

Press Clippings 10/04/2017

---Daily Herald--- 10/04/17

Despite funding concerns, state panel Oks Elgin charter school

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY

October, 4 2017 8:49 AM



Kerry Kelly, president of the Elgin Charter School Initiative, gets congratulatory hugs after the group won state approval for a new charter school in Elgin

With some reservation, a state panel Tuesday sanctioned a new charter school to serve Elgin-area students, over the objections of officials at the state's second-largest school district.

In June, the Elgin Area School District U-46 school board denied the Elgin Charter School Initiative's proposal, citing concerns with the plan's economic soundness, the proposed school site, how the school would serve at-risk students, and inadequate transportation.

After more than two hours of testimony and deliberation Tuesday, the Illinois State Charter School Commission in a 5-3 vote reversed U-46's decision, thereby granting a five-year charter.

"That was a nail-biter," said a relieved Kerry Kelly, president of the Elgin Charter School Initiative. "There were some tense moments."

Several commission members voiced concerns echoing U-46 leaders about the school's finances and if a charter school would be in the best interest of U-46 students.

"I stand by my team's review and I continue to have concerns with the academic, financial and facility issues that we shared with the commission these past few months," U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said. "I will need to get the board's direction regarding next steps, if any."

U-46 serves more than 40,000 students, of whom 58 percent are from low-income families.

"As I look at the funding, it seems real risky to me, (but) sometimes you take risks," said Commissioner Troy Ratliff, who reluctantly voted for the proposal.

The Elgin Math and Science Academy charter school now will open in August 2018 under state oversight. It would cater to roughly 200 students in kindergarten to third grade in the first year, adding grades each year through eighth grade. Enrollment will be capped at 400 students by the fifth year, per the commission's stipulation.

Since 2011, the state commission has authorized eight charter schools -- including Prairie Crossing in Grayslake -- serving more than 3,800 students. In almost 90 percent of cases, local school boards' decisions are upheld, said Hosanna Mahaley-Jones, commission executive director.

A 2014 proposal by the same charter group was denied by the U-46 board and the state charter commission. This time, commission staff members recommended approval of the Elgin charter based on several factors, including whether U-46's denial complied with state charter school law.

Mahaley-Jones said the U-46 school board gave conditional approval to the charter school on April 10, which falls within the deadline provided by state law for either adopting or rejecting the proposal.

However, district officials argued that approval was not final since both sides could not agree on contract terms, which led to the school board's June 26 denial.

"Throughout this process, you have to understand, we have seen seven different budgets," Sanders said. "The last one came the night before our (board) decision."

Sanders said the modified proposal before the state commission still does not adequately serve English Language Learners and special needs students.

As its own educational entity, the Elgin charter school would be responsible for providing all services for special education and at-risk students -- its target audience.

Kelly said already 500 people are vying for the roughly 200 spots available next year.

The charter school will draw 100 percent of state funding for tuition -- roughly \$10,300 per student -- plus categorical funding, such as special education and Title I funds for low-income students. Its anticipated budget for the first year of operations is roughly \$2.1 million -- expected to grow to \$4.8 million at full enrollment.

The group also is promised \$950,000 in federal grant funding to assist with the facility's opening. That money would come in the form of reimbursements and be used toward hiring a principal by Dec. 1, as required by the commission, and for training staff members and teachers on an expeditionary learning model. The school will be housed in the Neill building on the campus of the former Fox River Country Day School at 1600 Dundee Ave., which will be leased from the city of Elgin for \$1 yearly.

Built in 2005, the building houses 13 classrooms and will require \$200,000 in repairs to get it up and running for next school year, according to the group. U-46 officials disagree, estimating the cost will be closer to \$500,000.

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Panel reverses charter denial-State commissioners' 5-3 vote allows EMSA to open in '18 'You have friends and allies' BY RAFAEL GUERRERO



Elgin Charter School Initiative president Kerry Kelly, right, hugs charter school design team member Rise Jones following their successful appeal to the Illinois State Charter School Commission at a meeting in Elgin on Tuesday. (Rafael Guerrero/Courier-News)

Elgin is getting its first charter school in 2018, a state panel decided Tuesday.

Commissioners for the Illinois State Charter School Commission voted 5-3 in favor of the Elgin Math and Science Academy. It is the second time the Elgin Charter School Initiative has gone to the state commission to overturn School District U46's rejection of their proposal in three years. This time the commissioners agreed, buoyed by commission staff recommending its approval.

"With any new charter school there are risks," said commission chair DeRonda Williams. "The thing that really convinces me is the (Elgin Charter School Initiative), the quality of the team, there is representation across all different areas."

For more than an hour, commissioners listened as the two sides gave their final pitches about why the school, commonly known as EMSA, should or should not open.

"While this proposal has made sufficient gains from where it was when I was commissioner in 2014," commissioner Bill Farmer said, referring to the failed EMSA appeal three years ago, "I still have some significant concerns as to whether or not granting this particular charter will serve the best interests of the 40,000 students of School District U46."

The proposal's call for only two school buses garnered its share of criticism from the commission, as did the Fox River Country Day School, site of the charter school. Only the Country Day School's Neil Building would be in use for the first year, scheduled for next fall as it opens as a K-3 school.

Under this charter, U46 would provide 100 percent per-pupil funding for EMSA, or \$10,368 per student. The district would not be the authorizer, though, as that role falls to the state commission, which already oversees eight charters and nine schools.

“There was not much debate about the ability of the educators to provide a quality education for the children, and that is first and foremost what a school ought to be,” said commissioner Carlos Perez.

The verdict continues what already has been a yearlong saga of EMSA. The charter group submitted its application to the Elgin-area school district in the winter. In the spring, the U46 board voted to approve the proposal 6-1, pending the two sides agree on a contract by the end of June. Ultimately, a majority of the school board did not approve of the contract, rejecting it 4-3. The rejection led to rescinding the April vote, also by the same margin.

The charter school initiative went to the state charter school commission again. In the past month, the topic of EMSA resurfaced in Elgin, thanks to the state commission’s public forum in September and Tuesday’s vote.

Under the approved measure, EMSA will have a cap of no more than 400 students annually through its first five years of operation, with the first year all operations occurring at the day school site’s Neil Building. Any repair or renovation work on the buildings, meanwhile, must come from private funding and not through any state or federal source.

The revised agreement had critics, including U46 CEO Tony Sanders.

“We’ve seen seven different budgets at the board level that they’ve put up,” Sanders told the commission. “The education plan, which we’ve identified does not serve English language learners. We have significant concerns about serving special needs students. As noted with the facility, there are 13 classrooms (in the Neil Building). There is no space to break out, have private meetings, or have speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy — there is no way you can fit 400 kids into that building.”

For Kelly and her team, the victory will be short-lived, as under the terms of the approval, they must now hire a principal by Dec. 1, more than a month ahead of schedule, she said.

After the meeting, Kelly said she was made aware of the commission staff’s recommendation on Friday, although that didn’t necessarily mean commissioners would vote likewise. Throughout the discussion on the matter, Kelly said she and others could not figure out whether commissioners were on their side, especially as commissioners grilled them over items like transportation, facility repairs and finances.

“It was a nice way to get through the weekend,” she said about Friday’s announcement.

When asked about transportation and the current plan to only have two school buses operate in Elgin, Kelly said it could change. “We’re thinking we can be creative, plus we still don’t know where our kids will be coming from.”

“It’s just an unfortunate circumstance of us being in a large school district,” she added.

But as a few commissioners pointed out, some charters began with much more uncertainty.

“I have seen a lot of charters open with less funding,” Williams said.

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KANE COUNTY KIDS WALK TO SCHOOL IN SUPPORT OF ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

BY JAMES FULLER

October, 3 2017 4:46 PM

Thousands of Kane County elementary and middle school students will miss the bus, on purpose, Wednesday morning. When they do, they'll represent about one-third of all Illinois students participating in the International Walk to School Day.

This year will mark the 20th anniversary of the event, which is organized by the Partnership for a Walkable America. The group formed to promote walkable communities, an idea also pushed by the Kane County Public Health Department and Executive Director Barb Jeffers.

"We do a lot of sitting in our current society, and we know that's not good for you," Jeffers said. "This day is designed to encourage physical activity in kids. The great thing is if a young student walks to school, typically a parent or some other adult will go with. That gets our adults on their feet as well. When we get people walking, the hope is they say, 'Yeah, that's not so bad. In fact, it feels pretty good.' And then maybe walking becomes more of a part of their lives."

Children and adolescents should get at least one hour of physical activity each day, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Research shows active kids are more likely to become active, healthier adults.

Local schools have an extra incentive to take part even beyond the health benefits. Kane County's Fit for Kids website says Parent-Teacher Organizations at each participating school will receive \$150.

Walk to School Day became an international event in 2000 when the United Kingdom and Canada joined efforts in the U.S. Over time, the event has fueled discussion about the importance of safe routes to schools in local communities.

Jeffers said safe routes are easy to create in Kane County, though there are challenges. Many rural and unincorporated areas don't have sidewalks along roads that would allow children to walk to school.

Kane County has pushed the idea of walkable communities and the importance of sidewalks through its long-range community health plan. Likewise, county board Chairman Chris Lauzen has modeled the importance of physical activity by joining Aurora students on their walk to school each year of the event.

The [official website](#) of the event shows 221 Illinois schools will participate in the event. A total of 71 of them will be from Kane County, though Jeffers said her team is shooting for at least 80 schools. Both would be all-time high totals for Illinois participation. Nearly 5,100 schools will participate across the country.

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‘You have friends and allies’ Residents offer support for U46 board member who compared U.S. flag to toilet paper, but not all in attendance forgiving

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO



District U46 board of education members Tracy O'Neal Ellis, left, and Melissa Owens stand during the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of the board's meeting on Monday. (Brian O'Mahoney/Courier-News)

An Elgin-area School District U46 board member made her first public comments Monday over the “distraction” and fallout over comments about the American flag she made on social media last week.

The evening school board meeting, which included the presence of Elgin police officers, was the first after a Facebook comment from school board member Traci O'Neal Ellis equated the American flag and toilet paper.

“I completely own that as an elected official and your colleague, I could have been much more circumspect in my criticism and more elegant in my language,” she said. “Please accept my apology for this distraction from the great work happening in this district.”

In a post on her personal page Sept. 24, O'Neal Ellis stated her support for NFL players protesting during the national anthem and wrote that the flag was “nothing more than toilet paper to me.”

O'Neal Ellis did not apologize for her social media posts — she noted that her first post was in a private page — as she stood by her argument the flag is a symbol of the struggle and atrocities the African-American community has dealt with for centuries, including herself. O'Neal Ellis similarly defended her comments Sept. 26 on a separate Facebook post on her school board member page.

O'Neal Ellis said she has received hundreds of offensive comments from others online. She mentioned some of the more hateful comments to those in attendance, including some of the more degrading words that can be said toward African-Americans or women.

“Don’t flinch, don’t flinch, don’t flinch because I had to take it,” she told those in attendance as she read aloud some of the derogatory comments made toward her.

But at Monday’s meeting, the mood among the crowd was more welcoming, as the majority of people in attendance were supportive of her.

“Please do not be discouraged, you have friends and allies in this community,” said Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, an Elgin parent.

“Three of my five daughters have served in the military, (our family) loves America,” said Andre Allen, of Elgin. “But unfortunately, the truth of the matter is — as Traci pointed out — that the flag has not been lived up to in regards to the ideals for all Americans, even for myself and my family.”

He would go on to describe someone having spray painted language on his garage door in the past, targeting them for being black.

However, a few in attendance did speak out against the board member.

“I’m appalled at the support she is getting for her heinous comments,” said Laura Prowicz, a resident from Hampshire. “I think she should step down” because of the fact O’Neal Ellis represents students and families and made inflammatory comments about the flag, she said.

Board member Jeanette Ward spoke out against O’Neal Ellis, much as she did last week. At one point, Ward did tear up reflecting on attending her grandfather’s funeral, and her grandmother receiving a folded flag for his service. Her grandfathers and father served in World War II and Vietnam, respectively, Ward said.

“Americans are a tolerant people but we typically don’t appreciate people who disrespect the flag by burning it, spitting on it, or — well, we know what toilet paper is used for,” she said. “I condemn Ms. Ellis’ remarks in the strongest possible terms.”

Ward, however, did also condemn those who were hatefully coming out against O’Neal Ellis.

“That’s disrespectful, appalling, disgraceful,” she said. “I would never support talking to a human being or anyone like that, that’s despicable. How people think that’s helpful or adds to the conversation, I don’t know.”

Board member Melissa Owens broke down talking about O’Neal Ellis, thanking her for her friendship. Owens recounted a story of O’Neal Ellis coming to her aid when racially charged conversations within her family over non-related matters challenged her.

“When I asked Traci for help, she was very gracious,” Owens said. “We had long conversations, she didn’t have to do that. We need to have those conversations.”

Board president Donna Smith acknowledged to the board, U46 staff and those in attendance that what has transpired in the last week saddened her because “we are again in the news, rather than the students who are working hard to be successful graduates, rather than the administrators and the teachers.”

Greg Addy of Elgin questioned what lessons the community would learn from this. Addy, a lifelong Elgin resident attending his first school board meeting, said he did not know how the

public or the board would discuss this matter Monday evening. The board's long-standing policy on public comments and board response kept the topic from turning into a more thorough dialogue on civil rights, race and history, a situation that disappointed Addy.

"I know what's going to happen: people are going to go back home, they're going to turn on their favorite TV show, and they're going to forget about this," Addy said. "They're going to forget about this, we've seen this happen over and over again. There needs to be some conversation, some soul searching."

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U-46 fills two administrator vacancies

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY

October, 3 2017 6:04 PM



Jaimie Abney-Giraldo is the new fine arts coordinator for Elgin Area School District U-46.

Elgin Area School District U-46 has hired two new administrators for fine arts and special education.

Jaimie Abney-Giraldo is the new fine arts coordinator. She replaces Alicia Kopec, who resigned shortly after the start of the school year for a job with another school district, officials said.

Alicia Fabianczyk-Liakopoulos will be the new assistant director of specialized student services curriculum and instruction. She replaces Val Brosius, who recently was named the Multi-Tiered System of Supports assistant director.

Abney-Giraldo previously was the divisional chair for fine arts and career and technical education, the AVID and Advanced Placement coordinator and activities director at Bartlett High School. She rebuilt Bartlett High's AVID program and increased enrollment during her tenure. She also increased membership and collaboration of students and parent groups within booster and student organizations, such as band, choir, orchestra and student council.

For the Career and Technical Education Department, Abney-Giraldo helped the automotive program earn national accreditation through the National Automotive Technician Education Foundation. For 10 years, she was the band director at Elgin and Streamwood high schools, teaching fifth- and sixth-grade students at various elementary feeder schools, and marching band, pep and jazz bands for high school students.

Fabianczyk-Liakopoulos has served as an administrator for specialized student services since January 2015, where she coordinated and supervised special education services and referral process for students in four elementary schools, one middle school, and an early childhood site. She also has been responsible for staff training, program implementation for special education students, and compliance with federal special education laws.

Between 2010 and 2014, she worked as the student services coordinator for Des Plaines Elementary District 62, and before that was a special education supervisor in U-46.

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They are suffering a lot': Puerto Ricans flee to suburbs after hurricane ‘

BY ELENA FERRARIN

October, 3 2017 4:41 PM

Jessie Bonilla knows she made a sensible decision staying in Elgin instead of going back to Puerto Rico after the devastation of Hurricane Maria. But that makes it no less painful to be apart from her family in the most difficult time of their lives, she said.

"We'd never thought we'd live through something like this," she said.

Facing lack of power and running water, and dwindling supplies of gas and food, some Puerto Ricans are deciding their best chance at survival is on the mainland. Many are making a temporary home in Illinois, which had the seventh-largest Puerto Rican population in the country in 2014, according to the Center for Puerto Rican Studies.

Bonilla was on vacation in Europe with her cousin and her husband, who live in Elgin, when the hurricane hit Puerto Rico Sept. 20. They flew back to Chicago two days later, and Bonilla was due to return home Saturday.

"(My husband) said it was better to stay in Elgin, to try and get a job here to try to help him in Puerto Rico because the conditions are really difficult," she said.

Their home in Aguadilla is OK, but hardship is looming, Bonilla explained.

Bonilla works as an administrative assistant, but her office has closed indefinitely. The medical office where her husband works as a technician is operating on reduced hours. Mortgage and credit card bills are starting to accumulate while her husband spends hours in line to get gas, money and water, she said.

Carmita Feliciano Robles and her husband, Elvyn Robles, a retired chemical engineer, also decided they're better off in the suburbs.

They arrived from their hometown of Vega Baja on Saturday to stay with their eldest daughter, Cary resident Ivelisse Robles Lynch, until services are restored, which could be months.

Their home suffered minor damage and their generator remained intact, but they had no water, Feliciano Robles said. Their two other children brought them water every day, she said.

"I'm in anguish for my children and my grandchildren who are there, who still haven't received any help," she said. "They are suffering a lot. The country is suffering."

People also are worried about security after reports of homes being looted, she said.

Bonilla said that's why her husband is staying behind while her mother and daughter are due to join her this week.

Bonilla has started to look for work, possibly as a teaching assistant for **Elgin Area School District U-46**, where she briefly worked years ago. If she can't find work in Elgin, she said, she'll move in with her brother in New York.

"People go online and they read things (about Puerto Rico's devastation) and they say, 'Oh, who knows if it's true ...'" Bonilla said. "But is not an exaggeration. It's all true."

---CBS CHICAGO--- 10/04/17

School Board Member Apologize for Uproar After Comparing Flag To Toilet Paper

BY MIKE KRAUSER

October, 3 2017 9:55 AM

CHICAGO (CBS) — An Elgin school district board member has apologized to fellow board members, after creating a firestorm of criticism when she wrote on Facebook that the American flag “means nothing more than toilet paper to me.”

Last month, Elgin Area School District U-46 board member Traci O’Neal Ellis wrote on Facebook wrote a Facebook post supporting NFL players who chose to kneel during the national anthem.

In her post, Ellis wrote the flag “means nothing more than toilet paper to me.” At the district’s board meeting Monday night, she stood by her original comments, but apologized for the “distraction” her words caused.

“I make no apologies for my comment about the flag. I made them as a private citizen, and taxpayer in this country, on my personal Facebook page, about a matter of import in the current national discourse, and based upon my personal lived experiences,” she said. “However, I could have been much more circumspect in my criticism and more elegant in my language. Please accept my apology for this.”

Her comments about the flag prompted death threats and racial slurs.

“Many people counseled me to skip this meeting, in order to avoid what one social media commentator promised would be a modern-day lynching, but I couldn’t do that,” she said.

Some who had commented on Ellis’ post had demanded her resignation from the board for disrespecting the flag.

Ellis said it was her responsibility to address the backlash, and to apologize to her fellow board members, as well as to teachers, parents, and students, for having been dragged into the situation as a result of comments she intended to remain private.

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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

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Village waives fees
to assist business
See Page 6

Guest editorial:
View of U-46 budget
See Page 8



Waiting for the parade

Shane McManamon standing with his sousaphone before the homecoming parade kicked off on Sunday, Sept. 24. For story and more photos see page 10.

(Examiner photo by Andrea Kohl)

Car strikes school bus, village woman cited

By Bruce Leighty

On Thursday, Sept. 28, at 8:59 a.m., Bartlett police responded to a call of a two-vehicle accident involving a school bus at Stearns Road at the CN Railway tracks in Bartlett.

According to Bartlett Police Department Deputy Chief Geoffrey Pretkelis, upon arrival police found that a white 2003 Ford Taurus had struck the rear of a School District U-46 bus that was stopped, as required, at the railroad tracks. Both vehicles were traveling westbound at the time of the accident.

Pretkelis said that the bus had nine students aboard and was in route to

Kenyon Woods Middle School when it was struck. None of the students or drivers of the vehicles were injured.

"The driver of the Ford Taurus, a 20-year-old woman from Bartlett, was cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident," Pretkelis said.

A call to School District U-46's Mary Fergus, director of school and community relations, seeking confirmation of when class times began at Kenyon Woods Middle School, when students eventually arrived at the school and that all parents of the children on the bus had been notified, went unanswered.

Editorial

Race Hustling on the U-46 School Board

Part I

U-46 Trustee **Traci O'Neal Ellis** is a hateful, divisive racist.

We think it best to be straightforward from the start, especially for our readers who have yet to hear about **Ellis's** latest toxic outbursts. On Sunday, Sept. 24, **Ellis** posted her opinion of the American flag on Facebook: "The flag means nothing more than toilet paper to me." After learning of the post from a concerned constituent, fellow Trustee Jeanette Ward shared her colleague's post on her own Facebook page. From there, the controversy went viral.

Two days later, **Ellis** doubled down with an 842-word diatribe posted on her other Facebook page—this time identifying herself as: **Traci O'Neal Ellis**, U-46 School Board Member (on her other page she calls herself **Traci D. Ellis**). Peppered throughout her Facebook rantings—and her tenure on the school board—are lies, rage, delusion, confusion, and her specialties: racism and hypocrisy.

Let's begin with some of the lies and confusion, as they are the foundation upon which **Ellis** builds her ugly edifice of hate. In defense of her first post, **Ellis** offers this condescending assessment of any parents, students, teachers and taxpayers of U-46 (especially the white ones) who are upset with her: "To conflate the protest happening in the NFL with disrespect for the flag is disingenuous at its best and down-right ignorant at its worst. Our protests have nothing to do with the flag."

Her original post, however, included a photo of Colin Kaepernick, the Father of Our Kneetion, and he is unambiguous on the subject. Kaepernick said: "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people." He also said: "The flag is just a piece of cloth." Well, at least that's a notch above toilet paper. (This, by the way, is the same Kaepernick who just donated \$25,000 to a racial hate group named after a convicted cop killer who escaped from prison and has enjoyed the fugitive protection of the Castros in Cuba for the last 40 years.)



But we need not take Kaepernick's word for what the protest is all about: **Ellis** broadcasts her dishonesty a moment later in the very same post. Time and time again during her board tenure, **Ellis** has revealed her egomania by her ongoing complaint that Trustee Jeanette Ward is her nemesis, bent on her destruction. At the very opening of her post, she imagines that Ward's motivation is to embarrass her, rather than a fellow trustee's genuine concern. From that point of departure, **Ellis** accused Ward of having "the unmitigated gall to try to take me to task when I express MY OPINION on the flag" (emphasis original). On the flag? Wait a minute, **Traci**. You just wrote that we were "disingenuous" and "downright ignorant" to assume your NFL post was about the flag. One of the dangers of self-righteousness and blinding rage, Trustee **Ellis**, is that they can lead to a loss of self-awareness...and chronic, casual deceit.

Before we wrap things up until next week's paper, let's look at one more example of **Ellis's** pernicious dishonesty. During her lengthy condemnation of the United States, **Ellis** asserts that racial "suffering and atrocities have been neatly and conveniently left out of our history books" and goes on

See Race Hustling, pg. 5

U-46 Board approves Fiscal Year 2018 budget

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 approved the Fiscal Year 2018 budget by a 5-1 vote, Jeanette Ward the lone no vote, on Monday, Sept. 25.

The budget reflects an \$8.9 million deficit with total spending at \$517.9 million (\$6.5 million increase from last year) and revenues at \$509.1 (\$3 million decrease), but a changing in the state's school funding model could change things a bit.

Jeff King, chief operations officer, said in response to a question from board member Sue Kerr that he guessed it would be "a couple of months" before the district knows the impact of the new state funding model.

Ward said the administration prepared the budget "in good faith based on direction from the majority of the board. I recognize that I'm in the minority."

"However, in light of forecasted enrollment declines of 2 percent per year over the next three years, I disagree with increasing total spending. U-46 is also set to receive close to \$13 million

more in additional funding from the state of Illinois. We should be reducing the property tax burden correspondingly. Instead, we are increasing total spending by \$6.5 million from last year."

Board members Traci Ellis, Kerr, Melissa Owens, Veronica Noland and Donna Smith all voted for the budget but did not offer their reasoning while also not expressing any concerns with the budget. All but Noland voted against a contract with the Elgin Math and Science Academy (EMSA) charter school largely due to the budget that was \$4.5 million at its peak.

"I'd also like to remind the public that the increase alone in this budget is larger than EMSA's previously proposed first year, which received such scrutiny by feigned fiscal hawks," Ward said.

The district also plans to increase the property tax levy again and for the third year use an abatement process that is meant to have the effect to hold tax rates flat for property owners. However, the tax levy increase does still increase tax rates, just on future property owners.

"I am aware that the flat levy proposed in this budget will be accomplished via the levy and abate method we used the last two years," Ward said. "As I said previously, this is still a sleight of hand. We are in fact increasing the levy extension in a permanent manner, while we abate back money on a temporary basis. This is disingenuous to the taxpayers."

After concluding her comments, Ward was also going to read a statement from board member Phil Costello, who was not in attendance at the meeting, but the board's majority did not allow it. It was a condensed version of a statement Costello had posted online Ward said.

Ellis said Costello "has forfeited any right to be heard on this issue" and claimed "his attendance at these board meetings is abysmal." Costello has missed several board meetings physically but has attended via phone.

As a "protest vote," Ellis said she may vote to not allow Costello to attend meetings via phone in the future. Interestingly, Costello has always voted to allow other board members to attend via phone, including for Ellis on occasions including over the summer where she missed two straight meetings and eventually did not call in.

That sparked an over five minute discussion on whether or not to allow Ward to read the statement, one that would have likely taken under a minute.

"Do I need to make a motion then?" Ward asked to which Ellis replied: "I don't really care what you do."

Ward, who was asking the board's president Smith and not Ellis, again asked: "Madam president, do I need to make a motion?" Smith said "I'm trying to figure this out," and all five remaining board members agreed to deny Ward's right to speak.

Costello was not allowed to attend via phone because it was an unexcused absence, Ellis saying "it's my understanding that Mr. Costello is in Cancun or somewhere in the Caribbean."

At the Oct. 2 board meeting, Costello responded to what transpired saying Ellis "felt compelled to broadcast to the public that I was out of the country. I'm sure that was good information for opportunistic burglars, and it was totally irresponsible on her part."

Costello said: "I take offense to the fact that Mrs. Ward was not allowed to speak... she was stopped from talking by this board, and that's wrong."

Smith said "no, you had finished your statement" to which Ward responded: "Correct, but I asked to read his statement, and doesn't that violate my free speech rights? If I want to read anyone's statement as a board member from the dais, do I not have that right?"

Costello added: "And if that's not the case, then are we all going to be subjected to that level of scrutiny that we've got to examine our copy and determine what is right by the other majority?"

Referring to previous attendance of board meetings via phone, Costello said he's always submitted his work conflicts to Smith and the administration before the meeting schedule is put together and "no attempt at accommodating my board conflicts has ever been acted on."

Regarding the missed budget vote, Costello said he accepted that he wouldn't get a vote but did not feel that eliminates his right to have a statement on the budget. He also noted that board meetings are generally on the first and third Mondays of each month, and made plans for Sept. 25, the fourth Monday, before noticing the conflict.

Land utilization options reviewed by committee

By Christy Mazza

Village staff is exploring options to attract development to the Illinois Route 59 and Lake Street corridor.

During the Committee of the Whole meeting held on Tuesday, Sept. 19, Economic Development Coordinator Tony Fradin outlined two main components staff has included in a marketing plan for the area. The first is to increase participation at International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) conferences, and the other is working with an outside broker to increase marketing efforts.

"We hope to be here at a future meeting bringing development projects before you at these sites, and one of the ways we can do it is by more aggressively marketing these sites," said Fradin.

The ICSC is an organization the village has been involved with for many years, Fradin said, and it is dedicated to bringing economic development officials together with retail representatives and the like at conferences throughout the year. There is a fall trade show in Chicago and an annual convention in Las Vegas.

Fradin said there is interest in working with other communities that are along the 390 corridor, including Hanover Park, Itasca, Bloomingdale and others, in creating some marketing materials and setting up a booth jointly at the Las Vegas convention.

"Our village would primarily go to this show to promote these undeveloped areas," Fradin said.

There is a cost in setting up a booth, but Fradin said that since multiple communities will share, the cost will be split amongst them.

Contracting with an outside broker is another component of the Route 59 and Lake Street corridor marketing plan. Retail land broker Sperry Van Ness (SVN) is being considered to work with the village to market the area.

"They've been very active in the vil-

lage for the past few years, leasing up some of the shopping centers," Fradin said.

The firm looked into marketing a specific parcel along the 59/Lake Street corridor, an 11.02 acre site owned by the village located at the southwest corner of the intersection.

"The development market is much stronger than it's been in a while," Joel Miller, senior advisor with SVN, said. "We've been active. We've been closing development land transactions."

Miller explained that according to a gap analysis, the Village of Bartlett is underserved in many areas, including grocery, hotel rooms, fuel stations, restaurants and automotive. He also cited "strong traffic counts" as being a selling point for the corridor.

"There's a lot of potential to see new developers come to this corridor," Miller said.

IDOT does have plans to reconfigure the intersection of Illinois Route 59 and Lake Street in the near future, something Miller said could be a challenge, but one that can be overcome.

There is a commission charge of 6 percent, a charge Miller said is probably not negotiable and is a pretty common fee for land development.

Board members decided to move the matter on to a future village board meeting for possible approval of a contract with SVN.

Correction:

Previously, in a story by Seth Hancock, *The Examiner* reported that U-46 CEO Tony Sanders' description of a tax relief provision in Senate Bill 1947 may have been inaccurate when he said: "U-46 qualifies to apply for tax relief where the state would actually give us money back towards our property taxpayers if we are successful in our application."

The Examiner noted a different tax relief provision which allows "districts at 110 [percent] of adequacy to run a referendum to force a lowering of property taxes," as explained by Rep. Jeanne Ives (R-Wheaton), which is different from the explanation from Sanders.

The referendum provision explained by Ives is in SB 1947, but there is also a "property tax relief pool grants" provision as stated by Sanders. *The Examiner* regrets the error.

Race Hustling

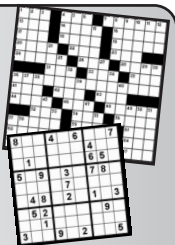
Continued from page 1

to ask of the Civil Rights Movement, "how many black folks lost their lives demanding equal rights." Let's take her second claim first. The Civil Right Memorial in Montgomery Alabama memorializes the lives lost from 1954 to 1968, and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) lists them on its webpage. We can only assume that Ellis puts great stock in the SPLC, considering that it has devolved into a vicious, racist hate group. The memorial's tally is 38 dead; which we agree is 38 more than acceptable. Interestingly, though, nine of those martyrs are white. Yes, black and white fought side-by-side for civil rights. But, it does not serve Ellis's purpose of stoking racial animosity to recognize such statistics in her sweeping condemnations of America. For the same reason, Ellis would never mention that 360,000 union soldiers died to end slavery. No, Ellis only sees all blacks as victims and all whites as evil oppressors. We are not people to her. We are colors.

As for her first claim, Ellis might benefit from actually reading the history books used in our classrooms, rather than inventing a racial conspiracy: She quickly would be disabused of her paranoid fantasy about what has been "neatly and conveniently left out of our history books." Half of the chapters in the AP history textbook, for example, discuss colonialism, slavery, or civil rights, and there is even a section at the end titled "African-American Americans in the Post-Civil Rights Era." Pick up any history book in our public schools: They are obsessed with race, America's failings, and identity politics of all variety. Race hustlers like Ellis won the textbook battle long ago; so, perhaps she should redirect her energy toward one of the resistance movements de jour, such as pulling down statues in and around Elgin or renaming U-46's Washington Elementary School.

Over the next few weeks, we will take a closer look at a history other than America's—Ellis' history. Hers is shot through with inflammatory and very troubling comments on race. We'll also take a look at her questionable professional ethics as a school board trustee and demonstrate that when she talks about white privilege, she knows a thing or two about it, only there's nothing white about it.

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U-46 board member rant draws meeting reaction

By Seth Hancock

A social media controversy hit the Board of Education in School District U-46 leading to several public comments at a board meeting on Monday, Oct. 2.

Board member Traci Ellis made a social media post stating the American flag “means nothing more than toilet paper to me” and she would “#TakeAKnee at school board meetings if my doing so would not be disruptive” referring to supporting recent protests by NFL players.



Linda Rusenovich, a parent of children attending U-46 schools, during her statement to the U-46 Board said that Ellis' comments were 'an insult to all of us who respect the flag as a symbol of our country.'

(Examiner photo by Juli Schatz)

Ellis' post elicited some backlash on social media, but at the board meeting the majority of 15 public speakers were in support of Ellis.

Board member Jeanette Ward posted a screenshot to social media of Ellis' original post and called the description of the flag “despicable and disgusting.” Ward said the post was sent to her by “a very concerned constituent.”

Some have called for Ellis to resign over the comment, but Ward said she didn't support “forcing Ms. Ellis to resign.”

“The remedy for those who disagree with her is elections,” Ward said at the meeting. “Elections have consequences, and free people must take the responsibility to engage in the hard work of civic involvement, and not just when something outrageous is said. I hope those who live in U-46 will remember that when the next school board elections are held in 2019.”

Some supporters of Ellis at the meeting called her actions “patriotic” and claimed a need for a conversation.

Ellis opened her remarks by listing all board members except one, Ward, as well as a list of administrators that “I deeply apologize to you” for the “distraction, but “I make no apologies for my comment about the flag.”

During her comments Ellis called those who disagreed with her “racist” and claimed she received messages calling her “a f\$\$\$\$\$g nigger bitch” and “a c\$\$t,” and she has claimed to receive death threats. *The Examiner* asked Ellis if she could provide evidence of such claims, but she did not respond.

Ward had made a social media post telling her supporters to not use disparaging comments against Ellis after Ellis' claims started, and at the meeting Ward condemned such comments saying: “That's disrespectful, appalling, disgraceful. I would never support talking to a human being or anyone like that. That's despicable.”

The reason for equating the flag to “toilet paper” Ellis said in another social media post was because the ideas of “freedom and ‘justice and liberty’ for all... is a blatant lie for black folks.”

Ellis claimed her “experience in America” is that of a victim. The flag issue elicited emotional responses from some board members including Ward who said she was proud of both of her grandfathers who served in World War II and her father who served in the Vietnam War.

“I remember attending my grandfather's funeral when my grandmother was handed a folded flag while being told ‘a grateful nation remembers,’” Ward said.

Ward added: “The American flag is not a white nationalist symbol nor a ‘false symbol of hope.’ It is the symbol of the greatest country on earth. You cannot ‘love and respect the flag’ while at the same time saying it ‘means nothing more than toilet paper.’ American freedoms extend to all Americans of all colors, including Ms. Ellis. No one has tried to remove Ms. Ellis' right to speak. But free speech allows those who disagree to also express their opinions. And it is not racist to do so.”

Board member Melissa Owens, who is white, claimed to be the victim of racial injustice saying “I was dealing with some very hard racial issues in our family” and concluded by hugging Ellis. She has an adopted Asian child.

Board member Veronica Noland said of Ellis “you speak your truth.... She walks her talk.” She added that she “appreciated Ward's comment that “we don't ask board members to resign.”

Ellis' supporters interrupted Ward at one point with laughter as she listed some black Americans “who are proud of America and her symbols” such as Clarence Thomas and Thomas Sowell. One comment from the audience was “all Republicans” following the lead of Ellis who also previously commented that the Republican National Convention was a “Klanvention.”

Donna Smith, the board's president, told the audience to be respectful.

“We all sat here very quietly and respectfully through your comments,” Smith said. “I ask that you do the same.”

During public comments, Megan Lar-

son supported Ellis and implied Ward was the one who “should be reprimanded” saying she was “unfit to represent the students and families in U-46.” She was upset that Ellis' original post was on a private, not public, page.

However, Ellis used a private post to personally malign a former board member and she has previously asked her supporters to come to board meeting to personally attack Ward for simply expressing an opposing point of view.

Prezel Hardy, who said he was a 10-year veteran, said he was a friend of Ellis. He said he was not offended by her comments but it was “a little inflammatory.”

Hardy said of racial tensions, it mostly comes from perceptions. Of police targeting minorities “the perception needs to change, just like the percep-

tion that all blacks and Hispanics are thugs and looters and all of that.”

Linda Rusenovich said Ellis' comments are “an insult to all of us who respect the flag as a symbol of our country. You've since been quoted saying you do respect the ideals of our country but don't idolize the flag. However, that doesn't excuse your ill thought out words.”

Rusenovich added: “Your disrespectful words only alienate your potential allies. Your attitude says that you don't care about our values.”

Laura Prowicz said Ellis is the one “causing division among us all” and asked: “How are the children going to grow up respecting each other and respecting America?”

Ellis' supporters also interrupted Prowicz requiring Smith to step in to ask for respect to be shown.

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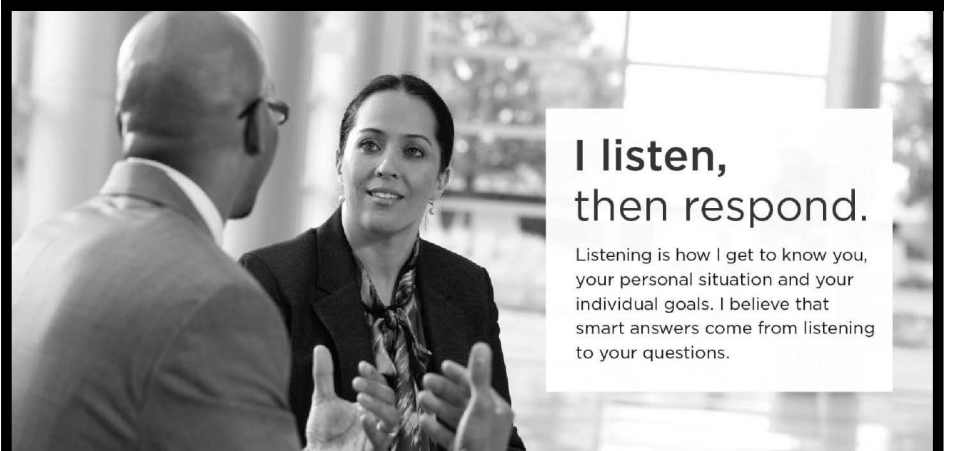
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Letters to the Editor

Deadline for letters is noon on Monday. Please include a phone number for verification, and submit letters electronically.

All letters are printed as received. Grammatical and spelling errors are the responsibility of the author.

Comment condemnation

Dear Editor,

As reported in yesterday's News, Elgin School Board Member, Traci O'Neal Ellis, commented on her personal Facebook page regarding our nation's symbol, “that flag means nothing more than toilet paper to me.”

The people expect their elected officials to remain civil and respectful. These highly offensive and disturbing comments are neither. I strongly condemn

Ellis' comments comparing the flag to toilet paper.

Rep. Allen Skillicorn,
66th District of Illinois

What is needed today

Dear Editor,

There is a story, often told, that upon exiting the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was approached by a

See Letters, pg. 9

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Guest Editorial

An Analysis of U-46 Budget, Part 1

The following is the first of two parts of a guest editorial by School District U-46 Board Member Phil Costello that provides his view of the new U-46 budget that was passed by a 5-1 vote (Costello did not vote) at the district's board meeting on Monday, Sept. 25:

Due to a prior commitment, I will be unavailable for the Sept. 25 board meeting where the board will be asked to approve the Fiscal 2018 \$518 million budget. Nevertheless, as with all meetings, please know that I read the agenda items, attachments and analyze the financial value propositions to assess the impact for students and value to taxpayers. In most cases, I ask the district to respond to inquiries prior to the meeting that respects staff time and conserves meeting time.

Having studied the budget, I have concluded that I cannot support it in its present form based on its lack of proactive budget constraints. While the state recently passed a budget favorable to U-46, there are still numerous inherent concerns. Beyond Fiscal 2018, the longer term prognosis weighs into my decision that I believe will have significant negative influences on future School District U-46 budgets including:

Recent enrollment trends and forecasted declines of 2 percent per year over the next three years.

Unsustainable \$367.4 million (71 percent) of our budget in personnel expenses that is projected to increase by \$8 million (2.4 percent) per year - most of which is subject to contractual increases.

Implied need for larger class sizes with less programs or additional income derived from public sources.

What makes this vote even more contentious is that in most instances board member input is marginalized during the budget process. In contrast, I am most impressed by the district's ASBO Meritorious Budget Award and GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation while maintaining a 380 (out of 400) District Financial Score which keeps U-46 among an elite group of rated school districts. Questions raised to the district's finance team are always answered promptly and I am confident that they have a thorough grasp of financial scope of a \$500 million plus organization. Nevertheless, as a Municipal Superintendent of Finance with a CPA, MBA, and serving as the president of a non-profit foundation that manages an \$18 million investment portfolio for ChildServ, I believe that I have some related expertise to offer constructive insights that are generally acknowledged and then summarily dismissed by the district.

Regardless, my commitment to U-46 will continue to be as an engaged member of the Board of Education asking for rationale and expecting justification. To that end, here are points raised for public scrutiny.

COMMUNITY IMPACT – One of the overarching areas that the board has never addressed is objectively measuring the long-term impact on our student's outcomes and return on taxpayers' investment on our community. How do we measure longitudinal success? Given the difficulty in compiling community metrics, I suggest looking at how U-46 education plays a role in annual changes measured in the community served by relative to regional comparisons:

Increases in median family income; increases in equalized assessed value (EAV) of property; increases in number of net households (more families moving into the district); increases in number of business start-ups or moving into the district; reductions in poverty - percentage of families that are eligible for free or reduced support; increases in percentage of eligible district residents that are registered to vote or actual voters; and reductions in crime statistics.

DASHBOARD REPORTING – The district should provide residents with a concise financial picture that demonstrates performance trends tracked to achieve strategic objectives. Utilizing dashboards to identify critical success factors (e.g. average daily attendance, graduation rates, reading scores, tax rates, liquidity, etc.) and then track key performance indicators over time rather than the current default method of highlighting selected metrics in one-off data points.

BUDGET VETTING – Say what you will about the merits and shortcomings of the EMSA charter proposal, the board invested countless hours and heard or read over a thousand public comments over this past year regarding the finances and value proposition of a \$4 to 6 million budget impact. Then when faced with our district's \$518 million budget, the board is asked to approve it after two presentations with no registered public comments. This should raise flags to the public and our leadership of dubious priorities in agenda setting.

EARNED INCOME – With our network of almost 60 community facilities, can we offer fee-based adult education or even extended fee-based school day programming including working with local business partners to develop and teach customized curriculum? I am aware that our district rents out facilities with a break-even philosophy but I would encourage more of an entrepreneurial approach to be a community incubator for community groups.

TRANSPORTATION – Our district has one of the largest fleets of owned/operated buses in the country yet we haven't realized earned income opportunities. I have discussed opportunities with one firm and seen a number of other bus firms reaching out to community and business groups and exploiting untapped markets.

ATTENDANCE – It has been reported that for each 1 percent increase or decrease in average daily attendance, the district stands to gain or lose \$1 million. Regardless of the financial impact, all registered students should be in school unless they have an excused absence lest they fall behind in the scheduled lesson plans. Though the district has many tactical initiatives for improving average daily attendance, I know that Chicago Public Schools (CPS) has worked collaboratively with business to promote first day of school campaigns that sets the tone for the school year. I would encourage the district to work with businesses and the media to create awareness of daily attendance and reduce unexcused absences.

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U-46 approves expenses via unanimous vote

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved two expenditure items totaling over \$700,000 at its meeting on Monday, Sept. 25.

By 6-0 votes, board member Phil Costello was not in attendance, the board approved a \$68,000 proposal with Language Testing International Inc. to purchase Assessment of Performance towards Proficiency in Language (APPL) tests and a \$648,133 proposal for a five-year contract with Defined Learning, LLC to purchase the Defined STEM resource. Both will come from the education fund.

According to the proposal, the APPL test “qualifies students to earn the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy” and “can also be used to inform instruction.” It also stated: “Students who earn the State Seal of Biliteracy receive an official designation on their high school diploma.”

Board member Sue Kerr asked if this would be the first year students can earn the seal, which Terri Lozier, assistant superintendent of secondary schools instruction and equity, said “no, we had students also earn” the seal last year.

Regarding the Defined STEM resource, the district proposal said it will “provide an enriched, high quality experience that empowers all graduates to be competitive members of the global society” and “advocate for and utilize systems and resources that

promote operational excellence, efficiency and accountability.”

The administration said that if the district chose so in the future, it could end the contract without penalty before the five years is up.

Board member Traci Ellis asked if it includes coding and design to which Suzanne Johnson, assistant superintendent of teaching and learning, said “it could... but overall most of them are not heavy on coding components.” She added on design the focus is architecture and engineering.

Board member Jeanette Ward, noting that Johnson stated career clusters could start in kindergarten, asked: “Just so the public doesn’t get confused, when you spoke of career clusters as early as kindergarten you don’t mean that kindergartners need to pick their careers, you just mean you’re giving kindergartners the opportunity to see what careers might result?”

Johnson said: “Correct, thank you for clarifying that.”

The board also approved unanimously a resolution for the continued usage of mobile classrooms, a list including 13 total units and 21 classrooms, as well as \$9.9 million in itemized bills.

In the itemized bills, Ward asked about a \$1,000 payment to Villa Olivia Country Club which the administration said was a “down payment to reserve Villa Olivia for the Principal for a Day Luncheon,” and that it is reimbursed.

Village practices make donation to Alzheimer’s Association



Pictured, from left to right: Janet Clauser, Dr. RJ, Sherri Lindbert, Dr. Rosanne, Rebekah Marquez (Alzheimer’s Association Illinois Chapter), Kim Anderson, Carmen Cuellar and Becki Early. (Courtesy photo)

Derango Family Dental, during this year’s Bartlett Heritage Days, raised over \$1,200 for the Alzheimer’s Association. The funds were raised with mini golf, popcorn, water and lemonade sales. In addition, Associates for Oral and Maxillofacial and Implant dentistry, Dr. Stephen Tempel, Dr. Frank Cincione, Northwest Ortho-

dontics and Dr. Paul Delany helped support the cause and festival.

Alzheimer’s disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States. More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s and every 66 seconds someone in the US develops the disease. There is no cure.

Letters

Continued from page 7

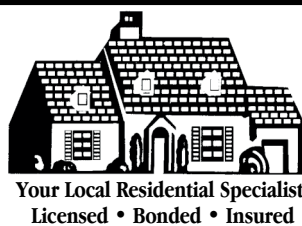
group of citizens asking what sort of government the delegates had created. His answer was: “A republic, if you can keep it.”

In Franklin’s mind, a republic was a democracy, people making their wishes for public space known and implemented through their elected officials. In

Franklin’s day the alternative to democracy was the king controlling public life rather than its citizens.

In our day, we need to elect political leaders who will ensure that citizens have control over their public space and prevent the public space from moving under the control of private ownership of roads, airports, parking meters, the rules of one religious group, charter schools and even private health insurance and care.

Tom Teune



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Bartlett homecoming given grand start



Student Council members carried their banner to lead the parade down Bartlett Road.

(Examiner photos by Andrea Kohl)

On Sunday, Sep 24, Bartlett High School kicked off its homecoming week with the annual homecoming parade down Bartlett Road. Students showed off their school spirit within a procession that embedded in a Pixar theme. The marching band performed the school song and others, under the direction of Eric Hollaway. The freshmen class float was from "Toy Story," the sophomore float was from "Up," the junior float was from "Finding Nemo" and the senior float was dedicated to "Monsters Inc." Many different clubs, teams and organizations from the high school were represented in the parade as well as members of the homecoming court.



The sophomore cheerleaders were smiling and, of course, cheering while riding in style.



The Bartlett mascot kept cool by riding on the junior class float from 'Finding Nemo.'



Even the heat couldn't slow down senior Jonathan Neal as he played the bass drum with the marching band.



The swim team took a break from the pool and hit the streets to celebrate homecoming.



Members of the new color guard team, Kayla Johnson, Jenna Lovank, Rhianna Christensen, Ysabel Bona and Kristen Johnson marched along with the band in their first homecoming parade.



The senior class showed its school spirit behind their 'Monsters Inc.' door.

Start, turnovers doom Hawks in loss to Saints



Bartlett's Nick Deckard slipped away from St. Charles East's Patrick Gerkin, left, and Ronan Macaluso during a drive.



The Saints' Nicholas Piaskowy with an unsuccessful attempt to stop Bartlett's Austin Gates. (Examiner photos by Caroline Hollis)



The Hawks' Nicholas Eckelberry tipped the ball away from East's Joshua Luedtke, left, for an incomplete pass.

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett football team couldn't overcome a tough start as the Hawks fell 42-7 against St. Charles East in an Upstate Eight Conference crossover game on Friday, Sept. 29 at Millennium Field in Streamwood.

The Hawks defense stood strong on the first possession of the game as East marched five yards away from the end zone and came away without a score, but on Bartlett's first offensive play it committed its first of five turnovers in the game setting up East three yards away leading to a score.

Bartlett committed two turnovers in the first half and coupled with East also recovering an onside kick, the visitors were set up with great field position throughout the first half. East

started only 34 yards shy of the end zone on average over its first six possessions.

"First of all, St. Charles East is a good team," said Bartlett coach Eric Ilich. "A couple of breaks didn't go our way early, but our team showed some fight which was great to see."

Bartlett's defense spent a lot of time on the field in the first half, but despite that and East's field position the Hawks went into halftime down just 21-0. The Hawks trailed 28-7 after three quarters but committed three more turnovers in the fourth as East added two more touchdowns.

With 4:38 left in the third quarter, Bartlett quarterback Dean Kotsovetis (15-for-29, 121 yards) threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Austin Gates (nine receptions,

80 yards). Paige Bednarke kicked the extra point.

"The guys really impressed us coaches by just their toughness," Ilich said. "We had some issues to start the game and at the end, but in the middle we were playing some really good football."

Bartlett finished with 181 total yards, Nick Deckard (10 carries, 35 yards) led the Hawks in rushing, and defensively Cameron Montbriand had a sack and Jason Schuberth a fumble recovery.

The Hawks fell to 1-5 overall, and with the fifth loss were knocked out of postseason contention. Ilich said the focus is still the same: "Row the boat. Keep the energy where it needs to be. The focus remains the same, sticking together. When we stick together, that's when we're at our strongest."



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Police Reports

Continued from page 3

Tuesday, Sept. 26

★ At 9:07 a.m., Sujuan D. Shotwell, 21, Carol Stream, was arrested and charged with obstructing identification and an outstanding warrant for failure to appear. The subject was transported to DuPage County Jail.

Wednesday, Sept. 27

★ At 3 p.m., DAngelo D. Bryan, 21, Chicago, was arrested on warrant and charged with armed robbery. He was transported to DuPage County Jail.

★ At 3 p.m., Terrance D. Storey, 28, Chicago, was arrested on warrant and charged with armed robbery. He was transported to DuPage County Jail.

★ At 3 p.m., Tevin T. Woods, 26, Chicago, was arrested on warrant and charged with armed robbery. He was transported to DuPage County Jail.

Thursday, Sept. 28

★ At 2:20 a.m., Erik A. McKay, 25, Schaumburg, was arrested and charged with two counts of domestic battery and resisting a peace officer. He was transported to DuPage County Jail.

SOUTH ELGIN

Wednesday, Sept. 20

★ At 9:45 a.m., police responded to the vicinity of McLean and Stearns for a report of a three-vehicle collision. Liam M. Lindgren, age and address withheld, was issued a citation.

Thursday, Sept. 21

★ At 1:14 a.m., police responded to

the Riverside Pizza and Pub, 456 Redington Drive, for a report of an activated alarm.

★ At 2:21 a.m., police responded to the 700 block of East Thornwood for a report of a domestic in progress.

★ At 11:45 a.m., police responded to the vicinity of Randall and Gyorri for a report of a two-vehicle collision. Russell Wimberly, age and address withheld, was issued a citation.

★ At 2:11 p.m., police responded to the 1400 block of South Pembroke for a report of an abandoned vehicle.

★ At 3 p.m., police responded to the 900 block of Manchester for a keep the peace request.

★ At 3:31 p.m., police responded to AWT Label and Packaging, 393 Joseph Drive, for a report of an outdoor fire.

★ At 3:59 p.m., police responded to the 0 block of Hobart for a 911 investigation.

★ At 4:23 p.m., police responded to the 1300 block of Marleigh for a fraud complaint.

★ At 6:58 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Randall and Silver Glen roads for a report of protesters.

★ At 7:17 p.m., police responded to the LA Fitness, 488 Randall Road, for a report of burglary to a motor vehicle.

★ At 10:02 p.m., police responded to the 10 block of South LaFox for a fraud complaint.

Friday, Sept. 22

★ At 10:09 a.m., police responded to the Willard Elementary School, 370 W.

Spring for a report of a missing juvenile.

★ At 11:48 a.m., police responded to the Culvers Restaurant, 280 Randall Road, for a report of theft.

★ At 12:08 p.m., police responded to the Super Target, 530 Randall Road, for a report of battery.

★ At 12:39 p.m., police responded to the 1700 block of Stearns for a 911 investigation.

★ At 1:26 p.m., police responded to the Anderson Animal Shelter, 1000 S. LaFox, for a threats complaint.

★ At 2:10 p.m., police responded to the 700 block of Waters Edge for a report of an activated alarm.

★ At 4:29 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of McLean and Stearns for a report of a two-vehicle collision. Michael A. Sikora, age and address withheld, was issued a citation.

★ At 5:44 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Randall and Silver Glen for a report of a two-vehicle collision. Austin P. Ams, age and address withheld, was issued two citations.

★ At 6:37 p.m., police responded to the Children of America, 750 N.

McLean Blvd., for a report of an activated alarm.

★ At 8:02 p.m., police responded to the 700 block of East State for a report of a suspicious incident.

★ At 8:38 p.m., police responded to the Caputos, 622 Randall Road, for a report of a disturbance.

Saturday, Sept. 23

★ At 12:19 a.m., police responded to the Randall Road Animal Hospital, 207 Randall Road, for a report of an activated alarm.

★ At 12:22 a.m., police responded to the 0 block of Kingsport for a report of a suspicious noise.

★ At 12:30 a.m., police responded to the 0 block of Kingsport for a report of shots fired.

★ At 6:50 a.m., police responded to the 0 block of Concord, for a report of a suspicious noise.

★ At 9:29 a.m., police responded to the vicinity of West Spring and Concord for a report of a safety or health hazard.

★ At 9:51 a.m., police responded to the 300 block of Courtland for a warrant service.

Storm netters top Bartlett, win second tourney title

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett volleyball team couldn't overcome South Elgin's depth as the Hawks fell 25-14, 25-17 against their Upstate Eight Conference Valley Division rival on Tuesday, Sept. 26 at South Elgin.

For the Storm, they had to overcome a slow start which they did thanks in part to the solid night from Angie Negron (nine kills, three digs) and Amelia O'Neal (five kills).

Libby Vedrine (four kills, three aces), Hayley Fisher (four kills), Casie Swanson (13 assists, three digs, ace), Kendall Richardson (seven assists, three aces), McKayla Geraghty (three digs) and Sarah Murray (three digs) all contributed for South Elgin.

"I am always happy with a conference win," said South Elgin coach Joni Plach. "Amelia O'Neal had a great hitting game. Right now I am talking to the girls about playing their best game all the time. We missed three serves in the first five points of the game. We had to turn around our mental game in order to get the win."

For Bartlett (6-13, 0-4 UEC Valley Division), it was the second straight match with a new lineup. The Hawks were coming off a 25-12, 25-23 non-

conference win over Hoffman Estates on Monday, Sept. 25 at Hoffman Estates.

"For these two games our team was working with a brand new line up of players and we played very well against Hoffman Estates," said Bartlett coach Katie Spychala. "I believe this line up will make us a stronger team going into the end of the season and it will only improve with more practice time. I believe we could have put up a bigger fight against South Elgin. We needed more communication working with a new line up."

South Elgin went on to drop a 19-25, 25-22, 25-18 nonconference match against Harvest Christian on Thursday, Sept. 28 at South Elgin.

A week after earning the program's first invite title, the Storm (16-7, 3-1) finished the week by earning their second going 5-0 at the Hampshire Invite on Saturday, Sept. 30. Negron (41 kills), Fisher (31 kills), Vedrine (28 kills, 12 blocks, four aces), O'Neal (27 kills), Richardson (66 assists, 35 digs, six aces), Swanson (54 assists, 11 digs, eight aces), Wellman (35 digs, seven aces), Cortes-Rojas (24 digs, seven aces) and Geraghty (10 digs, eight aces) led the effort.

Proposed DuPage budget holds line on property taxes

For the seventh year in a row, DuPage County Board Chairman Dan Cronin presented a budget that does not increase the county's portion of the property tax levy.

"The state finally has a budget, but on the way to crafting it, the legislature kept \$2.7 million in funding that is generally given to counties," said Cronin. "That has had a significant impact on our ability to balance our budget."

Cronin's proposed budget keeps the county's property tax levy frozen at \$66.9 million for the seventh straight year under his administration. The proposed budget has a full-time headcount of 2,206, which is down from 2,270 in Fiscal Year 2011. The proposed Fiscal Year 2018 spending plan is \$439.6 million, with expenditures out of the general revenue fund at \$176.9 million, down slightly from the previous year.

"This is where the \$2.7 million kept

by the state hits the hardest," Cronin said. "The general revenue fund is where we get the money to fund our most vital services including public safety, our subsidy for the DuPage Care Center and other critical components of our county government."

Cronin added: "For the last seven years, we've worked diligently to reduce expenses and decrease the budget to meet our service obligations without asking the taxpayers for a penny more. But it has been excruciatingly difficult, and there is a limit to how much we can cut without threatening our ability to fulfill our mission. We may be reaching a point where we simply can't cut anymore."

Reforms made through the DuPage ACT Initiative have led to more than \$100 million in savings and the county boasts a 3.9 percent unemployment rate and AAA bond rating.

To view the full budget proposal, visit www.dupageco.org/finance.

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Babies and Tots
Wednesday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m.
Newborns through 35 months of age with a caregiver. Includes an introduction to emergent literacy skills, music, exercise, movement and baby and toddler interaction.

It's Storytime!
Wednesday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
For children ages 3 and up including those going into kindergarten.

Monarch Club
Wednesday, Oct. 4, 3:30 p.m.
Grades one to three. Who loves reading, sharing, playing and creating? If you do, this club is for you. Registration required.

Long Term Care Seminar
Wednesday, Oct. 4, 7 p.m.
Join Jay Langfelder and our panel of experts from State Farm Insurance and Comfort Keepers as they discuss what it means to care for aging relatives, and the resources available to help support you throughout the entire process.

Stories for Everyone
Thursday, Oct. 5, 11 a.m.
Includes stories, songs, and verse for toddlers, preschoolers and their caregivers.

Library Laser Tag
Friday, Oct. 6, 5:30 or 7 p.m.
Grades five to eight. Want a chance to play laser tag...in the library? Join us for an after-hours battle of laser tag, if you dare! Registration is required in person. Parent must sign waiver at time of registration.

Smartphone Cafe: Organization Apps
Saturday, Oct. 7, 10 a.m.
Grab a coffee and see what your smartphone/device can do! Registration is required.

Knitting Club
Sunday, October 8, 2 p.m.
Want to meet new people, work on your knitting projects, and learn new skills? The BPLD Knitting Club is for you. We're a group of knitters of all skill levels who meet on the second Sunday of each month at 2 p.m.

Disneynature Movie: Migration
Monday, Oct. 9, 10:30 a.m.
Disneynature Migration sweeps across the surface of the planet to witness the mysteries of migration. Afterword, an animated film about Christopher Columbus will be shown.

Book Buzz
Monday, Oct. 9, 7 p.m.
Attention book lovers! Want to learn about future bestsellers before they become bestsellers? A representative from Penguin/Random House Publishers will buzz about forthcoming books and give readers the scoop on upcoming titles. Door prizes just add to the fun! Registration required.

Basics of Windows 10
Tuesday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m.
Don't be afraid! Bring your questions and learn some of the features and functions of Windows 10. Registration required.

Pinched Paintings: Art Heists in History
Thursday, Oct. 12, 7 p.m.
Dr. Michelle Mishur will discuss a selection of history's most notorious art heists. Dr. Mishur's discussion features art crimes that involved The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, the Mona Lisa in the Louvre, and more.

For a complete listing of scheduled programs at the Bartlett Public Library, 800 S. Bartlett Road, call 837-2855 or visit www.bartlettlibrary.org.

Cross country teams host, perform at Flyin' Hawk

By Seth Hancock
The Bartlett boys and girls cross country teams hosted their annual Flyin' Hawk Invite on Saturday, Sept. 23 at Sunrise Park.

On the boys side, the Hawks were ninth among the 15 teams, and the girls were 11th among 18 teams. It was a hot day for a race with the girls race in 86 degrees which increased to 88 degrees by the boys race.

"The first few meets, the weather was perfect and everyone improved," said Bartlett boys coach Jeremy Ruston. "The last two weeks the heat had a large impact. Although the times were slower, the team competed and showed their toughness. The younger guys have stepped up and made a lot of progress."

Ruston said junior Angelo Peters has consistently led the way this season for Bartlett, and he did again with a seventh place finish with a time of 16 minutes, 21.7 seconds. Junior Patrick Stephen (51st, 17:37), senior Andrew Matuszewski (53rd, 17:37.5), senior Nathan Smith (55th, 17:38.8) and junior Alan Michalek (57th, 17:46.6) completed the team's scoring.

Brandon Kim, Jonathan Jasso and Peter Golaszewski have all contributed

this season Ruston said.

"Overall, I feel like the team has performed well," Ruston said. "Everyone is ahead of where they were last year and are continuing to improve."

In the girls race, senior Leah Kern finished 11th (19:53.3) to lead the Hawks while senior Jessica Fagan (70th, 22:16.5), senior Abby Brinkman (76th, 22:34.6), junior Kimberly Monroy (77th, 22:41.8) and senior Grace Morrissey (89th, 23:19.6) followed.

With postseason approaching, Ruston said: "At this point in the season we are getting in the last couple weeks of hard workouts before dropping down for the postseason. At this point we are fine-tuning and mentally preparing for the end of the season."




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The following programs and services are provided by Bartlett Park District, some require advance registration. For more information, call 540-4800 or visit www.bartlettparks.org.

Youth Basketball Registration Deadline:
Girls In-House 3rd/4th, 5th/6th, and 7th/8th and Boys In-House 5th, 6th, 7th/8th registration deadline is Saturday, Oct. 7 at 12 noon.

Tennis Lesson Registration Deadline Approaching
The Bartlett Park District cooperates with Centre Court Tennis in Hanover Park to provide tennis lessons to our community. Centre Court's program is designed to be a fun, high-energy learning experience. The registration deadline for the second session of lessons running Nov. 2 to Jan. 21, 2018, is Thursday, Oct. 26. Classes are available for age four through adult. All lessons take place at Center Court, 1919 Walnut Ave. in Hanover Park. Registration can be done at Bartlett Community Center Registration Desk or online at Bartlett Park District website.

Intro to DSLR Cameras Oct. 26
Learn what all those wheels, buttons, and dials do. What is ISO and noise? What is depth of field? What is selective focus? These and many more questions will be answered. This class is for students who are new to photography. Class is held at Bartlett Community Center Program Room 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 26 for a fee of \$48 Resident and \$58 nonresident. Registration code 37507-02.

Halloween in Hollywood Oct. 23
Learn and experiment with the science of shocking Hollywood gory special effects makeup. Try out things like

bleeding blisters, bad bruises, wicked wounds, and more secrets from the movies will be explored. Find out how your favorite sci-fi or scary films use makeup to horrify viewers. Imagine yourself on a movie set in Hollywood. We will also discover what happens to your skin in real life when a frightening accident occurs. Hands on experiences make this class amazingly disgusting and hilarious. This class is open to age 7 to 12 on Monday, Oct. 23 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at a fee of \$42 resident and \$52 nonresident.

Villa Olivia Winter Job Fair Saturday, Oct. 28 1 to 3 p.m.
Many job opportunities will be available December to March for ski/snowboard instructors, lift operators, rental attendants and ski office cashiers. Applicants must be available nights, weekends and holidays. Fill out applications online at bartlettparks.org or onsite with your area of interest. Interviews will take place at the Job Fair at Villa Olivia, 1401 W. Lake St.

Thanksgiving Day Champagne Brunch Thursday, Nov. 23, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Spend your day sharing memories with your family instead of cooking in the kitchen. At Villa Olivia Chef Rosello and his staff will prepare a variety of delicious entrees, side dishes and desserts for you to enjoy during your family meal. Start a new tradition with us at Villa Olivia and make your holiday a special experience. Reservations are required at 289-1000 and are for one and a half hour sittings. Service is available from 9:30 a.m. through 2 p.m. Villa Olivia is located at 1401 W. Lake St., in Bartlett.

Hawks upset Hilltoppers amid pair of soccer losses

By Seth Hancock
The Bartlett soccer team is picking up some momentum and it came up with an upset win, 4-3 against nonconference foe Glenbard West on Thursday, Sept. 28 at Bartlett.
The game was the first home contest on the Bartlett field for the team, and it came five days after the Hawks earned their first two victories of the season to snap a 12-game winless streak.
"The merit goes to each and every one of the boys and our members of the coaching staff," said Bartlett coach Victor Marquez. "The entire group received both victories with open arms."
Both squads are in the Conant Sectional where Glenbard West is the fourth seed and Bartlett is 18th.
The score was tied 3-3 at halftime, and with just over nine minutes remaining in the game Brandon Palid assisted Sergio Navarrete who scored the game winner. Hernan Garcia (two assists), Rudy Reyes (assist) and Oscar Soto each found the net in the game's first 12 minutes of play.
Marquez quoted Chivas coach Matías Almeyda, of the Mexican Football Federation, who said: "In order to win soccer games you must score goals and eliminate mistakes."
That is the focus over the remaining weeks of the regular season and "is precisely what happened" against Glenbard West said Marquez.
"We scored goals, and even though we did not completely eliminate mistakes, we managed to somehow minimize them," Marquez said. "The end result, a 4-3 victory."
Bartlett keeper Zachary Rebac made two saves.

The Hawks were coming off a 3-2 loss against Glenbard East in Upstate Eight Conference Valley Division play on Tuesday, Sept. 26 at Glenbard East.
Trailing 2-0 at halftime, Reyes scored off a Joseph Dimas feed to cut the deficit but the score was 3-1 before Soto scored off a Garcia assist in the final seven minutes. Goalie Jeremy Taylor made five saves.
Marquez said it was a close game and "perhaps we did not deserve to lose, however, soccer is not about deserving, it is about earning."
Bartlett ended the week with a 4-2 loss against Romeoville in the Hampshire tournament title game on Saturday, Sept. 30. Romeoville outscored the Hawks 2-1 in each half.
Although a 1-2 week, Bartlett feels the momentum growing as the Hawks are now 3-11-3 overall, 0-4 in the UEC Valley Division.
"Our team performance was reflected for the first time on the scoreboard last weekend as we had our share of one goal losses," Marquez said of the opening two wins at Hampshire. "The fact that the team found the opponents net in more than one occasion on both victories most definitely boosts any team's confidence."

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Public provided rare look at Elmhurst Quarry facility



The more than 500 Elmhurst Quarry tour attendees learned how floodwater is funneled from Salt Creek under Illinois Route 83 into the quarry. (Courtesy photo)

In partnership with the Elmhurst History Museum, DuPage County Stormwater Management opened its Elmhurst Quarry Flood Control facility to a sold-out crowd on Saturday, Sept. 30. More than 500 people registered to get a rare, inside look at this DuPage County landmark.

During the event, attendees learned how the county uses the quarry to manage floodwater, along with its history in the community. DuPage County Stormwater Management Committee Chairman Jim Zay highlighted the improvements to the tour since it was last held in 2015.

“Leading up to this tour, we looked at ways we could enhance the experience for our audience, which prompted us to add information about water quality, geology and green infrastructure,” said Zay. “Not to mention, we recently finished construction of a viewing platform on the east side of the Quarry that can be utilized by the public. We’re very excited to open it today.”

The Elmhurst Quarry was founded in 1883; only a year after Elmhurst was incorporated. Crews quarried, and then mined, for limestone at the site for more than 100 years until it

was converted into a landfill for clean construction debris.

“The Elmhurst Quarry has been a part of DuPage County for several generations, and residents have a very special connection to it, which makes these tours incredibly meaningful,” Zay said. “Because of the tremendous interest in it, we expanded the tour from 2015, nearly doubling the number of participants.”

Following massive flooding throughout the area in 1987 and a subsequent study of the surrounding Salt Creek Watershed, DuPage County purchased the quarry in 1992 to use it for flood storage. The quarry was then converted into a flood control facility that began functioning in 1996.

With a capacity of 2.7 billion gallons, the Elmhurst Quarry is the largest of five mechanically operated and 11 gravity-operated flood control facilities in DuPage County. Using a predetermined operating plan, DuPage County Stormwater Management staff allows floodwater to enter the Elmhurst Quarry via a 400-foot tunnel, which runs under Illinois Route 83. The Quarry holds the floodwater until water elevations recede enough to pump the water back into Salt Creek.

During flood operations, the public may view real-time video images and rain and stream gage information at <http://ec.dupageco.org/dec/stormwater/watershed/index.html>.

Storm football goes to 6-0 with win over Wildcats

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin football team remained undefeated and clinched a postseason spot as the Storm defeated West Chicago 48-6 in Upstate Eight Conference Valley Division play on Friday, Sept. 29 at West Chicago.

Storm quarterback Nate Gomez (10-for-11, 175 yards) got things started by throwing touchdown passes of 21 and eight yards respectively to Kyle Pollert and Jaron Wells (four receptions, 105 yards) in the first quarter.

Gomez would go on to throw three more touchdown passes, including two to Wells on 13- and 51-yard passes, and also added 81 rushing yards on 10 carries. The Storm offense out gained West Chicago 342-105 in total yards.

“(Gomez) really puts defenses in a bind,” said South Elgin coach Pat Pistorio.

“Just his overall leadership is starting to pick up as well. When we need him to convert on a third down, he’s a guy we’re going to and we’re putting the ball in his hands.”

South Elgin led 34-0 by halftime and built the final score of 48-6 by the end of three quarters. Pierre Toussaint had a 10-yard touchdown run, William Dunn a defensive score on a five-yard fumble recovery and return and Joey Cipriani had a 17-yard TD reception.

Azzavier Salinas had three receptions for 32 yards. Andrew Bucaro was 6-for-7 on extra point kicks.

The Storm clinched a playoff spot improving to 6-0 overall, 4-0 in the UEC Valley Division.

“It really just boils down to our kids’ commitment to one another,” Pistorio said. “This is huge for our program.”

Tidbits

Continued from page 4

form to their local VFW Post by Oct. 31. Interested students and teachers should contact the Voice of Democracy Chairman at your local VFW Post or contact the Illinois State Voice of Democracy Director Robert McLeod by phone at 708-363-7462 or email at rock76@yahoo.com. For more information. For details visit: www.vfw.org/VOD.

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

Looking for a job? The Bartlett Library has resources to assist you in your employment search: Join our career networking email list to hear about job fairs, programs and employment opportunities; stop by the Cafe and see our job board; check out the materials in our Quiet Room, which cover topics such as resume writing and interviewing help; look at our Career Networking blog; stop by the Adult Services Desk or call 837-3560 for more information.

Monthly meetings of the American Legion are held the third Wednesday of each month at the Bartlett Log Cabin, North Avenue and Oak Street, at 7 p.m. They welcome all veterans.

West Suburban Patriots Patriots Breakfasts are held on the second Saturday of each month from 9 until 11 a.m. at Wheaton Bowl banquet room in Wheaton. There is no charge to attend their meetings. An a la carte breakfast is available for a nominal

fee. Wheaton Bowl is located at 2031 N. Gary Ave. For more details, see westsuburbanpatriots.com.

Animal Shelter Supply Drive supporting various animal rescue groups. Kitten/cat/dog food of any kind, KMR-kitten replacement milk, cat litter/pans, collars, leashes, carriers/crates/cages, toys, scratching posts, cat condos, pet beds, old towels. No bedding please. Donation bin located at Heartland Animal Hospital on Stearns and Illinois Route 59.

Four Paws Animal Foundation is seeking interested individuals who can give a few volunteer hours during their upcoming fundraisers which help support feline rescue/adoption efforts. They also provide sanctuary for older rescues which may have ongoing medical issues and therefore would not get adopted. They hold monthly general meetings on the first Thursday of each month where you can learn more about the organization and visit with some of its adoptable rescues. Call 289-0478 or email mrkoko@att.net for location and time.

Wayne/Winfield Area Youth/Family Services (WAYS) provides adult anger management classes on Wednesdays 8 to 9 p.m. and Fridays 9 to 10 a.m. Classes in Spanish meet on Saturdays 8 to 9 a.m. All adult anger management classes are held at WAYS, 27W031 North Ave., in West Chicago. For more information, please call 231-7166.

Do you suspect food rules your life? Overeaters Anonymous (OA) may be the answer for you. It is not a diet club, but a fellowship of people recovering from compulsive overeating. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively. No dues, fees or weigh-ins. OA offers mutual support at its weekly meeting at Living Lord Lutheran Church on Fridays at 7 p.m. The church is located at 1044 Congress Drive. For more information or directions, contact Dwayne at 433-0656.

Construction to impact traffic at Starved Rock State Park

Due to construction on Illinois Route 178 south of the Illinois River in La Salle County, traffic patterns have been altered for motorists approaching the west entrance to Starved Rock State Park.

A new bridge is being built next to the current bridge, and the traffic pattern changes are necessary for construction to move forward. There are now only two lanes (one lane in each direction) on Route 178 near the park’s west entrance, and there is no turn lane into Starved Rock State Park as a result of the construction project.

Motorists are advised that access to

Starved Rock State Park via the west entrance on Illinois Route 178 will be difficult, especially during special event weekends. The west entrance to the park may be closed when traffic backups occur on Route 178. All Route 178 traffic heading southbound south of the Illinois River Bridge will be directed to the south entrance of the park off of Illinois Route 71. Visitors exiting the park intending to travel south, east or west of the park will be directed to exit through the south entrance while the Illinois Route 178 bridge construction project continues.

New law modifies components of hunting, trapping bobcats in state

A new Illinois law will allow hunters and trappers to harvest up to 350 bobcats during the 2017-18 Illinois bobcat hunting and trapping season which opens on Nov. 10. The legislation making changes in the bobcat season, House Bill 3399, was signed into law on Friday, Sept. 22.

Additionally, the new law also changed the list of counties where it is unlawful to hunt or trap bobcats in the state. The following counties are prohibited from hunting or trapping bobcats: Boone, Bureau, Champaign, Cook, DeKalb, DeWitt, DuPage, Ford, Grundy, Henry, Iroquois, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Knox, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, Livingston, Logan, Marshall, McHenry, McLean, Ogle, Peoria, Piatt, Putnam, Stark, Stephenson, Vermilion, Will, Winnebago, Woodford, and the area north of U.S. Route 36 in Edgar and Douglas counties and north of U.S. Route 36 to the junction with Illinois Route 121 and north or east of Illinois Route 121 in Macon County.

Bobcat hunting and trapping season dates are Nov. 10, through Feb. 15, 2018.

Illinois resumed bobcat hunting and trapping during the 2016-17 season. During the 2016-17 season, the taking of bobcats was prohibited in a northeast quadrant of the state bounded by Interstate 39/U.S. Route 51 on the west and U.S. Route 36 on the south, and was allowed in the remainder of the state.

Hunters and trappers may apply for 2017-18 bobcat permits through Saturday, Sept. 30. A total of 1,000 permits have been allocated and a lottery drawing will be conducted as more than 1,000 permit applications have been received. During last year’s bobcat season, Illinois issued 500 permits and hunters and trappers harvested 141 bobcats.

Applications can be made through the DNR Direct online license and permit system (\$5 non-refundable application fee) at <https://www.il.wildlifelicense.com/start.php>.

Storm fall to Wildcats after blanking WeGo



Christopher Stanczyk attempting to center the ball near the Neuqua Valley net as the Wildcats' Jason Benjamin closed in an effort to break up the pass.

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin soccer team couldn't overcome some early lapses as the Storm dropped a 4-2 non-conference game against Neuqua Valley on Thursday, Sept. 28 at South Elgin.

Less than two minutes into the game, Neuqua Valley had taken a 1-0 lead. The visitors led 2-1 at half-time and less than a minute into the second half it was 3-1.

"Too many mistakes today," said South Elgin coach Simon Brinklow. "It was unlike us to make some of those mistakes. I told the guys you can't concede the first couple minutes of each half and expect to win."

The Storm offense did tie the game with 13:59 left in

the first half when Jack McCall, from the top of the box, fired a powerful shot that clinked off the bottom of the crossbar and ricocheted into the net. Earlier in the half Liam Swangren nearly made it 1-1 with a shot off the right post.

South Elgin trailed 4-1 when Alex Kirkby converted a penalty kick to make it 4-2 with 21:10 left in the game. In the final 10 minutes, Anthony Sisler found the net but the goal was not allowed due to a yellow card as the play developed.

Christopher Stanczyk, Lucas Reutimann, Julian Defensor and Eduardo Carrillo all had chances in the game.

"We moved some things around, and I was happy



Sergio Friones working to control an elevated ball along a sideline for the Storm in the match against Neuqua Valley.

to get more playing time for some guys," Brinklow said. "I thought we created some quality chances in the second half."

Storm keeper Fernando Rivera made seven saves.

South Elgin was coming off a 2-0 win over West Chicago in Upstate Eight Conference Valley Division play on Tuesday, Sept. 26 at South Elgin. McCall scored both goals for the Storm.

The Storm are now 6-7-2 overall, 2-2 in the UEC Valley Division, and Brinklow said the goal is now gaining steam heading into the postseason.

"We've got four games left," Brinklow said. "We'd like to get some momentum going for us heading into the postseason."



South Elgin's Jacob Zupan struggling to sustain an offensive attack via a header deep in Wildcats territory. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



The Storm's Jack McCall, left, and the Wildcats' Julio Navarro in front of the Wildcats goal late in the match with South Elgin trying to narrow a 4-2 deficit. McCall scored the Storm's first goal in the first half to then tie the contest 1-1.

Willard Elementary holds annual fall festival

Willard Elementary held its annual Fall Fest at the school on Friday, Sept. 22. Activities included games in the gym including a cupcake walk and carnival-type games, a photo booth, pumpkin decorating and concessions in the lunch room.



Evie Martin and her dad Gene admired the pumpkin she painted.



Lincoln Sweet was content to play with the inflatable Halloween decorations.



Girls Scouts from Willard Elementary's Troop 1447 helped younger children decorate their pumpkins.
(Examiner photos by Juli Schatz)

North Stars dominate in blanking Maroons 42-0

By Seth Hancock

The North football team went to work early to defeat Elgin 42-0 in Upstate Eight Conference River Division play on Friday, Sept. 29 at North.

Although going three-and-out on its first possession of the game, North would score all 42 points in the first half, 21 in the first quarter and 21 in the second.

Lucas Segobiano, who had 150 offensive yards between 98 rushing on seven carries and 52 off two receptions, opened the game's scoring with a two-yard touchdown run and North didn't look back improving to 5-1 overall, 3-0 in the UEC River Division, to become playoff eligible.

"To be 5-1, playoff eligible, and holding our fate in our hands in the conference is exactly where we want to be at this point in the season," said North coach Rob Pomazak.

Segobiano would find the end zone three more times including on 18- and 10-yard runs as well as a 46-yard TD reception from quarterback Michael Hohensee (3-for-9, 67 yards).

Sam DeMarco added a 13-yard touchdown run, and North got a defensive score after Egon Hein recovered a fumble in the end zone. The North Stars forced three turnovers including interceptions from Tyler Nubin and Michael Policano. Brandon Eickert was 6-for-6 on extra point kicks.

North has three more UEC River Division games including one against undefeated Batavia, and Pomazak wants to see improvement on both sides of the ball.

"Offensively, we didn't start very well," Pomazak said of the first three-and-out. "That wasn't exactly how we wanted to come out offensively. Defensively, there's a lot of room for improvement."



The North Stars' Lucas Segobiano in the flat in route to the end zone untouched for a North score.
(Examiner photos by George Niman)



The North Stars' Sam DeMarco completing an acrobatic dive into the end zone for a touchdown.



North's Jack Lewis eluding Elgin's Raymonte Bridges while picking up some positive yards.

Sabres totally dominate Royals in 7-0 victory

By Seth Hancock

From the backline to the front, the Streamwood soccer team was clicking in a 7-0 win over Larkin in Upstate Eight Conference River Division play on Tuesday, Sept. 26 at Millennium Field.

Offensively the Sabres were on the attack most of the game which led to two hat tricks, from seniors Oscar Chavez and Aldo Lazaro. Chaves scored the game's first three goals including two in the first six minutes, the first assisted by Jorge Bracamontes and the next on a free kick from the top of the box.

"That really set it off for the rest of the game," Chavez said of the two quick goals.

"We played very well, very fast," said Streamwood coach Matt Polovin. "We scored early and often, and

I think it really took the wind out of them. I've said that we don't take our foot off the gas until the game is over."

Lazaro picked up an assist on Chavez's final goal with 21:52 left in the first half and he began his hat trick off a feed from Alex Herrera with 16:05 before the break, and the 4-0 lead held until the second half.

Chavez and Bracamontes assisted the next two Lazaro goals that gave the Sabres a 6-0 lead in the 60th minute, and less than a minute later Alex Chavez scored the final goal off a Jose Ibarra assist.

"It's great for both guys to get hat tricks and for us to get a shutout," Lazaro said. "It was a great game for us today."

The shutout was the third straight, sixth overall, for

the Sabres defense. Polovin noted the solid play in the back from senior captain Rafa Gil as well as Ibarra, a freshman.

Streamwood keeper Daniel Dominguez made three saves.

"The big thing was getting another shutout," Polovin said. "That's what really means the most to us right now."

Polovin added: "They're playing very well as a unit back there, no matter who was going in which was great to see. It also helps when you have one of the best goalies in the state behind them."

The Sabres are now 10-4-1 overall and have moved into the lead for the UEC River Division with a 3-0-1 mark.



Oscar Chavez firing away on his way to a pure hat trick by scoring the first three goals for Streamwood in first half against Larkin.



The Sabres' Alex Chavez centering a pass from a corner between Larkin defender Randy Rodriguez, left, and keeper Jorge Nava.



Streamwood's Rafa Gil, left, and the Royals' Aleksander Zdravkovic competing for a ball near midfield. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



Larkin's John Olivarez in pursuit of the Sabres' Jorge Bracamontes who had taken a pass while striking past the Royals defense.

Multiple events slated in village this Saturday

By Joe Hyland

There is an explosion of autumn events in the village for residents to enjoy this coming weekend.

The Fire Department will be holding its annual open house on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will be held at Station #1, located at 1204 S. Park. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to tour the fire house or spray a fire hose. They will also be able to learn how to keep themselves, their families and their homes safe in the event of a fire.

The Police Department, also has an event on the same day. The department will be holding a registration for the village's free Medic Alert Program. The program offers residents

and their caregivers the chance to receive a free Medic Alert bracelet. The registration will be held from 9 a.m. to noon. Those wishing more information should visit the village's website at www.streamwood.org and click through the links to the Medic Alert information page. As an alternative, call 736-3700.

And finally, also on the same day, Hoosier Grove Park will be the venue for the Park District's annual Harvest Fest. This event will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fest will include a fun run, cake walk, spelling bee and a children's entertainer. In addition, there will be an exhibition by the North Suburban Carvers Guild. The Hoosier Grove Museum will be open for the duration.

Streamwood football still searching for first win

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood football team couldn't overcome mistakes as the Sabres dropped a 43-8 game against Larkin in Upstate Eight Conference River Division play on Friday, Sept. 29 at Memorial Field in Elgin.

Larkin out gained Streamwood 239-168 in total yardage and built a 14-0 lead after one quarter, 36-0 by halftime and 43-0 after three quarters.

After going up 7-0, Larkin recovered an onside kick setting up its second score. The host also had an interception returned for a touchdown and had a fumble recovery that setup a scoring drive.

"We just had too many mistakes, and against a well-coached team like

Larkin this is going to be the result," said Streamwood coach Don Guindon.

The Sabres broke the shutout when backup quarterback Stephen Deike ran in a one-yard score, and Jacob Strong ran in the two-point conversion.

Starting quarterback Brendon Marton (7-for-13) threw for 78 yards with Jamel Sheppard (three receptions, 64 yards) his leading target. Shannon Allen ran for 28 yards, Ronnie Harper 25 and Strong 21.

Streamwood falls to 0-6 overall, 0-4 in the UEC River Division.

"We just have to keep moving forward," Guindon said. "We just have to try to become more consistent."