

Press Clippings 10/06/2017

---Daily Herald--- 10/06/17

U-46 schools raise \$10,000 for Puerto Rico, Mexico relief efforts

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY

Elgin Area School District U-46 students and staff members have raised more than \$10,000 for hurricane and earthquake relief efforts in Puerto Rico and Mexico, officials said.

This comes on the heels of students and employees at 13 schools collecting more than \$9,000 and supplies for those affected by hurricanes Harvey and Irma in Texas, Florida and the Caribbean.

"We've seen overwhelming generosity from U-46 students, their families and our staff in responding to the needs of those in Texas and Florida," U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said.

"Now we are seeing the same spirit of giving aimed at those struggling in Mexico and Puerto Rico, where many in our district have family and friends."

Efforts underway include:

- "Penny Wars" at Oakhill Elementary in Streamwood for which families have sent in spare coins.
- Officials at Century Oaks Elementary in Elgin are encouraging students and staff members to bring in new batteries, flashlights and monetary donations through today.
- Students at the Dream Academy this week have been able to wear jeans for a \$1 a day donation.
- Employees at the district's Educational Services Building hosted a "Jean Day" last Friday in exchange for a \$5 donation.
- Otter Creek Elementary in Elgin is hosting a "Coin Challenge" this week. Students have been donating pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters all week. The two classes raising the most will win an ice cream party.
- Batteries and flashlights are being collected at the district's central office to send to Puerto Rico.

Money raised will be split between [The Puerto Rican Agenda](#), a nonprofit helping those affected by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, and [Chicago con Mexico](#), an organization supporting rebuilding efforts in Mexico after two earthquakes killed more than 330 people.

---Courier News--- 10/06/17

U-46 schools raised more than \$10,000 for earthquake, hurricane victims

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO



Streamwood High School teacher Meagan Balzer collects money from students during a school-wide fundraiser for victims of Hurricane Harvey in September. School District U46 schools have collected more than \$10,000 this fall for disaster relief in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Mexico. (Rafael Guerrero / Courier-News)

In response to hurricanes and earthquakes devastating the [U.S.](#) and Latin America this summer and fall, School District U46 has raised more than \$10,000 in disaster relief.

On Thursday, the district announced it had surpassed the five-figure dollar mark, with schools continuing to raise resources for victims of Hurricane Maria and the September earthquakes in Mexico.

"We've seen overwhelming generosity from U46 students, their families and our staff in responding to the needs of those in Texas and Florida," said U46 CEO Tony Sanders in a written statement. "Now we are seeing the same spirit of giving aimed at those struggling in Mexico and Puerto Rico, where many in our district have family and friends."

In a news release, U46 officials detailed some of the ongoing fundraising efforts for the two communities.

Oakhill Elementary School in Streamwood has raised more than \$1,200 through a "Penny Wars" fundraiser. Century Oaks Elementary in Elgin will be collecting new and unopened battery packs, flashlights and money through the end of this week.

Also happening this week is students at the DREAM Academy in Elgin have been wearing jeans to class — and temporarily skipping the school's dress code — if they donate \$1 per day. Employees at the district's central office building next door did something similar last week. Otter Creek Elementary in Elgin is also hosting a coin challenge this week, with each day of the week corresponding to pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, or donors' choice.

Staff at the main U46 office building hosted a bake sale this week, and the staff are also collecting batteries and flashlights for victims in Puerto Rico, according to the release.

The money collected from these latest fundraisers and collections will be sent to either "The Puerto Rican Agenda" to help Puerto Rico, or "Chicago con Mexico," which is aiding reconstruction in Mexico following the magnitude-7.1 earthquake last month.

More than \$9,000 was collected for victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Louisiana and Hurricane Irma in Florida, district officials said. The schools that participated include Bartlett, Hawk Hollow, Hillcrest, Hilltop, Spring Trail, Ronald D. O'Neal, Clinton, Oakhill and Liberty elementary schools; Kenyon Woods and Larsen middle schools; and Larkin and Streamwood high schools.

In the Streamwood High School Miracle Minute fundraiser, more than \$2,800 was collected, said Jaimee Shearn, a Streamwood teacher and event organizer, in an email last month.

Funds raised are being donated to organizations such as the [American Red Cross](#), C.E. King High School in Houston, the Autism Society of Texas' Hurricane Harvey Disaster Fund, Salvation Army and Feed My Starving Children, according to the release.



Fifth graders in Cheri Swanson and Michelle Mann's class at South Elgin's Clinton Elementary School sent backpacks, spiral notebooks, pocket folders, markers, crayons, pencils, post-it-notes, highlighters, index cards, and scissors to fourth graders in Melissa Contrera's class at Travis Elementary in Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District in Texas to support their peers impacted by Hurricane Harvey. (School District U46)

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Boys soccer: Larkin, Bartlett battle to a draw

BY SCOTT MILLER



Bartlett's Anthony Garcia (24) and Larkin's Alexis Ramirez battle for a loose ball during Bartlett at Larkin soccer Thursday at Memorial Field in Elgin.

After going 0-3-1 in its last 4 games the Larkin boys soccer team was hoping to regain some momentum on Thursday night heading into the postseason.

Instead the Royals gave up a late goal and had to settle with a 1-1 tie in their regular-season finale after dominating visiting Bartlett much of the way on Senior night at Memorial Field. Larkin has the next 12 days off before opening regional play at Huntley.

"We have been in kind of lull lately, so it would have been nice to get a win tonight," Larkin coach Ken Hall said. "We have just been inconsistent when it comes to closing out games. After we scored our goal we kind of flipped the switch off and they turned theirs on."

The Royals (11-7-3) had an 8-1 shot advantage in the first half, but couldn't cash in. Then they had the first four scoring opportunities in the second half before Aleksander Zdravkovic found the back of the net with 29:08 to play. On the play the Bartlett goalkeeper was hesitant to come out for the ball on a long and Zdravkovic was able to take advantage and get to the ball first and score.

"We did a good job of controlling the ball most of the way," Hall said. "We were making good quick penetrating passes. But there is no doubt we obviously didn't take advantage of some other good scoring opportunities. We had been doing a good job of moving the ball forward until the goal, and then we kind of stop doing that."

Bartlett (3-8-1) tied the score at 1-1 with 10:23 left to play on a goal by Matt Tobin.

"We made a change late to put three guys up front and that paid off well," Bartlett coach Victor Marquez said. "It widened the field for us with our wings further out and opened some space. We almost got enough momentum going there at the end that we could have pulled out a win. But if we can't win at least we don't lose."

It was Tobin's first goal of the season.

"When we switched formations by pushing our wings up it allowed us to go more into attack mode," Tobin said. "We were able to get behind the line of the ball more. On my goal I was able to find an open space in front and Rudy (Reyes) had the ball in the corner with three defenders on him, but he is amazing with the ball and was able to get me a nice pass for an easy tap in."

---Courier News--- 10/06/17

On the go with Gomez Dual-threat senior quarterback gives South Elgin something to talk about

BY GENE CHAMBERLAIN



South Elgin quarterback Nate Gomez picks out a receiver and fires as West Aurora's Braxton Mayes closes in during a 40-14 victory on Sept. 23. He has rushed for 979 yards and 15 touchdowns while completing 45 of 74 passes for 655 yards with 10 TDs. He also has two punt return TDs. (Jon Cunningham/Courier-News)

A strong senior season as a dual-threat quarterback by South Elgin's Nate Gomez has created interest from college football programs.

It gives Gomez, a baseball standout, cause to pause and consider. It's the only thing to slow him down all season.

Gomez has the Storm (6-0) on a roll heading into a 7:30 p.m. showdown Friday at Batavia (6-0). The Bulldogs are ranked No. 5 in the Associated Press' Class 7A poll.

"I've had several schools in touch with me actually," Gomez said of NIU, St. Cloud State and Wayne State. "I would definitely consider it. Of course, I love baseball. I'm weighing all options and seeing what develops."

Gomez planned on playing baseball in college and committed in late summer to Wabash Valley, a highly successful full-scholarship junior college program.

For football, he's considered "an athlete," rather than specifically a quarterback. It's appropriate considering his performance.

Gomez leads South Elgin with 979 yards rushing on 119 carries with 15 touchdowns, while completing 45 of 74 passes for 655 yards with 10 TDs. He also has two punt return TDs and averages 18 yards a return.

“It’s what he can do when protection falls apart, when things don’t go his way up front and he has to escape, where he really puts people in a bind,” South Elgin coach Pat Pistorio said. “We’re expecting more and more to see teams spying on him with a linebacker.”

There’s more involved with Gomez than natural ability. Changes in South Elgin’s offense have aided his production.

Gomez ran for 367 yards last season. Pistorio altered the attack to include more pass-run options based on the offense used by Ferris State.

“They’re a Division II program we have a lot of respect for that invests a lot of time with quarterbacks in the running game,” Pistorio said.

Chicago Christian graduate Jason Vander Laan became the NCAA’s all-time top running quarterback for any level in Ferris State’s offense and the first quarterback ever to go over 1,000 yards passing and rushing in four straight seasons.

“Their coaches were patient enough to let us pick their brains with extra questions at clinics,” Pistorio said. “We’re all in with that system. It does a great job keeping defenses guessing.”

The plan for Gomez was 12-15 carries a game, but he has 67 more than the rest of the team.

“My legs are a strength of mine,” Gomez said. “Being able to finally use them, I like that part of the offense. I like being able to run and pass.”

“There are a lot of different reads to be made based on defensive guys in the box, their leverage and where the flat defenders are. It wouldn’t work without great blocking from the line, backs and receivers.”

It’s a drastically different approach than the first time Gomez faced Batavia’s varsity in 2015. He was in an ongoing starting battle with current Wayne State quarterback Jake AmRhein and threw an interception late in the fourth quarter of a 35-28 loss.

“I actually got yanked by coach, and it was the last time I saw the field at quarterback as a sophomore,” Gomez said. “I don’t like that at all, and I want to bounce back from that. I’m very hungry right now for this upcoming game.”

It’s not entirely personal. Gomez and Pistorio see this as a team measuring stick.

South Elgin’s opponents have only 21 victories. Batavia counts wins over St. Charles East, Geneva and Lemont in its total. Another measuring stick will follow against Cary-Grove, which is ranked fifth in 6A.

“These next two weeks will be a test to see what we’re made of,” Gomez said. “We’ll see where we need to be heading into the playoffs.”

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