

The Examiner of STREAMWOOD

Volume 24
Number 37

"IF I WERE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT A NEWSPAPER OR A NEWSPAPER WITHOUT A GOVERNMENT, I WOULD NOT HESITATE TO CHOOSE THE LATTER." THOMAS JEFFERSON

50 cents
January 23, 2019

Village approves
water tower vendor
See Page 3

Delay encountered
for U-46 calendar
See Page 5

U-46 Board debates select changes to policy

This is the first of two stories addressing proposed changes to the U-46 Policy 5. There are changes proposed to 51 sections, two of which were debated. This story addresses Code 5.020.

By Seth Hancock

School District U-46 officials left things uncertain on whether staff could face punishment for recognizing biological facts under proposed changes to its policy under Section 5 concerning personnel.

The changes were discussed at the Board of Education meeting on Monday, Jan. 14 with a vote expected on Monday, Feb. 4.

One of the hotly debated changes came under Code 5.020 (workplace anti-harassment policy) which Luis Rodriguez, assistant attorney, said "adds language to make protected class verbiage among the board's policies consistent." The changes would add protected classes including "gender, gender identification, order of protection status, unfavorable military discharge."

Board member Jeanette Ward said she was concerned that the addition of "gender identity" could lead to forcing "compelled speech" for teachers and a violation of their Constitutional rights to free speech.

Currently there are several cases in the country that pertain to similar scenarios including at West Point High School in Virginia, Chasco Middle School in Florida and Shawnee State University in Ohio.

Ward referenced a Supreme Court decision from Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education and suggested adding language to clearly define harassment as verbal or physical con-

duct that is "severe, pervasive and objectively offensive." Ward noted the court's decision pertained to peer-on-peer harassment but the "concept still applies to teachers."

"It could be construed to mean that a teacher who refuses to refer to another teacher by the sex they are not is harassing them," Ward said of the proposed change.

Ward asked: "So does 'unwelcome, verbal conduct of a sexual nature' then include using grammatically-correct pronouns to refer to a colleague who assumes the identity of someone of the opposite sex? To be clear, I'm asking if district employees are required to use the grammatically-incorrect pronouns when referring to colleagues who assume an opposite-sex persona even if such pronouns deny reality and/or their religious convictions about lying and/or the meaning of biological sex?"

Miguel Rodriguez, chief legal officer, would not answer the question directly saying it's "on a case by case basis," and he called the changes "consistent with state law and with federal law."

Board member Veronica Noland said "I have to comment because I can't not comment" and she has to "go on record like I always do that Ms. Ward's comments are" offensive. She said she had to "go on the record" several times and that she's "getting tired of" hearing views she doesn't agree with.

Noland said Ward was "filled with opinion," uses "unaccepted terms" and "I just have to reject it."

"This is I believe a political opinion and one that is wasting our time at

this point," Noland said. "I'm getting tired, as many people are, of this constantly attacking these protections of our students."

"So, once a person is hired, it's our responsibility to provide a workplace that is free of harassment," said board member Melissa Owens who also accused Ward of wanting to eliminate human rights. "That's out responsibility. That's by law."

Although the administration would not answer Ward's questions, Owens said the policy wouldn't force "compelled speech" and said a teacher can use a colleagues name rather than a pronoun.

"This is treating somebody as a basic, on a basic humanity level, right.... I would expect people to treat other people with dignity and respect," Owens said.

"I'm not suggesting that we not treat individuals with dignity and respect," Ward responded. "I'm suggesting that we protect the rights of the First Amendment. I don't mind referring to someone by their name. That's perfectly fine, and I certainly advocate for treating all human beings with dignity and respect."

Ward said the suggested additional language "provides some protection for teachers who don't want to be forced to use pronouns that don't agree with what they know to be true in reality."

"Nothing in here is forcing anybody to use a pronoun," Owens claimed, but Ward replied: "I'm saying it could be construed to do that."

Donna Smith, the board's president, said: "But I think... we are going to look at every discipline on an individual basis and that's what we do now."

Miguel Rodriguez, apparently misrepresenting Ward's position, said that "it would be legally indefensible... to discriminate

against a transgender employee who has undergone let's say the whole process and everything." He added: "The First Amendment is placed at a very limited capacity or it is diminished when you're in the work place."

Ward said: "I'm not suggesting we don't follow our policies. I'm not suggesting we don't treat humans with dignity and respect. I'm suggesting we add the language 'severe, pervasive and objectively offensive' so that it's clear what delineates an infraction."

"That would be in my opinion incorrect" and "has nothing to do with the policy here," Miguel Rodriguez said.

Board member John Devereux called Ward's suggested language "an incredibly high hurdle and it would be a blanket across all of these protected classes."

Prior to the board's discussion, Hanover Park resident Ina Silva-Sobolewski addressed the issue during public comments. She referenced the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards and listed all the tasks expected of teachers.

"Besides the tasks listed above according to the policy... [is it] expected that teachers take on knowledge of the supposed 63-plus genders out there and attend to the personal needs of other teachers as well?" Silva-Sobolewski asked.

Silva-Sobolewski said: "Gender along with the notions of gender identity and gender expression are socially constructed categories that were created in the fevered imaginations of gender studies activists. There is no basis for them whatsoever in the fields of genetics and neuroscience. It does not mean we do not have compassion for people who have cognitive dissonance with their biology, but our education must not succumb to the pressures of the latest fad in political correctness."

Multi-gallon donors highlight of blood drive

By Kristin Carreno

The village will be recognizing its multi-gallon donors during the next blood drive on Wednesday, Jan. 23 from 1 to 7 p.m. at Streamwood Village Hall, 301 E. Irving Park Road.

According to Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees Mary Cornett, a multi-gallon donor is someone who has donated at least 16 pints of blood. Village President Billie Roth will acknowledge these donors at 3 p.m.

Cornett added that anyone who is at least 17 years old, weighs a minimum of 110 pounds, is in good health and has not donated blood within the past 56 days is eligible to donate. She added that every donor will receive a gift.

According to Dawn Leardi, chairperson for the Streamwood

Blood Commission, five blood drives are held every year. An average of 50 units of blood are collected at a drive which could contribute to the saving of as many as 150 lives.

"The commission has been saving lives for 25 years," said Leardi.

The blood drive is hosted by the Streamwood Blood Commission and Streamwood VFW Post 5151, according to Village Clerk Kittie Kopitke.

"The need for blood is always particularly critical during the winter months," Kopitke said. "Please consider donating."

To schedule an appointment contact Vitalant (formerly LifeSource) at 877-258-4825 or visit www.vitalant.org and use the group code SW98. Walk-ins are also welcome.



Freshman move

While protecting the basketball, the Sabres' Richard Santiago attempted to drive past the Storm's Drew Cwik during Streamwood's Thursday, Jan. 17 loss at South Elgin. For story and more photos see page 8.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

New U-46 calendar not yet ready for release

By Seth Hancock

A proposed calendar for the 2019-20 school year in School District U-46 should be presented in February according to officials at the Board of Education meeting on Monday, Jan. 14.

In prior years, a proposed calendar would have generally already been presented or approved. This year's school calendar was approved in December 2017.

Board member Jeanette Ward raised the issue stating she's received a "bunch of questions" from parents about the calendar and U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said it would be presented "probably in February."

Sanders said the delay was due to changes made by the state from the so-called "evidence based" funding model which he said "eliminated the seat time requirement for students" giving districts more flexibility, but it also "increased the number of days required for student attendance from 174 to 176."

The district is trying to determine "what constitutes an instructional day for students" and looking at flexible options according to Sanders.

There are 173 attendance days and 184 teachers attendance days on this year's calendar.

This year the first day of classes was on Aug. 15, the sixth straight year with an earlier start date, despite public opposition. The earlier start date began under former Superintendent Jose Torres who was seeking yearlong school.

Ward has consistently opposed the earlier start to school and asked: "Are we going to ask the community what they think about early start dates and so on?"

"We did not do a survey for this year," Sanders responded. "We have not done one at this point."

Ward said she believed a survey should be taken but later agreed that there was not enough time.

Board member Melissa Owens said that "at this point, we need to get this calendar done" because "we're in a planning crunch at this point" which Ward said was a "fair point."

Ward said that "next year I would like us to look at a survey, and I'll bring that up again in ample time next year."

Donna Smith, the board's president, has not sought the board's input on the calendar discussion on several fronts including whether to survey the public. The district, which did not survey last year, has surveyed the public three times since moving to the earlier start date as the board has largely supported the survey with only one, former board member Traci Ellis, voicing complete opposition from seeking the public input.

Three years ago, the administration suggested the board approve guidelines on calendar creation which Smith has yet to bring to the board. Board member Phil Costello last year suggested "at least every two years survey the families" which could be a part of the calendar guidelines.

Every survey has shown a clear desire from the public for a later start date. The first showed 90 percent of nearly 1,700 respondents opposed the earlier date while the next two subsequent surveys, with 935 and 4,715 respondents respectively, showed 73 percent opposition to the earlier start date.

Board member Veronica Noland said that her "recollection" of the survey was "it comes out equal every time."

"The most recent version, it did come out pretty equal but at the same time there was the desire to change the start date which would have resulted in a pushing final exams past winter break," Sanders said. "And the board's decision was to stick with the current start time and to have finals before winter break."

Smith said the survey showed a desire for a later start date but also having high school finals before winter break "which is not possible."

"My recollection is that the majority of the community wanted a later start date," Ward said. "We had conjecture amongst ourselves as to what they thought about when" finals should occur.

"But there were answers that answered both," Smith said.

The district has never surveyed the public on when finals should occur.

Board member Sue Kerr said there was a difference from what elementary and secondary parents wanted.

Regarding finals, Sanders previously stated that the district's own data showed "it's not made a significant impact over these past few years academically" whether finals are held before or after winter break, and "[students are] going to have that stress whether it's before winter break or after winter break."

Board member John Devereux said the public can provide informal feedback on the upcoming calendar by contacting the board and administrators.

Noland said: "I appreciate getting input on this... but I also know that there are so many other factors that we have to evaluate and to determine."

"It is a more complex response then simply what the parents prefer," Noland added. "So knowing that there's such variety I don't think we need to do this again. I think it gives parents false hope that their opinion is the only factor that we're going to weigh."

Budget

Continued from page 1

weeks probably."

Wallace asked for an update on the transition to Lake Michigan water from the current water from Elgin and the Fox River.

"Our goal is May 15 at this point," said Dan Dinges, public works director. "That's when the contract with Elgin expires so we're on target for that right now."

Wallace asked if the village is receiving complaints due to the hikes in the water rate and Dowden said "we get a lot, but it's not as much" as expected. Dowden said there is one more water rate hike projected to come.

In September, the board approved of a 21 percent increase in the water rates which was planned and in 2017 the village made its first hike on the water rates since 2012.

Wallace said he hoped the village was stressing in its "talking points" that the water rate increases were expected and that the increases should be offset by residents not needing to purchase water softeners with the transition to Lake Michigan water. Paula Schumacher, village administrator, said they were and they have consistently provided updates on the village website and social media.

"Regardless of what we put in writing, they don't read it," said Trustee Raymond Deyne. "They just want to complain about the water rates, and in reality we didn't have any choice. The contract with Elgin was expiring."

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Dissecting District U-46 cost per student data

By Seth Hancock

How much does School District U-46 spend per student and how does it compare with the nation?

According to the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) most recent report card, U-46 spent \$11,946 per student on operational spending and \$6,717 per student in instructional spending in 2017.

Suzanne Johnson, deputy superintendent of instruction, explained the difference between instructional and operational spending in October when the report card was presented to the Board of Education.

Johnson said: "Instructional is looking at teacher salary and benefits. That is the cost that we look at.... Operational would be all other costs when we look at School District U-46. So that would include our buildings, our operational components, maintenance, resources, transportation, utilities, food for students. All other costs would comprise that operational piece."

Recently in an article titled "Declining enrollment, an ongoing U-46 trend," *The Examiner* reported that combined the district spends \$18,662 per student.

However, the state's definition of operational spending "includes all costs for overall operations in this school's district, including Instructional Spending."

Mary Fergus, U-46's director of school and community relations, clarified: "We would point out that our Financial Services Department submits data as part of the Illinois State Board of Education's Annual Financial Report Form that is calculated to report the 'Instructional Spending per pupil,' and the 'Operational Spending per pupil.'"

"When we cite the amount of money spent on each student's education per

Fulton-Mason Eagle Days set for Feb. 2

Join the annual Fulton-Mason Eagle Day event on Saturday, Feb. 2 with activities including live raptor programs, hands-on activities and crafts for kids, and bird watching in various locations in Lewistown and Havana, Illinois. The event is free and for all ages. The World Bird Sanctuary's Raptor Awareness programs will be held at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. in the Dickson Mounds Museum auditorium.

Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning at 9 a.m. at Dickson Mounds on the day of the event. Seating is limited. Fulton-Mason Eagle Day is sponsored by the City of Lewistown, City of Havana, Forbes Biological Station, Havana Oktoberfest Committee, Illinois River Biological Station, Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway, Illinois State Museum-Dickson Mounds, Therkindsen Field Station at Emiquon, The Nature Conservancy, USFWS Illinois River Refuges Complex, Lewistown Chamber of Commerce, Spoon River Electric Coop and Plum Hill Vacation Rental Properties. Activities and displays will be contributed by the Astoria High School Environmental Club, Havana Park District, Emiquon Audubon, Mason County Arts Council, the University of Illinois Extension's Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For more information: <http://www.illinoisstatemuseum.org/content/fulton-mason-eagle-day-0>.

year, we typically refer to the state's Operational Spending per Pupil which is really a measure of regular K-12 programs including operations/support departments," Fergus added.

While the district sends the data to the ISBE which then posts the per pupil spending, the ISBE does not detail how the figures are calculated and U-46's report card data could call to question the accuracy of the state's data while looking at 2017 numbers compared to 2016.

The \$11,946 in operational spending per student in 2017 is a slight decrease, according to the state, from \$12,095 in 2016, this despite total spending increasing from \$499 million in 2016 to \$517.9 million in 2017 according to U-46's budget data while enrollment also declined from 39,711 in 2016 to 39,205 in 2017, a loss of 506 students.

According to the ISBE's data, per student operational spending has increased from \$10,194 in 2013 to \$11,946 in 2017 which is \$1,196 over the rate of inflation according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) inflation calculator.

Current enrollment in the district is 38,572 students according to U-46's numbers and it's current budget sets spending at \$558.1 million which would mean the district would spend \$14,469 per student this school year.

In November, the administration presented the 2018 enrollment data to the board which showed a total loss of 633 students from 39,205 students in 2017. It was the fourth straight year with a decline, and the largest single-year drop during that span, and U-46 has now lost 1,915 total students since 40,487 in 2014.

According to the ISBE data, during that time frame spending has increased nearly \$100 million from \$460 million in 2014 to this year's budget, over \$70 million faster than the rate of inflation according to the BLS inflation calculator. Academic results have also lagged behind the state and seen drops during that time according to the report card.

The U.S. Census Bureau's most recent survey of school system finances from 2016 showed that U-46 spends over the national average of \$11,762 per student.

Utah is the lowest spending state according to that survey at \$6,953 per student yet their students have scored above the national average in both reading and math scores according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress' most recent report. Illinois students scored at or below the national average in all categories.

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Press Clippings 01/23/2019

---Daily Herald---01/23/2019

Rain, ice create road dangers; snow to fall especially north

By: Lee Filas



- Michael Weaver of Libertyville scrapes ice off his windshield Tuesday at the Cook Park Library in Libertyville. Freezing rain moved into the area Tuesday morning.

A mix of rain, snow and sleet is hitting the suburbs, canceling a number of afternoon and evening activities and flights.

[A winter weather advisory](#) has been issued for the area. The advisory expires at midnight for Cook, DuPage and Kane counties.

The advisory is in effect until noon Wednesday for Lake and McHenry counties.

Several spin-outs on the roads were reported Tuesday afternoon because of the freezing rain creating slippery conditions. Cars, driveways, parking lots and sidewalks were covered in sheets of dangerous ice.

Hawthorn Woods closed its village hall early, and Mundelein-based Diamond Lake District 76 called off its school board meeting.

All after-school activities were canceled in Elgin Area School District U-46, Carpentersville-based Community Unit District 300, Palatine-Schaumburg High School District 211 and Northwest Suburban High School District 214.

Most scheduled high school sports tonight were canceled.

Go to [Emergency Closing Center](#) for a complete list of cancellations and closures.

More than 800 flights have been canceled at O'Hare as of about 6 p.m., ABC 7 Chicago reported. Midway has had more than 80 flights canceled.

FUTURETRACK! A Wintry mix of weather will continue to hit northern IL through the evening and overnight. Rain will slowly creep north and allow for a changeover for counties along I-88 but frozen precipitation and heavy, wet snow will fall north & west!

Meteorologists said 1 to 3 inches of snow is expected to fall across the same area this evening, with areas farther north, like Waukegan and Crystal Lake, possibly getting 6 inches or more.

People are urged to slow down and use caution when driving as the weather will create slippery road conditions that could impact their evening commute, officials said.

---The Courier-News---01/23/2019

MLK Day includes food drive, conference

By: Gloria Casas



- School District U46 fifth-grade teacher Jeron Shelton, center, was the keynote speaker Monday at the eighth annual Dr. King Youth Leadership Conference at the Ed Schock Centre of Elgin.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. quote that Diego Gomez memorized was a single but powerful sentence: “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

King’s words mean that once you become silent, you lose part of your soul, the Abbott Middle School seventh-grader said, minutes before reciting the quote to a ballroom filled with students and community leaders at the Ed Schock Centre of Elgin.

Gomez was one of the voices sharing King's inspiring words at the eighth annual Dr. King Youth Leadership Conference in Elgin. The conference is part of the city Human Relations Commission's 34th annual MLK celebration.

The city's celebration included a food drive.

"I'm very pleased to announce because of people's generosity we collected over 25 tons of food," said Danise Habun, chairman of the King celebration committee. "This morning, we distributed that food to our area food pantries. I'm so pleased to be part of a community that cares about one another."

Keynote speaker Jeron Shelton, a fifth-grade teacher in School District U-46, challenged youth to think about King's life, habits, choices, and values. He demonstrated the characteristics of a strong leader, he said. "At times when he was challenged, at times of controversy, he stood up and persisted," Shelton said.

King was always learning, Shelton said. He made the choice to be nonviolent because he valued others.

King grew up in the segregated South at a time a black child could not go to white schools or sit at a lunch counter to buy a hamburger, Shelton said. A white woman once called King a derogatory term and slapped him across the face after accusing him of stepping on her foot, he said. Another time he had to give up his seat on a 90-minute bus ride. Both incidents were humiliating and made him angry, Shelton said.

"He still chose peace," Shelton said. "After being jailed, beaten, stabbed, having his house bombed, witnessing people being attacked by dogs and hoses, he chose peace. He believed resisting evil through nonviolence was the most potent tool available to help oppressed people in their struggle for freedom."

"What choices will you make?" Shelton said. "What are you made of?"

"As you go on with your day and your life, closely examine your habits, your choices and your values," Shelton said. "The decisions you will make today are the building blocks of your future. Examine how you spend your time. Reflect on your goals and aspirations, don't do what is simply comfortable and convenient. Challenges will come. Embrace them," he said.

Classes dismissed early, events canceled in Elgin area due to rain, sleet, snow mix

By: Rafael Guerrero



- A forecast calling for a mix of rain, sleet and snow for Tuesday night into Wednesday morning has prompted the cancellation of several events and activities.

The forecast of rain, snow and ice Tuesday prompted the early dismissal of classes and cancellation of afternoon events in and around Elgin.

National Weather Service meteorologist Ricky Castro said the freezing drizzle and rain will start in afternoon before transitioning into snow and then into rain. Two to four inches of snow is expected Wednesday morning in northern Kane County and northwestern Cook County, he said.

The area's largest school district, School District U46, dismissed classes at the normal time Tuesday but canceled all afternoon activities and events. Among the programs affected are after-school and district activities, practices and events.

The cancellations included the U46 Citizens' Advisory Council's presentation at Gail Borden Public Library and the Elgin High School screening of a WTTW documentary featuring a U46 school.

School District 300 canceled its school board meeting scheduled for Tuesday night. Students at all its schools were dismissed earlier than normal in anticipation of poor road conditions. All athletics, practices and activities were also canceled.

Afternoon classes at deLacey Family Education Center and afternoon preschool classes were canceled as were after-school iLearn, Flex PE and Success Academy evening classes at the high schools, according to a D300 message.

After-school activities at St. Charles School District 303 were canceled. The weather also prompted the cancellation of the school board's learning and teaching board committee meeting, scheduled for early Tuesday evening.

Students at Central School District 301 were released early to allow for more travel time for school buses, according to a district announcement. The Burlington-based district canceled all activities and athletics for the evening, and the school board's Tuesday meeting will be rescheduled.

Elgin Community College closed its doors at 5 p.m., canceling all classes, activities and events at its main campus and branches.

Gail Borden Public Library spokeswoman Denise Raleigh announced all branches would close at 6 p.m. Tuesday, hours earlier than normal due to the weather.

Meanwhile, the St. Charles Public Library closed at 4 p.m., according to its website.

SPORTS

---The Courier-News---01/23/2019

Energy source

Banks' 3-pointer gives Elgin a spark in loss to Waubonsie Valley

By: Patrick Z. McGavin

Sometimes a single play illustrates the divide between two teams.

Waubonsie Valley forward Caymen Woods made such a display by grabbing a second-quarter rebound and going coast to coast for a layup Monday afternoon.

Woods's rebounding, energy and defensive pressure set a dominant tone as Waubonsie Valley defeated Elgin 58-29 to close out its perfect run in the MLK Classic at Burlington Central.

The Warriors (18-2) went 4-0 in the tournament.

"Defense is a big part of my game," Woods said. "I have typically guarded the best guy on the other team. I think I have stepped up and tried to be a little more aggressive offensively. I've had a couple of double digit scoring games."

Woods ended with five points, five rebounds and two blocked shots. At 6-foot-5, he repeatedly forced Elgin players to change their shots.

Waubonsie Valley shut out the Maroons (5-16) from the floor in the third quarter.

The Warriors put the game away with separate first-half runs of 9-0 and 16-2. Junior forward Marcus Skeete scored 15 of his game-high 19 points in the first half to lead Waubonsie.

Senior guard Eric Cannon drilled two 3-pointers in scoring all 10 of his points in the first half. Cannon converted his own offensive rebound in the closing seconds for a 41-18 halftime lead.

Sophomore forward Ben Schwieger impressed off the bench with eight points, four rebounds and three assists.

“I think coach (Jason) Mead sees me as a scorer,” Schwieger said. “If I am a scorer, people are going to have to pay more attention to me defensively and that will open up more shots for my teammates.”

Elgin showed promise in hanging around for most of the first quarter. The Maroons led just once on a 3-pointer by senior guard Kamarr Banks in the opening minute.

Elgin converted four 3-pointers in the first half. Senior forward Trey Yarber scored 10 points to lead the Maroons.

First-year Elgin coach David Hess is still looking for his players to fully incorporate his new system and style.

“Waubonsie is a very good team,” Hess said. “They are now 18-2 for a reason. They are very tough defensively with that man-to-man and they took us out of our stuff we like to run.

“We have to figure it out. We have to execute on offense and rebound the basketball.”



- Elgin's Kamarr Banks, right, tries to get around Waubonsie Valley's Eric Cannon during Monday's game at the Burlington Central MLK Classic.

Police Reports

STREAMWOOD
Tuesday, Jan. 8
★ At 2 p.m., Tammar F. Martinez, 18, Bartlett, was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. The subject was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.
Wednesday, Jan. 9
★ At 2:57 p.m., Kelly S. Degand, 40, no known address, was arrested and charge with retail theft. She was held awaiting bond.
Friday, Jan. 11
★ At 4:26 a.m., Ron R. Gill, Streamwood, was arrested and charged with

domestic battery. He was transported to bond call.
★ At 5:32 p.m., a 16-year-old Woodstock juvenile was arrested and charged with failure to yield turning left, no driver’s license, operation of an unauthorized motor vehicle and leaving the scene of a vehicle-damage accident. The subject was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.
Saturday, Jan. 12
★ At 1:12 p.m., Michelle Soto, 20, Elgin, was arrested and charged with leaving the scene of a vehicle-damage accident and failure to reduce speed.

She was released on an I-bond and faces an undetermined court date.
Sunday, Jan. 13
★ At 5:01 p.m., Shelonda G. Withers, 59, Streamwood, was arrested and charged with retail theft. She was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.
Thursday, Jan. 17
★ At 7:56 p.m., Erik A. McKay, 26, South Elgin, was arrested and charged with driving while license suspended. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.
Friday, Jan. 18
★ At 1:03 a.m., Eric J. Conte-Russian, 40, Chicago, was arrested and charged with driving wile license suspended or revoked, speeding 40-plus miles per hour over the limit, expired registration and an outstanding warrant. He was held awaiting bond call.

BARTLETT

Friday, Jan. 11
★ At 12:53 a.m., a 17-year-old juvenile was arrested and charged with aggravated speeding. She was released on an I-bond and faces a Feb. 1 court date.
Saturday, Jan. 12
★ At 11:35 p.m., police responded to 7-Eleven, 1500 block of South Illinois Route 59, for a customer dispute. The customer reportedly became angry when she learned Apple Pay was not accepted. She was told she was no longer welcome at the store.
Sunday, Jan. 13
★ At 1:12 p.m., police responded to the 600 block of Juniper Lane to conduct a well-being check on three children. Police contacted the mother who confirmed that the children were well and were out of town for the day. Police advised the complainant of the situation.
Monday, Jan. 14
★ At 10:50 a.m., a 14-year-old Hanover Park juvenile was cited for possession of cannabis. He faces a Feb. 20 hearing date.
★ At 2:14 p.m., a 15-year-old Bartlett juvenile was cited for possession of cannabis. He faces a Feb. 20 hearing date.
Tuesday, Jan. 15
★ At 7:46 a.m., Peter A. Caruso, 27, Addison, was arrested and charged with an outstanding Kane County warrant. He was transported to Kane County Jail.
★ At 10:37 a.m., a 17-year-old Carol Stream juvenile was cited for posses-

sion of cannabis. He faces a Feb. 20 hearing date.
★ At 12:46 p.m., a 15-year-old Hanover Park, juvenile was cited for possession of cannabis. She faces a March 1 court date. In the same incident, a 14-year-old West Chicago juvenile was cited for possession of an alternative smoking device. She faces a Feb. 20 hearing date.
★ At 2:05 p.m., a 17-year-old Bartlett juvenile was cited for possession of cannabis. He faces a Feb. 20 hearing date.
★ At 3:24 p.m., a complainant in the 800 block of West Bartlett Road reported a juvenile female subject who entered a business and asked for a ride. Police identified the subject as a Maryville resident and escorted her back to Maryville Academy.
★ At 5:54 p.m., a complainant in the 200 block of North Avenue reported an unknown subject taking measurements of her detached garage.
★ At 8:58 p.m., a complainant in the 1000 block of Spaulding Road reported that he received a letter from PayPal regarding a credit card in his name that he did not open. The complainant notified PayPal of the incident and the card was closed.
Wednesday, Jan. 16
★ At 12 p.m., Juan A. Vira, 19, Bartlett, was arrested on warrant. He was transported to DuPage County Jail.
Thursday, Jan. 17
★ At 3:12 p.m., a 16-year-old Bartlett juvenile was cited for fighting. She faces a Feb. 14 court date.
★ At 4:52 p.m., a 16-year-old Bartlett juvenile was arrested on warrant. She was turned over to the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center to await a court hearing.

CAROL STREAM

Wednesday, Jan. 2
★ At 11:58 p.m., Duane D. Lewis, 43, Streamwood, was arrested and charged with DUI, speeding and illegal transport of alcohol. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.
Thursday, Jan. 10
★ At 7:07 p.m., Jerarelo Tello-Perez, 47, Chicago, was arrested and charged with no valid driver’s license, failure to signal and an outstanding warrant for failure to appear and traffic violations. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

Sabres girls hoops beaten by Tomcats, South Elgin

By Seth Hancock
The Streamwood girls basketball team couldn’t overcome South Elgin’s offense as the Sabres fell 77-49 in Upstate Eight Conference play on Friday, Jan. 18 at South Elgin.
The Sabres were able to produce a few runs offensively but ultimately struggled to slow South Elgin down after falling behind 16-8 after one quarter. South Elgin had 20-plus point frames over the second and third quarters and built as large as a 30-point lead in the fourth.
South Elgin also hit 10 three-pointers in the game including seven in the first half as it built a 41-26 lead by halftime. The Sabres trailed 65-40 after the third.
“The focus has got to be on rebounding and defense,” said Streamwood coach George Rosner after his team’s ninth straight loss. “We can’t be everybody’s best friend on the defensive end.”
Rosner added: “We had some goals

coming in of limiting their threes and we didn’t do that. We didn’t shoot very well and we had a bad start. We made a bit of a run after the start but it didn’t last.”
Mandy Mien scored 14 points including a trey to lead Streamwood, but she was the Sabres only player to reach double digits.
The Sabres did hit six threes including one by Peyton Hedger (nine points) and two each from Riya Patel (six points) and Kaylee Angle (six points). Vivian Sumoski added eight points and Alexis Rojas four.
“We’re always looking for girls to step up and help Mandy,” Rosner said. “Mandy’s always going to lead this team and get her points, but we need to get help out there.”
Streamwood was coming off a 49-43 loss to East Aurora in UEC play on Tuesday, Jan. 15 at East Aurora.
The Sabres are now 4-19 overall, 3-10 in the UEC.

Letters to the Editor

Deadline for letters is noon on Monday. Please include a phone number for verification, and submit letters electronically.
All letters are printed as received. Grammatical and spelling errors are the responsibility of the author.

Liberal strategy?
Dear Editor,
Now that the liberals have lost both the White House and the Senate there still seems to be no strategy from “left-field?” The House squirms so much at proven Trumponomics, record-high GDPs and the most robust economy ever.
A credible list of candidates has finally emerged though. And great news for the dumbacrats, none among them influenced Russia to turn Minnesota blue in 2016. This is actually a mature bona fide strategy finally coming from the minds of left-field.
After all the whole deep-state attempts and fake news antics just never took hold much as was tried. The welcomed adverse of this is now journalists can actually be journalists again augmenting the proven Fox template. It is still unknown, however, why the left still pretends to oppose legal citizenships and the already welcomed tax cuts. It seems merely that the left’s chaos is exactly what panic looks like.
Knowing Trump’s proven progress cannot be undone the left just panics to the realism of having no chance to return to government until 2040 at the soonest as Trump is now an obvious two-termer and as most see Pence and Donald Jr. as being almost as smart as Trump himself will have it easy continuing the progress to carry the torch to 2040. Put another way, Nancy Pelosi will be 100 years old in 2040 so all this gives the left plenty of prep-time with the recent candidates list.
But speaking of 2040 perhaps such candidate has not even been born yet? As such an over-achiever, Trump has accomplished more in two years than any other president ever including even Reagan and even W. Honestly and by-all-means PTL has surely come to mean President Trump’s Legacy as proper and justifiably so as all the recipient smart voters of Bible Nation have reaped such incredible progress, welcomed tax cuts, mass improvements and lucrative jobs rate.
Glad to see America staying great folks!
Proverbs 29:2

Jim Douglass

Taking advantage of the status quo
Dear Editor
State Rep. Lou Lang, D-Skokie, announced his retirement days before he was slated to start his 17th term in Springfield last week.
But he won’t be leaving the Statehouse. His new title is lobbyist.
That’s an unsavory pivot in the minds of many Illinoisans. But it’s nothing new. And it’s certainly not unique to Illinois. Here’s one thing that might be, though: an obscure, lawmakers-only sweetener means Lang is set to receive a six-figure pension for life after just one

year of retirement.
It’s another unfortunate example of rules carved in stone that have been the undoing of the state’s balance sheets and core services. The Illinois Constitution says pension benefits may not be “diminished or impaired,” even when it’s politicians who are profiting handsomely on the public dime.
The story of this strange perk stretches back 30 years.
In 1989, Illinois lawmakers in the final days of legislative session passed a set of changes to the state’s pension systems. Under the old law, public retirees received a bump in their pension every year. But the bump was based on simple interest – 3 percent of the first year’s pension payment.
Under the new law, the state swapped simple interest for compounding interest. That meant the 3 percent bump would be based on last year’s payment, not the original amount. This simple change has cost the state billions of dollars over the years. And the Illinois Supreme Court has interpreted the state constitution to mean these automatic raises throughout retirement can’t be touched for any worker hired while they were on the books.
But that wasn’t the only change in 1989. Lawmakers gave themselves an extra special benefit allowing them to hoard pension “spikes.” After serving 20 years in office or turning age 55, whichever came later, they could bank an additional 3 percent boost to their eventual pensions each year.
Enter Lang.
His final salary was \$87,600. And his first-year pension will be 85 percent of that, or around \$74,500. But then the spikes kick in.
Under the pension formula, Lang banked 3 percent boosts in his eventual pension for 11 years in office. So when year two of retirement comes around, he won’t just get a 3 percent raise like other retirees, he’ll also get a 33 percent bump on top of that.
Lang’s year-two pension? More than \$101,000. Not bad for a lobbyist who will be collecting a private salary as well.
Of course, Lang contributed to the system throughout his career. But he will get back more than his entire contribution within three years.
This special perk ended in 2003, but lawmakers elected before then are still able to reap their reward. Lang isn’t alone. His is just the latest case representing a larger problem. He’ll join 58 other former Illinois state lawmakers from both sides of the aisle taking home six-figure pensions, many of whom took full advantage of this perk.
It’s true that payments to former lawmakers are a drop in the ocean of Illinois’ pension liability. They’re a rounding error. But future recipients of legislative

See Letters, pg. 5

Hawks drop pair to Raiders and Tomcats

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett boys basketball team was unable to finish against Glenbard South in a 51-44 Upstate Eight Conference loss on Tuesday, Jan. 15 at Bartlett.

The game was tight throughout and the Hawks held a lead late in the third quarter before Glenbard South rallied for a 37-34 lead entering the fourth.

Garrett Jurina (eight points) pulled the Hawks to 37-36 to start the final period before Glenbard South went on an 8-0 run for a 45-36 lead with 3:34 left to play. Bartlett came no closer than five the rest of the game.

“We had a lead that we couldn’t protect,” said

Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith. “They started the fourth quarter the way they needed to and we didn’t.”

Jack Stuenkel led the Hawks with 10 points and Bartlett got nine points each from Hayden Angell and Alec Palella, who hit three three-pointers.

For Wolfsmith, he said he was happy with the defensive effort but offensively his squad needed to do more.

“We’ve got to play more controlled, consistent basketball,” Wolfsmith said. “I thought defensively we did a good enough job to win but we have to be able to score more

than 44 points.”

It was the second game of the season for Jurina who returned from an injury that left him sidelined during the first half of the campaign.

“He’s looking like he would to start a season,” Wolfsmith said. “He needs a little more conditioning and needs to get his legs under him, but we’re easing him back into things.”

Bartlett went on to drop a 69-67 UEC game against East Aurora on Thursday, Jan. 17 at Bartlett.

The Hawks are now 6-16 overall, 3-8 in the UEC.



Garret Jurina posting up for the Hawks in front of the Raiders' Tommy Powers during Bartlett's Tuesday, Jan. 15 loss to Glenbard South.



Clark Lewis of Bartlett driving while trying to get past the defense of the Raiders' Tavion Keith.
(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

Storm win pair against Wildcats, Streamwood

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin girls basketball team forged a tie atop the Upstate Eight Conference after a pair of wins over West Chicago and Streamwood.

The Storm improved to 15-9 overall, 12-1 in the UEC, with the wins and is now tied with Bartlett which fell to 12-1 with a loss to Glenbard South during the week. South Elgin will have a rematch with Bartlett on Friday, Feb. 1 at South Elgin after a 54-36 loss earlier this season.

“It’s making things more exciting,” said Storm junior Megan McClure. “We’re gaining some momentum and confidence. We know we need to clean some things up but we’re feeling pretty good.”

Against West Chicago, the Storm dominated in a 56-23 victory on Tuesday, Jan. 15 at West Chicago. Ella Winterhalder (12 points), McClure (eight points), Madison Waichunas (eight points), Miah Galvin (eight points) and Caroline Croft (five points)

led the effort.

South Elgin dominated against Streamwood in a 77-49 victory on Friday, Jan. 18 at South Elgin.

McClure scored 10 of her game-high 26 points and hit two of her five three-pointers in the first quarter as the Storm built a 16-8 lead and never looked back. South Elgin led 41-26 at halftime and 65-40 after three quarters while building as large as a 30-point lead in the fourth.

“I just told them to go out and play ball,” said South Elgin coach Dan Mandernack. “We knew we wanted to run and we did a nice job with it tonight.”

McClure may have dominated on the scoreboard but the Storm had plenty of depth with nine girls putting points on the board. South Elgin finished

with 10 treys as a team with one apiece from Croft (10 points), Casey Brennan (nine points), Galvin (eight points), Melissa Guzman (five points) and Nikki Nguyen.

Waichunas added eight points, Rachel Kelly five and Winterhalder three to round out the Storm’s scoring.

“Our teamwork is amazing,” Brennan said. “We feel really comfortable out there together right now. We know where everyone is going to be.”

The Storm had a matchup with Marengo at South Elgin cancelled on Saturday, Jan. 19.



The Storm's Megan McClure, left, Casey Brenna bracket the Wildcats' Monse Vargas forcing a jump ball whistle.
(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



The Wildcats' Monse Vargas, left, and the Storm's Nikki Nguyen battling for possession of the basketball under the South Elgin hoop.

Storm top Sabres after win over West Chicago



South Elgin's Trace Ashby in the paint dishing off a pass to an open teammate past the defense of the Sabres Zach Marquez.

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin boys basketball team took its third meeting with Streamwood in a game of runs with the Storm finishing on top 59-55 for the Upstate Eight Conference win on Thursday, Jan. 17 at South Elgin.

Streamwood came out strong building an 18-9 lead late in the first quarter but the Storm would build a 30-27 halftime lead behind 15 first half points from Drake Montgomery (25 points, seven rebounds, six assists, three steals) and 13 points from Vince Miskiewicz (23 points, 14 rebounds, eight steals).

For Montgomery, he led South Elgin after missing the Storm's 71-63 UEC win against Streamwood earlier this season due to an injury, and he missed most of the first rematch (70-58 loss at Jacobs Christmas Tournament) after rolling an ankle in the first quarter.

"It was fun to play against them," Montgomery said. "They beat us down last time so I knew my team needed me this time. Anytime you avenge a loss it's big, but it's also big to pick up another conference win."

South Elgin built a seven-point lead in the

third quarter before Streamwood rallied to tie it 42-42 late in the frame and to pull ahead 45-44 to start the fourth. That was the first of six lead changes in the final period, the last coming with 4:02 when Miskiewicz hit a three-pointer for a 52-50 lead.

Montgomery hit a bucket and Miskiewicz a dunk for a 56-50 lead with 2:09 which extended to 59-51 in the final minute after a pair of free throws by Montgomery.

"It was a good win as a team," said South Elgin coach Brett Johnson. "It's good to have that type of a battle at this point in the season for both teams."

Trace Ashby and Lane McVicar both had four points and Jace Warrick a trey.

South Elgin was coming off an 80-67 victory over West Chicago in UEC play on Tuesday, Jan. 15 at South Elgin. Miskiewicz (24 points), Warrick (19 points), Montgomery (17 points) and Ashby (13 points) led the effort.

The Storm are now 16-6 overall, 9-2 in the UEC.



The Storm's Lane McVicar rising above the floor to bring down a key fourth-quarter rebound.
(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



The Storm's Drake Montgomery driving on the Streamwood hoop and Sabres' Zach Marquez.



Vince Miskiewicz of the Storm getting a wide open look at the Streamwood basket while releasing a successful jumper.

Hawks rebound from first UEC loss with win



After picking up a loose ball, Teagan Noesen of Bartlett progressed toward the East Aurora basket prior to launching a shot. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



East Aurora’s Barakat Adekola, left, and the Hawks’ Savannah Standefer battle for a rebound that eluded them both during first quarter action.

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett girls basketball team suffered its first setback in the Upstate Eight Conference after falling 44-43 to Glenbard South on Tuesday, Jan. 15 at Glenbard South.

After the Hawks held the host to just three second quarter points to take a 21-15 halftime lead, they were outscored 13-2 in the third to fall behind 28-23. Bartlett trailed by as much as eight in the fourth quarter but rallied to 43-42 with 3.8 seconds left to play, but the Hawks fouled Glenbard South on the other end allowing a pair of free throws to hand them their first conference loss.

Despite the loss, Bartlett coach Brad Hunt was happy with his team’s effort and the game should make them better down the final stretch of the season.

“Overall, I liked how my team competed,” Hunt

said. “We struggled a little bit in the third quarter but rebounded nicely in the fourth. We just didn’t make enough plays to win.”

Hunt added: “We can’t relax and think we are just always going to beat teams by 15 or 20 every night. It is one loss. I know my girls will use this to light a fire inside them. We will get better.”

Mackenzie Hare and Lexie Sinclair both tallied 15 points to lead the Hawks.

Bartlett had defeated Glenbard South 46-43 earlier this season in their first UEC matchup, but the difference in the rematch was Glenbard South’s 6-foot-4, Division I recruit Maggie Bair who poured in 28 points for the host. The Hawks offense was limited from three-point range while on defense they gave up too many second chance buckets, according to Hunt.

“This game was very different from the first game

in that their big [player] was dominant,” Hunt said. “We could not stop her. Yet we were a play here or a play there from winning. Glenbard South is a good defensive team, and they defended the three very well.”

Bartlett bounced back with a 59-36 UEC win over East Aurora on Friday, Jan. 18 at Bartlett. Sinclair (18 points), Hare (14 points) and Teagan Noesen (seven points) led the Hawks.

After a tight first half, Bartlett leading 32-28 at the break, East Aurora was held to just eight second half points as the Hawks dominated the final two frames. Bartlett led 43-31 entering the fourth.

The Hawks are now 20-4 overall, 12-1 in the UEC. Bartlett is now tied atop the UEC with rival South Elgin with the two squads set for a rematch on Friday, Feb. 1 at South Elgin after the Hawks won the first round 54-36.



An expressive Mackenzie Hare completing a route to the East Aurora hoop that resulted in a successful layup for the Hawks during Bartlett’s Friday, Jan. 18 win over the Tomcats.



The Hawks’ Justina Hernandez using the floor as a springboard near the top of the key while being defended by the Lady Tomcats’ Alicia Griffin.