

Press Clippings - 3/8/2023

– Elgin Courier-News –

U-46 to settle vaping lawsuit

\$1.2M Juul Labs payout planned over four years

March 8, 2023

By Mike Danahey for Courier-News

District U-46 will receive at least \$1.2 million in the settlement of a vaping lawsuit with Juul Labs Inc.

School board members authorized the deal Monday night but made no decision on how the money will be spent.

Interim Superintendent Suzanne Johnson said district staff will look at data for ways the funding might be allocated within the parameters of the suit's settlement.

U-46 joined a class-action lawsuit in November 2020 against Juul and other parties tied to high school and junior high school students using e-cigarettes and vaping materials, which experts say creates addiction risks and can result in potentially deadly respiratory ailments, according to U-46 documents. The district was one of 1,400 across 25 states to participate in the case.

“The use of e-cigarettes and vaping devices by students has caused the district to incur costs in the form of staff time, disciplinary proceedings and other costs, with the expectation that these costs will only increase unless and until student use of these devices decreases and stops,” district documents said.

While a settlement has been reached with Juul Labs and other parties, litigation against Altria Group, Inc. and remaining defendants continues. According to reports, Altria once owned 35% of Juul but has since divested its holdings.

Lawyers anticipate an initial payment of about \$600,000 will be received by late 2023, with the remainder to be paid in installments made through 2026, documents said.

According to reports, Juul faced more than 8,000 lawsuits brought by users, families of users, school districts, city governments and Native American tribes.

Juul rocketed to the top of the U.S. vaping market five years ago on the popularity of flavors like mango, mint and creme brulee, which appealed to teenage users and was

blamed for the surge in underage vaping.

Juul dropped all U.S. advertising and discontinued most flavors in 2019. The Food and Drug Administration rejected the company's application to keep its product on the market for adults because Juul did not adequately address questions about the potential for chemicals to leach from its device but placed a temporary hold on the decision while Juul files an appeal.

Associated Press contributed.

Mike Danahey is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

– Elgin Courier-News –

Elgin News Digest

March 8, 2023

Kane foundation taking orders for April native plant sale

The Kane Forest Preserve Foundation is taking orders for its annual native plant sale, which will be held from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, April 29, at the Creek Bend Nature Center in LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve in St. Charles.

The deadline to place an order is April 19, and anyone who makes a purchase will be emailed with information on pickup details, a news release said. They will also be selling plants at the event that are not available in the online sale.

To place an order, go to form.jotform.com/230435268913053. For more information, go to kaneforestpreservefoundation.org or call 630-232-5980.

Mamie Eisenhower show to be presented at Elgin museum

Ellie Carlson will perform the one-person show, “Mamie Eisenhower: The Hostess in Chief,” at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 12, at the Elgin History Museum, 360 Park St..

Attendees will be treated to tea and fudge during the show about Eisenhower, who was first lady from 1953 to 1961, a news release said.

Admission is free for museum members and \$5 for guests.

To register, go to elginhistory.org/event/2pm-mamie-eisenhower-the-hostess-in-chief-portrayed-by-ellie-carlson/.

Five music programs to be held at Gail Borden library

The Gail Borden Public Library in downtown Elgin will be hosting five music programs in the coming weeks:

Students from the Betty Haag Academy of Music will perform selections by Bach, Mozart and Vivaldi at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 12.

Composer and music researcher Jim Kendros will give a presentation on some of the great composers at 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 21.

The Elgin Master Chorale will perform selections from Robert Nathaniel Dett's "The Ordering of Moses" at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 26.

The Elgin Symphony Orchestra Listeners Club will meet at noon on Wednesday, March 29.

Hollis Prize winners from Millikin University's School of Music will play a recital at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 16.

To register to attend, go to gailborden.info/register or call 847-429-4597. For more information, go to gailborden.info/music.

U-46 board honors 12 student musicians, teacher

Twelve high school students and one teacher were recognized by the **District U-46 School Board** Monday for their achievements in music and theater.

The students were named All-State Musicians by the Illinois Music Education Association and performed at its annual music education conference in Peoria in January. They are:

Elgin High School: Madeline Conter, Senior, Honors Chorus, Alto I; **Stephanie Skrabacz, Senior**, All-State Band, Bb Clarinet; **Diego Gomez, Junior**, Future Music Educators Symposium.

Larkin High School: Madelyn Dobbeck, Senior, Honors Band, Trumpet.

South Elgin High School: Alejandro Diaz, Senior, Honors Chorus, Tenor I; **Haley Leuze, Senior**, All-State Chorus, Tenor I; **Taylor Picha, Senior**, Honors Band, Flute.

Bartlett High School: Sarah Walser, Junior, Pit Orchestra, Bass.

Streamwood High School: Sarah Ballenger, Sophomore, Pit Orchestra, Violin.

Larsen Middle School math teacher and drama club co-leader Hector J. Hernandez Jr. headed up the crew for the All-State production. He is also the executive director for the 2024 Illinois High School Theatre Festival.

Rakow Center locker rooms closed for remodeling

The locker rooms at the Dundee Township Park District Rakow Center in Carpentersville are closed for 12 weeks for remodeling.

Work began after the last weekend of youth basketball was completed, district Executive Director Dave Peterson said.

The complete remodel will cost \$449,550. It's the first time the locker rooms have been improved since the building opened in 1989, Peterson said.

— Mike Danahey

— Examiner of Bartlett — District U-46 approves curriculum, expense items (This article also appeared in the Examiner of Streamwood/Examiner of South Elgin)

March 8, 2023
By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** unanimously approved \$18.8 million in curriculum and expenditure items at its meeting on Monday, Feb. 13.

Included was an item presented and approved that evening, a \$149,768 proposal with Trane U.S. from the operations and maintenance fund as part of Phase 2 of a **Streamwood High School** pathways project.

“The **Streamwood High School** Pathways Capital Project (Phase 2) will require new RTUs (remote terminal units) to service the proposed automotive and engineering spaces that are part of the renovations,” the proposal states. “Currently, RTUs have a 20-week lead time. Due to these extended lead times, we are requesting authorization to place the order directly with the manufacturer in February 2023, prior to the award of the total project. If approved, we anticipate receiving the units in July 2023, allowing the project to remain on schedule and ready for the first day of school.”

Three curriculum items, all paid through the education fund, were approved including a three-year contract for the GALE: In Context For Educators program for secondary schools costing \$700,399, resource and program fees to offer the International Baccalaureate at **Elgin High School's gifted and talented academy** costing \$505,000 and purchasing updated textbooks and resource for business courses from Cengage Learning costing \$152,635.

Several operations and maintenance fund items were approved including \$5.1 million with Monaco Mechanical for boiler, electrical switchgear and generator replacement at **Streamwood High School** as well as four roof replacement proposals including **Elgin High School** (\$5.4 million, L. Marshall, Inc.), **Elgin's Huff Elementary School** (\$2.4 million, Preservations Services, Inc.), **Elgin's Lords Park Elementary School** (\$2.3 million, Elens and Maichin Roofing and Sheet Metal, Inc.) and **South Elgin's Fox Meadow Elementary School** (\$1.3 million, Elens and Maichin).

Two contracts, to be paid through federal bailout funds, were approved including \$448,116 with Crisis Prevention Institute for training and materials and \$363,420 with Care Solace for "mental health care coordination service with a mission to provide easy access to care regardless of circumstance," the proposal states.

Also unanimously approved was \$12.5 million in itemized bills.

– Examiner of Bartlett –

South Elgin High alumnus is prestigious award nominee



Derryl Barnes. *(Courtesy photo)*

March 8, 2023

Derryl Barnes, an alumnus of South Elgin High School has been nominated for the Television Academy Foundation's 42nd College Television Awards.

According to the Television Academy Foundation, the annual College Television Awards recognize and reward excellence in student-produced programs from colleges across the country. Winners in the competition will be announced by television stars at a red carpet awards ceremony April 1 at the Television Academy in North Hollywood, California.

Barnes has been nominated in the "News" category, along with eight other classmates from the University of Miami, for UMTV's NewsVision. Barnes served as writer on the project, which was selected from over 132 submissions from colleges and universities nationwide by Television Academy members.

NewsVision, a half-hour live news program on the University of Miami's student-run television station, UMTV, covers national and local news, weather and sports impacting the UM community. The nominated episode, which was broadcast April 7, 2022, includes stories on a Brightline train crash, community outrage over a local park entrance and one physician's assistant who goes beyond her duty to save two young patients.

"I remember sitting in my great grandma's house watching the College Television Awards live stream as UMTV won their second-ever College Television Award," said **Barnes** in recalling a moment from a few years ago. "I made it my goal to be a part of that one day. Just a few years later, here I am. Winning would just be like getting a second cherry on top."

Nominees and winners of the 42nd College Television Awards automatically become members of the Television Academy Foundation's alumni family, gaining access to year-round networking opportunities, events and professional development resources. Prominent College Television Awards alumni include CNN national correspondent Natasha Chen; Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan director Patricia Riggen; Maya and the Three executive producer Jorge Gutierrez; and Love, Victor executive producer Jason Ensler.

– Examiner of Bartlett –

Expenses, policy updates slated for U-46 board vote

(This article also appeared in the Examiner of Streamwood/Examiner of South Elgin)

March 8, 2023
By Seth Hancock

The **Board of Education in School District U-46** is set to vote on \$116,460 in expenditure items at its upcoming Monday, March 13 meeting after being presented on March 6.

Included is \$90,000, to be paid through federal bailout funds, to send “up to 52 team members,” the proposal states, to Orlando, Florida over the summer for the Instructional Empowerment Building Expertise conference.

The three-day conference, which will be June 21 to 23, is to “explore the concepts of rigor and equity in learning and education,” and they “will research and learn about strategies to enhance the continuous improvement cycle in alignment with the school instructional maturity model, with both general and specific strategies for **U46 schools** and the school system, with experts and colleagues,” the proposal states.

Last year, the district spent \$75,000 to send 45 people to the conference. The conference is through Learning Sciences International (LSI) which the district spent a whopping \$18.5 million in 2021 to conduct admitted theoretical work through the 2025-2026 school year.

The board will also vote on a contract renewal with Thought Exchange costing \$26,460 (education fund) as part of the district’s “equity” work.

The proposal states: “The communication platform, Thought Exchange, allows Exchange Leaders to create open-ended questions and allow for online interactions among all participants.... Thought Exchanges are a psychologically safe method of engagement that can identify root causes related to equity and inclusion, allowing our team to take decisive and data-informed actions. Finally, Thought Exchange, similar to Gallup and Panorama, can be used as a leading indicator to identify starts, stops, and continuation of all things that help to create a school district of belongingness and inclusivity.”

Additionally, the board will vote on updates to 29 policies.

Trisha Olson, chief legal officer, said the “vast majority... have very minor or technical changes.” The proposed policy updates were not provided to the public.

– Examiner of South Elgin –

Amendment to U-46 IGA supported via board vote

March 8, 2023
By Seth Hancock

The Village Board of Trustees unanimously approved an amendment to an

intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with **School District U-46** at its meeting on Tuesday Feb. 21.

The amendment to the IGA extends the terms of a school resource officer (SRO) at **Kenyon Woods Middle School** allowing the SRO to remain through summer school.

“SEPD was notified that U-46 will be hosting summer school at **Kenyon Woods Middle School**,” wrote Police Chief Jerry Krawczyk in a memo. “They requested the **South Elgin Kenyon Woods Middle School SRO** to be present.”

Krawczyk added: “The annual agreement with **School District U-46** expires on June 7, 2023. The attached first amendment agreement extends services for the school resource officer at **Kenyon Woods Middle School** for the term June 7, 2023, through July 7, 2023. The attached agreement provides staffing coverage between [7 a.m. through 1 p.m.] during designated school days. **School District U-46** shall pay the Village \$45.67 per hour plus any overtime rate of \$68.51 per hour for services during the extended term.”

The original IGA was approved by the board on July 5, 2022 which ran through June 7 of this year.

“Both **School District U-46** and the Village are interested in promoting the safety and security of the staff, students, and school premises in the Village,” the resolution states. “**School District U-46** asked the Village to provide a Middle School Resource Officer during the upcoming summer school session at **Kenyon Woods Middle School** beginning on June 7, 2023 and ending on July 7, 2023.”

The resolution adds: The Board of Trustees of the Village of South Elgin finds that it is in the best interest of the Village to amend and extend the Intergovernmental Agreement.”

– Examiner of Streamwood – Four new coaches to lead Streamwood spring sports

March 8, 2023

By Seth Hancock

Streamwood athletics will have four new coaches for spring 2023 teams.

The **Sabres** will welcome Nicolle Giliana (softball), David Criswell (girls soccer), Ryan Markgraf (boys track) and Katelyn Thurnall (girls badminton).

This will be the first year coaching softball at **Streamwood** for Giliana. She has coached at Maine East and a travel team, and she was the JV dance team coach this year at

Streamwood.

“For this season, my goal is to grow the program and get girls of all skill levels out on the field,” said Giliana. “Some short-term goals would be to beat last year’s record, and establish a community of support and fun for the girls this season at school and around Streamwood. The program’s long term goal is to continue to grow and each year get better and better. Now that the season is starting and we are getting more time in with everyone, I am excited to see how we do and ready to put in the time and effort to grow this program again.”

Criswell, whose goal this year is “establishing our culture and identity as a program,” coached boys and girls soccer for six years in Colorado before coming to Illinois in 2021.

He was the JV girls coach at Hampshire in the spring 2022 and an assistant boys varsity coach at South Elgin in the fall 2022.

“The goal is always to win every game, but more importantly we want to use the soccer pitch as our classroom to create an environment where each player has the opportunity to learn how to become their best self within our team environment,” Criswell said. “To do that we focus on creating athletes with a strong set of character values who are also intelligent players with the technical skills to execute our style of play.”

Markgraf is a 2005 graduate from Streamwood and played football, wrestling and track. He has seven years of assistant football coaching experience collegiately and has been a three-sport assistant coach since 2014 in Streamwood.

The goal this year is to see “constant improvement” this season, and long term he wants “to create a program that continually develops skills and character traits” that will prepare them beyond just track and field.

Thurnall has been an assistant bowling coach at Streamwood, and she said she is “excited to branch out into a new sport and learn all I can about badminton.”

This year, Thurnall and her assistant coach are “focusing on keeping the season fun but competitive” for the “dedicated athletes who are proud to be a part of the program,” and she wants to create a program that continually draws in “committed and enthusiastic athletes and grow as much as possible.”