

Press Clippings for 8/24/2022

---The Daily Herald---

Aug. 22, 2022

Back-to-school haircuts

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy

For the second year, several Elgin-area barbershops recently banded together to provide free back-to-school haircuts and hairdos for students in need.

The event was held Aug. 14, at the Boys and Girls Club of Elgin.

"We had 50 barbers and we serviced 115 kids," said Wilbur Dumas Jr., who spearheaded the effort.

At last year's event, Dumas and fellow barbers provided 42 free haircuts as attendance was limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dumas, 39, opened Lincoln Avenue Barbershop in Elgin five years ago because he wanted to give back to his community. He is a product of the Boys and Girls Club and **a graduate of Larkin High School** in Elgin.

People were waiting in line for haircuts hours before doors opened at 10 a.m. Organizers also distributed backpacks filled with donated school supplies and free food to all who showed up, Dumas said.

"We plan on doing this every year and it's going to get bigger and bigger," Dumas said. "Hopefully, we can keep using the Boys and Girls Club facility."

---The Courier News---

Aug. 23, 2022

U-46 still grappling with unfilled jobs as some employees do extra work to cover shortfall, superintendent says

By: Mike Danahey



Students display some of the materials they'll be working in the coming school year during the first day of classes last week at [Willard Elementary](#) in South Elgin. - Original Credit: (School District U- / HANDOUT)

The school year is off to a good start with one exception — the number of job openings that still need to be filled — [District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders](#) told the school board Monday night.

“We need a lot more people. We need teachers. We need paraeducators. We need bus drivers,” [Sanders](#) said.

With more than 35,000 students attending 40 elementary schools, eight middle schools and five high schools, “everything, by and large, went really well” last week when classes resumed for the 2022-23 school year, he said.

“Our transportation ran on time. Our technology was up and working (for) kids with Chromebooks. Our operations crews had our buildings looking beautiful,” he said.

While Sanders did not say how many positions remain unfilled, there were more than 100 as of last week, according to Karla Jimenez, U-46’s director of school and community relations. Many of the vacancies were for bilingual and special education jobs, Jimenez said.

Sanders also used the meeting to publicly thank those employees who have been doing extra work as a result of the staffing shortages this summer and into the new school year.

“Bus drivers are doubling up on their runs. Paraeducators are covering for one another,” he said. “In the classroom, there truly is a shortage of educators, not just in our district, but in the state and the nation.”

According to the Illinois State Board of Education, there are more than 5,300 unfilled teaching positions across the state, 20% of them in Chicago. The National Education Association estimates there are more than 300,000 openings for teachers and support staff across the United States.

“Hopefully people will feel it in their hearts that they will want to come back and apply for jobs in public education and help us here on a day-to-day basis,” Sanders said.

Other than that, “we’re looking forward to a great year,” he said, a comment that elicited applause from board members.

---The Chicago Tribune/The Courier News---

Aug. 23, 2022

End of Summer Bash bringing live music, food trucks and fireworks to downtown Elgin Friday night

By: Gloria Casas

Elgin created the End of Summer Bash after postponing its Fourth of July concert and fireworks display, turning it into an even bigger event with more activities in and around downtown.

Friday’s party includes food trucks, a museum crawl and the Downtown Neighborhood Association’s Farmers Market in addition to live music and fireworks.

“There is a lot of excitement about the End of Summer Bash,” Special Events Coordinator Kate O’Leary said. “Naturally, people were disappointed when the Fourth of July fireworks and concert were canceled (in the wake of the Highland Park mass shooting) but moving this event to the end of August has reshaped it into a farewell to summer.”

Despite the excitement surrounding the new event, there's no plan to make this an annual thing, at least not as of now, O'Leary said.

“Our plan for 2023 is to return the fireworks and concert event back to the Fourth of July holiday as was originally planned for this year,” she said. “(However) we are currently in the middle of an Arts and Market Study that will help city staff plan future arts and events so it's possible that our community expresses a desire to see more events like the End of Summer Bash.”

The fun starts at 4 p.m. with food trucks lining up along Grove Avenue between Prairie Street and Lake Street, O'Leary said. “We have 11 scheduled to participate, which will fill the area nicely.”

Modern Day Romeos take to the stage at 7 p.m. at Festival Park, 132 S. Grove Ave., and the fireworks display is set to start about 9:20 p.m.

Fireworks will be lit from the National Street bridge, which will be closed Friday afternoon to accommodate the show.

The weekly Downtown Elgin Farmers Market, located on Spring Street between Chicago and Fulton streets, starts at 3 p.m. followed by the Elgin Museum crawl at 4 p.m., which features the **School District U-46 Planetarium** and the Fire Barn No. 5, Elgin History and Elgin Public museums.

“We suggest you arrive early and enjoy the market or any of the great events also taking place on that day before you head down to Festival Park for the End of Summer Bash,” O'Leary said. “Don't forget your sunscreen, be sure to bring a blanket or chairs, and come hungry so you can enjoy the food truck offerings.”

The streets that need to be closed for Friday's events include:

- Spring Street from Chicago Street to Grove Avenue, from 1 to 8 p.m.
- Grove Avenue from Prairie Street to Lake Street, from 3 to 10 p.m.
- National Street from South Grove Avenue to State Street, from 3 to 10 p.m.

Free parking is available at the downtown parking lots, a map of which can be found online at cityofelgin.org.

---The Examiner---

Aug. 24, 2022

Administrators, principals newly named in U-46

By: Seth Hancock

There are eight new school principals and two new central office administrators for the 2022-2023 school year in **School District U-46**.

At the middle school level, **Angela Ginnan** is the new principal at Bartlett's Eastview and **Kimberly Rudden** at Streamwood's Canton.

Ginnan holds degrees from Ohio State University, University of Illinois-Chicago and Benedictine University and comes to U-46 after being an assistant principal at Naperville Central High School. Rudden has degrees from Illinois State University and Aurora University, and she was previously head of Bartlett High School's STEM Academy.

There are six new elementary school principals including **Paula Ek** at Elgin's Huff Elementary School. She has degrees from Eastern Illinois University and University of St. Francis and comes to U-46 after working in the East Aurora School District 131 administration.

Cheryl Frederickson is the new principal at Elgin's Century Oaks Elementary School. She has degrees from Northwestern University and Aurora University and most recently worked as the program director and principal at Menta Academy Hillside.

Peter La Chance is the interim principal at Carol Stream's Spring Trail Elementary School having previously being the interim assistant principal at U-46's Washington Elementary School. He has degrees from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and North Central College.

Kelly Marotz is the new principal at Elgin's Coleman Elementary School. She had degrees from Illinois State University and Concordia University, and she previously worked as a principal in Sandridge School District 172.

Deanna Micaletti is the new principal at Elgin's Ronald D. O'Neal Elementary School after being assistant principal at U-46's Laurel Hill Elementary School. She has degrees from Elmhurst College and Concordia.

Rajan Sharma is the next principal at Streamwood's Glenbrook Elementary School. He was assistant principal the last two years at U-46's Horizon Elementary School, and he holds degrees from Northern Illinois University, Roosevelt University and Northeastern Illinois University.

In the central office, **Ann Williams** is the new deputy superintendent for operations/chief business official, and **Mark Moore** is the assistant superintendent for human resources.

"The start of a new school year is an exciting time and also a wonderful time to welcome the fresh perspectives brought by new administrators taking on key roles in the District, as well as longtime U-46 employees assuming new challenges," **Superintendent Tony Sanders** said in a district press release. "I'm glad to have them as part of our team working together to serve our more than 35,000 students and their families."

---The Examiner---

Aug. 24, 2022

U-46 Board of Education approves expense items

By: Seth Hancock

The **Board of Education in School District U-46** unanimously approved of \$651,180 in expenditure items at its meeting on Monday, Aug. 8.

The vote was 5-0, board members Dawn Martin and Kate Thommes were absent.

The largest item was \$161,528 (education fund) with School Health Corp. of Rolling Meadows for an automatic external defibrillator (AED) maintenance program. The district has 107 AEDs.

Two bidders came in lower than School Health Corp., \$151,124 the lowest, but the proposal stated “they scored highest on the Scoring Summary, and they are the only local company.”

The board approved of \$100,255, with Alphaprime Communications to replace 200 handheld two-way radios.

The remaining were all education fund items including \$95,680 with Learning Genie for a software renewal, a pair of two-year contract renewals both costing \$78,624 with Don Johnston for Co:Writer and Snap & Read software licensing, a contract with Encyclopedia Britannica for resources costing \$68,396 and a contract renewal costing \$34,600 for Project Lead the Way’s participation fee.

The board did not vote on one item that was scheduled for approval at the Aug. 8 meeting, that being a three-year contract with Hudl costing \$195,000 to allow all five high schools to livestream and provide online storage of athletic games and practices.

Hudl has been used by Bartlett and South Elgin high schools, funded through athletic boosters rather than taxpayers. The proposal stated: “In the past, our programs have been purchasing these packages through student activity accounts and not all athletic programs have access to the program.”

No reason was given at the board meeting why the Hudl contract had been removed from the agenda. Also approved by 5-0 votes was \$16.8 million in itemized bills as well as a list of authorized depositories which include PMA Securities, the Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund, JP Morgan Chase and Fifth Third Bancorp.

---The Daily Herald---

Aug. 22, 2022

Boys soccer: Fox area season preview

By: Chris Walker



Elgin's Eduardo Nava celebrates a goal against South Elgin last year, one of his 11 on the season. *Paul Valade | Staff Photographer*

Aurora Central Catholic

Coach: Enrique Anaya (5th season)

Last year's record: 5-15-2, 3-6

Top returning players: Justin Cebulski, sr., GK; Nathan Diedrich, so., D; Jake McVey, jr., MF; Micheal O'Brien, sr., F; Danny Perez, sr., MF

Top new players: Connor Dineen, fr., D; Neil Mayer, fr., MF; Elias Perez, fr., MF; Matthew VanDeman, fr., F/MF

Worth noting: McVey, O'Brien and Perez combined for 17 goals and 14 assists last year so the Chargers will look to build upon their input with a large group of newcomers, including four freshmen who will be asked to contribute right away.

Bartlett

Coach: Vince Revak (4th season)

Last year's record: 6-16-1, 2-7

Top returning players: Alex Brown, sr., GK; Spencer Medendorp, sr., D; Oscar Medina, sr., F

Top new players: Cristian Avila Mora, so., MF; Adan Rueda, so., D

Worth noting: Revak believes last year's squad underperformed but hopefully learned some valuable lessons. "I believe this year's group should be able to learn from their mistakes," he said. A challenging schedule won't make it easy on the Hawks.

Batavia

Coach: Mark Gianfrancesco (23rd season)

Last year's record: 5-14, 2-5

Top returning players: Nathan Feller, sr., MF; Ryan Horlock, sr., GK; Eric Perkins, sr., D; Luke Petersen, jr., D; Owen Stahl, jr., D

Top new players: Sam Barsch, so., MF; Alex Marshall, jr., MF; Brokk Olber, so., MF; Mike Ruffo, jr., F; Henry Sindelar, jr., D

Worth noting: The Bulldogs haven't had a winning season since 2014, but have a solid mix of returning talent and are expecting contributions from some new sophomores and juniors.

Crystal Lake South

Coach: Brian Allen (16th season)

Last year's record: 18-4-2, 8-1

Top returning players: Nolan Getzinger, jr., MF; Brendan Lewis, jr., MF; Andrew Smart, sr., D, Logan Vargas, sr., GK; Josh Washington, sr., D

Top new players: Pierce Johnson, fr., D, Mason Ross, so., MF; Steven Smith, jr., MF; Hayden Stone, so., MF

Worth noting: A senior-laden back line with Washington and Smart leading the way should provide a solid defensive foundation for a squad that returns 13 players overall. All but six of the Gators' regular season games are against 3A foes.

Dundee-Crown

Coach: Rey Vargas (19th season)

Last year's record: 14-4-2, 6-2-1

Top returning players: Jacob Budys, sr., MF; Alex Martinez, sr., MF; Miguel Pena, sr., F/MF; David Smeich, sr., GK

Top new players: Daniel Gantz, sr., D; Gabriel Herrera, so., TBD; Martin Leon, jr., D; Sebastian Sanchez, fr., TBD

Worth noting: The Chargers have Pena back to lead their attack but also saw 13 players graduate. Newcomers will need to step up and fill spots all over the field while Smeich provides security as the returning senior keeper.

Elgin

Coach: Jimmy Romano (1st season)

Last year's record: 12-4-5, 4-2-3

Top returning players: Eduardo Nava, jr., F; Miguel Navarro, sr., MF; Julian Orozco, sr., D; Edgar Perez, jr., D; Omar Saldana, sr., D

Top new players: Geovanny Aviles, jr., D; Adan Garcia, jr., D; Alberto Gaytan, so., MF; German Lara, jr., D; Aaron Saldana, so., MF

Worth noting: Romano inherits a program that's hungry for huge things this fall, returning a huge chunk of talent from a team that advanced to a sectional final a year ago, as well as exciting new players. Nava led the Maroons in scoring (11 goals, 5 assists) last season.

Geneva

Coach: Jason Bhatta (6th season)

Last year's record: 9-8-6, 4-2-3

Top returning players: Nathan Branstad, sr., MF; Luke Easter, sr., D; Trent Giansanti, jr., F; Grant Havertine, sr., D; Liam O'Donoghue, jr., MF

Top new players: Genel Jaffer, sr., F; Ben Schuemer, jr., D

Worth noting: Before being upended in the postseason, the Vikings had a nine-game unbeaten streak last year while winning a regional title for the second straight season. Giansanti (15 goals, 7 assists) is among a strong core that returns from that squad.

Hampshire

Coach: Chayanee Martinez (2nd year)

Last year's record: 9-11-3, 5-4

Top returning players: Samuel Beer, jr., D/MF; Niklas Kaistinen, jr., F/MF; Alex Muños, sr., D; John Serra, sr., F/D

Top new players: Jackson Carey, so., MF; Greyson Hedderich, fr., D; Kevin Huynh, sr., D; Kyle Johnson, sr., D; Landon LaMarca, sr., D; Johnathan Leonardo, sr., F; Michal Mis, sr., D; Broling Perkins, sr., D/MF

Worth noting: The Whip-Purs hope to continue where they left off last regular season as they won five of their last six games. In order to do so, plenty of new bodies will need to contribute, including six new seniors.

Harvest Christian

Coach: Pedro Assumpcao

Last year's record: 3-9, 2-4

Top returning players: David De Souza, sr., F; Caleb Fast, sr., MF; Seth Pritchett, sr., MF

Worth noting: Assumpcao will only have about a dozen players this fall; however, those players return with varsity experience and they hope to double their win output from last fall.

Huntley

Coach: Matt Lewandowski (4th year)

Last year's record: 20-3-2, 8-0-1

Top returning players: Jack Breunig, jr., MF; Gavin Eagan, jr., MF; Zach Heitkemper, sr., D; John Lingle, sr., D; Hudson Nielsen, jr., MF; Micah Overly, sr., D; Kyle Paler, jr., D

Top new players: Ansel Dias, jr., F; Isaac Jacobo, jr., F; Mason Leslie, so., MF; Elias Ramon, jr., D

Worth noting: With seven key contributors from a team that competed for a sectional title returning, the Red Raiders will look to defend their FVC title and go on another deep postseason run. Heitkemper (10 assists) and Nielsen (3 goals, 6 assists) are among their leading returnees.

Jacobs

Coach: Colin Brice (5th year)

Last year's record: 7-12, 3-6

Top returning players: Owen Armstrong, jr., D; John Kraft, sr., D; Carter Roper, sr., D; Nevin Volarath, jr., MF; Peter Wolf, jr., F

Top new players: Andrew Deegan, fr., D; Adan Farias, sr., GK; Oleg Fushtei, sr., MF; Kelvin Medina, jr., F

Worth noting: Returning the majority of last year's team, Jacobs will look to contend for the FVC title. "The FVC will be up for grabs this year and I feel that we have a solid team to compete for one of the top spots in conference with our experience," Brice said.

Kaneland

Coach: Scott Parillo (21st year)

Last year's record: 9-10-1, 8-2

Top returning players: Anthony Buchanan, sr., MF; Andrew Davison, sr., GK; Sam Keen, jr., F

Top new players: Wilson Love, jr., D/MF; Eric Ramos, jr., D/MF; Andrew Walter, jr., MF/D

Worth noting: Parillo is seeing plenty of new faces so the Knights "need to be cohesive as quickly as possible." Keen buried 13 goals a season ago while Davison is a veteran, dominant presence in goal.

Larkin

Coach: Mike Huizar (2nd year)

Last year's record: 7-8-4, 2-4-3

Top returning players: Anthony Cordova, sr., TBD; Adrian Diaz, jr., TBD; Joel Gutierrez, sr., TBD; Oscar Jimenez, sr., TBD; Elian Rendon, sr., TBD; Alexis Sanchez, jr., TBD

Top new players: Atlai Gutierrez, so., MF; Fran Montoya, jr., D; Reyli Perez, jr., MF

Worth noting: Huizar expects to see an improvement compared to a season ago with lots of new players and a new system. "It's too soon to tell how it'll turn out," he said. "but these changes are exciting." Six starters and four rotation players return.

Marmion

Coach: Gerardo Alvarez (3rd year)

Last year's record: 14-8-2, 5-2

Top returning players: Danny Jankowski, sr., GK; Harley Karner, sr., F; Barry O'Neill, sr., MF/F, Matthew Powell, sr., D/MF

Top new players: TBD

Worth noting: The Cadets only graduated a handful of players from a squad that was a Class 2A sectional finalist. A strong senior class on both ends of the field should have the Cadets reaching for similar successes. Karner and O'Neill alone combined for 25 goals in 2021.

St. Charles East

Coach: Vince DiNuzzo (6th year)

Last year's record: 18-5-0, 5-2

Top returning players: Mason Brockmeyer, sr., F; Connor Brown, sr., D; Elia Desario, sr., D; Jack Harrington, sr., MF; Ryan Vandever, sr., MF

Top new players: Griffin Counts, jr., D; Aiden Maloney, jr., MF; Aiden Wostl, fr., F

Worth noting: The Saints graduated some standouts and nine players overall from a team that just fell short of upending Class 3A state champion York in the sectionals. Newcomers will look to mix with returnees to help the Saints continue to play at an elite level.

St. Charles North

Coach: Eric Willson (19th year)

Last year's record: 7-4-6, 2-1-4

Top returning players: Alex Curtis, jr., GK; Walter DelaPaz, jr., MF; Arnel Dizdarevic, sr., F; Casey Kriz, so., D

Worth noting: Willson referred to this year's North Stars as "a very intriguing team this season," he said. "I really believe we have the potential to compete in a very difficult conference." Curtis returns in net while DelaPaz is a dynamic offensive player who should have some scoring options alongside him in forwards Chase Bettini and Blake Taylor among others.

St. Edward

Coach: Tim Brieger (28th year)

Last year's record: 8-14-2, 0-6

Top returning players: Gael Gonzalez, sr., MF; Matt Kapetan, sr., MF; Josh Pottorff, jr., D; Morgan Sajtar, sr., GK; Alex Valdez, sr., F

Top new players: Brandon Kloeckner, sr., MF; Michael O'Brien, sr., D; Josh Schelonka, jr., D; Robbie Sommers, so., D; Ben Zelinski, sr., F

Worth noting: The Green Wave will build around Kapetan, Sajtar, Pottorff and Gonzalez up the spine of the pitch. There's a lot of new and young faces in the starting lineup this fall.

South Elgin

Coach: Jerzy Skowron (4th year)

Last year's record: 6-10-5, 4-3-2

Top returning players: Carlos Barajas, sr., D; Guido Gonzalez-Ortiz, jr., MF; Xavier Marquez, jr., D; Ryan Nguyen, jr., MF; Ethan Scholl, sr., F

Top new players: Justin Defensor, so., MF; Isaac Marquez, so., F; Jose Ortiz-Gavina, sr., F; Jonah Stueck, jr., D

Worth noting: Skowron is hopeful that a diverse mix of talent, size and athleticism will whip up a Storm team that's one to be reckoned with this fall. They had 110 players try out, including 38 freshmen. David Criswell, who led a girls program to a pair of state titles in Colorado, is Skowron's new varsity assistant coach.

Streamwood

Coach: Matt Polovin (24th year)

Last year's record: 6-10-4, 2-5-2

Top returning players: Alex Alcalá, so., D; AJ Sabanovic, so., F

Top new players: Saul Zamudio, sr., MF

Worth noting: Polovin acknowledged that he coached his youngest team last year and they learned a lot while collecting more than their fair share of lumps. Now, he's optimistic with a year under their belt and with further developed skills that the Sabres will be playing at a much higher level this fall.

West Aurora

Coach: Joe Sustersic (22nd year)

Last year's record: 13-7-1, 6-3-2

Top returning players: Loretto Lopez, sr., MF; Omar Rashidi, sr., F; Blake Studdard, sr., D

Worth noting: With 10 starters back and almost all of the scoring from a season ago, the Blackhawks should be in for another special season which is saying something for a program that has averaged 16.4 wins (82 overall) the past five seasons. Rashidi and Lopez lead an attack that will look to frustrate opponents.

Westminster Christian

Coach: Dave Siers (5th year)

Last year's record: 12-3-2, 5-0

Top returning players: Stephen Boldt, jr., MF; Peter DiNapoli, sr., MF; Cal Hoon, sr., MF/F; Charles Richardson, sr., D; Nathan Siers, sr., F

Worth noting: With a strong group of upperclassmen returning, the Warriors will look to maintain the quality of play it had last season.

Note: Aurora Christian is not fielding a team this season. Burlington Central, Cary-Grove and Elgin Academy did not respond to our request for team info.