

## Press Clippings 05/09/20 to 05/11/20

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**---Press Clippings---05/11/2020**  
**There are no U-46 related news stories.**

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### **---The Courier-News---05/10/2020**

#### **Class of 2020 yard signs bring recognition**

Amid a senior year cut short, displays honoring milestone accomplishments

**By: Rafael Guerrero**



Elgin High School Principal Krystal Thomas, left, and Assistant Principal Gamila Williams, right, drop off a yard sign Tuesday at the residence of one of the school's graduating seniors. (Chicago Tribune)



Approximately 400 signs were ordered for Larkin High School's Class of 2020 students. (Tanya Carver)

South Elgin High School's athletics department distributed yard signs to McKenna Eichholz and other graduating spring athletes in recognition of their statuses as Class of 2020 student-athletes. These signs are separate from ones the school ordered for all Class of 2020 students.

Like others, Eichholz's senior year and associated events were cut short due to the coronavirus pandemic: no spring commencement, no senior softball season, none of the pomp and circumstance.

"A lot of the seniors appear very grateful for everything they've gotten so far," said Eichholz, 18. "All of us are trying to make the little things count. Even something as simple as a yard sign means a lot."

Hundreds of yard signs have been ordered and distributed to students graduating from School District U-46 high schools this spring, recognizing the milestone accomplishments associated with completing K-12. It may not seem like much, but students, parents, and educators say they appreciate the gesture.

South Elgin High School's booster club ordered yard signs for 89 spring student-athletes whose seasons were cut short. Boosters president Bob Strama said these signs were in addition to the 600 or so signs the high school ordered separately for all seniors.

"In the fall and winter sports, the seniors were recognized during the final home games. Since there weren't any games (this spring), we wanted to do some recognition for the spring athletes," he said.

"I wish there was more we can do," added athletic director Mike Jezioro.

"For athletes, you never know when your last game, your last at-bat, your last shot could be...we always try to harp on those kids to enjoy it because you never know," Jezioro said.

Eichholz is fortunate that as a multi-sport athlete she was recognized as a senior this past fall for swimming. That was not the case for everyone, she said.

"Knowing that possibly my last time to play softball (in high school) was back in September or October was something that is so hard to comprehend. That is very hard to believe," said Eichholz; she will play softball in college next school year.

"You should never take the little things for granted," she added.

The district's high schools ordered and delivered signs to students at different times these last few weeks. CEO Tony Sanders shared photos of him delivering signs personally to Streamwood and Bartlett high school students in April.

Signs for Larkin High School seniors arrived at the end of April. Booster club co-vice president Tanya Carver said they ordered approximately 400 signs for students.

Like the other schools, the signs were free of charge to the families. Carver said it was the least they could do for students and their families whose celebrations were likely upended.

"I currently have a freshman at Larkin. My oldest son graduated from Larkin in 2019, so I know the importance of the things these students have lost out on," she said.

Elgin High School ordered 645 yard signs for its graduating seniors, and nearly all the signs were delivered Tuesday.

Principal Krystal Thomas said a group of about 60 staff and parent volunteers made the door-to-door distribution possible.

"Because we had so many volunteers, when we started and left here at 6 p.m...I was able to get back to the school at 7:30," she said.

The volunteer group delivered the signs to students' homes, all while keeping their social distance, Thomas said. They will do something similar when caps and gowns are delivered next week.

“We had students like crying because they just missed us — it’s just not the same without them,” she said.

“It was really pretty amazing to see them again because the students, I think they miss us just as much as we miss them,” Thomas added. “But they’re teenagers so they may not want to admit it.”

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