

Press Clippings 04-01-21

---The Courier-News---04/01/2021

Elgin backs education initiative

Collaborative works on early learning, career readiness in DU-46

By: Gloria Casas

Elgin approved a three-year \$60,000 contract with the Alignment Collaborative for Education to continue with its efforts in early education awareness and providing career pathways for School District U-46 students.

The city was a founding member of Alignment Collaborative for Education, known as ACE, when it was created in 2015 to coordinate efforts among the 11 communities in School District U-46, business, and community leaders to promote early education, provide resources for students dealing with trauma, and create programs for career readiness.

The group's focus has been in those three areas since its inception. It has become known for its partnerships with local business and programs to help U-46 students develop job skills, Executive Director Nancy Coleman said. However, the nonprofit has also been dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on students' learning and mental health, she said.

Coleman doesn't like the term "learning gap," but U-46 is aware of the learning loss students have had in the last year due to the pandemic. There's also an increase in trauma among students due to the coronavirus pandemic, she said. "Children are in an environment now that they are not used to, that they are not comfortable with, and we are seeing an increased effect of trauma in those children."

Statistics show one out of four children in the district was dealing with trauma before the pandemic,

district officials said. "I think that situation has escalated way beyond that, but we are doing what we can in the community," Coleman said.

The collective has continued working on its goals throughout the pandemic and is doing some events surrounding career readiness like career panels with experts in different fields, industry workshops, internships, and an upcoming senior job fair.

"Our whole goal behind all of this work is to build Elgin's future workforce," Coleman said. "We don't want that workforce leaving Elgin, so we want to be sure they know about the opportunities here."

Councilman Toby Shaw appreciates the work the group is doing and the results it's getting. But he feels it's not the city's role to fund U-46 programs.

"Yes, I believe in the mission. Yes, I understand what you are doing. It's the right mission but just not the right funding source," he said.

"When we started this, the goal was partly to help U-46, but it was really as an economic development tool," Mayor Dave Kaptain said. "I can tell you personally by meeting with business leaders this has brought millions of dollars of investment back to the city of Elgin. The businesses that come here see the need for training and education for a workforce."

“This is an economic development tool. It pays great dividends for us,” Kaptain said.

Elgin backs education initiative as economic development tool

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---Daily Herald---04/01/2021

How many with shots still getting the virus?

By: Jake Griffin



Technician Specialist from Jewel-Osco Nicole Panopaulos-Sims prepares a shot of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at an inoculation event in Itasca earlier this month.

Illinois Department of Public Health officials reported Wednesday that 17 people in the state who were considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 have since been hospitalized by the respiratory disease.

Additionally, of the more than 2.1 million people who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in Illinois, 399 have tested positive for the virus — or 0.0185% of those fully vaccinated, IDPH officials said.

IDPH considers someone fully immunized 14 days after their final vaccine dose.

“This information is constantly changing, but the following are the data that have been reported to IDPH so far,” IDPH officials wrote in an email Wednesday. “Seventeen (fully vaccinated) individuals have been hospitalized due to COVID-19; seven individuals have been hospitalized but investigations are pending as to whether they are related to COVID-19; and six have been hospitalized but not related to COVID-19.”

IDPH began reporting fully vaccinated individuals in the state on Dec. 19. During that time, the state health agency has reported 355,877 new COVID-19 cases diagnosed in the state, which means 0.1% of those cases were in individuals considered fully vaccinated.

Efficacy of the three vaccines approved for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is between 66% and 95%, according to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention records. Efficacy means someone vaccinated is that much less likely than someone unvaccinated to become infected.

In the case of the Pfizer/BioNtech two-dose vaccine, its efficacy is 95%, which means someone fully vaccinated is one-20th as likely as someone unvaccinated to contract COVID-19. Traditionally, flu vaccine efficacy each year is between 40% and 60%.

And studies have shown that those fully vaccinated for more than seven weeks have not been hospitalized or died from COVID-19, according to a report in LiveScience.com.

Latest state statistics

IDPH officials reported Wednesday that 51,213 more people had been fully vaccinated in the state, bringing the state’s total of fully vaccinated residents and workers to 2,161,302 individuals.

State health officials also reported 137,445 more COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered throughout Illinois, which brings the total number of vaccine inoculations performed statewide to 5,801,871, according to IDPH figures. More than half of those inoculations — almost 3 million — occurred in March.

Vaccine providers are averaging 109,358 inoculations a day over the past week, the highest level this metric has reached since doses were introduced to the public in mid-December.

IDPH officials reported Wednesday that 28 more residents have died from COVID-19, while another 2,592 new cases were diagnosed.

The state's death toll from the respiratory disease is now 21,301, and 1,244,585 Illinoisans have been infected.

Hospitals statewide reported treating 1,413 patients for COVID-19 infections. Of those hospitalized, 294 are in intensive care.

The state's seven-day case positivity rate is now at 3.3%, down slightly from the previous day.

Funding for schools

In his news conference Wednesday at **South Elgin High School**, Gov. J.B. Pritzker also announced Wednesday that K-12 school districts would receive \$7 billion in federal funding “to provide support, comfort and resources for our students” in the wake of COVID-19 interruptions.

Districts in suburban Cook County were set to receive more than \$1 billion combined, with districts like Palatine Elementary District 15 and Schaumburg Elementary District 54 in line to receive more than \$20 million each.

In DuPage County, districts were set to receive a combined \$167 million in federal funds. Addison Elementary District 4, Marquardt Elementary District 15 and West Chicago Elementary District 33 were all expected to receive more than \$9 million each.

School districts based in Kane County were in line for a combined \$247.8 million, with more than \$100 million going to **Elgin Area Unit District 46** alone. U-46 is one of the largest districts in the state.

Lake County school districts have been earmarked a combined \$209 million, according to the state report. Round Lake Area Unit District 116 would get more than \$23 million, while Gurnee-based Woodland Elementary District 50 is set to receive almost \$6 million.

McHenry County school districts would get a combined \$53.3 million, while Will County school districts can expect a combined \$175.7 million.

A full list of each school district's anticipated allocation is available at the website, illinois.gov/sites/P20.

---ABC7 Chicago---04/01/2021

Illinois schools to get \$7B in federal funding to address COVID impact as kids return to classrooms

By: Michelle Gallardo

CHICAGO (WLS) -- There's more money coming to school districts across Illinois, as students head back into the classrooms. The \$7 billion in federal funding will go to the state's 4,000 public schools.

It is still spring break for the students of **South Elgin High School**, where hallways will remain empty until April 7. But like much of the state, only a limited number of children here have returned to in-person learning. And there is a realization that making a full comeback will take time and resources, as students have fallen behind.

"Many of our students feel isolated. They don't have the connections that they had with peers, with teachers, with support staff personnel," said **Dr. Suzanne Johnson, District U-46**.

Hoping to address some academic and social-emotional impact of this past year, Gov. JB Pritzker announced a \$7 billion dollar investment Wednesday to assist K-12 public schools across the state.

"All of it focused on learning renewal," Pritzker said. "That's the purpose of it and all of it focused on things like what kinds of summer programs are necessary, what kinds of tutoring are necessary."

Along with the cash, the state also released a 180-page guide aimed at outlining strategies and guidance for schools now trying to make up for lost time, but with a firm realization that there is not a one-size-fits all solution.

"What works for a rural school district does not work for an urban school district," Illinois State Board of Education Superintendent Dr. Carmen Ayala said.

Gov. Pritzker said Wednesday the additional funding all comes from the federal government and will be disbursed over the next three years.

The Examiner of STREAMWOOD

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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
March 31, 2021

Tidbits column:
An Easter tradition
See Page 3

Sabres boys soccer
has 1-2-1 week
See Page 4

Four candidates seeking three U-46 board seats

By Seth Hancock

Voters will have to choose between four candidates vying for three seats on the Board of Education in School District U-46 in next week's consolidated election on Tuesday, April 6.

Incumbents Veronica Noland, of Elgin, and Melissa Owens, of Bartlett, are running for reelection. Donna Smith, of Hanover Park, will be leaving after two decades on the board.

Newcomers LeJewel Crigler, of Elgin, and Dawn Martin, of Bartlett, are also running.

Two candidates, Martin and Noland, showed up for a March 19 candidate forum at Poplar Creek Library in Streamwood.

Martin said she has two children that have been going through the U-46 sys-

tem, both now at the secondary level, and she chose to run based on the district's response to COVID-19. She said she was understanding and supportive with the district when it first shut-down last March, but when the new school year began in August, she started having concerns with the academic and mental health struggles students would go through in distance learning.

"I was one of the parents that was at a loss," Martin said. "My kids were struggling, kids they knew were struggling. At that point, I wasn't thinking about running for board. I was just thinking about what we can do, how we can support our children."

Wanting to have a balanced approach to decision making to benefit all stake-

holders, Martin said funding will be a key issue going forward and creating a plan for when the district stops using the property tax abatement that doesn't cause "giant, massive" increases for taxpayers. She also said U-46 is "a very diverse community" and "equity" will be a major issue.

Noland, first elected in 2013, is seeking her third term and has two children, one in U-46 and another in private school. She said she's "experienced what it was like to have a child in the public schools and the private schools" and "saw the disparities."

The state's response to COVID-19 will cause "long effects that we then have to deal with" including "learning loss" for students and financial concerns, which will be key issues go-

ing forward.

Owens, first elected in 2017, is seeking her second term. In a candidate bio, she wrote she's "proud of recent accomplishments... including increasing the number of social workers and counselors in our schools; bringing one-to-one technology to all students; strengthening our career-readiness programs; and protecting taxpayers by abating tax dollars towards our long-term debt."

Crigler wrote: "I want the children in our district to experience what my daughter has as a homeschooler. This is what motivates me, regardless of all of the adjustments that we've all had to make regarding Covid-19; there's no greater time than now to move forward."

Law firm retained via approval of agreement

By Kristin Carreno

During the Village Board meeting on Thursday, March 18, trustees voted unanimously in approval of an agreement with the law firm of Storino, Ramello and Durkin as corporation counsel and village prosecutor at a cost of \$10,068 per month for 60 retainer hours and \$230 per hour for services outside the retainer.

The village retains attorneys to serve as corporation counsel, according to Village Manager Sharon Caddigan. This provides the village with legal services in a variety of areas including general legal work, labor negotiations, prosecution of ordinance and traffic violations, planning, zoning and similar regulatory issues and other legal services that may be required.

"It's been a very beneficial arrangement for the village because we have village attorney services and access throughout the week," said Caddigan. "We benefit from the expertise of the individuals in the firm."

The firm currently provides service

of an on-site attorney for up to 60 hours per month on a monthly retainer basis and additional services that are billed at an hourly rate basis, Caddigan said.

The retainer for 2020 was set at \$9,823 per month and the hourly billing rate for other services at \$225 per hour, according to Caddigan. The firm is requesting a 2.5 percent increase in its retainer fee and 2.22 percent increase in its fee for other services.

"This is an annual increase to their general contract," Caddigan said.

The agreement will become effective on April 1 and be in effect through March 31, 2022.

Corporate counsel and village prosecutor services have been provided by this law firm since 1996, according to Village Attorney Thomas Bastian.

"On behalf of myself and my partners we wish to thank you," Bastian said. "This will be our 25th year. "We take our role seriously and we truly appreciate the confidence and support staff has given us."

Dist. U-46 Board approves trucks purchase, bills list

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved, of the purchase of two distribution center trucks at its meeting on Monday, March 15.

The cost is \$148,256, to come from the education fund, through JX Truck Center through a Sourcwell contract.

The trucks will replace a 2009 refrigerated truck (76,532 miles/4,474 refrigerator unit hours) with an estimated trade-in value of \$7,500 and a 2012 truck (56,685 miles/2,367 hours) with a trade-in value of \$6,500. The trucks have had \$5,729 in repair costs this year and \$38,452 total since being purchased, according to the proposal.

"Due to COVID and parts shortages, these vehicles have up to an 8-month lead-time and it could be longer," the

proposal states. "Administration has located two cab/chassis that can be purchased now on the Sourcwell Contract... prior to end of fiscal year 2020-2021. In the 2021-2022 school year, administration will bring to the board the proposal for purchase and installation of the body, refer unit, and liftgate on these two units."

The proposal adds: "The Business Services Department operates its vehicles year round, under the harshest weather conditions and demands. These vehicles need to be replaced for the purposes of public and employee safety and operational efficiency once they have met their useful lifespan within the tenets of the Age and Obsolescence Plan."

Also unanimously approved was \$3.3 million in itemized bills.



To be determined

Among the races to be decided at the polls next Tuesday, April 6 will be three village trustee positions. Among all of the campaign posters adorning the lawn at Village Hall, only one village trustee campaigner was represented on Sunday, March 27. For a detailed story on this race see page 8.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

Meeting dates set by U-46 for 2021-22 school year

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 has set its meeting schedule for the 2021-2022 school year.

By a 7-0 vote, the board approved of the schedule at its March 8 meeting.

“Generally, we have the regular meetings and then optional meetings. Generally, one optional meeting a month,” said Sue Kerr, the board’s president.

Regular and optional meetings take place on Mondays.

The schedule states: “Board of Education Meetings take place at the Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago Street, Elgin, IL 60120, at 5:15 p.m., with Business Session beginning at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted.”

One regular board meeting, May 9, is scheduled as a primarily ceremonial meeting to recognize the top 2 percent of graduating seniors. That meeting

has traditionally been held at South Elgin High School.

Regular meetings in 2021 include July 19, Aug. 9 and 23, Sept. 13 and 27, Oct. 4 and 18, Nov. 1 and 15 and Dec. 13. In 2022: Jan. 10 and 24, Feb. 7 and 28, March 7, 14 and 21, April 11 and 25, May 2 and 16 and June 6 and 20.

Optional meetings in 2021 include July 12, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 25, Nov. 8, Dec. 6, Jan. 31, Feb. 14, April 18 and June 13.

Additionally, the schedule includes three Saturday dates where board members will constitute a quorum under the Open Meetings Act. It includes Saturday, Nov. 20, when the Illinois Association of School Boards’ conference is held, Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022 when the board holds a close-session self-evaluation and superintendent’s evaluation and Saturday, May 28, 2022 for the high school graduation.

Secretary of State encourages use of on-line services

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White has issued a reminder urging the public to visit his office’s website at www.cyberdriveillinois.com to conduct transactions online when possible instead of visiting a Driver Services facility. Over the last nine months, more than 3.8 million transactions have been conducted online, an increase of 75 percent.

In addition, White has extended all driver’s license and ID card expiration dates an additional two months. All expired driver’s licenses and ID cards, as well as those expiring over the next four months, are now valid until Aug. 1. This extension does not apply to commercial driver’s licenses (CDL) and CDL learner’s permits.

“Renew online and avoid waiting in line,” said White. “More Illinoisans have taken advantage of our office’s online services, and we are encouraging others to do the same. For those who must visit a facility, we ask they be patient as we are experiencing a high volume of customers.”

Some online transactions include:

- Purchasing license plate stickers; and
- Renewing driver’s licenses and ID cards for those who qualify.

To renew license plate stickers online:

- Residents will need a registration ID and PIN, which are located on the renewal notice and registration card –

which most people keep in their vehicle’s glove compartment; and

- Vehicle owners may then visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com and click on “License Plates Renewal” under Online Services.

In addition, White has expanded online renewals for driver’s licenses and ID cards. Not everyone qualifies, particularly those who are required to take a written or road test. Those who qualify for online renewal will receive a letter containing their PIN approximately 90 days before their driver’s license expiration date.

Customers may check their eligibility status for online driver’s license and ID card renewal by:

- Visiting www.cyberdriveillinois.com and clicking on “Read more on how to renew your driver’s license or ID card online” near the top of the main page; and
- Then click on “Check your eligibility now” where they will be prompted to enter their driver’s license or ID card number and the last four digits of their social security number.

“My goal remains serving the public to the best of our ability during the pandemic, and reducing facility wait times while prioritizing the health and safety of customers and employees,” White said. “Those who conduct business online help shorten the line for those who must visit a facility.”

Fast action aids rescue of men victimized by capsized canoe

According to the Bartlett Fire District, on Monday, March 22, at 3:32 p.m., the district was called to the West Branch Forest Preserve, at Deep Quarry Lake, for a report of a canoe that capsized resulting in two male subjects being in the water. The first fire district personnel arrived on the scene at 3:36 p.m., observed two victims were in the water and were coming to shore. Fire personnel donned cold water rescue suits and entered the lake to retrieve the victims.

A father and his two young sons were in a small fishing boat on the lake when the oldest boy noticed the canoe was tipped over and alerted his father. The family motored their fishing boat to the victims in the water. The father instructed the victims to hold on to the side of his boat while they drove them to the shoreline. Due to the water temperature, both victims suffered mild hypothermia but refused treatment

and transport to an area hospital. The quick thinking of the father and his two sons undoubtedly saved these victim’s lives.

The Bartlett Fire District and the Hanover Park Fire Department responded to the scene of the incident with 16 firefighter/paramedics and three chief officers. The initial response called for three fire engines, one rescue squad, two ambulances, and three command vehicles. Divers from South Elgin, Streamwood, and Hoffman Estates were also dispatched to the alarm through aid agreements, but were returned prior to their arrival. Members from the Forest Preserve Police of DuPage County and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources assisted at the scene.

The fire district reminds everyone to

See Rescue, pg. 17

-VOTE-

Renée SUWANSKI

for
Village of Bartlett
TRUSTEE

**Public Works
Committee
Chairperson**



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- ✓ Works for Economic Growth
- ✓ Increase Community Amenities
- ✓ Balance the Needs of our Residents and our Businesses
- ✓ Assist to Oversee Village Fiscal Responsibility

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Renée is a small business owner, an instructor, as well as a sales operations and business development professional with 25 years in the insurance industry.

“Bartlett is a wonderful place to live with so much opportunity for economic growth and community engagement.”

-Renée Suwanski

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Pet of the Week



Rabbits need permanent residence

Gregory is a 2-year-old mixed breed male who is friendly, playful and just 6 pounds of cuteness. He doesn't have to live with another rabbit, but he seems like a good candidate for bonding.

Mushi is a 1-year-old male English spot mix. He was surrendered when his prior owner said he was having a difficult time sharing the spotlight with the other rabbits in the home. He can be a little a skittish and prefers not to be picked up.

Adopting a rabbit is not just for Easter, it's a lifetime commitment!

All those interested may get the adoption process started by completing an adoption application at bit.ly/OurAdoptables and a staff member will reach out to schedule a time for a meet and greet.

(Photo courtesy of County Animal Control)

Busy Sabres boys soccer go 1-2-1 in week of play

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood soccer team saw a win slip out of its hands in a 1-1 tie against Bartlett in Upstate Eight Conference play on Wednesday, March 24 at Millennium Field.

The Sabres, who dominated possession, grabbed the upper hand with a goal in the 57th minute, junior Joel Sandoval finding the net off an assist from freshman Bryan Huerta.

However, failure to finish on Streamwood's chances allowed Bartlett to net the equalizer in the final five minutes.

For Sabres coach Matt Polovin, the tie felt like a loss but he's still happy to see the guys playing under the shortened season due to COVID-19 regulations.

"We played well moving the ball around like we normally do, created many great chances, but just didn't finish like we needed to," Polovin said. "So, the game would have been out of reach those final five minutes. We even had a couple perfect chances to win the game the last five minutes after Bartlett scored but again just couldn't find the back of the net."

Polovin added: "It has been great, though, to finally get the high school team back on the field. It feels like it's been a few years instead of just over a year. I know the guys' love playing in front of their family and friends again as well and hope it continues like that for this very short season that will end April 17th."

Senior goalkeeper Harvey Partida made four saves.

The game was part of a four-game week for the Sabres, who are now 3-2-2 overall, 0-1-2 in the UEC.

Defense has been strong all season led by senior Jose Ibarra, who made the All-American team. Ibarra, the starting center-back, has led a defense of mostly underclassmen.

"The core five defenders have been playing amazing," Polovin said. "They just need some help from the offensive players to try and make their lives a little less hectic. We lack guys who want to be a little more proactive and take players on to goal and get a shot on target."

The Sabres suffered a 3-1 nonconference loss against St. Charles East on Monday, March 22 at Millennium Field. Senior Anthony Caldera scored, sophomore Aldo Jimenez had an assist and Partida made four saves.

Freshman Cristian Sandoval, Ibarra, senior Jose Banuelos, sophomore Hugo Marquez and sophomore Gonzalo Taboada (two assists) each found the net in a 5-1 nonconference win at Metea Valley on Thursday, March 25. Joel Sandoval and Jimenez had assists, and Partida had three saves.

Streamwood suffered a 3-2 UEC loss at Glenbard East on Saturday, March 27. Banuelos (goal, assist), senior Ethan Satsatin (goal) and Joel Sandoval (assist) led the effort.

Connections Poplar Creek Public Library

Visit pclub.org for our latest news, current hours of operation, and calendar of virtual/in-library programs. Questions? Call 837-6800.

Library closed on Sunday, April 4 in observance of Easter.

April eNewsletter now available

Stay up to date on current news and programs at the library. Visit our website at pclub.org and click on the blue 'subscribe' button towards the bottom of the page and sign up for our monthly eNewsletters.

Teens: Spring Break

Nothing to do during spring break? Sign up and attend one of these three programs and get a king size Kit-Kat bar from the Teen Department! For program details or to register, visit pclub.org or call 483-4928.

Poetry: Give Me 5!

April 1 at 4 p.m.

Learn how to create a poem with five original lines. Presented by Elgin Community College professor and Elgin Poet Laureate, Chasity Gunn.

Baby Yoda Paracord Keychains

April 2 at 3 p.m.

Adorable, it is! Join us in Meeting Room 1 to make your own Baby Yoda keychain, or pick up a craft kit to take home.

Bullet Journaling

April 3 at 3 p.m.

Join us in Meeting Room 1 to create a bullet journal to help keep you organized.

Baby and Toddler Time

Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Online (Zoom)

Join Ms. Teresa via Zoom to listen to stories, sing together, and have fun! You will need an email address in order to participate. Ages birth to 35 months. Register online or call 483-4923.

John Sandford will be live on Zoom answering questions and discussing his latest release, "Ocean Prey." Space is limited; registration required. Visit pclub.org or call 483-4925 for details.

Estate Planning

Thursday, April 8 at 7 p.m.

Online (Zoom)

Attorney Robert J. Varak will give direct, understandable answers about estate planning. It's the perfect one-stop primer to learn about wills, trusts, guardianship, powers of attorney and other sometimes intimidating but universally important topics. Registration is required; please include your email address when registering to receive Zoom instructions. Questions? Call 483-4929.

Grants, Scholarships and Loans

Thursday, April 8 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Online (Zoom)

Representatives from My College Planning Team will introduce the various financial aid options and focus on some of the biggest college planning mistakes families should avoid. This presentation will also reveal unique techniques to reduce the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) that can save thousands on college costs. Please include your email address when registering to receive Zoom instructions.

For a complete listing of scheduled classes/events at Poplar Creek Public Library, 1405 S. Park Ave., in Streamwood or Sonya Crawshaw Branch, 4300 Audrey Lane in Hanover Park, visit www.pclub.org. Questions? Call 837-6800.

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