

Press Clippings 9/24/2018

---Daily Herald---9/24/18

Ronald D. O'Neal Elementary students to host community-walking tour

Submitted by Elgin Area Community Unit School District 46

This month, fourth- to sixth-graders at Ronald D. O'Neal Elementary School will host a community walking tour to bring attention to the cultural and historical significance of their school's Elgin neighborhood.

The "Project 2-3-1 Community Walking Tour" will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Friday, Sept. 28. It is inspired by the acclaimed documentary film of the same name that tells the story of the Civil War "contraband," captured southern slaves who became the first African-American residents of Elgin.

The O'Neal students have been researching the people and historic homes in the east side neighborhood of Hill, Gifford, Fremont and Hickory Streets, where those first residents settled. The students will be sharing their research during a walking tour of the neighborhood, which is known as the settlement.

Residents can join the tour anytime during the three hours. Tour maps will be available outside the front entrance of the school at 510 Franklin Blvd.

"The students and staff at Ronald D. O'Neal Elementary School are excited to share what they've learned, and we think attendees will come away with a renewed sense of pride in this beautiful neighborhood," Principal Marcie Marzullo said.

At the tour's conclusion at noon, community members and attendees are invited to meet at Clara Howard Park on Fremont Street between Hill and Gifford to share stories and reconnect with old friends.

At 1 p.m. everyone is invited to return to O'Neal Elementary for light refreshments and to see the "Project 2-3-1" documentary, which will be shown in the school gym. There is also a traveling exhibit associated with the documentary that will be on display at the school.

"Project 2-3-1: Two Boxcars, Three Blocks, One City -- A Story of Elgin's African American Heritage" is an award-winning, 75-minute documentary. It traces the history of the slaves who arrived in Elgin in 1862 in two boxcars, settled in three blocks on the city's east side, and how they and their descendants grew to become part of one unified city.

Ernie Broadnax, an Elgin community leader and lifelong resident of the settlement neighborhood, was the driving force behind the creation of the Project 2-3-1 documentary.

"I am pleased that the school, its principal and assistant principal, and its teachers are motivating their students to learn the importance of the social history of the settlement area," Broadnax said. "Its history that needs to be shared and this is a great way to do it."

---Daily Herald---9/22/18

Four Kenyon Woods classrooms closed due to mold

By Madhu Krishnamurthy



Four classrooms at Kenyon Woods Middle School in South Elgin have been closed through Wednesday due to mold. District officials will be doing remediation work over the weekend into next week.

Four classrooms at Kenyon Woods Middle School in South Elgin will be closed through Wednesday for mold remediation and air quality testing, officials said Friday.

Teachers and students are being moved out of the classrooms during remediation work and until moisture levels are lower. Though the risk of harm is low, officials said they want to give the plant operations team time to thoroughly fix the issue, according to an email sent to parents.

The entire building was inspected two weeks ago by a third-party expert. No mold was found and air quality was normal, Principal Lisa Olsem wrote in the email.

"We have been monitoring the possibility of mold closely with the help of staff," Olsem wrote. "We will work to remediate the mold as quickly as possible. We will conduct

laboratory air quality testing test with a third-party expert. We will update staff and parents again on Monday."

Officials found the mold after a teacher first noticed it in a cabinet drawer a few days ago and notified the principal.

The district conducted mold remediation at the school over the summer. Temperatures within the school have been warm in the past few days due to unseasonably hot and humid weather, which could have contributed to mold forming, said John Heiderscheidt, U-46 director of school safety and culture.

Remediation work will start Friday after school, he added.

"We acted as quickly as we could," Heiderscheidt said. "We test for mold periodically. We are being vigilant so our custodial staff and all of our staff are more acutely aware. We're really thankful for vigilant staff for keeping an eye on things."

The district's plant operations team has been monitoring the situation closely. Ten rooms and common areas were inspected Thursday night when workers detected a light-colored mold in four classrooms at Kenyon Woods. Nothing was found in the other six rooms or in the common areas. Those four classrooms were closed Friday and students were relocated to other rooms, officials said.

Olsem noted the situation at Kenyon Woods is different from the mold that closed Coleman Elementary School in Elgin, which reopened for classes Wednesday after being closed for five days while remediation occurred.

"This is very different from Coleman, where mold was located in common areas and multiple classrooms," Olsem wrote. "Over the weekend, the building will receive another complete inspection as was done two weeks ago. These findings will be shared with staff as soon as possible. We will be working very hard over the next days for remediation of the mold found and check the rest of the building. Dehumidifiers will be added to the building this weekend and may remain in the building next week."

---The Courier News --- 9/24/18

Mold found in four classrooms Kenyon Woods Middle School to remain open during remediation

By Rafael Guerrero

Mold was found in four classrooms at Kenyon Woods Middle School in South Elgin, School District U46 officials said Friday.

The classrooms in question were closed to students and staff on Friday and were expected to remain closed for a few days. The school day continued as normal throughout the remainder of the building Friday, officials said.

District U46 recently closed Coleman Elementary School in Elgin for five school days as a third-party group conducted mold remediation and air quality testing after mold was found in some classrooms and common areas.

John Heiderscheidt, the district's director of safety and culture, said the difference between the Coleman and Kenyon Woods incidents is where the mold was found. The mold found in Coleman was in common areas like hallways, shared by several students and staff. Heiderscheidt said workers can conduct mold remediation and testing in the classrooms at Kenyon Woods without interfering with the rest of the school.

Students and staff affected by the room closures were relocated to other classrooms, officials said.

A teacher reported finding mold in a cabinet drawer in one of the classrooms earlier in the week and reported it to school principal Lisa Olsem, Heiderscheidt said. U46 plant operations workers inspected the mold and confirmed its presence Thursday. Workers inspected 10 classrooms at the school and found mold in four of them, he added.

"We are grateful to our staff that are taking extra vigilant looks at conditions (in their classrooms)," Heiderscheidt said.

"Again, we do think the risk is low, but we wanted to address it," district spokeswoman Mary Fergus said.

The district conducts periodic inspections of the schools and, Heiderscheidt said, workers inspected Kenyon Woods two weeks earlier and their report found nothing. The district will continue checking schools on a periodic basis for mold, he said.

Chicago-based Weaver Consultants Group will remediate the mold and conduct sampling and testing like it did at Coleman, officials said. It is expected the four classrooms will remain closed through Wednesday, an already-scheduled institute day for staff and non-attendance day for students, Heiderscheidt said. Parents will be informed of the mold remediation and any changes, he added.

Kenyon Woods is one of the newer schools in the school district, founded in 2004.

---The Courier News --- 9/24/18

Elementary school to host walking tour of the Settlement

By Mike Danahey

People are invited to tour a part of Elgin's history that's been depicted in an acclaimed documentary, with elementary school students contributing what they've learned to the effort.

The Project 2-3-1 Community Walking Tour is inspired by a 2015 film made by the Elgin History Museum, Grindstone Productions and Ernie Broadnax, School District U46 officials said.

“Project 2-3-1: Two Boxcars, Three Blocks, One City — A Story of Elgin’s African American Heritage” traces the history of the former slaves who arrived in Elgin in 1862 in two boxcars and settled along Hill, Gifford, Fremont and Hickory streets on Elgin’s east side in the neighborhood called the Settlement, and how they and their descendants grew to become part of the city.

Broadnax, 82, grew up as a shoemaker’s son along Fremont. He originally conceived the 2-3-1 project as a book but thought it might be easier to reach young people with a movie.

Broadnax and Elgin historian Jerry Turnquist narrate the 75-minute documentary.

Ronald D. O’Neal Elementary School Principal Marcie Marzullo said the idea for the walk came to her after seeing “Project 2-3-1” last spring during a principals meeting at Elgin Community College.

“I was very moved and realized that the documentary is set in our backyard, on the streets where our students live,” Marzullo said.

That led Marzullo to get in touch with Broadnax. Over summer, the two, along with O’Neal Assistant Principal Darlynn Terry and Sara Russell from the Elgin History Museum, compiled more information about the Settlement, Elgin’s first African-American neighborhood. That information was distributed to teachers this school year to help shape their local history lessons.

“Walking with Ernie, the history of the neighborhood came to life. It was exciting to see and hear about the community,” Russell said.

Marzullo said during the Sept. 28 walk, groups of students, with adult supervision, will be stationed at 30 spots in the neighborhood, displaying posters and offering information about what they learned.

“I’m happy that with this walk project this information is being passed along to another generation, at a school where the students are black, white and Hispanic,” Broadnax said.

Broadnax said he hopes the work the students put into the walking tour inspires them to learn more about their heritage, and for black students that inspiration will come from what residents from The Settlement have accomplished and shared with the world.

The Project 2-3-1 tour will run from 9 a.m. until noon Sept. 28. People can join the tour any time during the three hours, and a map will be available at the front entrance to the school at 510 Franklin Blvd.

At noon, attendees are invited to meet at Clara Howard Park on Fremont Street between Hill and Gifford. At 1 p.m., all are invited to return to O’Neal Elementary for refreshments and to see the documentary, which will be shown in the school gym. An exhibit associated with the documentary that will be on display at the school.

National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)

April Wells Receives 2018 NAGC Gifted Coordinator Award

September 20, 2018

The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) today announced that **April Wells** has received a **2018 Gifted Coordinator Award**. Ms. Wells is the Coordinator of Gifted, Academies, Advanced Placement, and World Languages for the Elgin Area School District U-46 in Illinois, and she was selected for her expertise and collaboration in moving her district's gifted programming forward.

Ms. Wells will be recognized at the **NAGC 65th Annual Convention** in Minneapolis, MN, November 15-18, 2018.

"The awards program shines a light on those who are making a difference in supporting gifted children as they reach to achieve their personal best," said **M. René Islas**, NAGC Executive Director. "April is a leader who is changing practices by creating and delivering professional development opportunities for teachers in her district."

The Gifted Coordinator Award is presented annually to an administrator who has made significant contributions to gifted children in their school district. This includes developing gifted programs, identification protocols, or ongoing profession development on the needs of gifted children, as well as advocacy within the district for gifted education and gifted children.

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The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) is a membership organization whose mission is to support those who enhance the growth and development of gifted and talented children through education, advocacy, community building, and research.

SPORTS SECTION

---The Courier News --- 9/23/18 Football week 5 Glenbard East 35, South Elgin 7

By Paul Johnson



South Elgin quarterback Azzavier Salinas outruns the grasp of Glenbard East's Joshua Landolina in the first half on Saturday. (H. Rick Bamman)



South Elgin senior Azzavier Salinas knew it couldn't last forever. At some point this season, somebody was going to score on the Storm.

That moment came with 5:07 left in the first quarter of the fifth game of the season Saturday when Glenbard East's Dominic Tenca kicked a 23-yard field goal.

“We knew it was going to happen eventually,” Salinas said. “We just had to pick back up and work hard again, next play, just go hard.”

Glenbard East didn’t stop the scoring, however. The Rams handed South Elgin its first loss with a 35-7 Upstate Eight decision.

“We couldn’t get out of our own way,” South Elgin coach Dragan Teonic said. “We were thoroughly beaten in every aspect. I was very disappointed with our fight, especially in the second half.

“I thought we were equals coming into the game. We have to be concerned. We have lots to fix moving forward because we have a good Larkin team coming in next week.”

Following a turnover by South Elgin (4-1, 4-1), Glenbard East (5-0, 5-0) scored the first touchdown against the Storm this season with a 4-yard run from Jake Netchin.

Netchin added a 36-yarder in the second that pushed the lead to 16-0 before the Storm got on the board.

Salinas, who also plays cornerback, was pressed into duty at quarterback after Jakob Johnson went down with an injury.

Salinas led the lone scoring drive of the game, capping it with a 21-yard TD pass to Patrick Noworol.

Salinas completed 9 of 16 passes for 83 yards. He also ran for 51 yards on 16 carries.

“Coach just needed me to get in there and try my best,” Salinas said. “I tried my best, and that’s all I can do.”

Glenbard East quarterback Bret Bushka put the game on ice. He threw two TD passes and ran in another after South Elgin’s TD.

Bushka threw for 249 yards and ran for 56. Netchin ran for 143 yards on only seven carries and Jeremy Johnson had eight catches for 101 yards and two TDs.

Both teams were plagued by flags, totaling over 100 penalty yards and committing 31 penalties for 249 yards.

South Elgin will need to regroup next Saturday in facing Teonic’s old team, Larkin.

“We played our hearts out,” Salinas said. “We have some things to do, but we’re not going to let this game hold us back. We’re going to try our hardest the next game, too.”

---Daily Herald---9/22/18

West Aurora holds off Barttlet

By Kevin McGavin

Much is asked of West Aurora Big Ten recruit Denver Warren.

The junior delivered mightily in the Blackhawks' deceptively misleading 27-12 victory over Bartlett in Upstate Eight Conference football action Friday in Aurora.

Bartlett, after dominating third-quarter ball possession, was lining up for a chip-shot field goal as the Blackhawks' tenuous 2-point lead hung in the balance early in the fourth quarter.

But Warren, a nose guard who has verbally committed to Michigan, blocked the 24-yard attempt.

"I just knew they couldn't get any points there," Warren said. "I got my hand up. That hand got the block."

West Aurora (4-1 overall and in the league) then moved 94 yards as Isaiah Lowery, who replaced starting tailback Hezzy Slaughter after the latter was injured on the second play of the drive, capped the march with four minutes and seven seconds to play.

The Blackhawks' rushing efficiency was the central difference-maker in the game.

Outgaining Bartlett 279-51 on the ground, West Aurora iced the game as JaQuan Buchanan, who led all players with 121 yards rushing on 12 carries, scored from 2 yards out in the closing seconds.

The Blackhawks' prowess on the ground was badly needed as costly penalties would certainly have been their primary undoing had Bartlett rallied from a two-score first-quarter deficit.

Late in the first quarter, Buchanan had a 76-yard touchdown run negated by one of a dozen West Aurora first-half infractions.

"Once we got rid of the 15-yard penalties, we were able to get back into our offense," said Buchanan. "We were playing into their hands with all the penalties."

Bartlett (3-2, 3-2) stormed back after the long run was nullified, awaking from a sluggish offense start to score touchdowns on back-to-back drives late in the second quarter.

Jonah O'Brien, who completed 22 of 36 pass attempts for a game-high 243 yards for Bartlett, connected with Mathew Young from 36 yards out.

O'Brien then called his own number from 5 yards away to bring the Hawks to within 14-12.

But that would be the West Aurora advantage not only at halftime but also early in the fourth quarter as both Bartlett conversion attempts -- a conventional kick and run attempt -- failed.

"We started playing more physical," Bartlett coach Matt Erlenbaugh said. "(The Warren block) was huge."

"That's a young football team," West Aurora coach Nate Eimer said of Bartlett. "They are getting better every week."

Salter and Buchanan had respective scoring runs of 33 and 24 yards on the Blackhawks' first and third possessions of the opening quarter to take an early 14-0 lead.

"We had a good week of practice," Buchanan said.

---Daily Herald---9/22/18

Elgin escapes West Chicago in overtime

By Scott Schmid

With running back Brandon Bridges on the sidelines with an injury, Xavier Bonds knew it was his time to step up.

And the Elgin junior did just that in a big way.

Switching to tailback from his normal wide receiver position, Bridges scored on a 10-yard sweep in overtime and then ran in the 2-point conversion to give the visiting Maroons a 28-27 win over West Chicago.

Both teams came into the Upstate Eight Conference matchup winless through the first four weeks.

"That was a good victory," Bridges said. "You just have to put in the work and we have to continue to work hard. It didn't come easy.

"Brandon got hurt and I told coach to put me at running back. I want to win and I had to sacrifice for my team. Coach trusted me and he gave me the ball."

Bonds, who was held without a catch in the first half, had earlier hauled in a 42-yard touchdown reception from Jeffery Lomax to give Elgin a 20-14 lead halfway through the fourth quarter. Bonds finished with 4 catches for 80 yards.

"(Xavier) wants it so bad," said Elgin coach Anthony Mason, whose team lost in overtime to the Wildcats last fall. "He's a passionate kid, he wants to win so bad, he wants to be elite so bad. And I can understand that because I was like that."

West Chicago (0-5, 0-5) sent the game into the extra session with a 29-yard scoring run by Jordan Garcia, who rushed for 84 of his 110 yards in the final two quarters and overtime. But the potential go-ahead extra point was blocked by Jaylan Chaney.

The home team then got the ball first in overtime and converted when quarterback Luke Krogh found Mike Wagner for a 10-yard strike on third down. Alex Resindiz tacked on the extra point.

"Jordan has been strong for us, but this was a breakout game," West Chicago coach Jack Rustman said. "It was a rough first half for us and that was what kept us from doing the things we wanted to do. In overtime 10 yards is tough to defend. They went for 2 with a dive play; there is no science behind that, just pure grit. My hat is off to Elgin."

Elgin (1-4, 1-4) led 12-0 at halftime thanks to a pair of TD runs by Bridges, who gained 105 yards on 13 carries before being hurt in the third quarter on defense. The Wildcats answered with a 4-yard touchdown rush by Santiago Barbosa and a 2-yard score by Garcia.

"It's a definite positive for our season," Mason said. "We've been looking for one. We've had plays here, a series here, a quarter here. It was a great fight. West Chicago was well prepared and they had scouted us well."

---Daily Herald---9/23/18

Glenbard East makes its point at South Elgin

By **Dave Oberhelman**



• **Glenbard East's Bret Bushka stiff arms South Elgin's Patrick Noworol Saturday in a football game in South Elgin. *John Starks***

Glenbard East gladly flew into the eye of the Storm.

South Elgin hadn't allowed a point in four games. The Rams snapped that streak seven minutes into Saturday's game and kept churning to a 35-7 Upstate Eight Conference victory in South Elgin.

Undefeated after five weeks for the first time since 1971 and seeking its first playoff berth since 1999, it's conceivable Glenbard East (5-0, 5-0) could go 9-0.

"They know what's on the table and they know what we have to do coming into Monday to get ourself ready for next week," said Rams coach John Walters.

"You keep the talk quiet and you keep it focused on the team and we keep things rolling the way we've done the first five weeks," he said.

In a game marred by nonstop penalties, Glenbard East quarterback Bret Bushka completed 20 of 27 passes for 248 yards and 2 touchdowns. The Rams piled on 232 yards rushing with touchdowns by Bushka and 2 from Jake Netchin, who ran for 157 yards with touchdowns of 4 and 36 yards.

South Elgin (4-1, 4-1) totaled 197 yards, headed by quarterback Azzavier Salinas on the ground for 48 and through the air for 95 with a 22-yard touchdown pass to Patrick Noworol.

"Special team-wise, I thought we did OK, defensively we couldn't stop them, offensively we couldn't move the ball consistently and part of that is on us and part of that is just how good they are. You don't want to take anything from them, they whipped us," said Storm coach Dragan Teonic.

South Elgin linebacker Vince Clinite recovered a fumble on the Rams' first possession, but after that it was mainly all Glenbard East. Dominic Tenca booted a 23-yard field goal at 5:07 of the first quarter, the first of five straight scoring possessions.

As it has all season, Glenbard East blended run and pass to lead 16-0 by 7:16 of the second quarter with Netchin's two touchdown runs.

"We know all the teams want to get at (Bushka)," said Netchin, whose late 60-yard run set up the Rams' victory formation. "He's fast, he's athletic, you know? So once he gives it to me, they're not expecting (it)."

Salinas got good protection from linemen Rafael Manjarrez, Dylan Bernal, Sam Minnifield, Michael Roath and Vincent Tringali to find Noworol and cut the deficit to 16-7 with 3:04 left in the second quarter. Glenbard East was undeterred.

The Rams answered on Jeremy Johnson's 24-yard, falling, one-handed grab for a 22-7 halftime lead. They started the third quarter with Bushka hitting Johnson for a 13-yard touchdown pass. The receiver finished with 8 catches for 100 yards.

A pounding defense featuring linebackers Anthony Shockey, Jack Baka and Josh Landolina -- who intercepted 2 passes and made 3 tackles for loss -- had difficulty containing itself on the eve of the game.

"We went out, watched a couple games around on Friday and that's all we could talk about, is how we're going to come out and put this school in history," Landolina said.

---Daily Herald---9/23/18

Cross-country: Batavia girls, boys shine at Bartlett

By John Lemon

The rich are getting richer in girls cross-country.

Batavia, coming off a ninth-place finish at last year's Class 3A state meet and with four straight state appearances, had most of its key runners returning from that team.

And then the Bulldogs added freshman Katrina Schlenker.

Schlenker continued her seamless transition to high school with the championship Saturday morning at Bartlett's Flyin' Hawk Invitational at Sunrise Park.

With a blistering time of 17:04, Schlenker finished 38 seconds ahead of runner-up Katerine Olsen from DeKalb to win the invite.

"My coach told me I had a good chance (to win) but I wanted to focus on time and everything," said Schlenker, who started her high school career by running a 16:42 in her first race this fall. "Today was a pretty good day. I just wanted to take advantage of the weather.

"It's really exciting for me. The transition has been really smooth from middle school to high school. I was really nervous for the transition at first but it has gone pretty well so far and I'm excited to be here and compete against such excellent runners."

Batavia dominated the meet, winning with 37 points to 91 for second-place Jacobs. St. Charles North (106), DeKalb (108) and Crystal Lake South (110) rounded out the top five in the 17-team field.

Junior Mia Gianfrancesco was third overall for Batavia in 17:48. Audrey Pellico was ninth, Jenna Schifferer 10th and Erin O'Brien 14th for the Bulldogs.

"I'm really excited for our team," Schlenker said. "We have high expectations for state. We're just working hard and making sure that we stay healthy."

Jacobs coach Kevin Christian was pleased with his team's second-place finish. Freshman Elisabeth Kania was eighth (18:49) and junior Aly Doherty 13th (10:05) but Christian really liked what he saw from his third and fourth runners, Alyssa Demma (15th) and Lindsay Loga (24th).

"We have been waiting to put it together," Christian said. "Second place against some really good teams, that is the race we've been looking for. They haven't really had a good race since County. Our one and two didn't run great but our three and four did.

"Alyssa ran 22 a year ago and all of a sudden is getting low 19s. That makes it all worth it with a kid like that. That was fun. (Loga), that's another girl who has been working hard for four years and deserves everything she is getting right now.

"It's setting up for a good finish right now, a lot better than people thought earlier."

Schlenker has company among the standout freshmen in the area this fall. St. Charles North was led by freshman Rachel Price who took fourth overall in 17:59.

Along with sophomore Grace Dorrance (sixth, 18:20) and Natalie Galvan (12th, 19:03), Price gives the North Stars a top three coach Shari Hayes can count on.

"They were there last week as well," Hayes said. "The last couple weeks they've been up toward the front."

The key for the North Stars is getting the rest of their lineup healthy. Ella Townsend was 36th on Saturday and Maddie Wilttrout 48th.

"Ella is coming off a stress fracture, she did well," Hayes said. "It's been a nice little threesome up front. Hopefully we can close the gap between the three of them so we're not so far stretched. I think we're going in the right direction. Hopefully the back end will get healthy by the regional and sectional and our team will be better as a whole."

Crystal Lake South had the fifth and seventh runners, respectively -- Mackenzie Aldridge and Olivia Beckwith.

Boys race

Batavia just missed the team title, finishing with 55 points to DeKalb's 52.

Jacobs took third in the 17-team field with 98 followed by East Aurora (130) and St. Charles East (149).

Jared Kreis from Lincoln-Way Central won the individual title in 15:09. Batavia junior Adam Kennedy was the top local finisher in fifth place at 15:42.

"We were focusing on running with our team today," Kennedy said. "I was able to readjust and finish. It's (the Sunrise Park course) a lot more tiring than I remember."

Kennedy, who ran in the championship flight last week at Minooka, said he was happier with his closing kick than his finish earlier this season at Peoria's First to the Finish.

"I'm progressively getting better," Kennedy said.

Batavia's Damian Rodriguez finished seventh in 15:45, Christopher Levario was 12th, Joseph Knanishu 15th and Reid Coyle 16th.

"That was a good race," Kennedy said. "As a team effort it was better than normal for us. Packing it up is our main priority right now."

Zach Albrecht returned to Jacobs' lineup and took 10th. His teammates Mark Lemke (eighth, 15:56) and freshman Andrew Doetsch (ninth, 16:00) finished right ahead of him.

"He (Albrecht) looked good, very much in control, he had a ton left," Jacobs coach Kevin Christian said. "We're waiting to unleash him in Peoria."

East Aurora's Jesus Nava was second overall (15:37) and Connor Murphy was 23rd for St. Charles East in 16:28.