

## Press Clippings 04/29/20

---The Courier-News---04/29/2020

### Sanders receives honorary doctorate

By: Rafael Guerrero



Sanders

School District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders was presented Tuesday with an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Judson University in a Facebook Live event.

With spring commencement pushed back to Sept. 19 because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Elgin-based school conducted a virtual degree presentation as one of several online programs this week to celebrate the class of 2020's achievements.

Sanders also participated in an interview with Judson President Gene Crume.

"We look forward to more formally presenting you with the 'whereas' and the certificate and actually putting the hood on (at the September commencement). But as of today, congratulations Dr. Tony Sanders — and soon-to-be doctor Dr. Tony Sanders," said Crume, referring to Sanders near-completion of an actual doctorate degree.

"It is an honor for me. Thank you so much," said Sanders, who joked, "I can't wait to perform my first surgery."

Among the topics Crume covered with Sanders was the wit and "cleverness" Sanders shares with U-46 students via social media, particularly when the possibility of a snow day emerges.

"They like to give me a hard time and I like to give it back to them a little bit," Sanders said. "I miss it (right now). I don't have any requests for snow days anymore now that we're in this distance learning era. I'm sure it will come back at some point."

Sanders also offered some words of encouragement for Judson students, urging them to "be lifelong learners." He cited the jobs he held in his youth — newspaper carrier, custodian, limo driver, fast-food worker, menswear salesman — as providing valuable lessons that continue guiding him today.

"Every experience that you have, you learn and grow from that experience to become the person who you are," he said. "I would always recommend you take whatever experiences that you're offered and learn from them. If you don't, it's a wasted opportunity."

In selecting Sanders as the honorary degree recipient, the university listed some of his accomplishments since being hired by U-46 in 2007. Among them, a balanced budget of more than a half-billion dollars, cash reserves amounting to 25% of the district's operating budget and success in working with state legislators to overhaul the state's school funding formula.

Judson also noted that during Sanders' tenure, the district established a full-day kindergarten, expanded the district's dual-language program, updated the district's alternative high school and introduced student disciplinary alternatives to out-of-school expulsions

Sanders is also the past chairman of the Large Countywide and Suburban Consortium, a network of some of the nation's largest school systems.

"I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Tony in many ways within the Elgin community," Crume said. "I have always appreciated his leadership, not only in field of education but in his work throughout the community."

Sanders talked about his own college experiences, including the work he's done to complete his doctoral degree at Aurora University, which he is two classes away from finishing.

When he first went to college, he was interested in radio broadcasting and never envisioned a career in education like that of his parents or sister, Sanders said. His work in public relations and communications brought him into education, and it turned out to be a natural fit, he said.

Now his oldest son is now pursuing a career in education, he said.

"I think it kind of runs in the blood of the family," Sanders said.

## **SPORTS**

**---Daily Herald---04/29/2020**

### **Bartlett QB transfers to St. Charles North**

**By: Jerry Fitzpatrick**



Bartlett quarterback Michael Priami has confirmed his transfer to St. Charles North.

Bartlett quarterback Michael Priami will transfer to St. Charles North for his senior season, he announced last week.

Priami was named all-Upstate Eight Conference and all-area honorable mention last fall as a junior. He helped lead the Hawks to an 8-2 record, a three-way tie for the league title and the school's second straight playoff appearance.

Frank and Megan Priami have wanted to move the family to St. Charles for years, according to Michael, whose freshman brother Zach plays volleyball and basketball.

"We wanted to move from Bartlett my freshman year but we couldn't find a house," Michael said. "The move was just the best thing for our family. We're moving four houses away from my uncle."

Priami (5-foot-11, 160 pounds) last season completed 109 of 201 attempts for 1,440 passing yards and 17 touchdowns. He carried 23 times for 158 yards and 5 scores.

"I wouldn't say it's a surprise because I know they've been trying to move to St. Charles for pretty much his entire high school career," Bartlett coach Matt Erlenbaugh said of the transfer. "But absolutely it's a loss. There's a reason why he was a starting quarterback. I love the kid. He's a great player. Definitely, St. Charles North is getting a heck of a player. I do believe he's a scholarship kid. At what level you never know, but I do see him getting money for school."

St. Charles North coach Rob Pomazak said he had no contact with the family.

"I found out through the grapevine," Pomazak said. "People started telling me he was going to come here. I said I'll believe it when I see it. Finally, I got a phone call from someone saying they had bought a house and he was going to enroll next year. I had no idea.

"I don't go looking for kids. I don't go recruiting or asking kids to come to our school. At no point did that ever transpire. I'll coach whoever walks in the door. I'm sure people are saying that we were courting him. Actually, we have a pretty talented group of quarterbacks coming back."

Priami is leaving a talented team. Bartlett returns wide receivers Hayden Angell, Nick Kantzavelos and Nick Bucaro and future Division-I tight end Alec Pallela. That stable of returning receivers last season made 60 of the team's 101 receptions and caught 11 of its 17 touchdowns. And the offensive line is "probably the best Bartlett has had in a long time," Erlenbaugh said.

"Those have been my friends since I was 4-years-old," Priami said. "I'll miss Bartlett a lot. But St. Charles North is a very good school. I can't wait to go there and show what I have. I made my choice and I'm just happy to move forward."

Erlenbaugh said junior Xander Salyers and sophomore Jacob Searce are among the leading candidates to replace Priami under center.

Pomazak said Priami will be part of "an open competition" for the starting quarterback job along with junior Sam DeDobbelaere and sophomore Aidan Pieper. Junior running back Nick DeMarco will also play quarterback in certain packages.

St. Charles North's open quarterback competition will likely be abbreviated due to the IHSA's current ban on summer contact days.

“If we only get August, we’re really going to have to use our time wisely in how we evaluate these guys and give everyone an opportunity to show what they can do,” Pomazak said. “Then make the best decision for the team. It’s going to make our job pretty difficult, but it’s a good problem to have.”



# 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  
April 29, 2020

Police reveal recent  
'pandemic' scams  
See ..... Page 2

Cheap Seats:  
Enough already!  
See ..... Page 5

## U-46 to use bailout funds to purchase backpacks

By Seth Hancock

School District U-46 is working on plans to allow students to pick up belongings from schools while also planning to use federal bailout funds to purchase backpacks as the COVID-19 shutdown continues.

In a statement last week, Superintendent Tony Sanders said that distance learning is "our new normal" and noted that Friday, May 1 and Monday, May 4 will be non-attendance days with already schedule professional development days on the calendar, and Wednesday, May 27 will be the final day for attendance.

Details on allowing students to collect belongings, events such as graduation, summer school and how students with an "incomplete" will be handled are still being worked out.

"Unfortunately, we don't have a lot of answers right now," Sanders said at the Monday, April 20 Board of Education meeting held electronically. He added: "We are working on plans, but we will not be doing anything urgently in that area because we want to honor the hold in place to the best of our ability recognizing that we, at some point, we've got to let kids come in and get their items out of their lockers and so forth."

Regarding graduation, it is tentatively scheduled for July 11 at the Sears Centre.

"That's if we're able to actually have

an in-person graduation," Sanders said. "If we're not, we've got contingencies to do an online, virtual graduation."

Spring sports athletics fees are being reimbursed with the cancellation of the season. Sanders stated: "Spring athletic fees that were paid by credit card have already been refunded. All others will be processed as soon as possible."

Dale Burnidge, director of financial operations, said the district is expecting some delays in receiving certain funds, like categorical, saying "the state shutdown is going to delay the tax revenue collections for the State of Illinois."

Sue Kerr, the board's president, said that some counties are considering delaying property tax payments. Burnidge said "we do have enough cash on the summary sheet" for about 154 days.

Kerr asked about federal funding from the recently approved CARES Act. That act was the largest spending bill in world history totaling over \$6 trillion between spending and money printing, and its stated goal was to help Americans, primarily in the private sector, who have lost their jobs due to the government shutting down the economy as nearly 30 million Americans have filed for unemployment.

However, government schools will

be receiving funds through the act and Burnidge said U-46 expects to receive \$7.7 million. Sanders said that was a preliminary estimate based on the Illinois State Board of Education's calculations, but it did not include what private and charter schools will receive. Whatever taxpayer money received from the act will have to be spent by September 2021.

The first expected purchase with those funds is \$39,000 with School Specialty to purchase backpacks with items, such as scissors and construction paper, inside for preschools students. The district has been giving taxpayer funded Chromebooks and iPads to all other students for distance learning, and Sanders said this was a way to give preschool students educational supplies during the lockdown.

Board member Eva Porter said some

of the supplies in the backpacks are consumable and asked if the district will provide more supplies when they run out to which Peggy Ondera, director of early learning initiatives, said: "Right now, this is a starting point for us."

Board member Melissa Owens asked if instructions will be included in the backpacks for parents to know how to use the items which staff said there will be a guide included. Owens said the purchase is "of interest to get these out."

Along with the technology and backpacks, the district has handed out taxpayer funded meals (breakfasts, lunches, dinners) and snacks to students. Via social media, Sanders stated as of April 23 that 634,467 meals and 211,489 snacks have been distributed.

## Dist. U-46 Board poised to ratify varied expenses

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 is set to vote on \$1.3 million in expenditure at its upcoming meeting on Monday, May 4. The items were presented at the April 20 meeting which was held electronically due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

The largest item is a three-year contract renewal with APEX Learning at a cost of \$620,625 to come from the education fund if approved.

"Students who fail a graduation requirement are more at risk to drop out of school," the proposal states. "APEX Learning allows a student to take a graduation requirement online, under the supervision of a certified teacher, to recover the lost graduation requirement. We also offer APEX Learning as a part of our blended learning model for our alternative schools."

Sue Kerr asked how the district is charged and Lela Majstorovic, assistant superintendent of secondary schools, said it is "per seat" and U-46 has "unlimited enrollment."

The district is asking for \$418,870 (operations and maintenance fund) with Lorusso Cement Contractors, Inc. for exterior waterproofing, foundation wall insulation repairs and sidewalk and drainage improvements at Streamwood High School.

At Elgin's Washington Elementary School, the district is planning on a sidewalk and drainage improvement project costing \$107,938 (operations

and maintenance) with Landmark Contractors, Inc.

The district is asking to purchase a service truck costing \$57,449 (transportation fund) with Sutton Ford.

"The service truck is needed to facilitate minor repairs at the new 1019 Chicago Street facility. It is more cost effective to repair a bus on site than to have to shuttle buses back and forth between the 500 Shales Parkway facility and the 1019 Chicago Street facility.... The Transportation Department does not currently own a truck that meets the needs and specifications listed," the proposal states.

With Advanced Communications, Inc., U-46 is asking for \$56,739 (operations and maintenance) for a sound system project at Elgin's Larsen Middle School where the school gymnasium does not currently have a sound system.

The district also plans to spend \$39,000 (education fund) with School Specialty to give backpacks with items, such as glue sticks and number boards, to preschoolers. The district expects to be reimbursed by the nation's taxpayers through the recent federal CARES Act.

Superintendent Tony Sanders said the district will make an "emergency purchase," which he was given authority to do with the board recently suspending policies due to the shutdown, making the board's unanimous vote a formality.



### Remote recognition

Due to the shutdown of all public and private schools in response to the coronavirus pandemic some school districts have placed lawn signs as a means of recognizing graduating seniors. Such was the case for a soon to be graduating student from Streamwood High School who is completing their final year remotely from home.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)



# Easter celebrated via a distanced observance

As Easter has come and gone I hope all families are doing well as we continue to deal with stay-at-home orders and face COVID-19 as it wreaks havoc on the world. Thankfully there is hope for a light at the end of this dark tunnel even though we are not sure how long the tunnel is. For people who have lost family and friends due to this unfortunate disease hearts have been broken and a great deal of sadness remains. We can all hold on to the hope that sooner rather than later life will get back to what it once was, or possibly a new version of it. I hope we will be able to hug those we care for and gather with friends for celebrations.

Easter Sunday, is a very special time for many families and even though we faced it this year during a difficult time we did our best to enjoy it. We have to keep our distance so it was tough to tell family that we would have to speak with them via phone to celebrate Easter. Many people couldn't drive out to visit their families and stayed home in quarantine. I didn't think I would be with my family for our annual Easter dinner and the thought of not seeing my lovely family was sad even though we often speak on the phone have Face Time or text. I was lucky this Easter because my youngest granddaughter had a plan for me to come over and sit outside, at an expected distance and visit since the weather was so nice. That sure was a great idea. So, I drove over to their house and stayed in the car until the family came out and we sat on the large front porch. It was fun and made everyone happy even though no food was served because we had to stay apart.


It was wonderful for me that I got to get out of the house and see part of my family and even thought it was from a

distance we could at least still sit and talk. I fear one of the most difficult things about the quarantine is the loneliness and isolation people are experiencing, especially the elderly and others that are alone. Unfortunately those that are most susceptible to the disease

### Tidbits...

By Rachel

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are the ones that need some human contact to keep them going and make them feel alive. Reach out, even if it is just by phone and contact people you know that are alone. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to see my family and I do get to talk to them regularly which can make a big difference.

So that's how we shared a few hours as a family chatting and reminiscing about the previous Easter times we had when the kids were little and we'd spend hours coloring eggs, hiding them and smelling the rotten ones that were still hidden for weeks after it was over. Finally, when the chill set in it was time to say goodnight and even though we no longer color Easter eggs we had a great visit and despite no hugs we waved, tossed kisses and had a splendid time. Yes, this coronavirus has caused great sadness for many and great stress on all of us. People were still very resourceful when it came to contacting family for Easter, I'm sure and I hope the world contin-

ues to do what is best and follow the guidelines set before us.

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**Due to the ongoing response to the coronavirus pandemic, The Examiner strongly recommends that readers verify the status of any pending events.**

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Congratulations to the following Streamwood residents who will graduate at the end of the Spring 2020 semester with the following academic honors from Western Illinois University in Macomb: Koyo H. Masore, academic distinction, cum laude; Janae P. Imeri, Honors Scholar; Maciej A. Stepniak, high academic distinction, magna cum laude.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Congratulations to Parita M. Shah of Streamwood who one of the recipients of the National Merit - Dr. Joseph J. Jacobs Scholarship. Shah currently attends Hoffman Estates High School in Hoffman Estates.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Illinois' Shelter-in-Place order will be extended to May 30. Starting May 1, some businesses will be added to the essential business list, and others will be allowed to open as long as they are taking only phone orders and have curbside pickup or delivery. Please check the state's website at [coronavirus.illinois.gov](http://coronavirus.illinois.gov) for details.

\*\*\*\*\*  
The Village of Streamwood remains here to serve the community. However, all village buildings are closed to the public. Everyone is encouraged to call 736-3844 if they need assistance. Licenses, permits and other services can be obtained through the village website at [www.streamwood.org](http://www.streamwood.org) or by phone and mail. Some required in-person services will be by appointment only. For all police-related con-

cerns and emergencies, please continue to call 911.

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Another essential business is the Hanover Township Food Pantry. With school and business closures, many in the community are relying more heavily on the food pantry. The Village of Streamwood has established an exterior collection bin for ease of donating non-perishable food at the Village Hall by the east doors (closest to the Veterans Memorial). They have also created a convenient donation opportunity on their website. Simply go to [www.streamwood.org](http://www.streamwood.org) and select "Donate to the Food Pantry" where you will be directed to a secure online payment center.

\*\*\*\*\*  
One of the industries hit hardest by the coronavirus is the restaurant industry. The Village of Streamwood and Meet Chicago Northwest, the regional convention and business bureau, are partnering with local businesses to promote take out, curbside and delivery services. Takeout Tuesday encourages people to support local restaurants, through delivery, curbside pickup, or even to purchase gift cards for future use, during this crisis. The Great American Pizza Party is their latest promotion, in cooperation with the Great American Takeout. If you want to get your business on their list to participate, please visit <https://chicagonorthwest.com/chicago-northwest-strong/#restaurant> and then select "Let Us Help You!"

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Operation Airlift-Donations are being accepted at the following locations: VFW Post 5151, 520 S. Bartlett Road, 483-0055, email [contact@vfw5151.org](mailto:contact@vfw5151.org); and Streamwood Chamber of Commerce, 820 S. Bartlett Road, Suite 108, Streamwood.

## Conservation contract renewed in District U-46

By Seth Hancock

An update on a five-year contract with Cenergistic was given to the Board of Education in School District U-46 at its April 6 meeting, held electronically due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

In 2017, the "energy saving" contract was approved at a cost of \$59,988 for software as well as 50 percent of energy savings achieved through the pact.

The district expected at the time to achieve \$4.4 million in energy savings through the five years while Sheila Downs, director of plant operations said that \$1.6 million in savings has been seen over the first two years of the contract.

Downs called Cenergistic "our third-party energy conservation partner."

"They monitor our program within the plant operations department and

just really help us optimize the building operations," Downs said. "As a result, we have saved substantial revenue."

Downs added: "They are really influential in the department because they are able to have their energy specialist walk the buildings during the evenings and non-peak hours. So, we're able to save a lot of energy because they're able to identify things that we would have never known were running at 2 a.m."

The district claims 11.4 percent in consumption reduction since the contract began which it states equates to 4.3 billion smartphone charges, 8,780 metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) reduced, 1,829 fewer cars on the road in a year and 225,116 tree seedlings being granted. Tree seedlings that do require CO2 to grow and survive.

Downs stated that 71 kilowatts per square foot were used in November 2017 which has since been reduced to 62 now.

Board member Melissa Owens asked if all U-46 buildings were monitored which Downs said: "We're monitoring every building. Some of it is done manually because not all of our buildings have building automation systems updates. However, they are monitoring and walking every building within the district."

"A lot of those savings obviously

come from the bigger schools," Downs added. "So, the high schools and the secondaries are really a prime opportunity just because they host a lot of the afterhours events, and that's

really our opportunity to make sure that equipment that's not needed isn't running. But yes, it's the district as a whole that contributes to these numbers."

## IHSA formally cancels high school spring sports

By Seth Hancock

The IHSA has officially cancelled the spring sports season and tournaments due to the imposed shutdowns by Gov. J.B. Pritzker over COVID-19, but it left the door open for some competition if eventually allowed by the state.

Pritzker announced the closure of all schools, public and private, through the remainder of this school year on Friday, April 17 and has since, on Thursday, April 23, extended stay-at-home orders through May 30. The IHSA made its announcement on Tuesday, April 21.

Craig Anderson, the IHSA's executive director, said in a statement that the IHSA "support(s) the decision" made by Pritzker and "it is the right decision for their health and safety, as well as for the health and safety of the general public, as we cope with this unprecedented pandemic."

Spring sports include team sports like baseball and softball, girls soccer, boys volleyball, lacrosse and water polo along with track and field, boys tennis, girls badminton, boys gymnastics and bass fishing.

The IHSA also stated that "summer contact days are suspended for this year, unless state government and medical leaders indicate such gatherings are safe," leaving questions of how this shutdown may affect fall

sports.

However, if allowed the IHSA may allow schools to offer some type of spring sport competition.

"The possibility of playing a spring sport game this summer is about closure," Anderson stated. "If we are able to offer this opportunity, no student-athlete would be restricted by having already practiced or competed with a non-school team."

With the announcement, it leaves some seniors from having a final varsity season.

"My heart breaks, what else can you say," said Jeff Bral, Bartlett High School's athletics director. "Especially for the seniors, there are a lot of those kids who may not touch another baseball until their kids start to play. But we've got to understand the perspective. The number one thing by far is the safety of everybody."

Bral was one of several athletics directors and principals in the area who placed yard signs at the homes of seniors as a "small token of appreciation."

Regarding the possibility of a spring competition possibly being allowed, Bral said he understands the desire but said it is likely unrealistic and keeps pressure on schools to make preparations in case such a competition would be allowed.

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Service & Sacrifice

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