

The Examiner

of SOUTH ELGIN

Volume 15
Number 30

"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
December 4, 2019



Vandalism reported
at Sperry Park
See Page 6

Storm girls hoops
beaten in title game
See Page 8

Recreation Board sees final park concept plan

By Frank Muisenga Jr.

On Monday, Nov. 25 at the Recreation Board meeting, members discussed the final concept plan for a proposed project at Panton Mill Park.

According to Director of Parks & Recreation Kim Wascher, the plan shown to the board is only conceptual at this point. This was the first time the board saw the final concept plan. The design process has started.

"I wanted you all to see this; get some feedback from you to take back to design now," said Wascher.

Wascher added, the plan is to break ground as soon as it thaws in 2020 to be done before Aug. 1 and ready for the annual Riverfest Express festival.

"It's a pretty intense and aggressive

schedule, but [staff] made a guarantee to the village board that we would get this done," Wascher said.

The plan for the project is to use the land in front of Village Hall across North Water Street and along West State Street up to the Fox River and then move north to the South Elgin Dam and then move west to about the halfway point of Prairie Street, on the east side of Illinois Route 31, or until it is no longer village property, and then move back south to Village Hall, according to the concept plan. Wascher said the plan includes landscaping and amenities. A 40 by 50-foot stage with a roof, a 50 by 90-foot shelter, a comfort building with concessions, restrooms and storage, a splash pad

and a large concrete surface for grilling were provided in the plan. All the structures are planned to be prefabricated due to the lower cost and to meet the time frame for completion. The design of the prefabricated structures is intended to represent the village's current infrastructure and outward appearance.

Board member James Davis Jr. asked if the plan includes added parking to Prairie Street? Wascher said on-street parking is planned to be added to the portion of Prairie Street that the village owns, and a gate would be added at the west of the street that is closer to

Route 31.

Board member Nancy Christensen said there has been a lot of chatter about the splash pad. Wascher said the splash pad is not intended to be extravagant and planned to be similar to the one at Festival Park in Elgin.

Wascher added, the village's drop box would be moved to along Spring Street, the landscaping of Village Hall is to be changed and the memorial outside of Village Hall would be removed and potentially stored. Staff hopes to have approval from the village board to submit bids for some items as soon as next month.

Break camp offered by Parks & Recreation

By Frank Muisenga Jr.

The village's Park & Recreation Department has scheduled a Winter Break Camp starting Dec. 23 that is open for registration.

According to Recreation Supervisor Krista McKinney, camp days are for children in kindergarten through eighth grade and are scheduled for Dec. 23 to 31 and Jan. 2 and 3, 2020. Camp hours will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day and will be held at the Municipal Annex. There is no camp scheduled on Christmas Eve Day, Christmas Day or New Year's Day. Cost is \$30 per day for residents and \$33 for nonresidents.

"It's a fun, safe place for kids to go whose parents may have to work or [are] just looking to have a day out of

the house," said Director of Parks & Recreation Kim Wascher.

According to McKinney, the camp will provide crafts, games and both indoor and outdoor activities, though outdoor is weather dependant. Lunch is provided each day, and some days provide off-site visits.

"There are four field trips," Wascher said.

Attendees will see "Spies in Disguise" on Dec. 26, go to Funway on Dec. 27, the Water Works Indoor Water Park on Jan. 2, 2020 and SciTech Hands On Museum on Jan. 3, 2020, McKinney said via email. People can sign up for camp days on the village's website, mail in registration or go to Village Hall. Two extended hour options up to 9 p.m. are also available.

Officer injured at fight, SEHS students arrested

By Frank Muisenga Jr.

On Tuesday Nov. 26, South Elgin Police Department Deputy Chief Mike Doty confirmed the status of a police officer involved in an incident at South Elgin High School on Friday, Oct. 18. The incident resulted in the arrest of three female students as well as an injury to a responding police officer.

Officer Joseph Mihalec responded to a report of a fight in the school cafeteria, according to Doty. Mihalec tried to break up the fight and was brought to the ground after a person jumped on his back.

Doty said via email, a 14-year-old was charged with one count of battery, a Class A misdemeanor. A 15-year-old was charged with two counts of aggravated battery to a peace officer, a

Class 3 felony and one count of eavesdropping, a Class 4 felony. A 17-year-old was charged with one count of aggravated battery to a school employee, a Class 3 felony.

Mihalec's injury required surgery to his shoulder and he will be off duty for a minimum of three to six months, Doty said via phone.

"As of right now, everything has gone well with his surgery and he's already started rehabilitation," said Doty.

The plan is to get Mihalec back to working full duty at the school but that would depend on on how quickly he recovers from his injury.

"As of right now, everything has gone well with his surgery and he's already started rehabilitation," Doty said.



A holiday happy meal

Dawson Auraymski shared a laugh with Santa at the village's annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Nov. 23. For story and more photos see page 16.

(Examiner photo by Juli Schatz)

Police officer candidate receives conditional job offer

By Frank Muisenga Jr.

At the Friday, Nov. 22 meeting of the Board of Fire & Police Commissioners a conditional offer was extended to a police candidate.

The board unanimously approved an offer to candidate Peter Tschammer. He is the seventh name on the commissioners' police officer final eligibility list. The board members are required by law to go

through each name, according to Foster.

The offer allows Tschammer to continue with the candidate process that will require him to pass a psychological and medical examination, according to police Chief Jerry Krawczyk. At present, the department has 32 paid and sworn officers with a total of 33 positions available for sworn-in level staff with a goal to be fully staffed.

The board expects to meet again in the near future offer employment to Tschammer if he should pass his remaining tests, Krawczyk said. The department already has a spot reserved for him at the police academy. The program is roughly 14-weeks long and should be finished around March 2020. Tschammer would attend the academy with another approved candidate who is already scheduled to attend.

IASB delegates oppose local gun control issue

By Seth Hancock

The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) delegate assembly has again opposed local control for school districts to determine how to protect students but approved of a resolution to lobby for state taxpayers to fund the local issue at the annual conference in Chicago on Saturday, Nov. 23.

The IASB delegate assembly determines what the lobbyist organization will support in the coming year. School District U-46 was represented by board member Melissa Owens, and its board opposed local control.

Mercer County School District 404 submitted a resolution that sought local control for school districts to allow staff, on a voluntary basis, to carry firearms for protection of students. Rural districts have submitted similar resolutions over several years, but the IASB resolution committee has traditionally opposed it due to fear of an inanimate object, a gun, until the last two years when it has supported it because of the local control aspect.

The resolution asked the IASB to support legislation allowing local school boards to "allow voluntary district employees, in any capacity, the ability to carry a concealed firearm on district property, provided the employee has a valid Illinois FOID (firearm owners identification) card, holds a certified Illinois Concealed Carry License, has completed all additional trainings and certifications set forth by the respective school board, one of which MUST include yearly certified Active Shooter Training. Only district employees who fulfill all requirements listed and receive Superintendent and Board approval would be eligible as an active and armed part of the Student Safety and Protection Plan."

Last year, a similar resolution was narrowly defeated 203-179 (53 percent opposed). This year's resolution received 19 more votes in support but was defeated by a slightly larger margin, 249-198 (56 percent opposed), according to an IASB press release.

"The resolution was supported primarily by rural school districts with concerns about emergency response time and lack of financial resources to employ school resource officers," the release stated. "Districts opposing the measure opined that arming staff would not create a safer environment for their students."

Julie Wagner, the Mercer County board president, told *The Examiner*: "We were disappointed, but not surprised at the vote. We are still trying to press the issue that it's a matter of local control, not that every school district would have to have this option."

Wagner noted that her school board was not unanimous with "two members who are opposed to staff carry," but five were in support. She also said that protesters opposed to the resolution were present outside the hotel where the conference was held.

The U-46 board and administration opposed the resolution despite its schools being protected by armed School Resource Officers (SRO) and much quicker police response times than rural school districts like Mercer County.

A related resolution, submitted by Wheeling Central Consolidated School District 21, was approved by the IASB delegate assembly but the vote tally was not included in the IASB release. That resolution supported lobbying for state dollars for school districts to hire SROs or other armed security personnel.

The U-46 board and administration opposed that resolution as well. It was in full support of requiring state taxpayers to fund the local issue but was

opposed to local school districts being able to hire off-duty or retired police as an option.

Wagner said that she told the delegate assembly that she "was pleased with the resolution" which addresses the financial concerns for some school districts, but if passed by the Illinois General Assembly it would have little impact for Mercer County. She said it's not a financial concern for her school district, which wants to take responsibility for student safety, but rather a personnel problem.

"If that were to become legislation and passed, it still would not solve our issue which is lack of staff available," Wagner said. "We simply can't get enough personnel to fill the positions we could have available."

Rural school districts have pleaded for local control on arming staff noting they have no issue with other school district not using the option.

"Our communities and districts differ greatly," the Mercer County rationale stated. "Some communities are perfectly comfortable with having their teachers and school staff trained and armed so they can protect people in their buildings. Other communities are adamantly opposed to the idea. That is okay. The districts in our state should be allowed to determine what is best for them, rather than leaving the determination to those in Springfield who do not know or understand communities outside their own."

Wagner's statement to the delegate assembly addressed some of the concerns other districts have had and also appealed to them to keep an "open mind." She told the delegates that her district is 378 square miles with five buildings in three towns with police response times of over 20 minutes while their local police departments and sheriff's offices do not have the personnel available to send SROs to their schools.

"Setting aside our inability to get SRO's to staff our buildings, our board still believes individual districts should be allowed to decide how best to operate," Wagner told the delegates. "Local board members live in their communities and know them better than anyone else can. Each of our districts is unique, but one thing we all agree on, we are adamant about our students' safety. We have differing ideas about how to accomplish that, but it is everyone's goal. I know this resolution puts forth an idea that some districts would not approve for themselves. But there are districts in this state who would be comfortable with this solution. Why does one size have to fit all on this issue?"

Wagner said there are biometric storage units which would only allow the staff member to reach the gun if or when it's needed, and staff would volunteer to be armed "allowing them to be defenders and protectors." She added: "People who are willing to get the training on their own and ask for no compensation are doing this for the right reasons, not for the money. In my opinion, that shows a true, heartfelt motivation to protect the kids," and "as far as training and pay, that is up to the individual districts."

A recent study from the Crime Prevention Research Center showed that between 2000 and 2018 with 20 states allowing armed staff, there have been no gun-related injuries or deaths in those schools while there have been 215 firearm deaths in the so-called "gun free zone" schools. The study also showed that insurance costs for schools that allow armed staff have not increased.



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SRO contract renewals approved in Dist. U-46

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved the contract renewals for School Resource Officers (SRO), a temporary facility report and itemized bills at its meeting on Monday, Nov. 18.

The district has SROs at its secondary schools with 14 total officers from four police departments.

"The total salary cost of the contracts with the City of Elgin (7 SROs), Village of Bartlett (2 SROs), Village of Streamwood (3 SROs), and Village of South Elgin (2 SROs), increased from \$956,018.00 to \$979,703.00, or \$23,685.00 (2.5 [percent])," a memo from John Heiderscheidt, director of school safety and culture, stated. "The overtime/event security budget for all SROs for 2018-2019 was \$89,500.00 and will remain the same."

The memo added: "The total cost for all 2019-2020 SRO contracts, including the overtime/event security increased from \$1,045,518.00 to \$1,069,203.00, a 2.3 [percent] overall increase over last year's costs."

Elgin's total cost is \$505,242 (salary of \$72,177, hourly overtime rate of \$69), Streamwood's is \$209,763 (salary \$69,921, overtime rate \$50.43), Bartlett's is \$139,838 (salary \$69,921, overtime rate \$71.43) and South Elgin's is \$124,860 (salary \$62,430, overtime rate \$63.62).

The temporary facility report is in regards to a mobile classroom to be used

at Lincoln Elementary School in Hoffman Estates. The double unit is expected to house 60 students.

Jeff King, deputy superintendent of operations, said that the school is "out of space" making the mobile unit necessary.

"We've added two classrooms to that school since school started in the fall," King said. "We're out of space, the mobile is already on site, it's been there since prior to the last boundary change, we've never moved it and we do need approval from you... so we can move that classroom into the mobile."

The report stated that the board has "diligently attempted to eliminate the need" for the mobile by commissioning "a capital/capacity study of the District to reduce and remove temporary facilities. A report was finalized and presented to the Board of Education in 2009."

That 2009 study "does identify locations for alterations, additions and restructuring to reduce the use of temporary facilities" at the school, the report also stated.

The mobile unit to be used does include seven of 35 checklist items that are marked as either not in compliance or the information was not available. King said that any urgent issue will "be taken care of before we populate it with students."

The approved itemized bills totaled \$12.5 million.

Villa Olivia snowmaking to gain production boost

By Joe Hyland

At the Bartlett Park District Board of Commissioners' strategic planning meeting Nov. 19 that focused on Villa Olivia, Director of Villa Olivia Peter Pope said that one of the issues holding the winter sports program back was the facility's snowmaking capability. Pope noted that the pumps they have are capable of pumping 1,200 gallons per minute. However, their current stock of snowmaking guns only allows half of that. The sticking point was that a new gun costs in the neighborhood of \$30,000.

At the board's Tuesday, Nov. 26 meeting, commissioners approved a purchase that should start improving Villa Olivia's snowmaking capacity.

Pope said that staff had originally hoped to find a refurbished gun similar to what it currently uses.

"We worked with all of the primary snow gun manufacturers," said Pope.

However, he said that they couldn't

find exactly the type of gun they wanted. A manufacturer then offered a slightly different type, that Pope characterized as a stick gun with a compressed air assist.

"We're really anxious to give it a try this season," Pope said, adding that it might be a better option for certain areas at the resort than the standard guns currently in use there.

Commissioner Diana Gunsteen asked about the cost, and Pope replied that it was about \$10,000.

Gunsteen requested some clarification about its portability.

"You can move it around," Pope said, noting that the gun could also be mounted on a pole for even more flexibility and reach.

"We were looking at a used gun in that price range, but this was a brand new gun," Pope added.

The board approved the purchase by a vote of 4-0 with commissioners Jodie Fagan and Ted Lewis being absent.

Elgin man charged after crashing into patrol vehicle

According to the Bartlett Police Department, on Sunday, Dec. 1, police arrested David Chavez-Tovar, 30, of Elgin as he was charged with two Class A misdemeanors for driving under the influence of alcohol and driving under the influence of alcohol with a BAC of .08 or more. He was also cited for "Scott's Law" - failure to yield to an emergency vehicle, failure to reduce speed to avoid an Accident and an expired driver's license.

On Dec. 1, at approximately 2 a.m., a police officer was standing outside of his marked police vehicle while he was



David Chavez-Tovar

conducting a traffic stop on westbound Lake Street at the intersection of North Bartlett Road. Police alleged his vehicle was rear-ended by a 2015 Nissan Altima that was driven by Chavez-Tovar. Following an investigation, police alleged Chavez-Tovar drove under the influence of alcohol. Neither Chavez-Tovar nor the police officer were injured as a result of the crash.

Chavez-Tovar was released on a \$3,000 individual bail bond with an assigned court date of Jan. 8, 2020 at the Cook County court facility located in Rolling Meadows.

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Tidbits

Continued from page 4

The South Elgin Food Pantry, at 400 W. Spring St., will be open two evenings a month, the first and third Wednesday of each month from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., in addition to its morning hours, 9:30 a.m. to noon the same first and third Wednesdays. Visitors to the food pantry only need to show proof of residence in South Elgin or the Valley View area of St. Charles to obtain food. Clients may now enter through the double doors facing the parking lot, making entry to the food pantry handicapped accessible. People who have difficulty or the inability to use stairs can use the elevator at the facility. For help in using the elevator, call 847-931-0563. For further information, visit cumcsouthelgin.com, email cumcsouthelgin@sbcglobal.net, or call 847-931-0563.

Hosanna! Lutheran Church Community Care Center Food Pantry has been serving area families in need for several years. Stocked by generous donations from parishioners, scout troops, businesses and others; the pantry is open on the first Monday of the month from 6:30 until 8 p.m. and the first and third Tuesday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A photo ID is required in order to receive two prepackaged bags of food once a month per address. For more information please contact the church office at 630-584-6434, email to Welcome@HosannaChurch.com or visit their website at www.HosannaChurch.com. Hosanna! is located at 36W925 Red Gate Road (entrance just east of Randall Road) in St. Charles.

For over 30 years, CASA Kane County has been recruiting, training and supervising community volunteers who serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) for children in court due to abuse, neglect or private guardianship. The CASA volunteer acts as the eyes and ears of the judge to help make the best decision for a safe, caring and permanent home for each child. CASA is currently recruiting CASA/GAL volunteers to ensure they meet the needs of every child that comes into care. If you are interested in learning more, please contact them today at 630-232-4484 to attend one of their upcoming general information meetings.

The South Elgin Methodist Church Food Pantry welcomes anyone in need, and they also take donations. Currently, they could use cereal, condiments, paper products, cake mixes, crackers (assorted and/or saltines), pickles, pickle relish and salad dressings. There is a barrel in the entrance near the parking lot of church, which is open for drop-offs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to noon or Monday through Friday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Help Anderson Animal Shelter to save more pets than ever in 2019! To donate, check out their wishlist at www.andersonanimalshelter.org/wishlist to see which supplies their dogs and cats need most! Text ANDERSON to 44321 to donate easily too!

Fox Valley's Guardian Angel Feline Rescue is seeking foster homes and volunteers for help with felines that have sadly been abandoned or abused at the hands of humans. Donations are also needed for the medical care that they all require upon rescue. All donations go directly towards helping these less fortunate animals and not for any admiration or salaries. P.O. Box 595 South Elgin, IL 60177 or go to

<http://www.gofundme.com/Help-our-Guardian-Angel>.

Fox Valley Wildlife Center in Elburn, a wildlife hospital serving the needs of orphaned, injured, and sick wildlife from Kane County and surrounding areas, receives almost 2,500 animals per year! Donations of supplies are always appreciated. A current wish list of needed items can be found on the center's website at fvwc.org. Items can be dropped off at the center, located at 45W061 Illinois Route 38, Elburn, approximately one mile west of Illinois Route 47 inside the Elburn Forest Preserve. The center is currently operating on winter hours of 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. You can reach the Fox Valley Wildlife Center at 630-365-3800 or contact@fvwc.org.

Seated exercise classes at The Salvation Army, 1710 S. 7th Ave., St. Charles, on Wednesdays for fun and great exercise! From 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free and open to all in the community.

Anderson Animal Shelter is happy to offer the opportunity for children and teens to engage in service learning off-site. This convenient option gives students the ability to create and execute their own service project all while truly making a difference in the lives of animals. Some service project ideas include creating your own fundraising project, collecting items from the shelter's wish list, making cat or dog toys, shredding newspapers and making blankets. For more information call 847-697-2880 or visit www.andersonanimalshelter.org.

Line dancing at The Salvation Army, 1710 S. 7th Ave., St. Charles on Mondays at 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays at noon. Open to all and free. No registration required.

Low impact/sculpt aerobics exercise classes at The Salvation Army, 1710 S. 7th Ave., St. Charles Tuesdays, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Free and open to all.

Zumba class at The Salvation Army, 1710 S. 7th Ave., St. Charles, Tuesdays 5 to 5:45 p.m. for fun and great exercise! Free, open to all in the community. No registration needed, walk-ins welcome.

The St. Charles Singles Club activities are planned, and singles 40-plus are invited to participate in the fun. There are many opportunities to meet friends for meals, to try new cuisines, to dance, bowl, play cards, volunteer and more. You can find a full listing of activities on the website: www.stcharlessinglesclub.com/. Visit www.stcharlessinglesclub.com or call 630-665-0763 for more information.

Open gym walking at The Salvation Army, 1710 S. 7th Ave., St. Charles. Variety of times, group meets Mondays 9 to 9:45 a.m. Fun and great exercise! Free, open to all. Cathy Winters for more information at 630-377-2769, ext. 210.

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.

Sharpen those presentation skills for all of your social and professional interactions. Fox Valley Toastmasters combines incremental, self-paced practice with warm support—and guests are always welcome. Toastmasters—Where Leaders Are Made, second and fourth Thursdays, 7:15 to 8:45 p.m., second floor, St. Charles City Hall, 2 E. Main St.

The Examiner Asked On Monday, Dec. 2, asked students at Fox Meadow Elementary School

What would be the best thing about being a cat or a dog?



Seanna Hides: "Dogs get to cuddle with their humans and play with toys when they want to."



Gabriella Moore: "Dogs get more attention, and they're always happy and playful."



Vanessa Cisneros: "I think it's better to be a dog because they protect us, and they're not scared of water like cats are, and cats are very picky about everything."



Alex Rushing: "Cats have really good balance on their feet and have a really strong sense of hearing."



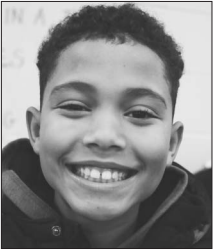
Natalie Suarez: "I think it's better to be a cheetah (which is a big cat) because he can run away fast from predators."



Hannah Jordan: "Dogs and cats both sleep all day."



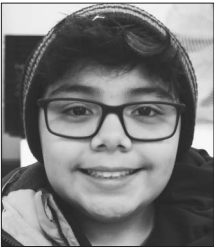
Brooklyn Granek: "Dogs and cats get to sleep all day, and cats have claws to defend themselves."



Aiden McDaniel: "Dogs and cats are both cool because they cuddles with you all day."



Nathan Yoder: "Because they get free food, as much as they want."



Anthony Zarate: "Because they get to eat all the time, for free, and go outside."

(By Juli Schatz)

Press Clippings 12/04/19

---Daily Herald---12/04/2019

After 20 years, Elgin Boys & Girls Club board member still 'all about the kids'

By: Elena Ferrarin



Tim Williams, 63, a board member for the Boys & Girls Club of Elgin, recently received the "Heart of the Region" award at the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Midwest Regional annual event in Chicago.

After 20 years of volunteering on the board of the [Boys & Girls Club of Elgin](#), and for the last six or so years as president of the statewide club organization, Tim Williams is showing no signs of slowing down.

"I have no idea what the next chapter is," said the 63-year-old, who lives outside Elgin and owns several Merlin automotive shops in the Fox Valley and Rockford area.

"When I started this thing 20 years ago, I thought I'd give it two or three years. Then we had this focus on building a new clubhouse, then we built it (in 2008) ... Then I got involved in the state aspect of it, and I've enjoyed that a lot. Now we're onto some new things locally (a new clubhouse in South Elgin), and that's going to be a new adventure for us. Those are things that keep us all energized and going. We have a great board and really solid staffing."

Williams recently received the "Heart of the Region" award at the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Midwest Regional annual event in Chicago, an honor he received for his work in Elgin and as board president for the Illinois Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs. The region encompasses 13 states, more than 200 clubs and more than 2,000 volunteers.

Williams is the chairman of the Elgin club's outreach committee, which led the way for doubling the number of youths served, or 800 to 1,000 daily on average, including at the clubhouse on Dundee Avenue in Elgin and programs at 12 schools in [Elgin Area School](#)

District U-46. The club serves the highest number of teens among clubs in Illinois, Williams said.

The outreach committee also developed a plan to build a new facility in South Elgin, which was kick-started by a \$1 million donation last month by the Wisdom Family Foundation.

"We've always said that kids vote with their feet," Williams said. "If you're not providing good programs to keep them engaged, keep them excited, keep them involved, they're not coming back."

The state organization is mainly in charge of working to secure state and federal funding and allocate it to its 27 clubs based on need and capacity. Funding for the Elgin club also comes from donations from foundations, individuals and businesses.

Cathy Russell, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Elgin, said Williams always asks tough questions to ensure any decisions are in the best interest of the youths and the community.

"Tim is a strategic thinker and an excellent communicator," Russell said. "He is all about the kids every day and is a true advocate for serving more kids and serving them better."

Williams said he got involved with the Elgin club when he worked in marketing for Merlin's parent company and met then-club board member Joe Wars, who persuaded him to get involved in the club's annual "duck race" fundraiser.

"The duck race was a really hands-on event, so I got to know quite a few people at the club," Williams said. "Back then it was a very small board and they were all involved in fundraising. They invited me to join the board within a couple months of that."

Over the years, his daughters, now ages 28 and 26, and his wife, Laurie, also got involved as volunteers with the club. "My wife is a very active volunteer. She has been on dinner committees and has sold countless ducks," he said.

As for his recent award, Williams said he was surprised and pleased, but said he can't take the credit alone.

"This award is truly a testament to the hard work and dedication of our volunteer board, club staff and the Elgin community that supports our mission," he said.

---The Courier-News---12/04/2019

14-year-old Elgin girl seriously injured outside Lowrie Elementary in drive-by shooting, police and school officials say

By: Courier-News Staff Report



A 14-year-old girl was seriously injured Tuesday when she was shot outside Lowrie Middle School in Elgin. Police say she was an unintended victim when someone in one car fired a gun at another.

A 14-year-old girl was shot in Elgin Tuesday afternoon, the apparent unintended victim in a situation in which someone in one car fired a gun at another near Washburn and Billings streets, Elgin police and School District U-46 officials said.

The incident occurred about 4 p.m. on a street outside Lowrie Elementary School, and police located the girl inside a car at the intersection of Highland Avenue and State Street, officials said. It's not known if the girl was inside the vehicle at the time of the shooting or placed there after it occurred.

The teen, a student at Ellis Middle School in Elgin, was seriously injured but is in stable condition at an undisclosed hospital, according to a note sent to the Ellis staff early Wednesday morning by Principal Yvette González-Collins.

Elgin police said they do not believe the incident was random but that the girl is not believed to have been the target, a post on the department's Facebook page said.

The girl has four siblings who attend U-46 schools — Ellis, Lowrie and Elgin High School, González-Collins said in her note. The district's crisis response team has been activated, she said.

Special Investigations Group detectives are handling the case. Anyone with information is asked to contact Sgt. Dave Lesko at 847-289-2528 or send an anonymous text to 847411, which should include "ElginPD" at the start of the message.

Check back for more information.

Elgin chamber honors volunteers at annual luncheon

Submitted by Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce

The Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Community Thanksgiving Luncheon, which took place Nov. 26, reaffirms the combined commitment to family, neighbors and community. The program wove "thanks" and "giving" through storytelling.

Chamber members sang the praises of five unsung heroes in the community. These volunteers provide guidance and leadership to organizations in Elgin and South Elgin.

Local service clubs and nonprofit organizations were recognized at this nondenominational luncheon, as they provide critical programs and services to our neighbors.

Volunteers, who were nominated by local nonprofit agencies, were recognized for their achievements by the group's Enhancing Elgin committee.

The featured speaker was Elgin veteran Craig Essick, a member and former Commander of the American Legion Post 57. He is a retired Streamwood police sergeant and member of the U.S. Army for 32 years, including 11 in active duty.

Joining him was retired military veteran, past Post 57 commander and Elgin City Councilwoman Rose Martinez, sharing the 100th anniversary of the American Legion Post 57 this year.

This year, the volunteers who were recognized for their achievements are: Jeanne Fox, Salvation Army; Maria "Chayo" Topete, Well Child;



COURTESY OF JAMES HARVEY PHOTOGRAPHY

The Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Community Thanksgiving Luncheon recognizes volunteers for their commitment to family, neighbors and the community.

Steve Stauffacher, PADS; Paula Amenta; and Celebration of the American Legion's 100th Anniversary.

• Jeanne Fox has been a valued member of the Elgin Salvation Army's advisory board and is currently the board secretary. She has served faithfully on the board development committee and the finance/property committee.

She also has worked to secure donations for the new HomeGoods Pantry to provide the essentials for our neighbors in need.

She has volunteered running the guest check-in desk at our Saturday Fresh Produce distribution, volunteer check-in at Comcast Cares

Days, and has given many hours as a volunteer bell ringer.

Her generosity of time and resources has made a profound and lasting impact on the mission and service of The Salvation Army.

The fruits of her labors make a tangible impact, but it is the fact that she is willing to share her time and talents with kindness and care that makes the greatest difference in the lives of the individuals served at The Salvation Army.

• Maria "Chayo" Topete is Well Child Center's bilingual senior breastfeeding peer counselor. She has been with Well Child Center for 15 years. She consistently goes out of

her way to help the moms as a peer counselor, who must be available by phone after normal business hours.

She often gets calls late in the evening. She has taken calls while at weddings, holiday parties and even got one recently from a mom in the hospital who did not feel comfortable paging the nurse due to a language barrier. She called Chayo because she trusted her and had built a strong connection with her throughout the pregnancy.

For the last few years, Chayo has visited Advocate Sherman Hospital through their volunteer program so she can help the moms after delivery. She consistently

forms such strong relationships that many WIC moms often stay in touch with her long after her services are needed.

As a person who loves to give back, Chayo has also been an active board member at VNA for seven years.

• Steve Stauffacher's introduction to PADS was at Immanuel Church in Streamwood in 1995. After moving to Elgin, he started attending PADS' Winter Harvest Gala, and eventually joined the board of directors in 2013.

In the fall of 2016, he was elected board president, where he now works helping to expand PADS' advocacy and support of the homeless of greater Elgin. Some of his proudest achievements are working with the PADS executive director and board to grow the organization on multiple levels.

He has dedicated thousands of volunteer hours to advancing the PADS mission, and he is both recognized and respected as an influential leader in the community.

• Paula Amenta is preparing to wrap up a successful career of giving as she leaves the community. She has had a successful career in economic development with the Elgin Area Chamber, and marketing and public relations with Waubesa Community College, and now at Elgin Community College.

A volunteer with the Elgin Area Chamber and past chair for the Northern Kane County Chamber of Commerce, she has been active in the Enhancing Elgin committee, Women

in Management and, professionally, she has provided volunteer leadership for many marketing organizations.

She is very active in her church and Family Legacies Missions in Zambia, where she has volunteered for Camp Life, a summer camp for AIDS orphans.

• American Legion Post 57 is the largest veterans organization servicing veterans in the Elgin area. Founded in 1919, the Legion is the nation's most influential network of U.S. wartime veterans, families and communities.

The Elgin Area Chamber is grateful that staff members and volunteers with several of these organizations attended the luncheon: Alignment Collaborative for Education, Association for Individual Development, Black Women's Association, CASA Kane County, Centro de Informacion, City of Elgin, Community Crisis Center, Downtown Neighborhood Association of Elgin, Easter Seals DuPage & Fox Valley, Elgin Area Leadership Academy, Elgin Community College, Elgin Kiwanis Club, Elgin Partnership for Early Learning, Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra, Gail Borden Public Library, Golden Corridor Family YMCA — Taylor Branch, Grand Victoria Foundation, Greater Elgin Family Care Center, Open Door Health Center, PADS of Elgin, Rotary Clubs of Elgin, School District U-46, Senior Services Associates, The Literacy Connection, The Salvation Army, VNA Health Care, Well Child Center, and Westminster Christian School.

Rising star performs the sounds of Nat King Cole at ECC



Submitted by Elgin Community College Arts Center

Acclaimed Chicago actor Evan Tyrone Martin will perform a festive cocktail of holiday hits during "An Unforgettable Nat King Cole Christmas" at the Elgin Community College Arts Center Friday, Dec. 6. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. This concert is presented by Artists Lounge Live.

My Two Front Teeth," Martin also relates Cole's personal journey.

Since arriving on the Chicago performance scene, Martin has quickly emerged as a talent to watch. His theater credits nationwide include the world premiere of the new musical "The Black Clown," "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Oklahoma," "Hair," "Dreamgirls," "The Little Mermaid," "Rent," "The

pay homage to the icons that influenced them in evenings of storytelling and song.

Tickets to "An Unforgettable Nat King Cole Christmas: Starring Evan Tyrone Martin" are \$34. Tickets are available for purchase online at tickets.elgin.edu and by calling (847) 622-0300.

The ECC Arts Center is in Building H on Elgin Community Col-

SPORTS

---Daily Herald---12/03/2019

Glenbard South grabs Upstate Eight opener at Larkin

By: John Lemon

Glenbard South senior Nick Plaso said one of his team's mottos this year is, "Go get the ball."

That's exactly what the Raiders did to open Upstate Eight Conference play Tuesday with a 59-56 win at Larkin.

Glenbard South (3-1, 1-0), whose only loss came by 3 points to Glenbard West, outrebounded Larkin 44-28, an advantage the Raiders needed to offset 24 turnovers including 9 in the fourth quarter when the Royals just about overcame a 15-point deficit.

"We did come up big on the boards," Glenbard South coach Wade Hardtke said. "That was going to be a key for us tonight. They are so quick and so athletic that the rebounding side was one we had to swing in our favor."

Two of the biggest rebounds came in the final minute when Glenbard South twice missed a free throw only to get the offensive board and keep possession.

Plaso pulled down a game-high 9 rebounds leading a balanced team effort that included Brandon Malone's 8, Cam Goodrum and Cade Hardtke with 6 and Jacob Folkerts 5.

"As a team we always work on keeping the ball alive," Plaso said. "It was a good team win. I have to give all the credit to Larkin, they really picked it up in the second half. It feels good to come out of here with a win."

Larkin (0-5, 0-1), who played four sophomores and a freshman in its first seven, led briefly to start the game. Plaso's conventional 3-point play put the Raiders up 8-5, and they never trailed again.

Neither team shot the ball well in the first half, but Glenbard South's 32.1% from the field outdid Larkin's ice-cold 18.8% as the Raiders built a 27-17 halftime advantage.

They still led 42-31 after three quarters and 51-41 midway through the fourth when sophomores Fernando Perez Jr. and Demari Wheeler-Thomas nearly brought the Royals all the way back. Perez scored 9 points in a 12-4 run, highlighting it with a spectacular block to deny a breakaway layup on one end, then rattling in a 3-pointer on the other to bring Larkin within 55-53 with a minute to go.

Wheeler-Thomas missed a potential game-tying 17-foot jumper, and Cade Hardtke converted 3 of 4 free throws for a 5-point lead. Wheeler-Thomas raced down the floor and scored while being fouled for a 3-point play to make it 58-56 with 8.4 seconds left.

Malone split two free throws with 5.4 remaining giving Larkin another chance to tie. Wheeler-Thomas came up short on a 3-pointer from the wing as time expired.

"Our defensive intensity gave us good offensive intensity," Larkin coach Deryn Carter said of the fourth quarter charge. "With a new team they have to learn that everything we do starts on the defensive end."

Malone and Plaso hit double figures for the Raiders with 16 and 15 points, respectively.

"Record-wise I am pleased with our start," Wade Hardtke said. "We ended up stealing one on the road. As long as we are able to learn while we are coming out on the good side that's a good thing."

Perez led Larkin with 24 points and 8 rebounds, Wheeler-Thomas scored 19, but nobody else had more than 4 points.

"Frustrated at the loss, not at the score, but doing some of the little things we have to get better at," Carter said. "We'll get there. But there has to be a little better sense of urgency to get there."

Sweet-shooting Geneva sinks Bartlett

By: Jerry Fitzpatrick



Geneva's Joshua Preston gets revved up just after dunking early against Bartlett in varsity boys basketball at Geneva Tuesday night.



Bartlett's Hayden Angell takes a shot against the defense of Geneva's Dylan Fuzak in varsity boys basketball at Geneva Tuesday night.



Bartlett's Clark Lewis takes an outside shot in varsity boys basketball at Geneva Tuesday night.



Bartlett's Nicholas Bucaro, left, gets tangled up with Geneva's Drew Johnson in varsity boys basketball at Geneva Tuesday night.



Bartlett's Cameron Kunzer, center, splits the Geneva defense of Joshua Preston, left, and Christopher Suger in varsity boys basketball at Geneva Tuesday night.



Geneva's Christopher Suger drains a three-point basket against Bartlett in varsity boys basketball at Geneva Tuesday night.



Bartlett's Liam Gallagher, left, and Geneva's Christopher Suger battle for the ball in varsity boys basketball at Geneva Tuesday night.



Geneva's Nathan Valentine drives with the ball against Bartlett in varsity boys basketball at Geneva Tuesday night.



Bartlett's Liam Gallagher, left, catches up to Geneva's Joshua Preston in varsity boys basketball at Geneva Tuesday night.

Chris Suger said his goal was to make a modest contribution in his first home game for the Geneva basketball team Tuesday night.

The last thing the 6-foot-5 sophomore expected was to hear a fired-up student section chanting "Chris, Chris, Chris, Chris" in the second quarter of a 56-38 nonconference win over Bartlett.

Such things happen when a player like Suger comes off the bench and sinks his first four 3-point attempts in front of the faithful.

"I mean, it's crazy. I didn't think it would happen this year," said Suger, who last season played on the sophomore team as a freshman. "It's fun. It's definitely fun. It's a new experience for me."

First-half accuracy by Geneva (4-1) was not limited to Suger, who led the Vikings with 12 points on 4-of-6 shooting from long range.

Junior Dylan Fuzak (6-foot-9) sank three 3-pointers in the first half and senior Josh Preston and junior Nathan Valentine each buried a shot from beyond the arc. Geneva made 9 of 15 from 3-point range in the first half in taking a 43-15 lead.

"I felt like if we just ran our sets and got the right people open, we could hit our shots," said Fuzak, who finished with 9 points, 3 rebounds and 3 assists. "We're pretty unselfish with the ball and we have confidence in each other. It's not that hard to share the ball on this team."

The leading scorer for Bartlett (1-4) was 6-foot-10 sophomore Conrad Luczynski. He scored 13 points on 6-of-7 shooting and grabbed 4 rebounds. It wasn't enough to offset Geneva's first-half bombing run.

"We came out and we played into their type of game," Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith said. "We didn't defend their sets very well like we had talked about. We gave them open looks for three and we gave up dribble penetration, which opened up threes. Pretty

much everything you don't want to do against a team like this on their home floor, we gave them that kind of start."

Preston scored 11 points, including two dunks, and senior guard Drew Johnson tallied 11 points on 5-of-6 shooting for Geneva, which opens DuKane Conference play at home Friday against Wheaton Warrenville South.

Hayden Angell had 6 points for Bartlett, which begins Upstate Eight Conference play at home Thursday against West Chicago.

South Elgin's late rally gives Mandernack 100th win

By: Jared Birchfield

After the first quarter, it appeared that South Elgin would easily win its 100th game for coach Dan Mandernack Tuesday night. The Storm led Upstate Eight rival Glenbard South, 20-7.

Starting in the second quarter, the Raiders battled back. And with four minutes left to play in the game, Mandernack's entry into the centennial club was in jeopardy as Glenbard South led 43-38.

Highlighted by a critical turnover and two clutch free throws, South Elgin rallied to win its home opener, 49-46.

The Raiders trailed by only three at the start of the fourth quarter, 33-30. That is when Glenbard South (2-2, 0-1) reserve Akayhla Dixon scored nine straight points to put her team up 39-36 with six minutes to play. The senior led all scorers with 25 points.

The Storm started their comeback with 3:56 left in the game. Three straight baskets, one by Aryanna Williams and two from Megan McClure (12 points) put South Elgin (4-1, 1-0) back on top 44-43.

Dixon's last two points of the game returned the lead to Glenbard South, 46-44. A 3-point play by Madison Waichunas (11 points) on a putback and free throw returned the advantage to the Storm, 47-46.

After inbounding the ball, the Raiders lost control of it at half court. The Storm's Caroline Croft scooped up the loose ball and was immediately fouled. With 21.1 seconds left, the sophomore connected on both ends of a one-and-one to widened South Elgin's lead to 49-46.

"When I saw that the ball was loose, I just hustled to go get it," Croft said "I knew that they were going to foul because there wasn't much time left so I just held on to the ball and waited for them to foul me,

"I then just went up (to the free-throw line) and shot them. I tried not to think about it and shoot it like it was any other free throw."

Glenbard South's Lauren Cohen attempted to tie the game with a 3-point shot at the buzzer but the shot bounced off the rim.

"We jumped out and scored 20 points in the first quarter. We had to come out in that second quarter with more of sense of urgency," Mandernack said. "They battled back and before you know it we are down five with four minutes left. We have to keep that sense of urgency. It almost bit us tonight."

"We just weren't ready to go. South Elgin is very physical and they are a good shooting team," said Glenbard South coach Morgan Eufrasio. "(In the fourth quarter) they were very confident and calm and made all the right plays and we did not. We consistently turned the ball over."

South Elgin's Ella Winterhalder scored eight of her team-high 14 points in the first quarter.

Glenbard South turned the tables in the second quarter, scoring 13 points while holding South Elgin to 4 to narrow the Storm's lead at halftime to 24-20.

"I'm blessed," Mandernack said of his six-year tenure at South Elgin. "I've had some incredible kids, good assistant coaches and a supportive AD."

Hawks top Marian, but finish 2-3 at tourney

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett girls basketball team started strong and ended strong to defeat Marian Central Catholic 48-41 in the Naperville Central Thanksgiving Tournament on Tuesday, Nov. 26 at Bartlett.

The win was a bounce back from the Hawks first loss of the season, 69-46 against Naperville Central.

Bartlett responded to the loss by building a nine-point lead in the first quarter before the visitors rallied to pull even at 23-23 by the break and took a 37-33 lead early in the fourth. But the Hawks countered with an 11-0 run to take the lead for good.

“Tough losses are hard because you don’t know how your team is going to respond,” said Bartlett coach Joe Eirich. “I thought we had a great first quarter, and I saw a little bit of tiredness so I backed off our pressure a little bit. That ended up hurting us, and as soon as we went back to the pressure in the second half the girls did great.”

Mackenzie Hare, who led with 21 points for the game, hit a pair of threes during the 11-0 run as the Hawks led 44-37 with 3:15 left to play. Hare had a steal and assist on a Danielle Hedeem (six points) bucket that put Bartlett ahead 38-37.

“I think our energy just switched,” Hare said of the fourth quarter. “We saw the scoreboard and we just said we’re not going to lose this game. They’re a good team, but I think we just flipped a switch and we came out strong in the fourth quarter.”

Ahead 44-41 in the final minute, Lexi Sinclair (16 points) had a steal and layup as well as hit a pair of free throws to seal the win.

Hare, Hedeem and Sinclair hold the most experience on this year’s team, and Eirich said winning a close game like this should help the younger girls.

“We’ve got a group of grinders,” Eirich said. “These girls don’t give up.

They keep fighting and fighting and they work hard nonstop.”

Eirich added: “It’s a game that’s going to help all the other girls grow up. Lexi, Mack and Dani are doing such a great job helping the young girls grow.”

Bartlett went on to finish the tournament with a pair of losses in Naperville to fall to 3-3 overall.

Against Benet Academy, the Hawks lost a 60-32 game on Friday, Nov. 29. Hare (11 points) and Sinclair (nine points) led the effort.

The Hawks dropped a 62-38 game in their finale against Homewood-Flossmoor on Saturday, Nov. 30.



After a journey down the baseline, Bartlett’s Kayci Regalado releasing a shot that was eventually blocked by the Hurricanes’ Janelle Allen.



The Hawks’ Danielle Hedeem working to control a dribble in the corner near the baseline against Marian.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



The Hurricanes’ Julia Hogel and Bartlett’s Cierra Thomas competing for possession of the basketball on Tuesday, Nov. 26 as part of the Naperville Central - Benet Academy holiday tournament.

Storm fall to Chargers in tourney title contest

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin girls basketball team came up shy of the Dundee-Crown Thanksgiving Tournament title as the Storm and host Dundee-Crown, both undefeated entering the game, squared off on Tuesday, Nov. 26.

The Storm rallied from an eight-point halftime deficit to tie the game late, but in the end they fell 35-28 in the low scoring contest.

Down 20-12 at the break, Ari Williams scored nine of her team-high 11 points in the third quarter as South Elgin pulled even at 26-26 entering the fourth. Caroline Croft (six points) made it 28-28 with 4:27 left in the game, but Dundee-Crown outscored the Storm 7-0 the rest of the way as they were 0-for-10 from the field down the stretch.

“We came out in the third quarter and played an unbelievable quarter,” said South Elgin coach Dan

Mandernack. “We are so small and really battled and gave great effort.”

Mandernack added: “D-C is our nonconference rival. We have had some great games with them. Give Dundee-Crown credit. They played outstanding defense. We went 3-1 in this tournament and we will learn from this game.”

Megan McClure scored five points in the effort.

Despite the loss, it was the fourth game in the season opening tournament in which the Storm defense held their opponents to 40 points or less with a 35-point average.

That included a 39-31 victory over Crystal Lake South on Saturday, Nov. 23.

“We’re really focused on defense,” said McClure who led the effort with 19 points and nine rebounds along with five three-pointers. “In the end, it really doesn’t matter how much you score, it’s about

outscoreing the other team. We’re always like ‘play your game offensively but make sure you really hustle on D to keep their score as low as possible.’”

South Elgin jumped to a 16-2 lead after the first quarter and withstood a comeback effort by Crystal Lake South. The Storm led 24-14 at halftime and 31-20 entering the fourth.

Ella Winterhalder scored seven points and Madison Waichunas five.

The Storm are now 3-1 with Upstate Eight Conference play starting, and Mandernack said the tournament experience should help prepare his squad.

“In the beginning of the year, you’re learning,” Mandernack said. “We played four different types of teams. We saw pressing, we saw zone, we saw man. This is going to help us moving forward, and it’s all about preparing for bigger and better games.”



Madison Waichunas releasing an open jump shot as the Chargers’ Katelyn Skibinski closed on Waichunas.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



South Elgin’s Ella Winterhalder attempting to split the defense of Dundee-Crown’s Cassidy Randl, left, and Katelyn Skibinski.

Streamwood finishes winless at tournament

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood girls basketball team was unable to keep up with Huntley as the Sabres fell 60-33 in their Dundee-Crown Thanksgiving Tournament finale on Tuesday, Nov. 26.

Mandy Mien led the Sabres with 15 points and helped them rally after falling behind 19-3 after the first quarter, but no other Streamwood player scored more than four. The Sabres were also playing with a short bench, Vivian Sumoski was out with a bruised finger and several others missing for various reasons, and they struggled to hit shots.

“Mandy’s got to lead and she’s doing a great job, but she needs more help,” said Streamwood coach George Rosner.

Rosner added: “We were short players, but that’s not an excuse. We competed but we were 2-for-19

shooting threes, 2-for-19. I’d say out of those 19, maybe four were bad shots. The other 15 were pretty good looks, so we’ve got to hit those.”

After falling behind by 16 against a bigger Huntley squad, Mien scored nine points in the second quarter including a three-pointer and Sayuri Ishikawa hit a trey as Streamwood eventually pulled to 23-15 with 1:52 left in the first half.

Huntley scored the final five points of the half for a 28-15 lead at the break which was part of a 17-4 run where Streamwood did not hit a shot from the field until a Samantha DeMarco (four points) bucket made it 40-21 with 1:15 left in the third quarter.

Rosner took some positives away from the game, especially the second quarter rally.

“We got back into the game,” Rosner said. “It was a blowout and we came back slowly and brought it

back and made it a game. I was really happy with that.”

Rosner added: “I thought we worked our zone (defense) better tonight. We practiced it yesterday, and I thought it was more effective. I think there’s things to build on.”

Idalyd Ocampo added four points in the effort.

With only seven players, the Sabres dropped a 43-35 tournament game to Jacobs on Saturday, Nov. 23. Mien (13 points), Peyton Hedger (nine points) and Ishikawa (eight points) led the effort.

Streamwood is now 0-4 after the season opening tournament.

“They need to recognize that we have things that need to be improved on, the need to take everything seriously and look at what we’re not doing well and working to improve it,” Rosner said.



Kaylee Angle having a jump shot blocked by Huntley’s Sydney Novak.



Streamwood’s Mandy Mien driving past Huntley’s Kendall Krich on a route to the hoop.
(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



Peyton Hedger extending in an effort to secure a rebound for the Sabres between the Red Raiders’ Kamsi Nwogu and Raquel Radermacher.



While negotiating along the baseline, the Sabres’ Idalyd Campo was tied up by Huntley’s Ashley Guazzo.

Storm go 2-2 at tourney in nail-biting fashion

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin boys basketball team opened the season with a 2-2 performance at the East Thanksgiving Tournament.

The young Storm won their final two games in nail biters including a 53-48 victory over St. Joseph in the fifth place game on Saturday, Nov. 30.

Locked in a 48-48 game with 44.5 seconds left, Wyatt Steurer hit a pair of free throws to take the lead and Kendis Wiley, who led with 19 points, came up with two big defensive rebounds and went 3-for-4 from the line down the stretch to preserve the win.

That win came a day after the Storm earned another win in the final minute with a 56-55 victory over Hampshire on Friday, Nov. 29.

"I'm proud of the fight and the battle," said South Elgin coach Brett Johnson said. "It's a very young team. Winning a game like this is a big confidence builder for this group because it's hard when you are playing juniors and sophomores and the pace of the game is very different."

The game was tied 51-51 when John Aaron Wafford (15 points) hit a trey with 52.3 seconds left for a 54-51 lead, and ahead by one Lane McVicar (10 points, eight rebounds) hit a pair from the line for a 56-53 lead with 21.8 seconds left.

Hampshire did eventually pull within one again, but the Storm hung on.

Drew Cwik added 11 points and Wiley 10 for the Storm.

"The first three games, we've gotten better all three games," Johnson said. "That's all a coach can ask for. They should all be able to create opportunities for others to score."

Turnovers hurt the Storm in their first two games including another nail biter in their opener, a 55-54 loss to Proviso East on Monday, Nov. 25.

Trailing by seven at 55-48 in the final 30 seconds, McVicar (18 points) hit a pair of threes with the second pulling the Storm to 55-54 with 7.8 seconds left. Proviso missed at the line on the following possession and South Elgin had one last chance with a shot that was blocked.

South Elgin then committed 40 turnovers in an 84-57 loss to host East on Wednesday, Nov. 27. McVicar (12 points), Steurer (eight points) Wafford (seven points) and Jay-Q Jones (seven points) led the Storm.

"We just went through this on Monday, and we lost the game because we didn't take care of the ball," Johnson said. "We stressed that St. Charles East was going to apply that same kind of pressure."



While attempting a shot from under the Proviso East basket, South Elgin's Lane McVicar drew contact from the Pirates' Kaevon Rice, left, and Jah Alleyne, who drew a foul on the play.



Drew Cwik of the Storm attempting to negotiate past a hand check from the Pirates' Terrence Thomas.



John Aaron Wafford of South Elgin working toward the baseline and a curtain of Proviso East defenders, including, from left, Terrence Thomas, Michael Osborne and Marquel Saleek.



The Storm's Kendis Wiley, left, was fully extended in a vertical battle for a rebound with Proviso East's Devin Welch. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

Hawks finish comeback with double-OT win



Clark Lewis driving toward the lane in an effort to get around Streamwood's Jakobe Strong.



While confined to the floor, the Hawks' Nicholas Bucaro successfully released a pass to a teammate in spite of the presence of Streamwood's Kody White.



Bartlett's Hayden Angell posting up to the Streamwood hoop in front of the Sabres' Kyle Maybrun.

By Seth Hancock

In double overtime, the Bartlett boys basketball team came out on top over Streamwood in a wild 95-93 Hawks win on Friday, Nov. 29 in the Wheaton Academy Thanksgiving Tournament. Bartlett sophomore Conrad Luczynski, a 6-foot-10 center, came up big in the clutch as he led the Hawks with 30 points and 12 rebounds. He scored eight points in the fourth quarter including the tying bucket to force overtime at 83-83, he again had a tying bucket in the first OT for an 87-87 score and he produced the game winning basket at the buzzer in the second OT. Nicholas Bucaro (17 points, 13 rebounds) had a game-tying bucket with 1:06 left to play to make it 93-93. Both teams saw opportunities slip

away because of turnovers in the final minute, but eventually Bucaro fed the assist to Luczynski who had the layup as the buzzer sounded.

"I owe it to my team," Luczynski said. "They were the ones giving me the passes, giving me the looks. They're the ones who got me the big 30."

That was a fitting end to a wild game that Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith called a "war of attrition" after seeing his Hawks fall behind by as much as 15 in the first half and 53-40 at the break.

George Betevis (16 points, four three-pointers, seven rebounds) had seven points in the third quarter, Hayden Angell (15 points, six assists) added six and both Bucaro and Luczynski had five each to eventually pull even at 63-63. To top it off, the Hawks defense held Streamwood to 10 points after allowing 11 treys in the first half.

"Streamwood plays such a crazy style of basketball," Wolfsmith said. "They're so well coached and they just pressure, pressure, pressure. I told my guys that they're going to let you back into the game if you can defend their three-point shot."

Liam Gallagher and Clark Lewis both had six points and Nick Kantzavelos five.

Bartlett was coming off a pair of losses to start the tournament which opened with a 42-25 loss to St. Francis on Monday, Nov. 25.

Against host Wheaton Academy, the Hawks fell 56-29 on Wednesday, Nov. 27. Trailing just 12-10 after the first quarter, the Hawks were held to single digits the rest of the game including a 15-4 second, 10-6 third and 19-9 fourth.

"We haven't shot well," Wolfsmith said. "We defended well against Wheaton St. Francis and against Wheaton Academy."

Wolfsmith added: "We were getting good looks, we just weren't knocking them down. We shot 19 percent in the first game. Some of that was Wheaton St. Francis' defense, but some of that was just us missing shots."

Bartlett finished the season opening tournament 1-3 after a 60-42 loss to Downers Grove North on Saturday, Nov. 30.



George Betevis using an inside position to execute a layup for the Hawks against Streamwood.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)