

Press Clippings 09/20/19

---The Courier-News---09/20/2019

Larkin High wins \$20K donation

School receives mini-music fest and recording equipment

By: Rafael Guerrero



Larkin High School in Elgin was one of five Illinois schools to win a mini-concert from High School Nation, which also provided behind-the-scenes and dancing demonstrations for students and presented the school with \$20,000 in audio recording equipment.

High School Nation's stop at Larkin High School this week will be long-remembered for more than a mini-music fest thanks to the group's donation of \$20,000 in audio and music recording equipment.

The Elgin-based high school was one of five in the Chicago area to receive the free music event and equipment from High School Nation, an organization that promotes music, arts and sports in schools. The program coincided with Larkin's homecoming week festivities.

"(The donation includes) software, computer, drums, cabling, it's basically everything you need to make a little media lab or recording studio on campus," High School Nation CEO Jimmy Cantillon said. Larkin will also receive audio interface devices, studio monitors and guitars.

High School Nation's tour is intended to not only give the winners a short diversion from the regular school day, but to promote careers in the arts, including jobs working behind the scenes at festivals and concerts, Cantillon said.

"The idea is ... to emphasize different areas of the arts," he said. "You don't have to be a singer or dancer to travel and see the world."

Larkin Principal Jamie Crosen said the studio equipment will be a boon to the school's digital arts program. Students may one day be able to use it to record music, make live recordings and produce more podcasts, he said.

A recording studio would enhance the school's visual and performing arts academy, Crosen said.

Prior to High School Nation’s visit, Larkin and District U46 officials had been discussing the creation of a recording studio to enhance the academy based at Larkin academy as it undergoes a transition into a more rigorous magnet academy.

“It gives our kids the option and ability to learn more of the digital side of the arts,” Crosen said.

In addition to the concert Monday, High School Nation performers offered demonstrations and taught students some dance moves.

“Some of our kids think of life in front of the camera,” Crosen said. “But it was great for them to see what happens behind the camera. It was also nice for people to have conversations with people working actively in arts and music. Sometimes we only see the Beyonces, the larger celebrities, we don’t see (those behind the scenes).”

Among the music acts to perform at Larkin were Australian pop artist Emily Perry and up-and-coming group Almost Monday.

‘Field of the Forgotten’ gravesites remembered

Recently unmarked plots among the sites on Sunday’s Bluff Cemetery walk

By: Gloria Casas



Hundreds of unmarked graves were uncovered when construction began on Channing Elementary School in Elgin in 1968.



Steven Stroud, right, an author and historian, started the process of having a memorial placed on the site of hundreds of unmarked graves, known as the Field of the Forgotten, in Elgin’s Bluff Cemetery. His wife, Laura, seen here, saw the project to completion.

The area is picturesque, a grassy fen in the background adding to its peacefulness. But its natural beauty belies a sorrowful story.

It's burial place in Elgin's Bluff Cemetery for hundreds of Elginites whose remains were discovered in 1968 on land that had been the former Channing Cemetery.

The bodies were moved to the Bluff Cemetery, but, until recently, no marker or sign indicated they were buried in the mass grave.

A black granite marker, however, now memorializes those souls who were left behind when the city established Bluff Cemetery in 1889. Having a monument to mark the site was among the last projects undertaken by author and historian Steven Stroud, who died in April.

It's also one of the things that can be seen at the cemetery for those who participate in the Elgin Historical Museum's annual Bluff City Cemetery Walk this weekend.

"Field of the Forgotten," the marker reads. "In memory of the past citizens of Elgin brought here from unmarked graves at 'Old Cem,' the prior City Cemetery. Gone but never forgotten, their journey ends here. May their souls be at peace in this, their eternal place of rest. At the common grave we pay tribute to their memory."

A quote on the marker reads, "Though they are silent now, they all have stories to tell," Steven Stroud, "Silent City: A History of Elgin's Cemeteries."

Stroud's wife, Laura, saw the project through to completion, and his family donated a bench and planted a tree in his honor.

The story of the "Field of the Forgotten" is one that will be among many told Sunday as part of the cemetery walk, said Rudy Galfi, co-chair of the event this year. He and his wife, Lillian, took over for Steven and Laura Stroud, who had organized it for 12 years.

Channing Cemetery, located at Channing and DuPage streets, was the city's burial place from 1845 to 1890, he said. When it started nearing capacity, the city bought 107 acres of farmland to create Bluff City in 1889, according to the historical museum's website.

"Family members moved their loved ones to Bluff City Cemetery, but people who didn't have money or heirs were left at Channing Cemetery," Galfi said.

When School District U46 began building Channing Elementary School at the site in 1968, hundreds of bodies were unearthed, he said. The graves uncovered were relocated to the unmarked site, the website said.

While the Field of the Forgotten isn't a specific spot on Sunday's tour, its history plays an important part in Bluff Cemetery's history, Galfi said.

"Elgin cemeteries have a really interesting history," he said.

Five costumed actors depicting people from Elgin's past will be on hand as part of the cemetery walk to tell stories about some of the people buried there and to talk about such things as the vault where caskets were held in the winter until ground thawed out and the meaning behind the symbols and epitaphs on gravestones, Galfi said.

The walk will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday at the cemetery, located at 945 Bluff City Blvd. A bus tour will be provided at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. for those with physical disabilities. A signing tour for the hearing impaired is at 1 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 in advance for adults, \$10 for Elgin History Museum members and seniors 65 and older, \$15 for nonmembers, free for children 12 and younger. Advance tickets are available at the museum, 360 Park St., Zeigler's Ace Hardware stores in Elgin and the Bluff City Cemetery office or online at www.elginhistory.org

New this year is an "indoor walk," a theater production based on the Bluff City Cemetery Walk called "Silent City Speaks," Galfi said. A lot of Elgin residents can no longer attend the event because they have difficulty walking so organizers decided to bring a version of the walk indoors, he said.

It will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29, at Iglesia Principe De Paz Church, 263 DuPage Street, Elgin. Tickets are \$10 online.

"We're really excited about putting that presentation on," Galfi said. "We hope we can get people who can't physically do the walk or couldn't go because of scheduling. This will give them another date to come and see the walk."

SPORTS

---The Courier-News---09/20/2019

Boys Soccer

Caught in a deadlock

Espinosa scores goal but Elgin settles for tie with South Elgin

By: Paul Johnson



Elgin's Jean Padilla-Gomez (11) tries to play the ball away from South Elgin's Andres Rivera (16) during the second half of a game Wednesday.

Much has changed for Elgin in boys soccer on the heels of last season's historic regional championship.

Sophomore forward Isaac Espinosa is one of the few returning players, and he's doing his part to get this season's team going.

Espinosa scored his fourth goal of the season with 35:09 left in the first half Wednesday as the Maroons hung on for a 1-1 Upstate Eight tie against South Elgin.

“It is disappointing, but we need to learn how to start out strong and finish strong,” Espinosa said. “Next time, we have to come out with a win.”

Elgin (3-4-2, 0-2-2) is still working its way into form after only losing two games last season. Espinosa, who saw significant minutes on varsity as a freshman, is one of the key components to the transformation.

“He’s young,” Elgin coach David Borg said. “He’s only a sophomore. He grew quite a bit over the season. He’s one of our vocal leaders, but he’s putting a lot of pressure on himself.

“As a sophomore, just go out and play. Let the older guys take charge. But yeah, when he’s on his game, he’s a very good forward.”

Angel Garcia Resendiz got the equalizer for South Elgin (3-4-3, 0-1-2) with 12:26 left in the first half, converting a penalty kick.

It continued a familiar trend for the Storm, however. They have not lost in five straight games, but three of them were ties.

“It’s been the bane of my existence so far,” South Elgin coach Jerzy Skowron said. “It’s happened way too many times. It’s just getting out and starting strong, putting our foot on their throats right away.

“It’s just a matter of doing all the dirty work in the box and punishing them for allowing us to do all the things that we like to do.”

Skowron is encouraged, however, by how the Storm rallied again to avoid a loss.

“When I was a kid, they said a tie is like kissing your sister,” Skowron said. “It feels like that. It stings a little.

“But I’m trying to encourage these boys and tell them they are one of the better teams in the area from a talent perspective. It’s just a matter of putting it together on the field.”

That’s also what Elgin is trying to do at this point of the season. With a largely new team, the Maroons are still feeling their way through this season.

“I try my best to tell them that we have to come out and win,” Espinosa said. “We have to finish every time we get the ball.

“In the beginning, we were not doing well. We had some losses come to us and it got in our heads. After that, I think we are improving and we are ready for October.”

---Daily Herald---09/20/2019

Boys soccer: Set pieces key to Geneva's win over South Elgin

By: Jared Birchfield



Geneva's Joe Carli brings the ball upfield with South Elgin's Ryan Doherty giving chase during Thursday's soccer game in South Elgin.



Geneva's Alexander Joubran (7) celebrates after scoring a goal against South Elgin Thursday in South Elgin. Goalkeeper Zachary Juszko is pictured for the Storm.



Geneva's Shun Yonehara brings the ball upfield against South Elgin during Thursday's soccer game in South Elgin. *Rick West | Staff Photographer*



South Elgin's Edwin Ayala wins a header with a challenge from Geneva's Matthew Fuller.



South Elgin's Alex Wano wins a header in front of Geneva's Dominick Peri during Thursday's soccer game in South Elgin.

Geneva's offense had to go to plan B Thursday night in its nonconference match with South Elgin.

Unable to successfully finish its attacks, the Vikings turned to set pieces.

The strategy work as Geneva scored on plays that began as a throw-in and a corner kick to blank the host Storm 2-0. It was the Vikings' third clean sheet in a row.

"The final product wasn't a sharp as we hoped for," said Geneva coach Jason Bhatta. "Sometimes in a game like this, when you are not as sharp on attacking and you don't get the final product that you want, then you can rely on set play goals and we did."

The Vikings' first goal came with 4:38 left in the first half. Jaden Ahern's throw-in from 15 yards out toward the goal was headed in by Alex Joubran.

Mark Migliazzo scored the insurance goal in the 73rd minute on a play that started with Shun Yonehara's corner kick. Geneva (7-3-1) was unsuccessful in finishing that attempt, but South Elgin (3-5-3) was unable to clear the ball with Migliazzo intercepting it. The senior found the back of the net on a 30-yard boot.

"I was just lucky. The ball came to me and I thought I would just shoot it because we were at 1-0," said Migliazzo.

"Sometimes we can rely on set plays with the players we have, and when we are not playing as sharp as we like to," Bhatta said. "So, so it's good to have those in our back pocket."

Geneva's tenacious defense and Cal Parise's six saves keep the Storm off the score board.

"This is the third game in a row where we had a shutout and that speaks to our back line," Bhatta said.

"We are still trying to find our niche. We are giving up early fluky goals that shouldn't be going in. So we are constantly playing up hill," said South Elgin's first-year coach, Jerzy Skowron.

"A lot if it is learning to play a new system and playing defense the way my assistant and I would like them to."

South Elgin's best scoring opportunity came at the 12th minute. Parise came out to the edge of the penalty box to scoop up a South Elgin shot. The ball got past him and the Storm's Elijah corralled it. His shot on the empty net went wide.