

Press Clippings 9/21/2018

---The Courier News --- 9/21/18 Homecoming offer

Elgin High band alumni invited on field for school's 150th anniversary

By Rafael Guerrero



Elgin High School graduates who played in the marching band while in school are invited to join the current band on the field Sept. 28 to celebrate the school's 150th anniversary. A group of about 50 graduates would be ideal, band director Robert Sanchez said.

Elgin High School's marching band will hold a special performance at the homecoming game Sept. 28 and is seeking former band members to participate.

The event is part of the school's 150th anniversary celebration. As of Tuesday, 35 alumni had signed up, but school officials want more.

"The idea is to just put a lot of people on the field, everyone having a good time, having fun," band director Robert Sanchez said. "For some, it may be the first time on the field in a few years."

A group of about 50 Elgin High School graduates would be ideal as it would make the overall size of the marching band about 200, he said.

Sanchez is a class of 2000 Elgin graduate, he said. The 35 alumni who have signed up for the event graduated between 2001 and 2018, and is hoping musicians from older graduating classes will participate. Recruiting via social media platforms has worked well among 18- to 35-year-olds, he said, but word of mouth might work better with older graduates.

Sam Olson, a class of 2017 graduate, played clarinet in high school and will participate next week. He said the band exposed him to “many different cultures, historical events and emotions” through music.

Playing for the band again will bring back memories of his time in high school, even if it was only a couple of years ago, he said.

“It’s a bond of music, something that can change every emotion and thought in our hearts,” said Olson, 19. “For decades we’ve played with passion and honor and have continued to lift up the Maroon tradition.”

Elgin High School opened in 1869, and the first marching band was formed in 1915 under the direction of John Brisbin, according to School District U46.

The homecoming performance is one of the first events Elgin has scheduled to celebrate the school’s 150th anniversary. District spokeswoman Mary Fergus said a number of activities are still in the planning stages for this school year, but an all-class reunion is set for April.

Sanchez said ex-Elgin band members should apply by Friday at the Pride of Elgin website, but late registrations will be considered too. Friday’s deadline is to help determine who may need instruments to perform, he said.

Alumni with instruments are welcome to use their own, he added.

Participants are required to attend afternoon rehearsals from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. the day of the performance, Sanchez said. The halftime is to begin about 8:15 p.m.

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U46 considering high-tech purchase

Virtual, augmented reality equipment priced at \$226,000

By Rafael Guerrero

Augmented reality and virtual reality equipment may be purchased by School District U46 for use in career and technical education courses.

District officials have asked the school board to approve spending \$226,000 to incorporate what commonly is referred to as AR and VR into welding, health care sciences and automotive classes at offered at Elgin and Larkin high schools.

The high-tech equipment would open training options the district cannot currently provide, U46 career pathways director Kinasha Brown said.

“Oftentimes, it is nearly impossible for them to participate in a gross anatomy lab just when we talk about our resources and capabilities,” Brown told school board this month. “This type of software, this system allows students to be able to do that.”

For example, the zSpace software and hardware could allow students to replicate studying a human body in a virtual or augmented setting and do things like conducting a full human body dissection, she said.

“It’s a lot more valuable than trying to memorize stuff from textbooks,” said board member Sue Kerr, who recently tried the software. “You can rotate the picture of the body, take off the skull.”

Welding students could use the equipment to practice their skills and techniques, which would give them a better chance of earning certification, Brown said. Automotive students would be able to do virtual or augmented exercises on different vehicle makes and models that the school doesn’t have access to, she said.

The VR/AR labs would only be available at Elgin and Larkin because the two schools have two of the three programs that would benefit from the equipment, Brown said.

If approved, career and technical education staff would undergo training and professional development this school year in order to incorporate use of the new equipment into lesson plans next year.

SPORTS SECTION

---The Courier News --- 9/21/18

High School Football

Garcia fits mold for Larkin

H. Rick Bamman /Beacon-News



Larkin interim coach Jason Aubry has a list of requirements for every position in his system. For running backs, he wants them to run the ball, catch the ball out of the backfield, block and be fearless. Senior Angel Garcia, left, checks all of those boxes. In Sports