

Press Clippings 5/18/2018

---Courier News--- 5/18/18

U46 board interviews candidates for seat

Officials taking with 10 people for vacancy

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO

Ten people hoping to fill an open seat on the **School District U46** board will be interviewed by board members in a two-day process expected to wrap up Friday night.

The list of candidates is diverse racially, geographically and professionally, ranging from library board trustees and educators to business professionals to nonprofit board directors. Their names and resumes were posted online hours before the first interviews were scheduled to be conducted Thursday night.

A second round of 30-minute interviews is scheduled for 6 p.m Friday at the district's main offices, 355 E. Chicago St.

Whoever is chosen — a vote is expected to occur at the June 4 board meeting — will complete what remains of Traci O'Neal Ellis' term, which ends in April. O'Neal Ellis stepped down from the board last month. Under state law, board members have 45 days to name her successor.

Candidates interviewed Thursday were:

Eva Porter, of Hanover Park, a trustee for the Poplar Creek Public Library District board who serves as board secretary. According to her resume, she once was a teacher representative for the Schaumburg Education Association and is a former Schaumburg School District 54 employee.

Lisa Klimek, of Streamwood, is a former booster club president for Streamwood High School and has worked in billing for the transportation industry for about 30 years, her resume said.

Preet Mittal, of Bartlett, is an environmental specialist for the Metro Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. The mother of three has been active in parent groups and councils at Liberty Elementary School, Kenyon Woods Middle School and Bartlett High School, according to her resume.

John Devereux, of Bartlett, is employed as a chief actuary for Ryan Specialty Group in Chicago. According to Devereux, his youngest son is set to graduate from Bartlett High School this month.

Kevin Sweeney, of Elgin, is a member of the U46 Citizens' Advisory Council, having served as its secretary and chairman of its legislative and financial committees. His resume lists his profession as a programmer/analyst for Deutsche Investment Management Americas in Chicago.

Applicants scheduled to be interviewed Friday:

Thomas Ashton, of Wayne, is a sales director for Walsworth Publishing and father of three students attending high school in the district, according to his application.

Cecilia Diaz, of Elgin, has been employed with H&R Block since 2008, most recent as a seasonal tax specialist, according to her resume. She has been a board member for the Fox Meadow Elementary School PTO and is a graduate of the district's Hispanic Parent Leadership Institute.

Nazneen Hashmi, of Streamwood, is an adjunct professor in information technology and management at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, according to her resume. Hashmi unsuccessfully ran for Hanover Township trustee in 2013.

Kate Thommes, of Elgin, is a former U46 teacher who teaches at Elgin Community College, according to her resume. She is a member of the Citizens' Advisory Council for U46.

Jocelyn Vana, of Bartlett, is a native of Chicago's South Side and board chairwoman for nonprofit The Lost Boyz Inc., which attempts to reduce youth violence through baseball and softball. She also is a budget and procurement manager for the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, according to her resume.

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Who will be on the board?

17 candidates applied for U-46 position

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY

Seventeen candidates are vying to fill a vacancy on the **Elgin Area School District U-46** school board after board member Traci O'Neal Ellis' resignation last month.

The U-46 school board is interviewing 10 of those candidates individually tonight and Friday and is expected to appoint someone at the Monday or June 4 regular board meetings.

Candidates being interviewed are:

- Thomas Ashton, of Wayne, director of eastern region sales for Walsworth Publishing. He has three children attending high school in U-46.
- John Devereau, of Bartlett, chief actuary for Ryan Specialty Group in Chicago. He has a son who is a Bartlett High School graduate and another son graduating from there May 26.
- Cecilia Diaz, of Elgin, a seasonal tax specialist for H&R Block. She is a graduate of Larkin High School and a member of U-46's Hispanic Parent Leadership Institute and the Citizens' Advisory Council.
- Nazneen Hashmi, of Streamwood, associate chair and professor of information technology and management for Illinois Institute of Technology and community relations commissioner for the village of Streamwood.
- Lisa Klimek, of Streamwood, a billing supervisor for Oak Brook-based Central States Trucking Co. She is also the parent of U-46 graduates.

- Preet Mittal, of Bartlett, an environmental specialist with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Mittal has three children attending U-46 schools.
- Eva Porter, of Hanover Park, a retired second- and third-grade classroom teacher for U-46 and Schaumburg Township Elementary District 54 and a Poplar Creek Library Board trustee.
- Kevin Sweeney, of Elgin, a parent representative on U-46 Citizens' Advisory Council for Lowrie Elementary School and a former Larkin High School student.
- Kate Thommes, of Elgin, Elgin Community College adjunct faculty member in adult basic education. Thommes is a former social studies teacher for Jacobs High School in Algonquin, and a U-46 parent.
- Jocelyn Vana, of Bartlett, budget and procurement manager for the Illinois Tollway Authority and board chairwoman of the nonprofit Lost Boyz Inc.

Others who applied are:

- Randall Hodges, of Elgin, former principal of Larsen Middle School and Sheridan Elementary School in U-46.
- Glen Holland, of Elgin, an executive with IBM's Technology Consulting Practice.
- Ciera Chancellor, of Elgin, procurement category lead for Abbott Labs in Lake Forest, who previously served in the Army as a medical specialist and patient administrator in Iraq.
- Winfried Cooper, of Elgin, who works at CVS Pharmacy and previously attended Bolingbrook and Elgin high schools.
- Beatrice Smith, of Elgin, formerly worked with the nonprofit Jobs and More Christian Workplace Mentoring.
- Khurram Syed, of Bartlett, manager at OfficeMax/Office Depot who previously ran for Bartlett Park District trustee.
- Shaylon Walker, of Elgin, principal for Proviso Area for Exceptional Children in Maywood and former assistant principal at Cambridge Lakes Charter School in Pingree Grove.

Ellis, an Elgin attorney and executive director of human resources for Aurora-based Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, stepped down after serving seven years on the board. Whoever is appointed will serve the remainder of her term expiring next April.

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U46 parents graduate Saturday from two leadership programs

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO

Eighteen adults in **School District U46's** parent leadership programs for African-American and Hispanic parents will graduate in a weekend ceremony.

Since 2010, the U46 African-American Parent Leadership Institute and Hispanic Parent Leadership Institute have recognized parents who complete the program in which they learn ways to better engage with their schools and encourage other parents to do the same. Graduates of the two-year program include U46 board member Veronica Noland, Elgin City Council member Corey Dixon and former Gail Borden Public Library District Trustee Carlos Chavez.

“The graduates of our Parent Leadership Institutes serve as an extension of the district’s own outreach efforts,” said Karla Jimenez, U46’s coordinator of family and community engagement, who developed the program. “They are eager — and have the knowledge — to help other parents become more involved in our schools.”

Enrollees in the institutes commit to meeting 16 times over two years, according to a district news release.

The parents attend school board and Citizens’ Advisory Council meetings, meet with district administrators and community organization leaders, and get lessons in improving public speaking, networking and leadership skills. In order to graduate, those enrolled also must complete a family engagement project.

This year’s graduates of the African-American Parent Leadership Institute are Jasmine Beck, Stephanie Belk, Jacki Hartley, Andrea Johnson, Jennifer Rodgers, Farrah Stephen and Marisha Telemaque, the release said.

In the Hispanic Parent Leadership Institute, graduates are Mireya Contreras, Corina Garcia, Edith Garcia, Ana Garnica, Cilia Gerena, Leticia Gonzalez, Zinya Melero, Maria Moreno, Ruben A. Moreno, Raquel Robelo and Noemi Rodriguez.

A ceremony for the graduates will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday at South Elgin High School, 760 E. Main St. An additional 10 U46 parents will be recognized at Saturday’s ceremony for completing the first year of the two-year program.

U46 will host informational meetings this summer for those interested in taking institute classes next school year.

SPORTS

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Baseball: Coates paints win

Junior righty strikes out 10 in three-hit gem as Elgin slips past Larkin

BY PAUL JOHNSON



Elgin's Kyle Coates delivers against Larkin during Wednesday's game. (Jon Langham/Courier-News photos)

There was a time when Elgin's Kyle Coates tried to fight his unique delivery.

This season, however, Coates has embraced the funky approach. The results were on full display in Wednesday's 2-1 Upstate Eight River win over Larkin at Trout Park.

The junior right-hander retired the first 12 batters he faced and wound up striking out 10 and walking none in a complete-game effort. He allowed an unearned run on three hits, throwing 90 pitches.

"I always looked at it as some sort of nuisance than something I tried to work with," Coates said of his quirky, three-quarters delivery. "I'm starting to appreciate it more, working with it and trying to focus on that."

"I was really able to pick up on the off-speed (pitch) this year. That is a big part of it. It's been really great to see the results."

Coates (3-4) cruised through the first four innings for Elgin (7-23, 2-15) before Cy Kerber's leadoff double in the fifth broke up the perfect game.

Kerber scored on an error to help Larkin (8-16, 5-12) cut the deficit to 2-1, and Coates suddenly was in a jam. He had runners on second and third and nobody out, but struck out the side to escape.

"He's a competitor," Elgin coach Dave Foerster said of Coates. "That's what he's done the last two years for us. He's a special kid, special athlete and special pitcher."

"We're very excited when he's on the mound for us. He gives us a chance every time he's out there."

In the early going, Elgin also had a tough time getting to Larkin starter Kobe Mounivong. The Maroons broke through with two runs in the top of the fifth.

Eric Damerow led off with a bunt single and scored on Tim Mitchell's fielder's choice. Coates also reached on a fielder's choice and scored on a bases-loaded walk to Robert Bartlett.

The Royals had a chance to apply some pressure in the bottom of the seventh. Gunnar Boley hit a rocket to center for a double.

Larkin coach Matt Esterino urged him to stretch it to a triple, and Boley was thrown out by Mitchell at third. Coates then retired the next two batters to seal the win.

"I was trying to get him to third and get him in with nobody out, but I kind of broke the cardinal rule and paid for it there, so I'll take that," Esterino said. "But we fought. That's what we do regardless of who we're playing."

Count Esterino among those impressed with Coates.

"It looks like the ball jumps on you, based on our swings," Esterino said. "Just watching from a distance, he's done that to teams before. I like the way he competes. I told him that after the game.

"We started to hit him a little bit and he didn't give in. You have to tip your cap sometimes. He was very good and he deserved to win."

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Boys Track: No doubting Thomas' choices for state

Shilgalis makes decision to go after 1,600 state title

BY RICK ARMSTRONG



South Elgin's Desmond Lockett was part of a foursome that won the 400 and 800 relays at the Upstate Eight Meet. (Brian O'Mahoney/Naperville Sun 2016)

When it came down to decision time, Naperville Central junior Thomas Shilgalis went with the longer race and a relay.

According to Athletic.net, Shilgalis has the second-fastest time in the 1,600 meters and third-best time in the 800 among Class 3A runners in Illinois.

He will bypass the shorter race and run an 800 leg with the Redhawks' 3,200 relay.

“All season long, our distance assistant coach, Grant Baganz, has been working with Thomas, preparing for this,” Naperville Central coach Steve Wiesbrook said. “You’d like to have him run where you think he may have the most success and also get input from the athlete on where he’d like to run.

“He’s run a couple times this year on that relay as well, so he’s prepared.”

Three runners from among Seth Klein-Collins, Patrick Julian, Thomas Codo, Carlos Ochoa, Alan Wandke, Aaron Benson and Jack McCowin will join Shilgalis in the relay Friday at the Downers Grove North Sectional.

At last week’s DuPage Valley Conference Meet, Shilgalis won the 800 in 1 minute, 55.44 seconds. His time trails only York’s Charlie Kern (1:52.56) and Danville’s Quemarii Williams (1:55.39).

Earlier in the season, he finished two seconds behind Young’s Clayton Mendez in the 1,600 at the Palatine Distance Night, clocking a 4:10.70. They have the top two times in 3A.

“Last year (Shilgalis) missed qualifying for state in the 1,600 by less than a half-second,” Wiesbrook said. “Two years ago, he ran on our 3,200 relay team that qualified, so he has been on the track down there.

“He has experienced when things went well and not so well, and I believe he used last year as a little bit of fuel for this season.”

Back on track: Four South Elgin sprinters — seniors Desmond Lockett and Jerlon Teems and juniors Jacob Todd and Matt Jacobson — are on a mission to return to state after the program’s sprint corps was shut out in 2017, due in part to injuries to key runners.

“We had a pretty nice streak of sending relays down there,” Storm coach Anthony Larue said. “This is a redemption story. Our relays are on a mission to get back there and run on the big blue (track at Eastern Illinois).”

The foursome teamed at last week’s Upstate Eight Meet to win the 400 relay in 42.73 and the 800 relay in 1:30.32.

The 400 time hit the state-qualifying standard on the nose, and the 800 was 1.29 seconds over the state-qualifying mark of 1:29.43.

“We lost two invitationals due to weather, but our times have dropped significantly each time we’ve run,” Larue said. “Those are the best times we’ve ever had at a conference championship.”

The competition didn’t look to be exactly the same for Thursday’s Class 3A St. Charles North Sectional, but Larue wasn’t worried.

“It’s just another meet,” he said. “We try to have quality runs each week, and we always rise to the competition.”

Lockett and Teems both ran at state as sophomores.

Lockett and Todd, who finished 2-3 in the 100 at conference, are individual threats for the Storm, along with jumper Greyson Jones in the triple jump.

Adjusting on the fly: Waubonsie Valley senior Mantaj Singh was pleased with his winning performance of 159 feet, 2 inches in the discus at the DuPage Valley Conference Meet — especially taking everything else into consideration.

“Because of the weather,” he said. “It was a left crossover wind that made it hard for right-handed throwers like me. If you throw the discus high, it just topples in that wind. I had to release it down so the wind would pick it up a little.”

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Baseball: Dazzo dazzles for Elgin

Senior midfielder scores tying goal, PK in shootout against Huntley

BY C.R. WALKER

Senior midfielder Brittany Dazzo knew Elgin was running out of time Wednesday night and that she needed to do something about it.

With the Maroons trailing host Huntley 1-0 with less than six minutes remaining in a Class 3A regional semifinal, Dazzo tied the game on a free kick with 5:03 remaining.

Dazzo then helped Elgin survive the penalty-kick shootout by converting her attempt in a 2-1 victory.

Elgin (11-7-1) advanced to face Jacobs at 3 p.m. Saturday in the Huntley Regional championship game.

“Having five seniors who have been on the team since freshman year, I really just wanted to win for them,” Dazzo said. “I saw the opportunity and we needed to capitalize because it really was do or die at that point.”

Dazzo had just missed tying the game midway through the second half when her 22-yard free kick caromed off the crossbar. It was easily out of the reach of the goalkeeper, but Dazzo booted it a bit too high.

“I was getting frustrated with myself that I couldn’t finish,” she said. “I got the next opportunity, and I’m used to taking the kicks there because I’m left-footed and it’s easier to curve it in.

“The goalie tried to reach it and almost made a great save, but I got it past her.”

Huntley (7-9-1) came out strong in the second half. Alyssa Xanos misfired wide right in the opening minute before Brenna Keegan gave the Red Raiders a 1-0 lead with 34:46 left to play.

Huntley had opportunities to extend the lead but couldn’t finish.

“I think giving up the one late is harder to accept, especially when we’re not finishing our chances,” Huntley coach Matt Lewandowski said. “I think we had more than enough chances to win the game and put it away, but soccer is fickle. It doesn’t always work out the way you want.”

It couldn't have worked out any better for the Maroons in the shootout as Kylie Graves, Dazzo, Brenda Acuna, Andrea Escamilla and Emily Graves all buried their chances.

The Red Raiders missed an attempt early in the shootout but converted four overall so the Maroons needed to be perfect.

Emily Graves delivered the game-winner after her sister Kylie got the Maroons started.

"We have confidence in each other so seeing them capitalize makes it easier," Emily Graves said. "I knew I could do it and kept it simple. I just stepped up to the line and hit it."

Last season, the Maroons were involved in a few shootouts, but this was their first this year.

"We practiced a lot since we hadn't had any this year," Elgin coach Alicia Knoll said. "We always tell them to just go up and shoot it like you're shooting at me or our goalkeeper and play the game."

---Daily Herald--- 5/18/18

Softball: S. Elgin tops Glenbard East to clinch Valley

BY STAF GOFF

Junior outfielder Casey Brennan can't wait for the day when she can proudly walk through the South Elgin hallways and see a softball conference championship banner hanging on the walls.

That day is just around the corner after the Storm won 8-1 at Glenbard East Thursday night to claim the Upstate Eight Valley title, the program's first softball conference crown.

Brennan walked twice from her leadoff slot and also had an RBI single and two runs scored as South Elgin (16-11, 13-4) bounced back from Tuesday's loss to West Chicago with an impressive outing Thursday in Lombard.

"It's going to be so exciting when all of our friends say, 'Did you win conference?' Yeah we did," Brennan said. "It's going to be a blast. Everyone's excited for us at school."

After Geneva Pollman singled and scored an unearned run in the first, the visitors led throughout and kept padding the lead, while sophomore pitcher Sophia Salazar saved one of her best outings for one of the team's biggest games. Salazar struck out nine Rams hitters and came within one unearned run with two outs in the seventh from coming away with a shutout.

"We've definitely been a little scoreboard watching here the last couple of days," said Storm coach Brad Reynard, whose team split a pair of games with Bartlett during the regular season and eventually edged the runner-up by one game. "It's a good win for our kids, especially coming off a loss to West Chicago."

"Obviously, our girls made it a little tougher on us. But I'd rather they take care of business when they had to today. I'm super-duper proud of them."

Pollman's RBI double in the fourth off Rams ace Tori Tyler made it a 2-0 game, and a 2-run single by Sam Dietz in the fifth gave Salazar more insurance runs than she would need.

"What can I say about Soph?" Reynard said. "She's only a sophomore and to come out in the biggest game that we've played all year, and to get South Elgin's first conference championship in history."

After Brennan scored again in the sixth and the seventh, and Pollman capped off a perfect 4-for-4 day with a 2-run double in the seventh, what was a tight contest for half a game turned into an 8-0 lead.

"Our pitcher had 10 strikeouts, and they had nine strikeouts," Glenbard East coach Dawn Chantos said. "So it was a competitive game, but we made a couple mistakes on defense that cost us. Our hitting was a little off tonight so we didn't produce the runs we normally do."

Salazar is hopeful the solid win will carry over into next week's postseason.

"All the deans when I was walking out said, 'Make sure you win today,' " she said. "It's a big one. It's never happened at our school. Now it's practice, practice and hopefully we do well (in regionals)."

Joselyn Molinar had two hits for the Rams (7-16) and leadoff hitter Sam Dooley had a walk and single and scored the team's lone in the seventh on a wild pitch.

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Baseball: Larkin downs Elgin to win city series

BY ALLEN OSHINSKI

One big inning was enough for Larkin.

The Royals scored 5 times in the third, leading to a 9-3 win against Elgin.

Gunnar Boley scattered 7 hits over 6 innings to earn the win in Upstate Eight baseball action Thursday at Larkin.

Larkin didn't have an extra-base hit in the game. But the Royals pecked away with 10 singles and took advantage of 5 walks and some shaky Elgin defense.

The third inning was a prime example of the Royals' opportunism. After an error, a single, and a walk loaded the bases, the Royals got run-scoring hits from Boley and Kobe Mounivong and an RBI groundout from Jeff Althamar. Boley and Mounivong pulled off a double steal, with Boley scoring when the throw sailed past third base.

"We had a much better approach today, kind of stayed through the middle after the first inning or two, and barreled the ball, which is what we're looking to do," said Larkin coach Matt Esterino. "We're getting better each game offensively, and we're starting to get in a little bit more of a rhythm."

Larkin led 6-1 after the big inning. The Royals (9-16, 7-11) added a run in the fourth and two more in the fifth. Elgin (7-24, 2-16) scored in the fifth, on Kyle Coates's double to

score John Fortmann, and added a run in the sixth after consecutive singles by Cameron Kendall, Kejuan Harvey, and Payton Reynolds.

Coates' had 2 of Elgin's 8 hits.

"They did a good job of putting the ball in play, and we couldn't stop the bleeding," said Elgin coach David Foerster. "We've had some issues with big innings this year, whether it was errors or big hits in spots."

Max Anderson, Boley, and Mounivong each had 2 hits for Larkin. Boley and Andy Bonnot scored twice, and Boley and Althamar drove in 2.

The Royals close out the regular season with Bartlett today, then face defending state Class 4A champion Crystal Lake South in Monday's regional opener.

"We need to get a good practice in on Saturday and play well tomorrow, but we have a pretty veteran group for the most part," Esterino said. "We know we'll have our hands full, but if we come out and play like we're capable of, throw strikes, put the ball in play and play defense, we know we can beat anyone."