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Themed credit and debit cards proposed

Credit union says plan would benefit educational foundation

By: Rafael Guerrero



If approved by the District U46 School Board, the Kane County Teacher Credit Union will issue U46-themed credit and debit cards through which a portion of all transactions will go to the U46 Educational Foundation.

The U46 Educational Foundation is working with the Kane County Teachers Credit Union on a plan to issue School District U46-themed credit and debit cards that will contribute money to scholarships, teacher grants and other foundation programs.

Credit union CEO Mike Lee and Foundation President Bud Wilson presented the idea to the school board Monday.

The cards could generate as much as \$25,000 for the foundation in the first year and perhaps as much as \$400,000 within five years, Lee said.

The foundation receives a portion of each transaction made with the card, he said.

East Aurora School District 131, West Aurora School District 129 and Geneva School District 304 already have “affinity” card programs. If approved by the school board, U46 would be the fourth district to offer them starting in the fall.

There would be six card designs from which cardholders could choose — one with the district logo and one each for the district’s five high schools using the school’s colors.

“If school districts have resources and are thriving, the communities will too,” Lee said Wednesday. “The way I see it is we are helping the communities as a whole.

“(The card) also markets the school district. I’ve had an Aurora card in my pocket for years, and people will ask where did I get that card from?”

The first credit cards for the East Aurora Educational Foundation were issued a year ago and generated about \$900 in the first few months, foundation President Bill Deligiannis said. The amount of their next payment should be much higher because awareness of the program is growing, he said.

“Our two main endeavors are the scholarships for students and the mini-grants for teachers,” he said.

Only credit union members can obtain the cards, Lee told the school board Monday. Right now, they have about 2,700 customers who are affiliated with U46, he said.

“We will actually highlight this in all our branches to try to get the community to support the school district,” Lee said.

School board members, who did not discuss the credit card proposal Monday, are expected to vote on it at a future meeting.

Foundations are independent nonprofit organizations that raise money for things a district cannot afford.

Often, money is earmarked for grants that teachers can use for initiatives or to pay for things for their classroom or to pay for student scholarships.

South Elgin police sergeant named deputy

Doty, an Air Force veteran, will be in charge of department’s administration

By: Rafael Guerrero



South Elgin police Sgt. Mike Doty, left, is sworn in to his new job as deputy police chief at the Monday night’s South Elgin Village Board meeting.

South Elgin police Sgt. Mike Doty has been promoted to deputy police chief, filling a position that’s been vacant for years, Chief Jerry Krawczyk said.

Sworn in at Monday night’s village board meeting, Doty’s new rank means he becomes the department’s second deputy chief.

He will oversee department administration while Randy Endean will be the deputy chief responsible for operations, Krawczyk said.

Doty was hired by the South Elgin police in 1997 and promoted to sergeant in November 2004. He is a U.S. Air force veteran who completed his master’s degree in 2004 and graduated from Northwestern University’s School of Police Staff and Command in 2011.

Doty worked as a detective and and a member of the Kane County Major Crimes Task Force before becoming the department’s training coordinator and public information officer.

He will continue to do the latter job, Krawczyk said.

“Being fluent in Spanish, he also gave presentations to the Spanish-speaking parents at the **South Elgin High School** and middle school,” he said.

In addition to Doty's promotion, Officer Anthony Martinez was sworn in as a sergeant Monday.

Martinez started with the department in 1999 and obtained a bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University.

He has been a field training officer, detective and member of the Kane County Major Crimes Task Force.

He currently serves on the Kane County SWAT.

"Deputy Chief Doty and Sgt. Martinez are both hard working officers who relate very well with the community," Krawczyk said.

Krawczyk said a new officer will be hired to fill Martinez's vacancy.

SPORTS

---The Daily Herald---05/10/2019

Lacrosse: Record doesn't tell full story for several growing teams

By: Gregg Voss



South Elgin, including freshman Rowynn Whyte above, is joining with players from Elgin, Bartlett and Streamwood to form the first U-46 team, starting with a JV squad this year.

It's been a season of firsts for Fox Valley lacrosse programs, for both boys and girls. And while the wins may not always be in the offing, the growth of the sport has been paramount.

Take the Geneva girls, for example. The Vikings are in their first year as a varsity program, and their top offensive threat is senior midfielder Alyssa Davidson. They are 2-9, with their signature win a 7-6 squeaker over Naperville Central, but that's not the point.

Davidson graduates in a couple of weeks and will play lacrosse at Lewis University next year. That doesn't mean she will be done with her high school experience, though.

"I'll definitely be coming back during the summer time and helping the new girls grow," said Davidson, who has been playing the sport since sixth grade and is a member of the New Wave club program. "We've come so far as a program, and the outcome has been so amazing."

Davidson's coach, Kailey Robbins, is in her third year at the helm, and was tasked this season with making the transition from a club sport to a varsity sport.

She's been able to do that with Davidson and players like ace stick-handler Grace Sowers, a sophomore, and sophomore goalie Taylor Berg. Junior Julia Rein is usually a defender but has been solid on the attack as a midfielder. Another junior, Natalie Marschitz, has been the solid bond on defense.

Seeing a trend? Davidson is the only senior. The rest are sophomores and juniors -- the program's base for the future.

New faces at Crystal Lake South: Conversely, the Crystal Lake South boys have a different way of looking at its season of firsts.

At the end of last season, the Gators had just 26 total players across the program. This season, it has 40 -- 18 of which are brand-new, some of which are familiar faces.

There's senior midfielder Billy Epperson, one of the school's top football players last fall. Why did he come out for lacrosse?

"Honestly, I was missing football and I wanted to keep myself busy, so I thought it would fun to try it out, and all my friends were doing it," he said, adding that the best part has been "probably learning a new skill and being able to apply football stuff to lacrosse as well, physicality and sport IQ."

There's also senior midfielder Jack Wruck, an all-conference soccer player last fall. Coach Jim Krol said his athleticism has made him a threat on the lacrosse field.

All those new guys have been led by a solid core of experienced players, including senior goalie Sam Storck.

"One of the biggest things is you have to pull them away from old habits from other sports," Storck said. "If they have never played lacrosse, they are going to want to apply their habits to the game."

Crystal Lake South is 0-11 and 0-3 in conference, but again, not the point. According to Storck, the best part is "just having fun with everybody, being able to help people learn and get better."

Player spotlight: South Elgin freshman Rowynn Whyte took a lacrosse camp a few years back at Conant, and decided it wasn't her thing. Fast forward to today, and she's the starting goalie for the U-46 Co-op team, which consists of players from her school, Streamwood, Bartlett and Elgin. It plays a JV schedule.

Whyte's season highlight was grabbing 10 saves in a 7-6 victory over Geneva -- in the program's first-ever game. Talk about nervous.

"That was really scary," she said, adding that her teammate from traditional rival Bartlett, Bella Sali, "talked me off the wall. We got really hyped up, and once we had the first draw, we adapted to how the team played."

Whyte has three years to go in her high school lacrosse career, and she sees the program growing substantially.

"I definitely see this program splitting into a JV and varsity team, and I think this program could potentially get that push to get girls lacrosse programs at all the schools in U-46," she said.