

Press Clippings 01/22/2019

---Daily Herald---01/21/2019

U-46 school board candidates forum set for March 14

Daily Herald report

Want to know more about prospective Elgin Area School District U-46 school board members?

District residents will get a chance to submit questions and hear from candidates directly at a March 14 forum sponsored by the U-46 Citizens' Advisory Council.

Eight candidates are running for four, 4-year school board seats on April 2. They are incumbents John Devereux and Susan Kerr, both of Bartlett, and Jeannette Ward of West Chicago, and newcomers Daniel Hancock of Hanover Park, Eva Porter of Hanover Park, Tina Rio of Bartlett, Ina Silva-Sobolewski of Hanover Park and Kathleen Thommes of Elgin.

"We're proud to once again host this informative event about one of the most important local elections in any community," CAC Chairwoman Lisa Hopp said. "The forum will be a great opportunity for all U-46 families and community members to learn more about the board of education candidates and their positions on issues that impact our schools and students."

Questions may be submitted until Feb. 15 to U46CACForum@gmail.com. The CAC Candidate Forum Ad-hoc Committee will review submissions and provide potential questions for the forum moderator, Madhu Krishnamurthy, a senior staff writer and education writer for the Daily Herald.

To maintain the integrity of the process, the list of potential questions will not be made public or available to the candidates until they are asked during the forum.

U-46's seven-member school board is responsible for determining the policies guiding operations. Elected members serve 4-year terms and are not paid for services.

The forum will begin at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Dream Academy next to the district's Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago St., Elgin. The event is open to the community.

---Daily Herald---01/20/2019

Elgin honors U-46 administrator with Dr. King Humanitarian Award

By: Marie Wilson



- Ronald Raglin of Elgin Area Unit District U-46 has received the city of Elgin's 2019 Dr. King Humanitarian Award for his work as assistant superintendent of support programs and alignment for the district.



- Ronald Raglin is in his seventh year working for Elgin Area Unit District U-46 in roles related to equity, mentoring, college readiness and community support. On Saturday, the city of Elgin honored him with its 2019 Dr. King Humanitarian Award during the 34th annual Dr. King Prayer Breakfast at Elgin Community College.

An administrator in Elgin Area Unit District U-46 has been named the city of Elgin's choice for its 2019 Dr. King Humanitarian Award.

Ronald Raglin, assistant superintendent of support programs and alignment for U-46, received the award Saturday morning as the city hosted its 34th annual Dr. King Prayer Breakfast at Elgin Community College. The theme of this year's event was "Justice Before Comfort."

In a news release, U-46 officials said Raglin is known as a champion of educational equity who has strengthened ties to community partners to promote student success.

"Ron lives a mission-driven life -- one that rises to the ideals that Dr. Martin Luther King held for all mankind," U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said in a written statement. "He

works to uplift the power and potential of all students and inspires all he works with to do the same. Ron is very deserving of this honor."

Raglin is in his seventh year working in U-46, where he says he has his "dream job" overseeing college readiness, promoting equity and mentoring initiatives, and working with the Alignment Collaborative for Education, which aims to raise student achievement, create productive members of society and advance economic and social well-being.

"It is both humbling and an honor to serve the culturally and linguistically diverse student population in U-46," Raglin said in a written statement. "I saw the power of a good education early on in life, and so to be a part of the good things happening in U-46 -- and now to be honored with the Dr. King Humanitarian Award -- is more rewarding than I can say."

Raglin grew up on Chicago's South Side and moved to Elgin from Chicago after he joined the district. After 18 years teaching and coaching in California, Raglin and his wife, a fellow teacher named Tena, moved back to Chicago in 2002.

---Daily Herald---01/19/2019

Elgin teachers union files labor complaint against U-46

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy

The Elgin Teachers Association has filed an unfair labor practice complaint against Elgin Area School District U-46 amid protracted contract negotiations since last summer.

The district's more than 2,400 teachers have been working without a contract since the previous one-year extension expired on Aug. 10. The terms of that contract remain in effect until a new agreement is signed by both parties. It granted a base salary increase of 0.94 percent with a step increase of 3.1 percent on average.

The union's labor complaint, filed earlier this week with the Illinois Education Labor Relations Board, was submitted "to ensure that withholding of the step does not set contract precedent," according to a joint statement from ETA President Barbara Bettis and Suzanne Johnson, U-46 deputy superintendent of instruction.

"This action is required to preserve all remedies available under the law. It is our collective desire to resolve the issues at the bargaining table. As such, we will be requesting the IELRB to hold the timeline in abeyance until otherwise directed. The team is committed to reaching an agreement utilizing the interest-based bargaining process," the statement read.

In May, the union and U-46 administration reached a tentative agreement on a new multiyear contract for the 2018-21 school years that would have provided raises to all teachers.

It proposed switching teachers to a new compensation model with an average yearly increase of 3.88 percent over three years and offered some teachers the ability to transition to the new model over time, remaining under the current compensation system while accruing career credits.

That agreement emphasized valuing teachers' experience and career development, while recognizing their contributions outside the classroom, such as working on committees and performing curriculum review. Union membership overwhelmingly rejected that deal.

---The Courier-News---01/20/2019

Speakers urge pursuit of justice

34th annual Dr. King Prayer Breakfast in Elgin honors community leaders

By: Gloria Casas



- Elgin residents and city leaders gather Saturday for the 34th annual Dr. King Prayer Breakfast at Elgin Community College. The featured speaker was Wes Scott, a retired military officer and minister.



- Albert McCloud, a member of the 2019 City of Elgin Dr. King Celebration Committee, sells sweatshirts Saturday at the Dr. King Prayer Breakfast in Elgin bearing the gathering's theme, "Justice Before Comfort."

Martin Luther King Jr. advocated for social justice, equality and education for all people, issues that continue to be a problem in today's society, more than 50 years after the civil rights leader's death, speakers at the 34th annual Dr. King Prayer Breakfast in Elgin said Saturday.

"Let us reach out and go beyond ourselves," said Ronald Raglin, School District U46 assistant superintendent of educational support programs and alignment. "That is in the keeping of the Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Stay strong, stay in the dream, stay alive in your conscious and keep pushing."

Raglin was one of three Dr. King Humanitarian Award recipients honored during the breakfast, sponsored by Elgin Human Relations Commission and held at Elgin Community College's University and Business Center.

This year's theme, "Justice Before Comfort," was inspired by a quote in King's 1963 book, "Strength to Love."

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort or convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy," said Danise Habun, chairwoman of the 2019 event.

"Our award recipients speak up and they speak out when needed to," Habun said. "Our recipients do not turn away when they see a need or want in our community. Instead, each of them stands tall and does right for all. Each of our recipients in his or her own way has stood up in moments of challenge and controversy and have shown us the way to do right and good. They have continually chosen justice before comfort."

Raglin received the Humanitarian Award; Elgin Community College student life coordinator Brittany Barber received the Youth Humanitarian Award; and Midwest Sports Academy received the Organization Humanitarian Award.

The breakfast's theme "resonates where we are today as a community and it resonates in our recipients of the 2019 Dr. King Humanitarian Awards," Habun said.

"We have to keep speaking up no matter how tiring it may be," Habun said. "So, to keep living up fully, we have to keep speaking up loudly even when it becomes uncomfortable for those in power who may not want to hear what we have to say."

"Think of Laquan McDonald and the verdict and the sentence that his killer received," she said, referencing the 2014 shooting of McDonald by former Chicago police officer Jason Van Dyke. A jury convicted Van Dyke of second-degree murder in October, and he was sentenced Friday to six years and nine months in prison.

"Think of Decynthia Clements. Never forget her name," Habun said.

Clements was fatally shot last March by Elgin police Lt. Chris Jensen during a standoff with police on Interstate 90. The Cook County state's attorney's office has not yet issued a decision as to whether Jensen should be held criminally liable for his actions.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Wes Scott, a retired military officer with more than 35 years of federal service and an ordained minister at St. James AME Church in Elgin. He shared ways to meet life's challenges and fulfill King's work.

Speak out, be humble, do for others, don't judge and never give up, he said.

"Dr. King was a pioneer and advocate and inspired generations through his commitment to love, his dream of empowerment and inclusion, notions we are still fighting for even today," Scott said. "However, we find solace in knowing many of us continue to march on and fight for a brighter tomorrow."

Jackle joins group to influence policy on early education

District U46 educator will work with policymakers through fellowship

By: Rafael Guerrero



- Erin Jackle is part of the inaugural group of Illinois early childhood fellows through Teach Plus.

An early learning facilitator in Elgin Area School District U46 who specializes in the transitions from preschool to kindergarten will spend the next few months on early childhood policy-making efforts in Illinois.

U46 educator Erin Jackle is part of the inaugural group of Illinois early childhood fellows through Teach Plus, a nonprofit of more than 15,000 teachers in the U.S. She is among 20 in the state to receive the fellowship, a first-time venture for the national group.

“I’m hoping to be able to use my experience to help explain early childhood practices to policymakers on what it means to educate a young child and how to best support our kids and families,” Jackle said.

The 20 fellows will be split into smaller groups, said Jackle. Her focus will be on student data-enforced practices in early childhood.

Over the next seven months, her work group of Chicago-area fellows will meet monthly. The meetings may include training, crafting and writing articles, talking with policy makers, or visiting Springfield during the legislative session. The fellowship includes a \$1,600 stipend, she explained.

“The focus of the fellowship is not only to better understand how policy works, but working to make policy changes happen (in Illinois),” Jackle said.

Other areas the fellows may explore include how to provide adequate funding for early childhood programs and teaching staff, professional development and training for professionals in the field, according to program officials.

“The (Early Childhood Educator) Fellows are focused on ensuring that all Illinois children from birth to second grade have access to high-quality child care programs,” Ty Jiles, Teach Plus Illinois Policy Manager, said in a news release.

Jackle is a veteran of U46 schools, having started with the district in 2004 as a special education teacher. In 2013, she took over as an instructional coach, and in 2016 she transitioned to her current facilitator role.

An early learners facilitator assists families and teachers in the transition from preschool to kindergarten — assisting those families whose children never enrolled in preschool or never had any classroom exposure — and attends Individualized Education Program meetings with families of students with specialized needs, Jackle said.

The work group Jackle is a part of has already begun meeting. Already, she is hearing stories about inequities in early childhood education and how programs and services vary by communities. Play-based education in U46 early childhood programs, English and Spanish instruction and development is not a guarantee in other districts, she said.

SPORTS

---Daily Herald---01/19/2019

Hardtke's 25 points paces Glenbard South over Elgin

By: Dave Oberhelman

Things have changed in the weeks since Glenbard South's boys basketball team beat Elgin by 32 points.

It appeared they'd changed quite a bit when the visiting Maroons led Glenbard South after one quarter. The Raiders calmed down and behind a personal-best scoring night from Cole Hardtke, Glenbard South won the Upstate Eight Conference game 58-43 in Glen Ellyn.

"They didn't have two starters that game, so we just kind of forgot about that one and just said, if we play our game we'll be fine," said Hardtke, the 6-foot-4 senior forward who scored 25 points with 10 rebounds, 6 of them in the fourth quarter.

"That first game, we got a new system, a lot of new players, so I think it showed, we've grown," said Elgin's first-year coach, David Hess. "We've got guys that are getting better and figuring things out, and what we talked about is we're playing half to three-quarters of a game now. The push is to play that full 32 minutes."

Xavier Bonds, who missed the first meeting along with Maroons point guard Kamarr Banks, scored 6 points with 2 steals in the first quarter as Elgin (5-15, 2-9) led 15-11 after one quarter. Senior guard Trey Yarber added 7 points as the Maroons forced Glenbard South into 6 turnovers.

"Kudos to Elgin," said Glenbard South coach Wade Hardtke, father to Cole and also sophomore guard Cade Hardtke, the Raiders' second man off the bench.

"We weren't taking care of the ball in the first quarter and then we settled in," Wade Hardtke said. "But that's a credit to them and their defense. They're quick, they're athletic and they were getting into passing lanes."

Glenbard South (14-4, 8-2) has seen it all, though. Even with center Ryan Harrington plagued by fouls after a strong, 5-point first quarter, seniors like guards Kevin Enright, Tavion Keith and Nick Plaso and forwards Cole Hardtke and Tommy Powers bring poise under pressure.

Countering Elgin's zone defense, often extended full court, the Raiders started the second quarter on an 11-3 run. Hardtke sealed the quarter with a three-point play, a 3-pointer and a free throw for a 32-21 halftime lead.

"We came out, we weren't really doing much, and then our guards got us settled," Cole Hardtke said. "We calmed down, Kevin got us open shots, got us layups. Then we picked up the pressure and from there was really no looking back. It was fun."

Despite shooting 5 of 21 in the third quarter, Glenbard South led 43-31 after three quarters, and Cole Hardtke's 8-point fourth quarter helped build a 53-37 lead with three minutes left to play.

Powers scored 8 points with 7 rebounds. Yarber scored 14 and Bonds 11 for Elgin, which made strides since that Dec. 7 meeting.

"We got blown out the first time. To only fall away with a 15-point loss, it's always good to see improvement, see that we're getting better, seeing that we can stick to what we're supposed to do," said Maroons sophomore forward Jeffery Lomax.

---The Courier-News---01/20/2019

Boys Basketball

Montgomery scores 25 to power South Elgin to win vs. Streamwood

By: Paul Johnson



- South Elgin's Drake Montgomery puts up a shot in the third quarter against Streamwood on Thursday. The senior guard scored 25 points.



- South Elgin's Vincent Miskiewicz (23 points, 14 rebounds, 8 steals) grabs a rebound in front of Streamwood's Keenon Cole (24 points and 19 rebounds).

Drake Montgomery missed South Elgin's first matchup with Streamwood due to an injury. He left in the first quarter of the second game with another injury as the Storm took the loss.

Round 3 between the Upstate Eight rivals revved up Thursday night, and not only did Montgomery play, he made a huge impact. The senior guard scored a game-high 25 points in South Elgin's 59-55 win.

"We lost the last game to them; they beat us down," Montgomery said of Streamwood's 70-58 win at the Jacobs Tournament. "I knew my team needed me this game. I was excited to play them."

Montgomery showed he was ready by scoring the first two baskets of the game for South Elgin (16-6, 9-2). He scored 15 of Storm's points in the first half as they grabbed a 30-27 lead.

"Drake was an offensive difference-maker because he was aggressive," South Elgin coach Brett Johnson said. "We were trying to run actions for him because we knew he's able to get to the basket and attack."

Montgomery's output was significant because South Elgin's Vincent Miskiewicz and Streamwood's Keenon Cole, a Northern Illinois recruit, were busy trading blows all game.

Miskiewicz, a senior forward, had 23 points, 14 rebounds and eight steals. Cole, also a senior forward, led Streamwood (8-14, 4-8) with 24 points and 19 rebounds.

"For Vince, I think he showed he can compete at that same level," Johnson said. "He may not be the same type of player Keenon is, but he shows he can compete because of his effort and intensity."

“From my perspective, he deserves somebody from the Division I level to say, ‘Hey man, we can help you. We can mold you into something.’”

A layup and a free throw by Cole with 5:59 left in the fourth quarter gave the Sabres a 50-48 lead. South Elgin responded with an 11-1 burst to pull away.

A 3-pointer from Miskiewicz, his only three of the game, gave the Storm the lead for good at 52-50 with 4:02 left to play.

“I’m proud of him,” Johnson said of Miskiewicz. “He’s not afraid to shoot that shot and it went in.”

Sophomores Darrel Luce, Kyle Maybrun and Jakobe Strong played in their second varsity game for Streamwood. Luce and Strong started. The trio combined for nine points. Strong hauled in nine rebounds.

“Their energy is what we wanted,” Streamwood coach Kent Payne said. “That kind of fearless mindset, that’s encouraging. That’s what we want.”