

Press Clippings 12/27/19

---Daily Herald---12/27/2019

Notable deaths in the Fox Valley: Remembering many who made a difference

By: Daily Herald report

Even as we look toward the promise of 2020, we remember those we lost in the past year whose countless contributions helped make the Fox Valley a better place.

There were trailblazers, like Manuel Barbosa -- the first Hispanic bankruptcy judge to serve in the U.S. Northern District of Illinois -- and Sister Rosemarie Burian, who founded what would become the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

There were educators and musicians and authors and poets and historians and coaches. There was a potter and a banker and a restaurateur.

And there were some who left us much too soon: a 5-year-old boy named AJ; a 12-year-old girl named Faith; a 35-year-old McHenry County sheriff's deputy.

We mourned them and we miss them, but they all live on in our hearts and memories as a reminder of who we were, who we are, and who we can become.



Ron Raglin

Ron Raglin, 58

A passionate advocate for students, he was Elgin Area School District U-46's assistant superintendent of educational support programs and alignment and received Elgin's 2019 Dr. King Humanitarian Award earlier in the year. He was known as a champion of educational equity who helped strengthen ties to community partners to promote student success.



Dick Stephens

Dick Stephens, 84

The former Elgin and Bartlett high school football coach was known as one of the game's most passionate coaches. A 1987 inductee to the Michigan Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame and a 2009 inductee to the Elgin Sports Hall of Fame, he coached Elgin to a 90-80-2 record, three Upstate Eight Conference titles and five playoff appearances in two stints over 18 years: 1969-1977 and 1987-1995. In 1997 he became the first head coach at Bartlett, where his teams went 27-22 in five seasons. He stepped down as Bartlett coach in 2001 after a heart attack, but his love of the game continued unabated. Following a year off, he returned to the sideline at Western High School in Jackson, Michigan, and coached four more seasons.

---The Courier-News---12/27/2019

SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46

PE curriculum may be expanded

Focus is on encouraging active lifestyles

By: Rafael Guerrero

School District U-46 officials want to grow its updated high school physical education curriculum with eight new courses next year, expanding upon the active-lifestyle approach of eight PE courses introduced this school year.

Toward the end of 2018, school board members agreed with U-46 PE educators and approved a nearly \$200,000 measure that shifted high school PE from team sports to activities to encourage more participation both inside and outside the high school gyms, fields and weight rooms. These courses included functional fitness, strength and performance, walking for wellness, and team sports officiating and coaching.

The \$58,932 proposal presented at the Dec. 16 school board meeting is a continuation of the PE courses introduced this school year, said U-46 student wellness coordinator Tracey Jakaitis. The proposed expansion would allow the freshman, sophomores, and juniors who took one of the new courses this year to advance into the next corresponding course.

“That was a really big moment for us when proposing these different activities,” Jakaitis told board members. “We need kids to engage in physical activity, and if they don’t like their choices they won’t engage.”

The “C” and “D” courses are in functional fitness, strength and performance, walking for wellness, and team sports officiating and coaching, similar to the “A” and “B” courses that PE students began taking this fall. The proposed courses would be one semester long and available at any of the six U-46 high schools, including the DREAM Academy beginning in the 2020-21 school year.

South Elgin High School PE teacher Nicole Maciorowski said these courses continue the shift away from the team-sports model commonly associated with school PE. Courses in walking or strength/performance training give teens a path toward a more physically-active adulthood.

Maciorowski asked her students for feedback on the new courses. She said students told her they liked having an opportunity to walk on a daily basis, reported feeling less anxious, liked that some of these courses did not require them to use the locker rooms, among other comments.

Hallie Furtak, the school board’s student advisor, said her brother is taking the walking for wellness course. She said he likes it better than past PE classes because a sensory processing disorder limited his participation in team sports activities and lessons. The course is keeping him active, Furtak added.

“As a student, it is so much better,” said Furtak, a student at Streamwood High School. “I can tell in class that people are participating a lot more.”

“If someone could give me 30 minutes a day where I have to walk — can I sign up for that now as an adult?” asked U-46 board member Kate Thommes.

Board members will vote on the PE curriculum proposal in 2020. Jakaitis said curriculum implementation would begin in the months leading up to the start of the 2020-21 school year.

Officials are also working on how to reward students with an honors credit if they complete lifeguard certification, she said.

City, schools: Keep your sidewalks clear of snow

By: Rafael Guerrero

The city of Elgin and School District U-46 are looking for “sidewalk heroes” this winter to clear the sidewalks of snow and ice.

Last week, the two government agencies introduced the new Sidewalk Heroes campaign to remind residents and others to clear their sidewalks of snow and ice. The joint

initiative's objective is to make sidewalks cleaner and safer for children walking to school, as well as for seniors, mail carriers, delivery drivers, and others.

"We appreciate all our community members who keep their sidewalks clear, and we're hoping to inspire them to look for neighbors and areas that could use some extra help," U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said in a news release announcing the launch of Sidewalk Heroes.

The community campaign will encourage people who shovel snow or use snowblowers to look around their neighborhoods for sidewalks that need clearing. According to a news release, these "good deeds" can be shared on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter using the #SidewalkHeroes hashtag.

The social media posts posted under the hashtag will be compiled after each snow event and officials will recognize outstanding posts. A winner will be selected shortly after, with prizes ranging from stickers to long-sleeve T-shirts. Elgin Police officers and snow plow drivers will also carry "Sidewalk Heroes" stickers with them that they will hand out whenever they spot a good Samaritan clearing a sidewalk.

"We need to educate, we need to encourage, we need to have fun and we need to reward people," City of Elgin spokeswoman Molly Gillespie told the City Council at the Dec. 18 committee of the whole meeting.

Elgin has no ordinance requiring residents to shovel their snow. Gillespie said state statute language suggests municipalities encourage - but not force - residents to shovel snow and ice from their sidewalks and driveways. Gillespie said snow shoveling is not mandated because for some residents, shoveling may not be physically possible.

Washington Elementary School principal Lori Brandes sees near her school and other neighborhood schools the perils students face when walking to school in winter weather. Brandes, Councilman John Steffen, and others have spent months working on Sidewalk Heroes, looking for ways to raise awareness on the matter.

"In a lot of cases, our students end up staying home because the kids can't get to school safely and they're having to walk in the streets to get to school," Brandes told councilmembers.

School District U-46 family and community engagement coordinator Karla Jimenez said the district sent about 15,000 flyers to elementary school families just before classes ended for winter break about Sidewalk Heroes. While the campaign is a district and city initiative, the hope is this effort expands into the other U-46 towns and villages.



The Sidewalk Heroes campaign's goal is to make sidewalks cleaner and safer for students walking to and from school, as well as senior residents, mail carriers and others.

SPORTS

---Daily Herald---12/27/2019

Boys basketball notes

Always 'go' time

Senior guard Marquez and his Streamwood teammates adapt to 'fun' but 'tiring' style of play

By: Paul Johnson



Streamwood's Zach Marquez goes to the basket against Elgin on Dec. 17.



Bartlett's Conrad Luczynski reaches for a rebound against Larkin in an Upstate Eight Conference game on Dec. 19.

Senior guard Zach Marquez has a succinct way to sum up the experience of playing in Streamwood's fast-paced, high-scoring style.

“It’s pretty fun but pretty tiring,” Marquez said. “We all have the green light.”

It’s tiring because of the Sabres’ relentless pressure defense, which requires a deep bench, and they have that. It’s fun because Marquez and his teammates can fire up a 3-point shot whenever they want.

“I think they enjoy it,” Streamwood coach Kent Payne said. “When they shoot threes, they don’t look over their shoulder (to the coaches) unless they’re a little bit on the crazy side. They have the ‘go’ sign.”

The veteran coach took over the Streamwood program last year and brought his signature style with him. The team has embraced it.

“It’s my core,” Payne said. “The kids kind of bought into it. It teaches them to be aggressive, pressure on defense. We know we have a bench. I think we’re still developing it and growing. It’s never an easy process.”

Marquez said the chemistry was built over the summer and that, in the second season of the system, the team is more comfortable.

“Coach came in last year, so it took some time,” Marquez said. “I feel like this year with everyone coming in, we’ve all been playing together for a while. It took time, most definitely, but once we got it down practice after practice, it translated into games. We just saw how it worked from there, and it’s worked out pretty well.”

The results have been uneven at times. The Sabres (4-7) evened their record at 4-4 with an 80-59 win at Elgin on Dec. 17 but then lost three straight heading into the holiday.

The Sabres had two games in a row, an overtime loss to Bartlett and a win over Chicago University, in which both teams scored in the 90s, making for some exciting games.

“We shoot pretty well,” Payne said. “We hustle. Their hustle efforts are just fantastic. I think that’s what makes the chemistry work for us. They’re just relentless hustlers.”

Big addition: Bartlett got a big addition, both literally and figuratively, when 6-foot-10 center Conrad Luczynski transferred from St. Francis in the spring.

Luczynski is a matchup problem on both ends of the court. His size affects shots on the defensive end, and Luczynski not only can score inside, but also can step out and make the occasional 3-pointer and is a deft passer out of double-teams.

“He’s fit in great,” Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith said. “The guys love him. He’s just a sophomore. He didn’t play last year. He only practiced. Part of it is learning. I thought he did a nice job down the stretch (in Friday’s overtime win over Larkin), kept his composure, knocked down his free throws.”

Luczynski said he’s lived in Bartlett since the fourth grade, so the transition back to playing with kids he played with as a youngster wasn’t difficult.

“I feel like I’m fitting in great,” Luczynski said. “They needed a big man.”

Hot start: St. Charles North continued one of its best starts in program history with a 66-53 DuKane Conference win over rival St. Charles East on Friday.

The North Stars (9-1) carry a six-game winning streak into the prestigious Pontiac tournament, where they hope to make some noise against some of the state's top teams.

“The season has been very good for us as far as learning experiences,” North coach Tom Poulin said. “Each game showed us something different. It doesn't get any easier as we go forward. We're going one at a time. But it's been a very good start.”