tour as volunteers with the Enhancing Elgin committee of the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce. The Elgin Development Group is an arm of the chamber and is in the second year of a three-year contract which pays \$275,000 annually to provide the city with economic development work.

No money is spent on producing the event and Dulabaum pointed out that volunteers are posted at the buildings and the tour works with various community groups and the Elgin Area Historical Society on planning. Information on featured buildings along with maps is available online at the Open Elgin website (www.openelgin.com).

One stop on the tour will be Hillcrest Elementary School on the city’s west side, which is marking its 50th year and will be hosting its own celebration April 21 to coincide with Open Elgin, Dulabaum said. Several buildings on the Judson campus will be featured, too.

Raleigh mentioned the Scofield mansion on Spring Street in downtown Elgin, which became the first Gail Borden Public Library in 1894. She reminded her audience the library is named after the man who invented condensed milk. Borden’s stepsons, Samuel and Alfred Church, had bought the mansion to be used as the library and wanted it named in perpetuity after their stepfather.

Raleigh said the recently renovated, Depression-era Tower Building downtown, which is now an apartment building, was to be on the tour, but had to be removed because “too many people are moving in.”

Carole Gieske, Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce president and CEO, recommended visiting the chapel at the 60-year-old Church of the Brethren General Offices on Elgin’s northeast side.

“If you haven’t seen it, you have to go,” Gieske said.

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Charter school holds lottery for students 216 families offered admission to first classes at EMSA

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO

Bhasker Moorthy made the drive to Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin on Wednesday morning because he wanted to know whether his two children would be among the inaugural students attending Elgin's first charter school next fall.

The news was good. His oldest will be a member of the Elgin Math and Science Academy's second-grade class, and a sibling provision means his youngest will be admitted to the kindergarten program.

"It's a tough decision for us. We like our school," Moorthy said of **Lincoln Elementary School**, where his son is currently enrolled. "For our second-grader, it may be particularly tough for him. He doesn't want to switch schools."

Organizers of the school, known as EMSA, selected its inaugural group of students via an online lottery Wednesday, randomly choosing applications to fill more than 200 openings and putting about 100 more applicants on a wait list.

Offers of admission to the academy were sent to the families of 216 students in grades K-3 following the drawing.

Applications were submitted for 305 students in advance of the lottery drawing, done in public as required by state law.

Entry into kindergarten generated the most interest, with 110 applications, followed by 69 for first grade, 54 for second grade and 72 for third grade.

Each grade level will have no more than 54 students, according to officials, meaning all of the second-grade student applicants were offered admission.

"I'm just so happy for all these kids," said Kerry Kelly, president of the Elgin Charter School Initiative, the group behind establishing the charter school. "But I am sad for those who didn't get in and are now on the wait list."

A few families opted to attend the lottery in person.

Jessica Magnetta, of South Elgin, was relieved to hear her 5-year-old daughter was selected. She received a text from EMSA after the lottery. She was awaiting the fate of a friend who also sought admission for their child.

"Because it's a new school, we will all get to grow together," Magnetta said.

As of 11 a.m. Wednesday, 45 families had already started the registration process, said Melanie Gibb, a founding member on the school's board of directors.

Families of the students chosen have until April 20 to accept admission and until May 1 to complete basic registration, officials said. Principal Lezlie Fuhr said EMSA will welcome its incoming families at a launch party May 17.

---Daily Herald--- 4/13/18

Suburban faith leaders seek 'nuance' in religion reporting

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY

Suburban religious leaders urge a more nuanced approach to media coverage of faith communities that goes beyond scandals and formulaic stories of festivals and observances.

A bishop, a rabbi, an imam, and a church spokesman came together for a panel discussion Thursday to talk about how journalists can tell stories about faith, spirituality and core beliefs. It was hosted by the Northern Illinois Newspaper Association at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.

Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein of Congregation Kneseth Israel in Elgin said the line between opinion and news is blurred and people's understanding of truth and facts differ.

"Religion, though, isn't necessarily about truth. That's why it can get tricky because so often religion is about opinion," she said, adding that anti-Jewish sentiment and the types of propaganda used against Jews during the Holocaust "are playing out right now."

Klein talked about a recent controversy sparked by **Elgin Area School District U-46** school board member Jeanette Ward's Facebook comments denouncing her daughter's sixth-grade reading assignment about Jews, Christians and Muslims worshipping the same God. Ward's post upset local religious leaders and prompted "hurtful" comments against those faiths, she said.

Mohammed Labadi, president of the Islamic Center of DeKalb, stressed the common roots of the three Abrahamic faiths.

"We believe any person that believes in one God and submits in peace to God is Muslim," he said, adding that Muslims also believe in the various messengers and scriptures that have come before the Quran, Islam's holy book. "You will find that there is a lot (more) in common than isn't."

How the media portrays Islam and Muslims often puts the community on the defensive, Labadi said, reclaiming often misused Islamic terms such as "sharia" and "jihad."

"Sharia is my way of life" and includes kindness to family, co-workers and neighbors, he said. "Doing the best you can in anything that you do, including defending yourself in a war, that's jihad."

The Rev. David Malloy, bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Rockford, said the complexity of religion cannot be summed up by looking at church policies.

"Policies basically can change," he said. "Our point is being rooted in the history and person of Jesus Christ. We are a church of saints and sinners. Religion, and some sense that there is something beyond simply ourselves, is widespread. It is something that is ingrained in us in many ways."

Malloy commented on the movie "Spotlight," about The Boston Globe's reporting of systemic child sex abuse in the Boston area by Catholic priests.

"The story had to be told, and it was part of a purification that needed to come about," he said. "The church is better for it, having had to face that issue and we are still facing it."

The leaders bemoaned the national discourse about how religion is becoming overly politicized and the media are treating people of faith as monoliths.

"In our culture as a whole, we've lost a lot of nuance," said Todd Hertz, spokesman for Christ Community Church in St. Charles. Social media has created an "echo chamber" effect with people hearing only what they believe in based on whom they follow, he added.

SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 4/13/18

Softball: Keller, Dierks lead Geneva past Bartlett

BY JOHN LEMON

After homering in Geneva's first game of the year, Katie Keller had gone the next six without one.

Not that it's that long of a stretch, but after blasting 12 a year ago, the Northern-Illinois bound senior catcher was itching for another.

Keller delivered in her first at-bat Thursday at Bartlett, following a single by Kate Geary with a 2-run shot to left-center. Ali Dierks made the early lead hold up, tossing a complete game 4-hitter in the Vikings' 4-3 victory in an Upstate Eight crossover.

"My main focus was to let go of the stuff in my head. I've had a lot of stuff in my head the past couple games," Keller said of her thought process heading into the at-bat against Amber Pagan. "My emphasis was just to swing my swing.

"I'm trying so hard to smack everything. I'm trying to flush it all out and get last year's stuff out of my head and be who I am and put my swing on the ball."

Keller lined a single in her second at-bat and then walked in her final two to reach base all four times -- not that surprising after her .710 on-base percentage as a junior.

"Katie put a good swing on that ball," Geneva coach Greg Dierks said. "It was great to play ahead the whole game, it makes a big difference."

Bartlett (3-4, 0-3) got a run back in its half of the first. Pagan walked with two outs, took second on Taylor Rotondo's single and scored on Janelle Ulaszek's bloop single to right.

Geneva (7-1, 3-0) scored its other two runs in the third, this time relying on small ball. Keller singled, stole second and took third when Alyssa Kramer reached on an error.

Coach Dierks called for a suicide squeeze, and Ali Dierks got the bunt down. Both runners scored when Bartlett threw wild to first base.

"You can't play error ball against a team like that because they are so good at keeping innings going and making you pay," Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith said. "They are not

quite the power hitting team they were last year but they are so good at making contact. You saw them put the suicide down. We've got to find a way to clean that up."

Bartlett pulled closer with single runs in the fourth and sixth, the first on an RBI single by Anna Tomillo and the later on a Vikings error.

But Ali Dierks didn't allow the Hawks to get even, retiring Bartlett's No. 9, 1 and 2 hitters in order in the seventh to keep Pagan and Rotondo from getting another at-bat.

"It was a good game for her," Greg Dierks said. "They didn't have anything where they strung many together. I thought she played good defense. This would have been a painful loss because there were a couple little things we could have done to keep their runs down."

Ali Dierks struck out five and walked three to improve to 5-0. Her changeup was a key pitch Thursday.

"We've worked a lot in practice utilizing my best pitches and using them in counts that are going to be effective," Ali Dierks said. "That's what I did today. I trusted my pitches and trusted my defense and good things happened."

For the Hawks, Rotondo went 2-for-3 and Ulaszek walked twice while reaching base all three at-bats.

"It was a good softball game," Wolfsmith said. "I thought our approaches today were better. I still want to see us drive the ball more. I'm much happier with what I saw today with the overall performance by the pitchers, the hitters and even the defense. We've still got a ways to go to get to the level we need to."

---Daily Herald--- 4/13/18

Hill leads Cary-Grove; South Elgin wins again

DAILY HERALD REPORT

It was the Emma Hill show for the Cary-Grove softball team Thursday.

Hill not only threw a 1-hitter with 4 strikeouts and no walks, she also had a home run, a triple and 5 RBI as the Trojans defeated Crystal Lake Central 10-0 in a five-inning Fox Valley Conference game.

Also contributing to the offense for Cary-Grove (6-1) were Katy Wierczorek (2 hits, 2B, RBI), Kelly Johnson (3 hits, 2 doubles), Anna Whitaker (2 hits, 2B, RBI) and Jill Deering (2 RBI).

South Elgin 4, St. Charles East 2: Alivia Doyle had 3 hits with a double and McKenna Eicholz added 2 hits with a double as South Elgin (5-5) snapped the Saints' 8-game winning streak in this Upstate Eight game. Sam Koss, Julianna Battaglia and Sam Dietz each drove in 2 runs for the Storm and winning pitcher Sidney Strama added 2 hits. Geneva Pollman picked up the save for South Elgin. Alex Wooten (2 hits, RBI), Krista

Sbarra (2 hits, 2B, RBI) and Lauren Luna (2B) led SCE (8-2). Madelyn Rouse was the losing pitcher.

Batavia 6, West Chicago 1: Noelle Chaney threw a 3-hitter with 7 strikeouts and 4 walks for Batavia in its UEC win. Madi Runge had 2 hits for the Bulldogs.

Hampshire 5, Jacobs 4: Miki Snider, Gwen Malecke and winning pitcher Katie Del Re each had RBI for Hampshire (3-3) in its FVC win. Sarah Lynch (3 hits), Delany Garden (2 hits) and Kerri Healy (3B, RBI) led Jacobs (4-3-1). Katie Armstrong took the loss in the circle.

Kaneland 5, DeKalb 0: Emilee Erickson fired a 2-hitter with 16 strikeouts to lead Kaneland (6-3, 3-0) to this Northern Illinois Big XII East win.

Ridgewood 8, St. Edward 1: Lindsey Mauritzen had 2 hits and Ashley Miller an RBI for St. Edward (1-4) in the Metro Suburban.

Lockport 10, Huntley 0: Tiffany Giese suffered her first loss of the season after eight straight wins in the circle as Huntley (9-2) fell in nonconference action. Teagan O'Rilley had the Red Raiders' only hit.

Rosary 15, IMSA 1: The Royals (3-2-1) pounded out 15 hits on their way to this nonconference win. Leading the way were Chloe Saltijeral (3 hits, 2B, HR, 4 RBI), Peyton Dillion (2 hits, 3B, 3 RBI), Riley McCue (2B, RBI), Brooke Cappararelli (2 doubles, RBI), Ashley Auchstetter (2 RBI), Xiolena Flores (5 hits, 2B) and Kaleigh Lentz (3B). Cappararelli was the winning pitcher, striking out nine with 4 walks and 4 hits allowed.

---Daily Herald--- 4/13/18

Baseball: Elgin Coates continues to develop

BY JERRY FITZPATRICK

Elgin pitcher Kyle Coates dodged trouble throughout Wednesday's Upstate Eight River home game against Batavia.

The junior right-hander didn't get much help from a defense that committed 6 errors in an eventual 6-0 defeat. Still, he gave Elgin (2-8, 0-3) a chance to win by minimizing the damage via a career-best 10 strikeouts, which kept it a 1-0 game until the top of the seventh.

Batavia (6-2, 3-0) scored an unearned run off Coates in the first inning and threatened for more in the third when Elgin infielders couldn't handle consecutive two-out groundballs.

The miscues didn't rattle Coates, a second-year varsity starter who as a sophomore posted a team-best 2.25 earned-run average in 49 innings with 35 strikeouts and 14

walks. He induced a third straight groundball, this time to second baseman Eric Damerow, who threw to first to end the threat.

Coates escaped more trouble in the fifth, when Jack Haefer reached on a one-out error, stole second and advanced to third base on a fly out to right field. Coates used a curveball that broke down and away from a right-handed hitter to notch a swinging strikeout and keep it a 1-run game.

"I just tried to throw it full arm speed. I worked on it all off-season," said Coates, who pitches for the Schaumburg Seminoles in the summer. "That was actually one of my problems last year: getting to two strikes and not getting the strikeout. My main focus this year was to develop my off speed, so it was nice to see it pay off a little bit. It shows that the training is working. It was good to see."

Coates opened the season on March 14 by throwing a 5-inning no hitter against Marengo. He struck out 9 and walked 2 in the 10-0 win.

He started with a three-quarters sidearm delivery as a freshman, but the arm slot drops with each successive season.

"I called myself three quarters freshman year but I think we're getting down to sidearm," he said. "We're getting there. It's just a matter of time. I might as well just call it now. Getting in that lower arm slot, I was actually able to work on a sinker so it was helping me to get some more movement on my pitches. Keeping the velocity up from that arm slot was the main concern, but, obviously, it's going well."

Thing of beauty: Huntley's Kyle Morgan throws one of the prettiest curveballs around.

The 6-foot-3, 180-pound left-hander committed to McHenry County College kept Dundee-Crown batters guessing in the middle game of a Fox Valley Conference series by attacking with a variety of curves.

The senior held the Chargers to 1 hit over 5 innings and struck out 9 without issuing a walk.

Morgan is already 4-0 in 4 starts for the Red Raiders (11-1). Last season he finished 4-2 in 9 starts. He has 34 strikeouts and 4 walks in 20 innings and owns a 0.35 ERA, thanks, in part, to his curveball.

"If I feel like I can really command it, it will really set up my fastball," the 2017 all-area selectee said. "It sets up all four of my pitches, really. I think if I command it and throw it for strikes and use it as a weapon with two strikes, I feel I can be really effective."

Morgan used a looping, backdoor curve to catch the outside edge of the plate against a right-handed hitter for a called strike to end the second inning.

"If I try to sweep it, I'll throw it a little harder," he said. "But if I want to go more 12-6, sometimes I'll kind of loop it up there, change the speed and get the hitters off balance more and set up another pitch. I use it different speeds in different counts. It's all about the arm angle."

The great outdoors: Thanks to a brief respite from a chilly spring weather pattern, most area teams were able to play on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. It marked the first time this season most teams were able to play games on three consecutive days.

Though playing outside in Tuesday's 42-degree weather was a character builder, it beat another day of practice in the school gymnasium.

"You get bored inside," Batavia coach Alex Beckmann said. "Sometimes it's hard to keep morale up. There's only so much you can do. Hopefully, this weather is turning and we can get outside every day."

---Daily Herald--- 4/13/18

Baseball: Larkin edges Streamwood

BY ALLEN OSHINSKI

It doesn't always take a hard-hit smash to win a baseball game.

Larkin needed only a 50-foot roller that turned into the winning run as the Royals came from behind to edge Streamwood, 4-3, in an Upstate Eight River matchup in Elgin Thursday.

Gunnar Boley went the distance on the mound for Larkin (5-3, 2-1), allowing 7 hits while striking out 5.

His counterpart, Daniel Kuehl, wasn't bad, either. Kuehl allowed just 5 hits in 5-plus innings. Few balls against him were hard hit. One that definitely was not hit hard did the most damage.

With the score tied at 3, Cy Kerber led off the sixth by dribbling one about 50 feet down the third-base line and beating it out. Max Anderson followed with a walk. Max Alanis relieved Kuehl and Kobe Mounavong sacrificed the runners over. Kerber scored on a wild pitch before Alanis struck out Jeff Althamar and Sebastian Nava to end the inning.

The Sabres (6-3, 1-2), had a chance to tie. Cody Motykowski led off the seventh with a bad-hop single and stole second. But Boley got 3 straight outs to win it. Center fielder Jackson Reuter hauled in Anthony Caruso's high fly for the final out.

Earlier, Nava drove in the tying run with a single down the right field line to score Mounavong.

The Sabres had taken the lead with 3 runs in the third inning. A double by AJ Reyna got it started. After Caruso walked, Tyler Jones drove in Reyna with a double, and Alanis's single plated 2 more.

Boley and the Royals didn't get down after falling behind.

"The last two days, we have really grown a lot mentally in how we're approaching the game," said Larkin coach Matt Esterino. "We did not let it get to us, we didn't get down. We stayed together. Everyone in the dugout was picking him up and as a senior he just took a deep breath and pounded the zone. So really it was his mentality.

"You're looking for that mental growth as much as the physical. The physical growth will come, but the mental, in this sport, was vital."

Larkin jumped ahead in the first with just 2 hits. Reuter led off with a hit to short right field. He stole second and scored on a pair of errors. Andy Bonnot followed with a single and came around to score on Kerber's grounder to the right side.

Kuehl struck out 5 and walked just 2, but didn't have the best of luck.

"They had a couple bleeders here, a couple hit-'em-where-we're-not type of at-bats," said Streamwood coach Ryan Lasota. "He pitched great for us and deserved a better fate. But I like the way we competed down the stretch. Anytime you can finish a game getting ourselves in position where you have the tying run at second base, I'll take that."