

Press Clippings 08/28/2019

---Daily Herald---08/28/2019

Elgin community mourns unexpected death of U-46 administrator Ron Raglin

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy



Elgin Area School District U-46 administrator Ron Raglin died Monday. *Courtesy of Elgin Area School District U-46*



Ronald Raglin, Elgin Area School District U-46's assistant superintendent of educational support programs and alignment, died unexpectedly Monday. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*



A sign outside Elgin Area School District U-46's headquarters pays tribute to the passing of administrator Ron Raglin Monday. *Courtesy of Elgin Area School District U-46*

An impassioned advocate for students, Elgin Area School District U-46 administrator Ronald Raglin died unexpectedly Monday from a heart attack.

Raglin, 58, of Elgin, was U-46's assistant superintendent of educational support programs and alignment and received the city of Elgin's 2019 Dr. King Humanitarian Award earlier this year.

He was known as a champion of educational equity who helped strengthen ties to community partners to promote student success, according to district officials.

"Our hearts are all broken," U-46 spokeswoman Mary Fergus said.

Raglin's family released a brief statement explaining the circumstances of his unexpected death.

"Ron underwent a successful surgery on Friday, and he was healing and progressing well," the statement said. "However, he suffered a sudden cardiac episode on Monday and could not be revived. We are deeply saddened by our loss. We covet your prayers as we grieve Ron's passing."

Raglin grew up on Chicago's South Side. His best friend at the time was Arne Duncan, who later became U.S. Secretary of Education under former President Barack Obama. He taught and coached in California for 18 years before moving back to Chicago in 2002 to help then-CEO Duncan with the administration of Chicago Public Schools. He moved to Elgin after joining U-46 more than seven years ago.

"He is, and always will be, my friend and your friend," U-46 CEO Tony Sanders wrote in a message to staff Monday night. "Now is not the time to remind you of Ron's biography. I'd rather remind you of his exceptional heart. ... His love of this district and all our beautiful learners. His passion for ensuring that 'All Means All' is not just three words, but a calling that we strive for every day. ... He modeled the importance of connections, and that is why we will feel his loss so deeply."

Raglin called working for U-46 his "dream job." He oversaw college readiness programs, promoted equity and mentoring initiatives and worked with the Alignment Collaborative for Education, or ACES, which aims to raise student achievement, create productive members of society and advance economic and social well-being.

Sanders said he was part of the administrative team that brought Raglin to U-46.

"He's a good guy," Sanders said, choking back tears. "Ron was the biggest cheerleader for public education and for U-46. He gave us his all."

During his time with U-46, Raglin started out working on equity and social justice, then oversaw all middle and high schools. He served on the ACE governing board playing a key role in rolling out the district's alignment initiatives.

Raglin transformed what began as a clergy advisory committee into an Interfaith Advisory Council providing mentors to schools. He oversaw the district's African American Advisory Council and was responsible for rolling out the Advancement Via Individual Determination, or AVID, college readiness program districtwide. Most recently, Raglin led a team in developing the district's equity plan, which will be reviewed by the school board this fall.

"There's really not an area that he did not touch," Sanders said.

Margaret Frisch Klein, rabbi of Congregation Kneseth Israel in Elgin and a close friend of Raglin, said it is the toughest news she has had to break to community members.

"It's heartbreaking," she said. "He was a 'mensch' -- a good, decent person. And he really believed in the good in everybody."

"In a place where there is no good person, strive to be that good person. That was Ron," Klein said, paraphrasing a Talmudic saying.

Raglin never stopped being an advocate for students even after they graduated and helped them find jobs, said Bill Wright, who served with Raglin on the ACE governing board.

"Watching him at a few graduations I attended, he would sit in a corner on the Sears Centre floor and smile at all the AVID students receiving their diplomas as a proud papa would," Wright wrote on Facebook. "His U-46 community lost a dear colleague. His students lost a champion."

Danise Habun, chair of Elgin's King Celebration Planning Committee and a friend of Raglin, said he earned the humanitarian award partly because of "his deep-rooted respect and admiration for Dr. King and also because of his firmly held belief in equity for all students."

"He was just a marvelous advocate for everybody," Habun said. "He had several outstanding qualities. One was his genuineness as a human being and his passion around racial justice, and just his ability to listen ... to critically think about many of the issues that are facing so many of us."

Raglin is survived by his wife of more than 35 years, Tena, also a teacher, his adult children, Matthew and Marissa, and three grandchildren. He was a member of Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington. Services are pending.

U-46 urged employees who need assistance dealing with his loss to call the Employee Assistance Program at (866) 828-6052.

---The Courier-News---08/28/2019

U46 mourns death of administrator

Raglin, an assistant superintendent for the district, dies at 58

By Rafael Guerrero



Raglin

The School District U46 and Elgin community mourned Tuesday after the death of Ronald Raglin, the district's assistant superintendent of educational support programs and alignment.

Raglin, 58, died Monday, district officials confirmed. He was hired at U46 in 2012 and had been in public education for more than 35 years.

In a statement, Raglin's wife, Tena, said Raglin had undergone successful surgery on Friday and was "healing and progressing well." However, he suffered a sudden cardiac episode on Monday and could not be revived, she said.

"We are deeply saddened by our loss," she said. "We covet your prayers as we grieve Ron's passing."

Nancy Coleman, executive director for the Elgin-area Alignment Collaborative for Education, said she was "devastated" over the news of her close friend.

"He cared about more students than anyone I ever met," said Coleman. Raglin was a vice chair on one of the boards of the alignment collaborative Coleman oversees.

A sign outside the U46 central services building read, "Rest in Peace Ron, Your U46 family will miss you."

On Monday evening, CEO Tony Sanders issued a statement on Raglin's death that went out to all district staff.

“Ron is more than just a cabinet member serving our students for more than seven years. He is, and always will be, my friend and your friend,” Sanders wrote.

“Now is not the time to remind you of Ron’s biography,” he continued. “I’d rather remind you of his exceptional heart. His love for his wife, Tena. For his children and grandchildren. His love of this district and all our beautiful learners. His passion for ensuring that ‘All Means All’ is not just three words, but a calling that we strive for every day.”

Sanders called him his “right-hand man” with the Superintendent’s Scholarship program, among other initiatives. Sanders said Raglin left his mark in U46 and it will be felt forever.

“If you remind students how much you love them, they will do anything to achieve the best they can,” said Sanders. “And I don’t know if I know anyone who embodied that message as much as Ron Raglin.”

Raglin once described his role in U46 as his “dream job.”

He moved to Elgin from Chicago after taking the position with U46 to demonstrate his commitment to the district’s “vital and vibrant” communities. In his role, he oversaw the district’s AVID college readiness system, worked with the Alignment Collaborative for Education, which is seeking to incorporate career pathways in the high schools, among other duties. He served on multiple advisory groups in the area, including the Interfaith Advisory Council and the African-American Advisory Council.

Coleman described Raglin as a close friend despite having known him for only two years. He described Raglin as a “bigger-than-life” figure, and a “kind and giving man.”

“He was a teacher to the core,” she said. “We need more Ron Raglins in this community, and we need to celebrate his legacy.”

In January, the City of Elgin’s Human Relations Commission awarded Raglin the 2019 Dr. King Humanitarian Award at its 34th annual Dr. King Prayer Breakfast.

“Let us reach out and go beyond ourselves,” Raglin said at the January gathering. “That is in the keeping of the Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Stay strong, stay in the dream, stay alive in your conscious and keep pushing.”

Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein with Congregation Kneseth Israel in Elgin nominated Raglin for the award, feeling he exemplified the vision and ideals of the civil rights leader. Both Klein and Raglin arrived in Elgin about the same time. Raglin was the first person outside of the synagogue to reach out to her upon her arrival, she said.

Frisch Klein said her nomination noted that “while King is Ron’s superhero, Ron is mine.”

“Probably what I admired from him the most is this commitment to education, the power of education, and the need for education and the belief that every kid could succeed,” she said.

Raglin grew up on Chicago’s South Side, attending William Shakespeare Elementary School and Martin Luther King High School, U46 said in a previous news release.

He spent 18 years as an instructor in middle and high schools in the San Joaquin Central Valley of California, teaching English, math, government, economics and coaching basketball and soccer. Raglin is survived by his wife, two children, three grandchildren, and friends and family and colleagues in Elgin, Chicago, and California. No memorial services had been announced as of Tuesday.

U46 recognizes Special Olympics gold medalists

By: Rafael Guerrero



School District U46 board members and officials recognize BlueStars members at Monday's school board meeting. The four students won gold medals at the Illinois Special Olympics summer games this year.
(Rafael Guerrero/Courier-News)

School District U46 officials honored five students who won gold medals at the Illinois Special Olympics and International Cheer Union's World Championships this past spring and summer.

At the start of Monday's school board meeting, the board introduced students Natalie Gort, Laila Tran, Constantina "Tina" Hondros and Jackson Miller. The four participated in this year's Illinois Special Olympics summer games in the Bloomington-Normal area.

Three of the four — Gort, Tran, and Hondros — were members of the district's BlueStars team that competes in Special Olympics competitions. Miller participated in the Illinois Special Olympics through the Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association.

Both Gort, a fourth grade student at Nature Ridge Elementary School in Bartlett, and Streamwood High School senior Tran won gold medals in the 200-meter run. Hondros, a freshman at Bartlett High School, received gold in the 25-meter freestyle swim.

"(Hondros) has a constant smile, thoughtful disposition, and always, always demonstrates good sportsmanship. In every event I have ever seen her compete in, she initiates kind conversations with the athletes she is sitting next to and competing against," said BlueStars coach Lindsey Reynolds in a news release announcing their accomplishments. "(Tran) is a bright light and is constantly positive and lifting each person up, including her coaches. She is never without a smile on her face, and

celebrates both victories and challenging events with the same vigor and positive attitude.

“(Gort) is a great little competitor,” Reynolds added. “She may be one of our younger athletes, but she has shown that her athleticism is right up there with the more experienced athletes.”

Miller, an 11th grade student at Larkin High School, won gold in the 50-meter backstroke swim. In the announcement, his mother, Rebecca Miller, credited Larkin High School coach Nate Williams with helping her son find his passion in swimming. Larkin launched its swim team in 2018, and the coach made sure to find a place for Jackson on the team, she said.

The four received Accent on Achievement certificates from U46 CEO Tony Sanders and the U46 school board at Monday’s school board meeting.

Also recognized Monday but not in attendance was Renee Grandstaff, who won gold with the USA Cheer’s U.S. National Special Olympics Unified Intermediate Team at the International Cheer Union’s World Championships in April in Orlando. Grandstaff is a member of the Hanover Park-based Elite Stars and a student in the District’s transition programs, which serve students with special needs through the age of 22.

The Examiner of STREAMWOOD

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

50 cents
August 28, 2019

Improvement sought
by Sabres football
See Page 5

I-390 expansion
possible in region
See Page 6

U-46 budget continues taxpayer impact trend

By Seth Hancock

Will taxpayers in School District U-46 see any relief from any level of taxation, state or local?

The short-term answer appears to be no after the Fiscal Year 2020 budget was presented to the Board of Education on Monday, Aug. 12. Board member Melissa Owens was absent.

Based on current estimates of receiving \$197 million from the state under the "evidence-based" funding formula, U-46 plans to increase spending by \$36.2 million to \$594.3 million total in FY2020, a 6.5 percent increase from \$558.1 million. At the same time, the district is expecting a 2.5 percent decrease in student population with enrollment expected to drop by 950 students, from 38,394 to 37,444, this year.

Increased spending with declining enrollment has become a long-term trend in U-46, this being the fifth straight year, and it is projected to continue indefinitely according to the budget projections. Spending is projected to rise 14 percent to \$636.2 million in 2023 (revenue rising to \$636.9 million) and enrollment dropping 9 percent to 34,945, with total utilized capacity dropping from 67 percent to 62 percent.

With a long-term view using U-46 budget information and Illinois State Board of Education data, if the district's future forecasts become reality there will have been a 14.1 percent decline in enrollment from 40,687 students in 2012 while costs will have risen 48 percent from \$430 million in FY2012.

From FY2012 to FY2019, enrollment has dropped 5.6 percent (2,293 fewer

students) and spending has increased by \$128.1 million (29.8 percent) which is over \$80 million faster than the rate of inflation according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator.

The "evidence-based" funding formula became law in 2017 with U-46 receiving \$157 million in 2018, \$178 million in 2019 and a projected \$197 million in 2020 according to the budget.

The district is planning for annual increases from the state through the formula of at least \$5 million despite evidence suggesting Illinois is in poor fiscal health.

Illinois is \$160.9 billion in debt according to usdebtclock.org, population has continued to decline and it is ranked the worst in the nation for financial health according to George Mason University's Mercatus Center's annual report. Since 2010, Moody's Investor Service has consistently rated Illinois as the worst state in the nation with a near junk-bond status and \$234 billion in unfunded pension liabilities.

To pay help for "evidence-based" funding, the state hiked the personal income tax rates by 32 percent and the corporate tax rate by 33.3 percent.

Furthermore, state taxpayers have seen hikes recently with 21 new tax and fee increases signed by Gov. J.B. Pritzker with more being proposed.

Supporters of the "evidence-based" system, including U-46 officials, expressed the need for property tax relief as part of the reason for the new funding model.

Now with the additional lobbied for state funds, U-46 still plans on increasing its property tax levy by the maximum amount allowed under law

which includes an expected \$3.1 million increase in property tax funds this year and about \$6 million annually through 2022.

Using the \$3.1 million estimate in additional property tax revenue, U-46 theoretically could cut the property tax levy by over \$30 million and still increase spending at the level it had planned to in the FY2019 budget projections while maintaining a balanced budget.

If the property tax levy were held flat, spending could increase by \$33.1 million in FY2020 for \$591.2 million in total spending. In June, the district tentatively budgeted spending at \$579.6 million in FY2020 meaning the district could cut the property tax levy by \$11.6 million and still increase total spending by \$21.5 million. In the FY2019 budget, the district projected it could operate the district at \$559.1 million in spending meaning the property tax levy could be cut by \$32.1 million and \$1 million could still be added to total spending.

While taxpayers are the ones footing

the bill for the increased spending, it's the legislators who deserve the thanks for increasing their tax bills according to Sanders.

"Evidence-based funding in the state of Illinois has really done a lot for our school district and our students," Sanders said before the FY2020 budget was presented. He added: "I want to make sure that we recognize and we thank our legislators."

Sanders said that the "evidence-based" funding has allowed the district to "lower class sizes deliberately" and increase the staff size. The number of full-time employees (FTE) is projected to increase by 84 this year from 4,726 to 4,810 while rising by 576, an addition on average of 115.2 FTEs annually since 2016 while enrollment has declined by over 2,000 students since then.

Salaries and benefits combined were at \$344 million in 2016 and are budgeted at \$404 million in FY2020, a \$60 million increase.

See U-46 Budget, pg. 5

Dist. U-46 vote supports union-filed grievance

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 sided with an employee union regarding a grievance submitted by the District U-46 Transportation Union (DUTU) at its meeting on Monday, Aug. 12.

The vote, which came with no discussion, was 5-1 with board member Donna Smith voting no. Board member Melissa Owens was absent.

There was little transparency as the only public information on the agenda was listing the item as DUTU Grievance #13-05-19 Step III with Board Policy 5.290 being referenced.

Board member Veronica Noland made the motion "to uphold the grievance, and grant DUTU it's requested relief."

The Examiner asked the district what the nature of the grievance was and if there was any financial impact based on the board's vote, but the district did not respond to the inquiry. Smith was also asked for her reasoning behind voting no, but she also did not respond.

The grievance likely stemmed from a staff firing or suspension as the cited board policy, 5.290, pertains to suspension and dismissal of support staff members.

That policy states that staff "may be suspended for up to 30 days and discharged" and also gives the superintendent or CEO authorization to "immediately relieve from duties with or without pay any employee for incompetence, cruelty, negligence, immorality, illegality, insubordination, or other sufficient cause."

Transportation staff is specified in the policy as it states: "Any school bus driver who abandons his/her school bus while it contains a child who is without other adult supervision will be dismissed immediately. A bus driver will be excused in case of an emergency as determined by the District."

DUTU's contract defines a grievance as a "claim by an employee or the Union that there has been a violation, misinterpretation, or misapplication of any provision of this Agreement."

Prior to coming before the board, a grievance must first be heard by an employee's immediate supervisor and then the superintendent under the contract.

Smith's vote was the first no vote by the new board since being seated on April 30. Including consent agenda items, there had been 139 straight items approved by the current board without a dissenting vote.



First time recitation

Kindergartners in Kaye Alvarado's class at Hilltop Elementary School reciting the 'Pledge of Allegiance' for the first time on Wednesday, Aug. 14. For story and more photos see page 8

(Examiner photo by Juli Schatz)

Developer funds ratified for release to Dist. U-46

By Seth Hancock

The Village Board of Trustees unanimously approved of the release of \$426,370 to School District U-46 at its meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 20.

U-46 made a request for the funds in July. They are part of a developer deposit fund in which developers make contributions to go towards schools.

“Under the Bartlett Donation Ordinance, the Village collects money from developers for the impacts of their developments on the Village and other taxing bodies, including School District U-46, and held in the Village’s Developer Deposit Fund, wrote Bryan Mraz, village attorney, in a memo. The purpose is “to reimburse it for certain school improvements that are ‘Qualified Expenditures’ as defined in the Bartlett Donation Ordinance.”

That fund’s balance was at \$426,370 at the time of the request.

The school district, the second largest in the state, includes multiple municipalities and unincorporated areas which include schools outside of Bartlett.

The Bartlett ordinance requires the funds to “be used solely for construction of new schools or capital improvements to schools in Bartlett,” according to Mraz.

“The Village collects donation monies from developers of residential homes in Bartlett, or owners of lots upon which homes are built, at the time a building permit is applied for pursuant to the Bartlett Donation Ordinance, for school, park district, library and Village purposes, and pays money out to the different taxing districts in accordance with the restrictions in that ordinance,” Mraz wrote. “Any extraction or required donation

that the Village imposes on a developer or owner must be ‘specifically and uniquely attributable’ to the development, or it is subject to legal challenge by the developer or owner.”

Mraz added: “Thus, donations collected from a Bartlett developer are not validly collected and paid to U-46 for a new school or capital improvement of a school, for example, on the west side of Elgin that no Bartlett children attend.”

The fund has sparked discussion in the past before Bartlett High School or Hawk Hollow and Liberty elementary schools were built.

“There was much debate and conflict between the Village and U-46 about the purposes that U-46 was requesting and spending donation monies collected by the Village of Bartlett and paid or not paid by it to U-46,” Mraz stated.

The debate’s been subdued since those schools were built according to Mraz as U-46’s requests for funds have now been clearly qualified under the Bartlett ordinance.

The construction of the two elementary schools in 2003 as well as bus loading improvements at Centennial Elementary School and the acquisition of land next to Liberty in 2005 resulted in \$15.6 million in qualified expenses.

The village released \$8.5 million in funds from U-46 requests between 2003 and 2017.

In 2019, \$2.8 million was spent by U-46 on capital improvements at Nature Ridge, Prairieview and Sycamore Trails elementary schools on parking lots, drives and play areas bringing qualified expenses by U-46 to \$18.3 million. The balance of unreimbursed qualified expenses is now \$9.8 million.



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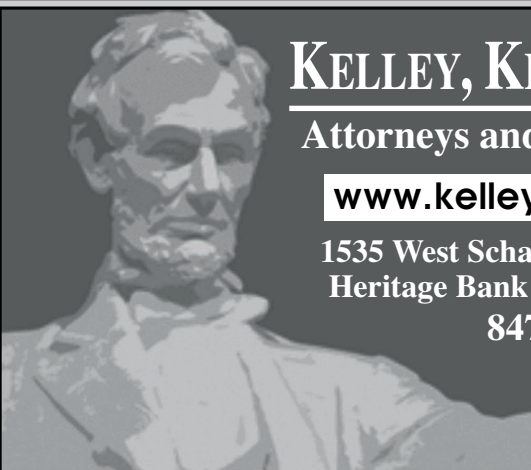
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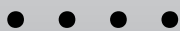


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Real estate purchase part of ratified U-46 expenses

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved of the purchase of an Elgin property costing \$1 million as well as the Fiscal Year 2020 Northern Kane County Regional Vocational System (NKRVS) budget, an itemized bills list and 25 expenditure items at its meeting on Monday, Aug. 12.

All of the items were approved without discussion by 6-0 votes. Board member Melissa Owens was absent.

The property is located at 955-967 East Chicago St., and will be purchased from ELLJEANE LLC according to the purchase and sale agreement which also stated it is “approximately 31,641 square feet of combined building area located on approximately 4.95 acres of land.”

Jeff King, deputy superintendent of operations, said the district will be

able to build 150 to 175 parking spaces with the purchase which comes shortly after the district purchased property at 1019 E. Chicago St.

“This property is just west of 1019, which we purchased about 18 months ago and had started working on the parking lot,” King said and added: “We will basically utilize the whole parking facility which leaves us with a 90,000 to 100,000 square foot building that we really can’t put anything in.”

King said the district will start discussing what to do with the 1019 building.

In May 2018, the previous board approved of the purchase of the 1019 property at \$4 million which the district also estimated \$4 million additionally to renovate. The purpose was to move U-46’s welcome center and testing facility and to move buses to the facility in order to eliminate shut-

ting employees.

The NKRVS budget, funded through Illinois and federal government grants, is a joint-budget between four school districts and set both revenues and expenditures at \$1.8 million. The approved itemized bills totaled \$28 million.

The expenditure items totaled \$5.3 million and were all approved under the consent agenda which also included a settlement agreement in Olsen v. School District U-46. No information on the cost or nature of the lawsuit was provided.

Included in the expenditures were four items with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt including contract renewals costing \$105,979 for Read 180/Systems44 resources and \$98,560 for professional development on those resources, both to be paid for by the nation’s taxpayers through grant funds. From the education fund the district will purchase FASTT Math software costing \$75,000 and System 44 literacy resources costing \$52,962.

The largest expenditure is \$2.1 million, from grant funds, with 18 different entities for speech language therapist services.

Also from grant funds is \$543,058 with three entities (Top Echelon, Community Therapy, EBS Healthcare) for occupational therapists, \$357,500 with One Hope United for preschool services, \$208,081 with Career Staff and Soliant for school psychologists, \$197,000 with Geneva Hearing Services for audiology equipment, \$115,700 with Renaissance Services for STAR 360 resources, \$100,000 to Elgin Community College to use its facilities, \$73,389 for New-2-You resources, \$49,002 with Great Minds for Eureka Math professional development, \$42,694 with McGraw Hill for reading

mastery and corrective reading resources, \$37,590 to Instructional Coaching Group for professional development, \$30,412 with Cengage Learning) for Canciones y Cuentos literacy resources, \$26,288 with Imagine Learning, Inc. for Spanish online literacy resources and \$25,000 with Mackin Maker Professional Development professional development for librarians.

From the education fund is \$419,780 with Istation for digital learning resources, \$131,768 with Mind Research Institute for ST Math software, \$94,500 with Central Unit District 301 for U-46 students to take veterinary classes, \$72,735 with Encyclopedia Britannica Online for the research tool, \$40,850 with TurnItIn, LLC for the literacy resource and \$25,000 with SchoolPace: American Reading Company for a data collection and tracking resource.

From the operations and maintenance fund was \$253,560 with Stabilizer Solutions for Hilltopper Infield Mix to be used on softball fields.

Sabres boys golf tees off with shortened 2019 start

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood boys golf team hopes to get better throughout the season to prepare for a solid 2019 post-season.

The Sabres got some competition in for the opening week at the Larkin Invite, but the tournament was cut short due to lighting on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at the Golf Club of Illinois in Algonquin. Streamwood got seven holes in before the day’s play was called.

Despite not finishing, Sabres coach Robert Wise was able to get to see his guys play a bit and was happy with what he saw.

“I think we did pretty good for the seven holes we finished,” Wise said. “We had Corey Cecille, Jake Zolnier-

czyk, Travis Beer and Austin Barousse playing.”

Wise added: “They were hitting some solid shots and got a few pars, so it was a good day.”

Cecille (junior), Zolnierczyk (junior) and Beer (senior) are among the Sabres’ returning varsity members. Sophomore Michael Olman also returns, and freshmen Isak Lujan and Kyle Tomlinson are expected to contribute as newcomers.

Ultimately, Wise said the goal is preparing Streamwood for the post-season by getting better each time out on the course.

“Our goal every year is to improve each time we play, win matches and have a strong postseason,” Wise said.

Firefighters extricate driver following two-car accident

According to the Streamwood Fire Department, on Tuesday, Aug. 20, at 9:01 p.m., it responded to a report of an automobile crash with a fire at the intersection of Irving Park Road (Illinois Route 19) and Sutton Road (Illinois Route 59).

The incident was a two vehicle collision involving a small SUV and a pick-up truck. Both vehicles sustained major damage, but there was no fire. The driver of a SUV sustained life-threatening injuries and was pinned in the vehicle. Firefighters entered the

vehicle and administered advanced life support care to the patient. It took 55 minutes to extricate the patient from the vehicle using numerous rescue tools. The patient was removed in stable condition, and transported by helicopter to Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove.

The driver of the pick-up truck was uninjured and refused treatment at the scene.

Streamwood firefighters were assisted by Hanover Park, Bartlett, and Hoffman Estates personnel.

Area pilot provides flights for ‘Young Eagles’ participants

According to the EAA Aviation Center, an area pilot has now given more than 200 young people a free demonstration airplane ride as part of the EAA “Young Eagles” program, which is introducing a new generation to the world of flight.

Among the more than 50,000 volunteers around the world who have donated their time and aircraft to the effort is Peter Murphy of Streamwood. All pilots in the Young Eagles program explain the safe operation of airplanes and principles of flight before the short trips. Participating young people become official Young Eagles with the flight. The names of the pilots and the participants are also included in the “World’s Largest Logbook,” which is on permanent display in the EAA Aviation Museum in Oshkosh,

Wisconsin, and online through the Young Eagles web site. Young Eagles also have access to an online pilot training course, made possible by Sporty’s Pilot Shops, located in Batavia, Ohio.

The Young Eagles Program was unveiled by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) in July 1992 and has now flown more than 2 million young people, primarily between the ages of 8 and 17. EAA is a worldwide organization with over 200,000 members who enjoy all facets of recreational flight. The Young Eagles program goal is to allow young people to experience positive activities and discover the possibilities available to them within the world of aviation.

For more information, visit www.young eagles.org.

Facebook not to be utilized

Due to the recent privacy breeches on Facebook that resulted in massive losses of personal data *The Examiner* will no longer publish any items that list, reference or utilize specific Facebook addresses.

The extensive breeches were the subject of a Federal Trade Commission investigation that resulted in a huge financial settlement.



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School begins anew for village students

It was the first day of school for thousands of students in School District U-46 and Streamwood on Wednesday, Aug. 14. Kindergarten teachers helped first-time students find their cubbies, listened to stories and learned how to be good students and find their way around a school. By the end of the day most students appeared happy and excited to be starting their educational journey.



First-grade teacher Selena Alonso at Ridge Circle Elementary School helped students get settled in on their first day of class.



Kindergartners listened attentively to Erin Caughlin as she explained when to be quiet during class.



Elena Bisquert's kindergarten students lined up to find their cubbies and learn to put their backpacks away before class begins.



Students in Karen Lehnhardt's kindergarten class listened as she introduced herself to them.



A brightly colored banner welcomed students at Ridge Circle Elementary.



Karina Rosa asked her kindergartners at Hilltop Elementary School who was excited about starting school.

(Examiner photos by Juli Schatz)

Sabres football looking to be competitive, improved

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood football team hopes a strong offseason can help lead to a productive 2019 season.

The Sabres were 1-8 last year, both overall and in the Upstate Eight Conference. They hope to improve on that this season which Streamwood coach Don Guindon said will take execution in games.

"Our goals for this season are to be competitive in the conference and improve on last year's record," Guindon said.

Guindon added: "We had a very good offseason and summer so we need to focus on executing the game plan on Friday nights."

Streamwood returns some solid talent including senior offensive lineman Josh Leathers who was an all-conference selection last year and currently has multiple college offers. Other key returners include seniors

Sirrion Dixon (running back) and T.J. Phan (linebacker) as well as sophomore Richard Santiago (wide receiver).

Some newcomers to watch include juniors Tre Sanders (linebacker) and Nick Larak (defensive lineman) as well as sophomores Richard Rodriguez (offensive lineman), Eric Gomez (offensive lineman) and Andrew Phan (quarterback).

"Defensively we are going to be very experienced," Guindon said. "Every player on defense that is starting for us got playing time on the varsity level a year ago."

Guindon added: "Offensively we will be on the younger side, but we have quite a few players that will be explosive with the ball in their hands."

The Sabres will be on the road for their opener, an UEC game against Glenbard South on Friday, Aug. 30.

'Leans supportive' rank given to state by pro-choice group

By Rebecca Anzel

Capitol News Illinois

Illinois was designated a state that "leans supportive" — one step more protective than neutral — toward abortion access by a national research group that supports reproductive rights.

The categorization comes after Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed into law a measure enshrining access to reproductive health care a fundamental right on June 12.

The Guttmacher Institute analyzed six types of restrictive abortion policies and six types of protective ones in each state, and classified them on a scale ranging from very hostile to very supportive.

Before this legislative session, Illinois was designated a "middle-ground" state. A bill from former Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner's tenure allows taxpayer dollars to be used for abortions, and a series of attorney general opinions clarified advanced practice clinicians could prescribe abortion medications.

With the Reproductive Health Act, sponsored in the House by Chicago Democrat Kelly Cassidy and in the Senate by Grayslake Democrat Melinda Bush, Illinois has a state law enshrining access to the procedure and mandating private insurance companies that cover pregnancy-related benefits to cover abortion as well. That brought the Land of Lincoln's categorization to "leans supportive."

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Bush added that by passing the act, the state became a "beacon" for women's health care rights.

The states neighboring Illinois — including Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky and Indiana — each received a varying designation of "hostile" abortion policies.

Elizabeth Nash, the Institute's senior states issues manager, said there are a few actions the General Assembly could take to improve Illinois' classification.

Democrats Elgie Sims, a senator from Chicago, and Emanuel "Chris" Welch, a representative from Hill-

side, are already working on one action — repealing the Parental Notification of Abortion Act.

The law, which mandates those under 18 consult their parents two days before getting an abortion procedure, is the only restriction the Guttmacher Institute tracks that Illinois has on the books.

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"I think the repeal is, quite frankly, going to be a difficult discussion, and I've had many of them," Sims said. "If we are going to make Illinois the strongest state in the union that it can be, then we have to have these legitimate policy-based discussions about what our laws look like, particularly as they are related to health care discussions."

To further improve the state's designation, Nash said the Legislature could also consider adding a protection for access to abortion to Illinois' constitution and pass a law safeguarding access to abortion clinics.

"This isn't a slam on the law at all. It's just that there remains more to do in Illinois," Nash said.

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"I'm glad they have high standards. We should hold ourselves to that and strive to meet them," she said. "We know there is still more work to be done to improve the status of our state."

Sudoku and Crossword Puzzles available on our website

www.examinerpublications.com

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Connections
Poplar Creek Public Library

Library Closures

The Main and Branch libraries will be closed on Sept. 1 and 2 in observance of Labor Day. Please use outdoor book drops to return library materials.

Picasso Art Class

Thursday, Aug. 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Room 1

There are still seats available for our popular step-by-step art class with instructor Sarah Nasir—no experience needed! This month we will be painting a beautiful waterfall scene. Registration required; Poplar Creek Library cardholders only. A \$5 material fee to be paid upon registration. To register, please call 483-4910 or visit our website calendar.

Dedicate a Brick

Memorialize a loved one, recognize your business, and support your library by purchasing a personalized engraved brick paver for the west entrance of the Main Library in Streamwood. For more information visit pclub.org/donations or pick up a flyer in the library.

Microsoft Word

Tuesday, Sept. 3 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Meeting Room 2

Learn the basic functions of the popular word-processing software, Microsoft Word. This hands-on class will focus on creating, formatting, editing, and saving text documents. Mouse and keyboarding skills are needed. Register online or call 483-4929.

Chair Yoga

Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 1 p.m.

Meeting Room 1

Explore gentle postures, breath work, meditation, and deep relaxation with

Karen Fotopoulos, certified yoga instructor from Discover Yoga with Karen. Register online or call 483-4910.

Family Concert Series

El Mariachi Universitario

Sunday, Sept. 15 at 2 p.m.

Immerse yourself in the stories and traditions of mariachi music with a fun performance by El Mariachi Universitario. This five-member, full mariachi band includes two guitars, violin and trumpet. All ages welcome to this free concert! Register online or call 483-4910.

Small Business Counseling

Wednesday, Sept. 4 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Meeting Room 2

Free one-on-one business counseling provided by a SCORE business professional to anyone operating a small business or thinking of starting one. Please register at www.SCORE.org to schedule your free one hour session. By appointment only.

Sewing: Tote Bag

Monday, Sept. 9 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Meeting Room 2

Come learn to sew a reversible tote bag to carry around your favorite books! Basic sewing machine skills are needed for this project. Materials are provided. Poplar Creek Library cardholders only; ages 18 & up. Registration begins Aug. 30 at 9 a.m. Register online or call 483-4910.

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

U-46 budget

Continued from page 1

Sue Kerr, the board's president, called the FY2020 budget a "great budget as usual" and "very readable." She asked for more details on the instructional coaches and what they do.

Trisha Shrode, director of curriculum and instruction, said instructional coaches have been used at four Title I schools in recent years and eight more schools will have them this year.

The district will place a certified teacher in a classroom to allow the regular teacher to leave and have "collaborative plan time to engage in professional learning communities" with an instructional coach, according to Shrode who said there has been "really exciting data" where they are used. She said the coaches will be used where teachers have voted for them and the district has corrected "some of the mistakes that we've made histori-

cally... where we hire coaches but no one has agreed to be coached."

Board member Eva Porter, a retired government school teacher, said: "I'm excited about that model because I taught under that model and the test scores... it was very, very good."

Sanders said that a more detailed presentation of the budget was given at a committee meeting earlier that evening.

Board member John Devereux commended the detail in the budget saying he had some questions but did not have to ask them because he found the answers in the budget details.

Devereux also applauded the district for how it is spending the "evidence-based" funding. He said it is "well in line with the state" and where Illinois is telling U-46 how it should be "investing" those funds.

The public will have an opportunity to address their thoughts on the budget with a public hearing set for Sept. 9 with the board vote expected on Sept. 23.

Storm, North golf teams get new season under way

By Seth Hancock

The golf season has begun for area teams, and there is plenty of potential from teams at St. Charles North and South Elgin.

The defending girls state champions at North return a strong group of players including senior Brooke Bayless, junior Isabella Spinazze and sophomore Catie Nekola.

At the Conant Invite, the North Stars had a solid showing with a second place finish on Monday, Aug. 19 at Fox Run Golf Course in Elk Grove Village. Nekola was third overall with a 77, senior Kendall DePaul and Spinazze shot an 88 to tie for eighth and Bayless was 11th with an 89.

"I was very happy with the second-place finish," said North coach Irish Whalen. "The course played hard for the girls. I think many of them would tell you that they left some shots out there. I like that they felt that adversity early in the season. It allowed us to learn from our mistakes and better prepare them for the season."

Whalen added: "Every match and every tournament will be focusing on improvement within the game, whether that be mental attitude, course management, or ball striking. We need to take one competition at a time and capitalize on our success and learn from failures."

Also on Monday, the North boys opened the season taking part in the annual McChesney Cup at Geneva Golf Club. The tournament is styled like the Ryder Cup with North and East teaming up to take on Geneva and Batavia in three different formats, and the North/East team came out on top 149-139.

"Overall, I liked how we played in the best ball and alternate shot format," said North coach Justin Moriarty. "We struggled a little bit in the singles matches against Geneva, but it

goes to show you they are going to be near the top of our league (DuKane Conference)."

Key golfers for North this year will be Nathan Gordon, Ethan Ring and John White as well as juniors Alex Lilly, Evan Suyak, Cole Miller, Sam Dummer and Brett Barnes.

The South Elgin boys had a busy first week with a 366 to finish sixth out of nine teams at the Marmion Invite on Monday, Aug. 19 at the Aurora Country Club before being edged 171 to 172 in its Upstate Eight Conference dual opener against visiting Glenbard East on Thursday, Aug. 22 at Bartlett Hills Golf Course.

At the Larkin Invite, the Storm got only seven holes in before lightning cancelled the tournament, but South Elgin saw some growth on the shortened day on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at the Golf Club of Illinois in Algonquin.

"We got off to a slow start, but the guys were improving 'till the lightning," said South Elgin coach Gordon Brown.

Senior Dilan Patel, one of six returners for the Storm, is expected to lead his squad this year and was one over par at Larkin before the cancellation. Other returners include seniors Zachary Rybczyk and Jacob Zipparro, juniors Tyler Altman and Griffin Carey and sophomore Nick Zaimins.

"Our varsity goal it to have the team advance to sectionals and at least one individual, maybe two, advance to state," Brown said.



Park Bench

...have a seat and we'll fill you in

Special Events

Movies in the Park

Sept. 6 – Jim Hansen Park –

New Location 'Wonder Park'

Bring your friends, family, neighbors and in-laws to an outdoor movie this summer. Concessions will be available for purchase starting at 6:30 p.m. Movie begins at dusk.

Neighborhood Walk with the Mayor
Sept. 9 – Stowell Peddy Park

5:30 to 7 p.m.

Village President Steve Ward and guest(s) walk a different neighborhood each month this summer. Each walk finishes at a nearby park. We won't be knocking on doors along the way, but if you're outside watering the flowers, playing driveway basketball or walking the dog, take a minute to say hello. For more information, call 847-622-0003.

Environmental Work Day

Saturday, Sept. 14 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Brookside Park

Natural resource professionals from Hampton, Lenzini & Renwick will work with volunteers to cut and haul buckthorn and other invasive species at Brookside Park. Gloves and tools will be provided. Work clothes and boots are suggested. All are welcome to join us!

Six Flags Tickets – Fright Fest

South Elgin Parks & Recreation Discounts Days is here! Valid dates are Sept. 14, 15 and Oct. 11, 12, 13, and 14. Tickets are only \$44 for a single day visit. Purchases are only available at Village Hall, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are non-refundable and do not include Hurricane Harbor. For more information, call 847-622-0003. New – purchase tickets online at sixflags.com/greatamerica... enter Promo code: SEPRISIXFLAGS and the cost is \$40.99.

Tot Adult-Tot Ninja Warrior

(2 to 3 years old w/Parent)

Leap, hop, skip, or run your way through obstacles and put your ninja skills to the test. Parents and tots have

fun in this movement based class will challenge your Ninja to maneuver over and under objects. We will also play many large group games to further challenge their Ninja skills. Parent or caregiver participation is required. This class will be held Thursdays, Sept. 5 to Oct. 3 from 1:30 to 2 p.m. at Eastside Recreation Center in Elgin. The cost is \$45 for residents and \$50 for non-residents.

Mini Ninja Warriors

(3 to 6 years old)

Leap, hop, skip, run your way through obstacles and put your Ninja skills to the test. This fun movement based class will challenge your Ninja to maneuver over and under objects. We will also play many large group games to further challenge their Ninja skills. This class will be held Thursdays, Sept. 5 to Oct. 3 from 12:45 to 1:30 p.m. at the Eastside Recreation Center in Elgin. The cost is \$45 for residents and \$50 for non-residents.

Fitness

Zumba Kids (7 to 11 years old)

This is a great opportunity for boys and girls to be active and jam out to music. Classes feature kid-friendly routines. We break down the steps, add games, activities and cultural exploration elements into the class structure. Help develop a healthy lifestyle and incorporate fitness as a natural part of children's lives by making fitness fun. Classes incorporate key childhood development elements like leadership, respect, team work, confidence, self-esteem, memory, creativity, coordination, and cultural awareness. This class will be held Thursdays, Sept. 5 to 26 from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Municipal Annex. The cost is \$40 for residents and \$48 for non-residents.

For more information on these and other programs offered by South Elgin Parks and Recreation, please call 847-622-0003 or visit our website at www.southelgin.com-Parks & Recreation-Programs-Seasonal Brochure.



St. Charles
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District

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Read! Learn! Connect!

For Adults

Choose Your Medigap Insurance Wisely is Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 7 p.m. Tracy Furgason, account manager of Weiss Ratings, will explain the major expenses that Medicare doesn't cover; why your trusted insurance agent may sell you the wrong insurance policy; what you must know to lower insurance premiums; and how to pick the best supplemental insurance policy. Participants will create a personalized report based on age, gender, and zip code. Registration is requested.

For Kids

LEGO Time for all ages is Wednesday, Sept. 4 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Use your imagination to design your own LEGO creations and see them on display in the library! Drop in to attend.

The **Knuckleball Comedy Show** for all ages is Thursday, Sept. 5 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join us for this acclaimed two-person, highly interactive improv show. Drop in to attend.

Friday Night Free Build for all ages is Friday, Sept. 6 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Stop by and build with KEVA planks. Make crazy structures or see if you can build the tallest tower! Drop by any time during the event to build.

Drop-In Story Time for all ages is offered Mondays through Thursdays from 10 to 10:30 a.m., Sept. 9 to Nov. 21. Join us for stories, music, and movement.

Stories and Snacks Drop-In Story Time for all ages is offered Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7 p.m. from Sept. 10 to Nov. 19. Wear your pajamas for stories, music, movement, and a special bedtime snack.

Sensory Stories and Play for all ages is Thursday, Sept. 12, from 11 a.m. to noon. Join us for an extra wiggly storytime followed by a time to play with other children and meet other caregivers. This program is designed with sensory differences in mind and open to all.

Anime Night for grades six to eight is Thursday, Sept. 12 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Watch anime and enjoy different aspects of Asian culture from snacks to crafts! Drop in to attend.



Gail Borden
Public Library District

Fueled by the power of community

Read! Learn! Connect!

Homework Heroes

It's back-to-school time and the homework is piling up but our Homework Heroes are here to help. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade can drop by the South Elgin Branch between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 28 with their homework assignments and meet one-on-one with a helpful volunteer. No need to register.

Fast from Electronics: A 10-minute-a-Day Meditation Practice

Help reset focus away from technology during a Fast from Electronics: A 10-minute-a-Day Meditation Practice at the Main Library from 7 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 28. Families will discover techniques to practice brief meditation and build creative space in the mind. Presenter Mubashir Mastwari of the Chicago Sufi Meditation Organization will share tips to reduce stress, increase concentration abilities and foster the development of positive thinking. To register, visit www.gailborden.info/register.

Library Card Sign-Up Month

Explore "infinity and beyond" this September during Library Card Sign-Up Month! Gail Borden Public Library cardholders can get exclusive deals while shopping at tons of local businesses all month long. Picking up a sweet treat at Herb's Bakery or heading to Epic Air Trampoline Park with the kids? Just show your Gail Borden Library card and get a great discount! Don't have a library card yet? Simply register at any of our library locations—including our Bookmobile. It's a great way to help support local businesses and literacy at the same time. Visit www.gailborden.info/deals for a full list of participating businesses.

Machine 101 – Sewing with Chris

Stitch up an amazing creation at Machine 101 – Sewing with Chris at the South Elgin Branch from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 4. Adults interested in learning sewing machine basics are encouraged to register at www.gailborden.info/register.

Please contact instructor Chris Dahl from Sewing 4 Fun for a supply list and to reserve a machine (if needed).

Device Advice

Bring your tablet or smartphone for Device Advice at the Rakow Branch from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 5. Someone will be available to answer questions about your device(s). No registration is required to attend.

No-Shushing Movie Fridays

No need to worry about shushing at our No-Shushing Movie Fridays at the South Elgin Branch at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 30, families are welcome to join us for "Dr. MLK" (1994, NR) in a casual, family-friendly setting. Chatting and snacks from home are welcome. There's no registration required to attend.

Adult Sign Language

Learn a new language—Sign Language! Our latest monthly club is our Adult Sign Language group at the Rakow Branch from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 5. Adults will learn American Sign Language in a group setting to help increase awareness, knowledge and respect of Deaf culture. This class is led by instructor Deborah Potts. To register, visit www.gailborden.info/register.

Creativity Corner

Take your creativity to the next level at drop by our Creativity Corner at the South Elgin Branch between 4 and 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 5. Kids in grades one to five can drop by each week for a new theme to get creative with. This week, we will be exploring Paper Plate Weaving together—let's see what we can do! No need to register.

Interactive Classic Movie

Spend Grandparents Day together with the grandchildren and enjoy Interactive "Mary Poppins" Classic Movie at the South Elgin Branch from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 8. Attendees will become a part of the on-screen action with props and songs. To register, visit www.gailborden.info/register.

Storm football striving for successful 2019 season

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin football team hopes depth can propel them to a successful season in 2019.

The Storm went 6-4 last season under first-year coach Dragan Teonic and 6-3 in the Upstate Eight Conference while making a playoff appearance.

There are still things to work on according to Teonic, but he is hopeful his squad can contend in the UEC. The Storm feel Glenbard East and Bartlett will be their top competition in the conference, and they are eager for some revenge against Bartlett after snapping South Elgin's five-game winning streak over its rival.

"We want to challenge for the conference championship and avenge our loss to Bartlett High School last year," Teonic said. "We want to maximize our team's ability."

Teonic added: "We still need to settle in on our starters and depth chart. We need to improve kickoff and kickoff return from last year as well as our extra point conversion percentage. Ball security is always an issue early in the season as well. I really want to see how hard our guys will fight for each other."

Returning all-conference players include seniors Shaking Marshall (wide receiver/defensive back), Dylan Bernal (defensive lineman) and Vince Clinite (linebacker) as well as junior

Michael Roath (offensive lineman). Two-way starters returning include senior AJ Cubberley (offensive/defensive lineman) and junior Davion Cherwin (wide receiver/defensive back).

Returning offensive starters include junior Sam Minnifield (lineman) and seniors Vince Tringali (lineman), Andy Koch (tight end), Leo Aguirre (running back), Calin Gurau (wide receiver) and Chris Mejia (wide receiver). Defensive starters returning include Jake Wascher (lineman), Sam Robles (linebacker) and Anthony Viscuso (linebacker) and senior kicker Andrew Bucaro returns.

Newcomers to watch include a transfer from Bartlett, senior Tony DeRosa (linebacker/defensive back). Seniors Corve King (tight end), Marquis Gillespie (wide receiver/defensive back) and Jacob Cooper (offensive/defensive lineman) along with juniors Anthony Cirrincione (tight end/defensive end), Alex Noworol (wide receiver/defensive back), Robby Gilman (running back/linebacker) and Eron Mahmudi (quarterback/linebacker) and sophomore Ben Karpowicz (quarterback) are newcomers to watch.

"We have depth and skill at every position, but we will start a new quarterback this year and whoever that happens to be will be an inexperienced

kid," Teonic said. "That's always a concern, but I love the guys we have competing there. Pass protection and blocking assignments early in the season will be imperative for us to maximize our start to the season."

Teonic added: "On defense, we must be able to play the deep ball better and

win one-on-one battles. At times, we struggled in specific two-minute situations. We were outstanding on the goal line and in short yardage last year, so we want that to continue."

South Elgin is on the road for its opener, an UEC game at West Chicago on Friday, Aug. 30.

Bartlett, Storm boys golf getting new season started

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett and South Elgin boys golf teams have plenty of returning talent as the teams look forward to a strong 2019 season.

Both teams were at the Larkin Invite, but the tournament was cut short due to weather on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at the Golf Club of Illinois in Algonquin.

Although playing only seven holes, the Storm saw some growth on the shortened day.

"We got off to a slow start, but the guys were improving 'till the lightning," said South Elgin coach Gordon Brown.

South Elgin had already opened up the season with a 366 to finish sixth out of nine teams at the Marmion Invite on Monday, Aug. 19 at the Aurora Country Club. South Elgin went on to be edged 171 to 172 in its Upstate Eight Conference dual opener against visiting Glenbard East on Thursday, Aug. 22 at Bartlett Hill Golf Course.

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"Our varsity goal it to have the team advance to sectionals and at least one individual, maybe two, advance to state," Brown said.

Bartlett did not have another tournament in its opening week, but Hawks coach Jim Dinkheller has several returnees this season.

Returning to the Hawks are seniors Maxwell Cano, Joseph Gugliotta, Samuel Sampey and Clement Tom as well as junior Francis Resurreccion.

"I would like to see a couple of my players advance past the regional," Dinkheller said. "It's just like anything, we need to get some experience under our belt."

'Leans supportive' rank given to state by pro-choice group

By Rebecca Anzel

Capitol News Illinois

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"I'm glad they have high standards. We should hold ourselves to that and strive to meet them," she said. "We know there is still more work to be done to improve the status of our state."

State laws aimed at protecting law enforcement, road workers

By Peter Hancock

Capitol News Illinois

Drivers in Illinois who injure roadside workers or fail to obey construction zone signals now face the possibility of enhanced fines, and even jail time.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker recently signed a package of bills that he said are aimed at protecting law enforcement, first responders and road workers.

Among them was Senate Bill 1862, which provides enhanced penalties for violations of "Scott's Law," a state law requiring motorists to slow down and, if possible, change lanes when approaching a law enforcement vehicle or other emergency responder that has pulled over on the side of the road.

"Since 2002, Scott's Law has said that drivers approaching a vehicle with their hazard lights on must slow down and move over. This is not optional," Pritzker said in a statement announcing the bill signings. "This is how we keep our heroes and first responders as safe as possible in their line of work."

Scott's Law was named after Lt. Scott Gillen of the Chicago Fire Department, who was struck and killed by an intoxicated driver while assisting at a crash scene.

The bill increases the minimum fine to \$250 for a first violation of Scott's Law, and to \$750 for a second violation. It also adds a \$250 fee for any violation, with that money going into a new fund to pay for driver education materials.

In addition, the new law allows drivers to be charged with a class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in jail, if the violation results in damage to another vehicle. For cases in which the violation results in the injury or death of another person, drivers can be charged with a Class 4 felony, punishable by one to three years in prison.

The new law takes effect immediately. So far in 2019, three Illinois State Police officers have been killed in traffic accidents on state highways, including two incidents that involved violations of Scott's Law.

Trooper Christopher Lambert, 34, died Jan. 12 when he was responding to an accident in the Chicago suburb of Northbrook and was struck by another driver who failed to slow down or move over.

Trooper Brooke Jones-Story, 34, was killed March 28 when she was struck by a tractor-trailer while she was conducting a traffic stop in Freeport, in northwest Illinois.

And Trooper Gerald Wayne Ellis, 36, was killed March 30 when he collided with a wrong-way driver on Interstate 94 in Lake County.

Pritzker also signed Senate Bill 2038 establishing a 20-member "Move Over Task Force" that will study the causes of Scott's Law violations as well as ways to protect law enforcement and emergency responders on roadways.

And Pritzker signed Senate Bill 1496, increasing penalties for violations in construction zones. Under that law, which takes effect Jan. 1, [2020] drivers can be fined between \$100 and \$1,000 for disobeying traffic-control devices within a designated highway construction zone or maintenance zone. It also increases from \$10,000 to \$25,000 the maximum fine for drivers who violate the rules on entering a construction or maintenance zone when workers are present.

Reports

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Friday, Aug. 16

★ At 9:19 p.m., police responded to the 31W block of Percheron for a premise check after a neighbor reported seeing lights flashing on and off at the residence. The residence was found to be secure.

Monday, Aug. 19

★ At 11:33 p.m., police responded to the 33W block of Hub for a premise check. The residence was found to be secure.

Bartlett football looking to build upon 2018 success

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett football team hopes to build off last season’s success as the Hawks prepare for the 2019 season.

Under first-year coach Matt Erlenbaugh, the Hawks made their first postseason appearance since 2015 and went 7-3 overall. Bartlett was 7-2 in the Upstate Eight Conference and snapped a five-game losing streak against rival South Elgin.

In his second year at Bartlett, Erlenbaugh said the goal is a return to the

playoffs and to compete in the UEC which he said will take teamwork and toughness.

“Our goal is to win conference and go deep into the playoffs,” Erlenbaugh said.

Erlenbaugh added: “We need to continue to get physically and mentally tougher. We need to work to overcome adversity and every one of us needs to put the team before the individual.”

Some key returning starters include seniors Matt Young (wide receiv-

er/defensive back) and Liam Gallagher (defensive back) as well as juniors Alec Palella (tight end/linebacker), Hayden Angell (wide receiver), Ali Aburminshan (offensive/defensive lineman), Dan Angelone (offensive/defensive lineman), Nathan Tomaso (defensive tackle), Brendan Gran (linebacker/running back) and Charlie Nicoll (offensive/defensive lineman).

Some new players to watch include seniors Tyler Rivelli (running back)

and Abel Serrato (linebacker) along with juniors Mike Priami (quarterback), Joey Latrofa (offensive/defensive lineman) and Nick Bucaro (defensive back/wide receiver).

“Offensively we will be very balanced and have big threats in both the run- and pass-game,” Erlenbaugh said. “Defensively, we’ll be able to bring pressure from all over the field.”

Bartlett will open the season at home for an UEC game against East Aurora on Friday, Aug. 30.

Letters

Continued from page 8

house (with 20 kids arriving soon and the jumphouse was their main entertainment for the afternoon) and even if they could get it here and set up by 3 p.m. - please bring the jumphouse. They said they would do their best and text us when they were on the way. At 3:35 we asked for an update and were told by the primary contact that she was waiting to hear from the owner. At this point, we understood that they had no intention of delivering the jumphouse and we said forget it.

We had 20 very disappointed kids. We try to buy local to support our Bartlett businesses. After a week we did finally receive a refund. We have tried twice to speak with the owner to discuss what the problem was that prevented them from honoring our contract. But she never returned the calls. Clue number three - stay away from this company.

We provided sufficient detail in this letter so the reader can make their own decision if Jumphouse Rental 4 Less is a company they want to entrust with a jump-house for their party. We will not use them again.

Bob and Peggy Bucaro

Sharing post

Dear Editor,

I recently posted the following on Facebook. I thought it might interest your readers:

I regret that my political posts offend anyone, but the future of my country is more important to me than worrying about someone else’s “safe space.” My dream for the country is for freedom from tyranny and oppression for me and my family; where I and others can speak our mind without fear of prosecution or assault; where I am allowed to use whatever means necessary to protect myself, my family, and my property, from anyone who may attempt to take it from me; a strong national defense; strong and secure borders; a judicial system that follows the Constitution and doesn’t make up new laws on its own whim; a legal system that prosecutes and incarcerates law breakers; minimal government intervention in the activities of my daily life; a country where one’s character is more important than race, creed, color, religion, origin, or gender; a legislative body that cares more about all of the people than just some of the people; a country in which everyone has the opportunity to succeed, but is not guaranteed success at the expense of others; a country where simply disagreeing with someone else does not automatically make you a racist, a bigot, a homophobe, a xenophobe, or every other phobe one can conjure; where I get to keep a most of what I earn, and not give away most of my earnings to those who choose not to work as hard as I do; where I am free to practice whatever religion I choose to follow, or follow no religion at all. Is there a political party to which I can attach my dreams? I will try to not waste my time on political issues any longer.

Larry Nyberg

Vaping and addicted to nicotine

Dear Editor,

The Illinois Department of Public Health has issued a recent alert about several cases of a severe respiratory illness among individuals who have a recent history of vaping. The patients in question were young “between 15 and 27” and most required hospitalization, with symptoms including progressive respiratory compromise, fever, chest pain and nausea. All reported vaping in the weeks to months prior to their illness.

These cases of severe respiratory illness are troubling, but not surprising. (Who would have thought it might not be safe to regularly vaporize and inhale a mix of chemicals that might include propylene glycol, nicotine, glycerin, and any number of other additives, for no good reason?)

Of course, some will say, vaping is still less harmful than smoking! Smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States.

Allow me to suggest, then, that less harmful than smoking is a poor standard for healthy behaviors. Smoking is bad for you, and if you smoke, you should quit. Anecdotal, some smokers seem to have found it easier to quit by switching to e-cigarettes, then quitting altogether. But anyone who thinks vaping is harmless is fooling themselves.

I lost both my parents to lung cancer. This is personal for me. Anyone who is addicted to nicotine “in any form” should make quitting their top priority. You will be healthier, wealthier, and almost certainly happier as a result.

Paul E. Pedersen, MD

President, Illinois State Medical Society.

Political corruption in Illinois is costing taxpayers dearly

Dear Editor,

Illinois governors are to prisons as peanut butter is to chocolate. The two just seem to go together.

Whether former Gov. Rod Blagojevich’s prison sentence is commuted or not, (I don’t believe it should be) one thing is for certain – Illinois’s long history of political corruption and insider influence peddling is once again in the spotlight.

This spotlight is a good thing because corruption, self-dealing and pay-to-play politics are a way of life amongst the political elites in Illinois and no one political party has a monopoly. Call it the Combine. Call it establishment politics. Call it what you will. It exists, neither party is immune to it and average Illinoisans pay a steep price for it.

The reputation and reality are embarrassing but more importantly, it hinders our state’s ability to enact meaningful reforms that would benefit regular, working-class Illinoisans looking for better opportunities. Companies see little advantage investing in Illinois because of these insider deals that lead to an environment that is lucrative for the political players and special interests but are very adversarial and unsustainable for the job creators.

Talented, successful and reform-minded leaders are less likely to get involved in Illinois government because they know that without major changes, it is impossible to accomplish anything good in a corrupt state such as Illinois. Political corruption is not the only factor in Illinois losing 45,000 people last year, but it’s most certainly a factor.

The need for reform in Illinois is self-evident. Thankfully, we are finally seeing signs of improvement, at least when it comes to the City of Chicago. Newly elected Mayor Lori Lightfoot to her credit has taken some bold action to address political corruption in the Windy City. She pushed through legislation prohibiting aldermen and city employees from representing private sector clients seeking a reduction in their property tax burden, and she increased the fines and penalties for ethics violations from public servants.

These efforts in Chicago are a positive development. Even the most corrupt city in the nation is capable of enacting strong ethics legislation. So, what is the state of Illinois doing?

Cue the crickets.

The feds have raided the homes of highly connected Springfield players, indicted another sitting alderman in Chicago, and just recently, a sitting State Senator has been indicted for receiving income from the Teamsters Union for work he allegedly never performed. But hey, this is just how things work in Springfield. Big money special interests take from working class people and give to politicians in order to buy influence to maintain the status quo. All of this is done to prop up an unsustainable system that has failed before and will continue to fail the very people they are supposed to be protecting.

The lack of oversight for members of the General Assembly has once again been exposed. The spotlight on the status should be a catalyst to provide some momentum for enacting real reforms on ethics, insider dealing and putting citizens above the system.

Unfortunately, there does not seem to be any push for ethics reforms or any other reforms in the upcoming veto session. In fact, what we will probably see is a push for even more sweetheart deals, bailouts and insider exchanges that continue to prioritize special interests and highly connected corporate conglomerates.

Instead of bailing out broken systems and connected insiders, we need to be focused on rooting out corruption in Illinois. We need to enact legislation strengthening the economic interest disclosures for legislators, stop allowing lawmakers to leave the General Assembly and immediately become a registered lobbyist and require politicians to make a choice between personal profit and public service.

It is time to make meaningful ethics reform a priority in Illinois. Instead of pay increases for legislators and fist pumps for raising everyone’s taxes, it is time for the General Assembly to take the issue of political corruption seriously. That’s what I plan to do because the cost of inaction is a price we can no longer afford to pay.

State Rep. Blaine Wilhour

Culture of harassment, bullying in Madigan’s office detailed in probe

Dear Editor,

In 1988, American economist Robert Klitgaard boiled down corruption into a simple formula: Corruption equals monopoly, plus discretion, minus accountability.

Klitgaard’s formula came to mind when reading attorney Maggie Hickey’s report on House Speaker Mike Madigan’s office

and the Illinois House of Representatives released this week. And Gov. J.B. Pritzker’s muddled reaction to it.

Madigan hired Hickey to conduct an investigation into his operation’s workplace culture following the ouster of his long-time second-in-command Tim Mapes last year due to harassment allegations. The report explores specific claims of harassment and bullying through interviews with more than 100 people with ties to Madigan’s office and the General Assembly.

Mapes gets considerable ink. The report details his use of fear, intimidation and even physically threatening behavior to keep staff in line.

“People believed that Mr. Mapes attempted to motivate workers through fear and that a few other supervisors throughout the years emulated this practice,” Hickey wrote. “Some people also raised the additional concern that, given Mr. Mapes’s political ties, he could make or break their careers outside of the Speaker’s Office as well.”

In this way, the report sketches a silhouette of Madigan’s power over Illinois.

Madigan is the only legislative leader in the nation who also serves as the state party chairman. He has chaired the Democratic Party of Illinois since 1998, longer than anyone else in state history. That means he controls policy and politics, so Mapes straddled both worlds, too. Mapes wasn’t just Madigan’s chief of staff. He was also clerk of the House of Representatives and executive director of the party organization.

One passage in the report sums up the problem with this arrangement:

“[W]orkers said that the lines between the political and state sides can blur because their bosses are sometimes ... lobbyists or other people who do not work for the Speaker’s Office.”

Government employees under Madigan’s watch were made to feel accountable to lobbyists, political campaign staff and other outside interests. Not the public.

Klitgaard’s formula begins to take shape.

Monopoly: Madigan’s political monopoly comes from his dual role as speaker and party chairman.

Discretion: With Madigan’s stamp of approval, Mapes had broad discretion over every aspect of Democratic political life in the state.

And then comes accountability. Or lack thereof.

Pritzker’s response to the investigation was embarrassingly vague. He criticized Mapes, but repeatedly dodged any questions of Madigan’s role. “Everybody in Springfield” was to blame for the culture described in Hickey’s report, he said.

Everybody?

Everybody in Springfield was equally to blame for behavior in the chamber where Madigan has presided as leader for 34 of the last 36 years?

Everybody in Springfield was equally to blame for behavior in the party organization Madigan has helmed for 21 years?

Everybody was equally to blame for Mapes’ behavior? Madigan’s highest-ranking lieutenant, who was the speaker’s chief of staff for 26 years?

Everybody bears some responsibility for their workplace culture. That’s obvious.

Surely the boss bears the most. And Pritzker, a leader, must make that clear.

Austin Berg
The Center Square