

Press Clippings 4/27/2022

Chicago Tribune/The Courier-News

Elgin News Digest --- 4/26/2022

By Mike Danahey

U-46 seeking community input on facilities plan

School District U-46 is hosting a community engagement session for its facilities master plan at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 27, in the U-46 Welcome Center, 1019 E. Chicago St., Elgin.

Attendees will learn about the condition of U-46 facilities, how they impact student achievement and trends in enrollment. The district is seeking to work with the community on the development of a plan to provide equitable access learning environments to support academic success for all students.

To register, go to www.u-46.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=15447.

U-46 schools getting new playground equipment

Three District U-46 elementary schools will be receiving new playground equipment to replace outdated items under plans approved Monday by the School Board.

An expenditure of about \$211,000 was authorized for Game Time of Charlotte, North Carolina, to purchase new playsets to be installed at at Harriet Gifford Elementary in Elgin, Parkwood Elementary in Hanover Park and Ridge Circle in Streamwood.

All of the playground equipment being replaced is more than 22 years old, outdated and can no longer be fixed because replacement parts are not available, district officials said.

Delivery is expected in 12 to 14 weeks per terms of the contract.

The Examiner of Bartlett

Course proposed ratified for Streamwood High ---

4/27/2022

By Seth Hancock – Note: This story also ran in The Examiner of South Elgin and in The Examiner of Streamwood

A new course, ACCEleratoredu, will be offered at Streamwood High School's magnet academy in 2022- 2023.

The curriculum proposal was approved by the School District U-46 Board of Education in March by a 5-0 vote, board members John Devereux and Veronica Noland were absent.

The cost over six years for the curriculum, through Uncharted Learning, is \$15,000. It includes access to online resources and materials.

The course, which is senior-level, follows the current junior-level course INCubatorEDU. The senior-level course “provides students with the opportunity to take a business from startup to launched.”

The course description states: “As a complement to the INCubatoredu course, ACCELeratoredu™ fosters startup development to transition the business founded in INCubatoredu into a sustainable, functioning business. This includes growing a customer pipeline and customer processing, submitting legal documents to become a recognized entity at the state and federal level, creating contracts or terms and agreements for customers, developing the typical operating systems for the business, and continuing to build, test, and iterate the product or service. Throughout the program the students work through four major areas of content: legal and banking, customer acquisition, business processes, and solution development. Students leave the course having gained traction in the marketplace to successfully launch their company.”

Prior to the meeting, board member Dawn Martin inquired about a planned summer camp for students who would enter the course would take part in expressing concerns for students who may have summer jobs or family trips. A district memo stated the “summer portion of the course is not required,” and added it’s “investigating” other options.

Martin also expressed concerns because some families might be hesitant with their children starting businesses that includes maintaining legal documents after the course is over.

The memo stated students “have the option of dissolving their businesses completely or transferring their portion of the business to a team member who would like to continue. If a student or a family was uncomfortable with the legal aspects of starting a business, they could still participate in the course as ‘interns’ for another business. Utilizing a school-based business like a school store is also an option.”

The Examiner of Bartlett

Expenditure items ratified by Dist. U-46 board vote ---

4/27/2022

By Seth Hancock – Note: This story also ran in The Examiner of South Elgin and in The Examiner of Streamwood

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved of \$5.1 million in expenditure items at its meeting on Monday, April 11.

Included was \$75,000, paid for by the nation's taxpayers through federal funds, to send 45 people to Orlando, Florida from June 22 to June 24 for the Building Expertise Annual Conference through the Learning Sciences International (LSI), which the district paid out \$18.5 million last year for openly theoretical work.

After purchasing additional seats to the conference, the breakdown for travel and lodging for the 45 is just under \$1,500 each. The proposal stated those who attend the conference will "explore the concepts of rigor and equity in learning and education."

During public comments, Marie Schnaitman called the trip "a senseless, costly mistake" stating the district needs to focus on its falling math, reading and science scores rather than social and emotional learning.

"I will remind you it is not the role of the school system to sway the young minds of students towards this very progressive, radical ideology," Schnaitman said. "The parents of School District U-46's K-12 children are responsible for family and social values, morals, civic duty, understanding right versus wrong, how to interpret and strengthen with life's lessons and everything else that make's a child an eventual contributing member of society."

A \$4.9 million (operations and maintenance fund) expenditure was approved with Northwest Contractors, Inc. for the first phase of renovations at Streamwood High School for the educational pathways program.

Presented and approved that evening was \$67,390 (operations and maintenance fund) with Fox Valley Fire and Safety for an emergency fire alarm replacement at Hanover Park's Ontarioville Elementary School that took place last December. The proposal stated "the main control board failed on the fire alarm panel" on Dec. 2, and the replacement was done on Dec. 8.

Also unanimously approved was \$10.9 million in itemized bills.

Daily Herald

Softball: Young hitters power Larkin to strong start ---

4/26/2022

By Mike Miazga, Daily Herald Correspondent

Things continue to look bright for **Larkin** (8-4 overall, 4-2 Upstate Eight Conference), who beat Glenbard East in Lombard 12-7 recently for a big conference win.

At the plate, underclassmen are getting it done for coach Anne Vogt. Freshman Mya Bermudez was hitting .677 with 4 doubles, 3 triples, 10 runs scored and 11 RBI. Junior Baylei Johnson was at .537 with 4 doubles, 2 triples, 5 home runs, 18 runs scored and 20 RBI. Freshman Julissa Aguinaga was hitting .519 with 3 doubles, 1 triple, 15 runs scored and 10 RBI. Vogt also has been pleased with freshman Kaitlyn Neubert, who was hitting .462 with 4 doubles, 1 triple, a homer, 17 runs scored and 11 RBI, "playing a rock-solid center field," Vogt said. Senior pitcher Kailey Cronin is 5-2 with a 2.82 ERA and has 2 game-winning hits to her credit.

"We are off to a great start," Vogt said. "We have a solid group of contributors this season."

Huntley update:

The Huntley softball team continues to be on point, coming off a split against Lincoln-Way East and St. Charles East -- two of the top programs around.

Jori Heard's perfect game in the circle propelled the Red Raiders to a 1-0 win over Lincoln-Way East. Huntley lost to St. Charles East 1-0. "That was a very big win over Lincoln-Way East," Huntley coach Mark Petryniec noted.

Petryniec added Huntley has been helped on the offensive side by the likes of Reese Hunkins and Zoe Doherty. Huntley was 12-5 to start the week.

St. Charles East update:

The wins continue to pile up for the St. Charles East softball team.

After a Monday win over town neighbor St. Charles North, the Saints were 14-2 overall and 3-1 in conference play. East is on an 8-game winning streak, that included a big 1-0 win over Huntley.

At the plate, Cici Wilson started the week hitting .488 with 5 doubles and 3 home runs. Sam Gaca was hitting .378 with 3 doubles and a homer. Nicole Johnson was at .375 with 1 double and 4 home runs.

Izzy Howe was 8-1 with a 1.91 ERA at week's start -- with 128 strikeouts in 62 innings. Grace Hautzinger was 5-1 with a 2.94 ERA to go with 55 strikeouts against 7 walks.

Also of note, Stephanie Schnite had a key 3-run homer against Wheaton Warrenville South, while Bri Risley had a 2-run shot against Glenbard North. "Both homers proved to give us a comfortable lead that we were able to hold the rest of the game," East coach Jarod Guetsha said.

Guetscha likes the balance the Saints have presented so far this season. "We have a balanced team and have been highly productive offensively and defensively, and our pitching has been excellent. We have played a strong schedule that has prepared us to enter the heart of our conference schedule. Our offensive lineup is full of players who have the ability to put a charge into a ball."

Aurora Central Catholic update:

ACC started the week 4-1 in Metro Suburban Conference Blue Division play (7-4 overall) thanks in part to some lofty hitting numbers from the trio of senior Olivia Hernandez (.531, 3 HR, 14 RBI), sophomore Amelia Lohrey (.483, 12 runs, 10 RBI) and freshman Ashley Moore (.400, 11 runs, 10 RBI).

The Chargers also been bolstered by the pitching of Lohrey (4-0), Kate Gambro (3-0, 1.15 WHIP) and freshman Brooklyn Marks (36 K in 22 IP).

Coach Mark Pasqualini has been pleased in particular of late with the play of Hernandez and Lohrey. "Every ball Olivia hits is solid and hit hard," he said. "Teams are pitching around her. At catcher, very few runners will take a chance to run on her arm. She's one of the top players in the state. Amelia has been consistently producing all season on offense."

To end last week, ACC was still in the hole in games played (11) vs. games canceled (12).

Burlington Central update:

After a 1-2 start, the Rockets were 5-1 over their last six and came into the week 6-3 overall and 2-3 in Fox Valley action. Anna Sanders is leading the way, hitting .387 with 12 hits in 31 at-bats to go with 13 runs scored. "With such a late start due to bad weather and bad luck, we haven't really figured out who we are," coach Scott Richman said. "Every day we add another piece to the puzzle."

Dundee-Crown update:

The Chargers (6-7 overall, 3-4 FVC) picked up a pair of big conference wins last week against Jacobs and Crystal Lake Central.

In those two wins, McKayla Anderson was the winning pitcher and also hit a grand-slam home run over the fence vs. Crystal Lake Central.

St. Charles North update:

To start the week, Leigh VandeHei was leading the North Stars in hitting at .563 (1.329 on-base plus slugging percentage) with 21 runs scored and 8 stolen bases. Sophia Olman was at .519 (1.198 OPS) with 12 RBI, while Morgan Lahner was at .400 (1.033 OPS).

In the circle, Ava Goettel was 6-0 in 6 starts with 42 strikeouts and a 1.00 ERA for North, which started the season with 8 wins in its first 9 games.

South Elgin update:

Weather continues to be a battle for all teams, including the Storm, who logged only a pair of games last week (lost to West Chicago and beat Glenbard South). South Elgin came into the week 11-4 overall and 4-1 in Upstate Eight play.

Hannah Harms and Cara Cruthers continue to tear it up. Harms was hitting .569 to start the week with 6 doubles, 7 home runs, 20 RBI and 23 runs scored. Cruthers was at .542 with 9 doubles, 8 home runs, 22 RBI and 26 runs scored. Sammy Jimenez was right there as well, hitting .468 with 7 doubles, 5 homers, 22 RBI and 21 runs scored.

Pitching-wise, CeCe Bell was 5-3 with a 3.72 ERA and had 39 strikeouts in 41 innings of work, while Anna Kiel was 3-1 with a 3.15 ERA with 54 strikeouts in 34 innings.

Hampshire update:

The Whips started the week on a 3-game winning streak that put them at 7-6 overall and 3-3 in Fox Valley play. Elyse Garcia is leading the team in most offensive categories, while Bria Riebel also has played well. "Both girls are hitting really well and playing great defense," Hampshire coach Jeremy Bauer said. "We are getting better defensively and our pitching is keeping us in games. We will need to continue to make improvements as the season goes on, but I like where we are right now."

Elgin update:

The Maroons recently notched a win over St. Edward in the Larkin Slugfest and played a strong game against Dundee-Crown.

"We really needed these games for the girls to see what they are capable of doing and to see how far they have come so far this season," Elgin coach Monica Stockman said. "The girls are still growing in their softball abilities. We are working on situational plays and having more hustle to fly balls. We are taking baby steps, but stepping in the right direction."

Freshman Ali Sondergaard was hitting .500 to start the week, while sophomore Madison King and freshman Braedyn Tetrev have both been contributors in the circle.

Sophomore Monica Martinez has done well in the outfield, while freshman Grace Tetrev has helped on the bases.

"Monica stepped up to play outfield and is now one of our best girls at tracking fly balls," Stockman said. "Grace is super speedy when running the bases."

Daily Herald

Baseball: Bartlett's bats stay hot in win over Larkin ---

4/26/2022

By Craig Brueske, Daily Herald Correspondent

A day after unloading for 20 runs in an Upstate Eight Conference triumph over Fenton, **Bartlett's** baseball team continued its surge during Tuesday's 15-8 victory over **Larkin** in Elgin.

The Hawks (7-9, 6-5) jumped on top early, scoring 8 runs over the first 2 innings, highlighted by their 4-run, 6-hit outburst in the opening frame.

After Pat Nelson's 1-out double, Josh Schuberth delivered an RBI double to give the Hawks a 1-0 lead, before Daniel Krulak followed with his own run-scoring double to up the margin to 2-0.

Junior left-handed hitting first baseman Mario Prieto stepped to the plate and sent the first offering from Royals starting pitcher Joe Grommes over the right-center fence for a 2-run home run -- his second of the season -- and a 4-0 advantage.

"It was a pitch down the middle," said Prieto. "It was first pitch attack. I always attack -- I hate taking pitches. It felt good coming off the bat."

Prieto, who went 3 for 4 with a walk and 5 RBI, added a 2-run double as part of the Hawks' 4-run second.

"The one thing we're trying to preach is to attack early," said Bartlett coach Christopher Baum. "A lot of our guys are attacking early in the count."

"As pitchers, they're taught to get ahead in the count, so hitters have to take advantage of those pitchers trying to get ahead. We're attacking right now, and it's showing on the scoreboard."

Bartlett's lead grew to 12-3 following a 4-run fourth that included a triple by designated hitter Krulak (3 for 5, 2 RBI), Prieto's RBI single, an RBI double off the bat of Colin Swalley (2 for 3), and Zach Mitchell's sacrifice fly.

The Hawks finished with 15 hits, 8 of them of the extra-base variety. Cole Spresser added a pair of RBI singles in the sixth and seventh innings.

"We kind of carried it over from yesterday," said Baum. "We hit the ball well yesterday, so it was nice to see it carry over to today. Hopefully, this is the start of some offense."

Senior right-hander Kyle Swalley recorded the victory on the mound, giving up 5 runs and 5 hits through 4 2/3 innings while walking 4 and striking out 10.

"I'm not going to make excuses, but both of our catchers (Frank Loiacono and Jackson Cano) are coming off of illnesses," said Baum. "They're both getting their legs under themselves."

Prieto also is back from an illness after missing the first two games of the 3-game series with Glenbard East last week.

"I feel good -- I'm back," said Prieto.

Javier Cervantes led the Royals (3-11, 2-9) with a 3 for 5 day at the plate, while Anthony Mora went 3 for 4 with 2 RBI, and Elijah Holst was 2 for 4 with a pair of RBI.

Moises Acosta (2 for 4) also enjoyed a multihit game for the Royals, who finished with 12 hits but also committed 6 costly errors.

"We're seeing it well and we're putting runs up," said Larkin coach Niko Morado. "The runs we're scoring -- the majority of them are earned. That's a big positive."

"We've got to figure it out on the defensive end a little bit and find a way not to give teams more than three outs an inning. That's the big thing."

The Royals also received 5 solid innings of relief pitching from sophomore Peyton Wemken.

"He came in in a tough spot and gave us a chance to chip away and try to climb back in it," said Morado.

