

## Press Clippings 11/1/2017

---Daily Herald--- 11/1/17

### Halloween on Wheels

Volunteers deck out Elgin boy's chair

BY ELENA FERRARIN



Iker Lagunas, 12, of Elgin, goes trick-or-treating Tuesday in a costume that incorporates his wheelchair. The custom-made "Mario Kart" costume is modeled from his favorite video game.

Among the myriad Halloween trick-or-treaters in Elgin, one 12-year-old boy showed off a costume that transformed his wheelchair into an uber-cool racing kart, just like the one in his favorite video game.

Kimball Middle School seventh-grader Iker Lagunas, who has muscular dystrophy, was the recipient of the costume from the nonprofit [Magic Wheelchair](#). The organization partners with volunteers to outfit kids in costumes that incorporate their wheelchairs.

Iker's costume was made by a team from DePaul University in Chicago. It included a gold frame, attached to Iker's wheelchair, in the shape of the gold kart from the video game "Mario Kart 8 Deluxe" and a Yoshi costume for Iker. Yoshi, a dinosaur, is Mario's best friend.

"It's really neat, and bigger than I thought it would be," Iker said Tuesday, just before he set off trick-or-treating with his parents, three younger siblings and other kids from the community.

DePaul instructor LeAnne Wagner worked on the project with her husband, Zack, and seven students who volunteered. Wagner met Iker about two months ago to discuss his costume and take measurements.

"He said he plays the video game with his siblings all the time," she said. "He was pretty adamant that's what he wanted."

Iker didn't want any customization, like his name on the side of the kart, so they settled for his name on the license plate and some extra lights, she said. "He's very much a purist," Wagner said. "He very much wanted it to be like the game."

Oregon-based Magic Wheelchair was created in 2015 by Ryan and Lana Weimer, who have three children who were born with spinal muscular atrophy and use wheelchairs. Families and volunteers submit applications to the nonprofit, which matches them based on proximity and skill, said Christine Getman, development director for Magic Wheelchair.

Some kids are very specific about their vision, while others are more vague, she said. The company takes applications year-round and has outfitted 75 children to date.

"They are the driving forces," Getman said. "They tell us what they want. It's their imagination. It's their vision."

Iker's mother, Analelly Garcia, said she found out about Magic Wheelchair on Facebook.

"I'm emotional and happy," Garcia said. "I'm glad that there are organizations that give a chance to kids with special needs."

Wagner said the [project](#) was a great learning experience. "We were really excited to see his reaction to all of this," she said. "The students are excited to do something good for the community."

DePaul graduate student Azka Asif said she loved working on the project.

"It's been really cool to see all the different things that they (Magic Wheelchair) do, the different outcomes," she said. "I think it's a really neat organization where designers and people that are creative can give back their skills to help make a difference in a kid's life."  
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## **U46 panel to discuss black male experience in schools**

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY



More than 200 Elgin-area students participated in Elgin Community College's first fair featuring 20 historically black colleges and universities earlier this month. This Saturday, Elgin Area School District U-46 has a panel discussion on the experience of black males in public schools.

Not everyone has the same experience in school. Just how different is it for minority students in the suburbs?

That's a question Elgin-area school officials hope to answer for a small segment of their student population -- black males.

Elgin Area School District U-46 educators, parents and students will join in a panel discussion on the black male experience in public education Saturday.

The "Brother 2 Brother" symposium is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Larkin High School, 1475 Larkin Ave., Elgin.

The panel comprises black men, some who are products of U-46, and prominent community members.

"The purpose is to make sure the experience of black males is visible," said Ronald Raglin, U-46 assistant superintendent of educational support programs and alignment.

"We know what unintentional, or maybe intentional, barriers we have erected that prevent them from progress in the educational process. Sometimes you have to isolate gender and race to get at the issue. There is an assumption that everybody's at the same place, so you have to differentiate not to divide, but to show where the need is in order to respond. There are challenges when it comes to being a black male in America."

Among the speakers is Gilman Whiting, associate professor of African American and diaspora studies at Vanderbilt University, who will share local and national data on black male students in public schools.

About 2 percent of U-46 teachers are black and roughly 6 percent of the student population is black.

"This is not a uniquely U-46 experience," said April Wells, U-46 coordinator of academies, Advanced Placement, gifted, and world languages. "There is really a national cry (for more black teachers)."

According to the Consortium for Policy Research and Education, there is a nationwide shortage of minority teachers with black men representing about 2 percent of the nation's teachers.

How U-46 teachers -- 75 percent white women and 25 percent people of color -- can better understand and connect with black students is part of the discussion.

"We have a pretty robust local population of black males who have gone through our school system," Wells said. "What we hope this leads to is ... a real picture of what those barriers look like from that experience."

The presentation also will address strategies that support engagement, barriers to academic attainment, student discipline, and setting instructional outcomes, plus a question-and-answer session.

Once officials identify the systemic challenges for black males, they hope to continue the conversation with black female students.

They also plan to highlight positive efforts toward catering to the needs of black students, such as a recent college fair at Elgin Community College with historically black colleges and universities. More than 200 students and families from the area attended.

"We are trying to look at closing the achievement gap and opportunity gap," Raglin said. "We are expecting ... people speaking their truths. Expect some discomfort."



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## **U46 parent leadership institutes receiving award**

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY



Corey Dixon



Veronica Noland

Elgin Area School District U-46's parent leadership institutes will receive an excellence award Wednesday from Reflejos Publications, a media company serving the suburban Latino market for nearly 30 years.

The district's African American Parent Leadership Institute and Hispanic Parent Leadership Institute provide leadership training and guide parents to become more active participants in their child's education. More than 100 parents have graduated since the groups were established in 2010. Alumni include Veronica Noland, a U-46 school board member, and Corey Dixon, an Elgin City Council member.

Participants must attend 16 Saturday morning sessions over two school years and district meetings, and complete a family engagement project.

"The parents who commit to the parent leadership institutes become strong advocates for themselves, their children and other families and serve as a vital link between the district and the greater community," said Karla Jiménez, U-46 coordinator of family and community engagement who developed the program and has led classes since its inception. "Once they graduate, they are eager to help other parents become more involved in our schools and overcome similar challenges they once faced."

Reflejos' Reflecting Excellence ceremony is 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Stonegate Conference and Banquet Centre, 2401 W. Higgins Road, Hoffman Estates. The program includes South Elgin High School junior Andrea Michel singing traditional Mexican songs, including "Cucurrucucú Paloma" and "La Malagueña."

Reflejos Bilingual Journal was founded in Elgin in 1990 as a community paper. In 2000, it became a subsidiary of Paddock Publications, which publishes the Daily Herald, and began expanding into Kane, McHenry, Northwest Cook, DuPage, Kendall, Will and Lake counties.

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## **Standardized test scores decline in most Fox Valley schools**

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY

Of the 147 elementary and middle schools within Kane and McHenry counties, 92 schools saw declines in standardized test scores reflected on the [2017 Illinois School Report Card](#) released Tuesday.

Among those schools, 53 showed improvement while two remained flat on [the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers test](#), or PARCC, given to third- through eighth-graders. State education officials say those numbers could update later in the week.

Local educators were not alarmed by the results.

"We don't place a lot of emphasis on PARCC, and not because it's a bad measure; ... it's just not timely for us," said Brad Newkirk, chief academic officer for [Batavia Unit District 101](#).

Its elementary and middle schools' scores declined from last year -- ranging from 1.2 to 9.3 percentage points lower.

Yet, Newkirk says, the timing of the report card data release comes well after those students tested last spring have moved on to the next grade level to benefit from potential interventions.

"It's not actionable data," Newkirk said. "If we just relied on this, we would be doing our kids a disservice because it lags so much. Our parents trust the more regular assessment data that the district has and provides them in a timely manner. We use our own internal metrics in order to regularly assess our students and identify areas where more support is needed."

The standardized test is "probably the least applicable measure for a classroom teacher," said Laura Hill, [Elgin Area School District U-46](#) director of assessment and accountability.

In U-46, 36 elementary and middle schools showed declines in the percentage of students meeting and exceeding proficiency standards, while 12 schools showed increases. As a district, 27.9 percent of students are meeting and exceeding standards -- a 1.3-percentage-point dip.

U-46 is the state's second-largest school district, educating just shy of 40,000 students. A majority are minorities from low-income backgrounds.

The biggest decline was at [Prairieview Elementary School](#) in Bartlett -- 15.5 percentage points. Prairieview also saw a 4.9-percentage-point increase in students within the approaching-standards category, which suggests more students could be sliding in performance.

The largest improvement within U-46 and among Fox Valley area schools was at [Sunnydale Elementary School](#) in Streamwood -- 12.5 percentage points. Sunnydale also saw a 9.4-percentage-point dip in students in the approaching category, which might explain why more students are meeting standards there.

Officials couldn't explain the dips and increases from year to year, but say a contributing factor could be that the state this year is reporting scores based on where specific groups of students -- such as special education, gifted or dual language -- receive special instruction, rather than their home schools. Statewide, 3 percent of students fit into this category.

That skews scores for schools like Sunnydale, which serves more gifted students from neighboring schools, said Matthew Raimondi, U-46 coordinator of assessment and accountability.

"It could be nothing different is happening there," Raimondi said. "We have a lot of students who don't attend home schools."

Due to that change, U-46 had 13 elementary schools and three middle schools that performed higher than expected, he said.

Last school year was the second year PARCC was administered entirely online, which some educators say could have affected scores.

"The online assessment is more rigorous than the paper and pencil version," [Community Unit District 300](#) Superintendent Fred Heid said. "As a district, we saw ELA (English language arts) go up and math tick down slightly."

Of the Carpentersville-based district's 22 elementary and middle schools, 11 saw declining scores; the largest decrease was at Kenneth Neubert Elementary School in Algonquin at 12.7 percentage points. Gilberts Elementary School saw the largest increase in meets/exceeds -- 6.7 percentage points.

In high schools, juniors took the revised SAT college entrance exam last school year after the state stopped paying for the traditional ACT.

Of the 23 Fox Valley high schools, 16 scored above the state average of 38 percent meeting and exceeding standards on the SAT. Thirteen schools had a higher percentage of students approaching proficiency than the state average of 35 percent.

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## **Students below state average on test scores**

Most high school juniors not proficient, according to new SAT results

**BY RAFAEL GUERRERO**

Standardized test scores from last school year show below-average results coming from District U46 students, according to data made public Tuesday.

Both the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers and SAT scores were released this week as part of the update of the Illinois State Report Card, along with other K-12 datapoints. Both PARCC and SAT scores are of note this fall, as there is now three-year data on the fairly new PARCC, while last school year marked the first time the SAT was a requirement for high school juniors.

According to state data, just over 34.5 percent of students in grades 3 through 8 met or exceeded standards in PARCC exams. The percentage is a marginal improvement over the first two years, when 33 percent and 33.4 percent of students met proficiency in 2015 and 2016, respectively.

Meanwhile, 38.1 percent of high school juniors last school year were considered proficient in the SAT, according to state data. The SAT replaced the ACT in 2016-17, the latter having been a requirement for junior-year students for 15 years. The new change also meant high school juniors no longer would take the PARCC exam.

In Elgin-area District U46, just over 28 percent of its third- through eighth-graders met or exceeded standards on the PARCC, according to state data. The individual school scores ranged from as low as under 7 percent of students meeting proficiency at Elgin's Garfield Elementary School to as high as about 58 percent of students meeting standards at Bartlett's Sycamore Trails Elementary.

Three-year trends based on previous Illinois Report Card data show declining average proficiency rates, from 33 percent in 2014-15 to 29 percent in 2015-16.

District U46 spokeswoman Mary Fergus said PARCC scores are just another metric used to gauge student performance, but the least applicable to inform teaching and learning. She said U46 uses NWEA/MAP and U46-specific assessments to greater effect to inform teaching and learning and, as important, measure growth.

According to the state data, just more than 30 percent of U46 juniors met or exceeded state standards with regards to the SAT; the average combined score for a U46 student was about 980.

According to the state's performance results, U46's average SAT scores ranged from 909 at Larkin High School to 1065 at Bartlett High.

In last week's letter to staff and the District U46 community, CEO Tony Sanders said while he believes in reducing testing for students, "PARCC is important. SAT is important. Graduation rate, dropout rate, attendance, and Advanced Placement participation and test scores are also important. But more important is a student finding joy and meaning in our schools and classrooms."

The average SAT score for a junior student in an Illinois public high school was 1016, according to state data.

At Algonquin-based District 300, the district's average proficiency rate on the PARCC is right on the state average, with 34.2 percent of students achieving proficiency. According to the state data, nearly 8 percent of students at Perry Elementary School in Carpentersville reached proficiency, but at Algonquin's Eastview Elementary, the proficiency rate exceeded 61 percent.

District 300's three-year trend tracks from 39 percent in 2015, to 33 percent in 2016.

Among its three high schools, District 300 data showed over 42 percent of students met or exceeded standards in the SAT, with an average combined SAT score of 1028.

The average SAT scores for the three District 300 high schools were 971 at Dundee-Crown, 1040 at Hampshire and 1085 at Jacobs.

School District 301's average proficiency rates for its students in grades 3 through 8 was well above the state average, at just under 58 percent meeting proficiency, according to state data. Its three-year data, meanwhile, trend upward, from 43 percent meeting or exceeding in 2015 to 53 percent in 2016.

In District 301's lone high school, Burlington Central, just more than 54 percent of juniors reached proficiency on the SAT, with an average score of 1092.

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## **U46 board focuses on test scores for limited-English learners**

**BY JANELLE WALKER**

The data School District U46 get from the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers test is just a fraction of the information gleaned by student testing results used to improve learning, said Laura Hill, director of assessment and accountability.

Hill, along with other district officials, presented the board of education with some broad data points from the state assessment.

The special Monday night meeting was to keep the board abreast of the information before it was released Tuesday, said Tony Sanders, CEO of U46.

One area of concern for the district, said Matt Raimondi, coordinator of assessment and accountability, was how limited-English learners did on the test, which for the first time was completed online entirely, with no sections on paper.

Across the board, limited-English learners scored from 11 percent to 13 percent lower in the 2017 tests than the previous year.

Board member Jeanette Ward said she had taken the test as an exercise, and she found the back-and-forth nature of the online test confusing and less than user-friendly.

Other changes this year include results aggregated by which school the child attends instead of the building considered the "home school."

Before, Raimondi said, it didn't matter which school the child attended. Because of a change in federal law, the results better reflect the school results and its demographics. Children may not be attending the school within their attendance boundary if they are going to a school with a dual-language program, or for specific special education services, he said.

That also makes it harder to compare year-to-year data from schools, Raimondi said.

While some results were lower than hoped, it's up to the adults in U46 to figure out how to best help struggling kids, board member Traci Ellis said.

"I want to make sure we are not talking solely ... that there is something wrong with the students vs. us, not figuring out how to reach the students," Ellis said. "It may be resources, it may be the instructional model" that needs changing.

Suzanne Johnson, assistant superintendent of teaching and learning, agreed.

"It is upon us as the adults, as those responsible for the young people in our classrooms every day, that they come with assets that need to be celebrated for their learning and opportunity for learning," she said.

"We do this work for the benefit of all of our students."



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

50 cents  
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Veterans Day event  
set for annual return  
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Tough end to season  
for Sabres soccer  
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## Friction, reaction linger due to Ellis' comments

By Seth Hancock

Three more members of the public weighed into the controversy of a School District U-46 Board of Education member equating the American flag to toilet paper at the meeting on Monday, Oct. 16.

In September, board member Traci Ellis made a social media post stating the flag "means nothing more than toilet paper to me" in support of NFL protesters. On Oct. 2, Ellis said she makes "no apologies for my comment about the flag" at a meeting where the majority of 15 speakers on the issue came to support Ellis.

Ellis did apologize for the "distraction" created by her comments but in listing board members and administrators that she was apologizing to, she left out the name of board member Jeanette Ward who posted a screenshot of Ellis' comment and calling it "despicable and disgusting."

Rick Newton said during public comments on Oct. 16 that the apology on the "distraction" was insincere as "she chose to insult Ward by intentionally omitting her from the list of names."

"I can tell you that many district tax-

payers, elected officials and out of district observers as well have shared with me their disbelief and condemnation of board member Ellis relative to her actions and very hollow apology," Newton said.

Ellis has attempted to blame Ward for trying to "embarrass" her which Newton said was "rich since it was her own words that created the uproar. But then again, her forte is promoting victimhood, not taking personal responsibility."

At the Oct. 2 meeting, Ellis used the f-word and n-word among other vulgarities claiming she had been called those terms in private messages which Newton called "a crass and irresponsible stunt that should have been stopped and addressed by the board president (Donna Smith)."

Newton noted that during the recent budget discussions the board's majority would not allow Ward to read a statement from board member Phil Costello, who was not in attendance for the budget vote, and has consistently allowed Ellis to not follow any deco-

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## Editorial

### Race Hustling on the U-46 School Board

#### Part V

Last week, we promised to expose the far reaching political corruption that squares the circle connecting union money and School Board Trustee Traci O'Neal and U-46 CEO Tony Sanders—a circle colored in with nasty racial politics and inside dealing.

Unqualified to serve as superintendent of the largest Illinois school district outside of Chicago, Tony Sanders could not perform all of the functions of the job he inherited from his predecessor Jose Torres—though he certainly performed the function of stirring up racial divisions with equal competence. (If you haven't seen the Sanders video yet, please visit our website at [www.examinerpublications.com](http://www.examinerpublications.com).) Being a good soldier in the race war, however, Sanders got a little help from his friends in Springfield, and those friends have quite a bit in common with Sanders and his boss, Traci O'Neal Ellis.

Four members of the Illinois General Assembly stepped up to sponsor the "Keep Tony Sanders Employed and Highly Compensated Law." Well, that isn't the official name. In fact, the law doesn't even mention Sanders by name. Instead, the law is comically drafted to exclude every single person in the State of Illinois except Tony Sanders. The new law applies to:

Any school district that has boundaries that lie in three counties, one county of which has a population exceeding 1,000,000 inhabitants, that has an enrollment of more than 35,000 students, and that has on staff properly licensed assistant superintendents or directors in the areas of instruction, finance, special education, assessments, and career and technology education, the school board may instead, by a vote of a majority of its full membership, appoint a chief executive officer to serve as its superintendent.

Our legislators could have saved taxpayers ink and paper if the new law simply read: "If your name rhymes with Sony Tanders, you need not be qualified as a superintendent to run U-46."

So, who were these legislators?

In the State House, Fred Crespo and Anne Moeller sponsored the Sanders law. Crespo, elected to serve all the residents of the 44th District, spends much of his time and energy serving as co-chairman of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus. Yes, he and Sanders are race-hustling buddies from way back. On May 18, 2015, for example, they joined together for a graduation ceremony for parents who completed two years in U-46's Hispanic Parent Leadership Institute and the African-American Parent Leadership Institute. If you didn't know that your tax dollars were being allocated to run race-exclusive programs, now you do know. As we mentioned last week, though, Sanders believes that our school children are being short-changed because prison guards make \$42,000 per year performing a very dangerous job, not because his administration is redirecting precious educational dollars from classrooms (that should be lifting up *all* students) into programs designed to pander to various racial identities.

Representative Moeller also likes racial politics. According to her Facebook page, illegal immigrants in Illinois "live and work in this state, and they are central to our state's culture and character." Compassion for people fleeing poverty is one thing; celebrating a national policy crises is quite another. When she's not busy pandering to Hispanic voters, Moeller works hard as a co-chairwoman of the Illinois General Assembly Legislative Research Unit, a group of legislators who take time away from running Illinois into bankruptcy so that they can generate useless reports such as "African American Men and Women of Science." A better use of her time would be to amend and repeal Illinois laws that especially hurt the African American community, laws that kill jobs and increase inflation. Perhaps more interesting than her racial politics, though, is Moeller's appetite for union money, an appetite that makes Traci O'Neal Ellis look like a small-time grifter. Just last week, alone, Moeller filed campaign disclosures revealing multiple union donations totaling \$111,100. We ask the same question of her that we ask of Ellis: Who are you working for?

On the Senate side, Andy Manar and Michael Noland sponsored the Tony Sanders law. Manar uses his platform to rename downstate roads after deceased African Americans...and to rake in thousands in union donations, as well. What he does for living, struggling African Americans, other than to divide them destructively from the rest of the populace, is not so clear. Noland, of course, is the husband of U-46 Trustee Veronica Noland, and public records show that in addition to doing the bidding of his wife's voting bloc on the school board—which typically includes Ellis—he moves some of his union money into her campaign coffers to mingle with her union money.

We grow dizzy navigating the endless tributaries of union money—particularly teachers' union money—flowing into the pockets of these politicians. They are bought and paid for, and what they offer unions in return are the tax dollars we send to U-46 and Springfield every year. Ellis, Sanders, and the teachers' union are sitting on the same side of the table negotiating against us. Our money goes to higher salaries and pensions, which send more vigorish to the unions, who line the pockets of

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### Halloween on display in village

One of the village's decorated homes with a Halloween display with a creepy jack-in-the-box that no child would want to play with.

(Examiner photo by Juli Schatz)



# U-46 Board reviews potential IASB proposals

By Seth Hancock

The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) will be holding its annual conference next month and it has released the list of potential resolutions member school districts will be voting on for the IASB's lobbying efforts.

The IASB's report was presented to the Board of Education in School District U-46 at its meeting on Monday, Oct. 16. The U-46 administration will offer its recommendations and a board discussion will likely occur at the upcoming Nov. 6 meeting.

Among the proposals is one submitted by four rural school district's advocating that the IASB lobby the state to allow "administrators, faculty, and/or other staff" to be armed in school. The IASB's resolution committee recommended against the proposal.

The districts supporting the measure said the resolution "does not compel" but rather "leaves the decision to each local district board to decide what is best for their schools and students."

The resolution states that staff would have to have "successfully completed a training course approved by the school

board and who have passed the multiple background checks and qualifications for and have a current Illinois concealed carry license or a carry license issued under the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act to be an active and armed part of the Student Safety and Protection Plan, upon being granted board approval."

The rationale for the measure is that many schools do not have the resources to hire armed security, and for many schools, especially rural, it "may take up to thirty or more minutes before an effective law enforcement team can arrive on scene in the case of a life-threatening event."

At least 30 states in the nation either allow or are pursuing the allowance of armed teachers and other school staff. Neighboring states Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri allow it.

The IASB's resolution committee said issues such as law enforcement response time and resources "were much different in less populated rural areas than in urban or suburban settings" but said it does not trust local control and "the struggle for consensus was

borne out of the controversy of having guns inside the school" in its opposition to the proposal.

"Allowing staff to arm themselves, even if they met the requirements for a concealed carry license in Illinois, was not enough training according to the majority of the Committee," its response stated and "many thought that there should at least be a State standard."

Another resolution proposed, submitted by Sangamon Valley CUSD 9, was to lobby the state to impose a 1 percent sales tax "across all counties in Illinois" with its rationale that the "tax implemented by every county in Illinois is a viable addition of revenue for public education."

The IASB's resolution committee recommends against the proposal this time supporting local control stating "how would members reconcile support of this measure calling for the state to usurp local control where voters in certain counties have defeated increasing sales taxes for school facilities when it's been placed on the ballot."

Another proposal, submitted by CUSD 3 Fulton County, advocates "a change in the Open Meetings Act

(OMA)" allowing multiple school boards with "shared personnel in relation to performance and contractual matters" to meet in closed session together. The IASB's resolution committee was opposed to the proposal saying that boards can already do that as "the OMA is silent as to who can enter closed session. Therefore, anyone that a board invites into closed session is allowed to enter closed session."

The remaining new resolutions proposed were supported by the IASB's resolution committee including seeking state reimbursement for schools that are used as polling places as well as a change in PARCC testing results "to fairly report discrepancies in the scoring of state required standardized testing."

A new belief statement submitted by Ball-Chatham CUSD 5 states that the IASB "believes school boards should employ competitive bidding practices for upgrades in technology and energy savings and should also provide energy savings contracting model policy and training opportunities for school districts." The IASB's resolution committee agreed with the proposal.

## Friction

Continued from page 1

rum. Newton said there's a double standard.

"The behavior of board member Ellis was no surprise and will likely never change," Newton said. "The bigger issue, however, is the question of when this board will, if ever, find the responsibility, courage and decency to facilitate decorum and respect rather than applying it only when it serves their own beliefs."

Reviewing actions by Smith and the board's majority over the past few years lend support to Newton's contentions.

In February 2016, Ellis emailed supporters, including some district teachers who responded during taxpayer hours, and went to other media outlets to get her supporters to come out to meetings to personally attack Ward for a social media post, not because the post was offensive but rather it expressed a different philosophical belief than hers.

Smith didn't condemn Ellis then but rather reprimanded Ward for letting her "personal values and beliefs" be known.

In August 2016, Ellis repeatedly called Ward a liar at a meeting without Smith ever stepping in, but Smith did stop Ward when she attempted to defend herself from the personal attacks levied by Ellis. Ellis had repeatedly been allowed to interrupt fellow board members and levy personal attacks against colleagues, usually against Ward, levying names such as offensive, shortsighted, narrow-minded, arrogant, ignorant, racist and bigoted without Smith ever addressing it.

Last year, when a large number of members came to speak on a controversial issue with opposition to the board majority's decision on the subject, Smith and the majority changed public comments to limit their time. The previous year when the board had lengthy meetings because of Ellis' supporters coming out to attack Ward, there was no attempt to limit public comments.

Ellis' personal attacks have not only been against fellow board members but also members of the public.

During the transgender bathroom/locker room controversy last year, Ellis said "that word Christian has some ugly connotations behind it" and called members of the public racist which included some black U-46 students who opposed Ellis.

During the recent flag controversy, Ellis publicly posted a private message from a member of the public who dis-

agreed with her comments. Over a year ago, she publicly posted the name, home owners association information and phone number of a member of the public for disagreeing with her.

The Examiner gave Smith a chance to address that action both times and whether it was appropriate to release private messages and contact information of the public, and if such actions make the public feel safe in addressing the board. She didn't respond either time.

At the Oct. 16 meeting, L. Dean Hufsey addressed the board and addressed Ellis' reasoning for her comments on the flag, specifically Ellis' belief in rampant police brutality against minorities.

"The greatest threat to the safety of a young black male is another young black male," said Hufsey who added: "The problem is not about police brutality nor racism. It's a cultural issue."

Hufsey noted some statistics as well as referencing Don Lemon, a CNN anchor who is black, who said the top problem in the black community is "out-of-wedlock births."

Chicago Police Department data shows that 75.3 percent of murder victims in the city are black and 71.3 percent of perpetrators are black while Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics showed in 2010 that 72.5 percent of black births in the nation are to single mothers and 70.6 percent in the most recent data from 2015, both of which exceed all other racial groups.

U.S. Census Bureau data shows that children from fatherless homes are four times more likely to be in poverty and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services says that "fatherless children are at a dramatically greater risk of drug and alcohol abuse."

Rozzie Decker said on Oct. 16 that Ellis has chosen to "polarize instead of unify, giving an example to young people of a very destructive and, in my belief, slanted view of the principles and values that made this country great. Our flag, the flag, represents these values of which we should be proud."

"Free speech is obviously a right with few exceptions in this country," Decker said. "However, I find it disturbing that someone in such a place of authority and influence would use that right to undermine a symbol of this great country, not her influence to encourage change in more positive and healthy ways."

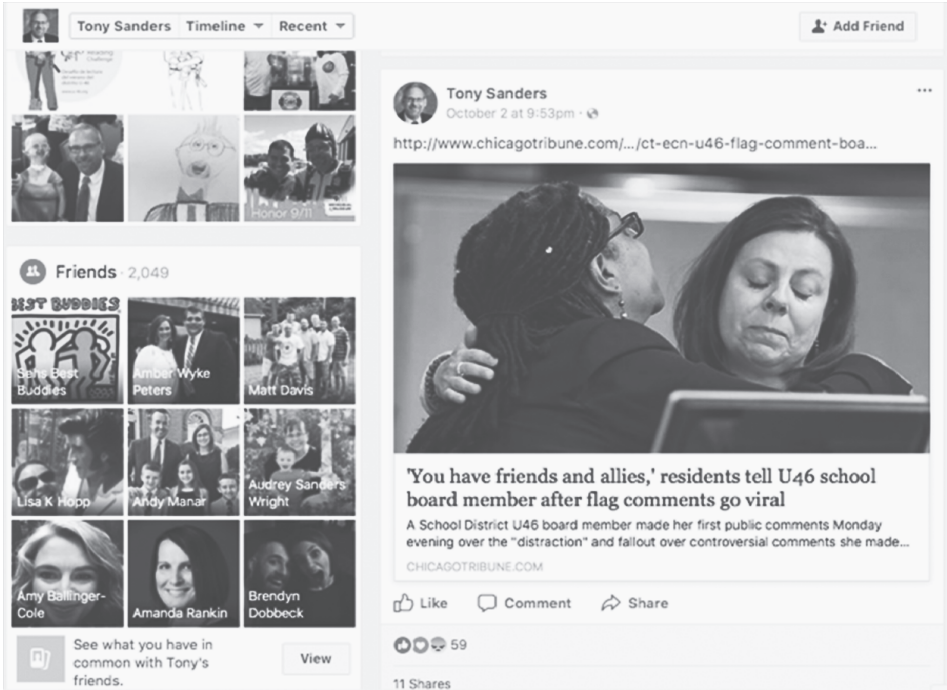
Decker also praised Ward saying: "I'm very proud of how you've conducted yourself in standing up for the principles and values that have made this country great, not perfect, but the best option and opportunity for all people ever created."

## Part V

Continued from page 1

politicians, who vote to raise our taxes to fund even higher salaries and pensions, and round and round it goes. And adding insult to that injury, these same self-dealers engage in the most pernicious racial politics while they fleece us in order to create racially segregated constituencies who turn out as voting blocs—hurting everyone of every color.

Circling back to their racial politics, we return to Tony Sanders's speech and his specious claim that "structural racism" accounts for his cherry-picked distinctions between U-46, Barrington and St. Charles. Sanders insinuates that but for the racist system, U-46's black and brown students would have the same advantages as students in Barrington and St. Charles. So, let us take a look at some statistics that we are uncomfortable bringing forward, and would not bring forward



but for the fact that **Ellis**, Sanders, and their allied race hustlers have forced our hand. According to the most recent and available Illinois School Report Cards, black students in Barrington and St. Charles averaged together have an 83.85 percent five-year graduation rate. So, how poorly must the black U-46 students fare when, according to Sanders, they are targeted for racial oppression? Well, their five-year graduation rate is 84.3 percent, *higher* than that of their correspondents in the two less diverse districts.

Of course, Sanders and **Ellis** might cite that statistic as additional proof of structural racism: that is, Barrington and St. Charles are keeping their black students down. Except that there is a problem with that theory, too. White students in the two other districts have a combined 95.65 percent five-year graduation rate, but U-46 whites graduate at a *lower* rate—94.1 percent. So, the structural racism that Sanders uses to excuse the many failings of U-46 is not only a lie, it is a total inversion of the truth. White students in U-46 are faring relatively worse, while black students in U-46 are faring relatively better than their counterparts in Barrington and St. Charles.

The only structural racism we can find, therefore, is in our U-46 leadership. **Ellis** is the chief proponent of that racism, and Sanders—along with other trustees and district employees—have been bullied by **Ellis** and her ilk into remaining quiet or, worse, abetting their racial hatred. Firmly in the latter category, Sanders has taken sides (see photo)—sides against other school board members and sides against educational equality for students of every background. All of which is highly improper and disturbing coming from the CEO of our school district.

Yet, these are the strange but predictable fruits of **Ellis's** racial politics, which are appalling and offensive in their own right. When we look even deeper into **Ellis's** background next week, however, we will make our final demonstrations that her audacity is shocking, that her character is profoundly flawed, and that she is manifestly unfit for public office.



# Sabres season ends with regional loss to Storm

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood volleyball team saw its season end in the St. Charles East Regional quarterfinals as the No. 10 Sabres fell 25-16, 25-11 against No. 7 South Elgin on Monday, Oct. 23.

The Sabres fell behind 14-4 in Game 1 and were chasing the rest of the set. In Game 2, Streamwood led 9-8 before South Elgin went on a 17-3 run to finish the match.

“It’s all a mental thing for us,” said Streamwood coach Sheryl Hettinger. “I have a lot of young players who are talented, but they’ve lacked the experience and chemistry.”

Although a loss, the match was more competitive than in an Upstate Eight Conference crossover loss the previous week at South Elgin, and senior Ashley Rothenberg and junior Ava Sumoski were a key factor to the improved play.

Facing the 10-point deficit in the opening set, Rothenberg had a pair of kills and junior Corinne Angle (16 digs) three aces as Streamwood pulled to 18-12. The Sabres pulled no closer in the set.

In the second set, Streamwood fell behind 6-2 before going on a 4-0 run which included all three of Sumoski’s kills. Senior Jahnia Gould, who finished with 10 digs, had a kill that gave the Sabres the 9-8 lead before the South Elgin rally.

Streamwood ends the season 2-24 overall and will return the bulk of the team. The Sabres do lose three seniors including Jocelyn Medina.

“I hope they play volleyball,” Hettinger said of the returning players. “In our conference, everybody is playing volleyball 24-7. I hope they stick with it. There’s a lot of talent here.”

Hettinger added: “The seniors were great this year. They were great leaders.”



Lillian Dewsnap keeping a volley and a point alive for the Sabres during its regional quarter-final match against South Elgin.



Streamwood’s Mary Rackow struggling to cope with a South Elgin serve.  
(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

## Pet of the Week



**Falcon hoping to land in a new home**

Falcon is a 6-year-old, domestic short hair cat that came to DuPage County Animal Care & Control when she was not able to get along with the other family cat. She is now seeking a new, single-cat family to spend her life with. To show her appreciation, Falcon will reward her new family with hours of snuggle time, lots of purring and love. Falcon is spayed, up-to-date on vaccines, microchipped and ready to go home. Please visit [www.dupageco.org/animalcontrol](http://www.dupageco.org/animalcontrol) for more details or call 407-2800.

(Photo courtesy of County Animal Control)

## 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.

**Fascinating reading**  
Dear Editor,  
I’ve been fascinated to read your recent editorials on U-46 school board member Traci Ellis. Some of what you wrote, frankly, was hard to believe.  
So, I started watching on YouTube the meetings you referenced, and I also read some of the minutes. In doing so, I learned two things. First, if anything, your reporting has understated the damage Ellis is doing to civil discourse and our children. Second, Ellis is such a hypocrite. Do you know that right before torpedoing the opportunity for our kids to attend a charter school,

Ellis seconded and voted for a motion for us taxpayers to foot the bill for her hotel at the Illinois Association of School Boards 2017 Conference this coming November? I guess she’s for opportunities for herself to learn. Our kids? Not so much. I only hope that we get our money’s worth from the conference and that she learns that being a racist bomb-thrower is not the most effective approach to trustee work.  
If not, we need to make sure that she is never reelected to any position of public trust.

Karen Chiney  
South Elgin



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# Sabres season ends with heartbreaking loss



Streamwood's Jose Ibarra lifted off the turf in an effort to head in a Sabres corner kick, however, he was cutoff by Hampshire keeper Andrew Krajecki.

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood soccer team saw its season end with heartbreak as the No. 3 Sabres fell 1-0 against No. 4 Jacobs in the Streamwood Sectional title game which went to penalty kicks on Friday, Oct. 27 at Millennium Field.

Despite plenty of scoring opportunities, both teams went scoreless through 80 minutes of regulation soccer then 20 minutes of overtime. In the PK round, it took six rounds to finish things.

Seniors Rafa Gil, Kristian Niemiec and Alex Herrera as well as juniors Jorge Bracamontes and Bryan Mora found the net as the PKs were tied 5-5. On the sixth round, Jacobs scored then its keeper made a diving save on freshman Jose Ibarra's shot to end the Sabres' season.

"We knew it was going to be a good, tough game," said Streamwood coach Matt Polovin. "When you look at the run of play, we virtually dominated the possession. It's a shame that it had to come down to PKs."

In regulation, Gil and Ibarra had solid chances midway through the first half

and seniors Oscar Chavez and Aldo Lazaro had shots just miss wide in the final minutes of the second half. Senior Gregorio Esteves and Chavez made a nice play midway through the second overtime period that led to a feed near the left post with an open net, but the feed was cleared just before an attacking Bracamontes could get his foot on the ball.

Senior goalie Daniel Dominguez had 10 saves.

The loss ends Streamwood's season at 14-6-2 overall and the high school careers of several seniors who were a part of the 2014 season in which the Sabres' made the program's first appearance at state.

"That's the hardest part," Polovin said. "I've got 10 seniors, several of whom were on the state team as freshmen. Those guys have a little more of a spot in my heart because of that."

Two of those players from the state team

were Chavez and Lazaro who helped keep this season's team stay alive in the semifinals when Streamwood defeated No. 11 Hampshire on Wednesday, Oct. 25.

Streamwood had an 8-2 advantage in shots on goal and an 11-1 advantage in corner kicks, but it wasn't until 20:12 remained in the game when Lazaro put away a Chavez cross near the left post for the game's only goal.

"I knew he was going to center the ball so I just had to be in the right place at the right time," Lazaro said. "We know what each of us can do."



Streamwood's Alex Herrera being pursued by Hampshire's Ryan Heileman as Herrera was looking to set up a pass to a teammate during the Sabres 1-0 sectional victory.

"There's a lot of pressure on you this late in the postseason," Chavez said. "That goal definitely calmed me down."

Dominguez had two saves. Although Streamwood loses a majority of its roster, it will return some key contributors.

"We don't reload, we regroup," Polovin said. "Those guys know what the expectations are, and they'll be ready to have another deep postseason run next year."



During one of several Sabres scoring opportunities, Streamwood's Oscar Chavez directs a header toward the Jacobs goal in front of the Golden Eagles' Brian Zust.



Bryan Mora of the Sabres making a turn in front of Jacobs' Noah Melick as Mora looked to rigger an offensive drive. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

## Trapped sewer worker found dead after extraction

At 6:18 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 25, the Streamwood Fire Department responded to a report of a person trapped in a manhole at the intersection of Park Boulevard and Parkside Circle where a construction crew was in the process of installing a lining in the sanitary sewer under Park Boulevard.

Streamwood firefighter/confined space technicians entered the 20-foot deep manhole to search for the victim. Firefighters crawled down a 20-inch wide pipe and were able to see the worker's boots, but were unable to reach him because a large quantity of hardened lining material was blocking the pipe.

Saws were used to cut the blockage away little by little to clear a path. The victim, approximately 20 feet north of the manhole, was accessed and pulled to the surface after 10 p.m.

Upon examination, it was determined that the 22-year old male worker had died. The cause of death is under investigation by the Streamwood Police Department and the Cook County Medical Examiner.

The incident utilized 17 firefighter/confined space technicians and numerous support personnel from MABAS Division 1 and surrounding fire departments.



# Police Reports

## SOUTH ELGIN

**Tuesday, Oct. 17**

- ★ At 6:33 a.m., police responded to the 200 block of Ann for a report of a domestic in progress.
- ★ At 10:57 a.m., police responded to the 200 block of Cypress for a child abuse complaint.
- ★ At 12:50 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of South McLean and West Spring for a report of a person with a gun.
- ★ At 1:01 p.m., police responded to the Primrose School, 450 Briargate Drive, for a report of a suspicious vehicle.
- ★ At 1:54 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of Dean for a warrant service.
- ★ At 3:09 p.m., police responded to the 1400 block of Birch for a threats complaint.
- ★ At 3:23 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of Woodridge for a 911 investigation.
- ★ At 3:45 p.m., police responded to the Towerhill Care Center, 759 Kane, for a request to assist Fire Department personnel.
- ★ At 4:58 p.m., police responded to the South Elgin Post Office, 310 N. LaFox St., for a dumping or littering complaint.
- ★ At 5:47 p.m., police responded to the Kontrol Nightclub, 1101 N. LaFox St., for a report of theft.
- ★ At 6:38 p.m., police responded to Hot Tub Tony's, 1827 N. LaFox St., for a report of an activated alarm.
- ★ At 7 p.m., police responded to Premise Alert Record, 295 Thornwood, for a missing person report.
- ★ At 7:21 p.m., police responded to

the 300 block of South Gilbert for a report of a suspicious incident.

**Wednesday, Oct. 18**

- ★ At 3:21 a.m., police responded to the Rosati's Pizza, 1165 W. Spring, for a report of an open door or window.
  - ★ At 8:24 a.m., police responded to 760 E. Main St., South Elgin High School, for a disorderly conduct complaint.
  - ★ At 10:22 a.m., police responded to the 700 block of East Thornwood for a report of an abandoned vehicle.
  - ★ At 10:23 a.m., police responded to Advantage Bearing Technologies, 345 Production Drive, for a harassment complaint.
  - ★ At 12:24 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of East State and South Gilbert for a report of a safety or health hazard.
  - ★ At 2:56 p.m., police responded to 760 E. Main St., South Elgin High School, for a missing juvenile report.
  - ★ At 5:05 p.m., police responded to the 2000 block of Brookwood for a report of a domestic in progress.
  - ★ At 6:03 p.m., police responded to the Fox Meadow Elementary School, 1275 Jenna Drive, for a missing juvenile report.
  - ★ At 6:09 p.m., police responded to the South Elgin Police Department, 10 N. Water, for a report of a domestic in progress.
  - ★ At 7:49 p.m., police responded to the 2100 block of Thornwood for a report of an activated alarm.
  - ★ At 10:36 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of Windsor for a report of a domestic in progress.
- Thursday, Oct. 19**
- ★ At 2:03 a.m., police responded to the 300 block of Windsor for a report

of a domestic in progress.

- ★ At 7:48 a.m., police responded to Children of America, 750 N. McLean Blvd., for a request to remove an unwanted subject.
  - ★ At 1:06 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Hobart and South Blackhawk for a report of an abandoned vehicle.
  - ★ At 1:19 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of Hancock for a report of an intoxicated subject.
  - ★ At 1:41 p.m., police responded to the 400 block of North South Elgin for a report of a safety or health hazard.
  - ★ At 7:55 p.m., police responded to the Thornton Oil, 900 N. LaFox St., for a failure to pay complaint.
  - ★ At 11:06 p.m., police responded to the Speedway, 1775 N. LaFox St., for a report of a fire alarm.
  - ★ At 11:10 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Wyndham and Prairie Pointe for a report of a suspicious person.
- Friday, Oct. 20**
- ★ At 8:37 a.m., police responded to the vicinity of Concord and Windsor for a report of a suspicious vehicle.
  - ★ At 10:22 a.m., police responded to 760 E. Main St., South Elgin High School, for a harassment complaint.
  - ★ At 10:31 a.m., police responded to the 400 block of Liberty for a 911 investigation.
- Saturday, Oct. 21**
- ★ At 4:15 p.m., police responded to the 800 block of Franklin for a report of an activated alarm.
  - ★ At 4:16 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of West Spring and North Collins for an indecent exposure complaint.
  - ★ At 5:43 p.m., police responded to

the 0 block of Lydia for a report of a suspicious vehicle.

- ★ At 6:01 p.m., police responded to Jim Hansen Park, 280 Concord Ave., cdp.
  - ★ At 8:32 p.m., police responded to the Kohl's, 350 Randall Road, for a shoplifting complaint.
  - ★ At 10:35 p.m., police responded to the 0 block of Lancer for a child custody dispute.
  - ★ At 11:15 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Concord and Windsor for a report of a disturbance.
- Sunday, Oct. 22**
- ★ At 12:12 a.m., police responded to South Elgin Foot and Liquor, 236 W. State, for a report of a hit and run in progress.
  - ★ At 1:37 a.m., police responded to the 500 block of Chesterfield for a 911 investigation.
  - ★ At 1:38 a.m., police responded to Kontrol Nightclub, 1101 N. LaFox St., for a report of a fight.
  - ★ At 4:18 a.m., police responded to the 0 block of Longbow for a report of a domestic in progress.
  - ★ At 10:05 a.m., police responded to York Spring, 1551 N. LaFox St., for a child custody dispute.
  - ★ At 12:09 p.m., police responded to the Buffalo Wild Wings, 402 Randall Road, for a report of an activated alarm.
  - ★ At 6:04 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Mill and Woodbury for a report of a safety or health hazard.
  - ★ At 6:30 p.m., police responded to the Thornton Oil, 900 N. LaFox St., for a failure to pay complaint.
  - ★ At 10:42 p.m., police responded to Fuji Food Products, 200 block of Thornton, for a report of a suspicious

## Halloween commands center stage at KFN

Ghouls, ghosts, clowns, princesses, super heroes, a purple blob and a bowl of macaroni and cheese invaded **Fox Meadow Elementary School** on "Frightday," Oct. 20 for Klub Fridays Night's (KFN) annual Halloween costume contest. Boys and girls in grades four through seven danced to music played by live DJ, played games and enjoyed concessions.

The next KFN is Nov. 17 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. with a volleyball tournament, and then Dec. 8 for the ugly sweater contest. The monthly KFN, September through May, is open to all boys and girls in grades four to seven with a KFN I.D.; call the Parks & Recreation Department at 847-622-0003 for more information.



Friends, from left, Victoria Specker, Kalesak Havard, Julia Merritt and Jack Cooper were happy to dress up for the Halloween KFN.



Girls and boys wore a frightening and funny variety of costumes.



Costumed participants danced the 'cupid shuffle' in the lunchroom.

(Examiner photos by Juli Schatz)



Isabella Johnson, dressed as a 'rotten jester.'



Donovan Flucke as a freaky clown and Savanna Curcio as a freaky toddler, with Heather Rojas who won the top prize in the costume contest as a bowl of macaroni and cheese.



# Storm upset by Pirates in initial playoff round



When pressing for a Storm score and a possible lead at the end of the first half while trailing 7-3, a hand off to Pierre Toussaint turned into a fumble that was recovered by Palatine's Bryant Smith. The turnover maintained the Pirates lead and South Elgin would not score the rest of the game.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



South Elgin's Patrick Noworol attempting an interception above Palatine receiver Jake Moertl. The ball ultimately fell to the turf as an incomplete pass.

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin football team was silenced as No. 23 Palatine earned an upset with a 24-3 win over the No. 10 Storm on Saturday, Oct. 28 at Millennium Field in Streamwood.

The Storm entered the game having scored 37.4 points per game, but their offense was held to just a 22-yard field goal by Andrew Bucaro in the second quarter. Palatine had already taken a 7-0 lead in the first.

Three times the Storm marched to within a yard of the end zone to be denied, and they had two costly fumbles in the first half. South Elgin was out gained 244-154 in total yards.

"Putting the ball on the ground and some missed opportunities definitely hurt us," said South Elgin coach Pat Pistorio. "You have to hand it to Palatine though. Their defense was on point."

Storm senior quarterback Nate Gomez led the offense with 62 rushing

yards on 22 carries while throwing for 91 yards off a 13-for-22 performance. Azzavier Salinas (four receptions, 14 yards), Kyle Pollert (three receptions, 28 yards), Pierre Toussaint (two receptions, 20 yards), Michael DeVito (two receptions, 18 yards) and Jaron Wells (two receptions, 11 yards) led South Elgin's receivers.

After three quarters, the Storm were still down by just one score at 10-3, but Palatine added two late touchdowns.

"They did a great job of keeping the ball out of the offense's hands," Gomez said. "I'm very proud of the way we played though. We never gave up. We fought until the last second, but came up short."

Gomez added: "This is one of the best teams I've been around. The bond we had is just insane. We never want to go out this way, but life goes on."

South Elgin ends the season 8-2 overall.

## North cross country team runs point for shoe collection effort



Members of the North girls cross country team that worked to collect shoes for donation to Soles for Souls.

(Courtesy photo)

Ally Suyak, with assistance from coach Shari Hayes, Anne McPeak, Kevin Harrington and the St Charles North girls cross county team collected shoes for Soles for Souls at the St Charles North Invitational meet on Saturday, Sept. 30. Many of the local

school cross country teams participated including the Geneva girls cross country team, who showed up with garbage bags filled with shoes. More than 450 pairs of shoes were collected and will be delivered to the Ohio drop off location for Soles for Souls.

## Church to host turkey dinner with proceeds to aid relief efforts

Help others in need while enjoying an early taste of Thanksgiving by attending the traditional annual Turkey Dinner at South Elgin Community United Methodist Church, 400 W. Spring St., from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 9.

Proceeds will go to relief efforts in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and California through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), which is already working to help residents of these areas. Because Methodist churches pay administrative costs for UMCOR through their regular donations, all proceeds from the benefit will go directly to those in need.

This delicious, home-cooked meal consists of turkey (of course), dressing, mashed potatoes with gravy, green bean casserole, scalloped corn casserole, salad bar, rolls, dessert and beverages.

The price is \$8, \$5 for children 10 and under. Eat in, or take out by calling 847-931-0563, (take-out times 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.). Use the same phone number for more information or go to [www.cumcsouthelgin.com](http://www.cumcsouthelgin.com).



Jeff Schweitzer of South Elgin hoisting a turkey for the disaster relief benefit Turkey Dinner at South Elgin Community Methodist Church.

(Courtesy photo)



# Pet of the Week



## Falcon hoping to land in a new home

Falcon is a 6-year-old, domestic short hair cat that came to DuPage County Animal Care & Control when she was not able to get along with the other family cat. She is now seeking a new, single-cat family to spend her life with. To show her appreciation, Falcon will reward her new family with hours of snuggle time, lots of purring and love. Falcon is spayed, up-to-date on vaccines, microchipped and ready to go home. Please visit [www.dupageco.org/animalcontrol](http://www.dupageco.org/animalcontrol) for more details or call 407-2800.

(Photo courtesy of County Animal Control)

# District U-46, students continue relief efforts

By Seth Hancock

Students and staff in School District U-46 have continued fundraising efforts to help those affected by recent natural disasters in the nation as well as in Mexico.

A recent district press release said over \$7,200 was raised as well as “hundreds of flashlights and batteries” donated to help those affected in the United States territory of Puerto Rico by recent hurricanes and those affected by earthquakes in Mexico.

Earlier in October, U-46 said over \$10,000 had been raised after fundraising efforts started to help those affected in the states of Texas and Florida after Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma caused devastation.

“We’ve seen overwhelming generosity from U-46 students, their families and our staff in responding to the needs of those in Texas and Florida,” U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said in a release. “Now we are seeing the same spirit of giving aimed at those struggling in Mexico and Puerto Rico, where many in our District have family and friends.”

Hurricane Harvey was a Category 4 storm that hit southern Texas in late August, including the state’s largest city of Houston, which included the highest measured rainfall in the nation’s history. Hurricane Irma in September reached Category 5 status with 185 mile per hour winds and was a Category 4 when it hit the Florida Keys which dissipated to a Category 2 by the time it hit Florida’s mainland.

Hurricane Maria was a Category 4 storm that hit Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in late September.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, these storms “caused catastrophic damage” in those states and territories hit, and both Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands not only suffered from Maria but “already had suffered damage from Hurricane Irma earlier in the month.”

Mexico was hit by two earthquakes in September with 8.1 and 7.1 magnitudes on the Richter scale, 10 being the strongest magnitude.

*The Examiner* previously reported on some of the efforts to help Hurricane Harvey victims, including the “Miracle Minute” held at Streamwood High School on Friday, Sept. 8 in which Principal Michele Chapman said a goal of raising \$2,000 had been set. At a Board of Education meeting following that fundraiser, Sanders said Streamwood had raised \$2,800 to exceed that goal.

Chapman said teachers Nicole Fernstrom and Jaimee Shearn spearheaded those efforts. Shearn said her AP world history class adopted a class in Houston to provide encouragement, and Fernstrom said the Student Council and National Honor Society helped in organizing the fundraiser.

Recently to help those in Puerto Rico and Mexico, Streamwood’s Oakhill Elementary School raised \$1,234 with its “Penny Wars” fundraiser.

According to a district release, \$4,275 was given to the Puerto Rican Relief Fund and \$2,956 to Chicago Con Mexico to aid in rebuilding efforts. There were also 176 flashlights and 232 batteries donated to Happy Kids Chicago to send to Puerto Rico which has

See Relief, pg. 9

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# U-46 Board reviews potential IASB proposals

By Seth Hancock

The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) will be holding its annual conference next month and it has released the list of potential resolutions member school districts will be voting on for the IASB's lobbying efforts.

The IASB's report was presented to the Board of Education in School District U-46 at its meeting on Monday, Oct. 16. The U-46 administration will offer its recommendations and a board discussion will likely occur at the upcoming Nov. 6 meeting.

Among the proposals is one submitted by four rural school district's advocating that the IASB lobby the state to allow "administrators, faculty, and/or other staff" to be armed in school. The IASB's resolution committee recommended against the proposal.

The districts supporting the measure said the resolution "does not compel" but rather "leaves the decision to each local district board to decide what is best for their schools and students."

The resolution states that staff would have to have "successfully completed a training course approved by the school board and who have passed the multiple background checks and qualifications for and have a current Illinois concealed carry license or a carry license issued under the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act to be an active and armed part of the Student Safety and Protection Plan, upon being granted board approval."

The rationale for the measure is that many schools do not have the resources to hire armed security, and for many schools, especially rural, it "may take up to thirty or more minutes before an effective law enforcement team can arrive on scene in the case of a life-threatening event."

At least 30 states in the nation either allow or are pursuing the allowance of armed teachers and other school staff. Neighboring states Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri allow it.

The IASB's resolution committee said issues such as law enforcement response time and resources "were much different in less populated rural areas than in urban or suburban settings" but said it does not trust local control and "the struggle for consensus was borne out of the controversy

of having guns inside the school" in its opposition to the proposal.

"Allowing staff to arm themselves, even if they met the requirements for a concealed carry license in Illinois, was not enough training according to the majority of the Committee," its response stated and "many thought that there should at least be a State standard."

Another resolution proposed, submitted by Sangamon Valley CUSD 9, was to lobby the state to impose a 1 percent sales tax "across all counties in Illinois" with its rationale that the "tax implemented by every county in Illinois is a viable addition of revenue for public education."

The IASB's resolution committee recommends against the proposal this time supporting local control stating "how would members reconcile support of this measure calling for the state to usurp local control where voters in certain counties have defeated increasing sales taxes for school facilities when it's been placed on the ballot."

Another proposal, submitted by CUSD 3 Fulton County, advocates "a change in the Open Meetings Act (OMA)" allowing multiple school boards with "shared personnel in relation to performance and contractual matters" to meet in closed session together. The IASB's resolution committee was opposed to the proposal saying that boards can already do that as "the OMA is silent as to who can enter closed session. Therefore, anyone that a board invites into closed session is allowed to enter closed session."

The remaining new resolutions proposed were supported by the IASB's resolution committee including seeking state reimbursement for schools that are used as polling places as well as a change in PARCC testing results "to fairly report discrepancies in the scoring of state required standardized testing."

A new belief statement submitted by Ball-Chatham CUSD 5 states that the IASB "believes school boards should employ competitive bidding practices for upgrades in technology and energy savings and should also provide energy savings contracting model policy and training opportunities for school districts." The IASB's resolution committee agreed with the proposal.

# Bartlett police's Walsh honored as Juvenile Office of the Year

On Wednesday, Oct. 25, Officer Gina Walsh received the DuPage Juvenile Officer Association's 2017 Juvenile Officer of the Year Award at the organization's annual Fall Awards Banquet in Willowbrook.

Walsh is currently assigned as the **Eastview Middle School** resource officer. During the past year, she served as a positive role model by implementing a Service-Over-Self program to teach middle school students the value of volunteering and working together to make a difference in other people's lives. Through this program, students worked at Feed My Starving Children to package meals for children in Haiti and Kenya. They made Valentine's Day cards and interacted with residents at a local senior citizen facilities. They also sent letters to troops serving overseas, made blankets for the Linus Project and collected 20 pounds of aluminum soda can tabs to raise money for Ronald McDonald House.

Walsh also teaches Project Alert at the middle school, which is designed to educate seventh- and eighth-grade students how to make good decisions regarding bullying, alcohol and drugs. After school, Walsh volunteers



Officer Gina Walsh. (Courtesy photo)

at the cooking club program that she created several years ago to help build positive police relationships with middle school students. The program teaches students how to be responsible, follow directions and the importance of helping out at home.

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# Police Reports

a report of a safety or health hazard.  
★ At 7:55 p.m., police responded to the Thornton Oil, 900 N. LaFox St., for a failure to pay complaint.  
★ At 11:06 p.m., police responded to the Speedway, 1775 N. LaFox St., for a report of a fire alarm.  
★ At 11:10 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Wyndham and Prairie Pointe for a report of a suspicious person.

**Friday, Oct. 20**

★ At 8:37 a.m., police responded to the vicinity of Concord and Windsor for a report of a suspicious vehicle.  
★ At 10:22 a.m., police responded to 760 E. Main St., South Elgin High School, for a harassment complaint.  
★ At 10:31 a.m., police responded to the 400 block of Liberty for a 911 investigation.

**Saturday, Oct. 21**

★ At 4:15 p.m., police responded to the 800 block of Franklin for a report of an activated alarm.  
★ At 4:16 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of West Spring and North Collins for an indecent exposure complaint.  
★ At 5:43 p.m., police responded to the 0 block of Lydia for a report of a suspicious vehicle.  
★ At 6:01 p.m., police responded to Jim Hansen Park, 280 Concord Ave., cdp.  
★ At 8:32 p.m., police responded to the Kohl's, 350 Randall Road, for a shoplifting complaint.  
★ At 10:35 p.m., police responded to the 0 block of Lancer for a child custody dispute.  
★ At 11:15 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Concord and Windsor for a report of a disturbance.  
**Sunday, Oct. 22**  
★ At 12:12 a.m., police responded to South Elgin Foot and Liquor, 236 W. State, for a report of a hit and run in progress.  
★ At 1:37 a.m., police responded to the 500 block of Chesterfield for a 911 investigation.  
★ At 1:38 a.m., police responded to Kontrol Nightclub, 1101 N. LaFox St., for a report of a fight.  
★ At 4:18 a.m., police responded to the 0 block of Longbow for a report of a domestic in progress.  
★ At 10:05 a.m., police responded to

York Spring, 1551 N. LaFox St., for a child custody dispute.  
★ At 12:09 p.m., police responded to the Buffalo Wild Wings, 402 Randall Road, for a report of an activated alarm.  
★ At 6:04 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Mill and Woodbury for a report of a safety or health hazard.  
★ At 6:30 p.m., police responded to the Thornton Oil, 900 N. LaFox St., for a failure to pay complaint.  
★ At 10:42 p.m., police responded to Fuji Food Products, 200 block of Thornton, for a report of a suspicious person.

**Monday, Oct. 23**

★ At 12:02 p.m., police responded to the 800 block of James for a 911 investigation.  
★ At 12:08 p.m., police responded to the 800 block of James for a 911 investigation.  
★ At 1:06 p.m., police responded to 760 E. Main St., South Elgin High School, for an animal complaint.  
★ At 4:24 p.m., police responded to the 400 block of North Center for a fraud complaint.  
★ At 7:47 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Randall and Silver Glen roads for a report of a vehicle fire.  
**Tuesday, Oct. 24**  
★ At 8:24 a.m., police responded to Children of America, 750 N. McLean Blvd., for a report of theft.  
★ At 8:48 a.m., police responded to the 2200 block of Sutton for a fraud complaint.  
★ At 9:03 and again at 9:22 a.m., police responded to the 100 block of Mavis for a warrant service.  
★ At 3:12 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Woodbury and Mill streets for report of a two-vehicle accident. Anna Estrada, age and address withheld, was issued a citation.  
★ At 5:33 p.m., police responded to the Shoe Carnival, 354 Randall Road, for a report of theft.  
★ At 5:36 p.m., police responded to the Walgreens, 1201 W. Spring, for a report of a suspicious person.  
★ At 6:21 p.m., police responded to the Chipotle Mexican Grill, 384 Randall Road, for a report of a suspicious person.  
★ At 9:02 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Stearns and Randall

roads for a 911 investigation.

## STREAMWOOD

**Sunday, Oct. 15**

★ At 4:13 a.m., Carlos A. Arrascue-Covenas, 42, Hoffman Estates, was arrested and charged with DUI, BAC over .08 and no insurance. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

**Monday, Oct. 16**

★ At 8:40 a.m., Aldo Ocampo, 36, Streamwood, was arrested and charged with felony driving while license revoked or suspended. He was transported to bond call.

**Tuesday, Oct. 17**

★ At 3 p.m., Vincent A. Kraye, 22, Streamwood, was arrested and charged with driving while license suspended. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

**Thursday, Oct. 19**

★ At 9:52 p.m., Jessica Calo, 22, Streamwood, was arrested and charged with retail theft. She was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

**Saturday, Oct. 21**

★ At 5:05 a.m., Amalia Lopez Zamora, 45, Elgin, was arrested and charged with no valid driver's license, speeding and operation of an uninsured motor vehicle. She was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

## WAYNE

**Saturday, Oct. 7**

★ At 10:59 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Country Club and Nelson for a report of a downed tree and wires. Fire department personnel contacted Com Ed because of the downed wires. Public Works was also notified of the situation.

**Sunday, Oct. 8**

★ At 9:08 p.m., in the vicinity Army Trail and Derby, an officer on patrol observed a shirtless subject walking along the roadway. The subject advised he was walking home. The officer contacted the subject's mother, and she advised she would pick him up in St. Charles.  
★ At 10:44 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Army Trail and Dunham roads for a report of a power outage that was affecting traffic signals. The officer placed flares at the scene and remained until Com Ed personnel arrived.

**Saturday, Oct. 14**

★ At 7:52 a.m., police responded to the 5N block of Percheron for a report of a suspicious vehicle. Officers located the vehicle and determined that the owner was staying with a friend on Percheron.

**Tuesday, Oct. 17**

★ At 2 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Army Trail and Honey Hill for a report of three horses on the

loose. The owner had recovered them by the time police arrived.

★ At 8:23 p.m., police responded to the 5N block of Courcival for a report of vehicles driving through standing water in the easement. Officers were unable to locate the vehicles or drivers.

**Thursday, Oct. 19**

★ At 2:43 p.m., police responded to the 34W block of Army Trail Road for a report of a sick raccoon. The raccoon was dispatched, and the complainant disposed of the corpse.

★ At 8:28 p.m., police responded to the 4N block of Munger for a loud music and fireworks complaint. Complainant advised that large fireworks and music from the BAPS Temple were upsetting her horses. She was referred to Bartlett Police Department as the temple is in their jurisdiction.

★ At 10:17 p.m., police responded to the 5N block of Person for a report of a suspicious person.

**Monday, Oct. 23**

★ At 8:10 a.m., police responded to the vicinity of Illinois Route 59 and Smith Road for a report of a hit and run accident involving a semi tractor trailer that had rear-ended a vehicle and then continued on without stopping. The complainant provided a picture of the truck's license plate that allowed police to trace it.

★ At 11:10 a.m., police responded to an unspecified address for a request to assist with a sick raccoon in a driveway. The animal was dispatched.

★ At 11:46 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Kirk and Dunham roads for a request to assist St. Charles Police Department personnel with an accident.

## Sabres topple Storm in soccer regional title match

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin soccer team saw its season come to an end after the No. 10 Storm dropped a 3-1 game in the Rockford Guilford Regional title game against No. 3 Streamwood on Saturday, Oct. 21.

Earlier this season, the Storm had dropped a 2-0 game against Streamwood but the rematch was tied 1-1 at halftime.

Streamwood struck first with a goal in the opening eight minutes of play, but five minutes later senior Christopher Stanczyk netted the equalizer with an unassisted goal.

In the end, Streamwood had a 12-5 advantage in shots on goal which led to a pair of second half goals. Storm senior keeper Brian Dykstra finished with nine saves.

"They're a good team and their pressure probably tolled at the end," said South Elgin coach Simon Brinklow. "When that third one went in that was a little too much."

In the semifinals, South Elgin faced another rematch and it got three different goal scorers to earn a 3-0 win

over No. 6 host Rockford Guilford on Tuesday, Oct. 17. The Storm tied Rockford Guilford 1-1 the previous week.

"We are not a team with a 10- to 15-goal scorer," Brinklow said. "We have to play as a unit and share goal scoring responsibilities, which is what we did."

Senior Eduardo Carrillo got the scoring started with an unassisted strike in the first half, and the 1-0 lead held till halftime.

In the second half, Nicholas Flores had a goal and an assist. Flores made it 2-0 off a Stanczyk assist and then provided a helper on senior Alex Kirkby's goal that made it 3-0.

"Team played well, maintained possession and we were patient," Brinklow said. "First half was one of the best halves we have played this year. With the amount of possession we had the second and third goals finally came in the second half."

South Elgin ends the season 8-10-3 overall and will also graduate seniors Fernando Rivera, Sergio Briones, Matthew McKee, Liam Swangren and Kevin Guerrero.



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# Storm top Sabres, fall to Vikings at regional

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin volleyball team saw its season come to an end after the No. 7 Storm dropped a 25-21, 25-18 match against No. 3 Geneva in the East Regional semifinals on Tuesday, Oct. 24.

Game 1 was tied 16-16 when Geneva started pulling away. In Game 2, the Storm led 13-11 when a 5-0 run by Geneva gave them a deficit for good.

"We haven't faced a hard serving team like that in a while, and we just had a difficult time running our middles against them," said South Elgin

coach Joni Plach.

Hayley Fisher (six kills, ace), Libby Vedrine (five kills, five blocks), Angie Negron (four kills), Katie Flanagan (three kills), Casie Swanson (six assists, six digs), Kendall Richardson (six assists) and McKayla Geraghty (two aces) led the effort.

The Storm opened the postseason with a 25-16, 25-11 win over No. 10 Streamwood in the quarterfinals on Monday, Oct. 23.

Brittany Kummerer (two blocks) and Flanagan (five kills) both had a pair of

kills during a 14-4 start to Game 1, and the Storm led by at least six the rest of the set with a Vedrine (six kills, two blocks, ace) kill ending the set. South Elgin trailed 9-8 in Game 2 before finishing the match on a 17-3 run, and an ace from Yvalis Cortes-Rojas (two aces) sealed the win.

"It's regionals and you never know if you'll be jittery," Plach said. "We definitely need to play better as the post-season continues, but I'm happy overall with the way we played."

Negron (four kills), Swanson (eight

digs, seven assists, three aces), Richardson (two aces) and Sarah Murray (ace) all contributed.

Although the loss to Geneva ended the Storm's season, it was the best season in program history with a record 26 wins (26-8) along with winning their first three invites.

"There is a lot to be proud of," Plach said. "It was a really fun season. We just ran into a tough team."

South Elgin will lose seniors Cortes-Rojas, Flanagan, Kummerer, Murray, Swanson, Vedrine and Amelia O'Neal.



South Elgin's Casie Swanson setting for a teammate against Streamwood.



The Storm's Hayley Fisher executing a kill shot against Streamwood.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



McKayla Geraghty of South Elgin successfully fielding a Streamwood shot during the Storm's regional quarter-final victory over the Sabres.

# Bartlett season ended by Maroons at regional



Dakota Johnson setting for the Hawks in the regional quarter-final match against the Maroons.

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett volleyball team struggled to finish as the No. 9 Hawks saw their season end with a 25-22, 26-24 loss against No. 8 Elgin in the St. Charles East Regional quarterfinal on Monday, Oct. 23.

In both sets, the Hawks built early leads but watched Elgin rally back late. Bartlett built six-point leads three separate times in Game 1 with a Shayna Chacko ace providing the last one at 17-11 before Elgin started to rally, and Isabella Diaz (five kills) had a pair of kills and Emily Baggot (four kills, three aces) a kill and ace to open Game 2 with a 6-2 lead.

Bartlett still led 19-15 in Game 1 when Elgin went on an 8-0 run to pull ahead 23-19. The Hawks rallied with a 3-0 run to make it 23-22 before Elgin tallied the final two points.

In Game 2, the Hawks led through 19-16 when an 8-2 run by Elgin gave them a 24-21 deficit. Bartlett rallied with a 3-0 run to tie the set before Elgin finished the match.

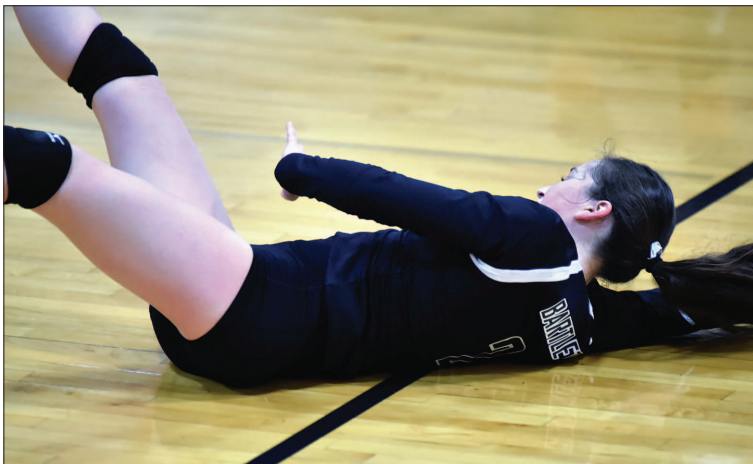
"Both teams fought really hard," said Bartlett coach Katie Sychala. "It was a battle for every point. It was just a shift in energy and momentum that did us in. Elgin got that shift on their side at the right time both sets."

Meghan Colley finished with four kills in the effort.

Bartlett ends the season 13-21 overall and will lose seniors Chacko, Colley, Jennifer Carbery, Alexia Hetzel and Brianna Keszycki. Sychala, who is wrapping up her first season with the squad, does also have a lot of youth returning.

"As a new coach, the seniors were great leaders and were willing to play with the new style and system we put in place," Sychala said. "They didn't want to end this way, but they were happy with the season overall."

Sychala added: "We have a strong core of five starters coming back. It'll be a good group to get things started next season."



Brianna Keszycki making a valiant but unsuccessful dig attempt against Elgin..

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



Bartlett's Samantha Martino handling an Elgin shot to maintain a volley for the Hawks.



# Storm top Sabres, fall to Vikings at regional

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin volleyball team saw its season come to an end after the No. 7 Storm dropped a 25-21, 25-18 match against No. 3 Geneva in the East Regional semifinals on Tuesday, Oct. 24. Game 1 was tied 16-16 when Geneva started pulling away. In Game 2, the Storm led 13-11 when a 5-0 run by Geneva gave them a deficit for good. “We haven’t faced a hard serving team like that in a while, and we just had a difficult time running our middles against them,” said South Elgin

coach Joni Plach. Hayley Fisher (six kills, ace), Libby Vedrine (five kills, five blocks), Angie Negron (four kills), Katie Flanagan (three kills), Casie Swanson (six assists, six digs), Kendall Richardson (six assists) and McKayla Geraghty (two aces) led the effort. The Storm opened the postseason with a 25-16, 25-11 win over No. 10 Streamwood in the quarterfinals on Monday, Oct. 23. Brittany Kummerer (two blocks) and Flanagan (five kills) both had a pair of

kills during a 14-4 start to Game 1, and the Storm led by at least six the rest of the set with a Vedrine (six kills, two blocks, ace) kill ending the set. South Elgin trailed 9-8 in Game 2 before finishing the match on a 17-3 run, and an ace from Yvalis Cortes-Rojas (two aces) sealed the win. “It’s regionals and you never know if you’ll be jittery,” Plach said. “We definitely need to play better as the post-season continues, but I’m happy overall with the way we played.” Negron (four kills), Swanson (eight

digs, seven assists, three aces), Richardson (two aces) and Sarah Murray (ace) all contributed. Although the loss to Geneva ended the Storm’s season, it was the best season in program history with a record 26 wins (26-8) along with winning their first three invites. “There is a lot to be proud of,” Plach said. “It was a really fun season. We just ran into a tough team.” South Elgin will lose seniors Cortes-Rojas, Flanagan, Kummerer, Murray, Swanson, Vedrine and Amelia O’Neal.



South Elgin’s Casie Swanson setting for a teammate against Streamwood.



The Storm’s Hayley Fisher executing a kill shot against Streamwood.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



McKayla Geraghty of South Elgin successfully fielding a Streamwood shot during the Storm’s regional quarter-final victory over the Sabres.

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