

The Examiner of BARTLETT

Volume 29
Number 1

"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

75 cents
May 15, 2019



Disputed proposal
approved by village
See Page 7

Storm baseball take
series from Hawks
See Page 10

Morass of unfunded pension liabilities

The mess that impacts U-46 and all taxpayers

By Seth Hancock

The State of Illinois' unfunded pension liabilities are at \$134 billion with the state's net pension liability for School District U-46 under the Teach-

ers' Retirement System (TRS) at \$1.6 billion.

And data from ratings and investment agencies as well as questions being left unanswered show that there's

a lack of accountability from the state government down to the local government.

The state's Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability released the unfunded pension liability number for the end of Fiscal Year 2018 and it projects that number to be \$136.8 billion by the end of FY2019. According to the agency's November, 2018 monthly briefing, TRS represents 56.3 percent of those unfunded liabilities.

The total unfunded liabilities rose 3.7 percent (\$4.8 billion) and has risen from \$54.8 billion to \$134 billion since 2008.

According to U-46's most recent comprehensive annual financial report as of June 30, 2018, the state's TRS obligations are \$1.6 billion for the district. The district has a net pension liability of \$83.5 million between TRS, \$66.5 million, and the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, \$17 million.

According to the report, U-46's total TRS expense was \$1.6 million for the year ending on June 30, 2018.

The report states an assumption of a 7 percent rate of return on TRS fund investments, a highly lofty expectation according to TRS' data. Mary Fergus, U-46's director of school and community relations, said that TRS "sets the rate of return assumption of 7 percent."

On the actual rate of return, a 10-year history provided by TRS shows that investments are currently losing money. The one-year trend is at -1.3 percent, and the last time it exceeded 7 percent was 10 years ago when it was an 8.6 percent rate of return.

The newly seated Board of Education in U-46 unanimously approved an Elgin Teachers Association (ETA) contract running through 2021-2022 on May 6. The contract includes average salary increases of 3.85 percent and \$30.6 million in additional salary costs over the life of the contract.

The Examiner asked the district how the new ETA contract will affect its pension liabilities, but the district did not respond. No board member questioned the district regarding pension costs.

The only publicly asked question on the contract from the board came from its president, Sue Kerr, who asked the district to respond to a concern stated during public comments by resident Tracy Smodilla.

Smodilla referenced a statement made by the district in the fall. A new law recently went into effect to limit school districts from excessively increasing salaries in the final years of service by lowering the cap from 6 percent to 3 percent.

In the fall, U-46 calculated between \$7 million and \$10 million in penalties from the new law under the previous salary schedule.

"I have the absolute, upmost respect for fair recompense for our teachers, but I'm coming with a different concern and that is the contract that is proposed could possibly subject tax-

payers to penalties" said Smodilla who noted she didn't have the details of the contract but wanted to make sure the contract "will clear those hurdles that would subject taxpayers to additional penalties."

Dale Burnidge, director of financial operations, said the salary schedule under the new contract was shortened "to have lower increases towards the end of career which is where the 3 percent penalties would kick in" and

"that should help reduce any potential liability for the district."

As for the state, the pension liabilities are at a crisis level according to TRS.

The TRS board recently stated the "system is at a growing risk of insolvency in the event of an economic downturn" as it opposed Gov. J.B. Pritzker's plan to reduce the state's contributions by over \$1 billion in 2020, and he also wants to extend target dates toward achieving 90 percent funding of pensions from 2045 to 2052.

Pritzker is also pushing for tax increases, this coming shortly after the most recent 32 percent increase in personal income tax rates and 33.3 percent increase in corporate tax rates to fund the new so-called "evidence-based" school funding formula. U-46 CEO Tony Sanders lobbied for those tax hikes.

Also, a March 11 presentation to investors shows a plan of adding \$5.8 billion in new debt through the sale of bonds by 2020, \$3 billion specifically to address pensions.

George Mason University's Mercatus Center's most recent ranking of states based on fiscal health has Illinois at dead last while a 2018 report by the Truth in Accounting states that the numbers are even worse than what the state is willing to admit.

The state's fiscal health has been declining yearly since 2009 according to Truth in Accounting, and the burden on taxpayers has increased \$21,700 over that period to a current burden of \$50,800 per taxpayer.

"Most of the state's overall debt comes from constitutionally protected pension benefits and retiree health care costs," the report states. "Of the \$279.6 billion in retirement benefits promised, the state has not funded \$134.4 billion in pension and \$52.5 billion in retiree health care benefits."

The report adds: "Illinois' financial condition is not only alarming but also misleading as government officials have failed to disclose significant amounts of retirement debt on the state's balance sheet. Residents and taxpayers have been presented with an unreliable and inaccurate accounting of the state government's finances."

Moody's Investor Service has consistently rated Illinois as the worst state since 2010, and data from actuarial reports from the state's pension funds show that total benefits for govern-

See \$1.6 billion, pg. 5



Heading in the right direction

Bartlett's Maddie Donnelly executing a header above a recoiling Paulette Carranza of Streamwood on Wednesday, May 8 at Millennium Field in Streamwood. For story and more photos see page 20.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

Police seek assistance while investigating local fatal crash

According to the Bartlett Police Department, on Thursday, May 9, at approximately 11:26 a.m., the department responded to the intersection of Illinois Route 59 and Army Trail Road to investigate a motor vehicle crash involving injuries. Police alleged a 26-year-old male was driving a 2003 Peterbilt Model 379 tractor-trailer truck northbound on Illinois Route 59 when his vehicle struck a 2016 Honda HR-V making a left turn from southbound Illinois Route 59 onto eastbound Army Trail Road. The truck collided with the Honda in the intersection.

The driver of the truck stopped immediately and did not sustain injuries. The 31-year-old female driver of the Honda suffered life-threatening injuries and was

transported to Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield. She was later pronounced dead at the hospital.

Illinois Route 59 was closed between Schick Road and Smith Road and Army Trail Road was closed between Petersdorf Road and Munger Road for several hours while the police department and the DuPage County Accident Reconstruction Task Force (DuCART) investigated the motor vehicle crash. The cause of the crash is still under investigation. The names of the individuals involved are not being released and no citations have been issued.

Anyone with information regarding the motor vehicle crash is asked to call the Bartlett Police Department at 837-0846.



Police Reports

BARTLETT

Sunday, May 5

★ At 1:30 a.m., David A. Bell, 35,

Bartlett woman charged twice for child endangerment

On March 23, the Bartlett Police Department arrested Danielle Dumelle, 32, of 505 Ladysmith Road, Bartlett. Police charged Dumelle with one count of a Class A misdemeanor of child endangerment.



Danielle Dumelle

On Friday, May 10, Bartlett police again arrested Dumelle and charged her with one count of a Class A misdemeanor count of child endangerment.

On March 23, police had responded to 505 Ladysmith Road at approximately 11 p.m. after receiving an anonymous tip that a 3 year old was home alone. Upon arriving at the residence, police learned Dumelle's 3-year-old daughter was home alone. Police determined Dumelle was at a bar in Hanover Park and were able to make contact with her. She returned to the house and officers arrested her af-

ter finding a family member to watch the child.

Streamwood, was arrested and charged with disobeying a stop sign, operating uninsured motor vehicle, DUI and illegal transport of alcohol.

On May 10, police responded to 505 Ladysmith Road at approximately 11 p.m. after receiving a call for a check on well-being. Upon arrival at the residence, police found Dumelle's 12 year-old-daughter and 3-year-old daughter home alone. The 12 year old told officers she did not know where her mother was and officers found the 3-year-old had been locked in her bedroom. During the investigation, officers discovered Dumelle was again at a bar in Hanover Park. A Bartlett police officer responded to the bar, met with Dumelle and transported her back to her residence. Dumelle was then arrested and other family members were contacted to watch the children.

The police department has been in contact with the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) regarding both cases.

Dumelle was released on bond for both arrests and her next court date is scheduled for June 4, at the DuPage County Courthouse in Wheaton.

He was released on an I-bond and faces a June 5 court date. He was also cited for possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of cannabis and faces a June 19 hearing date on those charges.

★ At 11:59 a.m., a complainant in the 1500 block of Bridle Lane reported that his vehicle was damaged by his neighbors while they were playing baseball in the yard.

★ At 8:59 p.m., a complainant at Lambert Lane and Thornbury reported that a group of teenagers made racial slurs towards her while she was walking her dog.

Monday, May 6

★ At 1:32 p.m., a complainant in the 1100 block of Sandpiper Court reported that a known offender took money from her bank account without per-

mission.

★ At 2:55 p.m., a complainant in the 1200 block of Appaloosa Way reported receiving a letter from PayPal Credit advising that there was an account opened using her information.

★ At 3 p.m., a complainant in the 300 block of Veronica Circle reported that she received a package from Sprint containing an iPhone 7 which she never ordered. She reported that Sprint is also not her cell phone carrier.

Tuesday, May 7

★ At 6:17 p.m., police responded to Mr. Quick-EEZ, 900 block of South Bartlett Road, for a customer dispute over a purchase of cigarettes. The customer's daughter believed that her father was double charged after she reviewed his bank statement.

Wednesday, May 8

Police Dept. to participate in traffic enforcement campaigns

The Bartlett Police Department is participating in the Illinois Department of Transportation's Memorial Day DUI and Seat Belt Traffic Enforcement campaigns on Friday, May 10 through Monday, May 27. The police department's participation in these statewide traffic safety initiatives was fully funded by a grant awarded by the Illinois Department of Transportation's Bureau of Safety Programs & Engineering, which aims to deter impaired driving and seat belt infractions.

Bartlett police encourage everyone to have a safe Memorial Day by always wearing their seat belts, assigning a designated driver and not permitting friends or family members to drive under the influence of alcohol.

New District U-46 Board ratifies teachers union contract

By Seth Hancock

The newly seated Board of Education in School District U-46 approved unanimously via a 7-0 vote, a contract running through the 2021-2022 school year with the teachers union, Elgin Teachers' Association (ETA), at its meeting on Monday, May 6.

One after the other, all seven board members echoed their full support of the contract including newly seated members Eva Porter and Kate Thommes who did not abstain despite not taking part in any of the board discussions on the contract. All said it represented all sides well which included the administration, teachers and students though not one referenced the taxpayers who will pay for the contract.

The contract includes average salary increases of 3.85 percent (up from 3.1 percent raises) with a 16.8 percent jump in starting salary from \$42,805 to \$50,000 for the 2018-2019 school year. Teachers have been working without step increases, based on tenure, but will receive pay retroactively with this contract.

An agreement on a contract had been reached last year but voted down by the ETA membership last May. That contract included "\$23 million in additional compensation," U-46 CEO Tony Sanders stated last fall, while this contract includes \$30.6 million in added costs with a total projected cost of \$831.4 million.

The starting salary will increase each year ending at \$51,260 in 2021-2022 while the highest salary achievable under the new contract is \$106,875 in 2018-2019 and \$109,568 in 2021-2022.

The increases in 2018-2019 amount to a 4.95 percent raise (\$9.3 million additional, \$196.9 million total), in 2019-2020 it's 3.8 percent (\$7.5 million additional, \$204.4 million total), in 2020-2021 it's 3.66 percent (\$7.5 million additional, \$211.9 million total) and in 2021-2022 it's 2.99 percent (\$6.3 million additional, \$218.2 million total).

There are 20 steps and eight lanes, based on education attainment, with

an "equal incremental salary schedule in which step and or lane are the same, there is no longer longevity language and we've also eliminated any places throughout the schedule where there was previously a zero increase," said Suzanne Johnson, deputy superintendent of instruction.

The lane increases no longer only pertain to additional college credit but also through professional credits given by the district based on committee work, professional learning committees and professional development.

Teachers at the highest step and lane level are "eligible for a 403b match of up to 1.5 percent of their annual salary," according to Dale Burnidge, director of financial operations. He said there will be increases "similar to the base increases to the salary schedule" for extra duty like coaching.

U-46 will pick up 88 percent of health insurance costs, teachers 12 percent, in 2019-2020 which will go to an 85-15 split over the next two years.

Johnson states there is added language regarding safety, including the creation of a Safety Council and a Tactical Assessment Team, as well as increased flexibility for parent-teacher conferences. She said U-46 wants to "make sure we are addressing and working to resolve" violence in the schools and is "working to secure community resources to support students, families and sites."

Former board member Jeanette Ward was a part of the negotiations but the board vote came after a special meeting the previous week to seat the new board. She spoke during public comments and suggested Porter and Thommes should recuse themselves.

"Due to circumstances unforeseen to administration and the former board, regarding the timing of this year's elections, it is unfortunate that this new board will be voting on this contract instead of the former board, who was involved in the negotiations," Ward said.

Porter and Thommes had expressed no problems with voting on the con-

tract and freely admitted to their own conflicts of interests as former members of the teacher's union. All seven board members have been endorsed by the ETA.

"I was not a part of the process yet I was once a member of ETA and am now a present member of this board," said Thommes who said it's "an expression of the value of the hard work completed, the trust I have for both the union and the administration. A yes vote is a way to support all sides of this important process."

"I will vote yes on the ratification of the tentative agreement because I support the board, I support the teachers, I support the district, I support the students," said Porter.

John Devereux called it "a great balance," Donna Smith called it a "good compromise" and Veronica Noland said she was "quite impressed" with the contract before voting yes.

Board member Melissa Owens said "everyone's pretty much expressed the same thing that I feel," and the contract is deserving of "tribute." Sue Kerr, the board's president, said "I believe it continues to make us competitive in attracting teachers," and it starts addressing safety and "the disruptions in the classroom and unacceptable behavior towards teachers and fellow students."

Ward said she would have voted against the contract and highlighted her concerns which include "significant raises not based on merit."

"Teachers need only be 'satisfactory' to receive these raises," Ward said. "In fact, 'when the salary of an unsatisfactory teacher at the last experience step is frozen, that teacher's salary shall be frozen to an extent not greater than the amount of the normal increment in that salary lane.' So unsatisfactory teachers still get some kind of increase."

Ward added: "It only requires new teachers to transition to paying 15 percent of the total cost of health insurance premiums, while veteran teachers transition later. For perspective, I work for a competitive private sector

company and I pay 25 percent of the total cost of my health insurance premiums. Finally, this contract includes lump sum payments after retirement of up to \$10,000."

The contract is similar to other contracts in Illinois school districts Ward said, but all of them are unsustainable.

"I will grant that the contract does compensate and encourage desired teacher behaviors," Ward said. "But this, and those contracts are far out of line with the private sector and are not sustainable in Illinois as a whole."

Former board member Phil Costello, who was also involved in the negotiations, told *The Examiner* he would have opposed the contract.

"Unfortunately for the larger community, this new Elgin Teachers Union contract represents the age-old fallacy that relies on union protection to manage professional staff," Costello said. "As a former Board of Education member, I would not have supported such a benign instrument that commits almost one billion dollars of taxpayer funds to simply maintain a teacher workforce."

Costello said the contract undermines the accountability, performance and recognition of teachers.

"Our teachers are professionals that create, manage and assess the development of our children and progress therein," Costello said. "The teachers that I have met are quite capable and enthusiastic in their passion to achieve excellence in their classrooms. They should not be merely homogenized as a commodity."

Costello added: "The value and impact of our teacher's planning, delivery and outcomes is imperative to the student growth yet historic failed arguments remain that teachers cannot and should not be evaluated. While our district's administrative bargaining team was well-prepared and diligent in negotiating with multiple teams of union representatives, this contract merely acquiesced to status quo employment that did not improve our system of public education."

U-46 Board approves expenditures, minutes

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 approved \$38 million in expenditure proposals, minutes and the destruction of closed session meeting recordings and the final school calendar for 2018-2019 at its meeting on Monday, April 30.

The closed session meetings vote included the approval of 18 minutes from 2018 and the destruction of 10 recordings from 2017. The vote was 6-1 with board member Jeanette Ward, in her final meeting on the board, voting no.

Ward consistently argued for more transparency from the board during her four-year term.

"I appreciate the progress that we've made over the last four years in making some of our closed session minutes available to the public," Ward said. "I still don't agree with destroying the audio. I think that we should review the audio, redact it where possible and release it to the public."

The expenditure proposals were all approved by a unanimous vote with a five-year contract costing \$26.2 million (operations and maintenance fund) to ABM Industries Incorporated for cleaning services representing the largest item.

With Abbey Paving and Sealcoating Co., Inc., the board approved a \$4.3 million bid (operations and maintenance) for a parking lot for transportation staff at 1019 East Chicago St.

According to the proposal, the location "will act as a satellite location for the Transportation Department and will house some of the district buses.... The current parking lot cannot accommodate the drivers' personal vehicles as well as all of the buses. To address this, the district has provided a shuttle for drivers to park their cars at Elgin High School and 1019 E. Chicago Street."

"By relocating some of the buses to 1019 E. Chicago Street, this will allow the drivers to park their cars at the location that their bus is parked. This will eradicate the need for the transportation shuttle and save both time and money," the proposal added.

A \$4.2 million expenditure split between Dell EMC (\$4 million) and Lenovo (\$217,500), to come from the education fund, will fund the purchase of computer equipment to update to Windows 10. It includes 5,013 staff laptops, 1,233 laptop docking stations, 850 creative content computers and 500 student laptops.

"Microsoft is ending support for Windows 7 devices in the middle of the 2019-2020 school year. Multiple types of Windows 7 devices need to be replaced.... Updating U-46 devices to Windows 10 will keep all staff and

students secured while adding capabilities," the proposal states.

Two proposals (operations and maintenance) were approved for paving parking lots, drives and asphalt play areas at Bartlett's Sycamore Trails (\$1 million with A Lamp Concrete Contractors, Inc.) and Prairieview (\$889,299 with Schroeder Asphalt Services, Inc.) elementary schools.

Paving and surfacing work on the running track at Larkin High School in Elgin will also be done costing \$730,000 (operations and maintenance) with Chicagoland Paving Contractors, Inc.

Pavement sealcoating will be done at 20 schools by Hastings Asphalt Services, Inc. costing \$158,182 (operations and maintenance).

"The asphalt at these twenty (20) locations is in good to excellent condition and routing, crack filling and sealcoating the asphalt will extend the life of the asphalt," the proposal states. "The aesthetics of the facility will also be improved."

U-46 will purchase a new point of sale system from Heartland Solutions/Meal Viewer costing \$194,000 (food and nutrition fund).

"Our current system does not have any social media/digital network capabilities, as well as any menu platform to comply with (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements for visually or hearing impaired," the proposal states. "We do create menus in Spanish thru manual translation, but the current platform does not allow for any other translating needs."

Three elementary schools will be painted, all coming from the operations and maintenance fund. The schools include Washington (\$93,625 with Capital Painting and Decorating, Inc.) and Coleman (\$70,414 with Go Painters Inc.) in Elgin and Hanover Countryside (\$88,690 with Oosterbaan and Sons Co.) in Streamwood.

Two proposals with Project Lead the Way (PLTW), from the education fund, were approved. It includes a \$31,000 annual participation fee to teach middle school gateway courses and high school biomedical science and engineering courses as well as a \$43,200 proposal for professional development.

"PLTW provides a transformative learning experience for PreK-12 students and teachers across the U.S.," PLTW's website states. "It empowers students to develop and apply in-demand, transportable skills by exploring real-world challenges."

The final calendar for this school year that was approved recognized four emergency days being used making May 29 the final day of classes for students.

\$1.6 billion

Continued from page 1

ment employees have risen 1,061 percent since 1987. Moody's has downgraded Illinois to near junk-bond status, and it states the unfunded pension liability is actually \$234 billion, not \$134 billion.

A 2017 analysis by J.P. Morgan showed that Illinois is the worst in the nation and far worse than its neighbors with regards to pension liabilities. Using official state numbers, 26 percent of Illinois taxpayer funds go towards paying pensions and other debts.

If the state properly funded pensions based on their own mandates it would consume 51 percent of taxpayer's funds according to J.P. Morgan com-

pared to 5 percent in Iowa, 6 percent in Indiana, 7 percent in Wisconsin, 11 percent in Missouri and 28 percent in Kentucky.

United States Census Bureau data has consistently shown Illinois losing the most residents in the nation and the state is unattractive to private business.

In a recent interview with CNBC investor Warren Buffett was specifically asked about Illinois, and he said: "In the public sector, you know, it's a disaster.... If I were relocating into some state that had a huge unfunded pension plan, I'm walking into liabilities... and those are big numbers, really big numbers.... And when you see what they would have to do, I say to myself, 'Why do I want to build a plant there that has to sit there for 30 or 40 years?'"



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New member of our *Examiner* team



Elliot O'Reilly is home schooled where his favorite subject is reading. He is involved in baseball, enjoys playing video games in his free time and his favorite movie is 'Minions.' He also takes piano lessons.

O'Reilly will be delivering in Wayne on Bradford Parkway Wiltshire Court Warwick Way, Berkshire Court, Kingwood Court and Somerset Court.

(Examiner photo)

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---Daily Herald---05/15/2019

26 U-46 schools join in Trauma-Informed Awareness Day May 15

*Submitted by Elgin Area School District
U-46*

Elgin Area School District U-46 is inviting local organizations to join in recognizing May 15 as Trauma-Informed Awareness Day.

The approach supports an informed response to students experiencing adverse situations, both past and present, and it is gaining momentum in the state's second-largest district and across the nation.

"Trauma-informed care is a vital component of U-46's multitiered system of support," said U-46 Director of School Safety and Culture John Heiderscheidt. "It provides social-emotional supports to students who need it the most, and helps them reach academic success as they overcome adverse experiences."

The Illinois State Senate passed a resolution in March 2019 declaring May 15 as Trauma-Informed Awareness Day, and U-46 schools will be recognizing the day by raising awareness about the importance of trauma-informed care and how it provides social and emotional support for students who have experienced any adverse childhood experiences.

Trauma-informed care prepares educators and others to better respond to students with adverse childhood experiences. It is an approach that recognizes how

these experiences may affect a child in the classroom, and it gives educators tools they can implement to support students who have experienced trauma.

The Adverse Childhood Experiences study performed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that traumatic experiences during childhood have a tremendous impact on future social and health problems.

To support U-46 schools in providing trauma-informed care, the Alignment Collaborative for Education created a team focused on providing training to teams within U-46 schools, called resiliency teams. Since 2017, 26 schools in U-46 have formed resiliency teams.

On May 15, school resiliency team staff will tie a purple ribbon around the flagpole at their school and wear Trauma-Informed Care Awareness Day stickers in an effort to raise awareness and start conversations about trauma-informed care.

Local organizations are invited to join U-46 in recognizing May 15 as Trauma-Informed Awareness Day. Packets containing stickers and a purple ribbon will be available for pickup at the district's Educational Service Center, 355 E. Chicago Street.

More information about trauma-informed care can be found on the U-46 website at www.u-46.org.

---The Courier-News---05/15/2019

Teacher wins trip to Berlin

Towry earns title in national contest; also gets \$5K for school

By: Rafael Guerrero



People in and around Elgin pushed Elgin High School instructor Richard Towry to first place in a nationwide contest recognizing outstanding teachers.

Elgin High School teacher Richard Towry's first trip to Berlin was in 1993, only a few years after the fall of the Berlin Wall. His return trip during the summer will be all expenses paid, thanks to communitywide support.

The longtime Elgin math teacher won the EF Superhero League contest last week, a nationwide poll recognizing outstanding teachers. Towry won a \$5,000 donation for the school and a professional trip to Berlin in July.

"It is pretty humbling to see this happen, for (students and others) to make it happen," said Towry, who graduated from Elgin High School in 1988 and started teaching at the school 26 years ago.

Towry was the top vote-getter among five teacher finalists in the EF Tours contest; EF Tours helps coordinate educational and service trips for schools in multiple countries. EF Tours spokesperson Skye McIvor said they received about 2,000 teacher nominations from students. EF Tours ultimately narrowed the choices down to five finalists, she said. More than 250,000 votes were cast throughout the contest and Towry received the most among the five.

Nominations sent by Elgin students recognized Towry's "superhero" qualities.

"He has helped students whenever possible (with educational and personal aspects), made his students laugh and truly enjoy learning, and planned numerous field trips and out of school activities," said one nomination. Some of the nominations were posted on the organization's website.

"Mr. Towry gave hundreds of students a vacation of a lifetime and I can't thank him enough for everything he does for us," another student wrote. "He has been like a father to all of us and always puts us first."

Towry said he did not find out about his inclusion in the contest until he made the final five last month. Since then, students, staff, friends, family and others lobbied to get Towry the highest number of votes possible.

Towry has chaperoned six EF Tours trips abroad from Elgin High School and took a group of Elgin students to France and Spain during spring break.

He described traveling abroad as an indispensable opportunity for himself and others. Children and adults alike experience new cultures, observe how other places compare or contrast to American culture and values, have a real-world opportunity to test their foreign language skills, among other benefits, Towry said.

“I think for these students who are exposed now, it will really broaden their horizons more, make them more open-minded,” he said.

Towry will travel to Berlin in July. Trip organizers will lead him and others on a tour of the German city, and Towry will train on how to be a better chaperone during student trips.

“I’m very anxious to revisit, see how Berlin changed,” Towry said. “I know parts of the wall are still up to be monuments, but I’m curious to see how Berlin has rebuilt in and around the wall.”

Top 2% of graduating seniors earn salute at district ceremony

Social worker is Kane support person of year

By: Rafael Guerrero



School District U46 social worker Karen Osborne, right, won the 2019 Kane County Student Support Personnel of the Year.

Forty-six students graduating from School District U46 high schools this month were recognized as the top 2% highest-achieving students in the senior class Monday at the school board meeting and a reception at South Elgin High School.

The board and staff also recognized District U46 social worker Karen Osborne, who was recently named the 2019 Kane County student support personnel of the year.

The top graduating seniors:

Bartlett High School: Aakash Nagarapu, Aaron Farabaugh, Amy Chen, Harsh Chheda, Nimesh Tailor, Rohan Shah, Rushi Patel, Tessa Wanthal, Theresa Videckis, Zain Sattar;

Elgin High School: Caroline Kaczmarek, Guadalupe Chavez, Joshua Placko, Kyle Coates, Lauren Dimayuga, Riya Kumar, Shrinal Patel, Simona Simeonova, Viseth Som;

Larkin High School: Caroline Przywara, Emily Crawford, Jordan Kosin, Kassia Lesiewicz, Kevin Duffy, Noa Greenfeld, Scarlett Ford;

South Elgin High School: Abigail Culloton, Bridget Bondi, Carli Allen, Hannah Anderson, Jace Warrick, MacKenzie Molina, Madeline Kordecki, Madison Caliendo, Nicole Allen, Sara Pfeil, Sarah Boghossian;

Streamwood High School: Anna Rataj, Brianna Yi, Jakub Adamek, Marcos Villarreal, Mary Chung, Nicole Rataj, Nikky Jordan, Victoria Bajorek, William Morgan.

Osborne, who has worked at Fox Meadow Elementary School in South Elgin since 2016, is a 1981 graduate of District U46's Streamwood High School. She began her District U46 career more than 30 years ago and has worked at several district elementary and middle schools.

"Every day I see her go above and beyond what is expected of her with both students and staff," Fox Meadow Principal Sjoukje Brown said in the news release. "She is frequently sought out by students and has a line outside her door every morning and afternoon with kids who want to say hello or goodbye."

According to the release, Osborne pursued a career in social work because of her personal experience with a social worker following the father's death when she was in high school.

"I tell the students that my job is to help out them, parents and teachers with any kind of problems that they are having," Osborne said. "There is nothing so awful you can't tell someone, and everyone has a right to feel safe all of the time."

Osborne was honored at the Kane County Regional Office of Education's 44th annual Kane County Educator of the Year awards ceremony May 3.

Pomp, circumstance, luxury at graduation — all for \$425

Sears Centre renting out suites for viewing schools' ceremonies

By: Amanda Marrazzo



Violette and David Bernauer watch son David at the Mundelein High graduation Monday from a private box at Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates.



Violette Bernauer bites a candy necklace with newly graduated David after Monday's ceremonies.

When David Bernauer graduated from Mundelein High School on Sunday in a ceremony at Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates, his family had a unique vantage point of the big event.

Instead of opting for the more conventional seating in the arena as nearly all the spectators did, the family paid \$425 to rent a private suite.

"Rather than being squished in general admission, I thought it would be nice to sit up there, and with my son (being) an only child, it's just a little bit more special," said David's mom, Violette Bernauer, of Wauconda.

Sears Centre has been the site of many local high school graduation ceremonies since 2006, but this is the first year they have made the suites available. Such suites have become commonplace at large arenas, offering more room, comfort and other amenities — at a price.

Ben Gibbs, general manager of the 11,800-seat arena, said renting the suites is a way to help alleviate what can be "very stressful" and "anxiety inducing" for families trying to coordinate large groups gathering for graduation ceremonies. Typically, spectators occupy the regular stadium seats while the graduates sit in portable chairs on the main floor.

Gibbs said he had seen other larger venues renting their unused suites for such events. He thought it could be helpful for larger groups and families who have people attending who may have mobility issues or those trying to gather small children.

"We thought, let's offer and see if there is any interest," Gibbs said.

Violette Bernauer and nine of her family members, including her 104-year-old grandfather who was in a wheelchair and her 78-year-old father, had a clear view of their graduate, she said.

"Grandpa came and he thanked us and was grateful we (rented the suite)," she said.

She said the suite was higher up than the seats other spectators had, but it seemed they had a more comfortable location and seating arrangement.

She also said it was easier to have a conversation with her family, and to move around during the nearly two-hour ceremony. It was especially important because her dad and sister had traveled from Arizona to be there, so it was more private and allowed for more family time.

“I’m a chatterbox so I would feel bad if people keep shushing me, I know I’m gonna talk,” she said.

Bernauer said the arena’s staff was “very attentive.”

Thousands of families are expected to attend graduation ceremonies at Sears Centre over the next couple of weeks. As of Monday seven groups had signed up for the suites and plopped down the \$425. Bernauer said she saw another suite occupied Sunday by friends of a graduate.

There are 40 suites available, Gibbs said. They can seat up to 15 people, and the graduation offer comes with a 12-bottle case of water. Those who want food still need to get in line at the concession stands.

Peggy Billittier, administrative assistant at Mundelein High School, who organizes graduation ceremonies for the school, said about 500 students graduated this year. Each student gets 15 tickets free of charge. She said the information about renting the suites had been sent out to students and families. She said she was interested in seeing what kind of response the offer generated.

“To me, it seems expensive,” Billittier said.

Not all of this year’s 17 schools holding their ceremonies there are taking Sears Centre up on its offer.

Jim Conrey, public information coordinator for Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, said it declined the option.

“For us, this is an equity issue,” Conrey said. “We want all of our families to have a similar experience at graduation. Spending \$425 to rent a suite may be a drop in the bucket for some folks. For some of us this is a lot of money. We don’t want a haves and have-nots situation for what should be a shared celebration.”

The school is expecting 1,062 students at graduation this year and has held its ceremony at Sears Centre for the last five years. Each student receives eight free tickets for the ceremony.

Anthony McGinn, director of communications for Community Unit School District 300, said the district initially didn’t know of the offer when the bulk of the graduation information was going out to families in February and March.

The district has three high school graduation ceremonies taking place at Sears Centre on May 18 from Hampshire, Jacobs and Dundee-Crown high schools. He is unaware if any families have opted to rent a suite. Each student is welcome to bring as many family members as they like to the ceremony.

Elgin-based **School District U46** was not offered the option of renting suites because the district has five high schools graduating on the same day, which makes cleaning in between ceremonies “a challenge,” Gibbs said.

Tom Petersen, director of community relations at Palatine-based High School District 211, which has three of its five high schools holding graduation ceremonies at Sears Centre, said it too turned down the option of renting suites.

“The Sears Centre provides an accommodating venue for our graduation ceremonies and prior to this year, they have never offered the option of paying for a private box,” Petersen wrote in an email.

“Once we became aware, we communicated with Sears Centre representatives and requested that private boxes would not be available this year. The representatives respectfully honored our request not to offer the private rentals for this year and notified us that they intended to offer the private rentals to all schools next year.”

Gibbs said the schools that use the venue for graduation ceremonies — regardless of whether the suites are offered and rented — have the benefits of plenty of parking and close, padded seating as well as security, curbside wheelchair assistance, traffic control, cleanup, break down and the venue’s technology.

Graduation ceremonies, in general, are typically larger than what a school can handle, Gibbs said, so some schools choose to “put it in the hands of the professionals” letting the graduates enjoy their “special day.”

Bernauer said the only negatives were that the family still had to go through the general entrance and it was a little confusing at first as to how to get to the suite.

But overall, “it was enjoyable,” she said. And it was worth it for David, who will be attending Arizona State University to study sports journalism.

“We were pulling out all the stops,” she said.

Strong second half lifts Hawks over Sabres

By Seth Hancock

Three unanswered goals in the second half helped the Bartlett soccer team snap a five-game losing streak in its regular season finale, a 3-0 win over Streamwood in Upstate Eight Conference play on Wednesday, May 8 at Millennium Field in Streamwood.

The game was scoreless at halftime but not for a lack of chances led by Amber Fiedler who took several strong shots. With all of her opportunities one had to go in, and it did about two minutes into the second half when Fiedler found the net from about 22 yards out for the game's first goal.

It was the first goal of the season for Fiedler who has played several positions this season from the back to the top.

"She's got an absolute cannon of a shot," said Bartlett coach Vince Revak. "We try to find opportu-

nities for her to take shots, but she'll play anywhere she's needed."

"It felt amazing. That was my first goal of the season," Fiedler said. "It helped us keep our heads up. It gave us extra motivation the rest of the second half."

Kaley Kowal made it 2-0 as her shot hit the left bar and bounced in about 10 minutes after the first goal, and Mikayla Brown fed Rachel Helgesen who scored the final goal with about 12 minutes left to play.

Fiedler and Alexis DeRango both hit the crossbar during the game and the Hawks offense saw chances from Paige Bednarke, Tessa Evans, Morgan Myers, Madison Neer and Lauren Kowalski. Bartlett keepers Jessica Hill (one save) and Caitlin Yurkovich (three saves) preserved the Hawks seventh shutout of the season.

Bartlett has struggled to score in recent week and tallied just three goals during its losing skid, so finding the net in the finale was boost as the Hawks enter postseason play 7-12-2 overall, 5-4-0 in the UEC.

"It's good that we broke the losing streak and great to gain some confidence by scoring some," Revak said. "We know we still have a lot to work on in the next four practice days before the playoffs."

The Hawks were coming off a 1-0 loss to Elgin in UEC play on Monday, May 6 at Elgin. The game winner was scored in the second half.

That was the eighth one-goal loss of the season for the Hawks who hope to prove they are better than their record as No. 8 Bartlett prepares for No. 9 regional host St. Francis in semifinal play.

"I think a lot of our scores don't reflect how good we are," Fiedler said. "I think any team that wants to come after us in the postseason will be surprised."



Mikayla Brown of the Hawks in pursuit of an elevated ball against the Sabres.



Bartlett's Rachel Helgesen taking control of the ball moments before firing a shot past the Streamwood keeper to give the Hawks a 2-0 lead.



A jubilant Amber Fiedler being embraced by teammate Morgan Myers after scoring the Hawks first goal of the match and her first of the season.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



Abigail Hawes of the Hawks driving the ball away from Streamwood's Paulette Carranza during Bartlett's 3-0 win over the Sabres on Wednesday, May 8.

Sabres fall to Bartlett in regular season finale



During a diving effort, Streamwood keeper Emina Cousevic watched as a Bartlett shot went just wide of the far post.



Bartlett’s Serena Salvato, left, and the Sabres’ Alex Meza battling for possession of the ball as Meza attempted to stop Salvato’s advance on Wednesday, May 8.



Bartlett’s Maddie Donnelly executing a header above a recoiling Paulette Carranza of Streamwood.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood soccer team was unable to overcome three Bartlett second half unanswered goals as the Sabres dropped their regular season and Upstate Eight Conference finale 3-0 on Wednesday, May 8 at Millennium Field.

Despite the visitor’s controlling play in the first half, Streamwood was able to remain even by half-time as the match was scoreless at the break. About two minutes into the second half, Bartlett netted the first goal and eventually finished the scoring with about 12 minutes left to play.

Trailing 2-0, Streamwood had its best scoring chance about midway through the second half when Karla Morlas hit the crossbar on a shot and Josett Perez was able to get a shot on goal off the deflection.

Sabres freshman goalie Emina Cousevic helped keep her team in the game making nine saves.

“I thought we played really well,” said Streamwood coach Kristin Duffy. “We’re dealing with a lot of injuries and we only had two subs, and everybody played a lot of time. We also have an inexperienced goalie with our normal starter still out.”

On Cousevic, Duffy added: “She’s played really well, especially with keeper being a new position for her.”

Diana Herrera had three shots on goal in the game Melanie Ramirez, Jasmin Perez and Jennifer Voravong all had attempts in the match.

Streamwood was coming off a 5-1 loss to Herscher in its Pepsi-Co Showdown finale on Sunday, May 5 at the Lyons Township soccer complex. Weather cancelled the final day of tournament games earlier this season.

The Sabres are now 5-14-1 overall, 1-7-1 in the UEC, heading into the Huntley Regional where No. 12 Streamwood opens against No. 5 Huntley.

“We just want to get everyone healthy,” Duffy said. “We just need to concentrate in practice, and we need to just work on every aspect of the game and be ready.”



Playing defense for the Sabres, Diana Herrera, left, taking the ball away from Bartlett’s Tessa Evans.

Sabres blank Royals during 3-2 week of play



Streamwood right fielder Gabriella Cardinale attempting to make a catch of a Larkin fly ball but came up a bit short as the ball fell in for a single.

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood softball team earned a 7-0 win over Larkin in Upstate Eight Conference play on Monday, May 6 at Streamwood. Laura Dietrich (2-for-3, double, RBI), Corrine Angle (2-for-2, double, RBI), Hannah Jenig (2-for-3, RBI), Ariana Wolfard (double, RBI), Tessa Freedman (double) and Alayna Levey (RBI) led the Sabres at the plate. Taylyr Crocilla tossed a complete-game shutout allowing seven hits, walking one and hitting a bat-



Sabres' shortstop Ariana Wolfard just missed making a running over-the-shoulder catch of a Larkin drive in shallow left field.



Corinne Angle of the Sabres being tagged by Larkin shortstop Elizabeth Bowman on an ill-fated steal attempt of second base.

ter. She struck out nine. The win was part of a 3-2 week in league play as Streamwood is now 12-7 overall, 8-5 in the UEC, as the Sabres move to the final week of the regular season in preparation for the St. Charles East Regional. No. 8 Streamwood opens with No. 9 Schaumburg, but Sabres coach Will Shogren wants his team focused on the next opponent ahead. "I know a lot of people say this, but I want them to just take it one game at a time," Shogren said. "I don't want the girls to look ahead or think about postseason, just focus on the team ahead." Streamwood's other wins on the week included a 15-1 win over Elgin in a five-inning,

10-run rule game on Tuesday, May 7 at Elgin and a 7-0 win over East Aurora on Friday, May 10 in Aurora. Crocilla (3-for-3, four RBI), Angle (3-for-4, double, three RBI), Freedman (2-for-4, double, three RBI), Dietrich (2-for-3, three RBI) and Levey (double) led the Sabres offense against Elgin and Wolfard (three hits, two walks, six strikeouts) got the win. Streamwood suffered a 12-0 loss against West Aurora on Wednesday, May 8 at Streamwood. Crocilla suffered the loss but led at the plate going 2-for-4 with a double. Against UEC leaders South Elgin, the Sabres suffered a 17-2 loss in a four-inning, 15-run rule game on Saturday, May 11 at South Elgin. Wolfard (triple), who suffered the loss, and Maris Clinton both drove in a run.



Kiara Villa scoring Streamwood's first run on the back end of double steal against Larkin as the Royals' catcher Ashley Miller waited for a late throw. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

Hawks win finale but Storm take close series

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin baseball team maintained its spot atop the Upstate Eight Conference with a three-game series win over rival Bartlett, but all three games were nail biters with the Hawks salvaging a win in the finale.

The Storm clinched the series with a 7-0 win on Saturday, May 4 at South Elgin.

The game was scoreless through four innings and South Elgin tallied just one hit until the fifth. Garrett Wano (2-for-4, three RBI) broke up the shutout in the fifth with an RBI single off of Hawks pitcher Nathan Gargano (five innings, three hits, four walks, six strikeouts).

South Elgin went on to add six runs in the sixth inning. Patrick Keaty finished 2-for-4 with an RBI.

“I knew that my offense and my defense would pull through eventually,” said winning pitcher Robert Zagorski who allowed one hit, walked four and struck out six in six innings of work.

Bartlett took the series finale 3-0 led by pitchers Nick Kantzavelos and Michael Vaca on Monday, May 6 at Bartlett.

Kantzavelos went 5.1 innings allowing five hits, walking five and striking out three. The Storm loaded the bases in the sixth inning with one out when Vaca came in and struck out the next two batters, and he added two more strikeouts in the seventh in earning a save.

“We just wanted to come out strong,” Kantzavelos said. “We were ready for this one.”

“Momentum wise, this is a huge win,” said Vaca who added a fifth inning solo home run for the 3-0 lead. “We know we can hang with any team.”

South Elgin stranded the bases loaded in both the fifth and sixth innings and runners at the corners in the seventh.

Bartlett took a 2-0 lead in the second inning, Sam Mallinas driving in a run, thanks in part to three Storm errors.

Gargano (double) and Francesco Gherardi were both 2-for-3 for the Hawks as were Austin Doty and Wano for the Storm. Grant Baker went the distance on the mound for South Elgin allowing one earned run off eight hits and a walk while striking out three.

“That’s what we’re looking for out of them,” said Bartlett coach Devin Rosen. “I don’t know what kind of



Matt Sweitzer making solid contact for the Storm against Bartlett.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

team we are at times, but this is the team we want them to be.”

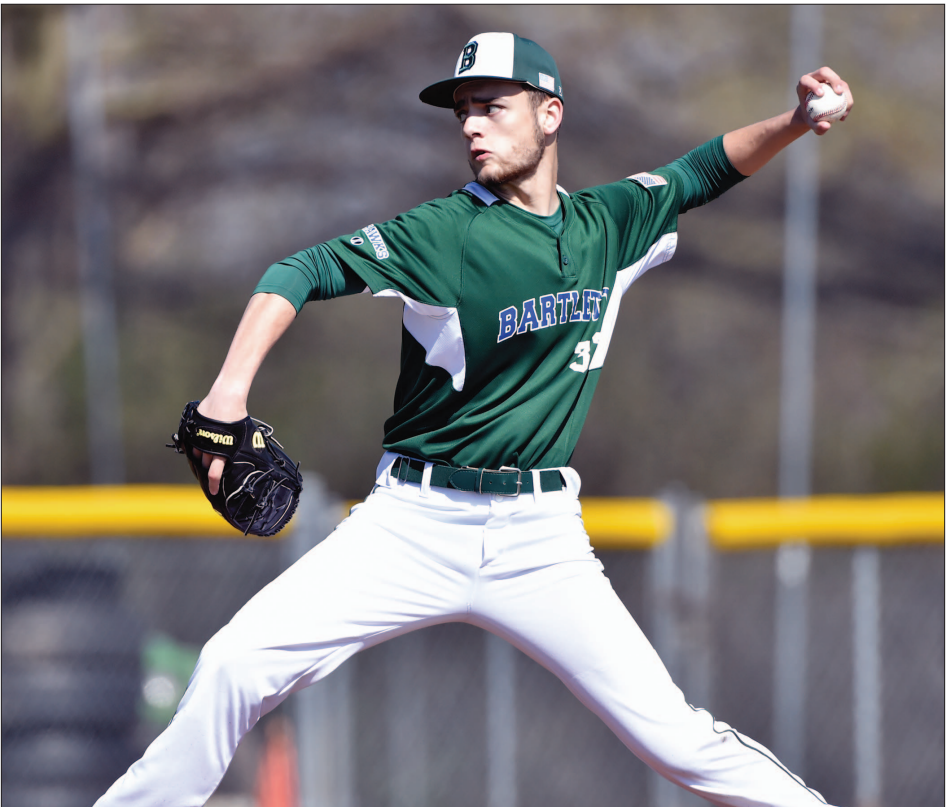
“We’re still going in the right direction, but today we just came out a little flat,” said South Elgin coach Jim Kating. “And that’s what happens when you come out flat.”

The series opener went nine innings with the Storm tallying a pair of unearned runs in the ninth off of Bartlett reliever Max Lewis for a 5-3 win on Friday, May 3 at Bartlett.

Wano (2-for-4, double), Grayson Downing (2-for-4) and Doty (home run, two RBI) led South Elgin’s offense and Joey Haslam (one walks, seven strikeouts) tossed four no-hit innings of relief for the win. Matt Angelone (2-for-4, two RBI) and Nathan Euliano (double) led the Hawks.

Bartlett (14-9-1, 12-9 UEC) extended the series finale win into a six-game win streak with five more UEC victories.

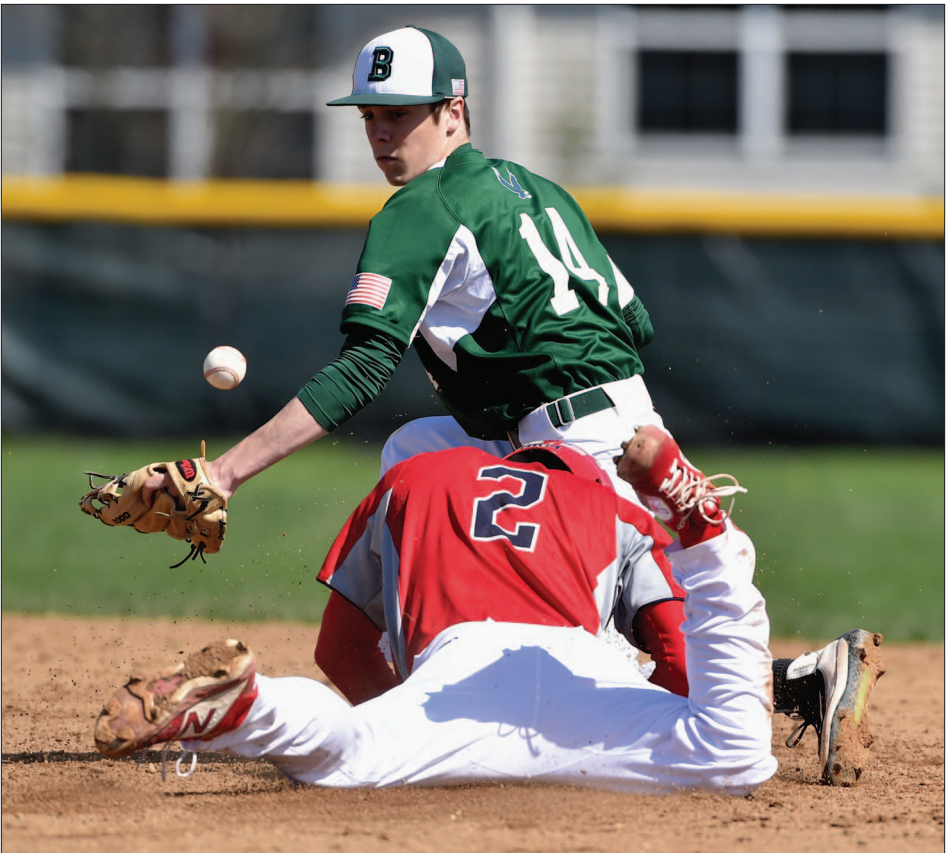
South Elgin (21-5, 19-4) went 4-1 over five more conference games.



Nathan Gargano on the hill during his start for the Hawks against South Elgin.



Bartlett right fielder Nathan Euliano tracking down a South Elgin fly ball.



With head-first slide, the Storm’s Patrick Keaty slid in safely with a stolen base as Bartlett second baseman Matt Lewandowski battled to secure the throw.

Bartlett beaten by WeGo, suffers first UEC loss



At the net, Toiyon Walton trying to end a volley for the Hawks against West Chicago.



Bartlett's Matthew Tomasek trying unsuccessfully to dig a West Chicago kill shot.

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett volleyball team suffered its first setback in the Upstate Eight Conference falling 25-19, 17-25, 25-18 against West Chicago on Wednesday, May 7 at West Chicago.

It was the first UEC loss for the Hawks who fall to 5-1 in the conference and saw an eight-game winning streak end. Bartlett can still clinch a share of the conference title, with Glenbard East or West Aurora who both have one UEC loss, with a win this week over South Elgin.

"We're trying to establish ourselves as the best team in our conference," said Bartlett coach Bob Schwantz. "We were really hoping to win it outright which is unlikely now."

Schwantz added: "The good thing is we don't play for a week so we have some time to practice."

West Chicago had defeated Bartlett in a first-week tournament, and Schwantz said his Hawks were in "unchartered territory" facing early deficits in the first and third games.

In the decisive third set, Bartlett led 8-7 when a hitting error ended a long volley to start a 7-0 run for West Chicago giving the host the lead for good at 14-8. The Hawks pulled no closer than four the rest of the game.

Errors hurt the Hawks which included 13 services errors for the set. In Game 2, the Hawks had strong blocking including four block kills by Carter Burzlaff (22 assists) and they committed just one hitting error, but in Game 3 Bartlett committed seven hitting errors.

ting error, but in Game 3 Bartlett committed seven hitting errors.

"We got our footing in Set 2," Schwantz said. "Set 1, I thought we just came out tight."

Schwantz added: "Missed serves hurt us. We'd get on a little roll and then shoot ourselves in the foot, and West Chicago seemed to play with a little chip on their shoulders after winning the first set and having beat us earlier this season."

In Game 2, the Hawks broke a 6-6 tie with a 7-2 run capped by two kills from Toiyon Walton (five kills, four blocks) and an ace by Matt Tomasek to make it 13-8. Bartlett built an eight-point lead at 21-13 and ended the set with a kill from Martin Radomski (eight kills).

Jacob Bush had five kills, Joshua Kramp four kills and Sohun Desai seven digs.

Bartlett is now 22-4 overall as they head into the final week of the regular season preparing for the St. Charles North Regional. The Hawks are seeded third in the Fremd Sectional.



Joshua Kemp attempting to deliver a kill shot against the Wildcats.



The Hawks' Carter Burzlaff, left, and Jacob Bush rose in unison to complete a successful block against the Wildcats.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

Police Reports

Continued from page 3

★ At 2:44 a.m., Alexandra Rawson, 23, Carol Stream, was arrested and charged with DUI, BAC over .08. She was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

Wednesday, May 1

★ At 8:46 a.m., Jesus E. Alejos, 27, Palatine, was arrested and charged with possession of cannabis, possession of drug paraphernalia, seatbelt violation and cell phone violation. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

Saturday, May 4

★ At 9:27 p.m., Yoskitaka Takeda, 40, Arlington Heights, was arrested and charged with DUI, BAC over .08, speeding and failure to yield to an emergency vehicle. The subject was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

Sunday, May 5

★ At 9:51 p.m., Francisco Mercado, 43, West Chicago, was arrested on warrant and charged with no valid driver's license and no insurance. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

Monday, May 6

★ At 2:14 a.m., Jason R. Holmgren, 21, Carol Stream, was arrested on warrant and charged with assault and three counts of domestic battery. He was transported to DuPage County Jail.

★ At 3:49 a.m., Roberto Figueroa, 42, Roselle, was arrested and charged with DUI, BAC over .08, following too closely and improper lane usage. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

★ At 7:08 p.m., Alison E. Logan, 23, Bartlett, was arrested and charged with possession of cannabis. She was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

Tuesday, May 7

★ At 9:18 a.m., Deon Kelly, 50, Chicago, was arrested on warrant and charged with two counts of failure to appear, fleeing and eluding, driving while license suspended, speeding and DUI. The subject was transported to DuPage County Jail.

Wednesday, May 8

★ At 7:50 p.m., Christopher T. Washington, 40, Carol Stream, was arrested and charged with failure to appear and an outstanding warrant. He was transported to DuPage County Jail.

★ At 11:20 p.m., Maria F. Moreno, 22, Carol Stream, was arrested and charged with possession of cannabis, possession of drug paraphernalia and disobeying a traffic control device. She was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

SOUTH ELGIN

Wednesday, May 1

★ At 6:19 a.m., police responded to the 500 block of Martin for a report of harassment by telephone.

★ At 11:07 a.m., police responded to the vicinity of Courtland and Nicole for a report of an abandoned vehicle.

★ At 11:15 a.m., police responded to the 0 block of Concord for a report of a suspicious vehicle.

★ At 12:44 p.m., police responded to Jim Hansen Park, 280 Concord Ave., for a report of criminal destruction of property.

★ At 1:16 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Strathmore and Sweetbriar for a report of a drug law violation.

★ At 2:28 p.m., police responded to Mobil, 30 S. McLean Blvd., for a report of theft.

★ At 12:45 p.m., at the police department, officers responded for a child custody dispute.

★ At 3:50 p.m., police responded to the 0 block of West Sandstone for a report of a domestic in progress.

★ At 5:57 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of Cole for a report of a violation of an order of protection.

★ At 9:21 p.m., police responded to the 1300 block of Burke for a harassment complaint.

★ At 10:02 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of Thornwood for a missing juvenile report.

Thursday, May 2

★ At 12:31 a.m., police responded to Custom Countertop Creations, 330

Randall Road, for a report of an open door or window.

★ At 8:04 a.m., police responded to the 700 block of Robertson for a report of an activated alarm.

★ At 11:18 a.m., police responded to the 1400 block of Pembroke for a report of an open door or window.

★ At 2:25 p.m., police responded to Jewel, 375 Randall Road, for a report of a hit and run.

★ At 7:05 p.m., police responded to the 1600 block of Seaton for a disorderly conduct complaint.

★ At 7:12 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of Arbor for a 911 investigation

★ At 7:31 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of North McLean and Sandhurst in an attempt to serve a warrant.

★ At 8:10 p.m., police responded to the 600 block of West Thornwood for a 911 investigation.

★ At 10:27 p.m., police responded to PS Fuels, 14 Illinois Route 25, for a report of a drug law violation.

★ At 10:34 p.m., police responded to the 0 block of Sweetbriar for a report of a vehicle alarm.

★ At 11:36 p.m., police responded to PS Fuels, 14 Illinois Route 25, for a report of an abandoned vehicle.

Friday, May 3

★ At 1:28 a.m., police responded to O'Reilly Auto Parts, 430 N McLean Blvd., for a juvenile complaint.

★ At 5:53 a.m., police responded to the Towerhill Care Center, 759 W. Kane, for a request to assist fire department personnel.

★ At 9:05 a.m., police responded to the 300 block of Riverview in an attempt to serve a warrant.

Storm softball suffer loss to Raiders, then win four

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin softball team suffered its first Upstate Eight Conference loss but responded with four straight in league play.

Casey Brennan went 2-for-4 with two doubles and both McKenna Eichholz (two RBI) and Cara Cruthers (RBI) to build a 3-0 lead after three innings against Glenbard South, but the Storm couldn't hold on in a 4-3 loss on Monday, May 6 at Glenbard South.

The host scored two runs off starter Sophia Salazar (four-plus innings, six hits, two walks, two hit batters, five strikeouts) in the fifth and added lone runs in the sixth and seventh off reliever Geneva Pollman (two hits, two walks, four strikeouts) for the win.

"That game against South was a good all-around game and an even better learning experience for us as the season winds down and playoffs are almost here," said South Elgin coach Brad Reynard. "Being up three in the fifth, we need to seal the deal and finish teams off."

The Storm got some revenge later in the week defeating Glenbard South 4-1 on Friday, May 10 at South Elgin. Brennan (2-for-2, home run, RBI) led the offense and Sidney Strama (five hits, four walks, one hit batter, four strikeouts) went the distance in the circle.

After the loss, South Elgin defeated Glenbard East 19-2 in a four-inning, 15-run rule game on Tuesday, May 7 at Glenbard East. Strama (five hits, four

strikeouts) got the win.

At the plate the Storm had contributions from Samantha Jimenez (3-for-3, two home runs, six RBI), Sami Koss (2-for-4, double, three RBI), Angelina Guido (2-for-2, RBI), Strama (2-for-3), Eve Hartmann (double, three RBI), Cruthers (double) and Morgan Meinicke (two RBI).

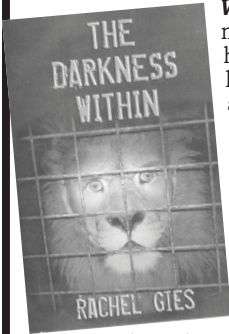
"We got production top to bottom in our lineup," Reynard said. "When we get that we are tough to beat."

South Elgin defeated Larkin 14-3 in a six-inning, 10-run rule game on Thursday, May 9 at Larkin. All three runs against winner Guido (seven hits, one walks, four strikeouts) were unearned and the Storm's offense was led by Cruthers (4-for-4, triple, double, two RBI), Pollman (3-for-5, double, three RBI), Brennan (2-for-5, RBI), Koss (2-for-4, RBI) Hartmann (2-for-4, RBI), Eichholz (double) and Maria Schiffer (double).

The Storm (21-6, 13-1 UEC) finished the week with a 17-2 win in four innings against Streamwood with Salazar (three hits, six strikeouts) in the circle on Saturday, May 11 at South Elgin. Koss (3-for-3, home run, two RBI), Brennan (2-for-3, two triples, two RBI), Cruthers (2-for-4, two doubles, three RBI), Jimenez (2-for-4, two RBI), Eichholz (home run, two RBI), Pollman (double) and Kaylie Humes (double) led the offense.

South Elgin will prepare for the Fremd Regional where the No. 4 Storm open with No. 13 Bartlett.

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