

Press Clippings 03/25/20

---ABC7---03/25/20

Illinois Coronavirus: Elgin schools prepared for use by health officials to combat virus

By: John Garcia

ELGIN, Ill. (WLS) -- John Heiderscheidt is in charge of safety and security for 39,000 students in the northwest suburbs, which means he regularly inspects the schools in District U-46 in Elgin to determine if they are prepared for emergencies.

"The health departments have already pre-selected schools they might need. And we will help with whatever's needed," he said.

Heiderscheidt said they have already determined that South Elgin High School's gym could serve in a number of different functions. It could be a place to put nursing tables where they could administer tests, or even house hospital beds. Patients could line up in the long hallways.

The district has some experience with situations like this. At Larkin High School in 2009, at the height of the H1N1 or "swine flu" outbreak, they set up to give mass vaccinations. It is a very different function from educating students.

"At this point our job has shifted dramatically. We're no longer about providing public education. Our priority is the safety and well-being of our family," said U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders.

Sanders said four of the district's five high schools could potentially be used for health purposes. U-46, the second largest school district in the state, got a survey from the state asking about facilities and preparedness. Schools tend to offer the largest public spaces, which could be essential in the event that hospitals are overwhelmed.

"We're dusting off those plans in case we're needed," said Heiderscheidt.

School district officials are hoping the halls will be bustling with students again very soon, but they say if the health department does need to use this facility, they're ready.

---The Courier-News---03/25/20

U-46: more than 115,000 meals distributed to students

By: Rafael Guerrero

School District U-46 has handed out more than 115,000 meals to students since it started its grab-and-go meals distribution last week, officials at the Elgin-area district said.

Just over 76,000 meals were distributed at 26 sites across the district on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, according to district figures. Another 39,000-plus meals were given out Monday, Superintendent Tony Sanders said.

U-46, like other districts, is trying to ensure that students who rely on the meals served at school don't go hungry while the district is shut down through at least April 8 to curb the spread of the coronavirus, officials said.

"My first concern for my students (when schools closed) was their safety, part of that including if they would have enough food," said Dustin Covarrubias, principal of Willard Elementary School in South Elgin.

Each to-go bag contains items for breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as milk and snacks. Food and Nutrition Services Director Elena Hildreth said food can include sandwiches, cereal, pasta, salad, fruits and vegetables.

The food is cold and is ready to eat, Hildreth said. On Thursday and Monday, students picked up two days' worth of food, she said.

Anyone under the age of 18 can pick up the grab-and-go meals, regardless of income status or if they attend U-46 schools. According to state report card data, nearly 61% of U-46 students qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.

At Willard alone, nearly 6,200 meals were picked up by students since last week. While Elgin, Bartlett, Streamwood and Hanover Park have multiple schools participating, Willard is the only one in South Elgin, Covarrubias said.

The pickup window is 90 to 120 minutes and sometimes results in traffic being backed up to Route 31, two blocks away from the 370 W. Spring St. school, Covarrubias said.

"We've had many families in tears thanking us and appreciating our work, saying how much this is needed," he said.

Covarrubias said he is thankful for the team of food and nutrition workers contributing to the effort, some of whom don't even work at Willard when school is in session. It takes four hours to package the to-go bags, he said.

"I've had my staff from Willard ask if they can help," he added. "I appreciate their concerns but told them we can't have too many people working on site."

The pickup locations are taking precautions to limit person-to-person contact, such as wearing gloves and masks and placing bags in vehicle trunks, Covarrubias said. Some meals are picked up by students who walk to the school, he said.

At the district's food commissary on Bowes Road, worker stations are spread out to increase social distancing, Hildreth said.

"Our building here is pretty large so we are able to separate people," she said.

Hildreth said her department is planning meal distributions into at least the second week of April, which is the earliest schools might reopen.

The Examiner of STREAMWOOD

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"IF I WERE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT A NEWSPAPER OR A NEWSPAPER WITHOUT A GOVERNMENT, I WOULD NOT HESITATE TO CHOOSE THE LATTER." THOMAS JEFFERSON

50 cents
March 25, 2020

Village responds to
coronavirus crisis
See Page 4

Sabres boys hoops
honored via Coney
See Page 8

High school AD staying positive during closings

By Seth Hancock

"We've got some really down kids right now," said Jeff Bral, Bartlett High School's athletics director.

Spring sports have been put on hold for high school students across the state as all classes have been cancelled by Gov. J.B. Pritzker over the concerns of COVID-19, a strain of coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China.

In Illinois, one of the first actions taken was by the IHSA as it cancelled the remainder of winter sports tournaments, including the boys basketball state tournament, on Thursday, March 12. The following day, Pritzker ordered all schools, public and private, to be closed.

Currently, classes are set to resume on Tuesday, March 31 and the IHSA has released a FAQ sheet which states that is still the "target date" for practices and competition to resume, but "there are state governmental, educational and health bodies that will need to approve this action as we get closer to it. It is too early to say definitively that IHSA activities will resume on March 31."

With a lot of uncertainty in the air, it is still questionable if spring sports will play at all, but Bral said that while he can't say for sure he will remain positive that kids will be able to play.

"I guess because I'm positive, there's a potential for at least a shortened season," Bral said. "I'm positive because I'm hopeful for these kids."

The response to the virus at the state level and nationally has led to a lot of changes to normal life, and Bral said he just hopes everyone can get back to a "sense of normalcy" soon. He said in his entire educational career he's "never fathomed anything like this ever happening."

Here in Illinois, Pritzker has also ordered many private businesses like bars and restaurants to theaters to shut down or greatly diminish their activity, and national data is showing a large slowdown in the economy. For students, tests like the SATs have been cancelled.

Early on, School District U-46 had stated plans to remain open while practices, albeit limited to participants

only, were still going to be allowed on March 12, but on March 13 when schools were ordered shutdown that's when all practices were stopped as well according to Bral.

The situation remains fluid, and Bral said "it seems like every hour there's something new." He said Bartlett is following all of the recommendations sent down which are ultimately coming from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Some staff will continue to work in their school building for the time being. Bral said along with administration, secretarial and custodial staff are still working in the buildings while they all are practicing what's been called "social distancing."

For Bral, he said his job right now "is to keep coaches positive." He said he tries to communicate with them daily, either through email or phone calls, while he said there is both optimism and pessimism among the coaches concerning the fate of spring sports.

While athletes aren't able to practice together, Bral said he and coaches are still encouraging them to stay fit on their own.

"We don't want them to gather," Bral said. "They're going to have to get creative because it's not only the schools that are closed but also gyms. But we want them to still be active and moving and staying healthy."

Bral also encouraged students and the public to keep things in perspective. He said there's a lot of speculation which even he's "guilty a bit" of following, but people need to "stick to the facts."

While panic has spread across the nation, the CDC numbers show the number of influenza, or seasonal flu, cases as well as the number of flu-related deaths across the country have far outweighed COVID-19, but officials from government to medical agencies like the CDC have warned about the ability for coronavirus to spread rapidly.

Bral said his initial reaction from information given to the public is that "for those people who are healthy, this is probably not a big deal" so try not to "blow things way out of proportion" and reduce the panic, but he also didn't want to diminish the threats of the virus and noted the greater impact of the virus on the elderly as well as those with other health problems. He said to exercise caution through this and follow the recommendations, and he also said to "make your family your top priority."

"You have to deal with the situation you're dealt with," Bral said. "We have a great support system here, and we're able to communicate. Everyone is dealing with the same struggle. Together, we will get through this."

See High school, pg. 2

New U-46 actions cited, report first virus case

By Seth Hancock

School District U-46 has reported the first case of a student contracting COVID-19 while also announcing an extension to how long schools will remain closed as the reaction continues over the coronavirus.

U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders has released messages nearly daily to provide updates. He reported on Thursday, March 19 that the Cook County Department of Health informed the district that a student from Bartlett's Independence Center for Early Learning had tested positive for COVID-19.

Sanders, who legally cannot identify the student, wrote that the student is in isolation.

Originally, Gov. J.B. Pritzker ordered all schools, public and private, to close down with a date for returning to class on Tuesday, March 31, but on Friday, March 20 he ordered a shelter-in-place for state residents which extended the length of school closures. School is now expected to start up again on Wednesday, April 8.

The previous day, Sanders noted that Chicago Public Schools have already announced remaining closed through April 20 but U-46 still planned on returning on March 31. The next day, Sanders said the district will follow Pritzker's new edict.

"We join state officials in all efforts to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus in the most robust manner possible," Sanders said.

U-46 implemented the first phase of distance, or online, learning which took place over three days last week which Sanders wrote included "general and suggested learning activities that support student engagement in learning, not a continuation of where learning left off last week." This week is spring break in the district.

The second phase of distance learn-

ing is expected to start on March 31, Sanders wrote in a Sunday, March 22 message.

Sanders wrote that the Illinois State Board of Education does have guidelines which were written for normal emergency days, like snow days, and "the guidance provided does not call for virtual classroom attendance or grades. If the state guidance should change, we will also provide that direction to our community in a timely manner."

Expectations and resources for distance learning will be provided prior to the next phase, according to Sanders, and teachers are expected to provide specifics on plans by 9 a.m. each day. Further information will be provided on the district's webpage.

The district plans to provide taxpayer funded Chromebooks to qualifying families whose students were not issued them at the start of the school year, specifically fourth grade and younger. The district will distribute them this week at various locations and with staggered timeframes by grade levels.

U-46 has also included information on how to receive free internet access provided by several providers.

"This is a difficult time but our school community stands ready to show students they can be learners anytime, anywhere," Sanders wrote. "Our goal is for our Distance Learning Plan to move our curriculum forward each day and inspire our bright students to continue to inquire, discover, innovate and learn during this time when we are away from each other."

Sanders also reported that the district provided 76,000 taxpayer funded meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) and 25,000 snacks to students over the first week of shutdowns. He said: "We will continue to distribute food as long as we can."



Protective Response

The routine of daily life has been seriously altered due to the existence and reaction to the coronavirus outbreak. Locally, businesses have been impacted and village buildings have been closed to public access. Village Hall has displayed a sign in front of an entrance that summarizes the types of procedures that have been put into effect.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

The Examiner of BARTLETT

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"IF I WERE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT A NEWSPAPER OR A NEWSPAPER WITHOUT A GOVERNMENT, I WOULD NOT HESITATE TO CHOOSE THE LATTER." THOMAS JEFFERSON

75 cents
March 25, 2020



BHS, SEHS boys
hoops garner honors
See Page 9

Fire Dist. outlines
outbreak response
See Page 12

Village reacts to virus via disaster declaration

By Seth Hancock

Village President Kevin Wallace has declared a Local State of Disaster in Bartlett over the continued panic from COVID-19, a foreign-born strain of the

coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China.

The declaration was made on Wednesday, March 18 and lasts for seven days ending today on Wednes-

day, March 25 which is likely to be extended after Gov. J.B. Pritzker extended a shutdown in the state through Tuesday, April 7. The village's emergency agency coordinator recommended the move.

"Due to the rapidly changing nature of the pandemic and the State and Federal response to the pandemic is changing by the day, the ordinance extending the Declaration of Local State of Disaster is included for consideration by the Village Board," a village press release stated.

Paula Schumacher, village administrator, sent an email to trustees and staff detailing the declaration.

"The State of Local Disaster allows us to access assistance from the counties and up the chain to State and Federal levels," Schumacher wrote. "The declaration is important because this pandemic is an extended and rapidly changing situation that has extreme impacts on the health and safety of the community."

Schumacher added: "In addition to providing the village the ability to more quickly enter into contracts, secure supplies and equipment and make staffing changes if necessary, it also allow us to recoup expenditures related to the pandemic response. It will also help our local businesses when seeking assistance from State and Federal agencies."

Wallace's declaration stated that the World Health Organization is warning that the virus is "likely to spread and the numbers of reported cases in Illinois and throughout the United States are rapidly increasing."

Village Hall among other buildings have been closed to the public and Schumacher stated the first day of limited access "went smoothly," while this week's Board of Trustees meeting will be held over phone. Schumacher stated Wallace has allowed restaurants currently shut down to dine-in customers but open for takeout that

have liquor licenses will be allowed to sell packaged alcohol with food purchases.

Pritzker delivered a stay at home edict to residents on March 20 lasting through April 7 according to a village press release.

"All first responders, emergency management personnel, law enforcement personnel, health care workers and others working to support Essential Businesses and Essential Government Functions like grocery stores and pharmacies are exempt from this stay at home order," the releases stated. "The governor's action formalizes his calls for Illinoisans to stay at home as much as possible aside from meeting their basic needs. According to the governor you can still go to the grocery store and pharmacy, visit a health care provider, put gas in your car, go for a walk or hike, etc."

The release stated Village Hall will be closed to the public "until further notice" while staff that can work from home have been ordered to, and "for essential services, staff will be available by phone, email or through the Village's GOREquest system."

The village will continue to receive correspondences like water bills and permits through its drop box. The village states it is increasing its cleaning efforts in its buildings.

The police department will only respond to "high priority/emergency calls" while reports will be taken for low priorities through 9-1-1.

Buildings and the Bartlett Hills Golf Course will remain closed for now, including the public library which initially was remaining open with limited access. The library's drop box will also be closed, but the library stated it will waive any late fines.

The village also posted a Metra press release stating an alternate weekday schedule has been made. More information on the schedule is available at www.metrail.com.

Coronavirus confirmed for village preschooler



The first recorded case of the coronavirus in Bartlett was reported afflicting a preschool student that attended U-46's Independence School in the village.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

By Seth Hancock

A student from a Bartlett preschool has tested positive for COVID-19, a strain of the coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China.

The student attends Independence Center for Early Learning in School District U-46 according to a message from Superintendent Tony Sanders released on Thursday, March 19. It is the first reported case from the school district.

"The student has been isolated and is expected to remain in isolation/self quarantine to prevent spreading the virus," Sanders wrote. "Due to health privacy laws, the identity of the student will not be released. Please keep this student in your thoughts and prayers and please respect the student and his/her family during this incredibly difficult time. We will provide you with as much information and updates as possible."

Sanders added: "The symptoms of coronavirus are similar to the regular

seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, and coughing. Some people with coronavirus have reported additional symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. In some situations, the virus can develop into pneumonia."

The coronavirus tests are usually given by healthcare providers to those "showing symptoms or those who have other special at-risk conditions," according to Sanders.

The student's mother told WGN News, which reported the child is a 3-year-old making him the youngest coronavirus patient reported in the state, said that her son had been showing symptoms for a month and he was born premature with respiratory issues and they made multiple emergency room visits before being tested.

The positive test came in on Wednesday, March 18, and the boy's parents are both showing symptoms but have not been tested.

Lawn maintenance pact approved by library board

By Kristin Carreno

At the Monday, March 16 meeting of the Bartlett Library District Board, trustees voted unanimously in approval of a lawn maintenance proposal from Abbot Tree Care Professionals, Wayne, at a cost of \$4,320. The agreement will run from April 1 through Nov. 30.

The other proposal was from Bartlett's Sebert Lawn Maintenance, at a cost of \$5,504.

Director Karolyn Nance said Sebert is

the company the library currently uses.

"I am recommending that we go with Abbot based on the significant savings and because we've been with Sebert for a while and I want to change things up and see what other different services are available out there," said Nance.

According to Nance, services will include spring and fall clean-up, mowing, weed control, fertilization, sidewalk edging, pruning and cleaning.

Village Board approves new liquor license class

By Seth Hancock

The Village Board of Trustees unanimously approved the creation of a new class of liquor license at its meeting on Tuesday, March 3.

The vote was an ordinance amendment to the municipal code to create a Class Q liquor license which allows the "licensee to operate a brew pub and/or tap room," according to a memo from Sam Hughes, senior management analyst.

The operating hours allowed to the licensee are 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday and 8 a.m. to 1 a.m. on Sunday through Thursday. The license fee is \$1,500.

Hughes wrote that the licensee "may include outdoor seating areas" by the brew pub operators and allows the retail sale of "beer manufactured by the licensee for consumption on the premises," "beer manufactured by the licensee in sealed packages for off-premises consumption" and "beer and other alcoholic liquors not manu-

factured by the licensee for consumption on the premises."

Furthermore, the license allows the holder to "provide on-premises tastings of beer manufactured by the licensee provided with or without charge, provided no more than six (6) fluid ounces of beer may be given without charge to any person per calendar day and limited to the hours of 12:00 p.m. through 11 p.m.," according to Hughes.

A brew pub is defined in the ordinance as a person or entity producing "no more" than 5,000 barrels, or 155,000 gallons, of beer annually at their designated location for sale.

No specific request was discussed at the meeting or included with the creation of the license, but similar businesses have been discussed in the village over recent years.

Also approved that evening unanimously was a bill list totaling \$557,858. The water fund made up the largest portion at \$355,756.

Police Reports

STREAMWOOD

Friday, March 13

★ At 9:47 p.m. police responded to a report of a violation of an order of a domestic/family issue at 835 Woodland Heights Boulevard. Dennis M. Ward Jr., 28, of the same address was arrested for violating an order of protection. Ward Jr. was transported to the police department where he was later transported to the hospital on petition of a family member. Following release from the hospital he was transported back to the police department and held pending bond call.

Sunday, March 15

★ At 11:28 p.m. in the vicinity of Park Avenue and Liberty Lane, Tyvierr J. Black, 22, of 1227 Rosewood Court, Elgin, was arrested for driving on a suspended license. Black's vehicle was towed and he was transported to the police department where he was later released on an I-bond.

BARTLETT

Sunday, March 15

★ At 12:16 a.m., in the 300 block of Pinoak, Michael A. Neighbors, 32, of the 800 block of Coach, Palatine, was arrested for domestic battery. He was

processed according to department policy and transported to Cook County Jail.

★ At 12:59 a.m., police responded to the 1000 block of Lake for a report of a fight. The officer was able to separate the combatants and restore peace.

★ At 2:19 p.m., police responded to the 100 block of Marion for a report of a domestic in progress. The officer spoke to the parties involved and was able to restore peace.

★ At 4:03 p.m., police responded to 2000 block of Westridge for a report of a domestic in progress. The officer spoke to the parties involved and was able to restore peace.

★ At 7:55 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of Jackson for a noise complaint involving a diesel truck idling. The owner of the truck was contacted. He advised he would be more considerate in the future.

Tuesday, March 17

★ At 2:48 a.m., police responded to the 1900 block of Ridgemoor for a report of a suspicious incident. Complainant advised his dogs had started barking near the front door of his home. He found a footprint mark on the doorstep. Officers searched the area with negative results.

★ At 8:01 a.m., police responded to the 300 block of East Morse for a report of a suspicious person. Complainant advised she had seen two male subjects attempting to gain access to her neighbor's vehicle which was in the driveway with the motor running. They could not as the vehicle was locked.

★ At 10:08 a.m., police responded to the 900 block of West Bartlett for a report of a fight. The combatants were separated and peace was restored.

★ At 10:44 a.m., police responded to the 900 block of Tallgrass for a report of a suspicious person. Complainant advised her surveillance system had shown an unknown subject running across her driveway during the night.

★ At 1:01 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of South Main for a report of a domestic.

★ At 4:42 p.m., police responded to the 200 block of Amherst Meadow for a report of a fraud.

★ At 6:07 p.m., police responded to the 900 block of East Castlewood for a report of a burglary to a motor vehicle. Complainant advised unknown offender(s) had entered his vehicle and stolen a number of tools.

Wednesday, March 18

★ At 12:44 a.m., police responded to the 500 block of Valleyview for a report of a suspicious vehicle. The driver was contacted and found to be waiting to pick up a relative.

U-46 approves dismissal of 381 teachers, staff

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved reduction in force resolutions to send dismissal notices to 381 staff members over its three March meetings.

The board voted 7-0 on one resolution at the March 2 meetings and eight resolutions on March 9, and it voted 6-0, board member Donna Smith was absent, on two resolutions on March 16 which was held electronically with all board members in attendance over the phone due to shutdown orders from the state over COVID-19, a foreign-born strain of the coronavirus originating in Wuhan, China.

Ann Chan, assistant superintendent for human resources, said these were annual resolutions and "dismissal consideration is customary at this time of year in order to follow state requirements." She said dismissed staff can reapply for positions for the next school year.

The first resolution on March 2 authorized the honorable dismissal of 92 teachers.

"These individuals were the pre-tenured teachers hired into part time positions. One-semester only positions, one-year only positions and temporary instructional positions or they were late hires. They did not complete a full school year with you."

The March 9 resolutions included three administrative resolutions which Chan and Superintendent Tony Sanders effectively assured those individuals they will be rehired for new positions next year. Those included five non-renewal of administrative contracts and reassignment of tenured administrators, three total non-renewal of administrative contracts and reassignment of tenured principals and assistant principals and two total non-renewal of first, second and third year non-tenured administrators all due to program restructuring.

Chan said these are "a result of our continuing effort to complete our secondary restructuring. These positions will be closing at the end of the school year, and we are encouraging all of the administrators that are effected in these three resolutions to apply for these new roles for the next school year."

"These are valued administrators within our system," Sanders said. "We will expedite the process of the selection for this new restructuring. I want to make it clear for the public this is only due to restructuring... and we do value these administrators, and we will be working to get them placed as quickly as we can."

Also approved on March 9 was authorizing the honorable dismissal of 72 education support personnel for funded projects, honorable dismissal of 52 teachers, non-renewal of 33 first through third year probationary teachers, notice of dismissal to four final-year probationary teachers and the non-renewal of administrative contract and reassignment of one tenured administrator.

The March 16 meeting included resolutions concerning the SAFE program, a before and after school program, which the district is outsourcing to Right at School.

The first included the honorable dismissal of 115 support personnel due to the program restructuring.

"This resolution is specific to people who work on a part-time basis, mostly as extra-duty work that teachers and other take on that would provide afterschool programming," Sanders said. "These employees will also be eligible to be employed by the new vendor that's taking over our before and after school program."

The second resolution that evening was for honorable dismissal of two SAGE program secretaries who were members of the District U-46 Secretarial Association union.

Streamwood volleyball hoping for a 2020 campaign

By Seth Hancock

The spring athletics season is still in the air over concerns for COVID-19 or coronavirus, but the Streamwood volleyball team has some high hopes for the 2020 campaign when or if it starts.

The Sabres went 10-21 overall last year, 1-6 in the Upstate Eight Conference.

Under new coach Shelly Mueller and with some veteran leadership returning, Streamwood hopes to improve on that this season.

"Overall, we are looking to be competitive this year," Mueller said. "We have a strong conference and being able to improve our conference record is a goal for this team this year. Additionally, we would like to see more wins in both tournaments and regular season games. This team has a lot of potential to have a very successful season."

Mueller added: "We have a lot of offensive options this year. We have experienced returning hitters in all positions. I am excited to see our experienced players help our inexperienced players develop quickly this season. We are also putting up a really nice block with some height this year. I have been really pleased with how eager the team is to improve and wanting to play at a high level."

Some key returners include senior outside hitters Roberto Sanchez, who had over 100 kills last season, and David Flores as well as junior middle blocker Angel Robelo.

Some newcomers to watch are juniors Abdur Mnasri (middle hitter) and Bijin Zachariah (setter).

"We have a very strong group of athletes this year," Mueller said. "We have a few players with lots of volleyball knowledge but many of our players are still learning the game at a varsity level. I am excited to see how our experienced players can build the teams' knowledge and work with some athletes at bettering their volleyball skills."

Mueller added: "Overall, we are going to have a strong front row with a big block and I look forward to a very dynamic offensive this year. We are developing our skills with passing and defense as well as setting. When all of our pieces come together, we are going to be a very good team."

The season has been delayed until at least Tuesday, March 31 due to the state's action to close down all schools due to the coronavirus fears.

The first potential scheduled game for the Sabres is a nonconference road contest at Nazareth Academy on March 31.



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WILLIAM F. KELLEY
MATTHEW X. KELLEY
SCOTT C. ZAMBO—Associate

High school

Continued from page 1

On the athletics front, Bral said sports are a school's culture, and when a team is doing good it lifts the spirits of the entire school. He said this whole situation should help coaches grow as they learn more how to deal with the emotional side of social and emotional learning.

Right now, student athletes are hurting not being on their respective playing fields and Bral said he along with coaches need to help keep things positive, and he said he's seen some creative things like the principal at his school where he attended growing up reading a nightly bed time story

which students can access online.

Bral said while the NCAA can grant another year of eligibility to collegiate athletes, the same can't be done for high schoolers which is why he hopes a spring season can take place especially for those seniors who may be preparing for their final season of organized sports.

"I hurt for those seniors who are worried that they might not have another season," Bral said. "I see the social media posts, and these kids want to get out there and play. That is completely gut wrenching for me."

Bral added: "For a lot of these kids, they need sports. They need sports to do well in school because it motivates them."

Hawks' Luczynski lands on all-UEC team

By Seth Hancock

A young Bartlett boys basketball team showed some potential this season which could bode well for next season.

The Hawks, who were 10-20 overall and 7-11 in the Upstate Eight Conference, were dominated by juniors this year with 10 while also including four seniors and two sophomores. One of those sophomores was Conrad Luczynski who capped the season with all-conference honors.

Luczynski, a 6-foot-10 center, transferred to Bartlett from St. Francis, and Hawks coach Jim Wolfsmith said early in the season he immediately fit in with his teammates.

"He's fitting in great," Wolfsmith said. "The guys love him. He's just a sophomore. He didn't play last year, he only practiced."

Wolfsmith added: "Part of it is learning. He still has some work to do, but he is working and growing his game. I think he's done a good job showing some composure in some pressure situations."

uations."

From the beginning of the season, Luczynski showed his potential. In the Hawks opening Thanksgiving tournament at Wheaton North, he posted a 30-point, 12-rebound game in a 95-93 double overtime win over Streamwood.

A bit of an oddity, Bartlett ended up playing Streamwood four times, splitting with them going 2-2, with a pair of UEC games and two tournament games, and Luczynski had three double-doubles in the series. He had 12 points and 15 rebounds in a 77-70 loss and 13 points and 10 rebounds in an 80-73 win.

Some other big games for Luczynski included 20 points, nine rebounds and four blocked shots in a 49-42 win over West Chicago, 15 points along with 10 rebounds and three blocks in a 60-56 loss to Glenbard South and 12 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks in a 45-42 loss against Fenton.

Bartlett will lose seniors John Rivera, Liam Gallagher, Cameron Kunzer and

Jack Kline.

Although under .500 in the UEC, the Hawks' losses were all by seven points or less until a 64-50 loss in their regular season finale against Glenbard East. Bartlett hopes the experienced gained this year will lead to success in

the 2020-2021 season.

"Literally we were 15 possessions from having an 18-win season," Wolfsmith said. "Hopefully they take the lessons from the teams we played, what we need to do to get better and how we need to be more consistent."



Conrad Luczynski above the floor while shooting over Glenbard East's Jack Rivas during an October 2019 home game this past season.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

McVicar earns all-UEC honors for South Elgin

By Seth Hancock

A young South Elgin boys basketball team, which included eight juniors and five sophomores, finished the 2019-2020 campaign 13-20 overall, 8-10 in the Upstate Eight Conference.

Sophomore Lane McVicar, a 6-foot-3 guard/forward, has already had a couple valuable seasons under his belt. As a freshman he averaged 6.5 points, 3.2 rebounds and 1.3 assists and was a valuable contributor on a veteran dominated team that advanced to a sectional final game.

This season, McVicar became one of the leaders and earned all-conference honors in the UEC along the way.

"We're a young team, so we've just focused on improving each game," McVicar said during the course of the season. "We've shown what we're capable of in some big games, and we've really focused on ball movement and making sure everyone gets a touch."

"Last years' experience makes me one of the leaders as a sophomore, which is really crazy to think about," McVicar added. "We're helping out

the team, showing them the flow of the game and how varsity works."

McVicar spent a portion of the season sidelined with an ankle injury, but his work ethic helped get him back on the court strong.

Storm coach Brett Johnson said McVicar "would sleep in the gym if we let him." He added that McVicar "hits shots when he has to hit shots, and he gets defensive stops when they matter the most."

Offensively, McVicar's biggest game was a 20-point contest against Larkin, which the Storm won 56-50. He consistently reached double digits while also making valuable contributions on defense.

The Storm will lose three seniors in Moses Montgomery, Derryl Barnes Jr. and Joseph Zdybel.

For Johnson, he lauded his team's effort throughout the season.

"I'm proud of the fight that we've had all season," Johnson said. "Being as young as we are, we had some big victories against some tough teams and we came to fight every night."



Lane McVicar attacking the Elgin basket between the Maroons' Jeffrey Lomax, left, and Giovanni Griffin this season.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

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Sabres' Coney honored with all-conference nod

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood boys basketball team completed a 15-16 season, 10-8 in the Upstate Eight Conference.

Leading the way was senior Lorenzo "Zo" Coney who earned a spot on the UEC all-conference team. He shot 45.1 percent from the field this year and finished with 12.9 points, 5.6 rebounds, 2.6 assists and 2.4 steals per game.

"Zo was a very good team player, focused and hard working," said Streamwood coach Kent Payne. "He competed every day in practice and games, and we'll miss his all-out attitude and style of play."

The Sabres will also lose senior Luke Pentecost.

"Lorenzo Coney and Luke Pentecost have really stepped in and improved through the course of the season,"

Payne said.

It was a roller coaster season for the Sabres who saw some highs and lows, and they return the vast majority of the roster.

Streamwood have three players expected to return next year who averaged double digits in scoring for the years including juniors Jakobe Strong (14.7 points), Kyle Maybrun (12.8 points) and Zach Marquez (12.3 points). Strong also led the team in rebounds (6.4), assists (3.6) and steals (2.6).

"We were competitive this year, but we just didn't get it done against the above average and good teams," Payne said. He added: "We shoot pretty well and we hustle. Their hustle efforts are just fantastic. The potential is there, but it's up to them to do the off-season work necessary."

Intergovernmental pact ratified by District U-46

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved of an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the Village of Bartlett on Monday, March 16.

The vote was 6-0, board member Donna Smith was absent. The meeting was held electronically with all board members phoning in due to the ongoing state shutdown measures being taken over COVID-19.

The IGA is a non-exclusive license agreement in order to use a portion of a village-owned water tower. The purpose of the agreement is for "the construction, operation and maintenance of radio communications facilities, including an equipment box, within the base of the Tower, and to install and operate a certain transmit and receive antenna to be attached to the top portion of the Tower and to run cable from the antenna through, outside and inside of the Tower to the equipment box," the agreement states.

U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders elaborated saying it's "necessary for

us to do our radio extenders working alongside the village to place an antenna on top of the Villa Olivia water tower."

The school district would "install, paint, maintain, operate and replace" the equipment according to the IGA. U-46 will have access to the water tower 24 hours a day in order to maintain the equipment.

Sanders said there was no cost to the agreement, but ultimately there will be cost for the purchase and installation of the equipment.

Board member Melissa Owens asked if those costs will come before the board at a future meeting, but Sanders said it is not required because it will be under \$25,000.

"The equipment is under the limits that would require board approval," Sanders said. "So that would not be something coming back forward to the board."

Owens asked if this was a replacement for old equipment, but Sanders said it was not adding: "This is an addition allowing us to bump up our service, the extension area."

Sabres softball looking to offer surprises in 2020

By Seth Hancock

Despite the spring sports season being in doubt due to the coronavirus, the Streamwood softball team is looking to have a successful 2020 season under new coach Colleen Hill.

Last year, the Sabres finished 15-10 overall, 11-7 in the Upstate Eight Conference. Hill said this year's team will be young, but it could surprise some teams.

"Despite losing five graduating players last year, Streamwood High School softball has a versatile group coming back that is hard working and dedicated to the program," Hill said. "This year will bring on some challenges, however this team will be up for the task."

Hill added: "Everyone compliments one another well, and the compassion and drive the team has for this game will make it exciting to watch. I believe that some teams will be surprised by the performance of this softball team this year, and a fun and exciting season is expected."

Streamwood will return eight players from last season's squad, two of the key returners being senior Gabriella Cardinale, a four-year

starter, and junior Tessa Freedman, a three-year starter.

Freedman, the Sabres first baseman the last two seasons, earned all-conference honors last year with a .990 fielding percentage defensively and at the plate she batted .494 with 38 hits, 29 RBI, 29 runs, eight doubles, three triples and two home runs.

"The newcomers to the team have worked hard and are working on adapting to the change, and the team as a whole has been demonstrating the importance of working together as a unit," Hill said. "We have five seniors on the team who have demonstrated excellent leadership, and are expected to serve as an example and to lead the team."

Hill added: "This year we will have a pretty strong infield along with a fast and developing outfield. There will be some newer pitchers that are going to be on the mound this year gaining some experience at this level. The team will consist of some contact hitters, along with some who will be able to drive the ball through in order to score some runs."

When and if the season begins remains an unknown variable.



During a December 2019 game this past season, Lorenzo Coney taking a baseline route for the Sabres after negotiating around the Rams' LaDaylin Kew.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

U-46 Board approves three expense proposals

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 approved of \$7.5 million over three expenditure proposals under the consent agenda by a 6-0 vote, board member Donna Smith was absent, at its meeting on Monday, March 16.

All board members in attendance called in by phone as the state continues to be shut down over the coronavirus.

U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders said at the meeting he expected all approved projects to not be interrupted by the shutdown as school was originally expected to come back into session on Tuesday, March 31. Gov. J.B. Pritzker has since ordered schools to remain closed until Wednesday, April 8 which may force some changes in project dates.

The largest item was a \$7.1 million bid from Happ Builders, Inc., to be paid from the operations and maintenance fund, for a renovation project at Elgin's Larkin High School. The proposal stated construction was scheduled to start April 7 with completion by Aug. 3.

The project is part of renovations to take place at all five district high schools for transition to career and educational pathways, and Larkin will be the first to be renovated.

"Although Larkin will house various Pathways, the Culinary Arts, Early Childcare, and Healthcare Sciences will require extensive renovations in order to provide spaces that fully support the curriculum," the proposal states. "During this time, we will also update the science classrooms, lab spaces, and prep rooms to bring those spaces up to current standards."

The district will spend \$222,400, paid by the nation's taxpayers through Title II funds, with Harvard Graduate

School of Education to be a part of its instructional rounds learning walk network.

"The Learning Walk process provides formative assessment data that supports the implementation of standards-based teaching and learning," the proposal stated. "Examining and analyzing this data is a key practice of continuous school improvement. The Learning Walk Committee has selected Instructional Rounds as the framework for learning visits in the district."

A \$145,294 bid from was approved from WESCO/CSC (education fund), for uninterruptible power supply (UPS) which "will provide a UPS in 77 Intermediate Distribution Frame (IDF) closets. This upgrade will prevent students, teachers, and staff from losing connection to the internet, internal network, and telecommunication system," the proposal states.

U-46 plans to use e-rate funding, a federal program that would make the nation's taxpayers fund 80 percent of the project. The work was expected to start on April 1.

Two bids were lower including N1 Critical Technologies (\$107,723) and MVation Worldwide (\$143,655). The proposal stated N1 "did not meet physical and mechanical minimum specs," and MVation "did not include the required licensing costs, and the vendor did not respond to requests for proposal clarification."

Also approved 6-0 were \$8 million in itemized bills, a personnel report and workers' compensation cases and two staff dismissals including a tenured teacher, Robert Brault, for cause as well as the termination of a noon hour supervisor.

The personnel report included one workers' compensation case totaling \$50,000 for a teacher at Elgin's Ellis Middle School.