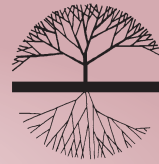
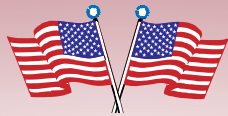


The



Examiner of STREAMWOOD

Volume 24
Number 52

"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
May 8, 2019

Fire Dept. marks
20th anniversary
See Page 3

Sabres baseball
defeated by Storm
See Page 6

U-46 special meeting used to seat new board

By Seth Hancock

A new Board of Education in School District U-46 was seated which also voted for new leadership at a special board meeting on Tuesday, April 30.

Incumbents John Devereux and Sue Kerr as well as new board member Eva Porter were sworn in at the meeting. New board member Kate Thommes, who was not in attendance at the meeting, was sworn in prior to the meeting according to Donna Smith, then the board's president.

Smith, who has been on the board since 2001 and the board's president for the last eight years, nominated Kerr for president who was unanimously approved. Devereux was approved as vice president and Veronica Noland as secretary pro-temp.

"You will be a very, very difficult act to follow," Kerr said of Smith.

Outgoing board members Phil Costello, who did not seek reelection, and Jeanette Ward, who lost her reelection bid, were both recognized. Both, who were often in the board minority, offered well wishes to the new board but also advise to listen to different perspectives.

"I implore you to work directly with citizens, including students, to gage your effectiveness and supplement your perspective," Costello said.

"I hope the current board will not forget the perspective of a sizable portion of this district who agreed with me that curriculum resources should present all sides of controversial issues and that taxpayers need relief," Ward said.

Also seated was new student advisor to the board Streamwood High School junior Halli Furtak who replaces Larkin senior Jackson Teeter, and Furtak's backup for the spot if she is unable to finish her one-year

term is Larkin junior Marteena Mendel-Duckins. The student advisor is chosen by the CEO's Student Advisory Council, and the previous board approved the selections at its April 15 meeting.

"This has been truly an amazing experience, and I just wanted to say it's been an honor to serve as your student board advisor," Teeter said.

Both Costello and Ward thanked their family and friends for their support. Ward, who has two daughters in U-46, said "it does take a lot out of your family."

"I'm grateful for the things I was able to accomplish, even in the minority," said Ward who noted an increase of transparency was achieved after the state affirmed unanimously in the General Assembly that her civil rights were violated by the board which denied her access to information when first seated. She said there was greater "diversity of thought, dialogue surrounding privacy and safety for all students," school choice with the opening of the district's first charter school and "a modicum of respect for the taxpayer."

Costello said he's often been asked if it was worth it, and "I can unequivocally answer yes. Four years ago, the voters of this district entrusted me to represent their concerns at a particularly difficult time where they were being overtaxed without public accountability or sensitivity. They were simply told that 'they just need to suck it up.'"

"The socioeconomic impact of what U-46 does or doesn't do has and will have a dramatic impact on the welfare of our families and the prosperity of the communities that we live in," said Costello who cited some accomplishments like challenging U-46's finan-

cial planning, supporting school choice and decentralization as well as supporting full-day kindergarten and career pathways. He said he hosted annually at least one town hall meeting, he contributed to the superintendent's scholarship yearly and worked with the district on a shoe drive that provided 6,400 shoes to Syrian refugees.

Costello thanked administrators Dale Burnidge (director of financial operations), Jeff King (deputy superintendent of operations) and Miguel Rodriguez (chief legal officer) "for their professionalism and their diligence" despite not always agreeing on "methodology and best practices."

"I'm especially thankful to the community outside of this Elgin board room that supported my path to scrutinize circumstances and rationale beyond the narrower context of our agendas and presentations," Costello said. "They rely on this board to address their issues that challenge our students to achieve positive outcomes in the classroom and in life so that we can grow our economic tax base."

Two members of the public, Rick Newton and Tracy Smodilla, spoke during public comments to thank the

outgoing board members.

Newton thanked Costello for not being "merely a rubber stamp for the administration and teachers union," and of Ward for "your intolerance of indoctrination-based policies and curriculum, your insistence of value for tax dollars spent, your demand for a moral foundation for district policies, your in-depth and unparalleled preparation for each meeting, your support of educational choice for parents and students, your insistence in seeking diversity of thought and your unwavering support of personal responsibility and individual freedom."

"The educational quagmire known as U-46 is left with a board that prefers the debilitating pursuit of social justice, an intolerance for those who would dare oppose their liberal groupthink, a preference for identity politics that underscores a misguided focus on closing meaningless achievement gaps that turns a blind eye to those teachers and policies that knowingly promote their own ideological biases to unknowing students," Newton said. "And fiscal irresponsibility that is sustained by having a complete absence of accountability for achiev-

See U-46 board, pg. 5

Returning trustees sworn at village board meeting

By Kristin Carreno

Three Streamwood Village Board trustees, Larry Schmidt, Mary Thon and James Cecille, who were reelected to new four-year terms were sworn-in during the Village Board meeting on Thursday, May 2.

Village Clerk Kittie Kopitke swore-in Schmidt who, along with the other trustees, took the oath to again "faithfully discharge the duties of trustee to the best of my ability."

According to Village President Billie Roth, Schmidt, a Streamwood resident since 1994, was first elected in 2017. He is a retired United States Post Office employee and now works for U-46 and the Streamwood Park District.

Schmidt reflected on his first term as a trustee.

"Campaign season is a long ordeal and with your support it makes that journey a lot easier," said Schmidt. "I've enjoyed my first term working with the staff here at the Village of Streamwood. They're an awesome staff. They're just super energetic, enthusiastic, knowledgeable and we are in great hands. I look forward to another four years."

Former Streamwood Village Attorney and retired judge Jay Crane swore-in Thon and Cecille.

Thon, a village resident since 1993, was originally elected in 2011, according to Roth. She is an avid community volunteer and recently earned the title Hanover Township Volunteer of the Year.

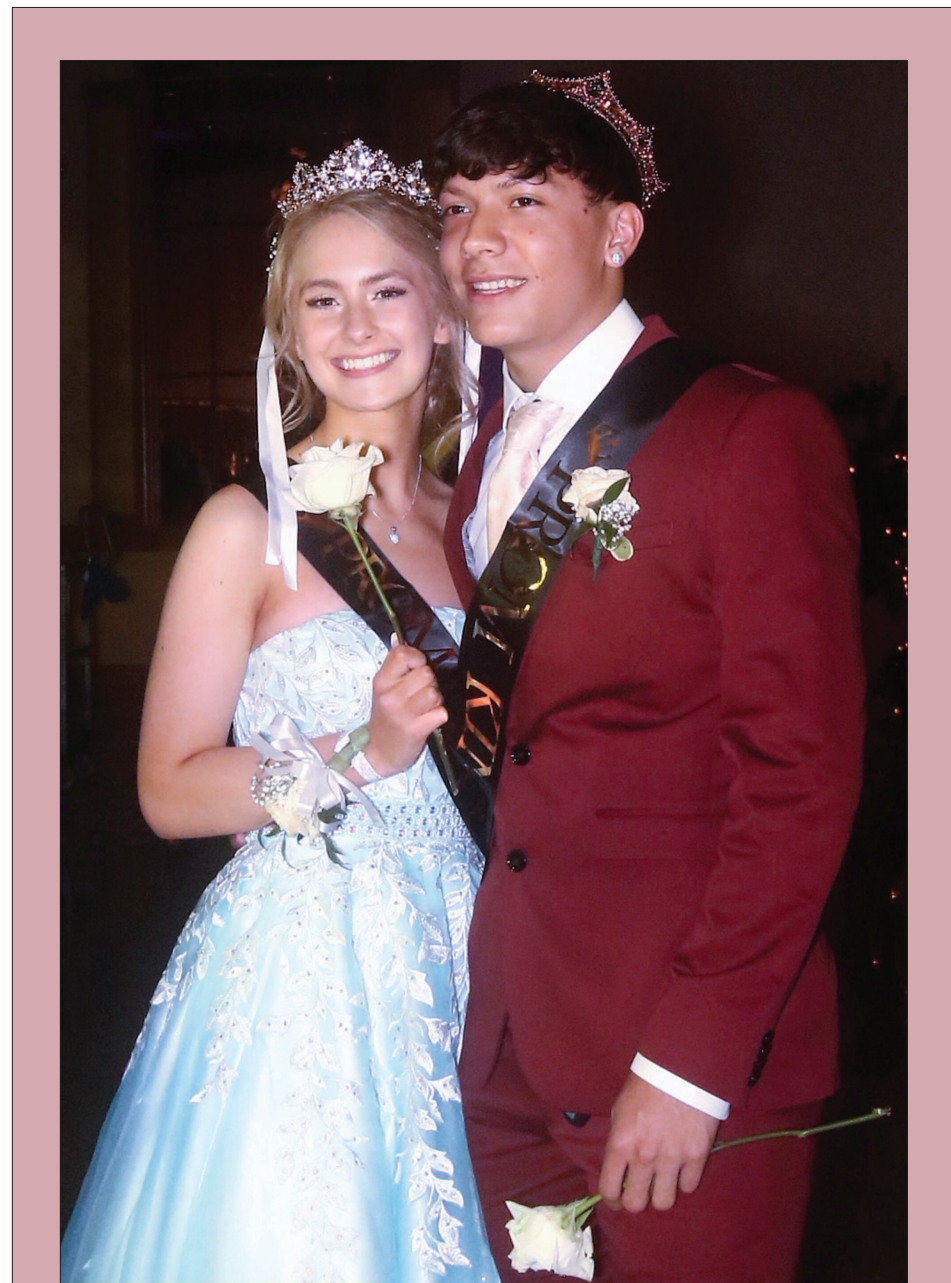
"I feel very blessed to work with this amazing board," Thon said. "When I first got involved I was always serving Streamwood. I loved doing it. President Billie Roth works so hard for all of us. She plans everything to the smallest detail."

A resident since 1968, Cecille was first elected in 1987, according to Roth.

"He volunteered for Little League when his children were young and he has been an avid member of the American Legion post for many years," Roth said. "He has served as a liaison to I think every board and commission and possibly his favorite which is the blood commission."

Cecille said it was his ninth term.

"I just want to say thank you all for coming to the celebration," Cecille said.



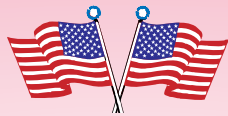
Royal couple

Streamwood High School royalty, prom queen Natalie McGuigan and prom king Leonardo Marin shortly after being crowned on Friday, May 3. For story and more photos see page 12.

(Examiner photo by Juli Schatz)



The



Examiner

of SOUTH ELGIN

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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
May 8, 2019

Education gap not closing per research
See Page 5

South Elgin soccer edges Hawks 1-0
See Page 16

Board approves vendor for 2019 street program

By Kristin Carreno

During the Village Board meeting on Monday, May 6, trustees voted unanimously to accept the low bid of \$3,233,233 from Builders Paving LLC, Hillside, for the 2019 annual road construction and street maintenance program. The highest of the five bids received was \$3,487,093.

According to Director of Public Works, Michael Millette, the board reviewed the new five-year road improvement plan last September.

Millette said the work will include resurfacing and reconstruction, curb,

gutter and sidewalk, parkway restoration and other miscellaneous work along Dublin Lane, Fairfax Lane, Medford Drive, Franklin Avenue, Hancock Avenue, Valley Forge Avenue, Mayfair Lane, Cornell Court, Camden Lane, North Camden Lane, West Vernon Court, Castlebar Court, Clove Court, Dublin Court, Ivy Court, Laurel Court, Vernon Court and Village Court.

"We will be approaching you at the next meeting with a change order to deduct monies equivalent of repaving Mayfair because we've exceeded our budget," said Millette. "These are not

high numbers or low numbers they're just inflated numbers from general industry. It's construction inflation."

Trustee Scott Richmond asked if Mayfair Lane and other streets that are not currently being worked on will be done next year.

"Ideally we'd be going to a different neighborhood next year because we're trying to keep the roads together so contractors aren't charging for mobilization," Millette responded. "We'll be talking about the roads go-

ing forward."

Arbor Circle, Oxford Lane and Ashton Lane are among the streets that are in bad shape and will be worked on in the future, according to Millette.

Trustee Michael Kolodziej said that this stresses the importance of the referendum should the village board decide to go to it again.

"People are going to be upset their streets aren't getting done," Kolodziej

See Street, pg. 12

Final payout approved for well work project

By Kristin Carreno

During the Village Board meeting on Monday, May 6, trustees unanimously in favor of authorizing the final payment of \$36,851 for the exchange media replacement project for Wells #8 and #9 with All Service Contracting Corporation, Decatur.

According to Director of Public Works Michael Millette, the board approved a contract in November 2018 and the contractor is now seeking payment for work completed through March 19.

"It was completed on time and at budget," said Millette.

Millette said the required final

waivers have been received, approved and filed in the public record. All work has been satisfactorily completed.

The total billed amount was \$147,818, which is consistent with the original contract amount, according to Millette.

Millette said staff did notice a bearing and a shaft on one of the main pumps that were going bad.

"When you do preventative maintenance on things sometimes you find other things that may be a little off and you fix them before they become worse," Millette said. "The bearing has been replaced and shaft is in the process of being replaced."

Board approves pact for police software service

By Kristin Carreno

A motion to approve an online subscription agreement with Lexipol LLC, Frisco, Texas, was unanimously passed by trustees at the Village Board meeting on Monday, May 6.

According to Chief of Police Jerry Krawczyk, this pact was discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on April 15 where the village board directed staff to move forward for approval of the agreement at the next by the village board. The term of the contract is May 1 through April 30, 2020.

This software is specifically designed for public safety providers, according

to Krawczyk. It includes state-specific policy and training solutions that reduce risks, lower litigation costs and improve personnel safety. They also provide up-to-date policy and training content.

Krawczyk said subscription to this software system will also move the department toward state accreditation, that "is something we are working toward."

Police can operate this software from patrol cars, according to Krawczyk.

"Everything is online and they'll have access to all the policies," said Krawczyk.



Stairway throne

The 2019 South Elgin High School prom king, Grant Baker and prom queen, Stacy Thorson on a stairway on Saturday, May 4. For story and more photos see pages 8 and 9. (Examiner photo by Gabrielle Wilson)

Board approves contracts for engineering services

By Kristin Carreno

At the Village Board meeting on Monday, May 6, trustees voted unanimously in approval of two separate construction agreements with Baxter & Woodman, Crystal Lake. The first was a construction engineering agreement costing \$165,357 for the 2019 street improvements project and the second being a construction administration services agreement for the Illinois Route 31 water main relocation project at a cost of \$12,000.

According to Director of Public Works Michael Millette, Baxter & Woodman submitted proposals to perform the construction engineering services for each project. Services include project initiation, construction administration, field observation and project

closeout.

Public Works staff will hire two summer engineering interns to assist with the management of the roadway program to make the program most cost efficient and furnish adequate coverage for the amount of work being performed, Millette said.

"This is the regular contract for the resident engineering or the engineer on-site watching the contractor, making sure the materials used are proper, that the quantities are correct and the biggest thing I think that the resident engineer does is interface with all the folks and gets to know what's going on in our residents' lives," Millette said. "When we know folks are having graduation parties or know of a special needs child, he's aware of that and keeps an

eye out for those circumstances."

According to Millette, upon approval of this issue, Public Works staff will be meeting with Baxter & Woodman.

"Then we'll be ready to have a public meeting and make sure to keep people informed as much as possible," Millette said.

Millette described the water main project that is underway as "a fairly routine install."

"There's not a lot of residents involved," Millette said. "We would rather have Baxter & Woodman do a construction manager sort of service. They're going to keep track of all the pay-outs and all the legal and contract provisions. We thought this would be a way to save some funds here."



Research reflects failure in closing education gap

By Seth Hancock

During the campaign for the Board of Education in School District U-46, a common refrain among all candidates was a need to close the achievement gap, but new research shows that the national focus may be doing little else except costing taxpayers more money.

Led by Stanford economist Eric Hanushek, the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) in March released a paper that showed there has been no impact on closing the achievement gap between the bottom 10th and top 90th of the socioeconomic status (SES) for over five decades in America. The research used data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress, the Program for International Student Assessment and the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Survey.

"In terms of learning, students at the 10th SES percentile remain some three to four years behind those in the 90th percentile," the NBER report states. The research did show that there has been some gain from students 14 and under, but any gains are gone by high school.

The report states that the lack of results come despite ever increasing costs and an increased focus on developing new programs or initiatives to close the achievement gap. It states that "overall school funding increased dramatically on a per pupil basis, quadrupling in real dollars between 1960 and 2015," and average class sizes have fallen by over six students a class from 1970 to 2014.

The National Center for Educational Statistics showed that based in real dollars, per student spending has increased from \$4,600 to \$10,700 between 1972 and 2009 but SAT scores have not improved.

The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice reported that from 1950 to 2009 full-time employees in the government school system have grown by 386 percent, 252 percent for teachers and 702 percent in bureaucratic positions, far exceeding any increase in student population.

Based on those findings, George Will wrote for the *Washington Post* that "states could have saved more than \$24 billion annually if non-teaching staff had grown only as fast as student enrollment. And Americans wonder why their generous K-12 financing (higher per pupil than all but three of the 34 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development nations) has done so little to improve reading, math and science scores."

The NBER stated that one of the like-

ly factors for the lack of results is a decline in the quality of teachers.

"Because cognitive skills as measured by standard achievement tests are a strong predictor of future income and economic well-being, the unwavering achievement gaps across the SES spectrum do not bode well for improvements in intergenerational mobility in the future. Perhaps more disturbingly, the U.S. has introduced and expanded a set of programs designed to lessen achievement gaps through improving the education of disadvantaged students, but they individually and collectively appear able to do little to close gaps beyond offsetting the probable decline in teacher quality in schools serving lower SES students."

In a 2011 report for CBS News, Lynn O'Shaughnessy stated based on research from the College Board that education majors "enter college with the lowest average SAT scores" but "leave with the highest grades," a trend that "goes back more than 50 years."

The National Council on Teacher Quality stated in 2013 that teacher colleges "have become an industry of mediocrity, churning out first-year teachers with classroom management skills and content knowledge inadequate to thrive in classrooms." It also states: "A vast majority of teacher preparation programs do not give aspiring teachers adequate return on their investment of time and tuition dollars."

In a 2011 research paper out of the University of Missouri, professor and economist Cory Koedel wrote: "Students who take classes in education departments at universities receive significantly higher grades than students who take classes in other academic departments. The higher grades awarded by education departments cannot be explained by differences in student quality or by structural differences across departments (i.e., differences in class sizes). The remaining explanation is that the higher grades are the result of lower grading standards."

To improve academic results nationally and to make a positive impact on the achievement gap comes competing ideologies. On one side are those advocating academic freedom through school choice and local control, and on the other side are those wanting to increase the federal footprint on education.

Lisa Snell, for the libertarian-leaning *Reason Magazine*, wrote that "healthy competition" is needed stating private and charter school students are largely seeing better results, "especially for the most disadvantaged

board members or administrators would want us to believe, but rather reflections of what their constituents had brought before them," Smodilla added.

Smodilla said she has hesitations with the new board but is "hopeful that you will take the mission of the school district along with your oath to respect taxpayer interests and respect the opinions not just of your fellow board members but also of the public truly advocating for the inclusiveness that you all spoke of."

"I hope that you are able to rebuke the soft bigotry of low expectations that have been set for some students that I believe that this district has acquiesced to via the implementation of some policies," Smodilla added. "I'll also remain optimistic that rather than falling lockstep into groupthink, you will come to each meeting and decision with mindful, independent thought free from abdicating your authority and your fiduciary duty to special interests."

students," than traditional government school students. Specifically addressing the NBER findings, *Washington Post* columnist Robert Samuelson wrote: "The national strategy of controlling the country's schools—through subsidies and regulatory requirements—has prevailed for half a century. It has failed. The federal government should exit the business of overseeing K-12 education.... We should let states and localities see whether they can make schools work better. The grandiose fix-it national plans are mostly exercises in political marketing. We need solutions, not slogans."

The nation's largest teacher's union, the National Education Association, wants more federal involvement and advocates more programs and resources and a focus on social issues like "diversity," "cultural competence" and "sensitivity." To close the achievement gap it states a need for "enhanced cultural competence," "comprehensive support for students," "outreach to students' families," "extended learning opportunities," "classrooms that support learning," "supportive schools," "strong district support," "access to qualified staff," and "adequate resources and funding."

The national trends have shown up in U-46 based on the state's report card, and resident Rick Newton took note at a recent board meeting.

"While Karl Marx would have endorsed U-46's social justice practices and ideological biases, if you were truly committed to closing achievement gaps the district should make its focus the optimization of potential for every single student, not by a

commitment to identity-based political metrics," Newton said.

Spending increased by \$40.2 million this year in U-46 despite a drop of 633 students, and the district has lost 1,915 total students since 2014 but spending has increased by nearly \$100 million which is over \$70 million faster than the rate of inflation according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator. At the same time, academic results have largely been flat or have declined and generally lag behind state averages.

"Delivering below average academic results without consequences, it is clear that U-46 practices its own brand of collusion, not the contrived game being played in our nation's capital but the collusion that is constantly in practice between the board, the district administration and the Elgin Teachers Association," Newton said. "Together they conveniently reward each other while exempting themselves from delivering commensurate value to the district's true stakeholders, the students, parents and taxpayers."

Newton added: "The manifestation of this collusion and indoctrination that is spewing from U-46 and public school systems across the country is evidenced by an overwhelming number of young voters who are now demonstrating a blind but active support for socialism, the very antithesis of freedom. For their role in this brainwashing, liberals whose mind sets have knowingly corrupted academia should hang their heads in shame. Meanwhile, the glaring result of this collusion and indoctrination is the continued net out-migration from Illinois as people are voting with their feet."

Streamwood man arrested as result of fatal head-on crash

On Wednesday, May 1, DuPage County State's Attorney Robert B. Berlin and Hanover Park Chief of Police Michael Menough announced that bond has been set for a Streamwood man accused of causing a fatal head-on crash after driving into oncoming traffic on County Farm Road in Hanover Park earlier this year. Jonathan Franco, 19, of 805 Garden Circle, appeared at a bond hearing on May 1 where Judge Robert Miller set bond at \$300,000 with 10 percent to apply.



Jonathan Franco

At approximately 7:26 a.m., on Jan. 12, officers with the Hanover Park Police Department responded to a crash on County Farm Road near Lawrence Avenue. Upon arrival officers found evidence of a head-on collision. Following an investigation into the crash, it is alleged that Franco was driving a Subaru southbound on County Farm Road when he drifted into oncoming traffic. It is alleged that Franco crashed his car head-on into a northbound vehicle, causing fatal injuries to the driver and serious injuries to the driver's 12-year-old son. It is further alleged that Franco had tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the active ingredient in marijuana, in his system at the time of the crash. Following the crash, Franco and the victims were transported to a hospital for treatment of their injuries. The driver of the vehicle Franco allegedly crashed into was pronounced deceased at the hospital. On April 26, an arrest warrant was issued for Franco. He turned himself in to authorities on Tuesday, April 30.

"Mr. Franco's decision to get behind the wheel of a car while he was allegedly impaired by THC in his sys-

tem proved to be fatal," said Berlin. "As with DUI cases involving alcohol, cases in which the defendant allegedly has THC in their system are 100 percent avoidable. The lesson is clear,

if you have any substance in your system that may impair your ability to operate a vehicle, don't get behind the wheel. Do yourself and other motorists a favor and call a cab or use a ride-sharing service. I would like to thank the Hanover Park Police Department for their efforts in this case. I would also like to thank Assistant State's

Attorney Kristin Sullivan for her work in securing a strong prosecution against Mr. Franco."

"Our sincerest condolences go out to the family of the victim who lost his life as a result of this tragic event and we pray for a full recovery for his son," Menough said. "I commend the Hanover Park police officers and investigators who worked diligently during the course of this investigation and I would like to extend my appreciation to the members of the DuPage County Accident Reconstruction Team for their assistance. I would also like to thank the DuPage County States Attorney's Office for their assistance and guidance throughout this investigation."

Franco's next court appearance is scheduled for May 23, for arraignment.

Members of the public are reminded that these complaints contain only charges and are not proof of the defendant's guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the government's burden to prove his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

U-46 board

Continued from page 1

ing academic excellence in preparing students to become lifetime learners. In short, it is a microcosm of the swamp known as Illinois and liberal politics in general."

Smodilla said: "Their dedication and commitment not just to their oath but to the process of educating and preparing themselves for mindful deliberation with an often hostile and dismissive board majority is to be lauded. From meetings I've attended and viewed online, their considerations of matters that carried weighty consequences for all stakeholders, for better or for worse, is the standard that all agency boards should conduct themselves by."

"Not once did I find their opinions, whether I agreed with them or not, to be 'nonsense' or 'tiresome' as some

Code changes, expenses slated for U-46 votes

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 is set to vote on changes to the Student Code of Conduct along with several other resolutions and \$7.4 million in expenditure items at its upcoming meeting on Monday, May 13. The items were presented on May 6.

Part of the changes to the code of conduct includes language changes identifying when and where the code applies to students, and government officials will be able to punish students for activity done at home.

"This applies to social media comments," said John Heiderscheidt, director of safety and culture. There is no clarity provided in the code identifying what kind of "social media comments" would be deemed worthy of consequences.

Another change in the document is moving towards aligning definition

with the federal government which includes sexual assault in this change.

"We're going to be moving towards that in the next years, is making our definitions of behavior offenses consistent with what the federal government is saying in their definitions so we're all singing from the right hymn book," Heiderscheidt said.

Board member Kate Thommes asked how the district ensures consistent implementation across U-46 schools to which the administration said there is on-going professional development for school administrators.

Thommes also suggested the district discuss the definition of consent and to also address victims in the code who may be forced to face their perpetrators during school.

"I would challenge you to have some conversations about that and come up with some sort of uniform statement

about 'this is what consent is,'" Thommes said.

U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said there wouldn't be enough time to address those this year but the district can look into it in the future. Parents of Bartlett Elementary School students last year addressed the board including one father who said his daughter had her life threatened at school leading to her having to be taken out of class while the perpetrator remained.

Another item to be voted on is renewing an intergovernmental agreement with the Elgin Police Department allowing them access to live video feeds from U-46 schools. A change would also allow the police access to archived videos.

In a memo from Heiderscheidt, he said this agreement was useful in allowing the police department to monitor political protesters when the district allowed last year an anti-Second Amendment "student walk-out" in what appeared as a clear violation of the Student Code of Conduct which bans "Demonstration and Mass Protest."

The board will also be asked to vote on an affinity card program in which the Kane County Teacher's Credit Union plans to offer debit and credit cards as well as a resolution allowing the district to intervene in commercial property tax appeals.

Two curriculum proposals were presented including a K-6 literacy proposal to "integrate literacy, content area and social emotional standards," according to the proposal as well as a Honors Spanish Language Arts II course proposal.

The literacy proposal projects a cost of \$331,177 for Second Step resources and \$2.6 million from additional resources (Houghton Mifflin's "Kids Discover," Pearson's "myWorld Interactive," Mc-

Graw Hill's "Discovering Our Past").

Trisha Shrode, director of curriculum and instruction, said that U-46 staff found nothing inappropriate with the resources but "we do note that there are processes within the district that if a parent finds a lesson or a topic not in keeping with their beliefs, they could ask for an alternate opportunity for learning for their students."

The Spanish course is expected to cost \$103,086 for resources.

The largest expenditure item proposed is \$4.1 million with Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc., to come out of the transportation fund if approved, to purchase 48 buses.

Two items from the food and nutrition fund were proposed including \$1.2 million with Prairie Farms, Rockford for milk and \$1 million with Alpha Baking Company, Inc. for fresh bread.

Three operations and maintenance fund proposals include \$212,000 with Kandu Construction Inc. for replacement of bathroom partitions and three schools, \$185,046 with Twin Supplies, Ltd. for lighting upgrades to LED at 11 schools and \$91,775 with CertaPro Painters of the North Shore for painting Streamwood High School.

A \$146,426 proposal with CDW-G would come from the education fund if approved for renewal of Microsoft licenses.

Three items would be paid for by the nation's taxpayers through grant funds including \$144,000 with Northern Illinois University for professional development for the English Language Learner and English as a Second Language staff, \$112,500 with Golden Apple for professional learning community professional development and \$76,590 with Roosevelt University for the Dual Language Teacher Leadership program.

Streamwood volleyball records 1-2 week of play

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood volleyball team dropped a 25-14, 25-21 match in Upstate Eight Conference play against West Aurora on Tuesday, April 30 at Streamwood.

After a tough first set, the Sabres responded to make Game 2 more competitive but were unable to stave off the loss.

"Streamwood came out flat in the first set without much energy but was much better in the second set," said Streamwood coach Jonathan Bacheller. "We had more energy and we were talking on the court but still could not overcome a few missed opportunities."

Carlos Jasso had 10 assists and five kills, Roberto Sanchez five kills and Abraham Martinez seven digs to lead the Streamwood effort.

The Sabres bounced back with a 25-23, 18-25, 25-23 nonconference victory

over Westinghouse on Wednesday, May 1 at Westinghouse. Sanchez (12 kills), Jasso (16 assists) and Martinez (six digs) led the Sabres.

Against Geneva, Streamwood ended the week with a 27-25, 25-16 nonconference loss on Thursday, May 2 at Streamwood.

The Sabres are now 9-19 overall, 0-6 in the UEC.

Streamwood is heading into the final stretch of the season prior to the post-season where the Sabres are seeded 20th in the Fremd Sectional. Bacheller has stressed this season the importance of coming together as a "family" which will be a focus as his team prepares for the playoffs.

"Our team needs to stay mentally focused on the game and play hard but loose," Bacheller said. "We are cultivating a family in our program and are working really hard on all aspects of the game."

Dist. U-46 girls lacrosse team makes inaugural home debut



Bottom row: Lily Henry, Shawna Koslovich, Paige Phorasavong, Kate Bihun, Hailey Raval and Rowynn Whyte. Middle row: Ashley Suske, Grace Kotsovetis, Shannon Martin, Ella Winterhalde, Sophie Praxmarer, MacKenzie Molina, Nikki Helgesen, Bella Sarli, Brenda Perez, Natalie Salas, Kayla Emmett, Emily Tekiela and Maddie Rausa. Top row: Sandra Rafalo, Rachel Hovious, Cassy Baraks, Delaney Hanson, Skylar Jollette, assistant coach John Frontier, Lauren Frontier, Fia DiPerte, assistant coach Jen Mazzone and head coach Natalie Homan. (Courtesy photo)

The School District U-46 girls lacrosse team had its inaugural home game on Thursday, April 18. The team fell short in its inaugural home match, falling 7-2 to Hampshire High School at Millennium Field in Streamwood.

This first year U-46 team consists of 26 girls from Bartlett, Elgin, South Elgin and Streamwood high schools. The team's colors are blue, yellow and white and are led by head coach Natalie Homan and assistant coaches Jennifer Mazzone and John Frontier.

Letters

Continued from page 3

Thanking the voices of reason

Dear Editor,

Before acknowledging the service and dedication of Jeanette Ward and Phil Costello on the U-46 school district board for the past four years, I would like to offer my perspective to the impact of their departure.

The educational quagmire known as U-46 is left with a board that prefers the debilitating pursuit of social justice; an intolerance for those whose opinions/concerns would dare oppose their liberal group-think; a preference for identity politics that underscores a misguided focus on closing meaningless achievement gaps; that turns a blind eye to those teachers and policies that knowingly promote their own ideological biases to unknowing students (otherwise known as indoctrination – not education); and fiscal irresponsibility that is sustained by having a complete absence of accountability for achieving academic excellence and preparing students to be lifetime learners. In short, it is a microcosm of the swamp known as Illinois and liberal politics in general.

Continuing to deliver below average academic results without consequences, it is clear that U-46 practices its own brand of collusion – not the contrived game being played in our nation's capital, but the collusion that is constantly in practice between the board, the district administration, and the Elgin Teachers Association. Together, they conveniently reward each other while exempting themselves from delivering commensurate value to the district's true stakeholders – the students, parents and taxpayers.

While some students are able to acquire a useful education in U-46, the domain that makes that happen is not the teachers alone – it's also the presence and influ-

ence of supportive, involved parents who take responsibility for their child's educational success. The parent's role is not only active through direct support for the student, but also recognizing when indoctrination disguised as education is inflicted upon the student. While Karl Marx would have endorsed U-46's social justice practices and ideological biases, if you are truly committed to closing achievement gaps, the district should make its focus the optimization of potential for every single student – not by a commitment to identity-based political metrics.

The manifestation of this collusion and indoctrination is spewing from U-46 and public school systems across the country, as evidenced by an overwhelming number of young voters who are now demonstrating a blind, but active support for socialism – the very antithesis of freedom. For their role in this brainwashing, liberals whose mindsets have knowingly corrupted academia should hang their heads in shame. Meanwhile, the glaring result of this collusion and indoctrination is the continued net out-migration from Illinois, as people are voting with their feet.

Finally, to Phil, I thank you for your consistent support of district taxpayers. Your background and commitment was a welcome addition to a board that was merely a rubber stamp for the administration and teachers union. To Jeanette, I thank you for your intolerance of indoctrination-based policies and curriculum; your insistence of value for tax dollars spent; your demand for a moral foundation for district policies; your in-depth and unparalleled preparation for each meeting; your support of educational choice for parents and students; your insistence in seeking diversity of thought; and your unwavering support of personal responsibility and individual freedom. And while both of you will be sorely missed, I know you will not disappear. Thank you for all you have done.

Rick Newton

Remembering parents beyond their day

Mother's Day is around the corner. It has become such a cliché since it is a word that is over-used; yet we do want to honor our moms and dads and yes, it's important that we acknowledge them both because they are, after all, our parents who love us and sacrifice for us. So, just once a year we want to thank them by buying flowers for mom and a tie along with an incredibly expensive, fancy card with words written by someone else saying how special they are? Let me tell you kids out there, they are special not just for that one day because it's fed to us by media and stores, but every day because they are important to us and we're special to them. Think about how much they cared for us from the time we took our first breath and continue to care no matter how old we get.

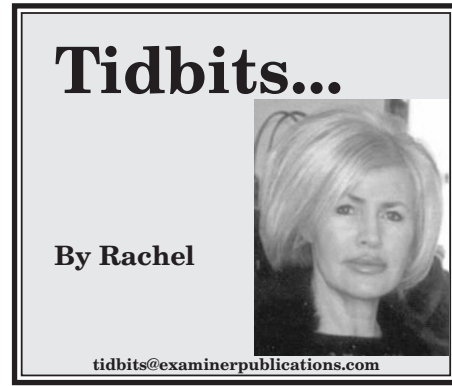
Even when their own lives together don't work out as parents married and living together, they still both love us and make sure we get everything we need. They work hard to keep us warm and healthy and when we're sick they nurture us back to health. They put up with us through our teenage years, some of the most difficult times for kids growing up and sacrifice by putting us through school. Many kids take their parents for granted believing they owe them an education, and of course parents do want their kids to get a good education but what do kids do for their parents. I am sure many kids are thankful and do what they can to help their parents should they need it, but others are too busy to pay attention to elderly parents. They find themselves going through much of the same experiences their parents did when raising kids and are extremely busy with their own lives. Sometimes they are so busy they forget to call mom and dad and they don't have the time for visits any longer because they are too overwhelmed. It is a difficult balance, but an important one to figure out because we cannot forget all that our parents did to take care of us in order to ensure we got the busy, fulfilling life that can now keep us away as they get older.

Suddenly, one of the parents die and the shock is great as is the grief kids experience losing their parents. Suddenly thoughts come flooding back as they realize they've been so busy with their own lives and their own families they forgot that mom and dad got old and spent much of their time alone. Kids may live miles away or in different cities due to their jobs and will spend less and less time with their parents. It's even more difficult when mom and dad have split and each is living separate lives in different states.

So, what can we do? Sending a card, flowers or making a phone call is a nice start and there is always technology such as Skype and FaceTime which have gotten simpler allowing less tech savvy older folks keep in touch. Grandkids also bring joy to gramps and grandma so having a weekly face time session is a wonderful idea. We all live different lives but should be able to figure out a way to keep mom and dad active in our lives. Since we live in such a high tech world these days it is easy to access our screens and therefore our folks which can help those inundated with their own parenting and crazy schedules. Personally, I still think it's nice to visit mom and dad in person because it is the best way to reach out and give them not only company, but hugs and kisses as well. Make each day a special day for the two people that

gave you all they could and make the trip to see them. It will be a most welcome treat and make Mother's Day and Father's Day a happy occasion.

Congratulations to Roscoe Rush of



Tidbits...

By Rachel

tidbits@examinerpublications.com

Bartlett who will be graduating Saturday, May 11 with a bachelor of fine arts degree in art from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Congratulations to David Fisher of Bartlett who recently graduated with a doctor of pharmacy degree from Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio.

The Tri-Village Garden Club's annual plant sale will be Saturday, May 11 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The club has a new location for its plant sale this year at the Bartlett Log Cabin, 102 N. Eastern Ave. They will have a large assortment perennials and annuals that attract hummingbirds, butterflies and bees. For additional information, please contact Wally Groble 497-1958 or Sandy Swenson 837-0281 or visit their website at www.trivillagegardenclub.org.

The next meeting of the the Tri-Village Garden Club will be on Wednes-

day, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Poplar Creek Public Library, 1405 S. Park, Streamwood. The featured speaker will be Kim White, the Natural Naturalist, giving her presentation on Monarchs, and Gardening for Butterflies. This event is free to the public. For additional information, please contact Wally Groble 497-1958 or Sandy Swenson 837-0281 or visit their website at www.trivillagegardenclub.org.

Little Home Church by the Wayside, Wayne is sponsoring the annual Blessing of the Bikes on Saturday May 18 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Fox River Harley-Davidson dealership, 131 S. Randall Road, St Charles. The blessing is open at all motorcycles and bicycles. Families, groups and individuals cyclists are welcome. The blessings by the Reverend Richard Malmberg will be at 9:45 and 10:30 a.m., followed by a complimentary breakfast.

Help support social services provided by Wayne/Winfield Area Youth/Family Services (WAYS) by eating out (or carry out) at the Village Tavern and Grill, located at 291 South Schmale Road, Carol Stream. It's an all-day event, Tuesday, May 21 from open to close, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., so you can come for lunch, dinner or both. Village Tavern will donate 20 percent of the pre-taxed bill, minus any discounts, back to the organization. Make sure you bring a flyer to each visit! Call WAYS at 231-7166 to pick up a flyer or have one emailed to you. The flyer can also be downloaded from the Fundraiser tab on WAYS' website at ways4change.org. If you cannot make the event, you can purchase gift cards online by visiting villagegardenandgrill.com/gift-cards

anytime during the day of the event.

Bartlett VFW Post 11018 will host a Memorial Day Ceremony at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 25 at the Bartlett Veterans Memorial at West Stearns Road and South Bartlett Road. The ceremony will include assembly and significance of the Battle Field Cross, lowering of the American flag and Service flags, followed by a 21-rifle salute and the playing of taps. Senior Chief Petty Officer Jim Collins, United States Navy Reserve (retired) will be this year's guest speaker.

There's no way to predict when or where an accident will happen. That's why the American Red Cross needs donors to give blood during Trauma Awareness Month this May and throughout the year to help ensure that trauma centers are prepared the moment an injured patient arrives. Donors of all blood types are urged to give now to help meet the needs of trauma patients and others with serious medical conditions. Make an appointment to donate blood by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). In thanks, all those who come to donate blood, platelets or plasma with the Red Cross now through June 10, will receive a \$5 Amazon.com gift card via email. (Restrictions apply; see amazon.com/gc-legal. More information and details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Together.)

Arts in Bartlett is accepting applications for its third annual Global Arts Festival, Saturday and Sunday, June 22 and 23, in Bartlett Park. Go to the Festival page at artsinbartlett.com to learn more about the event and booth, food, sponsor and friend applications. Eligible booths are those that represent world cultures in art/crafts, artisan foods and other world items. Free trade shops are also welcome as are nonprofits. Contact art@artsinbartlett.org or 372-4152 to learn more.

The Bartlett Woman's Club is offering their yearly Reentry Scholarship for a Bartlett woman who is over 21 years of age and wishes to continue her education to reenter the workplace. She must have her high school diploma or GED and be a resident of Bartlett for at least one year. The scholarship was established to assist a woman who wishes to reenter the workplace. It is awarded on the basis of need and career goals and is funded by the annual BWC Spring Fashion Show. Applications are available by emailing ruth147@aol.com or sending

See Tidbits, pg. 19



Ryan to wed Acker

Dennis and Ruthann Ryan of Bartlett announce the engagement of their daughter, Katie Ryan, to Matt Acker, son of Keith and Roberta Acker of Warrenville.

Katie is a graduate of **Bartlett High School** 2004, Loras College, Iowa 2008 and a graduate of Aurora University 2016 with a Masters in Education Technology. She is a physical education/wellness teacher in St. Charles.

Matt graduated from Wheaton-Warrenville High School in 2001 and Aurora University in 2005. Matt works for West Suburban Bank.

A June wedding is planned.

(Courtesy photo)

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South Elgin High celebrates annual ritual

On Saturday, May 4, students of South Elgin High School celebrated the annual prom with a "Masquerade Ball" theme at Stonegate Conference and Banquet Center in Hoffman Estates. Students enjoyed the traditional dining and dancing, as well as karaoke and a photo booth to capture the night's memories. Voting for the prom

king and queen was conducted throughout dinner, and the winners were announced around 9:30 p.m. Members of the court were, Arturo Villegas, Andrea Michel, Ray Alojipan, Kreena Mathouchan, Jace Warrick, and Claire Walters. Grant Baker and Stacy Thorson were voted this year's prom king and queen.



At the prom, front row, from left, Sydney Garipay and Danielle Carlson. Back row: Brian Packowitz, Brett Barry, and Trace Ashby. (Examiner photos by Gabrielle Wilson)



John Roberts and Julie Prohaska took a moment for the camera.



Marissa Roman, Jasir Mahkri, Steve Bukowski, Gracie Wasmond, Codi Walden, Amber Dugo and Geno Frieri enjoying prom night.



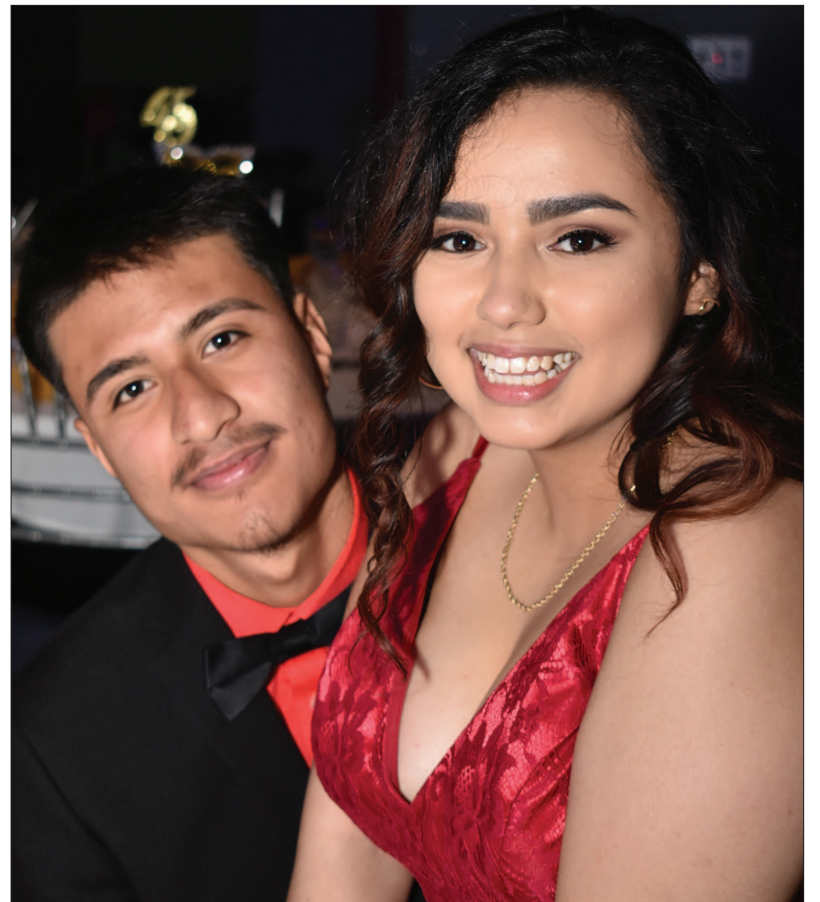
Zach Rys, Riley Carr, and Madeline LaPorte enjoyed friendly conversation.



Friends Katie Bucaro and Samantha Rivera on the dance floor.



Shane McBride, Derryl Barnes and Jace Warrick sang karaoke.



Kevin Olivo and Joslyn Ramos enjoyed each other's company after dinner.



Prom court members Arturo Villegas and Andrea Michel.



Students danced to the 'Electric Slide.'



Natie Taylor, Jared Mumber, and Cheyenne Brusben enjoying their night on the dance floor.



Nyla Singleton and Beatrice Blaise smiled during an evening of fun.
(Examiner photos by Gabrielle Wilson)

Streamwood students enjoy annual rite



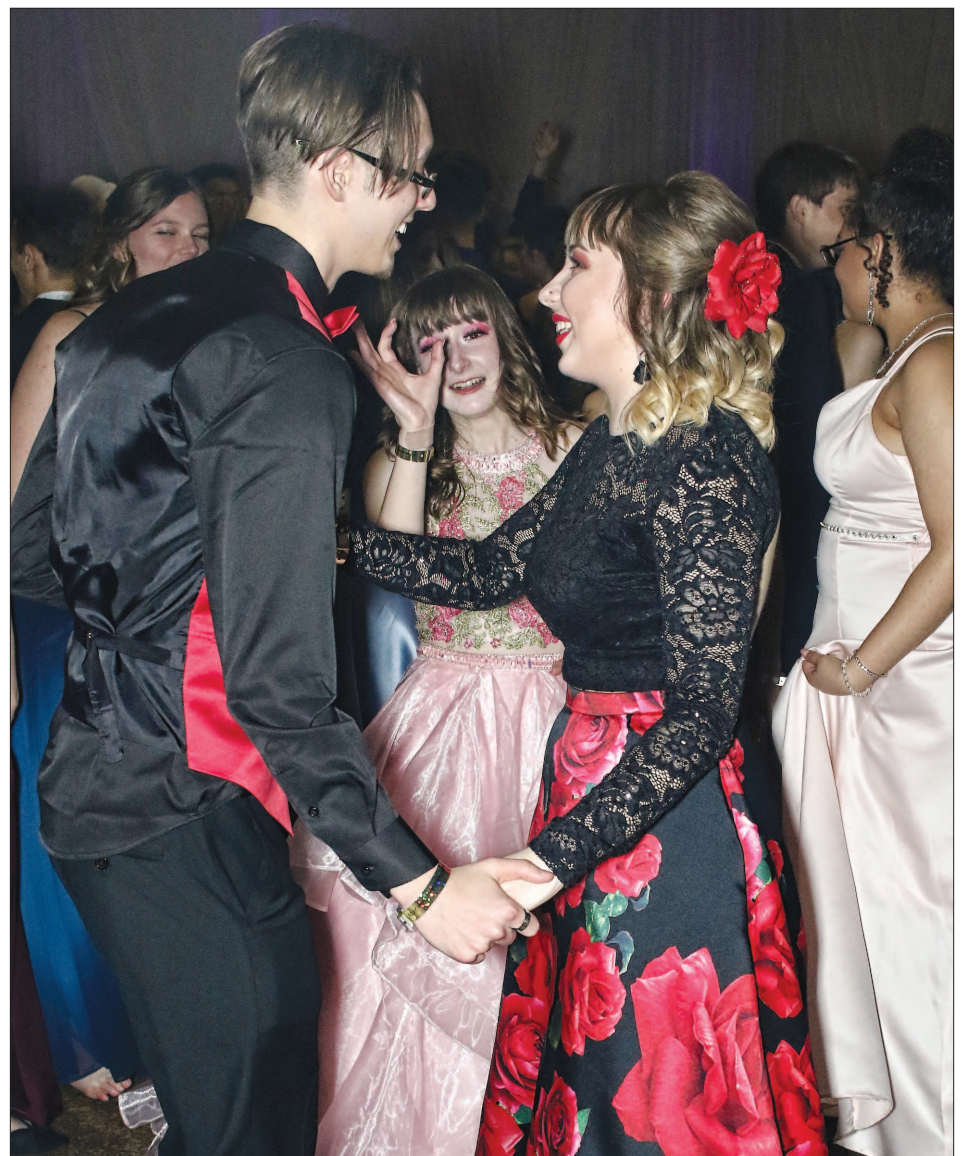
Enthusiastic students filled the dance floor.

(Examiner photos by Juli Schatz)

The annual Streamwood High School prom with the theme "Enchanted Forest" was held at The Meridian Banquet Center in Rolling Meadows on Friday night, May 3. Hundreds of students attended the gala which kicked off with pictures at various backdrops and a photo booth, followed by a four-course dinner, introduction of the prom court and crowning of the king and queen, and dancing to music provided by a live DJ.



Natalie McGuiggan, left, and Anna Easter broke up after seeing their first picture at the photo booth.



Austin Rose and Nicole Rataj coordinated their prom attire.



Jakub Adamek and Zuzanna Kozkozleck shared a toast to one another.



D'Shaan Volbieck and Alicia Torres enjoying a slow dance.



Alexandra Schrems and Kylie Nunez on the dance floor.

Press Clippings 05/08/2019

---The Daily Herald---05/08/2019

District 301 English teacher named Kane Educator of the Year

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy



Tina Scruggs, an English language arts teacher at Prairie Knolls Middle School in Elgin, is Kane County's Educator of the Year.



Central Unit District 301 teacher Tina Scruggs is Kane County's Educator of the Year.



Denise Halleran, O'Donnell Elementary School, Preschool Teacher of the Year



James Kidston, Elgin Academy, Private/Parochial Teacher of the Year



Stephen Morrill, Thompson Middle School in St. Charles, School Administrator of the Year



Kevin Ryan Ongtengco, West Aurora High School, Early Career Educator Award



Karen Osborne, Fox Meadow Elementary School in South Elgin, Student Support Personnel Award



Christine Purnell, Kaneland John Stewart Elementary School in Elburn, Elementary Teacher of the Year



Rachel Rodriguez, Central High School, Regional Superintendent Award



Tina Scruggs, Prairie Knolls Middle School in Elgin, Educator of the Year



Susan Sensor, Kaneland Blackberry Creek, Educational Services Personnel Award



Derek Sutor, Geneva High School, High School Teacher of the Year



Katherine White-Seydel, Carpentersville Middle School, Middle School Teacher of the Year

Teachers have tremendous power to shape the lives of students in their charge.

Yet, with great power comes great responsibility, says Tina Scruggs, an English language arts teacher at Central Unit District 301's Prairie Knolls Middle School in Elgin who was named the 2019 Kane County Educator of the Year.

"Teachers are in a position to do such great things and to help our students," said Scruggs, who received the award Friday during a ceremony at the Q Center in St. Charles. "It's a very powerful position as we are responsible for giving them the tools to be successful not only in the classroom but in the real world."

The Kane County Regional Office of Education's annual awards recognize outstanding teachers throughout the county who have been nominated by their peers.

The theme for the 44th awards ceremony was superheroes. Thirty-six educators were honored after being nominated by local committees and earning the respect of students, parents, colleagues and community members. Nominees also play active roles in their communities and schools and distinguish themselves as leaders.

"Tonight, we celebrate the years of education, leadership, assistance and inspiration in our schools and for our students," Regional Superintendent Pat Dal Santo said during the ceremony. "We honor the hours spent dedicated to engaging students and inspiring the young minds of the future."

Other award recipients are:

- Regional Superintendent Award -- Rachel Rodriguez, Central High School in Burlington, Burlington Central Unit District 301.
- Private/Parochial Teacher Award -- James Kidston, Elgin Academy.
- Educational Service Personnel Award -- Susan Sensor, Kaneland Blackberry Creek Elementary School in Elburn, Kaneland Unit District 302.

- Student Support Personnel Award -- Karen Osborne, Fox Meadow Elementary School in South Elgin, Elgin Area School District U-46.
- Early Career Educator Award -- Kevin Ryan Ongtengco, West Aurora High School, West Aurora Unit District 129.
- Preschool Teacher of the Year -- Denise Halleran, O'Donnell Elementary in Aurora, East Aurora Unit District 131.
- Elementary School Teacher of the Year -- Christine Purnell, Kaneland John Stewart Elementary School in Elburn, District 302.
- Middle School Teacher of the Year -- Katherine White-Seydel, Carpentersville Middle School, Community Unit District 300.
- High School Teacher of the Year -- Derek Sutor, Geneva High School, Geneva Unit District 304.
- School Administrator of the Year -- Stephen Morrill, Thompson Middle School in St. Charles, St. Charles Unit District 303.

---Kane County Connects---05/08/2019

U-46 Approves Four-Year Teachers Contract With 3.85% Increase Per Year

By: [kanecountyconnects](http://kanecountyconnects.com)



The School District U-46 Board of Education Monday approved a new four-year contract for more than 2,400 members of the Elgin Teachers Association.

Officials say the contract addresses both compensation and teaching and learning conditions for teachers in the state's second-largest school district and follows seven months of negotiations.



The contract calls for a base salary increase of 1 percent the second and third years, then dropping to .50 percent for the final year.

Additionally, educators can see a 2.75 percent average increase for “step,” which refers to years of teaching and “lane,” which refers to increases for additional education, for a total average increase of 3.85 percent each year.

In addition to salary, the plan also addresses health insurance and retirement as well as professional development, technology, early learners, parent-teacher conferences, safety, supervision and support systems for students with social-emotional needs.

The ETA membership voted 1,776 to 336 to ratify the agreement last week before bringing it to the Board of Education.

“This is a collaborative agreement to compensate teachers as professionals and work in safe and robust teaching and learning conditions,” said Dr. Suzanne Johnson, deputy superintendent of instruction. “The agreement recognizes traditional post-bachelor education as well as professional development and additional credentials as we prepare students for college and careers.”



The contract calls for equal incremental increases, whether one is moving through “step,” based on years of teaching, or “lane,” which, under the new plan, encompasses a greater scope of educational credit than in the past.

A year of service equals one “step” while 10 graduate credit hours allows for the movement of one lane. This shift will better compensate teachers who may come to the district after working in another industry and reflects the importance of varied expertise and skills.

The contract requires five hours for parent-teacher conferences but also allows each school to schedule up to seven additional hours for parent-teacher meetings and/or school programs that can be considered part of professional development.

The contract provides for six professional development days; four Professional Practice Days, two District collaborative Days and two School Improvement Plan Committee days.

The contract includes more language about student discipline and safety protocols, outlining that the District will continue to provide resources and support to teachers as they respond to students with social-emotional concerns.

“This contract is an investment in the nearly 39,000 students and 11 communities served by School District U-46. It offers increased flexibility to meet with parents, to coordinate family events and continues to foster a strong bond between our schools and our communities,” said Barb Bettis, President of the Elgin Teachers Association. “It clarifies some of the best practices in support of teacher authority while creating a safe teaching and learning environment.”

Current teachers’ share of health insurance premiums — now at 10 percent — would increase to 12 percent effective Jan. 1, 2020, and increase to 15 percent in the third and fourth year of the contract.

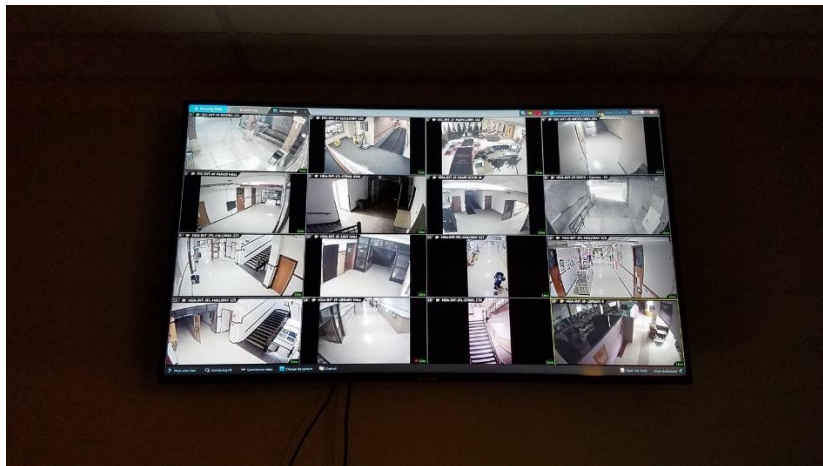
The new contract is a four-year-contract inclusive of the 2018-19 school year and concluding in August 2022.

---The Courier-News---05/08/2019

U46 may give Elgin police access to security footage

School officials: Archived video would improve safety, emergency response

By: Rafael Guerrero



Security camera footage from School District U46's Dream Academy and central offices as seen Monday.

Elgin police may be given access to archived security camera footage taken at School District U46 buildings.

School board and district officials Monday discussed revising an intergovernmental agreement with the city of Elgin regarding the police department’s access to security footage, which administrators say could improve school safety and emergency response.

“We would be much better and more agile and have a greater capacity to figure things out even faster on a law enforcement perspective” with the changes to the agreement, John Heiderscheidt, district school safety and culture director, said during the board work session.

The two government bodies signed the original agreement in 2016. Currently, police can access live security footage collected from U46 security cameras remotely, but only during emergencies or police calls to the schools or facilities.

Heiderscheidt told board members Monday that live access does benefit authorities, such as when police had real-time access to observe student-led walkouts last year.

However, the ability to access only live footage has its limitations, he said. An active shooter drill last year made officials realize their response could have been better.

“The police could not rewind the video to see — in our (practice) scenario — who the suspect might be,” Heiderscheidt said. “This was a very big impediment to them figuring out what was happening.”

The revised agreement would allow Elgin police to access both archived and live security footage from District U46 schools and buildings if there is a call for police assistance, if the police receive a call regarding criminal activity in or around a school, an alarm is activated at a District U46 building, a hazard is reported at the building, or if the footage access assists police in tactical views during a potentially dangerous incident in or around the property.

“They can back up the view to go backwards and view what happened prior to them switching the cameras on,” Heiderscheidt said.

According to a copy of the proposal, the terms of the agreement would expire at the end of 2023.

The board is expected to vote on the request at a future meeting.

U46 OKs new teachers contract

Calls for 3.85% annual raise, health insurance hikes

By: Rafael Guerrero



School District U46 Deputy Superintendent Suzanne Johnson, left, speaks with Elgin Teachers Association President Barbara Bettis following Monday's school board meeting.

The School District U46 board unanimously approved a new four-year teachers contract Monday that calls for annual raises of about 3.85% but also increases what teachers pay for health insurance premiums.

Approval comes a week after Elgin Teachers Association members voted 1,776 to 336 to ratify the deal. They had been working without a contract since August.

“I was very much appreciative of the comments made by the school board this evening,” union President Barbara Bettis said. “I think an 84% member approval and a 7-0 (board) vote is encouraging in many ways.”

The contract is retroactive to the start of the current school year and will expire in August 2022. It covers more than 2,400 teachers who are union members.

“You could see the sense of collaboration in trying to get what’s best for everyone ... what’s best for kids and students and what’s best for the district,” board member Donna Smith said.

The contract changes the salary schedule, reducing the number of steps and lanes used to calculate salary based on years of teaching experience and education attained. However, it also allows teachers to receive more pay as they earn credits hours toward a master’s degree rather than having to wait until the degree is completed.

Credits attained through professional development or professional learning committee participation/work also will bump up a teacher’s salary.

Teachers will pay a larger share of health insurance premiums, going from 10% in 2019 to 12% in 2020 and 15% in January 2021. Any teachers hired by U46 over the next three years will pay 15% immediately.

Bettis said members wanted to keep their 10% contribution but it proved to be a difficult bargaining point. “The other unions have gone to 85-15, but our members had hoped to keep that,” she said.

Entry level annual base salary increases to \$50,000, which should make District U46 competitive with neighboring districts and places it at the higher end of starting salaries, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction Suzanne Johnson said.

“There is nothing more depressing than to sit at a board meeting in early August to be told we still have X amount of positions to fill for teachers,” board President Sue Kerr said. “I hope this contract remedies that problem.”

Another contract provision requires teachers to host five hours of parent-teacher conferences a year and for schools to add up to seven more hours of parent-teacher gatherings or programs.

The deal also clarifies and strengthens language on the district’s responsibility in addressing students who are considered a threat to staff and others. The district is to provide resources to educators to address any social/behavioral concerns, such as through student-specific safety plans, monitoring the progress of students who have threatened violence, and providing tools and guidance in threat assessments.

A safety council made up of teachers, administration and community members is to be formed to discuss and study student behavior, school safety, and academic and behavioral intervention options to combat potential risks.

“A yes vote is a way to support all sides of this important process,” new board member Kate Thommes said. “I’m not trying to claim any credit for the effort but to simply support the process, the administrators, the teachers and the students.”

Former board member Jeanette Ward attended the Monday meeting and asked the two new board members to recuse themselves from the vote, which they did not do. She also objected to the contract rewarding teachers annually rather than through merit.

“I understand that other teachers contracts in Illinois have granted similar or even better deals to their teachers,” Ward said. “I will grant that the contract does compensate and encourage desired teacher behaviors. But this (contract) and those contracts are far off line with the private sector and are not sustainable in Illinois as a whole.”

Death Notices

Welgus, Ramona Anita



Ramona Anita Weigus (nee Caracheo), 50, passed away April 30, 2019 in Marietta, Georgia. Beloved wife of Brian Weigus; loving mother of Brian Matthew Weigus and Emily Alexandra Ruth Weigus; dear daughter of Policarpo and Sally Jo Caracheo; cherished sister of Celia (John) Banks, Sara Garner, Abraham (Leah) Caracheo and Jacobo (Nikki)

Caracheo; dearest daughter in-law of Richard and JoAnn Weigus; fond sister in-law of Mike (Jennifer) Weigus and Beth Weigus; devoted aunt of many; dedicated friend to countless others. Ramona was born on September 4, 1968 in Elgin, Illinois. She graduated Elgin High School in 1986 and earned her Bachelors degree in Education from the University of Illinois in 1990. While at U of I, she met Brian and they married on July 13, 1996. She was employed with school district U-46 as a multi-age teacher for 12 years before “retiring” to focus on starting a family. Of course, Ramona could not stay away from the classroom and for the past 8 years she has shared her passion for reading with the students at St. Isaac Jogues School. Her family and faith were her foundation. Whether organizing family reunions, coordinating carpools, being team mom, volunteering throughout the school and church, staying late to help with cheerleading or listening to someone in need, Ramona was an example to all. Each one of her students and the women she supported through her Elizabeth ministry held a special place in her heart. Her quiet strength, loving heart, deep faith and generous spirit brightened the lives of all who knew her. Wife. Mother. Daughter. Sister. Aunt. Niece. Teacher. Mentor. Chauffeur. Chaperone. Volunteer. Ramona was all these things, but so much more. She will be missed more than words can express. Visitation Sunday, May 5th 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Sullivan Funeral Home, 60 South Grant Street, Hinsdale. Funeral Monday, May 6th, family and friends to meet for a 10:00 AM Funeral Mass at St. Isaac Jogues Church, 306 W. Fourth St. Hinsdale, IL. Interment Private. In lieu of flowers, memorials are appreciated in Ramona’s honor to the Ramona Weigus Scholarship Fund at St. Isaac Jogues School, c/o Diane Sullivan, 421 S Clay St., Hinsdale IL 60521. 630-323-0275 or www.sullivanfuneralhomehinsdale.com

SPORTS

---The Courier-News---05/08/2019

Refuse to lose

Senior midfielder Brown brings passion, energy to field for Bartlett

By: Patrick Z. McGavin



Senior midfielder Mikayla Brown, a Wisconsin Stevens Point recruit, has been on Bartlett's varsity for four years and is known for her passionate playing style.

Bartlett's Mikayla Brown is no shrinking violet. Passion defines her style of play, and it's the first word many use to describe her.

"Mikayla is a passionate player who aims to play the best she can each and every game," Bartlett coach Vince Revak said. "She refuses to accept any less."

"She is rarely outworked on the field, and her energy level lifts her teammates to a new level."

Brown, a senior midfielder, has always requested direct feedback from her coach. According to her formula, the clearer the truth, the better she plays.

"In my opinion, I need a really (tough) coach," Brown said. "I actually have always told my coaches they need to be tough on me when I play and tell me what I am doing wrong so I can improve myself."

"I think it's the only way to build confidence and believe in yourself."

A four-year varsity player, Brown is the nerve center of the Hawks' attack. She scored 11 goals and generated five assists last year as a junior. She has scored eight goals with two assists this season.

Her preferred mode of play is quick and fast. She likes to dictate the tempo and keep the defense off-balance.

"I have a lot of dedication and I really try to show who I am out there," she said. "As a player, I really try to go at people. When I was younger, I struggled with taking players on. These last two years, it shows how much I have improved in how I am able to attack off the dribble."

Her strong connection to the game reflects how much it has been tied to her family.

Brown started playing in park district leagues as a child. Her involvement became increasingly more serious after her father, Mike, started a local club program when she was 10.

Mikayla, a Wisconsin Stevens Point recruit, looked back on her evolution from a quiet freshman to an outspoken senior.

“I was skittish or scared as a freshman because I didn’t know anybody,” Brown said. “The thing I am going to miss the most are the coaches. They have had a huge impact on our team and they have helped us improve.”

“This is a hard sport, and it is tough to lose. But as long as I play, I am going to do as much as I can for any game.”

Great finish: At Monday’s Tri-Cities Night, sophomore midfielder Hannah Miller scored three goals and junior forward Elle McCaslin also scored as St. Charles East defeated Batavia 4-1.

Coming off a loss to Batavia that snapped its 58-game unbeaten streak in the regular season, St. Charles North beat Geneva 3-1.

St. Charles North, St. Charles East and Batavia are tied with one loss apiece in conference play. The North Stars, Saints and Bulldogs each have one game remaining.

Scoring surge: Goals are frequently tough to come by in the state playoffs. With the start of regional competition in Class 1A, St. Edward has a difference-maker in junior forward Rachel Martini.

Despite missing the first five games while recovering from an offseason injury, Martini has scored 17 goals in nine games, according to Green Wave coach Tim Brieger.

She scored five goals against Rosary and four against Harvest Christian.

“Rachel is one of the more complete players I have had,” Brieger said. “She is all about the team and will play all over the field to will us to success.”

St. Edward opens regional play Wednesday against Cristo Rey in Waukegan.

Patrick Z. McGavin is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

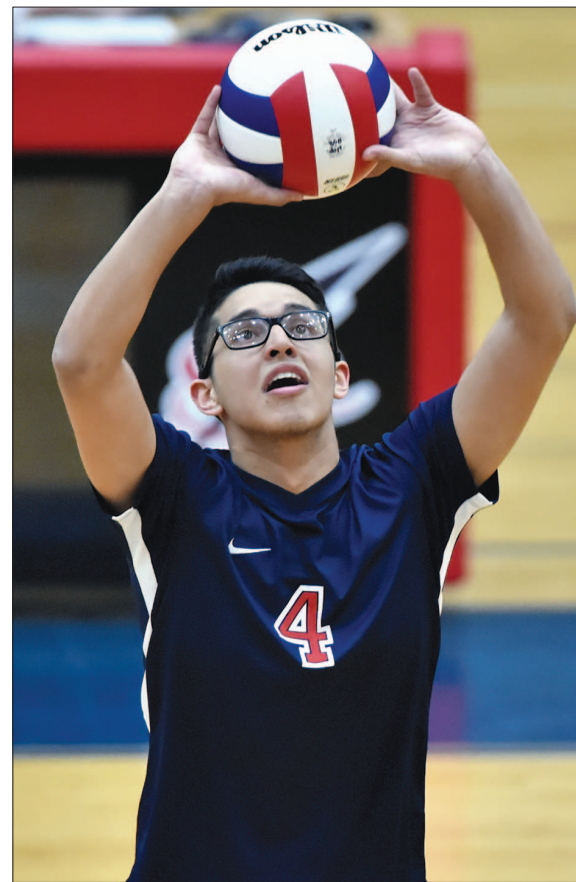
Storm go three sets to win pair of matches



Vince Miskiewicz executing a successful kill shot against Hoffman Estates.



Jack Dullum dealing with a Hoffman Estates serve on Monday, April 29. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



The Storm's Christina Ayar setting for a teammate during an extended volley with Hoffman Estates.

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin volleyball team showed some balance in earning a 24-26, 25-17, 25-18 nonconference win over Hoffman Estates on Monday, April 29 at South Elgin.

Game 1 was a nail biter from start to finish featuring 18 ties and eight lead changes, and the teams were not separated by more than two points.

The Storm changed things in winning the next two sets taking early leads that they never relinquished.

Vince Miskiewicz had three kills during a 7-1 start to Game 2 and Hoffman Estates pulled no closer than three, and the Storm took the lead for good after a 4-1 start in Game 3 and built as large as a nine-point advantage.

"In games two and three, I thought we just played a little better defensively," said South Elgin coach Adam Plach. "Game 1, I looked at the stat sheet and we had a boat load of assists, so offensively we did well in

that first set and we just needed to buckle down defensively."

Mandeep Sangha and Miskiewicz (seven digs, ace) led the offense with 15 and 12 kills respectively, but South Elgin had plenty of contributors including Adam DeGuzman (five kills), Jack Dullum (four kills), Eugene Gueco (18 assists, ace), Christian Ayar (16 assists, ace), David Long (ace) and Daniel Skrzypchak (ace).

"I was happy to see we got a few guys involved," Plach said. "Vince

and Mandeep are the guys we rely on a lot, but we want to see more guys getting involved. I thought we did a good job of that tonight."

Plach added: "If we can diversify on offense, it keeps the other side honest."

South Elgin went on to defeat West Chicago 20-25, 25-17, 29-27 in Upstate Eight Conference play on Tuesday, April 30 at South Elgin.

The Storm are now 13-8 overall, 3-2 in the UEC.

Bartlett volleyball moves closer to conference title

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett volleyball team earned a key win in its campaign for the Upstate Eight Conference title as the Hawks defeated Glenbard East 25-14, 25-16 on Tuesday, April 30 at Bartlett.

Both teams entered tied atop the UEC and undefeated in the league, but the Hawks made quick work of Glenbard East to improve to 5-0.

Ahead 7-6 in Game 1, the Hawks went on a 7-2 run capped by a pair of

aces from Carter Burzlaff (22 assists, four aces, three kills) to take control at 14-8. In Game 2, Bartlett led start to finish and built as large as an 11-point lead, 21-10.

"From starting whistle to final whistle, that was the best volleyball they've played all season," said Bartlett coach Bob Schwantz. "They just didn't have an answer for us. We had so many weapons we could set to."

It was a balanced attack led by six kills each from Jacob Bush and Toiyon Walton and four each by Garrett Jurina and Joshua Kramp while Martin Radomski tallied four digs to lead the Hawks.

The Hawks have two UEC matches left with West Chicago and South Elgin and need a win to clinch at least a share of the title. West Chicago defeated Bartlett 27-26, 15-25, 15-10 at a tournament earlier this season while the

Hawks beat South Elgin 26-24, 25-14 at another tournament.

"We circled this match on our calendar at the beginning of the season saying this match here is likely to determine who is going to be the conference champion," Walton said of the Glenbard East game.

Bartlett went on to improve to 22-3 overall after a 25-15, 25-19 nonconference win over Huntley on Thursday, May 2 at Huntley.

Tidbits

Continued from page 4

a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Bartlett Woman's Club, c/o Ruth Beckner, 147 Taylor Ave., Bartlett, IL 60103. A letter of recommendation is required with the application. Deadline for applying is July 1 and will be awarded by July 31. For more information please call Ruth at 837-8125.

Calling all Non-Profit Organizations – Come and be a part of the Bartlett Fourth of July event. This is a great opportunity to promote your organization. Please call Peggy at 830 8407 or download the form at www.bartlett4thofJuly.com.

Join the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation (PBTF) for their Ride For Kids Motorcycle Charity Ride, benefiting the PBTF, taking place Sunday, July 14 at Northwestern Medicine Field-Kane County Cougars Stadium, 34W002 Cherry Lane, Geneva. Online registration is \$40 and day-of registration is \$45. The registration fee includes the ride, food, soft drinks, water and entertainment. Event takes place rain or shine! Visit www.pbf.org

forkids.org/chicagoland for more information and to register.

Join My Child's Life Matters for its third annual "Ride for John" motorcycle ride on Saturday, July 27. Since the end of 2018, 192 people die every single day from an opioid overdose. The goal is to get 192 riders in a group to show the world just how impactful 192 is. Riders will meet at City Limits Harley Davidson, 2015 N. Rand Road in Palantine at 9 a.m., kick stands up at 10 a.m., and the ride will finish at the American Legion Post 76, 570 S. Gary Ave. in Carol Stream. After the ride, all are invited to join in for a community awareness gathering at Legion Post 76 from 1 to 5 p.m. There will be live music from The Last Generation, food and drinks, raffles and prizes, a balloon release, and guest speakers; including DuPage County Sheriff, James Mendrick. Registration is \$20 per rider and \$5 for each passenger. Checks made payable to "My Child's Life Matters" may be mailed or dropped off in person to 704 N. Addison Road, Villa Park, IL 60181. You may also register online at www.mychildslifematters.net/events.

The Bartlett High School Fine Arts Booster Club is looking for crafters for its fourth annual craft show on Satur-

day, Oct. 26. For information or applications please contact Yvonne at bhsartcraftshow2016@gmail.com or call 213-0183.

The annual "Passport to Adventure" program is the perfect way for those four years-old and older to discover and explore history, art and nature close to home. This year, 70 area museums, nature centers and educational sites in DuPage and Kane Counties invite everyone to experience history, arts, environment and more through exhibits, interactives and activities. The program runs from May 1 through April 30, 2020. All you need to start is a free "passport" available at the Bartlett History Museum in Village Hall, 228 S. Main St., Bartlett Depot Museum, 100 W. Railroad Ave., Bartlett Nature Center, 2054 W. Stearns Road, Arts in Bartlett Center for the Arts, 215 S. Main St. The "passport" lists all 70 participating sites and includes information such as location, hours and admission fees. Remember to have your "passport" stamped at each site you visit. More than 600 participants from Bartlett alone take part in this free program sponsored by the Kane-DuPage Regional Museum Association. The Bartlett resident that visits the most sites between May 1 and Aug. 31 will be awarded the May-

or's Medallion at a village board meeting. Residents have until Sept. 14 to register their name and site total for medallion consideration at Bartlett Village Hall, 228 S. Main St. For additional information visit villageof-bartlettmuseums.org.

Bartlett VFW Post 11018 has its monthly meeting the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., at Clare Oaks just off West Bartlett Road and east of Illinois Route 59. Men and women who have served in a war, campaign, or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters may be eligible for membership. A DD-214 is required, plus citizenship and honorable service. Your fellow comrades welcome you!

VFW Auxiliary to Bartlett Post 11018 meets the second Thursday of each month. If you are interested in learning more, please email BartlettVFWAux@gmail.com.

Bartlett American Legion Post 1212 meets every third Wednesday of the month at the Bartlett Log Cabin located at North Avenue and Oak Street at 7 p.m. We are looking for veterans who are interested in serving their community and country and helping other veterans and their families who are in need. All veterans are welcome.

Storm open series with Sabres in winning style

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin baseball team took the opener of an Upstate Eight Conference series against Streamwood with an 11-1 win in a six-inning, 10-run rule game on Friday, April 26 at Streamwood.

The continuation of the three-game series had to be put on hold due to last week's rain that washed out nearly an entire week of games. It was a big win for the Storm who maintained their lead in the UEC at 13-2 after winning two of three against their nearest rival West Aurora.

"Streamwood took two out of three from West Aurora," said South Elgin coach Jim Kating. "If you don't come prepared, they'll make you pay."

"This was a huge game," said winning pitcher Joseph Teschke. "Taking the first game of a series, it always gives you confidence and you know the chance for a sweep is there."

The Storm gave Teschke a 3-0 lead in the third inning which turned out to be enough for the win. Leadoff hitter Austin Doty had a huge game going 4-for-4 with a double, an RBI, three runs and three stolen bases.

Garrett Wano was 3-for-4 with a double and four RBI, Logan Romasanta 2-for-4 with three RBI, Grayson Downing 2-for-3 with a double and two RBI and Patrick Keaty drove in two runs.

Teschke pitched five innings in the start allowing one run, unearned, off a hit, two walks and a hit batter, and he struck out three. Joey Haslam threw a scoreless sixth inning allowing two hits and striking out one.

"When I don't have my best stuff, I have to rely on my defense," Teschke said. "They did a great job behind me, and my teammates gave me an early lead. It's a huge confidence boost pitching with a lead."

South Elgin is now 15-3 overall.



Matt Sweitzer lacing a double against the Sabres for South Elgin (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



The Storm's Logan Romasanta delivering a circle change to a waiting Streamwood hitter in Game 1 of the series between the two teams.

Penalty kick decisive as Storm edge Hawks 1-0

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin soccer team needed just one penalty kick to defeat rival Bartlett in a 1-0 Storm win keeping them in the driver's seat of the Upstate Eight Conference on Wednesday, May 1 at Millennium Field in Streamwood.

Bartlett had a clear advantage in scoring chances, 20-7 in shots and 10-3 in shots on goal, but the Storm did produce plenty of attacks and had a 4-3 edge in corner kicks.

Early in the second half, it was Storm freshman Katrina Barthelt who stepped up to take the penalty kick resulting in the game's only goal.

"There was a lot of emotion stepping up for that shot," Barthelt said. "I've missed them before, so I

just knew I had to stay calm."

Barthelt led the Storm attack creating several chances and Nikki Nguyen added a shot on goal. Bridget Bondi, Isabelle Zabat and Norah Stueck all had shots in the game, and Kaleigh LaRue had a big defensive play early in the first half.

The one goal was more than enough for Storm goalie Megan McClure who made some big stops and finished with 10 saves.

"I knew going into this game it was going to be a tight one," said South Elgin coach Laura Snow. "Megan, our keeper, made some great saves. I told them at the beginning, one goal could be the difference

in this game and that's exactly what happened."

The Storm are now 5-0-2 in the UEC with Glenbard South and West Aurora, which is ahead of them in the win column at 6-1-1, remaining to play.

South Elgin, now 10-3-3 overall, ended the week with a 0-0 nonconference tie against Dundee-Crown on Friday, May 3 at Dundee-Crown.

Heading into the final week of the regular season, the No. 4 Storm will prepare for No. 13 McHenry in the Huntley Regional.



South Elgin's Katrina Barthelt making a cut between the Hawks' Christina Mondelli, left, and Paige Bednarke on a route that took her toward the Bartlett goal. Barthelt later scored off a penalty kick. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



Isabella Tusa of South Elgin emerging from a cluster of players that included Bartlett's Morgan Myers, left, and Rachel Helgesen as the Storm and Hawks battled on Wednesday, May 1 at Millennium Field in Streamwood.

Sabres fall to Storm in first of three-game set



AJ Reyna was on the hill for the Sabres in Game 1 of the series against South Elgin.



After eluding a Streamwood rundown, South Elgin's Austin Doty scored with a head-first slide at the plate as Streamwood first baseman Connor Johnson was unable to secure a throw in time to prohibit the tally.



The Sabres' Colin Bielinski making a back-handed, over the shoulder running catch in deep center field against the Storm.

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood baseball team couldn't overcome its mistakes, both physical and mental, against Upstate Eight Conference leaders South Elgin as the Sabres fell 11-1 in a six-inning, 10-run rule game on Friday, April 26 at Streamwood.

It was the opener of a three-game series but the continuation of the three-game series had to be put on hold due to last week's rain that washed out an entire week of games for Streamwood.

The Sabres defense committed just two errors in the game, but they came back to bite leading to six unearned runs. Beyond that, mental miscues harmed Streamwood which failed to get an out three times after it caught South Elgin base runners in run downs.

"The biggest thing was our body language," said Streamwood coach Ryan Lasota. "Some of those mental errors led to physical errors, and you could see that in their body language."

Streamwood was held to just three hits at the plate, a double by AJ Reyna and singles from Tyler Jones and Jared Martinez. Down 3-0, Martinez drove in the Sabres only run in the top of the fifth inning but South Elgin posted three in the bottom half of the frame and five more in the sixth to end the game early.

Reyna suffered the loss tossing 4.1 innings allowing six runs, five earned, off seven hits and two walks, and he struck out four. Jones allowed five runs, all unearned, off six hits and a walk in 1.1 innings of

relief.

"AJ did a great job getting that first pitch strike, but we gave up some cheap runs and you could see it affected us," Lasota said. "You can't make those kinds of mistakes against good teams like that."

Streamwood fell to 12-9 overall, 10-6 in the UEC, with the loss.



Streamwood shortstop Tyler Jones applying a tag on South Elgin's Garrett Wano as he was retired attempting to take an extra base. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

WeGo speed, shooting leads to 6-2 Sabres loss

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood soccer team struggled to slow down West Chicago's offense as the Sabres dropped a 6-2 game in Upstate Eight Conference play on Wednesday, May 1 at Millennium Field.

Diana Herrera scored off a penalty kick early in the game for a 1-0 lead, but West Chicago was able to rally to a 2-1 lead by the break.

Despite a deficit at halftime, Streamwood was still in the game but West Chicago took command with a pair of goals in the first 10 minutes of the second half for a 4-1 advantage.

"I thought in the first half we had some good possessions and made some good passes," said Streamwood coach Kristin Duffy. "We did a decent

job communicating, but that all faded after half-time."

Herrera found the net again, assisted by Karla Morlales, to pull to 4-2 but West Chicago netted two more unanswered goals.

Streamwood keeper Emina Cousevic was active with seven saves while the Sabres defense struggled to contain West Chicago's speedy forward, Barbie Castellanos, who scored four goals.

"We had some new defenders in the back," Duffy said. "It was a new line in the back and our starting keeper (Candy Nava) was injured in warmups. Emina stepped in and did a good job."

It was senior night for the Sabres as they honored Melanie Ramirez, Paulette Carranza, Leslie Ortiz,

Brianna Yi and Josett Perez.

"We have some seniors who have been varsity starters all four years, and you get to develop them," Duffy said. "As a whole, the entire senior class has been a great group to work with."

The Sabres were coming off a 7-1 UEC loss against Glenbard East on Monday, April 29 at Glenbard East. Josett scored off a Herrera assist in the first half but Streamwood trailed 3-1 at the break, and Glenbard East scored four unanswered goals in the second half.

Streamwood is 5-12-1 overall, 1-6-1 in the UEC, heading into the final week of the regular season as it prepares for the Huntley Regional. The No. 12 Sabres open the postseason against No. 5 Huntley.



Bookended by the Wildcats' Evelyn Hernandez, left, and Emily Ayala, the Sabres' Diana Herrera was locked in a physical battle for the ball.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



Having ventured out of the net to cut down the angle for a West Chicago player on an uncontested breakaway, Streamwood keeper Emina Cousevic was unable to prevent the Wildcats final goal of the match. Under siege most of the contest, the freshman Cousevic had a very active evening.

Pet of the Week



People-loving Mavis

Mavis is a one-and-a-half-year-old spayed female and her favorite thing in the whole world is people. She loves to play with them, talk with them, snooze with them – everything! Mavis spent some time as a stray and is anxious to make up for lost snuggle time as soon as possible! She is curious, cuddly, confident, and ready to go home with a new owner. Mavis is currently living at the Wheaton PetCo. Don't miss out on this beautiful tabby; email AnimalServices@dupageco.org or call 407-2800 to find out how to make Mavis a part of your family.

(Photo courtesy of County Animal Control)



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Letters

Continued from page 8

his first celebrated "Soft Opening." Food was great and workforce as pleasant as could be. They have gone well beyond expectation preserving the rich heritage of "The Tap" and will truly promote Bartlett's downtown charming vitality.

By the time of this publishing, the Bartlett Tap would have participated in its Grand Opening which should be nothing short of tremendous triumph. All of Bartlett needs to check out the new digs; it will bring back many happy/distinct memories!

We wish John and Co. nothing but sustained success and hope he can make it another 150 years – Welcome to the neighborhood!

Bill Strawn

A concerned student

Dear Editor,

I'd like to discuss the athletic resources at Bartlett High School. The basketballs are lumpy and the weight equipment is antiquated. The track and field area is not up to conference standards so recently Bartlett High School hosted the Flying Hawk Invitational at Streamwood High School.

It would seem Bartlett taxpayers pay sufficient taxes to satisfactorily accommodate its students. Instead it seems Bartlett's taxes are made part of the U-46

pool and the money fails to reach our school.

I am wondering why other schools in our district, like South Elgin and Streamwood, are so nice and have far better equipment and places to compete and practice when we don't?

James Pusilo

Totally opposed to graduated income tax proposal

Dear Editor,

State Rep. Dan Ugaste (R-Geneva) and I hosted Ted Dabrowski of Wirepoints.org at a Town Hall sponsored by the Illinois Opportunity Project to inform the public why Governor Pritzker's graduated income tax proposal isn't the solution to Illinois' problems, but a blank check to spend even more.

I am absolutely opposed to handing Governor Pritzker and the majority Democrats a blank check to raise your taxes, and that is what the Graduated Income Tax is.

We have heard the grand promises from them on how raising taxes will solve all of our problems before. In 2011, Illinois temporarily hiked taxes without any reforms. Then, again in 2017 Illinois permanently hiked taxes without any reforms. But were our pension burdens actually addressed? Was the bill backlog erased? Did we fix the structural deficit in our budget? Did our bond ratings improve? The answer to all of these questions is – no, of course not. Now Gov. Pritzker wants to constitutionally hike taxes without any reforms. I say let's try

the reforms first.

Dabrowski of Wirepoints pointed out the fiscal reality that Illinois is always on the wrong side of metrics such as population loss, property tax burden, and bond ratings. "Illinois is one step above junk bond status. No state in the nation has that kind of poor rating. He also walked through how Pritzker's promises amounting to over \$10 billion can't be raised using the current tax brackets being proposed. "It's going to take a massive tax hike on the middle class. That's where the money resides. There aren't enough 'rich' people to cover it, and who here believes they'll do nothing to protect their assets or just move out of Illinois as thousands have already done?"

"Even if the Governor's graduated tax hike is passed exactly the way he plans, it is not going to help the state but will only compound our problems. Illinois is already one of the highest taxed states in the nation. The wealthy are not going to stay here to pay more taxes." Ugaste said. "They will either leave the state or set up residency elsewhere, which will leave us without any taxable income revenue and only worsen our situation. We should not try to solve our problems by increasing taxes, but with reforms and working more efficiently as a state to increase our tax base."

In spite of the tax hikes, our debt is higher than ever. Rather than taking steps to control spending and grow our economy, Illinois Democrats just want to keep raising taxes on Illinois families. It's a jobs tax that will cause small businesses to take their companies elsewhere.

The Senate passed the constitutional amendment for the graduated income tax plan to appear on the November 2020 general election ballot. It now moves to the House which must approve the measure by a supermajority, or three-fifths vote. The Senate also approved the tax rates, which now moves to the House for consideration.

State Rep. Allen Skillicorn

Proposals meant to sweeten progressive tax plan are a ruse

Dear Editor,

If you didn't think Democrats in Springfield were serious before about adopting a progressive tax system, they proved this week they'll do almost anything to help Gov. J.B. Pritzker pass his signature campaign promise.

Even if that means reversing themselves on years of bad policy positions.

Senate President John Cullerton upped the ante Tuesday when he introduced a measure that would eliminate the state's crippling estate tax, otherwise known as a death tax.

Illinois is one of a handful of states that taxes larger inheritances after a person dies. The tax applies to estates valued at \$4 million or more. It is especially harmful to downstate family farmers, but also impacts retirees or near retirees who – over time – have been able to build their small businesses, 401(k)s or other retirement funds.

When the matriarch or patriarch of a family farm with as few as 500 acres dies, the family could be forced to sell off much of its land just to pay the estate tax. For retirees, what's the incentive to stay in

Illinois if as much as 16 percent (the highest Illinois tax rate) of their wealth will be confiscated by state government and not passed on to their children upon death?

Conservatives have been trying to get rid of Illinois' estate tax for years, but the Democrat-controlled General Assembly resisted – until Tuesday, when Cullerton's proposal was introduced.

Of course, there's a catch.

The estate tax goes away only if voters approve a constitutional amendment in November 2020 to allow for a progressive income tax rate in which higher wage earners are charged higher rates. The Senate's plan calls for a top rate of 7.99 percent on individuals who earn \$750,000 or more and couples who earn \$1 million. That would be up from the existing flat tax of 4.95 percent.

To get the amendment on the 2020 ballot, a supermajority of lawmakers in both the House and the Senate must approve measures this session. It's largely been assumed that the Senate has enough votes to pass it. But the outlook in the House is murkier.

Is Cullerton's proposal meant to persuade some downstate Democrats who might be waffling on the progressive tax to jump on board?

Another sweetener filed this week came from state Sen. Andy Manar, D-Bunker Hill. Manar's measure would freeze school property taxes in years when the state meets its education funding responsibilities, which by itself is a tough ask.

But Illinoisans pay the second-highest property taxes in the country. Property tax relief would be welcome news to lawmakers because it would be welcome news to their constituents.

Like Cullerton's proposal, Manar's is tied to final approval of the progressive tax structure. Another carrot for another bought vote?

Of course, who can trust state legislators to meet their responsibilities or their promises, such as fully funding education.

When lawmakers passed a temporary income tax increase in 2011, the new revenue was supposed to go to pay down the state's massively underfunded pension systems, estimated at the time to be just under \$100 billion. The pension deficit has since grown to more than \$134 billion.

And the permanent income tax hike approved in 2017 was supposed to right the state's fiscal ship. Instead, Illinois faces a fiscal deficit of more than \$1.2 billion this year and still maintains a current backlog of bills of nearly \$8 billion.

Pritzker also is proposing another pension holiday to balance next year's budget while he waits to see what happens with his progressive tax plan, so the unfunded liability will grow.

The promise of a property tax freeze sounds enticing, but how can voters trust it? And eliminating the death tax is good policy on its own. It shouldn't be used as a sweetener to entice support for other tax hikes.

Given lawmakers' track record and history of broken promises, taxpayers shouldn't take the bait.

Dan McCaleb
Editor, Illinois News Network

Hawks softball drop two of three contests

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett softball team rallied for a 7-2 win over Elgin in Upstate Eight Conference play on Wednesday, May 1 at Elgin.

Elgin took a 2-0 lead after the first inning, but Bartlett tied it up in the second and added the go-ahead run in the third. Lizzie Jacoby homered in the effort and Niki Campo, who earned the win in the circle, doubled.

The Hawks went on to drop two UEC games to fall to 6-17 overall, 5-7 in the UEC.

Most of the week was a washout around the area due to rain meaning teams can expect to play a lot of games over the final two weeks of the regular season barring more rainouts.

"We've talked about this time of year

when games start piling up with all the makeup games," said Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith. "What we really need is days to practice, but the girls are working hard."

Bartlett dropped a 10-0 game to Glenbard South in a five-inning, 10-run rule contest on Friday, May 3 at Glenbard South. The Hawks defense committed six errors leading to only four runs being earned off of three pitchers, Vanessa Rincon suffering the loss, and Jacoby and Gianna Campo tallied Bartlett's only hits.

Against West Aurora, the Hawks suffered a 10-2 loss on Saturday, May 4 at Bartlett. Niki Campo went 2-for-3 with a triple and RBI to lead the Hawks at the plate, and Jacoby suffered the loss in the circle.

WAYNE

Friday, April 26

★ At 7:25 a.m., a vehicle driven by one Tyron Johnson, 19, of Chicago, was stopped for speeding. Johnson was found to have a suspended license and arrested.

★ At 7:25 a.m., police responded to the vicinity of Army Trail and Powis for a request to assist Bartlett police personnel with a CN train blocking the tracks. The officer stood by and directed traffic until the matter could be resolved.

Saturday, April 27

★ At 2:28 p.m. police responded to Blackjack's Gentlemen's Club for a request to assist Kane County Sheriff's Office personnel with a crash.

★ At 5:17 p.m., police responded to the 35W block of Pearson for a report of a suspicious noise. Complainant advised he had heard the sound of footsteps. The officer was unable to locate anyone or any signs of suspicious activity.

★ At 10:37 p.m., police responded to the 33W block of Surrey for a report of a hazard in the roadway. A tree was found to have fallen on the power lines. ComEd was contacted and the scene was turned over to them when they arrived.

Reports

Continued from page 13

charged with violation of an order of protection. He was transported to bond call.

Thursday, May 2

★ At 6:37 p.m., Jorge Robollo-Alvarez, 32, Hanover Park, was arrested and charged with retail theft, an outstanding warrant and possession of a controlled substance. He was transported to bond call.

★ At 11:58 p.m., Steve L. Bradley, 42, Streamwood, was arrested on warrant. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

Friday, May 3

★ At 6:35 p.m., Justin B. Chylewski, 30, Streamwood, was arrested and charged with driving while license revoked or suspended, operation of an uninsured motor vehicle, failure to update mandatory registration and wearing a headset while driving. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

★ At 10 p.m., Destiny S. Przybylskia, 21, Elgin, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of drugs. She was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

Gap

Continued from page 7

Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator. At the same time, academic results have largely been flat or have declined and generally lag behind state averages.

"Delivering below average academic results without consequences, it is clear that U-46 practices its own brand of collusion, not the contrived game being played in our nation's capital but the collusion that is constantly in practice between the board, the district administration and the Elgin Teachers Association," Newton said. "Together they conveniently reward

each other while exempting themselves from delivering commensurate value to the district's true stakeholders, the students, parents and taxpayers."

Newton added: "The manifestation of this collusion and indoctrination that is spewing from U-46 and public school systems across the country is evidenced by an overwhelming number of young voters who are now demonstrating a blind but active support for socialism, the very antithesis of freedom. For their role in this brainwashing, liberals whose mind sets have knowingly corrupted academia should hang their heads in shame. Meanwhile, the glaring result of this collusion and indoctrination is the continued net out-migration from Illinois as people are voting with their feet."