

Press Clippings 11/22/19

---The Courier-News---11/22/2019

District U-46 to pay more for school officers

By: Rafael Guerrero

School District U-46 will pay 2.3% more in the 2019-20 school year to have police officers serve as school resource officers in its middle and high schools.

A contract approved by the school board Monday agrees to pay \$1.07 million to the municipalities of Elgin, Streamwood, Bartlett and South Elgin for its officers' services.

This school year the cost is \$1.04 million, records show.

Each of the district's largest municipalities supply one full-time police officer to each middle and high school in their respective communities. Elgin provides seven officers, followed by three in Streamwood, two in South Elgin and two in Bartlett, records show.

School resource officers' duties include law enforcement inside and outside the school, presentations on topics pertinent to students, staff and families, and assistance in things like crowd control and vehicular traffic.

The cities or villages pay their officers' salaries and approved overtime, and are reimbursed by the school district. According to the contracts, annual salaries range from \$62,430 in South Elgin officers to \$72,177 in Elgin.

Salary costs went from \$956,018 in 2018-19 to \$979,703 in 2019-20, a 2.5% increase, according to the contracts. The overtime/event security budget of \$89,500 is not increasing.

10 questions with ...

U-46 grounds coordinator Joe Creadon

By: Rafael Guerrero



Joe Creadon is a grounds operations coordinator for School District U-46, where he's a longtime employee. He assumed his current position in 2005.

“10 Questions With...” is a Courier-News feature in which reporter Rafael Guerrero interviews someone in the Elgin area we think you should know and finds out a little more about what makes them who they are.

Joe Creadon

Age: 53

Hometown: South Elgin

Lives in: Kingston

Job: Grounds operations coordinator for School District U-46. Creadon has been employed with the district since 1987 and started in his current position in 2005.

Education: Larkin High School graduate; graduate of Elgin Community College, Eastern Illinois University, and McHenry County College

What’s something most people wouldn’t know about your job?

That there’s a lot of odd hours. We work a lot with snowplowing so we work a lot of overnights. We do all the snow and ice removal.

If a water main breaks overnight, we have to go fix it immediately because it’s an emergency. You’re basically on call all the time.

Which is worse in your profession — summer or the winter?

Winter is tougher because of the disrupted sleep pattern.

When you’re not working, what do you like to do?

I enjoy snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, ATVing. I enjoy snowmobiling because I like to do it with my brother and my nephews. We get to do it as a family and we have lots of fun. We’ll go up north, up to Eagle River (in Wisconsin).

Is there an area you haven’t visited that you’d like to?

The upper East Coast, the New England area. Up to Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine.

If you won \$1 million, what would be the first thing you buy?

I’d probably buy a new house. I live in an older home now so I’d probably buy something brand new.

Growing up in South Elgin, did you have a favorite place?

I used to like the South Elgin gravel pits. We would hunt and fish back there, ride our bikes. It's gone now, it's a housing subdivision now and a giant garbage dump. But there used to be a giant gravel pit there where we used to hang out.

What did you do to annoy your siblings as a kid?

I have two brothers that are a lot younger. (My older brother and I) would have fun picking on them when they were kids. We'd have fun with them, mess with them a little bit.

What was your favorite subject when you were in school?

I really enjoyed school growing up. For me, it's probably science. It opened up new doors for me; it was interesting.

What is one thing people may not know about you?

I like old movies from the 1930s and 1940s. "It Happened One Night" was a good movie, "The Best Years of Our Lives," movies along that line.

What TV shows do you like to watch?

I don't really watch any TV shows regularly. I watch the news every day, but that's about it. If I do turn on the TV, it's more likely I'm watching movies.

But I do like "American Pickers."

SPORTS

---The Courier-News---11/22/2019

Girls Basketball 2019-20

‘We have our moments’

Bartlett takes first step forward after summertime death of coach Hunt

By: Paul Johnson



Bartlett's Lexie Sinclair scoots past Geneva's Grace Hinchman and Katie Montgomery in the 2019 Class 4A Batavia Sectional semifinals. The return of Sinclair and sophomore guard Mackenzie Hare gives Bartlett an explosive combo.



Bartlett's Mackenzie Hare drives to the basket as West Chicago's Shelbie Steward looks to block her path.

Working through the emotions of coach Brad Hunt's death this summer has been a team effort for Bartlett.

“Losing a man as great as Brad was, we have our moments,” said Joseph Eirich, the varsity assistant the past two seasons and now the interim head coach. “Sometimes we're fine. Sometimes we get emotional.”

“It's really just working through that emotion and continuing to build our craft on a daily basis.”

The Hawks honored Hunt at Wednesday's 85-35 win over Fenton in the season opener, and have established a scholarship in his name.

“It will be an emotional day,” Eirich said Tuesday. “These girls are awesome. They're so resilient, so strong-minded. They're going to pull through. They're going to be fine.”

Having Eirich still around has helped smooth over the sudden transition the Hawks had to endure, according to junior guard Lexie Sinclair.

“It definitely makes it easier,” she said. “I think over the summer he kept everything going, kept everything together. That has made it so much easier.

“We know it’s going to be hard, but there isn’t any other place we’d rather be.”

While continuing to celebrate the life of Hunt, the Hawks also did what they thought he would want them to do.

They started to prepare for a new season.

The Hawks enter this winter with high hopes. The return of Sinclair and sophomore guard Mackenzie Hare gives Bartlett one of the most explosive duos around. They combined to average 31.3 points last season.

Both are receiving Division I interest.

“It’s so nice to be able to draw on that,” Eirich said. “Having those girls as role models, as people for everyone in the program to look up to, is great. They’re so seasoned.

“Between the two of them, I’m returning more than 1,000 points from last season. That is incredible.”

How Eirich deploys them and returning starter Dani Heeden, the team’s best defensive player, will be interesting.

Eirich has been thrust into the head coaching role in the most difficult way possible, but he said he’s ready for the challenge.

“I know the game,” Eirich said. “I’m from the game. I played in high school. It’s just now adding my own flavor, adding my own twist to the game.

“How am I going to handle situations? The girls know me. They know my personality. They know how I’m going to react. The transition has been pretty smooth because they’re used to me and they know what to expect.”

Bartlett finished with a 29-5 record last season, losing to Wheaton Warrenville South in the Class 4A Batavia Sectional championship game. That loss still sticks with the Hawks.

“Our goal is to get back there and hopefully win that,” Sinclair said. “I’m just excited to see where we’re at, see how much growing we have to do.

“We’re so young this year, but I think that we have a lot of experience. There are a lot of good things happening.”