

Pinckneyville Press

Happenings

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Soccer to be Offered to Students This Fall

The Perry County Soccer Association was represented at a recent Pinckneyville District 101 school board meeting where a favorable discussion regarding a co-op soccer program with Du Quoin's District 300 was had.

Dwayne Epplin was present to discuss the answers to some of the questions raised following a presentation given last month regarding the program's needs.

PCHS administration said they had conversations with IHSA who confirmed that a club could not participate in any IHSA post season tournament.

The program would have to be school and conference affiliated, and then submitted to the IHSA for approval. The earliest this could happen would be the fall 2017 season. Epplin said that they will, however,

play as a club beginning this fall.

"The boys will play in the fall and the girls in the spring. We will try to have a JV schedule and play as many schools around the area as we can that have JV teams," Epplin said. He explained that with schedules already being set, they would just participate in games as they were available.

Epplin and John Alongi went to District 300's board meeting last month as well, where the reception of the idea was also a welcome one.

Concerns over sustained funding by the league, transportation, supervision and other items associated with the co-op relationship with Du Quoin remain to be explored and answered before moving forward. Under the current financial conditions, District

101 does not have the funding to provide for the program. Epplin said that he would take a proposal to the PCSL requiring them to provide proof of full funding by June 30 prior to each school year.

Epplin said he wanted to make it clear that the soccer league will be paying for the whole program. "The soccer league is not costing anyone a dime," he said. Because they have been a business for the past 11 years, and they've been planning on an end-game like this one, the league has saved enough money from corporate sponsors and parents that this program will come at no cost to the schools.

The board made a motion to approve the use to the PCHS name to the PCSL for club activity scheduling purposes for the 2016-2017 school year

with all members voting yes to approve the measure. The league hopes to have the boys play up to 12 games this fall at the JV level and possibly the same for girls in the Spring.

The board also made a motion to start the process of researching and addressing the questions and steps required to bring the sport to the schools as a conference sport with a unanimous vote. The discussion produced a consensus that if the process does not address all stipulations and concerns the program will not go forward.

"I think the community is ready for it. I think they're excited about it," Epplin said.

Superintendent Gary Kelly said he had not spoken to Superintendent Keith Hagene about the soccer program yet, but hoped to have more information soon.

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for PCH Opens New Oncology and Infusion Center

Pinckneyville Community Hospital held an open house for their new Oncology and Infusion Center on Monday afternoon. Along with an introduction to the nurses, doctors and staff in that portion of the hospital, those who were in attendance had the chance to meet Elaine Poggi, founder of The Foundation of Photo/Art in Hospitals.

Poggi's 501c3 organization was created to bring warming art to a section of the hospital where it can sometimes be difficult to feel positive. Dr. Raymond Smith from Quincy Medical Group will be working in Pinckneyville's Oncology Center, and is the doctor who brought attention to Poggi's work to Pinckneyville.

Poggi and Smith met when Poggi's mother was in Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis suffering from Hodgkin's Lymphoma, and Smith was her doctor. Poggi's mother found the room to be rather depressing, so Poggi dressed it up with some of her personal photography. From that experience, HealingPhotoArt.org was born.

Thanks to Dr. Smith, Poggi's work will now be a part of Pinckneyville Hospital. Photos were selected from her gallery, which not only include her work but that of photographers from all around the world who donate their art to the project. Aside from

Pinckneyville Hospital, Poggi is currently working on putting art in hospitals in Australia, Mexico, Los Angeles and Texas, and her program has made its way into hospitals on seven continents.

Dr. Smith says the Oncology and Infusion Center will help save local cancer patients what can sometimes be a lengthy and tiring trip to St. Louis when they are already going through a tiring process. Pinckneyville's facility will provide PICC line placements with Mobile Vascular Access Nurses, PICC line education and follow-up care, central line education, management and follow-up care, outpatient chemotherapy, blood transfusions, antibiotic therapy, rheumatology infusions, injections and education, injections (osteoporosis, anemia), IV starts (peripheral and port-a-cath), IV fluids for hydration, infusions for iron deficiency, blood specimen collection and immunity replacement therapy (IV).

Smith said that he and Dr. M. Amjad Ali would be able to help patients as much as possible at Pinckneyville's facility, but also direct them to Carbondale or St. Louis if that is what the patient's condition requires. Either way, immediate care will be available in Pinckneyville as it has never been before.



Elaine Poggi and Dr. Raymod Smith stand with one of Poggi's photos, which decorate the walls of the Oncology Center at Pinckneyville Hospital. Poggi's organization, healingphotoart.org, provides soothing artwork to hospittls around the world.