

Press Clippings 9/17/2018

---Daily Herald --- 9/17/18

U-46 schools celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with special events for parents, students

Submitted by Elgin Area School District U-46



• **Ernesto Mejía**

Elgin Area School District U-46 will shine a light on the culture of its Hispanic students in September with the district's annual Hispanic Heritage Month, featuring appearances from special speakers at middle and high schools and a districtwide presentation for parents.

The annual celebration is sponsored by the district's English Language Learners Department, in cooperation with Cool Speak, A Youth Engagement Company.

"More than half of our student body is of Hispanic descent so this month is another great opportunity to recognize the culture that is such a large and vibrant part of the district," said U-46 CEO Tony Sanders. "We encourage all students to enhance their learning experiences by taking part in the activities throughout the month."

This year, two special guests, poet Joaquín Zihuatanejo and motivational speaker Ernesto Mejía, will be visiting select U-46 schools to inspire and inform student and parents in special assemblies Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 18-19.

Zihuatanejo is an award-winning teacher, poet and spoken word artist who grew up in the barrio of East Dallas. His work explores the duality of culture for Americans of

Hispanic origin, and how Zihuatanejo found refuge in a world of stories and poems. His presentations have been described as forthright and honest, but filled with compassion and nuance, which focus on topics like leadership, teamwork and self-expression.

Mejía, who is the son of Mexican immigrants, is a motivational speaker and expert on parental engagement. He has a compelling life story that stresses inner drive and the value of education. At 16, he was temporarily paralyzed with Guillain-Barre Syndrome, but overcame the rare condition to become a college administrator. His speeches stress the opportunities presented through education and importance of persevering against hardships and obstacles.

In addition to speaking to students, Mejía will speak to U-46 parents at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 19, in the auditorium at Elgin High School.

The talk, which is being presented by McDonald's and the United States Hispanic Institute, will be in Spanish, with simultaneous translation into English. Childcare will be available for children ages 5 to 10 only.

On Thursday, Sept. 20, McDonald's and the United States Hispanic Leadership will present a student leadership summit at the auditorium at Elgin High School, 1200 Maroon Drive, Elgin.

---Daily Herald --- 9/17/18

U-46 to highlight high school academies at open house

Submitted by Elgin Area District U-46

Elgin Area District U-46 is hosting a series of open house events to highlight the district's five high school academy programs. Academy Open Houses are designed for seventh- and eighth-graders and their parents, and will be offered at 7 p.m. and again at 8:15 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 17-18, at each U-46 high school.

"We're excited to once again give our middle school students and families more information and a tour of our popular high school academies," said U-46 CEO Tony Sanders. "These open houses follow Explore 2018, our annual curriculum and career expo, and allow eighth graders and their families a chance to learn more about these supportive small learning environments and the application process."

The open houses allow each high school site to present an in-depth preview of the academy program housed at their school. Completed academy applications can be submitted starting Sept. 17 and are due on or before Monday, Oct. 15.

For more information on the application process or to fill out the online application, visit the district's Academy Web page, www.u-46.org.

Eighth-grade students in good standing who live within the U-46 attendance boundaries are eligible to apply for the programs, which offer hands-on, industry-specific training, state-of-the-art technology, and an opportunity to get a head start on higher education.

The five academies are:

Bartlett High School:

The Science, Engineering and Technology Academy offers state-of-the-art laboratory setups in place of traditional classrooms, providing students with accelerated math and science curriculum, advanced placement opportunities, and experience using next generation technologies. Students can take advantage of fun robotics and STEM workshops and competitions, Project Lead the Way curriculum, courses for college credit, STEM-focused internships and more.

Elgin High School:

The Gifted and Talented Academy provides a rigorous, innovative academic environment to challenge both the intellectual and creative abilities of gifted and talented students. Students are encouraged to maximize their potential through independent study, mentorships and internships.

Larkin High School:

The Visual and Performing Arts Academy provides artistically talented students with a comprehensive arts-based education. Students are offered honors curriculum in dance, drama, instrumental music, visual art and vocal music.

South Elgin High School:

The Beacon Academy of Media and Digital Arts provides students with hands-on experience in audio and video production, broadcast journalism, webcasting and web design. Students have benefitted from industry training with media professionals, interviewing state and world leaders, and producing commercials for corporate clients.

Streamwood High School:

The World Languages and International Studies Academy allows students to pursue special interests in history, language arts, foreign language and business through an integrated honors program. The program prepares students for further studies and successful employment in a global economy with the opportunity to earn the equivalent of six years in Japanese, Mandarin or Spanish.

---The Courier-News --- 9/16/18

U46 spent \$57K on trips

By Rafael Guerrero - The Courier-News

Travel was to research pathways program not yet approved by board

School District U46 spent more than \$57,000 on two trips to Nashville to research a high school career pathways program that has yet to be approved by the school board, a Courier-News review of travel records found.

All told, the district paid to send 33 people on the two trips to learn about career training in high schools that puts teens on a path to employment upon graduation. The school board will make the final decision on whether District U46 will adopt a career pathways approach, yet none of the school board members were part of the travel groups to Nashville. The travel parties included 30 district employees and three nonemployees who serve in advisory roles to the district.

The Elgin-area district covered all or a portion of the costs of airfare, transportation, hotel and registration for 17 people during a late September 2017 trip to an Academies of Nashville conference. The spending for that trip was \$28,636, records show. Six months later, in March, District U46 sent 16 other staff members to Nashville, costing the district a combined \$28,498, records show.

The trips included a three-day conference to learn about career training in high schools and a visit to Nashville's school system, which already has adopted and implemented the career pathways approach.

In a memo to his assistant superintendents, District U46 CEO Tony Sanders said the travel expenses were covered by federal Title II dollars, which can be used for professional development. He also defended sending three members of the general public on one of the trips.

"People outside U46 needed to have a better understanding and knowledge of the academy model that U46 is considering to implement," Sanders wrote, noting that it was a decision made by district, community and parent officials and leaders.

District spokeswoman Mary Fergus, who attended the March trip, said paying for a nonemployee's travel expenses is "very rare" but has occurred in the past. There are no additional trips scheduled for staff to visit school systems with an educational pathways model, she said.

Fergus said even if District U46 declines to adopt the proposal for career pathways and academies, the trips were valuable to all involved.

"We're continuing to look at improving our system, our secondary schools system, to give (students) hands-on education and have them be more prepared for college and career," Fergus said. "That's what the trips were about, and it will help us as we look to choose a model."

Career pathways and academies could alter where District U46 students attend high school, how classes and career paths get selected, and whether teens and families will have time for extracurricular activities or electives.

District U46's Citizens Advisory Council, a group of parents and others who weigh in on district projects and other efforts, such as the academies proposal, is led by chair Lisa Hopp and vice chair Larry Bury. Neither are district employees, but District U46 paid for both to travel to Nashville in September 2017.

"(Larry Bury) and I were very committed to making sure there was value on sending us there," Hopp told school board members during a summer board meeting. "We were eager to take what we learned, what we saw, our impressions, our concerns and keep them moving forward."

The district also paid to send Yvonne Irving, another nonemployee, to the 2017 conference, according to travel records. Irving is vice president for business development for Elgin-based KCT Credit Union, and she serves the Alignment Collaborative for Education, a nonprofit working with District U46 on its pathways and academies plan. The district covered Irving's airfare and hotel/registration costs, at \$302 and \$1,399, respectively, the same rate as Hopp and Bury, travel records show.

"Going down there and seeing how it works and how it came together, it was good to hear from all of those organizations and people and parents involved on what the undertaking of such a project was," Irving said.

The district employees who attended were administrators and educators, including each high school's principal and some curriculum coordinators. Nancy Coleman, the executive director of the Alignment Collaborative for Education, attended as part of the District U46 contingent, but the collaborative paid for her expenses, according to the travel records.

Visitors saw presentations from Nashville schools and community officials, held small-group and topic discussions, and visited Nashville schools, Irving said. "Seeing that it's been done gives us kind of the hope that we will be able to do something as successful," she said.

In the March trip to Nashville, the registration and hotel fee remained the same at \$1,399, travel records show. The district covered the local transportation and parking costs for nine people, ranging from \$37 to \$123 per person, records show.

Board members said this summer they plan to revisit district travel policies in the wake of the Nashville trips. Board member Jeanette Ward, who criticized the 2017 Nashville trip this summer, noted that when board members request to travel, those plans are approved or denied in public. In the case of the Nashville trips, the board had no say, Ward said.

Ward said she agrees with the district's stance that non-U46 personnel should get involved in the career pathways and academies discussion, and she West Chicago resident supports parts of the district's plans, as a pathways approach opens up opportunities for teenagers who may not go to college after graduating from high school.

“It’s important to get the community involved,” Ward said. “My objection is not on whether (members of the public) go on the trips; it’s just that it should be brought up before the board.”

SPORTS SECTION

---The Courier-News --- 9/16/18

Zeroing in: Pat Noworol’s interception return for TD sparks South Elgin to fourth straight shutout

By: Paul Johnson



South Elgin's Pat Noworol (3) returns a punt against Streamwood during a game on Friday, Sept. 14, 2018. (Jeff Krage / The Courier-News) **Paul Johnson**

After South Elgin went the first three games without allowing a point, senior safety Pat Noworol said it was a point of pride for the Storm to keep that rolling Friday night at Streamwood.

“Our goal right now is all nine weeks with shutouts,” Noworol said.

South Elgin held firm yet again with a 55-0 Upstate Eight win.

The Storm (4-0, 4-0) are one of only three teams in Illinois to not allow a point this season. The other two are Chicago Academy and Crane, both of which have a forfeit victory.

“We get to the ball fast,” Noworol said. “We get our whole team to the ball. Our linemen will be 20 yards down the field stopping the running back. That’s the whole reason we stop everything.

“Our goal so far has been shutouts, and we’ve gotten them.”

Noworol had the biggest defensive play with a 34-yard interception return for a touchdown late in the first half. He has impressed South Elgin coach Dragan Teonic, who’s in his first year.

“All of the stuff I heard about him was legit,” Teonic said of Noworol. “He’s completely selfless, a completely team-first kid. He’s one of the toughest kids I’ve ever coached. He’s all-in.”



South Elgin quarterback Jakob Johnson looks to throw against Streamwood on Friday, Sept. 14, 2018. (Jeff Krage / The Courier-News)

So was the rest of South Elgin’s defense, which held Streamwood (0-4, 0-4) to one yard of offense. The Sabres’ lone first down came in the fourth quarter with the Storm leading 48-0.

“They’re tough up front,” Streamwood coach Don Guindon said. “They have a lot of speed. They’re really disciplined on that side of the football. We played a really tough team.”

That defense led to offense as the Storm gained 317 yards and scored seven TDs. Senior quarterback Jakob Johnson completed 8 of 11 passes for 144 yards and two TDs. He also scored twice on the ground.

South Elgin, which averages 48.3 points, has increased its point total every week. But Teonic is looking for more.

“I thought our passing game was sharper than it has been in a while,” Teonic said. “We’re just not very crisp at times. We have a long way to go.”

The Storm gets their first big test next week against Glenbard East (4-0, 4-0), a 17-13 winner Friday over previously unbeaten West Aurora.

“We just have to go into this week energized and ready to go,” Noworol said. “We have to practice as hard as we can to get ready for it. We see the shutout, and that’s our goal next week.”

---Daily Herald --- 9/15/18

South Elgin's defense shines again

By Scott Miller

Our area may not be dealing with a hurricane like our friends on the East coast, but there was a Storm Surge of another kind on Friday night at Millenium Field in Streamwood.

While its hard to top 3 straight shutouts the South Elgin defense managed to outdue itself with its most dominating performance yet. The vaunted "Storm Surge" defense rushed to the ball in waves and allowed just 16 yards of total offense to the host Sabres while recording a fourth straight shutout in 55-0 Upstate Eight Conference win.

"I love the intensity our defense is playing with right now," South Elgin coach Dragon Teonic said. "We are just flying to the ball and these guys just keep working hard every week to keep getting better."

The Storm defense stopped the Sabres 12 times behind the line of scrimmage for losses and recorded 3 turnovers. Senior defensive back Pat Noworol once again spearheaded the defensive effort. He had a pick-6 on a 32-yard return for touchdown on an interception late in the second quarter.

"Our goal is shutout our opponents every week," Noworol said. "Are speed is our best weapon. The whole team just tries to get to the ball as fast as we can. The defensive linemen, the linebackers, the DBs are all fast."

The Storm running game struggled in the first half with just 45 yards on the ground and South Elgin led just 6-0 with a little under 4:00 left before exploding for 3 touchdowns in closing minutes of the first half.

South Elgin quarterback Jakob Johnson orchestrated a 59-yard touchdown drive with completions of 38, 12, and 15 yards. Then scored on a 12-yard run to make it 13-0. Moments later Noworol scored on his pick-6. The Storm scored again just before half when they got the ball at the 3-yard line following a fumbled punt attempt by the Sabres and a 4-yard touchdown pass by Johnson to Calin Gurau.

Johnson added a 1-yard touchdown run in the second half. He finished with 10 completions on 13 attempts for 158 yards.

"It was good to see the passing game sharper tonight," Teonic said. "It's some thing we've been wanting to work in more."

Despite the early success and a 4-0 start there are some chinks in the armor. Teonic continues to be concerned about the team's propensity for penalties. They were flagged 7 times.

"We have had 5 touchdowns called back because of penalties this year," Teonic said. "We are just committing way too many. We can't go around thinking we are a great team just because we are 4-0 because we are not great. We still have a lot of things to clean up."

Davion Cherwin added a 10-yard touchdown run for the Storm. Shiking Marshall had a 17-yard touchdown run and Travis Tranchitella had one for 31 yards.

Streamwood falls to 0-4.

"We are still playing with everything we got," Streamwood coach Don Guindon said. "We just ran into a real good team tonight."

---Daily Herald --- 9/15/18

Bartlett runs past Elgin

By Allen Oshinski

Smothering defense and a bruising running game was a winning formula for Bartlett.

Nick Deckard and Tyler Rivelli each ran for over 100 yards and 2 scores and the Hawks' defense held Elgin's offense scoreless in a 28-2 Upstate Eight victory at Memorial Field.

The Hawks started slowly, failing to take full advantage of some great early field position. But they broke the game open with back-to-back second-quarter scoring drives, set up by recovering an onside kick.

Deckard was the workhorse, carrying 34 times for 162 yards and a pair of 1-yard scoring runs. Rivelli added 112 yards on just 10 carries.

Their contributions were appreciated on a night when the Hawks just couldn't get their passing game untracked. Bartlett got its first and only completion of the night on the second play of the fourth quarter, a swing pass to Rivelli for a 3-yard gain.

A botched punt attempt by Elgin on the opening possession set the Hawks up in great field position at the 16-yard line. Aided by a pass-interference penalty, the Hawks cashed in, with Rivelli going in from 7 yards out.

An interception by Brian Segura gave Bartlett the ball in Elgin territory once again, but the Hawks couldn't move the ball and the drive ended with a missed field goal. Their third possession was stopped on downs in Maroons territory.

Bartlett finally got the run game going in the second quarter. Sixteen and 32-yard runs by Rivelli set up Deckard's first TD. Paige Bednarke shocked the Maroons with a perfectly executed onside kick. Jake Weihe recovered and the Hawks were back in business.

Deckard had carries of 11, 10, 13, 7 and 11 yards on the drive before finally diving over from the 1. That made it 21-0 at halftime and Elgin never recovered.

The Maroons reached the Bartlett 3-yard line in the fourth quarter but Giovanni Griffin's fourth-down pass fell incomplete. Elgin got on the board, however, when Brandon Bridges dropped Deckard in the end zone on Bartlett's next play.

Bartlett's defense was outstanding. The Hawks held Elgin to 116 total yards and -4 rushing yards. Although the Maroons gained 120 yards through the air, their 2 quarterbacks combined to complete just 5 of 25 passes.

"I was proud of them tonight, they were flying around, going after the football," said Bartlett coach Matt Erlenbaugh of his defenders. "When you see 11 hats at the ball at the end of the whistle, that's always a good thing."

The Maroons' defense wasn't bad, either, but didn't get enough support from the offense.

"The defense played good," said Elgin coach Anthony Mason. "But the offense kept putting the defense in bad situations: Too many drives, too many runs, too many plays where they just couldn't withstand it."

---Daily Herald --- 9/15/18

Larkin knocks off West Chicago

By Paul Steeno

In a 38-26 loss Friday night, West Chicago hung around in a homecoming game against Larkin, at least for one half.

With 8:10 left in the second quarter, Wildcats junior quarterback Luke Krogh found sophomore wide receiver Santiago Barbosa for a 4-yard touchdown giving the Wildcats a 14-13 lead that lasted just less than four minutes before Larkin put a touchdown on the scoreboard and gained a lead it wouldn't relinquish.

"They aren't going to quit," Larkin coach Jason Aubrie said about West Chicago after the game. "It was a great game and I enjoyed it greatly."

Throughout the first half, the Wildcats offense hummed. Three wide receivers finished with 50 or more yards in the half, Krogh went 14-for-18 passing with 182 yards and two touchdowns. Sophomore running back Jordan Garcia added 34 more yards on the ground.

The problem for the Wildcats was stopping the spread offense attack of the Royals.

"At the end of the half, we just ran the ball like crazy," Aubry said. "We almost ran the same play because the defense was tired, so we were just going right at them. We didn't even throw that much at the end of the first half because we didn't have to. They were just tired. We just wore them down, kept pounding the ball."

The Royals scored on their first two possessions of the second half to extend their lead to 24 points.

But the Wildcats used two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to cut their deficit to 12 points with just under three minutes to play. Senior wideout Mike Wagner's eighth catch of the contest went for 64 yards and put the Wildcats at the 5-yard line setting up that second touchdown. The Wildcats cashed the next play in for a touchdown with a Krogh to Barbosa 5-yard connection.

"Defensively, there is some stuff that we need to work on," Aubry said. "I know Glenbard South (the Royals' opponent next week) throws the ball pretty well. They have a good quarterback, some good receivers. We're going to have to tighten up our defensive backfield. It's not that they played bad, it's just something we need to improve on."

With 1:46 left in the game, the Wildcats got the ball back down 12. But Larkin senior Jahari Stubbs intercepted, killing the rally, and sending the Wildcats home with their fourth defeat in four tries this season.