

The Examiner of STREAMWOOD

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"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
February 13, 2019

Village earns two
reporting awards
See Page 2

Board supports tax
status request
See Page 5

State grant funds not to be received by U-46

By Seth Hancock

School District U-46 budgeted nearly \$54 million additional revenue this year from the state, a state that's currently \$158.8 billion in debt according to usdebtclock.org and the worst ranked state for fiscal health according to George Mason University's Mercatus Center. However, funding from a potential state grant has evaporated.

The board had a discussion at its meeting on Monday, Feb. 4 after board member Sue Kerr said U-46 did not receive any funds from a property tax relief grant the district applied for in December. On one side was the claim that the only way taxpayers can see relief is from the state and U-46 has no power, while the other side said the district can actually assert local control.

"The choice to offer a really good education for our residents does rely on us raising funds locally, not because we want to but because we have to to survive," said U-46 CEO Tony Sanders.

Earlier in the meeting, Elgin resident Grady Hauser who spoke during public comments and said 65 percent of his property tax bill goes to U-46 and

U-46 residents have "among the highest levied taxes in the state of Illinois." He urged the board to "focus on getting budgets down, test scores up."

Hauser said he has a neighbor who has been trying to sell his home for about eight months but has had "very few lookers."

"They have reduced the price twice, below what a reasonable market level should be," Hauser said. "And whenever someone comes in... basically they say 'oh, you're in U-46.' So they want a deeper discount on the house price or they go a mile south of us and they want to get into St. Charles that has lower taxes than South Elgin but perceived higher academic scores."

Hauser said "these are real people with real issues that are resulting from board policies" and he said the district spends too much time "focusing on social issues. That seems to be what U-46 is becoming to be known for around the state and around the country. I'm sorry to say, but that's the truth. We are known in addition to that for the higher taxes and lower academic scores relative to the suburbs around us."

In the Illinois State Board of Educa-

tion's (ISBE) report card, U-46 lags behind the state academically and has seen scores drop despite major spending increases. District 303 in St. Charles has a 94 percent graduation rate compared to 84 percent in U-46, 95 percent freshmen on track compared to 81 percent and much higher test scores all despite having a higher average student to teacher ratio, 23 to 22.

Some board members and Sanders continued to push the social issues as they decried the formula used to determine the tax relief with class warfare arguments. Sanders said it "flies in the face of the conversations around wealth versus poverty," and board member Melissa Owens said "it is exasperating inequity into perpetuity."

The tax relief grant was a part of the "evidence-based" funding formula that Sanders lobbied for with \$50 million in the grant while \$3.2 billion were requested by 851 school districts. U-46 officials originally said they expect at least \$1 million or up to \$5 million from the grant, but said they ex-

pected nothing the night the board unanimously approved the application.

It should be noted that the grant does not provide any real tax relief as any property tax relief would be paid for by another tax, state income and corporate taxes, rather than a taxing body, in this case government schools, presenting fiscally responsible budgets. To help pay for the "evidence-based" formula, the state hiked the personal income tax rate by 32 percent and the corporate tax rate by 33.3 percent which Sanders lobbied for.

Kerr said: "I'm not going to complain about not receiving it... but I am going to hope that we as a district can complain about the process because the way the state evaluated which districts were eligible really favored high school districts."

"The way the law was written was never modeled so clearly there's a problem in the way they did it," said Sanders who also said U-46 will not

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U-46 board member to host town hall meetings

By Seth Hancock

Phil Costello, School District U-46 Board of Education member, has announced a plan to host two upcoming town hall meetings.

The town hall meetings will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at the Bartlett Public Library and Wednesday, March 20 at Gail Borden Library in Elgin according to Costello who announced the dates at the board meeting on Monday, Feb. 4. Both town halls are scheduled to start at 7 p.m.

In November, Costello announced that he would not seek reelection to the board in the upcoming April 2 board elections. He holds one of four seats up for election.

Costello invited his colleagues on the board who are not up for reelection (Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens and Donna Smith) but they did not respond to the invite at the Feb. 4 meeting. Costello will also invite the newcomers running for the four open board seats which include Daniel Hancock, Eva Porter, Tina Rio, Ina Silva-Sobolewski and Kate Thommes.

Part of the reason for the town halls according to Costello are the upcoming elections which he said generally do not come with high voter turnout. He said the district does not hear enough from some stakeholders, most importantly the taxpayers who fund the district.

"My overriding concern is that school board elections generally do not engender significant voter turnout that other state and federal elected positions garner and yet property taxes can be more than 5 percent of a family's household budget," Costello said. He added: "This board needs to hear from you all, whether you're an employee or a taxpayer, a teacher, what-

ever. We need to hear from you. It can't just be in this room, it's got to be outside of this room."

Costello said the town halls will focus on "the key issues that challenge" the district and how to improve voter turnout, but he said attendees will be free to raise their own issues and concerns.

In his remaining months on the board, Costello said he will "focus more on district taxpayers... who generally do not get the attention they deserve.... I think we should be dealing with the larger issues, how taxpayers in this district are treated and what we're expecting of them and what they should be expecting of the schools."

Costello also said he will be writing a weekly blog, at u46boe-philcostello.com, as he reviews board decisions over his four years to figure out what impact the board's decisions have had and what lessons can be learned.

"This is not acrimonious," Costello said. "I'm not finger pointing. Hopefully I've never done that here. I hope that this board and following boards don't do that."

Costello added: "We should be discussing issues, like those that were addressed tonight both at the employee level and at the taxpayer level. These are things that we should be looking at."

At the Feb. 4 meeting, two people spoke during public comments including a union representative sharing concerns with a policy change approved by the board that evening. A resident and taxpayer also raised concerns with the same policy as well as concerns over the high taxation in the district despite academic results continuing to decline.



Long range success

The Sabres' Keenon Cole launching a successful three-point shot from behind the arc during Streamwood's 73-66 win over Bartlett on Wednesday, Feb. 8. For story and more photos see page 6.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

Police Reports

STREAMWOOD
Friday, Feb. 1
★ At 9:35 a.m., Jelyn J. Hill, 21, Streamwood, was arrested on warrant. She was transported to bond call.
Saturday, Feb. 2
★ At 3:11 p.m., Celena Marie Feliciano, 21, Streamwood, was arrested and charged with domestic battery. She was transported to bond call.
Sunday, Feb. 3
★ At 10:10 p.m., Jose E. Patino, 25, Streamwood, was arrested and charged with possession of cannabis. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.
Monday, Feb. 4
★ At 3:04 a.m., Vincente Martinez, 33, Wheeling, was arrested and charged with DUI and not driving on the right side of the road. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined

BARTLETT
Friday, Feb. 1
★ At 12:28 p.m., a 15-year-old Hanover Park juvenile was cited for possession of an alternative smoking device. He faces a March 1 court date.
★ At 6:10 p.m., a complainant in the 1000 block of Tamarack Drive reported that his residence was flooded with several inches of water. He requested police assistance to shut off the water. The complainant advised that they would notify the insurance company of the damage.
★ At 9:28 p.m., Abdelhamed Ghaleb Zataymeh, 29, Forest Park, was arrested and charged with driving while license suspended and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. He was released on an I-bond and faces a Feb. 22 court date.

THE AUTOMOBILE TECHNICIAN'S JOB

Today's automobiles have more computing power than the space shuttles that NASA used to send astronauts to the moon did. With this in mind, it is important to note that today's automobile technicians must not only be able to perform mechanical chores, but they must also be able to repair a vehicle using diagnostic equipment that can analyze the data from dozens of interconnected computers found in current vehicles. In many cases, auto technicians do work that is more often associated with I.T. (information technology) workers than repairing and replacing metal parts with socket wrenches. The job of "automobile technician" requires a deep commitment to learning necessary mechanical and digital skills that vehicle owners hopefully fully appreciate.

Some of our customers travel quite a distance to have our ASE-certified techs work on their vehicles because they know they can trust us for quality, thorough services done accurately and in a timely manner. It's important to all of us at **ROYAL COACH** to inform our customers what we're doing, why we're doing it, and what we might recommend in the near future to keep them on the road and out of the repair shop. Your satisfaction and your vehicle's optimal performance are our top priorities. *Quality before quantity.*

HINT: The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that an average of 76,000 auto technicians were needed annually between 2016 and 2026 to replace those retiring as well as those needed to fill the 46,000 positions that are expected to open.

**1028 E. DEVON AVE. • BARTLETT
630-289-2242**

Saturday, Feb. 2
★ At 3:20 a.m., an agent for Bracht's Place, 300 block of South Prospect Avenue, requested assistance in the removal of a customer after he attempted to grab a female customer. No complaint to be signed.
★ At 3:24 p.m., police responded to the 100 block of South Hale Avenue in response to a neighbor dispute over a missing garbage can. The complainant advised that he notified his landlord of the incident.
★ At 10:54 p.m., Douglas M. Kangail, 53, Bartlett, was arrested and charged with domestic battery. He was held awaiting bond call.
Sunday, Feb. 3
★ At 5:02 p.m., a complainant in the 1000 block of Illinois Route 59 reported that an unknown customer approached her multiple times while she was at work and gave her a note which made her uncomfortable. The complainant advised that she notified her store manager of the incident.
Tuesday, Feb. 5
★ At 12:14 a.m., a complainant in the 200 block of Norway Drive reported damage to his garage door by unknown offenders.
★ At 7:24 a.m., Luis E. Tarin, 46, Bartlett, was cited for retail theft. He faces a Feb. 2 court date.
★ At 12:44 p.m., officers responded to the Bartlett Park District Community Center, 700 block of Bartlett Road, for a bench that was damaged by unknown offenders.
★ At 2:32 p.m., a complainant in the 1000 block of Monroe Drive reported that he would be trimming his neighbor's tree that hangs over his driveway.
★ At 4:39 p.m., a complainant in the 700 block of Schick Road reported that a cell phone was stolen by unknown offenders.
Wednesday, Feb. 6
★ At 11:49 a.m., a complainant in the 500 block of Deere Park Circle reported that an unknown offender tried to deposit money into his bank account after he received a scam email.
Thursday, Feb. 7
★ At 1:43 a.m., Daniel J. Driscoll, 34, Buffalo, New York, was arrested and charged with two counts of domestic battery with bodily harm and two counts of domestic battery with physical contact of an insulting/provoking nature. He was transported to DuPage County Jail to await a bond hearing.
★ At 9:47 a.m., a 17-year-old juvenile was cited for possession of an alternative smoking device. He faces a March 20 court date.
★ At 4:38 p.m., a complainant in the 700 block of Leaf Court reported receiving harassing text messages from a friend. Police contacted the subject and advised him to stop contacting the complainant.

CAROL STREAM
Tuesday, Jan. 29
★ At 10:06 p.m., Giovanni R. Belfiore, 29, Carol Stream, was arrested and charged with burglary, possession of a controlled substance and resisting a peace officer. He was transported to DuPage County Jail.
Friday, Feb. 1
★ At 7:37 p.m., Margaret Maeviski, 26, Wooddale, was arrested and charged with DUI, BAC over .08 and improper lane usage. She was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.
Saturday, Feb. 2
★ At 1:19 a.m., David Romo, 39, Addison, was arrested and charged with DUI, BAC over .08, improper lane usage and disobeying a traffic control device. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.
★ At 1:44 a.m., Rajesh Aryai, 34, Carol Stream, was arrested and charged with DUI, BAC over .08, improper lane us-

age and no insurance. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.
★ At 11:42 p.m., Jonathan L. Stewart, 24, Naperville, was arrested and charged with possession of cannabis, possession of drug paraphernalia, improper lane usage and no insurance. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.
Sunday, Feb. 3
★ At 2:08 a.m., Kevin Simmons Jr., 25, Wheaton, was arrested on warrant and

charged with failure to appear, burglary, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, criminal trespass to residence and resisting a peace officer. He was transported to DuPage County Jail.
★ At 3:25 a.m., Eriel T. Wills, 25, Batavia, was arrested and charged with DUI, driving under the influence of drugs, driving under the influence of a combination of drugs and alcohol, speeding and improper lane usage. The subject was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

Village honored twice for financial reporting

By Kristin Carreno
At the Village Board meeting on Thursday, Feb. 7, the village was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This award is for the Village of Streamwood 2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). And, in recognition of this being the 30th consecutive year the village has received this award, City of Geneva Finance Director Rita Kruse attended the meeting on behalf of the Illinois GFOA to present a plaque to Streamwood Finance Director Josh Peacock.
According to Kruse, the Certificate of Achievement program began in 1946. and its purpose is to encourage communities to publish easily readable and understandable financial reports. The village has participated in the program since 1988 making this the 30th consecutive year that they've received this award.

"To receive this award reflects a high degree of dedication and leadership," said Kruse.
The CAFR is a tool used by the village and for bond rating agencies, interested citizens and other members of the general public, according to Kruse. A CAFR may also demonstrate commitment to transparency and adherence to sound accounting standards.
According to Peacock, the village is on a calendar year from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. This award is for Dec. 31, 2017.
The CAFR is finalized six months after the end of each calendar year, according to Peacock. It then takes about six months for the review process to be completed by the GFOA.
"As of 2017 there were only 152 Illinois municipalities who received this [for awards issued annually]," Peacock said. "We are definitely a unique model. Thank you for your support to the village board for continuing with your guidance."

Grant funds

Continued from page 1
have "access to those dollars" in the future but those that received the grant will.
Owens, who said the law was rushed, said: "It's not so much that we didn't get the grant, although I would have liked that for our taxpayers, but unit districts were blown out of the water."
Stating a belief in local control, board member Jeanette Ward responded: "So I don't think anyone should be surprised that a sprawling bureaucracy of the state didn't give us property tax relief. I never expected to receive it anyway."
"But people did get it," Owens interrupted, and Kerr said: "If you look at how they figured it, there was a logical flaw in their numbers."
Ward replied: "But we could have granted property tax relief to our residents by reducing property taxes correspondingly to the amount that we received from the state which is what I advocated doing. So we could have offered our residents property tax relief. And we relied on, we said at the time, 'no, we're going to go after this property tax relief at the state level,' and low and behold we didn't get it, shockingly."
The board approved a 3 percent increase, the largest allowed under law, in the property tax levy in December with Ward and board member Phil Costello voting no.
Sanders claimed U-46 is "funded at 55 percent the adequacy target that the state has set with this formula" and previously claimed the district should be spending \$800 million, up from this year's spending of \$558.1

million. Under the district's current budget projections student population will drop 13.1 percent from 2012 to the 2021-22 school year but spending will increase by 36.3 percent.
The district hiked spending by \$40.2 million this year and added 54 new positions despite declining enrollment. U-46 has lost 1,915 total students since 2014 while spending has increased by \$100 million, \$70 million faster than the rate of inflation according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator.
The Tax Foundation showed that Illinois is in the top five of states for highest total tax burden, and the U.S. Census Bureau shows that U-46 spends above the national average and Illinois has dropped to the fifth most populace state to the sixth.
Since the early 2000s, data from the states that have implemented the "evidence-based" formula have proven Stanford University professor Eric Hanushek correct who said: "They are sure to be disappointed by the results, and most taxpayers (those who do not work for the schools) will be noticeably poorer."
The discussion came on the same night the district presented its property tax abatement plan which will receive a vote on Feb. 25 which has a stated effect to keep rates flat despite increasing the levy.
Ward has previously said: "The idea of it is to preserve increases into the future so that we're not penalized by the state for keeping it flat. So in effect we're keeping it flat, but we're preserving the increase for the future."
Dale Burnidge, director of financial operations, has called that description "correct" meaning the district is kicking the tax increases down the road to future taxpayers.

District U-46 releases 2019-20 calendar draft

By Seth Hancock

School District U-46 has released a draft calendar for the 2019-2020 school year which aligns with recent calendars.

The Board of Education discussed the draft at its Monday, Feb. 4 meeting, and the draft was released publicly the following day.

U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said it's "very draft, this is not finalized," and it's unclear when an official calendar proposal and vote will take place. Sanders said it aligns with neighboring districts.

The first day of classes is scheduled for Aug. 14, a week later on Aug. 21 for pre-school, which would be the seventh straight year for an earlier start date despite public opposition to early start dates through three surveys taken by U-46. The district did not do a survey this year.

The first semester would end before Christmas break, high school graduation on May 23 and the last day of classes if no emergency days are used on May 27. There are 176 instructional days scheduled (up from 173 this year) and 184 teacher attendance days.

Thanksgiving break is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, Nov. 27 while Nov. 25 and 26 are scheduled for early release as school improvement (SIP) days. Christmas break would start on Dec. 20 with a return to school on Jan. 7, and there are no classes March 23 to 27 for spring break.

There are 11 days scheduled as early release for SIP days, including the fi-

nal two days on May 26 and 27 after a day off on Memorial Day, May 25. The early release days are up in the air as the district waits for a decision on pending legislation from the state.

The calendar has been delayed due to state legislation according to Sanders who said the so-called "evidence based" funding model "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."

Sanders said the early release days "would provide more opportunities for teachers to collaborate in their buildings and also to schedule opportunities for parents to meet with teachers," but the state is currently looking at eliminating that flexibility.

Melanie Meidel, assistant superintendent for special projects, said "the main piece is the early release and the definition of instructional time" because while the state "started to give us flexibility, there's a chance that that will change. So all of the districts are very cautious in the design of their calendars."

"This is just a draft for the board's consideration at this point that we will put out publicly and continue to have discussions with the Elgin Teacher's Association, and also make sure parents are familiar with it and can give feedback as well," Sanders said.

Meidel said a change in this calendar is that no specific date is scheduled for parent/teacher conferences as it plans to give flexibility to schools. The dis-

trict would give guidelines on "how many hours need to be dedicated to that instead of designating one day."

Ward asked how the early release days would look. Meidel said it was just a "concept" right now and Sanders said it "may go away very shortly" through state legislation.

Meidel did say that there are discussions and nothing is set in stone and ideas are being discussed, but "it could be a combination of online learning for some groups and they're not in session, in seats at the school. It could potentially be a layer of elementary is at one time, middle school would be at another, high school is released at another or is not in attendance and it can flip on another day."

Ward said: "As you know, I've always been an advocate for a later start date because I think Aug. 14 is way early to start school. Would this flexibility allow us to both start later and finish the semester before winter break, or does that not help us at all?" Meidel said it would not allow for that.

The board's majority and the administration has in recent years has not responded to survey results showing a public desire for a later start date partly for wanting the first semester to end before Christmas break to allow high school students to take finals before the break.

The district has never done a survey regarding when the public would like the first semester to end and Sanders has said that the district's own data showed "it's not made a significant impact over these past few years acad-

emically" 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."

Sanders said if the state still allows for flexibility it could open up more chances for e-learning which could be utilized on snow days and other emergency days.

Ward said that West Chicago's school district utilized e-learning during the recent polar vortex that shut down schools for a couple days recently, and "it would be nice if we had the flexibility to utilize that in some way."

Board member Sue Kerr asked about House Bill 247, sponsored by Rep. Fred Crespo (D-Hoffman Estates), which is the legislation that would strip the flexibility. Sanders said "it'll likely pass."

If the flexibility remains, Kerr said some of the scheduled early release days like the first two days of Thanksgiving week and the two days after Memorial Day may not be good days to schedule them.

"I can just see parents just saying 'well, you know I'm just taking the kids out all together. We're going to go see aunt Mary or something,'" Kerr said.

Board member Melissa Owens said regarding Memorial Day there's a four-day weekend with the Friday prior a day off, and it's "a really rough schedule."

Meidel said it's a "draft, draft, draft" and just a "concept," and when and how many of those days are scheduled is still to be determined.

New bill would require faster reporting of opioid dispensing

By Peter Hancock
Capitol News Illinois

Pharmacies in Illinois would have less time to report dispensing opioid medications and other controlled substances under a bill making its way through the General Assembly.

The House Human Services Committee on Wednesday, Feb. 6 advanced a bill that would require pharmacies to file those reports by the end of the business day on which controlled substances are dispensed. Current law gives them until the end of the following business day.

"It ensures that medical providers have a complete picture of what their patients are taking so that they're not over-prescribing opioids to patients who misuse or, actually, frequently then sell the fraudulent medication," Rep. Katie Stuart, D-Edwardsville, the bill's sponsor, told the committee during testimony.

She said the bill is an attempt to pre-

vent what she called "doctor shopping." Under current law, she said, people trying to obtain illicit doses can visit multiple doctors over a 48-hour period and receive multiple prescriptions before any of those prescriptions are reported.

In an interview after the hearing, Stuart said the nation's opioid epidemic has affected nearly every community, including her home community of Edwardsville.

"Some areas in my district and the surrounding area have really been hit hard, so I've been just talking to folks, trying to approach it from every angle that we can and look at every way we can stop this," she said.

Although the bill passed out of the committee unanimously, some members suggested it might need technical amendments to define what constitutes a business day, and how that would apply to pharmacies that are open 24 hours a day.

Join Arbor Day Foundation in February to receive 10 free trees

According to the Arbor Day Foundation, anyone who joins the foundation in February will receive 10 free Colorado blue spruce trees or 10 free redbud trees to plant when the weather turns warm.

The free trees are part of the foundation's Trees for America campaign.

"These trees will help beautify your home for many years to come," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "The trees will also add to the proud heritage of your state's existing Tree City USA communities."

The Tree City USA program has supported community forestry throughout the country for the past 40 years.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between

March 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow, or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members also receive a subscription to the foundation's colorful bimonthly publication, *Arbor Day*, and "The Tree Book," which contains information about planting and care.

Joining the foundation is an ideal way to get in the mood for spring planting.

To become a member of the foundation and receive the free trees, visit arborday.org/February or send a \$10 contribution by Feb. 28 to:

Ten Free Colorado Blue Spruce Trees or Ten Free Eastern Redbud Trees
Arbor Day Foundation
100 Arbor Ave.
Nebraska City, NE 68410



Connections

Poplar Creek Public Library

Winter Reading Challenge "Are You Yeti to Read?"

Don't forget to log your minutes for our Winter Reading Challenge "Are You Yeti to Read?" Earn prizes along the way and for every 150 minutes you read, earn a raffle ticket for the chance to win one of our many grand prizes! All ages are eligible to sign up. Runs through Feb. 22. Stop by the library for more information or visit www.pclib.org.

Winter Coat and Clothing Drive Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who donated items to our Winter Coat/Clothing Drive-it was a big success. All items have been donated to the Hanover Township Welfare Services, helping those in need in our community this winter season.

Crafternoon Wednesday, Feb. 13 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Meeting Room 1

Adults come and enjoy a free craft here at the library. Sign up at the door up to 45 minutes early to ensure you get a spot, as supplies are limited. This is a repeat of the Drop-in Craft held on Feb. 12.

Mad Chef Competition Thursday, Feb. 14 at 6 p.m.

Teens-come and put your mad cooking skills to the test and try to win this wacky competition. A panel of judges will be looking at your works and the one with the highest points will win a prize. Call 483-4928 to register or stop by the Teen Space.

Tech and Tea Wednesday, Feb. 20 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Stumped in setting up or using your device? Come in for help and to vent among peers. You bring your questions and devices, we'll provide the tea. No registration necessary-just drop in!

Family Concert Series Sunday, Feb. 17 at 2 p.m. Meeting Room 1

Our free concert this month features the Downtown Charlie Brown Blues Band who will perform a mixture of R&B, New Orleans, and Chicago style blues as well as jazz and a taste of rock & roll. Register online or call 483-4910. Walk-ins also welcome!

Building Self-Esteem, Self-Awareness, Self-Advocacy in Your Special Needs Child

Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting Room 1

Learn how to help special needs children understand their disabilities, but also maximize their abilities, self-advocate and build self-confidence. These are important skills for all children but especially for your special needs child. Presented in English with interpretation in Spanish.

Gardener's Corner: Climate Crisis Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting Room 2/3

Learn the science, and see the evidence of how we got here, and what we can do to minimize the effects of global warming on our climate. Presented by Kent Taylor. Sponsored by the Tri-Village Garden Club and Poplar Creek Library. Registration preferred, but walk-ins are also welcome! Register online or call 483-4910.

Library Passport Services

The Poplar Creek Public Library offers U.S. Passport acceptance service by appointment only at our Main Library on Park Avenue. For appointments and questions, call 483-4929. Visit www.pclib.org for more details.

For a complete listing of scheduled programs at Poplar Creek Public Library, 1405 S. Park Ave., in Streamwood or Sonya Crawshaw Branch, 4300 Audrey Lane in Hanover Park, visit www.poplarcreeklibrary.org. Questions? Call 837-6800.

Press Clippings 02/13/2019

---The Courier-News---02/13/2019 2 town halls will lead up to election

Outgoing U46 board member to host events

By Rafael Guerrero



• Costello

School District U46 board member Phil Costello is holding two town hall meetings this month and next despite his decision not to run for re-election in April.

Costello said he hopes the two events will serve to boost voter turnout and interest for the spring election as well as provide public feedback and input on district operations and decisions.

“If I’m going to go away, it’s not going to be as a no-show (school board member), as a lame duck,” he said Monday. “I took it as a challenge for myself.”

Costello, of Bartlett, announced his town hall plans at last week’s school board meeting. He said hopes those board members who aren’t up for re-election — board President Donna Smith, Melissa Owens and Veronica Noland — will join him.

The first is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Feb. 20 at the Bartlett Public Library, 800 S. Bartlett Road. The second will be at 7 p.m. March 20 at Gail Borden Public Library, 270 N. Grove Ave., in downtown Elgin.

“What I am trying to address is what are the key issues that challenge School District U46’s success,” he said at last week’s meeting. “How can we improve voter turnout on election day?”

On Monday, Costello said he wants to use the meetings to draw attention to the upcoming elections, which tend to have lower voter turnouts than those in which presidential, gubernatorial or congressional races are being decided.

School board and municipal races are actually more important, in some ways, because residents are electing the people who will make decisions on property tax rates and school curriculum, he said.

Costello said he also hopes people will provide input and feedback on any topic affecting District U46.

“I want all taxpayers to have a voice in that board room,” he said. “I don’t know why people aren’t more charged up for local elections.”

The eight District U46 board candidates are welcome to attend either town hall, Costello said, but he does not want his events to draw attention away from upcoming candidate forums being held by the U46 Citizens' Advisory Council and the League of Women Voters.

SPORTS

---The Daily Herald---02/13/2019

Cole, Streamwood handle attention, Elgin

By: Scott Miller

Elgin tried everything it could to slow down Streamwood's Keenon Cole on Tuesday night with zones, box-and-ones, double teams, and some times triple teams.

However, it was to no avail as the 6-foot-7 senior powered his way to 25 points and 12 rebounds to lead the visiting Sabres to an 80-68 Upstate Eight Conference win.

Streamwood (12-17, 8-8) has now won 4 of its last 5 games with just 2 games left in the regular season. Cole got plenty of help from his teammates on the perimeter as they knocked down eight 3-pointers.

"We had some guys step and make some shots and we were able to get Keenon the ball where we needed to," Streamwood coach Kent Payne said. "We just have a bunch of guys who love to compete and right now we are playing our best ball of the season."

Elgin jumped out to a 14-8 lead, but the Sabres responded with a 15-0 run to pull ahead 23-14. Cole had 10 points in the first quarter.

"They came out real aggressive against me," Cole said. "I just had to keep fighting hard the whole game. I was switching off the blocks and doing everything I could to get open. My teammates did a great job of finding me. They made some big shots, too. They really kept us in the game. I was really proud of them."

Elgin (5-22, 2-14) briefly regained the lead 33-32 early in the third quarter, but it was all Sabres from that point on. A 15-2 run put the Sabres in control with a 47-35 lead. Zach Marquez had 7 points during the pivotal stretch, including a 3-pointer that got it all started. Marquez finished with 16 points.

"The energy was terrific," Payne said. "Our press was much more effective in the second half. We got some big steals and turned them into points."

Darryl Luce added 15 points for Streamwood and Luke Pentecost had 11.

Cole finished strong with 10 points in the fourth quarter to help ice the win.

"Obviously we wanted to take him out of the game as much as possible," Elgin coach David Hess said. "But that's easier said than done. He's a tremendous talent. He can handle the ball and finishes strong at the basket. Plus they had other guys making some shots, too. So, they were very tough to defend. I'm proud of the way our guys competed, but we just have to continue to work on consistent good decision making."

Xavier Bonds had 24 points to lead Elgin in scoring. Trey Yarber added 14 points.

Storm go 2-1 in final regular season contests

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin girls basketball team came through with a 45-40 win over East Aurora in Upstate Eight Conference play on Monday, Feb. 4 at South Elgin.

Coming off a loss to Bartlett that effectively took them out of the UEC race, the Storm struggled early. In a bit of a roller-coaster game, South Elgin rallied from a deficit for a 14-point lead in the second half and held on for the five-point win.

"East Aurora came out with more en-

ergy and passion," said South Elgin coach Dan Mandernack. "We had to battle back. Eventually, I was pleased with our effort, but it has to be right away. We cannot let up at all."

Megan McClure (15 points, eight rebounds) and Madison Waichunas (eight points, three steals) led the effort while Rachel Kelly came off the bench to provide seven rebounds and six points.

The game was tighter from a 20-point win over East Aurora earlier this season.

"East Aurora is a good team," Mandernack said. "I knew it would be closer. They are difficult to play with their quickness and pressure at all times. The difference was we came out cold and flat, missed some shots and too many turnovers to start the game."

The Storm went on to officially lose a chance at a tie for the UEC title with a 54-40 loss to West Aurora on Wednesday, Feb. 6 at South Elgin. The Storm earned a three-point win over West Aurora earlier this season.

Against Glenbard East, the Storm end-

ed the regular season and UEC play with a 49-39 win on Thursday, Feb. 7 at Glenbard East. McClure (15 points), Ella Winterhalder (12 points) and Caroline Croft (11 points) led South Elgin.

South Elgin enters the Elgin Regional with an 18-11 record, 15-3 in the UEC, and will open against the winner of an Elgin and Streamwood contest. The Storm beat each team twice this season.

"We need to focus on defense first and boxing out and control what we can control: Hustle, energy and sense of urgency," Mandernack said.



Casey Brennan finishing off a driving layup for the Storm during South Elgin's 45-40 win over East Aurora.



Megan McClure of South Elgin driving through the lane while pursued by the Lady Tomcats' Aliyah T Griffin. McClure lead the Storm on the evening with 15 points
(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



While attempting to control the low post, the Storm's Miah Galvin was challenged from behind by East Aurora's Barakat Adekola.

Hawks rebound to top Elgin after loss to Sabres

By Seth Hancock

A second half rally fell short for the Bartlett boys basketball team in a 73-66 loss to Streamwood in Upstate Eight Conference play on Wednesday, Feb. 6 at Streamwood.

The Hawks saw things slip away in the second quarter watching a three-point deficit at the end of one period turn into an 18-point deficit at halftime.

Bartlett did not hit a field goal in the second quarter until 2:10 remained and were outscored 22-7 to fall behind 42-24 at the break. Clark Lewis (14 points) scored all seven points in the period.

"I thought in the second quarter, we let down attacking the rim," said Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith. "We missed a bunch of layups."

Austin Gates scored 19 of his game-high 28 points in the second half to help lead the rally. Gates scored 10 in the fourth Garrett Jurina had eight of his 16 points in the period as the Hawks pulled as close as four.

The Hawks got the rally going right away scoring the first seven points of the second half, Lewis with five, to pull to 42-31 a little over a minute in, and Bartlett trailed 55-44 at the end of the frame.

Trailing 65-51 in the fourth quarter, Bartlett went on a 13-3 run with Jurina's bucket with 40.6 seconds left making it 68-64 but the Hawks pulled no closer in part due to poor shot selection late in the game.

"We took three threes down the stretch and missed them instead of trying to go to the rim and get fouls," Wolfsmith said. "So decision making kind of got us down the stretch."

Wolfsmith added: "I'm never going to fault



Bartlett's Clark Lewis dribbling around Streamwood's Kyle Maybrun as the Hawks worked to beat the Sabres full-court press.



With the Hawks trailing by three points midway in the second half, Bartlett's Jack Stuenkel, worked to score over the Maroons' Z'Kwan Stewart, that began a flurry of inside shooting for the Hawks that fueled a comeback win over Elgin on Friday, Feb. 8. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

the guys for their heart. They're down 18 at halftime on the road they could have packed it in. Instead they battled and made it a game."

Bartlett bounced back with a 74-54 UEC win over Elgin on Friday, Feb. 8 at Bartlett. The Hawks dropped a five-point game at Elgin earlier this season.

Trailing 37-32 in the third quarter, Bartlett finished the period on a 15-2 run to take the lead for good at 47-39. Gates (22 points, 10 rebounds), Jurina (19 points, eight rebounds) and Hayden Angell (13 points) led the effort.

The Hawks are now 7-19 overall, 4-11 in the UEC.

Sabres hold off Hawks then fall in shootout



Keenon Cole emerging from below the basket along the baseline for the Sabres as the Hawks' Austin Gates attempted to block the shot without fouling Cole.
(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood boys basketball team came out strong and held on for a 73-66 win over Bartlett in Upstate Eight Conference play on Wednesday, Feb. 6 at Streamwood.

Keenon Cole (15 rebounds, three blocks) scored 21 of his team-high 27 points in the first half to help build an 18-point lead at halftime, and the Sabres withstood a rally that pulled Bartlett within four

"I just got going and I made my shots," Cole said. "We've all been playing hard lately and our confidence has been growing."

Cole had 12 points in the first quarter and Nikola Sinik (15 points) eight for all of the Sabres points as they held a slim 20-17 lead.

Streamwood ran away in the second quarter building as large as a 21-point lead and it led 42-24 at the break. Cole's nine points and Jakobe Strong's (12 points) seven led the effort in the frame.

"A great start. Our pressure really created a tempo that we like," said Streamwood coach Kent Payne. "We kind of played off of that, some steals and rebounds and we got out and ran."



Jakobe Strong driving across and past center court with the Bartlett defense in pursuit including Jack Stuenkel, left, and Clark Lewis.

points late in the game.

The win was the third straight for Streamwood and it avenged a two-point loss at Bartlett earlier this year.

Bartlett hit back with the first seven points of the second half to pull to 42-31, and the score was 55-44 after the third quarter.

The Sabres maintained a double-digit lead through 65-51 when Bartlett went on a 13-3 run to pull to 68-64 with 40.6 seconds left. Streamwood scored the next five points going 5-for-6 at the free-throw line to seal the win.

"We made some good stops defensively late in the fourth quarter, and we hit a couple of key shots down the stretch," Payne said.

Zach Marquez added nine points in the effort.

Streamwood went on to drop a wild UEC game against West Aurora in a 103-93 game on Friday, Feb. 8 at Streamwood. The Sabres lost a 76-58 game at West Aurora earlier this year.

The Sabres never led against the UEC leaders but posted big offensive numbers behind a 40-point effort by Cole. Sinik finished with 14 points and Nick Droll 10.

Streamwood is now 11-16 overall, 7-8 in the UEC.



Nikola Sinik getting off a shot for the Sabres near the top of the key over Bartlett's Garrett Jurina.



Streamwood's Richard Santiago diving for a loose ball between Bartlett's Nick Wolf, left, and Garrett Jurina.

Bartlett claims UEC title with win over Elgin



With a route to the basket cut off by the presence of Elgin's Sabrina Chen, left, and Sarah Moskow, the Hawks, Lexie Sinclair pivoted away from the pair before passing to an open teammate. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



While pinned between the Maroons' Emily Graves, left and Dajha Cooper, Bartlett's Danielle Hedeon worked to protect and secure the basketball during the Hawks Wednesday, Feb. 6 win over Elgin.

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett girls basketball team clinched its second straight conference title with a pair of wins in the Upstate Eight.

The Hawks clinched with a 62-38 victory over Elgin on Wednesday, Feb. 6 at Bartlett on senior night. Bartlett then finished 17-1 in the UEC with a 55-25 win over Glenbard East on Friday, Feb. 8 at Glenbard East.

In the regular season finale against Glenbard East, the Hawks built a 21-2 lead and never looked back building leads of 40-9 by halftime and 51-17 after the third quarter. Mackenzie Hare (15 points), Savannah Standefer (nine points), Kailey Halterman (eight points) and Lexie Sinclair (seven points) led the effort.

"Winning the conference is a great accomplishment for the team," said Bartlett coach Brad Hunt. "It was one of our goals we set at the beginning of the season. Over an 18-game slate, you are going to have

some ups and downs. To finish with only one loss is amazing and a credit to how hard these girls work."

Hunt added: "To be 27-1 over the last two years in conference and have back-to-back titles shows how talented these ladies are. I am proud of them and they deserve it."

Against Elgin, it was a decidedly different game from Bartlett's 84-29 win at Elgin earlier this season when it took a 33-9 lead after one quarter. In the rematch, Elgin led 13-11 after the opening frame.

The Hawks rebounded in the middle frames outscoring Elgin 33-14 to take a 44-27 lead into the final period.

Sinclair and Hare led the effort with 15 and 14 points respectively while Bartlett also honored its three seniors in Teagan Noesen (11 points), Hannah Walker (five points) and Standefer.

"We celebrated our seniors, so we had numerous lineup changes," Hunt said. "It wasn't our best game, but it was nice to see the seniors go out on top.

These seniors have meant a lot to us and it showed by winning their second straight conference title."

Bartlett opened the week with a 65-54 nonconference win over Oswego on Monday, Feb. 4 at Oswego.

Facing a fellow 20-plus win team, the game was tight through three quarters as Bartlett led just 43-42 but ran away in a 22-12 fourth. Hare (29 points) and Sinclair (20 points) both connected on five three-pointers, and both Noesen and Justina Hernandez scored six points.

"I was really pleased with my team's composure and effort," Hunt said. "The girls overcame a lot of adversity within the game, stuck together and came out on top against a really good team."

The Hawks end the regular season 26-4 and will host regional play holding the third seed in the Batavia Sectional. Bartlett opens the postseason against the winner of the quarterfinal between No. 19 Glenbard East and No. 14 Addison Trail.

Storm win streak with 59-41 victory over Rams



Trace Ashby of South Elgin working along the baseline and under the Glenbard East basket prior to putting up a shot under the tight defense of the Rams' Joe Hamilton.



The Storm's Drake Montgomery working past Glenbard East's Austin Sales near center court while setting up a South Elgin offensive drive.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



Vince Miskiewicz completing a successful put back effort off an offensive rebound as the Glenbard East players on the floor awaited the result.

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin boys basketball team earned its seventh straight win, eighth in its last nine, with a 59-41 win on senior night against Glenbard East in Upstate Eight Conference play on Saturday, Feb. 9 at South Elgin.

Except for a pair of brief one-point deficits early in the game, the Storm led throughout but saw a 12-point deficit shrink to four, 40-36, entering the fourth quarter after an 11-3 finish to the third quarter by Glenbard East.

The Storm were undeterred commanding the final period in a 19-5 frame. Lane McVicar (seven points)

scored five points in the final period and he, senior Trace Ashby (five points) and Drew Cwik hit a three-pointer in the frame and senior Vincent Miskiewicz (12 points, 18 rebounds, three blocks) tallied four points.

In the end, Storm coach Brett Johnson said defense won the game as his team's offense struggled early.

"I thought that was our best defensive effort of the season," Johnson said. "They had that nice run to make it 40-36, but we put the clamps down in the end. It's good to know that when the offense isn't going that well,

we can still win with our defense."

Senior Drake Montgomery led the offense with 20 points, including a trey and a 7-for-8 performance at the free-throw line.

Although the Storm's offense struggled a bit in the first half, Montgomery helped his squad take a 28-20 lead into halftime with 13 points before the break.

"Our shots weren't falling early, but we came out and did it on defense," Montgomery said. "Eventually the shots started to fall, but we kept up the defensive effort tonight."

Senior Jace Warrick added eight

points in the contest including a pair of threes.

South Elgin also honored seniors Cody Gallagher, Oreale Luckett-Ware, Elijah Lee, Mark Petras and Alex Errington.

"They know what the moment is all about and it was nice to get all nine seniors get in and play on senior night," Johnson said. "But they also knew this was a conference game and the goal was to win, and they kept their heads straight and focused on that goal."

The Storm are now 19-6 overall, 12-2 in the UEC.

Police Reports

Continued from page 3

port of an activated alarm.

- ★ At 9:12 a.m., police responded to LA Tan, 610 Randall Road, for a report of an activated alarm.
- ★ At 10:11 a.m., police responded to AT&T, 312 Randall Road, for a report of an activated alarm.
- ★ At 11:35 a.m., at the police department, an officer took a report of a violation of an order of protection.
- ★ At 6:42 p.m., police responded to Premise Alert Record, 335 E. State, for a report of a traumatic injury or assault.
- ★ At 7:03 p.m., police responded to South Elgin High School, 760 E. Main St., for a report of an activated alarm.
- ★ At 8:09 p.m., police responded to Grace's Auto Repair, 605 Sundown Road, for a report of an activated alarm.
- ★ At 9:10 p.m., police responded to the 700 block of Robertson for a report of an activated alarm.
- ★ At 11:23 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of Terrace for a report of a suspicious vehicle.

Thursday, Jan. 31

- ★ At 1:26 a.m., police responded to Winners Pub, 50 S. McLean Blvd., for a report of an activated alarm.
- ★ At 7:12 a.m., police responded to the 600 block of Michigan for a report of a safety or health hazard.
- ★ At 7:28 a.m., police responded to the 600 block of Michigan for a report of a safety or health hazard.
- ★ At 9:27 a.m., police responded to the vicinity of Redington and Thornwood for a report of an abandoned vehicle.
- ★ At 11:12 a.m., police responded to the vicinity of Schneider and Sundown for a report of an abandoned vehicle.
- ★ At 11:34 a.m., police responded to the 400 block of Concord for a report of an abandoned vehicle.
- ★ At 11:46 a.m., police responded to the vicinity of North McLean and Sundown for a report of an abandoned vehicle.
- ★ At 12:03 p.m., police responded to Premise Alert Record, 663 Dean Drive, for a 911 investigation.
- ★ At 7:35 p.m., police responded to Haumiller Engineering Co., 370 Joseph Drive, for a report of an activated alarm.

vated alarm.

- ★ At 11:25 p.m., police responded to Best Buy, 424 Randall Road, for a report of an activated alarm.
- ★ At 11:26 p.m., police responded to Red Robin, 420 Randall Road, for a report of an activated alarm.
- ★ At 11:31 p.m., police responded to the South Elgin Village Hall, 10 N. Water, for a report of a suspicious person

Friday, Feb. 1

- ★ At 3:28 a.m., police responded to the 300 block of Ann for an inside smoke investigation.
- ★ At 4:04 a.m., police responded to Premise Alert Record, 663 Dean Drive for a request to assist fire department personnel.
- ★ At 7:49 a.m., police responded to the 200 block of Nicole for a report of a vehicle theft.
- ★ At 10:11 a.m., police responded to the 500 block of South Collins for a report of an activated alarm.
- ★ At 2:58 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of Cole for a report of an activated alarm.
- ★ At 3:20 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of Cole for a report of an activated alarm.
- ★ At 7:50 p.m., police responded to the 1200 block of Sandhurst for a missing person report.
- ★ At 9:07 p.m., police responded to the 400 block of Sandhurst for a report of a DUI.
- ★ At 9:35 p.m., police responded to First American Bank, 632 Randall Road, for a report of an activated alarm.
- ★ At 11:33 p.m., police responded to the 400 block of Dean for a report of a domestic in progress.

Saturday, Feb. 2

- ★ At 12:33 a.m., police responded to the 200 block of Windsor for a loud party complaint.
- ★ At 3:12 a.m., police responded to the 0 block of South Main for a 911 investigation.
- ★ At 9:11 a.m., police responded to the 1300 block of Angeline for a report of harassment.
- ★ At 11:37 a.m., police responded to

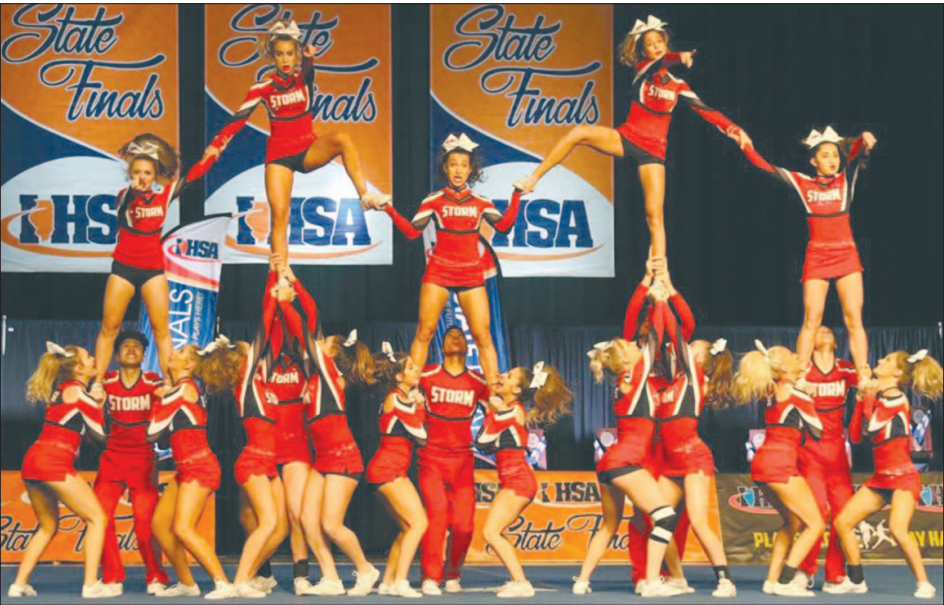
the 500 block of Dean for a report of criminal damage to a vehicle.

- ★ At 12:43 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of Ann for a fraud complaint.
- ★ At 1:36 p.m., police responded to the 400 block of Sandhurst for a report of a missing juvenile.
- ★ At 3:06 p.m., police responded to South Elgin High School, 760 E. Main St., for a report of an assault.
- ★ At 6:24 p.m., police responded to Red Robin, 420 Randall Road, for a report of an activated commercial fire alarm.
- ★ At 7:02 pm., police responded to the 400 block of Ann for a 911 investigation.
- ★ At 8:37 p.m., police responded to MA Burgers and Shakes, 322 Randall Road, for a report of battery.
- ★ At 9:08 p.m., police responded to the 0 block of Danbury for a keep the peace request.
- ★ At 11:09 p.m., police responded to Premise Record Alert, 1402 S. Pembroke Drive, for a request to assist fire department personnel.

Sunday, Feb. 3

- ★ At 2:56 a.m., police responded to the vicinity of South Randall and Hopps roads for a report of a malfunctioning traffic signal or sign.
- ★ At 6:04 a.m., police responded to 4 Wheel Parts, 474 Redington Drive, for a report of an activated alarm.
- ★ At 6:35 a.m., police responded to Riverside Pizza and Pub, 456 Redington Drive, for a report of an activated alarm.
- ★ At 12:13 p.m., police responded to the 0 block of Warwick for a report of a fire.
- ★ At 12:19 p.m., police responded to the 600 block of Waterford for a report of an ordinance violation.
- ★ At 1:48 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Pamela and Randall for a report of a safety or health hazard.
- ★ At 2:22 p.m., police responded to the 600 block of East Thornwood for a report of a safety or health hazard.
- ★ At 4:35 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of Woodridge for a re-

Storm cheerleading finishes fourth at state in its class



South Elgin cheerleading team competing at the IHSA state event. (Courtesy photo)

On Saturday, Feb. 2, the South High School cheerleading team finished in fourth place at the IHSA state competition in Bloomington, Illinois.

The state competition this year contained 300 teams that registered to enter and they were divided into four categories: Large Team, Coed Team

(team with at least two male participants), Medium Team and Small Team. The Storm competed among 54 teams in the Coed Team classification.

South Elgin advanced to the state event by also finishing fourth at the Niles West Sectional competition where five teams moved on to state.

Bartlett cheerleading finishes seventh in class at state



Bartlett varsity cheerleading team. Front row: Ella Hallin, Lilly Lagerholm, Alyssa Ellstron, Sara Favia, Juliette Zenino, Mia Beres, Ashelee Gregg and Bianca Natali. Middle row: Abby Trajkovich, Grace Hardesty, Nicole Borawski, Paige Cannata, Brenna Mays, Jane Merezal, Kelli Sanji, Nikki Baker, Stephanie Mangoni and Kayla Emmett. Back row: Chloe McCoy, Samantha Daum, Alyssa Somogyi, Emma Hardesty, Jazmin Sanders, Bella Lowry, Abby Dunbar and coach Seanna Fitzpatrick. (Courtesy photo)

On Saturday, Feb. 2, the Bartlett High School cheerleading team finished in seventh place at the IHSA state competition in Bloomington, Illinois.

The state competition this year contained 300 team entries that were divided into four categories: Large Team, Coed Team (team with at least two male participants), Medium Team

and Small Team. Bartlett competed among 81 teams in the Large Team classification.

Bartlett advanced to the state event by finishing second in one of the two Large Team categories at the Niles West Sectional competition where five teams from each category moved on to state.

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Sabres go 1-1 in UEC to end regular season play

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood girls basketball team dropped its regular season and Upstate Eight Conference finale 58-43 against West Aurora on Friday, Feb. 8 at Streamwood.

Despite falling behind 28-18 at half-time, Streamwood coach George Rosner felt his team played well.

In the second half, West Aurora scored the first eight points to take its largest lead of the night at 38-18 before Streamwood rallied.

"I thought we played really well in the first half and made them work for everything, but they hit their shots," Rosner said. "We started the third quarter poorly, but we battled back. I thought that was a winnable game for us."

Mandy Mien scored nine of her team-high 17 points and hit two three-pointers in the third quarter and Peyton Hedger (seven points) hit a trey to cap the period to pull to 42-32. Riya Patel (seven points) hit a trey to make it 44-37 with 6:05 left to play but the Sabres drew no closer the rest of the game.

Alexis Rojas added seven points in the effort and Rosner was happy with the defensive effort from Vickie Kopko.

Although a loss, the Sabres had won three of their previous four games and have seen some growth entering the postseason.

"I think we're playing better basketball right now," Rosner said. "We've gained some confidence over the past couple of weeks."

Streamwood was coming off a 44-42 nonconference win against Addison Trail on Thursday, Feb. 7 at Streamwood. Clinging to the two-point lead, the defensive intensity from Colleen Veguilla and a blocked shot at the end by Kaylee Angle helped preserve the win.

Mien led with 18 points and both Angle and Patel tallied eight with a pair of threes each. Mien, Hedger (seven

points) and Vivian Sumoski hit a trey in the effort.

The Sabres are 7-22 overall, 5-13 in the UEC, heading into the Elgin Regional where No. 9 Streamwood opens against No. 10 Elgin who the Sabres beat twice in UEC play.

"We have to defend, we have to rebound and we have to hit our shots," Rosner said. "We've got to find some consistency in doing those things."



Streamwood's Vivian Sumoski maneuvering in the low post while guarded by West Aurora's Narita Lambert. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



The Sabres' Alexis Rojas eyeing the West Aurora basket beyond the obstacle presented by the Blackhawks' Isabelle Lambert.



With time expiring in the first half, Mandy Mien attempted a long three-point effort as West Aurora's Jalyssa Carrasco closed in an attempt to disrupt the effort which fell short of its target.

Bright vision projected for college savings programs

By Grant Morgan
Capitol News Illinois

According to Capitol News Illinois, State Sen. Dan McConchie can relate to how the two state managed college savings programs can help Illinois families.

"It's largely gonna be able to help cover our kids' college [costs]," the Lake Zurich Republican said during a Higher Education Committee hearing.

The committee learned that the assets of Bright Start and Bright Directions – which differ only in the investment options offered -- reached \$10.4 billion in December.

The programs have also seen a 40 percent increase in accounts over the past four years, and 52,000 of the total 625,000 accounts were added in 2018 alone.

The committee was updated by Fernando Diaz, chief financial product officer in the state treasurer's office, which administers Bright Start and Bright Directions.

The programs allow account holders to put money in a variety of investment portfolios, overseen by the Union Bank and Trust Company, and take it out tax free when it comes time to pay for educational expenses such as tuition, computers, books, and room and board.

McConchie said he was prompted to sign up by the state tax deduction benefits, which go up to \$10,000 for a single contributor. This, along with no account fees and no minimum contribution limits, helped Bright Start get gold ratings two years in a row from investment research company Morningstar.

Diaz said the state hopes to get a million more accounts in the programs. And while a recent economic bear

market prompted a Bright Start newsletter urging members to "focus on the long term," neither the skyrocketing costs of college expenses nor the state's poor financial situation have not stopped people from signing up.

"We didn't see an impact [of the state budget impasse] from a savings standpoint," Diaz said. "Most of the impact was on school selection."

Bright Start and Bright Directions contrast with Illinois' other college savings program, College Illinois, which has \$302 million of unfunded liability and only the backing of a "moral obligation" to meet those payments, according to Eric Zarnikow, executive director of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

College Illinois is different from Bright Start and Bright Directions in that it sets payments guaranteed to cover the future cost of tuition at various state schools, based on a locked-in rate of today's tuition levels.

But with rising college costs and falling contracts with universities, the program hasn't opened to new investors for two years, and will likely need \$81 million from the state by 2026 to meet its payments, according to Zarnikow.

Also at the hearing, Diaz hinted at a new college savings program in the works at the treasurer's office.

In most ways similar to Bright Start and Bright Directions, the program would launch universal education savings accounts for newborns, with the state making a starting contribution to the family.

Online enrollment and more information is available on Bright Start's and Bright Direction's websites, brightstart.com and brightdirections.com.