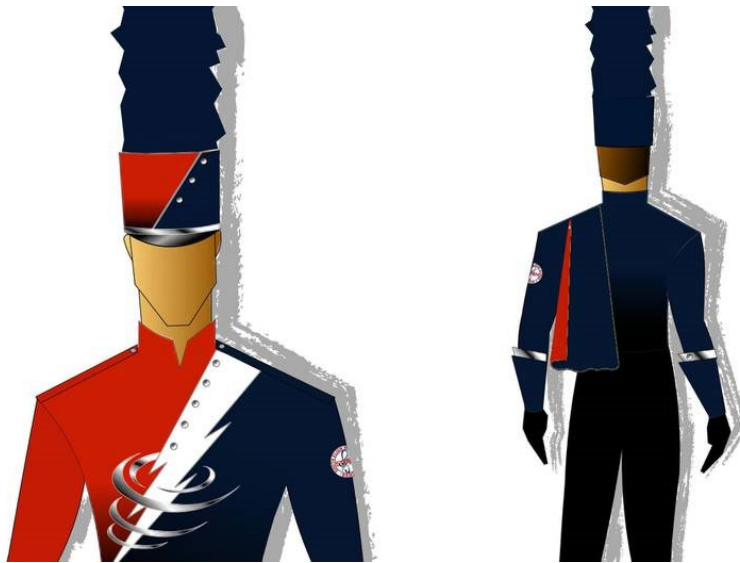


Press Clippings 6/11/2022 to 6/13/2022

Chicago Tribune/The Courier-News

Elgin News Digest --- 6/10/2022

By Mike Danahey



School District U-46 will spend nearly \$216,180 to buy 275 new uniforms, raincoats and related gear for the South Elgin High School marching band. (School District U- / HANDOUT)

South Elgin HS marching band get new uniforms

The **District U-46 School Board** has approved spending \$216,176 to buy 275 new uniforms, raincoats and related gear for the **South Elgin High School** marching band.

A contract with DeMoulin Bros. and Co., based in Greenville, was authorized by the board this week. It will take 150 to process the order, district officials said.

The band has been using the same uniforms since 2005, the year South Elgin High School opened. Staff told the board the district's five high school marching bands are now on a rotating schedule for getting new uniforms.

Barring disrepair, the new uniforms should last 15 years, officials said.

Daily Herald

'We're holding together': Preparing to bury daughter, Uvalde family grateful for help from Elgin community ---

6/10/2022

By Alicia Fabbre



Vinnie Salazar holds a framed photograph of his 11-year-old daughter, Layla, at his home in Uvalde, Texas on May 26. Layla Salazar was one of the 19 children and their two teachers who were gunned down behind a barricaded door at Robb Elementary School. *Associated Press*

When Vinnie and Melinda Salazar moved from Elgin to Texas for a new start in 2011, their daughter, Layla, was just 7 months old.

Vinnie had been laid off from his job, and his parents recently returned to Texas after living in Elgin. Moving back to Uvalde -- a quiet community where he lived until he was 10 years old -- made sense.

"We thought it would be safer in a small town," Vinnie Salazar said in a phone interview Friday, adding that nothing major usually happened there.

Salazar and his family will lay their 11-year-old daughter to rest on Thursday. Layla is one of the 19 schoolchildren killed in the May 24 mass shooting at Robb Elementary School, the same school her father attended as a child. Two teachers also were killed in the shooting.

"She was a beautiful child," said Layla's grandfather Vincent Salazar. "She was an angel before she became an angel in reality."

On Friday evening, numerous friends and family gathered at Mi Vallarta in South Elgin for a fundraiser to benefit Layla's family. Esteban Peralez, who attended **Larkin High School** with Layla's father, organized the events after learning about Layla's death through a social media post from her father.

Elgin resident Yolanda Alejandro, whose sister, Melinda, is Layla's mother. was among those who attended Friday's fundraiser.

"I loved my niece. I'm glad there's a lot of people that are supporting them and who loved Layla," she said.

Though Vinnie Salazar and his wife left Elgin in 2011, they still have numerous relatives and friends in the area.

"We've been gone 11 years," Vinnie Salazar said Friday, just hours before the fundraiser. "It just goes to show you that, no matter how long you've been gone, the people who care about you still care about you."

Vinnie Salazar and his father say Layla was a special girl who enjoyed making Tik Tok videos and competing in track and field. For Mother's and Father's Day, she would write her parents special notes and make videos wishing all mothers and fathers a happy holiday.

Layla's grandfather encouraged those at the fundraiser to watch the video she made for Mother's Day.

"Listen to that, and you will understand who my granddaughter was," he said.

Vincent Salazar also reminded people to cherish what they have.

"Please hug your babies because tomorrow, we never know ... and it's the worst feeling in the world," he said.

Vinnie Salazar said the support of relatives is helping his family through this difficult time.

"We've got a great support system, and everyone is really helping," he said. "The way everyone has come together ... it's definitely helped."

Family members have been focused on dealing with their tragic loss and planning a funeral for a life gone too soon.

"We're holding together," said Vincent Salazar. "You feel mad for what happened ... but she's in God's hands now, and there isn't much you can do ... we can't bring her back."

On Saturday, March for Our Lives, a national group born out of the Parkland, Florida, school shooting, will hold rallies across the nation calling for an end to gun violence. And though Vinnie Salazar isn't quite ready to talk about an issue he described as a "never-ending fight," he holds out hope that something will change to bring an end to the type of violence that took his daughter's life.

"It feels different this time," he said Friday. I don't know if it's just because it happened to us ... but I feel that people are kind of fed up with this."

For now, though, he and his family are grateful for the support from friends near and far.

"It's not about what they're going to raise," he said. "It's more about the fact that people are supporting us. That's all that matters."

A [GoFundMe](#) account set up to help the Salazar family has collected more than \$127,000 in donations. To find the GoFundMe account, search for "Layla Salazar our Angel in Heaven."

Daily Herald

Elgin Country Club program gives young golfers honorary memberships --- 6/12/2022

By Brian Hill



Ethan Olvera, 16, of Elgin, was selected to the honorary junior membership program at Elgin Country Club. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*

Elgin Country Club's honorary junior membership program is again in full swing for youth golfers.

Each year the country club reaches out to local high school golf coaches and athletic directors to find deserving kids who have good grades and need a place to improve their golf game. If selected, they get the same privileges as members' children.

Jon Duppler, who is the head pro at the Elgin Country Club, applied for an honorary junior membership when he was attending **Larkin High School** in 2000. Duppler didn't get chosen then. But now, he runs the program, which has been helping deserving kids gain golfing privileges at the club for more than 25 years.

"I always wanted to be able to do something for the kids, by sort of providing them a home away from home," Duppler said.

Typically the program, which pulls high school juniors and seniors from Elgin, St. Charles, Geneva, Huntley, Burlington and other surrounding areas, accepts about five kids. This year eight were selected.

Ethan Olvera of Elgin, who will be a junior at Burlington Central High School, was one of the eight selected this year for the program.

"It's just an amazing opportunity that I've been able to take advantage of," Olvera said. "It really has helped me improve my golf, and I can't wait to see how it's going affect my season."

Megan Furtney, a St. Charles North graduate and now standout golfer for Duke University, was once an honorary member who has returned to help teach at the country club.

"This course is one of the hardest I've played in the area," Furtney said. "So the program and the opportunity to play here really helped train me not only with my physical golf game but with my mental game."

Furtney said she hopes other young golfers get the chance to take advantage of the opportunity.

"When I first heard about it, I didn't even have to think twice," she said. "It's such a great opportunity for kids, and it's a great way to be able to play with other young golfers in the area."

Daily Herald

Presenting the 2022 Daily Herald Fox All-Area Softball Team --- 6/13/2022

By Mike Miazga, Daily Herald Correspondent

Fox All-Area Softball Team

Name School Year Pos.

Grace Algrim, Kaneland, Sr., P

Mya Bermudez, Larkin, Fr., 2B

Ashlee Chantos, St. Charles North, Sr., RF

Madilynn Crick, Cary-Grove, So., C

Cara Cruthers, South Elgin, Sr., C-SS

Rylie DuVal, Burlington Central, Sr., SS

Jori Heard, Huntley, Sr., P

*Izzy Howe, St. Charles East, Sr., P-Utility

Clara Hudgens, Huntley, Jr., CF

Reese Hunkins, Huntley, Sr., SS

Sammy Jimenez, South Elgin, Sr., 3B

Addie Koth, Bartlett, Jr., P-1B

Katie Mitchell, Huntley, Jr., RF

Riley Mont, West Aurora, Sr., SS-2B

Sophia Olman, St. Charles North, Jr., C

Alexis Pupillo, Crystal Lake South, Sr., C-3B

Liz Smith, H.D. Jacobs, Jr., C

Leigh VandeHei, St. Charles North, Jr., CF

Cici Wilson, St. Charles East, Jr., 1B

Nikki Young, Bartlett, Sr., SS

*All-Area Captain

Honorable mention

Julissa Aguinaga, Fr., SS (Larkin); CeCe Bell, Jr., P (South Elgin); Rachel Carlson, Jr., CF (Geneva); CiCi DiSilvio, Jr., SS-P (H.D. Jacobs); Zoe Doherty, Sr., LF (Huntley); Sam Gaca, So., C (St. Charles East); Kate Gambo, Fr., P-3B (Aurora Central Catholic); Elyse Garcia, Jr., 2B (Hampshire); Molly Giesen, Jr., OF (Batavia); Ava Goettel, Jr., P (St. Charles North); Kennedy Grippo, Jr., P-SS (Crystal Lake South); Hannah Harms, Jr., CF (South Elgin); Olivia Hernandez, Sr., C (Aurora Central Catholic); Emily Hurst, Sr., 3B-CF (Rosary); Baylei Johnson, Jr., 1B (Larkin); Nikki Johnston, Jr., CF (St. Charles East); Kaley Koltz, So., OF (Cary-Grove); Julia Larson, Jr., 3B (St. Charles North); Amanda Lohrey, Sr., P (Aurora Central Catholic); Amelia Lohrey, So., OF (Aurora Central Catholic); Callie Meinel, Sr., CF-1B (West Aurora); Kayla Montes, Jr., SS (Rosary); Ashley Moore, Fr., 1B (Aurora Central Catholic); Gwenn Moran Sr., CF (Cary-Grove); Paige Murray, Fr., P (St. Charles North); Alyssa Perkins, Jr., 1B-P (West Aurora); Brooke Pfeiffer, Jr., 2B-C-3B (Rosary); Leah Puttin, Sr., IF (Batavia); Bria Riebel, Fr., SS-C (Hampshire); Meg Ryan, So., 1B (Huntley); Dana Skorich, So., C-SS (Crystal Lake South); Alice Sondergarrrd, Fr., C (Elgin); Sara Tarr, Fr., SS

(West Aurora); Kayla Valdez, Jr., 3B (Hampshire); Bre Venditti, Sr., SS (Geneva); Becca Weaver, So., P-2B-3B (Cary-Grove).