

Press Clippings - 10/11/2023

-Daily Herald - U-46 8th-graders 'Explore' their futures at career expo

By: Tara Burghart

10/10/2023



Over three dozen local businesses, governmental organizations, and nonprofits were exhibiting at Explore 2023, a career expo for eighth-grade students from Elgin Area School District U-46.(Courtesy of Elgin Area School District U-46)



West Side Tractor and John Deere have a display about careers in the skilled trades at the Elgin Area School District U-46's Explore 2023 expo for eighth-graders.(Courtesy of Elgin Area School District U-46)

The quiz questions were coming fast, such as what industry employs actuaries, when the first bank was founded, and what's the purpose of online banking.

Surrounded by classmates, Itsani Albarran-Isidoro smiled as she called out answers, getting

many correct.

Itsani, a student at **Tefft Middle School**, was one of about 2,500 eighth-graders who attended Explore 2023 on Thursday, Oct. 5, at the NOW Arena.

The event is U-46's annual expo designed to expose eighth-graders to various careers while illustrating the direct connection among academic curriculum, high school courses, and future career endeavors.

The quiz that Itsani participated in was part of a game show-type exhibit organized by Junior Achievement and four area financial institutions -- Associated Bank, Blackhawk Bank, Elgin State Bank, and KCT Credit Union.

Itsani said her older brother works in finance, and she's interested in majoring in business or finance at college herself, although ultimately she's leaning toward law school. Itsani also commented that she was glad to get to attend the expo before choosing her courses for freshman year.

The Alignment Collaborative for Education, a nonprofit local organization that brings together community resources and initiatives to support district priorities, once again partnered with U-46 to organize the event.

Nancy Coleman, Alignment's executive director, said she's often questioned why Explore is aimed at eighth-graders, with some people thinking it's too early for students to think about careers. But she said middle school is actually the perfect time to start those discussions.

"We have to prepare parents and students for all the opportunities that are available, where students can go ahead and start taking courses and participate in work-based learning aligned with their career interests as part of their high school experience," Coleman said. "We want all students to have a plan leading to a successful future before they graduate."

Students from the district's eight middle schools attended Explore during the school day in three different shifts.

Ahead of time, each student worked in SchoolLinks, a digital college and career planning system, to learn which career clusters align with their current interests and aptitudes. Students then reviewed that information with school counselors to help them select a career pathway to tour at Explore.

About 40 local businesses, industries, governmental organizations, and nonprofits had exhibits at Explore, staffed by representatives who engaged in discussions and hands-on activities with students.

In addition, each of the district's five Magnet Academies had teachers and high schoolers present; the application process for Magnet Academies is currently open to eighth-graders.

U-46's business, culinary, engineering, healthcare, automotive, welding, and precision manufacturing programs were represented, as well as the veterinary assistant program at Burlington Central Unit District 301, which is offered to U-46 students.

Delilah Tapia, a senior at Larkin High School, was at a table lined with "infant simulators," dolls that cry when they need to be rocked, fed, burped or changed. She was at Explore to talk to students about the Early Childhood Education pathway available at all of U-46's high schools.

Some of Delilah's coursework has involved hands-on and real-life learning as she is offered, through the pathway, the opportunity to work with children enrolled in the Little Royal Preschool at Larkin High School.

"You get so much reward and satisfaction from taking care of those children and watching them grow and watching them learn. It's a really beautiful experience," said Delilah, who is considering a career as a kindergarten teacher. "I'm going to tell the eighth-graders about how much of an impact you have, and how much what you're doing matters."

At a table located in the Finance, Business, Information Technology and Culinary area, Shane Hamilton, the owner of Fox Valley Internet, spoke to students about the growing number of opportunities in the cybersecurity field. But he also stressed the importance of trying to match their career aspirations to their personal interests and strengths.

"Find something you love doing and pursue it," Hamilton told the students.

Alexander Escareno, an eighth-grader at Larsen Middle School, already has a good idea of what he wants to pursue -- a career as a mechanic. He made sure to get a front-row spot to watch South Elgin High School's engine teardown team, and he said he's excited to pursue the Automotive Technology pathway in high school.

Nearby, Ellis Middle School student Lamontay Dobbins was checking out a mini excavator. It was brought to the NOW Arena by West Side Tractor to help educate students about the opportunities for service technicians who perform maintenance and repairs on the machines.

Lamontay plays sports, and he knows he wants a career that will keep him active, not sitting behind a desk, so the thought of working on big machinery appealed to him.

"There's a lot of jobs I learned about today, and a lot of neat stuff to look at and be inspired by," he said.

Erin Murphy, who works in human resources for West Side Tractor, said participating in events like Explore are an important part of trying to build a pipeline of future employees.

"A lot of our technicians love working with their hands and having a different project every day," she said. "We know being at events like these is not an instant solution, this is just creating more awareness for the industry. That didn't occur in years past, and we're struggling with finding people now. We are willing to invest in making it known that this is a great career, and you can make some good money doing it."

Dr. Teresa A. Lance, U-46's Assistant Superintendent for Equity and Innovation, said she was pleased by all the positive interactions she saw among the eighth-graders and the exhibitors at Explore.

"What I'm hoping for is that our students leave Explore with a better idea of what they're interested in," Dr. Lance said. "The whole concept of the Explore event is that students get to dig further into their interests by learning more about the plethora of opportunities ahead of them. If we are about equity, then this means allowing students the opportunity to choose the pathway, including college, career, and/or military, that's right for them and not us choosing their path for them."

- The examiner -

Staff, significant weeks recognized by Dist. U-46

By: Seth Hancock

October 11, 2023

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** recognized various staff at its meeting on Monday, Oct. 2.

Included was a proclamation to celebrate National Principal Appreciation Month, held in October.

Superintendent Suzanne Johnson said the month "recognizes the essential role that principals play in the education, growth, and well-being of students."

Two principals, Mike Demovsky of Bartlett High School and Marc Spacone of Elgin's Larsen Middle School, were on hand. Demovsky thanked the board and administration for the recognition as "teammates, partners in education and partners in student greatness," and Spacone said: "I know everybody, on behalf of all the principals, they work very hard to make it a great day to learn in U-46."

National School Bus Safety Week, Oct. 16 to 20, was recognized. Johnson said the

district transports about 24,000 student, and bus drivers travel over four million miles annually.

Heather Weiss, president of the transportation union, accepted the recognition but spoke about the need for a new union contract.

“While it is very nice to be honored, I would like to remind the district that it is also important to appreciate our transportation workers through their actions as well,” Weiss said. “We are experiencing a massive bus driver shortage across the state of Illinois, and I believe that is part in due to the wages being offered by school districts across the state.”

Weiss added: “We are grateful the district has agreed to bargaining sooner rather than later, and we are hopeful we can come together to address this crisis that’s a problem not just in our district but across the entire state.” The board also recognized National School Lunch Week, Oct. 9 to 13. Johnson said thousands of students daily are served breakfasts and lunches by the district.

Daniella Beci, assistant director of food and nutrition services, said: “National School Lunch Week is a very exciting week for our team. We dress up, we have contests and get our staff involved.... We have been putting in a lot of efforts to get feedback from students, parents and staff. And I can tell you with that feedback, we’re already seeing tremendous turnout in our meals.”

- The Examiner -

U-46 joins other districts in social media lawsuit

By: Seth Hancock
October 11, 2023

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** unanimously approved, a resolution to join over 300 school districts across the country in a lawsuit against social media companies at its meeting on Monday, Sept. 11.

The attorney-client fee contract states that 25 percent “of any monetary settlement or recovery” would go to Frantz Law Group, a California-based firm that is leading the lawsuit. The resolution states that “Franczek P.C. acting as local co-counsel for the District.”

The social media companies listed in the resolution are “Meta Platforms, Inc. Facebook Holdings LLC, Snap Inc, TikTok Inc., Alphabet Inc. and other parties responsible.”

The resolution states that “in recent years the proliferation of and widespread access to and use of social media among public school students has expanded dramatically, leading to significant risks of anxiety, depression, thoughts of self-harm, and suicidal ideation among students,” and U-46 students “have been part of this phenomenon by engaging with social media in school and on school grounds in addition to outside of school.”

“The District’s students’ widespread adoption, consumption, and use of social media has caused the District to incur costs in the form of staff time, disciplinary proceedings, emotional and social counseling, medical services, and other costs, with the expectation that these costs will only increase unless and until student use of social media is reduced or the social media platforms reform their practices in attracting students,” the resolution adds.

As previously reported by The Examiner, some legal experts have weighed in suggesting the lawsuit has little merit.

Carl Szabo, vice president and general counsel for NetChoice, told The Associated Press: “The underlying argument is that the tech industry is to blame for the emotional state of teenagers, because they made recommendations on content that has caused emotional harm. It would be absurd to sue Barnes & Noble because an employee recommended a book that caused emotional harm or made a teenager feel bad. But that’s exactly what this lawsuit is doing.”

-Daily Herald - Football / Top 20

**By: Daily Herald staff report
10/10/2023**



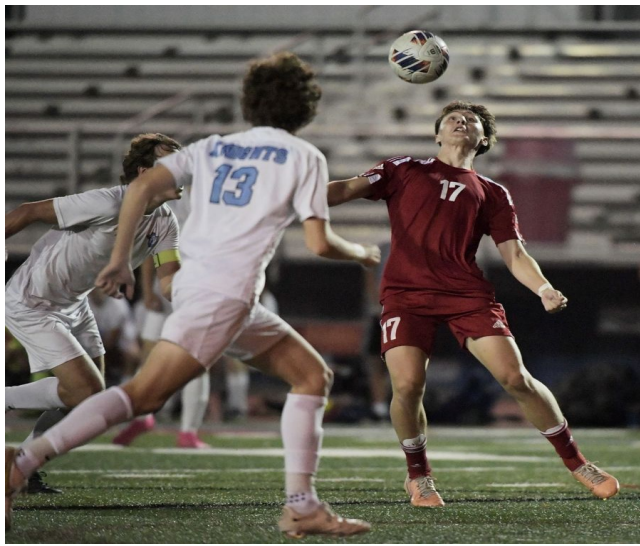
Hersey quarterback Colton Gumino evades Rolling Meadows' Sean Kerr Friday night in Rolling Meadows.
(John Starks | Staff Photographer)

Team Week 7 result/Week 8 opponent

1. Hersey 7-0 Beat Rolling Meadows 42-7; Wheeling
2. Batavia 6-1 Beat St. Charles East 54-0; at WW South
3. Barrington 7-0 Beat Hoffman E. 35-31; Palatine
4. York 6-1 Lost to Glenbard West 28-7; at Lyons
5. Maine South 5-2 Beat Glenbrook S. 45-36; at Deerfield
6. Palatine 5-2 Beat Conant 38-14; at Barrington
7. Warren 5-2 Beat Waukegan 46-0; Lake Forest
8. Lake Zurich 6-1 Beat Lake Forest 43-0; at Mundelein
9. Naperville Central 6-1 Beat DeKalb 42-0; Metea Valley
10. Downers Grove North 5-2 Lost to Lyons 17-7; at Hinsdale S.
11. Glenbard West 5-2 Beat York 28-7; Proviso West
12. St. Francis 5-2 Beat St. Rita 31-28; at Leo
13. St. Charles North 5-2 Beat Glenbard N. 42-0; at Lake Park
14. Glenbard South 7-0 Beat W. Chicago 48-6; at Glenbard E.
15. Prospect 5-2 Beat Elk Grove 55-22; at Buffalo Grove
16. Huntley 6-1 Beat Cary-Grove 29-28; Dundee-Crown
17. IC Catholic Prep 5-2 Lost to Loyola 47-0; at DeLaSalle
18. Geneva 5-2 Lost to Wheaton North 25-24; St. Charles East
19. Neuqua Valley 4-3 Beat Waubonsie V. 40-12; DeKalb
20. Antioch 7-0 Beat Grant 64-32; Grayslake Central

Others to watch: **South Elgin** 6-1, Carmel 6-1, Stevenson 5-2, Cary-Grove 5-2, Naperville North 4-3, Maine West 7-0, Wheaton Warrenville South 4-3, Wheaton North 4-3, Buffalo Grove 5-2, St. Viator 4-3

-Daily Herald -
Boys soccer / Top 20
By: Daily Herald staff report
10/10/2023



Palatine's Adrian Atanassov tries to control a bouncing ball against Prospect. (John Starks | Staff Photographer)

records as of: 10-8-23

- 1- Naperville North (15-1-3): Huskies No. 1 last four weeks
- 2- York (13-3-0): Herrera key figure in Dukes attack
- 3- Palatine (16-0-3): 11th appearance in MSL Soccer Cup
- 4- Stevenson (14-2-1): Patriots rounding into shape
- 5- Leyden (13-4-1): Historic win over state power Morton
- 6- **Elgin** (11-4-2): Maroons top seed at Round Lake sectional
- 7- Lake Zurich (11-4-2): Bears NSC champs
- 8- **Streamwood** (12-4-4): Galvan bags game-winner vs. Elgin
- 9- St. Charles North (10-5-0): Stars lead DuKane
- 10- Wauconda (11-2-1): Bulldogs claim first ever NLCC crown
- 11- St. Charles East (14-7-0): Saints finally getting healthy
- 12- Marmion Academy (11-2-3): Cadets win Aurora Cup title
- 13- Huntley (13-5-1): Raiders closing in on FVC crown
- 14- Benet Academy (9-3-3): MF Friedman, Kuelthau shine
- 15- Hinsdale Central (10-4-3): Red Devils 2-2 in shootout this fall
- 16- Naperville Central (8-5-6): PK victory in Great River Classic final
- 17- **Larkin** (11-2-2): Royals remain in UE8 title race
- 18- Geneva (11-5-2): Vikings at STN on Tuesday
- 19- Crystal Lake South (14-4-1): 3-0 week for Gators
- 20- Grayslake Central (11-3-1): Top seed in own sectional

-Chicago Tribune - Paul Johnson's Aurora-Elgin area boys soccer rankings and player of the week

By: Paul Johnson

Oct 10, 2023



Marmion's Giovanni Magana (10) tries to pass the ball past Waubonsie Valley's Beckett Stotlar (4) during a nonconference game in Aurora on Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

Marmion and **Larkin** move up in rankings topped by **Elgin**, while Marmion's Giovanni Magana is the player of the week.

Top 10

With records through Monday and previous rankings in parentheses.

1. **Elgin** 11-3-3 (1)

Maroons stall, but Eduardo Nava's 21 goals provide power for postseason.

2. Marmion 11-2-3 (4)

Macztıl Uriel Lopez and Giovanni Magana score in signature 2-1 win over West Aurora.

3. West Aurora 16-3 (2)

The Blackhawks stumble against Marmion despite goal from Power Selemeni.

4. **Streamwood** 12-4-4 (3)

After Sabres upset 2-1 by East Aurora, AJ Sabanovic scores in 2-1 win over Fenton.

5. **Larkin** 11-2-1 (9)

The Royals pull off late-season surge, go 5-1-2 in last eight games.

6. St. Charles East 14-7 (7)

Return of Logan Lewarchick could energize a playoff run for the Saints.

7. St. Charles North 10-5 (8)

Walter Delapaz and his 12 goals will push the North Stars into playoffs.

8. Geneva 11-5-2 (6)

Trent Giansanti is up to 14 goals for the Vikings.

9. Oswego East 9-6-3 (5)

Although it was a 0-0 tie, Wolves send message against powerhouse Naperville North.

10. Oswego 13-6-3 (10)

Four-game winless streak ends for Panthers with 1-0 win over Romeoville.

Player of the Week

Junior forward Giovanni Magana notched a goal and an assist to key Marmion's 2-1 win over West Aurora for the Aurora Cup championship.