

Press Clippings 08/05/2019

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There are no U-46 related news stories.

---The Courier-News---08/04/2019

Project Backpack gets students ready for start of school year

By: Gloria Casas



A volunteer shows Emily Valencia, 15, and her sister, Marylee Munoz, 8, a backpack at Saturday's Project Backpack event at Elgin Community College.

Elgin Community College provided summer fun, including a DJ and arts and crafts, for families waiting their turn at its 10th annual Project Backpack Saturday.

“This is a joyful event, and we treat everyone as guests in our house,” said Tammy Ray, a representative with ECC’s Faculty Association. She’s been volunteering since the event began 10 years ago.

ECC coordinates the backpack giveaway every year and distributes more than 1,700 backpacks filled with school supplies for elementary, middle and high school students, said ECC Student Life Coordinator Meghan Highland, who oversaw the event.

Each backpack has 17 to 20 items, she said. Primary backpacks for students in grade school have back-to-school supplies like crayons, markers, scissors and glue sticks, she said.

For parents like Beatriz Soriano, the giveaway is a big help. She has five school-aged children. Soriano also learned about Internet Essentials from Comcast, a program that provides qualified families with low-cost internet services.

“I’m very interested, I have five kids,” Soriano told a Comcast representative. “It would help out a lot.”

Ray remembers a single mom with two young children who came to the event looking for backpacks for her children.

“As I was talking to her, I discovered she was homeless. She was petrified about being homeless with two young children,” Ray said.

She was able to direct the woman to Deb Dempsey, homeless liaison for the Kane County Regional Office of Education. The office is one of a dozen or so agencies and businesses on hand at the event to provide information and assistance.

Dempsey explained the Illinois Education for Homeless Children Act and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act. Under both laws, homeless children qualify for educational assistance like registration, clothing, school supplies and free lunch, Dempsey said. She was able to help the woman throughout the school year, she said.

“Our job is to make sure there’s no barriers for school,” Dempsey said.

There were 2,100 homeless children attending 10 Kane County school districts last school year, she said.

Project Backpack, a community-based initiative, is led by Elgin Community College. Gold sponsors include Kane County Teachers Credit Union, Elgin Fresh Market, I’m Fatimah and Walmart. Silver sponsors include Comcast, PLS Financial Services, Realtor Association of the Fox Valley and Streamwood Behavioral Healthcare System.

The event included free basic eye exams from America’s Best Contacts & Eyeglasses, located on Dundee Avenue in Elgin, and information on health clinics where families can get school physicals. School District U-46, Advocate Healthcare, VNA Health Care and Greater Elgin Family Care Center are offering U-46 students with publicly-assisted insurance or no insurance a Health Fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday at Elgin High School, 1200 Maroon Drive in Elgin.

---Daily Herald---08/03/2019

U-46 students invited to school supply fair, health fair

Submitted by: Elgin Area School District U-46

Elgin Area School District U-46 families are invited to several events around the community to ensure students are ready for the first day of school, Wednesday, Aug. 14.

The U-46 Health Services department will host a Back-to-School Health Fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8, at Elgin High School, 1200 Maroon Drive, Elgin.

Advocate Healthcare, VNA Health Care, and Greater Elgin Family Care Center will provide physical and immunizations on a first-come, first-served basis to U-46 students who either have publicly-assisted insurance or have no insurance.

Students who are entering preschool, kindergarten, sixth grade, ninth grade and 12th grade must have state-required physicals and up-to-date immunizations completed and turned into the school nurse's office by the first day of school.

U-46 is among the event partners for the 10th annual Back-to-School Supply Fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, or while supplies last. It will be held in Building J at Elgin Community College, 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin.

The event, known as Project Backpack, provides school supplies for students in need as they prepare for the upcoming academic year.

Supplies will be distributed to students who provide proof of fall 2019 registration, such as school registration or a report card with Elgin Community College or U-46, Algonquin-based Community Unit District 300, Central Unit District 301, St. Charles Unit School District 303, or Keeneyville District 20.

Students who cannot provide proof of enrollment should bring proof of residency in one of the school districts.

More than 19,000 backpacks have been distributed since the launch of Project Backpack in 2010. Donations collected throughout the Elgin community will provide a gender-neutral backpack filled with supplies including folders, notebooks, pencils, pens, crayons, erasers, scissors, glue sticks, and more.

Donations to Project Backpack can be made at www.project-backpack.org/donations.html.

Hanover Township will begin its annual backpack distribution at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 7, at the Astor Avenue Community Center, 7431 Astor Ave. in Hanover Park. Kindergartners through eighth-graders can receive a free backpack filled with school supplies until 11:30 a.m., or while supplies last.

Students must be a resident of Hanover Township, and families must show proof of residency within Hanover Township boundaries via an ID, current piece of mail, utility bill, or medical card.



Volunteers have packed and sorted backpacks for the 10th annual Back-to-School Supply Fair on Saturday, Aug. 3

Elgin Craft Beer Fest set for Aug. 10 supports Rotary's community projects

Submitted by: Alan Kirk



Enjoy craft beers, music and games at the annual Elgin Craft Beer Fest on Saturday, Aug. 10, on the Riverfront Promenade.



Elgin Breakfast Rotary Club Past Club President Alan Kirk congratulates Josh Pandola, right, a **South Elgin High School** graduate, on being named the "Business 25" Scholarship winner.



Dozens of volunteers gather at the entrance of the annual Elgin Craft Beer Fest. Proceeds from this Elgin Breakfast Rotary Club event will support local nonprofit organizations.

Elgin Breakfast Rotary member and local business owner Arturo Cruz was recently inducted as president of the Elgin Breakfast Rotary Club.

He invites the community to the annual Elgin Craft Beer Fest from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10, on the Elgin Riverfront Promenade.

Come enjoy over 30 breweries, over 50 different craft beers including one-of-a-kind home brews, live music from Roxin' Moxie, food trucks, games, and more on the Fox River.

Come early to taste the official event beer Tribus.

General admission of \$40 includes a commemorative glass. VIP admission of \$60 allows a one-hour early entry, access to the VIP area featuring additional beers, and assorted gourmet tasty bits.

Proceeds from this event will support local nonprofit organizations.

Visit www.elgincraftbeerfest.com to purchase tickets.

The club is proud to have just awarded two \$1,000 college scholarships from the Michael Green Scholarship Fund.

Green was a former charter member of the Elgin Breakfast Rotary. Later in life, he left a successful brokerage position to return to his passion where he was a mentor to many children in the **Elgin Area School District U-46**. Upon his death, a scholarship was created for U-46 students wanting to pursue education as a career.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Elgin Breakfast Rotary, club members created the "Business 25 Scholarship" which provides a \$1,000 annual vocational scholarship for students attending Elgin Community College.

The local business and individuals who donated to this fund include: Lauderdale Electric, Lamp Incorporated, Robert A Chapski Ltd., Biggers Chevrolet, Humbolt Corp, Otto Engineering, Elgin Public House, Alexander's Café, Riggio Boran LTD, TBK Bank, Alright Concrete Co., Burgess Commercial Real Estate, Joe Bero Plumbing, Inc, Winters Family Practice, Mueller & Co. LLP, Two Brothers Brewing Co., John B. Sanfilippo & Son, Inc, Urban Innovation Solutions, Inc, ReMax -- Ben Henrikson, Dr. and Mrs. Gregory Karr, Thomas and Diane Schneider, Schreiber Financial Strategies Group, Zieglers Ace Hardware, Elgin Medi Transport, and McGrath Buick.

The club is proud to announce that Josh Pandola, a South Elgin High graduate, is the 2019 Business 25 Scholarship recipient. He dreams of becoming a physical therapist and is attending Elgin Community College. The club wishes him well.

To learn more about the Elgin Breakfast Rotary club and the many community projects the club is involved in, visit www.elginbreakfastrotary.com or email alankirk@me.com.

About Rotary

Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Their work impacts lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit www.rotary.org.