

Press Clippings 05/22/20

---The Courier-News---05/22/2020

Scholarships awarded to 20 graduating U-46 students who will be first in their families to go to college

By: Rafael Guerrero

Twenty U-46 graduates have been awarded \$1,000 Superintendent's Scholarships from the district.

Recipients chosen for the annual scholarships are the first in their families to attend a college, university or other higher education institution.

"These first generation students have proven through their academic and extracurricular accomplishments that they are college-ready, poised to take on the challenges of continuing their education past high school," Superintendent Tony Sanders said in the news release. "We look forward to watching these students continue to succeed in college and beyond."

the Superintendent's Scholarship fund was established in 2012 and is funded through the U-46 Educational Foundation, the district's philanthropic arm. Nearly 250 U-46 graduates have received this scholarship since its inception.

This year's group includes students from five U-46 high schools:

- Bartlett High School: Grant Simmons, Karina Flores, Michael Ian Rabanal and Sophie Praxmarer;
- Elgin High School: Arielle Taylor, Briauna Brown, Emily Acevedo and Monserrat Ponce;
- Larkin High School: Berenice Gomez, Edson Rangel, Marteena Mendel-Duckins and Ricardo Golden-Garcia;
- South Elgin High School: Dulce Aguilar, Hannah Kolbusz, Karolina Terlikowski and Mercedes Alejandre;
- Streamwood High School: Brandon Munoz, Gabriella Cardinale, Kaleb Louden and Lynise Gutierrez

Scholarship applicants had to provide their high school transcripts, Federal Student Aid application, letter of recommendation from an adult and a personal essay, the release said. A panel of judges chose the 20 scholarship winners.

U-46 to spend \$170,000 to buy portable bleachers

Seats will be used at large gatherings, sporting events

By: Rafael Guerrero

The District U-46 School Board this week approved spending \$170,000 to purchase portable bleachers for temporary seating at big-crowd gatherings and sporting events.

Buying the bleachers, which will can seat up to 1,200 people, will save the district money over the long-term because bleachers will no longer need to be rented, officials said.

South Elgin High School has rented portable bleachers on three separate occasions, according to school board documents. Each set cost between \$1,100 and \$1,900 and three to six sets have been needed per event or game.

“Over time, this recurring expense becomes quite costly and expends funds that could be used for other athletic expenses,” the proposal said. “Renting bleachers is the only way that administration can accommodate all the spectators without displacing the band.”

Bartlett High School has rented bleachers for two to three football games per season because its 1,800-seat stadium cannot accommodate the crowds that some games attract, board documents said. Its home football games against South Elgin require six sets of rental bleachers at \$1,500 to \$1,800 per set.

The purchase not only accommodates big events at the U-46 schools with stadiums but will also allow Larkin High School to host more events, such as track and field events at the school’s new track, officials said.

The four sets of bleachers to be purchased can be mounted within a compact trailer, allowing for transportation between the schools when needed, the proposal said. The bleachers are hydraulically operated and can be set up in less than 10 minutes.

“They’re actually able to be moved in just one of our pickup trucks,” Plant Operations Director Sheila Downs told school board members when the subject was first discussed May 4 by the board. “They will be used in all five high schools in addition to the middle schools, if so needed.”

The purchase is included in the current school year’s budget and will be paid for with money in the district’s operations and maintenance funds.



The purchase of portable bleachers that can seat up to 1,200 people means School District U-46 no longer will have to rent bleachers for big events, such as when Bartlett High School hosts South Elgin for football games. (H. Rick Bamman/Courier-News 2019)

---Daily Herald---05/22/2020

Fifth-graders come up with winning solutions

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy



Glenbrook Elementary School fifth-graders, top from left, Mannat Ashta and Veer Gupta, and bottom from left, Yuvan Ganne and Risha Lakkadi placed first in the Future Problem Solvers state competition and will participate in a virtual international contest in June.



Bartlett High School ninth-graders, from left, Anant Sheth, Mann Shett, Danyal Sulemanjee and Arjun Sivasankaran placed second in the Future Problem Solvers state contest in April and will participate in the virtual international contest in June.

Solving a growing global refugee crisis is an ongoing challenge for nations and world leaders.

But crafting solutions 25 years into the future takes some creativity.

It's what earned a team of fifth-graders from Glenbrook Elementary School in Streamwood first place in the Future Problem Solvers state competition.

Their innovative ideas included photon teleportation to help refugees get from one place to another, an artificial intelligence-powered speaking chip to help translate their thoughts into the host country's language, and using 5G holographic devices to help teach them farming skills.

“(The ideas) are always going to be a little bit out there,” said Ellen Smith, a coach for Elgin Area School District U-46's IGNITE gifted education program. “They always have to be futuristic.”

Future Problem Solvers is an international program aimed at developing students' problem-solving and critical-thinking skills.

Glenbrook's IGNITE program fifth-graders Mannat Ashta, Risha Lakkadi, Veer Gupta and Yuvan Ganne won Illinois' junior division contest in April in which 34 teams competed.

They next will compete in a virtual international competition June 5 against teams from 38 states and 15 countries. Their problem topic is terraforming — transforming a planet to resemble earth so it can support human life.

Team members previously competed as fourth-graders and won state in the elementary division last year but did not place in the international competition.

“This year, they are not as nervous because they did it once before,” Smith said.

A team of four ninth-graders from Bartlett High School’s STEM Magnet Academy placed second at state. They also will move on to the international contest. Those students are: Mann Sheth, Anant Sheth, Arjun Sivasankaran, and Danyal Sulemanjee.

“I have really seen the program grow and succeed,” Smith said. “I am very proud of all the students who join, as it does require a lot of extra work, above and beyond the work they do for their classes.”

SPORTS

---The Courier-News---05/22/2020

Negron ‘made a very good choice,’ coach says

Without a campus visit, South Elgin senior commits to Northern Michigan

By: Paul Johnson



South Elgin’s Angelina Negron, right, attacks the ball in the first game against Bartlett in 2019. (Brian O’Mahoney / The Courier-News)

South Elgin senior Angelina Negron was late to the recruiting game.

As the calendar flipped to March, Negron had yet to commit to a college.

“Once it got to March, my family and I were starting to get stressed,” Negron said. “My parents were reminding me that I needed to commit somewhere soon.”

Negron’s main suitor was NCAA Division II Northern Michigan, and she scheduled a trip to the Upper Peninsula for spring break. Then the coronavirus pandemic changed everything.

With campuses shut down, her recruiting process turned unconventional. Still, Negron committed in April to Northern Michigan. An outside hitter for the Storm, she will shift back to being a middle for the Wildcats.

“I had to commit without seeing the campus,” Negron said. “It was really nerve-wracking. I was like, ‘Am I going to like it there?’ I had to make sure I was comfortable with the people first.

“The coach and the team were very good. They were comforting and welcoming. That alone made me comfortable with committing there.”

Always willing to play whatever position the team needs, Negron shifted to the outside for her senior season at South Elgin. She had 282 kills, 294 digs and 33 aces.

A first team all-area selection, Negron helped to lead the Storm to their first-ever conference title and a trip to the regional championship match.

Negron grew over her four years on varsity, both on and off the court. She progressed from the youngest player on the team for most of her career.

She was only 13 when she first enrolled at South Elgin, but as the lone varsity returnee this season, would be thrust into a leadership role.

“It will be very different because this year I really took on the leader role for the team, but the years before I was always the youngest one,” Negron said. “That was a good chance to get that leadership experience, and I feel like it will help me having both sides.”

South Elgin coach Joni Plach was pleased Negron eventually found the right fit.

“I think she made a very good choice,” Plach said. “Academics are very important to her. She’s going to play volleyball, but most importantly, she’s there to pursue her education.”

Negron hopes to eventually get into dentistry.

“I wanted to make sure the science department was good and had the program for me to prepare for grad school,” Negron said. “It also made me feel better about going there.”

Plach knows with a young team coming back at South Elgin, having a player and leader like Negron move on to the next level will reverberate throughout the program.

“The younger kids look up to Angie,” Plach said. “She’s just the nicest-hearted girl out there. She talks to the freshmen and sophomores and roots them on, asks how they’re doing. She just wanted to help everybody.

“For them to see the hard work and the role model she is and see her play at the next level, it does a lot for them.”