

## Press Clippings 12/20/2017

---Courier News--- 12/20/17

### Soaring crescendo

BY MIKE DANAHEY



For his Eagle Scout project bass player Noah Akemann arranged to have student musicians play sets at Advocate Sherman Hospital in Elgin. (Mike Danahey/Courier-News )

When Elgin musician Noah Akemann performs at Advocate Sherman Hospital, he views it as a way of giving back to an institution that made a difference in his life.

Born premature, Akemann had breathing issues and had to stay in the Special Care Nursery for a week until he was ready to breathe on his own.

That's part of the reason why the 17-year-old picked the Elgin hospital for the location of his Eagle Scout project.

"I wanted to do something different, something that wasn't just another building project," said Akemann, a member of Boy Scout Troop 128.

The senior at Larkin High School's Visual and Performing Arts Academy, came up with the idea of setting up performances at Sherman. He got in touch with manager of development Jose Macias.

"This is a first (for the hospital)," Macias said of the musical project.

Akemann's project has involved the talents of two violinists, a cellist and a viola player who are Larkin classmates, as well as himself on double bass. Already this holiday season, the students have played twice at the hospital, 45-minute sets each time, featuring movie

music, some classical pieces and Christmas songs. The final performance date has yet to be set.

“It’s been interesting watching people’s reactions to our playing. The bass is not the most exciting instrument, so you can look up and see what’s going on around you. A lot of people seem surprised to find out it’s not a recording they’re hearing,” he said.

The Eagle Scout idea dovetailed with the hospital’s Musicians Care program, which is funded through philanthropy, Macias said. The program features members of the Elgin Symphony Orchestra playing four times a month on the building’s lake level and on patient floors. Once a month, ESO musicians also visit Advocate Sherman West Court, a rehabilitation and nursing care facility on Elgin’s west side.

The project also is a tribute to Akemann’s parents who both are in medical-related professions. His father is a firefighter/paramedic and his mother is a nurse.

Whenever the final set is scheduled, it may very well be a swan song for Akemann, who graduates this month.

“It might be the last time I play my bass in public, and that would be sad,” he said.

In January he’s heading to Cape May, N.J., to report for basic training with the U.S. Coast Guard.

“I wanted to help others. My dad was in the National Guard,” Akemann, 17, said of his enlisting.

His playing at Sherman is a way to give back to the hospital where he was born — when the facility was located on the northeast side of Elgin instead of along Randall Road, where it now stands.

Akemann’s mom, Kelly Akemann, said Noah’s four siblings, father, grandfather and great-grandfather also were all born at the old Sherman Hospital.

Noah Akemann began playing the upright bass in the fourth grade.

Kelly Akemann noted that there are child-sized versions of the bass, but at least one instructor insisted her son’s hands were too small to play even a smaller one. That helped keep Noah determined to play, she said.

“It’s really low. I don’t like high noises,” Noah Akemann said. He also plays the electric bass, guitar and banjo.

The quintet plans to gather this week to record 15 to 20 minutes worth of holiday music, he said. As another part of his Eagle Scout project, he intends to drop off CDs of the session at 15 senior care facilities in the area who said they would take it to play.

“We’ll have it at our office, too,” Kelly Akemann said.

“I’m doing this because I’ve read there is research showing listening to music can have benefit to people with memory care issues, including dementia,” Noah Akemann said.

---Courier News--- 12/20/17

## Faith leaders call out Ward for critique

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO



Elgin-area faith leaders criticized School District U46 board member Jeanette Ward's comments over a homework assignment about religion.

Last week, Ward shared via social media an assignment her sixth-grade daughter brought home. The assignment featured an article in which the author argues that despite differences among Christianity, Judaism and Islam, they all worship the same God. Students were assigned to answer questions on the text.

On her social media page, Ward took offense to the assignment, saying the article was "utterly incorrect and false on many levels." She said her daughter would not complete the assignment.

"Do you know what your children are being taught: Muslims believe in the same God as Christians and Jews?" Ward wrote.

Noting her critique of the assignment, four faith leaders of different congregations spoke up during Monday's school board meeting. While they agreed with Ward that the article was not strong, the four stressed the importance in raising awareness of other cultures and faiths.

They said they met with other leaders of local congregations over the weekend to discuss the matter.

"We feel that, more important than the content of the article is the question of how we are to engage with inevitable differences of opinion, theology and worldview," said Katie Shaw Thompson, pastor of the Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren in Elgin. "Here, we strongly take exception to Ms. Ward's approach on her social media post."

"Each of us believes our own traditions are holy and true," added Sulayman Hassan of the Baitul Ilm Academy in Streamwood. "Each of us also believes that each person, regardless of religious tradition, is valued by God and is therefore worthy of dignity and respect."

Denise Tracy, the president of the Coalition of Elgin Religious Leaders, listed 16 congregations and leaders who supported the statements read out loud Monday evening.

Ward quickly responded to their critiques during the meeting. Her intent of sharing the assignment online, Ward said, was to make U46 residents aware of assignments being handed out in the Elgin-area U46 schools.

“Which part of my Facebook post offended you? The part where I ask if Muslims believe in the same God as Christians or Jews?” she asked. “Or the excerpt I posted from my daughter’s assignment was utterly incorrect and false on many levels? There is nothing in that post that is uncivil.”

Ward’s comments have previously sparked debate. Last year, some students sought signatures on a petition claiming Ward’s comments on minorities, education, LGBTQ students and others were offensive and biased.

---Courier News--- 12/20/17

## **Delivering hope, education to students in Kenya**

Retired Bartlett teacher shows how 1 person can make difference

BY HEIDI STEVENS



Student Faith Javeline and retired Bartlett High School teacher Brett Weiss are seen at Moi Nyabohanse Girls High School in Kenya. (George Odoyo photo )

In 2009, retired Bartlett High School teacher Brett Weiss traveled to the small Kenyan village of Dago with a Seattle-based group called [Village Volunteers](#).

His dual passions for history and the transformative power of education always tugged him toward Africa, and after a thyroid cancer diagnosis — which he survived — Weiss was determined to get there.

“At the end of my life, I did not want to look back at a list of things I had wanted to do but didn’t because I kept coming up with weak excuses,” he writes in “Just Give Them a Hug



... And the Rest Will Be Easy,” his book chronicling the trip (and several subsequent trips in the years following).

He was careful, though, not to fancy himself some sort of savior.

“I could not just get on a plane and fly to someplace in Africa, get off the plane and upon arrival say, ‘OK, the white guy is here to help you!’ ” he writes.

He volunteered as an instructor and worked with the local teachers to develop lesson plans that incorporated world geography and some Chicago-area history.

He was overwhelmed by the warmth, the beauty and the gnawing, gaping need he encountered day in and day out.

“There were times I would just go in a room and close the door and cry for a while,” he told me.

Shortly after he returned to the United States, he launched the [Bernard and Elsie Weiss Dago Scholarship Fund](#), named for his parents, to raise money for students in Dago to stay in school through high school.

The nonprofit sponsored its first student, Victor, in 2011, and Weiss said the fund has now sent 32 students through high school on four-year scholarships.

“If you’re going to turn around poverty,” Weiss told me, “people have to get an education.”

Particularly girls, he said, who face almost insurmountable odds to stay in school.

“When girls get their period, they have to stay home from school,” he said. “Then they fall behind. It’s a society that’s still very male-dominated.”

I wanted to write about Weiss this week for two reasons.

One, he was set to give a talk about his book and his advocacy work Tuesday evening at the Gail Borden Library in Elgin, and I think his message is one many would benefit from hearing. Two, we’ve reached that time of year when our eyes and ears are tuned to need in a way they aren’t — should be, maybe, but aren’t — the rest of the year.

And I love to hear from people who actively work to alleviate a need they’ve tuned into.

“I told my students for years, and I tell myself all the time, ‘No act is too small. Anything you do is better than nothing,’ ” he said. “Mother Teresa said, ‘If you can’t feed 100 people, feed just one.’ I change that to, ‘If you can’t educate 100 people, educate just one.’ ”

Weiss said people ask him all the time: Why Dago? Why not help some kids closer to home?

The short answer is, he does. He and his wife, Christine, look for ways to volunteer and give back in and around Chicago year-round.

The longer answer?

“When I look at a map, I don’t see a bunch of different colors,” he said. “I see us as one small world, and every child deserves an education. Half the children in the world live like the children in Dago.”

Why shouldn’t he do what he can to help?

“People in Dago feel totally alone in the world,” he said. “They feel like nobody is interested in helping them.

“My hope is these scholarships and this work reminds them, ‘You’re not alone. We’re here to help. There is hope.’ ”

---Courier News--- 12/20/17

## **Elgin charter school selects principal**

**BY RAFAEL GUERRERO**

Elgin’s first charter school has found its principal, officials said Tuesday.

But the name of the new Elgin Math and Science Academy’s top administrator won’t be announced until next month, said Kerry Kelly, president of the Elgin Charter School Initiative.

“(The candidate’s) community has to be notified by proper channels (first),” Kelly said. “It’s out of respect to those families and staff” that officials will wait until she’s told her current employer of the new post before announcing it locally.

Kelly did reveal their choice is a woman currently working as a school principal.

All five finalists were school principals, she said.

Of the nearly 40 resumes they received, 13 applicants were interviewed by phone before the list was narrowed to six and follow-up interviews held.

The search included applicants from across the country and as far as Alaska, Kelly said.

Some of the applicants did not have backgrounds in education.

“They didn’t get very far,” she said. “We weren’t at a point to take a risk with them.”

The charter school initiative submitted their candidate’s name to the Illinois State Charter School Commission on Dec. 11, four days before the deadline set, Kelly said. It was a month earlier than the EMSA team originally wanted.

The new principal will begin in January, when she’ll start the process of hiring staff and administrators.

When it opens next fall, the school will house 400 kindergarten through third-grade students in the Neil Building of the former Fox River Country Day School site in Elgin.

Applications are being accepted for an April lottery, which will determine which students will be enrolled.

Applications are available at the EMSA website, and can be submitted through April 4.

---Daily Herald--- 12/20/17

## **How suburban schools are embracing lessons in cursive**

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY



**Jonny Niksich looks up at the board for help as he and his third-grade classmates work on cursive.** - Rick West | Staff Photographer

Using a technique of looping and grouping letters favored by occupational therapists, third-graders in Rebecca Lunak's classroom at Liberty Elementary School in Bartlett practice the age-old art of cursive writing.

"It helps students develop their fine motor skills," said Lunak, who has taught cursive writing for 25 years. "It improves their hand muscles. It is also important for children to be able to sign their names on documents and read cursive. Because of technology, handwriting is one of those lost arts."

Lunak's students spend 15 minutes practicing writing uppercase and lowercase letters with marker pens and get to be part of Lunak's cursive club. They are rewarded for mastering the skill and passing her test.

"From my experience, the kids love to learn how to write cursive," Lunak said. "Some kids come into third grade with the knowledge of it."

Nearly half the class learned cursive in second grade.

In the past, the teacher decided on whether to teach cursive writing. Now, it's required by state law.

In November, Illinois lawmakers put to rest the lingering debate over whether grade schoolers ought to learn cursive writing in schools.

Overriding Gov. Bruce Rauner's veto, they adopted legislation -- [House Bill 2977](#) -- requiring public elementary schools to offer at least one unit of instruction in cursive writing starting next school year. School districts can determine at what grade level to begin instruction, but students must learn cursive writing before completing fifth grade. The law goes into effect July 1.

Advocates of cursive writing say it is a timeless art, and a lack of understanding might hinder one's ability to read historical documents or family histories. Opponents see it as a nonessential skill and yet another unfunded mandate on schools.

Whether cursive writing improves student outcomes also is in question.

"It depends entirely upon how it is taught," says Rand Nelson, president and CEO of Pennsylvania-based [Peterson Directed Handwriting](#). "For probably 40 years the major educational publishing houses have virtually all been promoting handwriting programs. All of them employ the same strategy to sell workbooks. That does not help the majority of kids learn cursive handwriting."

Nelson said the traditional trace and copy strategy doesn't work for most kids.

"Schools spend enormous sums to buy handwriting workbooks for every child. Therein lies the rub. The act of tracing is not using the kind of movement that we need to teach," Nelson said. "The visual feedback system is guiding the movement. The person tracing is forced to watch the pen move in order to make the lines match."

Nelson favors the Peterson Method, a strategy for movement-based training. Students first learn to finger trace the model letter in the air, then look at the target and execute goal-oriented movement from point A to point B rather than tracing along a line. It helps build muscle memory.



Students in Rebecca Lunak's third-grade classroom work on cursive writing at Liberty Elementary School in Bartlett. Illinois lawmakers voted to require the teaching of cursive in schools. - Rick West | Staff Photographer

All 26 lowercase letters are made with three cursive movements -- over-curve, under-curve and slant.

"Training the motor system by finger tracing gives (it) a chance to embed the information," Nelson said. "It's like learning the electric slide. Until you get the whole pattern in your brain, you can't move with the beat with all the other dancers. That's the kind of movement we want kids to learn."

When the teaching strategy includes learning how to move, it creates new brain pathways, resulting in better processing of written language, he said.

While the science behind effective handwriting techniques hasn't been thoroughly investigated, 80 percent of elementary school teachers nationwide use the trace-and-copy method for teaching cursive, according to a [study](#) by Steve Graham, a professor of special education and literacy at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

School districts first need to train teachers on changing their strategies to better help students learn cursive, Nelson said. "It can become an art form, if the training would continue long enough," he said. "Print writing, you are only going to get so good at it. It is the challenge that makes the brain change and grow and connect, which cursive provides. It's like basketball, football or baseball ... kids need to practice every day."

---Daily Herald--- 12/20/17

## **Hanover Township recognizes new U-46 principals at reception**

SUBMITTED BY HANOVER TOWNSHIP



Hanover Township Supervisor Brian McGuire and Elgin Area School District CEO Tony Sanders talk with attendees at the New Leaders in Education reception.

Hanover Township hosted its annual New Leaders in Education reception on December 5 at the Township Senior Center to recognize the six new School District U-46 principals who serve in Hanover Township. Local elected officials from the community joined the Township in welcoming the leaders in their new positions.



Principals Krystal Thomas of Elgin High School; Maria Lopez of Laurel Hill Elementary School; Abby Eklund of Lincoln Elementary School; Michelle Chapman-Simmons of Streamwood High School; Dr. Maria Valdovinos of Sunnydale Elementary School; Luis Fernando DeLeon of Tefft Middle School; and Yvette Gonzalez of Ellis Middle School were introduced at the reception.

"Our staff are in many schools working with teachers and school officials in providing direct services to students," said Hanover Township Supervisor Brian P. McGuire. "This event serves an opportunity to connect with the new principals and help put names to faces in building relationships."

This was the ninth annual event recognizing new U-46 principals.

"At U-46, we really appreciate the strong relationship that exists between Hanover Township and the District, because community support for our schools is critical to their success," said U-46 CEO Tony Sanders. "Events like the New Leaders in Education reception and the Hanover Township Principal of the Year Award in the spring remind our staff members that they are valued and help to strengthen those bonds with the greater community."

To learn more about Hanover Township and programs with U-46, please visit [www.hanover-township.org](http://www.hanover-township.org) or call (630) 483-5799.

---Daily Herald--- 12/20/17

## **Harriet Gifford Elementary hosts McTeacher's Night**

**SUBMITTED BY JULIE TRAVERS**

Harriet Gifford Elementary School of Elgin School District U-46 held their first annual McTeacher's Night at the Elgin McDonald's on Larkin on Wednesday, November 8th.

A McTeacher's Night is organized to help raise money for local schools by having the teachers work at McDonald's and then giving a percentage of the night's sales to the local school.

On Nov. 8 the restaurant was taken over by teachers excited to serve freshly prepared meals to students and their families to raise money for the schools' Parent Involvement Committee. The students and families were excited to see their teachers and Principal behind the counter and throughout the restaurant.

Eleven teachers and staff members worked from the School including Principal Joe Corcoran from the Elgin Area School District U-46 school worked that evening. The McTeacher's jobs included greeting guests, cleaning the lobby, working the front counter, serving drinks, clearing tables, selling pies and even dressing up in a pie costume.

School social worker Emily Gillmeister and Teacher Yasmina Dimas took turns dancing around the restaurant in a pie costume. They were encouraging the families to make a donation and receive a hot apple pie. As a special treat to the students at Harriet Gifford, the school mascot "Buddy" was on hand for the night and took pictures with the students.

A special thank you goes to Cristina Camposano who organized the event as well as everyone that worked and attended.

The Harriet Gifford PIC plans to put the money raised into their general funds to be used for items that are needed throughout the school year.

The McTeacher's Night was courtesy of the Elgin on Larkin McDonald's Owner/Operator, David Bear. Like the restaurant at [www.facebook.com/BearFamilyMcDonalds/](https://www.facebook.com/BearFamilyMcDonalds/)

For more information about events provided by the Elgin McDonalds contact Community Relations Director Julie Travers at [julie.travers@comcast.net](mailto:julie.travers@comcast.net). You can also visit their website at [www.bearfamilyrestaurants.com](http://www.bearfamilyrestaurants.com)

## **SPORTS SECTION**

---Daily Herald--- 12/20/17

### **King leads Stars past South Elgin at Sears Centre**

**BY JERRY FITZPATRICK**

Take St. Charles North forward Kyle King out of a high school gym and put him in a larger venue like the Sears Centre and what do you get?

The North Stars got the same dependable production from King in Tuesday's 60-47 victory over South Elgin they've been getting for four varsity seasons.

The 6-foot-5 senior scored 19 points and grabbed 6 rebounds to lead St. Charles North (6-3) to the Upstate Eight crossover victory in a game played at the Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates.

"It was fun. I wish it was packed up (in the stands) just like for the Windy City Bulls," King said of the modest weeknight crowd. "The floor was awesome. And the different atmosphere was great."

South Elgin (6-2) led 14-11 after a quarter as 6-foot-6 junior Vince Miskiewicz scored 9 of his career-high 27 points, highlighted by a left-handed dunk on a drive through the lane.

King answered with 9 points in the second quarter, including the first 7 points of the period. He helped St. Charles North outscore the Storm 23-9 in the quarter to take a 34-23 halftime lead.

"Their big guy (Miskiewicz) deserves a ton of respect," St. Charles North coach Tom Poulin said. "I thought he played well. I thought Kyle played well. Kyle's pretty steady. Every night he's close to a double-double. He's (averaging) like 15 (points) and 10 (rebounds) or something like that right now. We expect that from Kyle. He brings it every night."

The Storm made 6 of 10 first-quarter shots, including a Nate Rohr 3-pointer, but connected on 4 of 12 second-quarter attempts, including 0 of 6 from 3-point range. Three Miskiewicz inside buckets kept the South Elgin offense from completely fizzling.

"When you're a team that lives by the open shot and they're not going in, it's really hard to stay in tough games," South Elgin coach Brett Johnson said.

Junior Tyler Nubin provided St. Charles North with a second-quarter spark off the bench. He scored 7 points, including a pair of transition baskets off turnovers during a 16-2 run that turned a 3-point deficit into an 11-point lead.

South Elgin turned the ball over 16 times overall compared to 12 for St. Charles North, but the North Stars held a 23-20 rebounding advantage. The difference was North's ability to work its offense to find and make high-percentage shots. They shot 45 percent from the field (22 of 49).

"They ran their offense, I think, pretty much perfectly the whole night," Johnson said. "We had a game plan and I think we did a good job planning for it, but we'd over rotate and then they'd make the right pass and make the shot or get the layup or we would lose our communication or we don't follow the game plan. When you do that it's hard to beat a team of St. Charles North's caliber."

Senior forward Cade Callaghan and reserve guard Lucas Heflen each finished with 9 points for St. Charles North, which plays Friday at Batavia (7-1), which has won 4 straight.

Junior guard Drake Montgomery scored 7 points and Rohr added 6 points for South Elgin, which is idle until Dec. 27, when the 90th Annual Chuck Dayton Tournament at DeKalb begins.

---Daily Herald--- 12/20/17

## **Last-second shot misses as Elgin falls to Chicago Collins**

BY ALLEN OSHINSKI

A wide-open layup that would have tied the game rimmed out at the buzzer.

It was that kind of night for the Elgin boys basketball team as Chicago Collins hung on for a 58-56 victory in nonconference action at Chesbrough Field House.

The loss wasted a superb effort by Dan Toolsie, who poured in 33 points.

Of course, as Elgin coach Mike Sitter pointed out, the Maroons helped seal their fate long before that final shot circled the rim and rolled out.

The Maroons led 56-54 on a driving layup by Toolsie. Demarcus Williams tied it for Collins with the last of his 19 points. After the Warriors blocked 2 shots on Elgin's next possession, Jaquan Embrey finally controlled the rebound for Collins, and Frequon Loury made a layup to put the Warriors ahead for good.

Elgin had a chance to set up a play after a timeout with 11 seconds left and the Maroons got the look they wanted but couldn't convert.

Trevon Morris added 9 points for Elgin (1-7). Roy Panthier grabbed 8 rebounds, and John Fortmann added 5 points and 5 assists.

The teams traded runs in the first half, with Collins scoring 10 straight to go up 23-11. Elgin answered with a 17-4 spurt to take its first lead at 28-27. After that, the game was extremely tight. The lead changed hands 9 more times and neither team led by more than 4.

Also irritating Sitter was Collins' 38-21 edge on the boards. Demajaie Walton grabbed 11 rebounds to go along with 12 points for the Warriors.

Toolsie was everywhere on the offensive end for Elgin, scoring 11 points in the second quarter and 10 in the third. He hit 11 of 23 shots overall, including 4 of 8 from 3-point range.



# The Examiner of STREAMWOOD

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

50 cents  
December 20, 2017

Sabres girls hoops  
log straight victories  
See ..... Page 2

Tidbits: Enjoy all  
Xmas has to offer  
See ..... Page 4

## Board self-evaluation in U-46 triggers debate

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 will hold a self-evaluation with the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), at taxpayer expense, in February despite two board members objecting to the meeting being done in closed session.

Donna Smith, the board's president, made the decision to hold the self-evaluation in closed session at the board meeting on Monday, Dec. 18 even though board member Jeanette Ward reiterated she would not attend unless it was open to the public which she also said at the previous meeting on Dec. 4. Board member Phil Costello also wants the meeting to be held in open session.

Back in February, the previous board held a workshop with the IASB as its self-evaluation meeting and was the first time such a meeting was held in open session.

"I have attended closed session board self-evaluations in the past and have found them to be unproductive and in some cases offensive, as I have been equated to the '21st century brand of the KKK' and specific com-

munity members have been called things I will not repeat," Ward said. "It's nothing short of bullying."

Ward added that when it was done in open "these behaviors did not occur. That is why, unless the board self-evaluation is open to the public, I will not attend."

Board member Veronica Noland confirmed Ward's concerns, which also confirmed Ward was correct in August 2016, but she supported the meeting being done in closed session.

"I was at those same board self evaluations, I heard the comments that Mrs. Ward was talking about," Noland said. "It wasn't pleasant, it wasn't easy but I also think that it is the only time we can have what I hope is constructive dialogue."

For Costello, he said everything the board does is meant for the taxpayers who fund it and told the public "you deserve to know where we're coming from." He said the board should put its personal preferences, which was the reason the majority wanted it in closed session, aside as it is for the public.

"I value having the discourse in pub-

lic because I think that's who we're all accountable to," Costello said. "Every board member here is accountable to the public and they should know the dynamics."

Board member Traci Ellis was not in attendance at the Dec. 18 meeting but was part of a contentious discussion at the Dec. 4 meeting. Although the majority of the board had agreed to do it in open session, after Ellis said she wanted it done in closed, the majority changed course.

As the board discussed dates to hold the meeting, as well as a meeting for CEO Tony Sanders' evaluation, Ward requested the self-evaluation be done in open session and on a weeknight as it had been in February.

Most of the board wanted the meeting to be held on a Saturday to do both the self-evaluation and CEO evaluation back-to-back to which Costello asked: "For the people saying Saturday, are we still keeping it open to the public though?"

Board member Sue Kerr said "the superintendent part can't be obviously" but said "yeah" on the self-evaluation being done in open, and Smith said "we can do it either way." Noland indicated the self-evaluation being done in open was fine as "it's all about the dates for me."

Board member Melissa Owens, who was elected earlier this year, did not take a position on the self-evaluation being open or closed.

Although it appeared set that the meeting would be open as the discussion continued, Ellis later said: "I think that the board self evaluation is the opportunity for the board. It's allowed to be in closed session, I think it's allowed to be in closed session for good reason and my preference would be for it to be in closed session."

Ellis said: "Any evaluation that is done publicly changes the conversation."

After Ellis spoke, some board members changed their opinion as Kerr said "we would not discuss the same

things in open probably" and Noland said she preferred it in closed. Smith declared it would be in closed session to which Ward stated: "I don't see a lot of value in the self evaluation anyways, and if it's in closed I will not be attending."

Ellis went on to call Ward "petty" and requested the board still hold a self-evaluation without her. Smith earlier said the IASB "would prefer if all of us were available if we do a self-evaluation."

"We still have the others of us who could benefit from a self-evaluation, and I think those of us who are committed to this work and want to evaluate ourselves and have a discussion about our performance we should have the opportunity to do that," Ellis said.

Costello responded: "I think there's tremendous value in having an open discussion in front of the public who sees us twice a month, and I think that's a very important tool of transparency for them to see it as opposed to having us walk in from a closed session and then wondering why we have these discussions that seem to have other agendas behind them."

Ward noted it "prevents inappropriate things from happening if it's public," a remark that "disappointed" Owens. Owens said "that's really disappointing to hear that, and I don't know why that's necessary" which Ward responded "because I have firsthand experience."

At the Dec. 18 meeting, Kerr said "I think we can all certainly make sure we keep everything very civilized." Smith said "it gives us an opportunity to just have general discussions on the way we govern" and "it never says we have to all agree or get along."

At the February workshop, Barbara Toney of the IASB said "you don't have to like each other to be on a board, but you've got to be able to get along" and added board members should be respectful of everyone's position whether they agree or not.

## Library to begin year with reading challenge

By Joe Hyland

The Poplar Creek Public Library has just the thing to help the younger set fight off the post holiday/winter doldrums. On Monday, Jan. 8, 2018 the library will start the sign-up for its winter reading challenge. The event, titled A Blizzard of Books, will run until Friday, Feb. 23, 2018. Those interested can register at the library or online at pclub.org.

The event challenges children and teens to read during the winter, and offers rewards for doing so. Any kind of reading counts: Books, magazines and graphic novels are all acceptable. For every 150 minutes reading, a child receives a raffle ticket for a gift basket. If he or she tallies a total of 1,050 minutes, there is an award of \$10 worth of Library Bucks which can be used towards paying off fines, purchasing used books or buying other library-re-

lated items such as tote bags. There is even a reward just for signing up.

The challenge will officially kick off on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018 with an event to be held at the library, located at 1405 S. Park Ave. The event will run from 1 to 3 p.m. There will be an ice sculpture demonstration as well as a hot chocolate and cookie bar and an assortment of winter crafts for both children and teens.

Finally, the library will be conducting a clothing drive that will commence on Jan 8, 2018 and run until Friday, Feb. 9, 2018. Of particular interest will be gently used winter coats, hats, scarves, warm socks and gloves. All clothing collected will be donated to the Hanover Township Social Services Department. The library asks that all items be freshly laundered before being donated. The box will be located outside the entrance to the library.



### Congratulations for job well done

Graduate Virajreddy Bezawada received a congratulatory handshake from Chief of Police Ed Valente during the D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony at Ridge Circle Elementary School on Thursday, Dec. 14. For story and more photos see page 5.

(Examiner photo by Juli Schatz)



# Police Reports

## STREAMWOOD

**Saturday, Dec. 2**

★ At 7:47 p.m., Scott K. Kern, 51, was arrested and charged with DUI, BAC over .08, expired registration and no proof of insurance. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

**Friday, Dec. 8**

★ At 8:42 p.m., Anthony M. Korpalski, 22, Streamwood, was arrested and charged with manufacture and delivery of cannabis and possession of cannabis. He was transported to bond call.

**Saturday, Dec. 10**

★ At 9:52 p.m., Lasara J. Allen, 23, DeKalb, was arrested and charged with failure to dim headlights and driving while license suspended or revoked. She was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

**Thursday, Dec. 14**

★ At 1:23 a.m., Raul Bonilla, 35, Elgin, was arrested and charged with driving while license suspended and improper lane usage. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

★ At 11:52 p.m., Tricia L. Barto, 20, Roselle, was arrested and charged with possession of cannabis and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

## BARTLETT

**Wednesday, Dec. 6**

★ At 12:58 p.m., a complainant in the 900 block of Georgian Place reported that an unknown offender used her Macy's card to make purchases and changed the password to her online account. The complainant advised

that she notified Macy's of the incident and canceled the credit card.

★ At 6:40 p.m., Jasmine R. Standefer, 20, Bartlett, was arrested and charged with driving while license suspended and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. She was released on an I-bond and faces a Dec. 26 court date.

★ At 11:38 p.m., Sabdyel Reyes, 20, Melrose Park, was arrested and charged with driving while license suspended and speeding. He was released on an I-bond and faces a Jan. 8, 2018 court date.

**Thursday, Dec. 7**

★ At 12:31 p.m., Michael Anthony Giammarse, 20, Bartlett, was arrested and charged with aggravated speeding. He was released on an I-bond and faces a Jan. 8, 2018 court date.

★ At 5:22 p.m., police on patrol in the 2000 block of Westridge Boulevard reported graffiti written on the panel of a ComEd electrical box. Police notified ComEd of the incident.

★ At 11:58 p.m., a complainant in the 300 block of Mulberry Court reported excessive barking from her neighbor's two dogs in a nearby unit. Police advised the complainant to contact her home owner's association regarding the incident.

**Friday, Dec. 8**

★ At 7:44 a.m., a complainant in the 100 block of Third Avenue reported receiving fraudulent phone calls from subjects claiming to work for Microsoft. She advised she had given them money over the phone for an anti-virus software program, but was reimbursed when she realized it was a fraud.

★ At 9:22 a.m., a complainant in the 100 block of North Oak Avenue reported a sign on the playground that

had been torn from its post.

★ At 9:50 a.m., a complainant in the 200 block of Wayne Court reported that her vehicle was taken by a friend without permission. Police searched the area with negative results. Upon completion of their canvas, they saw the vehicle pull into the driveway and attempt to make contact with the driver with negative results. Police called the complainant who advised that she would arrive back at home and allow officers to search the residence. Police searched the home and vehicle with negative results.

★ At 11:02 a.m., a complainant in the 300 block of Sundance Drive reported a vehicle driving all over the roadway. The complainant reportedly followed the driver to an address where the subject parked and got out of the vehicle. Police attempted to make contact with the driver with negative results.

★ At 6:17 p.m., a 17-year-old juvenile was cited for fighting. She faces a Dec. 29 court date.

★ At 8:45 p.m., a complainant in the 1100 block of Morning Glory reported that an unknown offender rang her door bell and claimed to be with a pest control company. She advised that she thought her husband had scheduled maintenance and allowed the subject to enter her back yard. Her husband arrived home and advised that he did not schedule maintenance.

★ At 8:56 p.m., a complainant in the 1500 block of Longmeadow Lane reported that an unknown offender used his credit card number to make unauthorized purchases. He advised that he only uses the card to make gasoline purchases and last made a purchase at 7-Eleven. He advised the card and account had been flagged and closed. Police checked the 7-Eleven for skimming devices with negative results.

**Saturday, Dec. 9**

★ At 3:57 a.m., police on patrol in the 1000 block of Army Trail Road reported a suspicious vehicle and attempted to make contact with the occupant. The subject could not remember where she lived. Her vehicle was locked and she was transported.

★ At 9:48 a.m., a complainant in the 600 block of Mallard Court reported that an unknown offender stole headphones, change and a tool bag from her unlocked vehicle. Police spoke with a neighbor who advised that she noticed the complainant's trunk open. Estimated loss \$280.

★ At 2:43 p.m., a complainant in the 900 block of Grant Street reported that an unknown offender broke her mailbox post. Police did not notice tire tracks, but did notice a mark where it was struck by an unknown object.

★ At 5:47 p.m., a complainant in the 900 block of South Bartlett Road reported an unknown subject pulling out handicapped parking signs and throwing them. Police searched the area with negative results.

★ At 8:54 p.m., police responded to the 200 block of Hawk Hollow Drive for a home fire. The fire was contained.

★ At 10:54 p.m., police responded to a verbal dispute in the 700 block of Baytree Drive. The parties were separated and peace was restored.

**Sunday, Dec. 10**

★ At 1:57 a.m., Matthew J. Dyer, 26, Lake in the Hills, was arrested and charged with criminal damage to property and criminal trespass. He was released on an I-bond and faces a Dec. 26 court date.

★ At 2:03 a.m., a complainant in the 200 block of South Park Place Drive reported that an unknown offender ran into a street light, street sign and a mailbox using their vehicle. Police canvassed the area with negative results.

**Monday, Dec. 11**

★ At 2:19 p.m., a complainant at Lake Street and Park Boulevard reported that the driver behind her tapped her bumper with her vehicle. Police did not observe any damage other than a cracked license plate holder. Police spoke with the other driver who advised that her foot slipped off the brake and she tapped the other vehicle. Police did not observe any damage to her vehicle. The parties agreed to handle the incident in a civil manner.

## Sabres girls hoops topple Larkin, St. Charles East

**By Seth Hancock**

An explosive third quarter propelled the Streamwood girls basketball team to an easy Upstate Eight Conference River Division win over Larkin by a 66-40 score on Thursday, Dec. 14 at Larkin.

The Sabres clung to an 8-7 lead after one quarter but used a solid defensive effort in the second to gain some distance with a 24-13 lead by halftime.

In the third quarter, Streamwood took off with a 30-8 frame leading to its largest lead of the night heading into the fourth quarter at 54-21.

"That was by far our most productive quarter this season," said Streamwood coach George Rosner. "We talked about what we needed to do at halftime, and it was up to them to do it and they executed. I think the second quarter was better defensively and we were able to build a nice lead, but the third quarter I didn't see that coming."

"Honestly, I just thought we came together in that third quarter," said Monica Brown who led the Sabres with 13 points.

Brown was one of four Sabres to reach double figures including 12 points from Andrea Bracy, 11 from Rebecca Roncone and 10 from Mandy

Mien.

All of Brown's points were in the second half, 11 coming in the third quarter including three straight three-pointers to build a 42-17 lead. Bracy and Mien both added six points in the frame.

"The last couple of games I wasn't scoring much," Brown said. "When I hit that first shot, I just got the momentum going."

In her first start of the season coming off an injury, senior Maddi Exline scored eight points including a pair of treys. Riya Patel also scored eight points, and Alexis Rojas added four.

Streamwood went on to defeat St. Charles East 61-55 in a seesaw UEC River Division contest on Friday, Dec. 15 at Streamwood. The Sabres led 16-7 after one quarter to fall behind 24-23 by the break, but Streamwood took over the lead again at 39-34 after three quarters before edging East 22-21 in the fourth.

Exline led with 17 points, including a pair of threes, and the Sabres had contributions from Brown (15 points), Bracy (10 points), Rojas (seven points), Mien (six points) and Roncone (six points).

The Sabres are now 3-8 overall, 3-2 in the UEC River Division.

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# Ridge Circle honors its D.A.R.E. graduates



Gaston Klaric read his winning essay, a 'letter to my future self' describing his experience in the D.A.R.E. program.

Drug Addiction Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) graduation ceremonies are being held in Streamwood elementary schools during the period Tuesday, Dec. 12 to Thursday, Dec. 21. Ridge Circle Elementary hosted its graduation Thursday, Dec. 14 with some 140 fifth-graders being honored. At the ceremony, D.A.R.E. officers Ed Polaski and Matt Stastny as well as sev-

eral village officials joined graduates.

The D.A.R.E. program teaches children how to prevent use of drugs, membership in gangs and violent behavior. Students who enter the program sign a pledge not to use drugs or join gangs and are taught about the dangers of recreational drug use, via an interactive, 11-week, in-school curriculum.



Essay winners, from left, Julia Supercynski, Gaston Klaric, Brianna Jaquez and Mariangela Batras.



Leya Adas from Kim Hamblin's class received her diploma and congratulations from D.A.R.E. Officer Ed Polaski. (Examiner photos by Juli Schatz)

# Big comeback leads to Streamwood victory



Keenon Cole pulling down a rebound off the offensive boards as West Chicago's Isaac Nelson prepared for a possible put back effort from Cole.



The Sabres' DeAngelo Flynn eyeing the West Chicago basket after getting past the Wildcats' Jordan Wilkens.



Streamwood's Brendon Marton elevating to fire off a three-point shot attempt above the West Chicago defense. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood boys basketball team rallied from a slow start to defeat West Chicago 56-53 in Upstate Eight Conference crossover play on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at Streamwood.

West Chicago came out strong behind its leading scorer, Jason Gimre, who hit seven of eight three-point attempts in building a 27-11 lead early in the second quarter over the Sabres. Gimre wouldn't score again in the first half while the Sabres began their rally with a 12-2 run with a Nikola Sinik (five points) trey in the final seconds pulling Streamwood to 29-23.

"We saw the flow of the game, their kid was on fire and we knew we had to change some things," said Streamwood coach Paul Kowalyszyn. "We had to take him out of the equation the best that we could."

Keenon Cole finished with a team-high 24 points including a pair of seven-point frames in the second half and his dunk with 1:57 left in the third quarter gave Streamwood its first lead at 42-40. Kevin Bauer had a pair of threes in the third, and the Sabres trailed 46-42 heading into the fourth.

Streamwood trailed 50-46 in the fourth quarter when it went on a 10-0

run to take the lead for good. A trey from DeAngelo Flynn (five points) gave the Sabres a 51-50 lead and Cole completed a three-point play with 1:10 left to play for a 56-50 lead.

"We knew we could come back and win that game," Cole said. "We just got back in the flow, did what our coaches told us to do and ran our offense a lot better and we came out with the win."

Lamont Cole and Brendon Marton both finished with six points and Zack Marquez added four.

Streamwood did hold onto its lead in the final minute but did miss the front

end of three one-and-one chances at the charity stripe which could have helped seal the win earlier.

"We still have a lot to improve on, but we'll take it," Kowalyszyn said. "Once we cleaned some things up a little bit and got to what we were supposed to do instead of what we felt like doing out there, we started chipping away."

The Sabres did go on to suffer an 81-50 UEC River Division loss against St. Charles East on Thursday, Dec. 14 at Streamwood.

Streamwood is now 3-6 overall, 0-4 in the UEC River Division.



# The Examiner

Volume 13  
Number 32

"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 20, 2017

Little League facility  
approved for cable  
See ..... Page 6

U-46 self-evaluation  
debated by board  
See ..... Page 10

## Neighbors rally to aid families of stricken kids

By Kristin Carreno

The Thornwood Subdivision symbolizes a unity thanks to a group of tight-knit neighbors. Two families in the area living one house away from each other both have a child battling cancer. Twelve-year-old Ty Hawkinson has a rare form of bone cancer while just down the block, 8-year-old Ella Joy Won is battling non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

According to Tara O'Briskie Azzano, a community outreach effort within the neighborhood has brought generosity, love and friendship to these children who now have an entire community backing them. Neighbors are constantly putting together various ideas via social network to make the holidays for these kids.

Azzano, a resident in Thornwood, started a Facebook group titled "A Magical Christmas for Ella Joy, Asaph and Ty." (Asaph Won is Ella Joy Won's younger brother and her bone marrow transplant donor.) Jessica Alessi Conone and Joanna Stibgen Meyers are two other Thornwood residents who help run the Facebook group. According to Azzano, there is no single neighbor or person to take credit for everything as everyone has worked equally hard.

When Ella Joy Won's mother, Anna Won put a post on Facebook asking for help with her Christmas lights, and the word about her daughter got out, according to Azzano. The online group was started about a month ago. News about these children spread and more people joined. It now has about 180 members, mostly from the Thornwood neighborhood.

Ty Hawkinson's rare bone cancer called Ewing's sarcoma, according to Azzano, has resulted in a very invasive surgery where three ribs and a tumor were removed. He is still on chemotherapy.

According to Anna Won, her daughter was diagnosed with Stage 4 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in October 2013. Ella Joy went through over two years of chemotherapy before relapsing in March. Since then Ella Joy has received three rounds of high-dose chemotherapy, radiation and a bone marrow transplant from her brother.

"I knew it would be hard to keep Ella Joy in isolation but our community joined in and supported us," said Anna Won. "For Asaph's first day of school friends gathered around our home to walk him. Neighbors volunteered to stay home with Ella Joy so I could volunteer at school."

According to Meyers, shortly after learning about Ella Joy Won's condi-

tion, neighbors found out about Ty Hawkinson.

Azzano added that she, Meyers and Conone asked group members and neighbors to start posts in the group to help both families have a "magical Christmas." The response was overwhelming. A special mailbox was made for each family and put on their porches. Ornaments, lottery cards and small gifts started being delivered by various neighbors. The kids looked forward to going to the "special mailbox each" day in December to see what other donated presents arrived.

"Every day in December, Ella Joy and

Asaph look forward to checking our magical Christmas mailbox for wonderful ornaments, Christmas goodies and lottery tickets," Anna Won said. "Our family is extremely thankful to our community for the outpouring of so much love, support and prayers. I can tell you for sure that our community is chock full of cheerful givers."

Instead of helping fix the Christmas tree lights per Anna Won's Facebook request, neighbors donated a 9-foot Christmas tree and Cal's Angels, a pediatric cancer foundation, provided Christmas lights and decorated both families' houses, according to Azzano.

Another neighbor donated tickets to the Hawkinson family to see a Chicago Bulls game against the Boston Celtics as Ty Hawkinson's father Andy is a Bulls' fan while Ty is a Celtics' fan.

"My son is the traitor," Andy Hawkinson joked.

According to Azzano, the neighborhood also had Santa visit both homes to deliver presents. A limousine was arranged to take both families to view the Christmas lights in the village. Baskets with gift cards were delivered

See Aid for kids, pg. 6



### Holiday melodies

The South Elgin High School jazz ensemble performing on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at a school Winter Wonderland concert. For story and more photos see page 9.

(Examiner photo by Ray Dunn)

## Fire Protection District awarded higher rating

By Kristin Carreno

At the Fire Protection District meeting on Monday, Dec. 11, Fire Chief William Sohn announced that after a recent review by the Insurance Services Offices, Inc. (ISO), the fire district's rating had been upgraded from Class 3 to Class 2. This classification assesses the fire protection efforts in a community.

The new rating goes into effect March 1, 2018, according to Assistant Fire Chief Steve Wascher. The improved rating score may help residents and businesses in the village to obtain lower insurance costs.

As a result, property and business owners are en-

couraged to contact their insurance company to notify them of the new ISO rating once it is effective.

"We are now officially a Class 2 which is in the top 3 percent of the whole nation," said Sohn. "There's not that many fire departments that have that."

According to Sohn, ISO conducts field visits to collect information on fire protection efforts in communities throughout the United States and then analyzes the data using its Fire Suppression Rating Schedule. The rating is based on four factors which include the district's ability to receive and respond

to emergencies, its equipment, personnel and training, the available water supply, and distribution and communication and dispatch procedures.

After evaluating the factors, ISO assigns a Public Protection Classification from Class 1 to Class 10 that range from representing superior fire protection a fire suppression program that does not meet ISO's minimum standards for fire suppression, according to Sohn.

"There are not very many people in the nation who have a Class 2 so we should be very proud of that," Sohn said.



# U-46 board member post attracts public attention

By Seth Hancock

"Do you know what your children are being taught?"

That's a question School District U-46 Board of Education member Jeanette Ward recently posed in a social media post in which she described an article and assignment one of her daughters, a middle school student in the district, received stating the article was "utterly incorrect and false on many levels." She noted that instances like this are one of the reasons she focuses on resource proposals and has voted no on several occasions.

In response to a member of the public's question on her page, Ward said the assignment was given in an English Language Arts class.

The article, which Ward included in her post, stated as fact that Christians, Jews and Muslims "all believe in the same God."

Jesus Christ is reduced merely to a prophet for Christians according to the article which stating he was "another prophet of the same God" as both Jews and Muslims.

For informing the public of the assignment, Ward was accused of being uncivil and disrespectful by members of various religious institutions in the area as four spoke during public comments at the board meeting on Monday, Dec. 18.

Katie Shaw Thompson, a pastor at Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren in Elgin, said that the day before the meeting "a group of faith leaders from varying traditions" met to discuss how to respond to Ward's post.

Thompson said the group agreed with Ward's assessment of the article but they "strongly take exception" to her informing the public on social media.

"We agreed that the article lacked nuance and generosity in its description of these three faith traditions which we represent," Thompson said. "None of us saw our faith traditions represented in their fullness in the article as represented from the school's curriculum. We sympathize with Ms. Ward on this point."

Thompson added: "However, we feel that more important than the content of the article is the question of how we are to engage with inevitable differences of opinion, theology and world view."

Sulayman Hassan, a Muslim with Baitul Ilm Academy in Streamwood, said instead of informing the public Ward should have used it as a chance to teach her children, something Ward later noted she did.

"When such articles and statements

are presented to our children, we believe it is helpful to use these instances as opportunities to teach them why we disagree with the information being presented and how to do so with respect and humility," Hassan said. "Indeed, we believe that teaching our children to identify, understand and even challenge ideas with which they do not agree is helpful training for them as students, citizens and people of faith."

Steven Peskind, a rabbi and hospital chaplain from Streamwood, said he has a "deep concern about the well-being of our community, including a deep concern for what the children of our community are taught."

"Faithful, respectful leadership means engaging teachers and administrators directly," Peskind said. "Faithful, respectful leadership means fostering kind and curious conversations about our differences that bring us closer together rather than further divide us."

Denise Tracy, a reverend and president of the Coalition of Elgin Religious Leaders, said the group wants to "bring out the best in our diverse community by engaging in respectful dialogue that honors both our differences and the worth of every person."

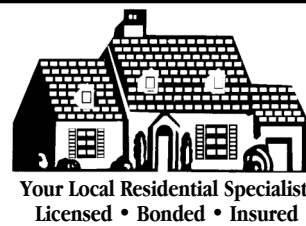
In response, Ward thanked those individuals for speaking but asked some rhetorical questions: "Which part of my Facebook post offended you? The part where I asked if Muslims believe in the same God as Christians and Jews? Or the part where I stated that the excerpt I posted from my daughter's homework assignment was 'utterly incorrect and false on many levels?'"

"There is nothing in that post that is uncivil," Ward said. "I was pointing out that the claim made was factually in error and deeply offensive to many Muslims, Jews and Christians."

Ward said she shared their concerns with what is being taught to students and agreed it was a teachable moment, and she noted that she not only used it as such with her children but also did engage the teacher.

"You can be certain that my husband and I discussed it with both our daughters at length and that we contacted the teacher," Ward said. "But how were the other parents and pastors in the community to know this was being taught unless I informed them? It is my obligation to inform parents and taxpayers, which is exactly what I did, and will continue to do."

Ward added: "Parents and pastors shouldn't have to undo what has been taught by schools. Sadly, that is not the case."



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# South Elgin storms back to defeat rival Hawks



South Elgin's David Binion firing off a jumper from the top of the key against Bartlett.

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin boys basketball team came roaring back in the second half to defeat Upstate Eight Conference Valley Division rival Bartlett 71-61 on Friday, Dec. 15 at Bartlett.

The first half was tight with six first quarter lead changes and a 14-14 tie at



Vincent Miskiewicz driving home two points with authority after pivoting past the Hawks' Bryan Price

the end of the first frame, and Bartlett leading just 32-29 at halftime.

In the second half, the Storm's leading scorers Vincent Miskiewicz and Drake Montgomery, both finishing with 19 points, helped lead the comeback giving South Elgin coach Brett Johnson his first rivalry win after losing three to the Hawks last year, including in a regional semifinal.

"We've been looking forward to this since the start of the season, but we have to treat it as a normal game," Montgomery said.

"Each time it's gotten more enjoyable

and tougher," Johnson said.

Bartlett pulled ahead 34-29 in the third quarter but Noah Rohr (14 points), who had four three-pointers, hit three straight from behind the arc to give the Storm a 38-34 lead which extended to 43-34 with 2:25 left in the period.

South Elgin led 47-41 in the opening minute of the fourth quarter when Bartlett pulled to 47-45 thanks in part to a technical foul, but the Storm never relinquished its lead using an 11-2 run for a 58-47 lead. Bartlett trailed by at least nine the rest of the game.

"They stayed focused on the task at hand," Johnson said. "They did a phe-



Drake Montgomery scoring for South Elgin over Bartlett's Tomas Vikonis.  
(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

nomenal job grinding that one out."

Miskiewicz had 12 of his points in the fourth quarter keeping the crowd excited including a thunderous dunk late.

"I love getting the crowd fired up because it gets myself fired up and gets my teammates hyped and ready to go," Miskiewicz said. "I knew when I got that dunk the crowd was into it and we were into it all together as a group."

Latrell Lamarca and Jace Warrick both finished with five points for South Elgin.

The Storm are now 6-1 overall, 1-1 in the UEC Valley Division.

# North dominates Elgin while taking two of three



A driving Annie Tate making her way through the Elgin defense to bang home two points for the North Stars. Defending for the Maroons, from left, were Sabrina Chen, Sarah Moskow, Makenna Downing and Kylie Graves.  
(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

By Seth Hancock

The North girls basketball team ran away with an Upstate Eight Conference River Division win, a 56-19 victory over Elgin on Thursday, Dec. 14 at Elgin.

Elgin was held to single digits in each quarter, and North especially dominated over the final three quarters.

North led 14-9 after one quarter then allowed just 10 points the rest of the game. The North Stars led 30-13 by halftime and 50-16 heading into the fourth.

"Our athleticism and our ability to

get out in transition is an area of strength for us," said North coach Mike Tomczak. "We have tremendous leadership from our girls, and when they're all clicking they can be very dangerous."

Anna Davern led the effort with 16 points and Megan Gunnink added 10, both finishing with a pair of three-pointers. Anna Tate had eight points, Emma Helsel five and both Shelby Parmer and Caroline Shafar four.

Team depth and everyone contributing has been a goal for each game.

"The theme in the locker room is to

be selfless, play together and get better shots," Davern said. "Everyone on the team wants to contribute."

The North Stars were coming off a solid nonconference victory over Palatine, which was 7-1 on the season, with a 51-42 victory on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at the Lake Zurich shootout.

North came out dominating grabbing a 21-6 lead after one quarter and withstood a late rally by Palatine. Palatine won the fourth quarter 16-8 but that came after the North Stars



Leading a fast break, North's Emma Helsel, left, is matched stride for stride by Elgin's Veronica Gutierrez as Sutierrez attempted to stop the break before Helsel was able to get off a shot.

had built a 43-26 lead.

Tate had a game-high 20 points, Davern added 12 and Caroline Jakaitis finished with nine.

North ended the week with a 59-42 nonconference loss against Evanston on Saturday, Dec. 16 at North. Davern had 15 points and Tate nine to lead the North Stars.

The North Stars are now 6-5 overall, 2-2 in the UEC River Division.



# South Elgin takes 'hammer' from Hawks



Madison Waichunas driving the baseline for the Storm as Bartlett's Alexis Sinclair defended. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin girls basketball team couldn't hold off rival Bartlett long enough as the Storm dropped a 52-27 Upstate Eight Conference Valley Division game on Friday, Dec. 15 at Bartlett.

Aniya Zinnerman, who along with Rachel Kelly both led the Storm with six points, hit a pair of buckets in the first quarter, and South Elgin ended the frame with a 7-4 lead as Bartlett shot just 1-for-22 from the field.

However, Bartlett turned the tide right away in the second quarter using a 9-0 start to take the lead for good, 13-7, and the Storm were outscored from the end of the first quarter to midway through the fourth 45-11 to see their largest deficit at 49-18.

"The wheels just kind of fell off," said South Elgin coach Dan Mandernack. "We were the nail today, and they were the hammer."

Mandernack said the game was likely decided in the first quarter despite his team taking the lead.

The Storm had a chance to add on to its early advantage at the free-throw line but went just 1-for-8 in the opening frame, and they finished 7-for-22 for the game. Mandernack also noted "it's hard when your best player has three fouls in the first quarter" as Catora Brown's playing time was limited with the foul trouble, and she ultimately was held to just one point.

"It's a road game and rivalry game and I talk to them about being road tough, but it's disappointing that you throw the first punch and take a 7-4 lead but go 1-for-8 from the free-throw line," Mandernack said. "That was a great opportunity to add on and take some more momentum."

Mandernack added: "We didn't play well the rest of the game, but the game was probably decided in the first quarter."

Miah Galvin added five points in the effort. South Elgin was without Lexie Roberts who is injured.

The loss ended a three-game winning streak for the Storm which included a 47-40 nonconference win against DeKalb on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at South Elgin. Brown had 22 points, Casey Brennan nine and Galvin seven to lead the Storm.

South Elgin is now 4-4 overall, 1-1 in the UEC Valley Division, and will have an 11-day layoff before opening the Dundee-Crown Christmas Tournament.

"It'll be nice to get back in the gym and to watch some film," Mandernack said. "We're just not executing right now, but hopefully the time off will pay off."



South Elgin's Miah Galvin attempting a shot from the paint over the Hawks' Shelley Banks.



Aniya Zinnerman of South Elgin being pressed by Bartlett's Alexis Sinclair during Bartlett's victory over the Storm on Friday, Dec. 15.

# South Elgin concert features multiple groups

On Wednesday, Dec 6, South Elgin High School presented a Winter Wonderland band concert under the direction of Kurt Dobbeck. The three groups performing were the jazz ensemble with a theme of "A Chili Pepper Christmas," the percussion class performed "Dance of the Swan" and the varsity band performed Christmas carols including the final carol was the classic "Sleigh Ride."



Band Director Kurt Dobbeck welcoming the audience. In the background are members of the jazz ensemble.



The jazz ensemble of the South Elgin High School band as Band Director Kurt Dobbeck was preparing them for their next number.



Band Director Kurt Dobbeck conducting the closing with classic Christmas carols.

(Examiner photos by Ray Dunn)



# Police Reports

Continued from page 3

the 900 block of Kane for a report of a domestic.

★ At 9:18 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of Oakwood for a report of a violation of an order of protection.

## BARTLETT

Wednesday, Dec. 6

★ At 12:58 p.m., a complainant in the 900 block of Georgian Place reported that an unknown offender used her Macy's card to make purchases and changed the password to her online account. The complainant advised that she notified Macy's of the incident and canceled the credit card.

★ At 6:40 p.m., Jasmine R. Standefer, 20, Bartlett, was arrested and charged with driving while license suspended and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. She was released on an I-bond and faces a Dec. 26 court date.

★ At 11:38 p.m., Sabdyel Reyes, 20, Melrose Park, was arrested and charged with driving while license suspended and speeding. He was released on an I-bond and faces a Jan. 8, 2018 court date.

Thursday, Dec. 7

★ At 12:31 p.m., Michael Anthony Giammarse, 20, Bartlett, was arrested and charged with aggravated speeding. He was released on an I-bond and faces a Jan. 8, 2018 court date.

★ At 5:22 p.m., police on patrol in the 2000 block of Westridge Boulevard reported graffiti written on the panel of a ComEd electrical box. Police notified ComEd of the incident.

★ At 11:58 p.m., a complainant in the 300 block of Mulberry Court reported excessive barking from her neighbor's two dogs in a nearby unit. Police advised the complainant to contact her home owner's association regarding the incident.

Friday, Dec. 8

★ At 7:44 a.m., a complainant in the 100 block of Third Avenue reported receiving fraudulent phone calls from subjects claiming to work for Microsoft. She advised she had given

them money over the phone for an anti-virus software program, but was reimbursed when she realized it was a fraud.

★ At 9:22 a.m., a complainant in the 100 block of North Oak Avenue reported a sign on the playground that had been torn from its post.

★ At 9:50 a.m., a complainant in the 200 block of Wayne Court reported that her vehicle was taken by a friend without permission. Police searched the area with negative results. Upon completion of their canvas, they saw the vehicle pull into the driveway and attempt to make contact with the driver with negative results. Police called the complainant who advised that she would arrive back at home and allow officers to search the residence. Police searched the home and vehicle with negative results.

★ At 11:02 a.m., a complainant in the 300 block of Sundance Drive reported a vehicle driving all over the roadway. The complainant reportedly followed the driver to an address where the subject parked and got out of the vehicle. Police attempted to make contact with the driver with negative results.

★ At 6:17 p.m., a 17-year-old juvenile was cited for fighting. She faces a Dec. 29 court date.

★ At 8:45 p.m., a complainant in the 1100 block of Morning Glory reported that an unknown offender rang her door bell and claimed to be with a pest control company. She advised that she thought her husband had scheduled maintenance and allowed the subject to enter her back yard. Her husband arrived home and advised that he did not schedule maintenance.

★ At 8:56 p.m., a complainant in the 1500 block of Longmeadow Lane reported that an unknown offender used his credit card number to make unauthorized purchases. He advised that he only uses the card to make gasoline purchases and last made a purchase at 7-Eleven. He advised the card and account had been flagged

and closed. Police checked the 7-Eleven for skimming devices with negative results.

Saturday, Dec. 9

★ At 3:57 a.m., police on patrol in the 1000 block of Army Trail Road reported a suspicious vehicle and attempted to make contact with the occupant. The subject could not remember where she lived. Her vehicle was locked and she was transported.

★ At 9:48 a.m., a complainant in the 600 block of Mallard Court reported that an unknown offender stole headphones, change and a tool bag from her unlocked vehicle. Police spoke with a neighbor who advised that she noticed the complainant's trunk open. Estimated loss \$280.

★ At 2:43 p.m., a complainant in the 900 block of Grant Street reported that an unknown offender broke her mailbox post. Police did not notice tire tracks, but did notice a mark where it was struck by an unknown object.

★ At 5:47 p.m., a complainant in the 900 block of South Bartlett Road reported an unknown subject pulling out handicapped parking signs and throwing them. Police searched the area with negative results.

★ At 8:54 p.m., police responded to the 200 block of Hawk Hollow Drive for a home fire. The fire was contained.

★ At 10:54 p.m., police responded to a verbal dispute in the 700 block of Baytree Drive. The parties were separated and peace was restored.

Sunday, Dec. 10

★ At 1:57 a.m., Matthew J. Dyer, 26, Lake in the Hills, was arrested and charged with criminal damage to property and criminal trespass. He was released on an I-bond and faces a Dec. 26 court date.

★ At 2:03 a.m., a complainant in the 200 block of South Park Place Drive reported that an unknown offender ran into a street light, street sign and a mailbox using their vehicle. Police canvassed the area with negative results.

Monday, Dec. 11

★ At 2:19 p.m., a complainant at Lake Street and Park Boulevard reported that the driver behind her tapped her bumper with her vehicle. Police did not observe any damage other than a cracked license plate holder. Police spoke with the other driver who advised that her foot slipped off the brake and she tapped the other vehicle. Police did not observe any damage to her vehicle. The

parties agreed to handle the incident in a civil manner.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

★ At 4:03 a.m., a complainant in the 1000 block of West Stearns Road reported a suspicious subject lingering around a video gaming facility without playing machines. Police checked the area with negative results.

★ At 8:23 a.m., a complainant in the 100 block of East Railroad Avenue reported that he lost a one carat diamond and believes it fell out of his pocket at the Metra Station. Police inquired with the attendant with negative results.

★ At 9:28 p.m., a complainant in the 300 block of Windsor Drive reported receiving an email from a subject requesting money in exchange for providing information on an order to kill her. The complainant believes that this email is a scam but blocked the email and notified her employer of the incident.

★ At 9:40 p.m., a complainant at Newport Boulevard and Harbor Terrace reported a light pole struck and laying in the curbside lane. Public Works was notified and responded to the scene.

## WAYNE

Friday, Dec. 8

★ At 9:52 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Wabash and Lincoln for a report of a possible disturbance and robbery. The officer located a number of young people who may have been involved in the incident, and stood by until Kane County Sheriff's Office personnel arrived to sort the matter out.

Monday, Dec. 11

★ At 7:45 a.m., police responded to the vicinity of Powis and Army Trail roads for a report of a semi tractor-trailer blocking Powis. The driver advised he had gone into the ditch while backing up. A citizen with a front-end loader extracted the truck from the ditch.

★ At 9:32 a.m., police responded to the 34W block of Whitethorn for a report of illegal dumping. Complainant showed the officer 50 to 60 bags of leaves that had been left on both sides of Whitethorn. He advised he was going to remove them.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

★ At 12:45 p.m., police responded to the 32W block of Churchill for a report of a kitchen fire. The fire was determined to be due to food on the stove that had caught fire. The fire was out by the time officers arrived.



St. Charles  
Public  
Library  
District

# Read! Learn! Connect!

...where the world is just a page away.

The library will close for the Christmas holiday on Sunday and Monday, Dec. 24 and 25 and the New Year's holiday on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018.

For Adults

The **St. Charles Writers Group** is a workshop for novice or experienced writers that meets the second and the fourth Saturday of each month. The group is open to all those 18 years of age or older looking for a community of writers and seeking to improve their writing. All genres are welcome. The next session is Saturday, Dec. 23 from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The topic is: A Writer's Resolutions.

For Teens

Calling all Dungeon Masters and game players. Whether you're a total newcomer or a seasoned pro, come join your fellow players/DMs and talk all things **Dungeons & Dragons** on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018 at 6 p.m. Need help creating a character? Want ideas to help shape a campaign? Or do you just want to share your success stories? Come meet your fellow adventurers.

For Kids

The library is your destination for reading recommendations for kids. Do you need ideas for books at the right reading level for your elementary or middle-school student and

don't know where to start? Are you looking for a book that both you and your young reader will think is a good choice? Stop by the ASK ME Desk for on-the-spot personalized book recommendations for kids.

**Family Game Time** for all ages is Thursday, Dec. 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit us for five hours of fun for the whole family: video gaming, life-size chess, plus board games and building with LEGO. Drop by for an hour or two or more to test your skills with members of your family or with other participants. Children through age seven must be accompanied by an adult. Students in grades three to eight may attend solo. Remember: Video gaming and board games are available in the student area on a daily basis. Drop in for this event; registration is not required.

**A New Year's Eve Celebration with Circus Boy** is Sunday, Dec. 31 from 1 to 2 p.m. Join us as we ring in 2018 with an encore performance by Circus Boy, Bobby Hunt. An action-packed comedy show will have you laughing and smiling as you watch all his antics balancing, spinning, juggling and riding on the world's smallest bike. Watch as the book drops down to kick off the New Year! Register to guarantee your spot.

## North boys hoops tops Elgin, falls to West Aurora

By Seth Hancock

The North boys basketball team couldn't stop a strong finish by West Aurora as the North Stars dropped a 65-53 Upstate Eight Conference crossover game on Saturday, Dec. 16 at North.

For three quarters, the lead switched sides 13 times and West Aurora held the slimmest of leads, 46-45, heading into the fourth.

In the final period, West Aurora dominated with a 19-8 frame and the North Stars never led.

"That moment of truth is always the first four minutes of the fourth quarter in a close game," said North coach Tom Poulin. "It's either going to be close down the stretch or someone's going to pull away."

Poulin added: "When it goes from a back-and-forth kind of game to eight to 10 points, that's a tough spot to be

in against West Aurora."

West Aurora used an 11-4 run to gain distance and a 57-49 lead, and it slowly built its largest lead of 12 points at the final score.

Brendan Dal Degan hit four three-pointers on the way to a team-high 14 points, tied with teammate Kyle King, for North. Cade Callaghan added 11 points and Erik Larson eight, including a pair of treys.

The North Stars were coming off a 49-26 UEC River Division win over Elgin on Friday, Dec. 15 at Elgin. It was North's fourth straight victory and came off a 49-45 win over Bartlett nine days prior.

"With the long layoff we figured we might be a little rusty on offense, but it doesn't matter how long you have been off if you can play defense,"

See Hoops, pg. 12



# Federal grant funds to support land acquisition for public use

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) recently announced \$1,270,500 in federal grant funding has been approved for local governments to purchase land to be used for public access and recreation. Funding for the program is made available through the National Park Service’s Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

“These federal grants provide local governments the opportunity to buy land that will allow more public access to outdoor recreation opportunities close to home for local residents and visitors to these communities,” said IDNR Director Wayne Rosenthal.

The LWCF grant program, which is administered in Illinois by the IDNR, provides up to 50 percent of the cost of projects to help purchase land to be used for public access, with the local governments matching the value of the grants awarded.

This year’s LWCF grant projects are: Champaign County

- Champaign Park District, \$137,000, for the acquisition of Human Kinetics Park, a 5.6-acre park that is privately owned but currently leased to the

Champaign Park District. It will be developed into soccer fields, a multi-purpose field, a multi-purpose path and parking.

Cook County

- Glenview Park District, \$383,500, for the acquisition of 2.95 acres of property adjacent to the Grove National Historic Landmark. This critical parcel is needed to reassemble the original acreage owned by the Kennicott Family and preserve the ecosystem on the property. Trails will be established on this property to connect to the existing trail system.

Kane County

- Forest Preserve District of Kane County, \$750,000, for the acquisition of 149 acres adjacent to the Binnie Forest Preserve. Acquiring this property will add further protections to the wetlands on site and the Kishwaukee Headwaters. Wetlands and floodplains will be interpreted through signage and trails.

The LWCF grant program has been in existence since 1965. Prior to this year, more than \$126 million has been awarded for 733 park projects in Illinois.

## Hoops

Continued from page 11

Poulin said. “I was really pleased with the way we defended. Our goal coming in was to limit them offensively, and I thought we were able to do that by keeping them in front of us and keeping them to one side of the court.”

Elgin was held to single digits in each frame, an eight-point fourth quarter being its top period. North led 24-11 by halftime and 41-18 after three quarters.

King (13 points), Callaghan (10 points, 11 rebounds), Connor Linke (eight points), Lucas Heflen (seven points) and Zachary Ludwig (five points) led the effort.

The North Stars are now 5-3 overall, 2-0 in the UEC River Division.

## Tidbits

Continued from page 4

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

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](http://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.

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Fox Valley Wildlife Center has received 1,500 animals since Jan. 1, 2014!

Almost all of these animals have been babies. Due to this, they are in much need of Kleenex. They are asking for donations of non-scented Kleenex boxes. They are also in much need of fruits and vegetables, mainly grapes, melon, zucchini, squash and greens. If you are able to donate these items, please drop-off at the center any day between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Kane County Audubon is the local chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society and meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month September through May at Hickory Knolls Discovery Center. Field trips, bird walks, and nature hikes are scheduled on Saturdays throughout the year and in lieu of the meeting on the second Wednesday of June, July and August. Enjoy nature. Want to learn more about the birds you see in your backyard and elsewhere? Events are open to the public and newcomers and families are always welcome. For more information on Kane County Audubon, call Bob Andrini at 630-584-8386 or visit [www.kanecountyaudubon.org](http://www.kanecountyaudubon.org). For information on Illinois Audubon Society, call Tom Clay at 217-544-BIRD (2473) or visit [www.illinoisaudubon.org](http://www.illinoisaudubon.org).

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## The Examiner Asked

On Friday, Dec. 15, students at  
**Clinton Elementary School:**

### What does the Christmas spirit mean to you?



Colin Tuftedal: “The spirit of Jesus.”



Mathilda Caryell: “Family.”



Lilyanna Czerwinski: “It means you should be kind to everyone.”



Sophia Brito: “Honoring Jesus Christ, and being with family and friends.”



Alissa Mallett: “Family and food!”



Reiley Malesh: “Playing the violin for my family and being joyful.”



Isabella Diaz: “Gathering with my family and friends.”



Anna Chistopherson: “Having fun and enjoying time with my family.”



Jason Philips: “Celebrating Jesus Christ’s birthday and Santa Claus bringing presents to children.”



Sean Mydlach: “I feel happy because Santa Claus is coming; and having snow on the ground - lots of it!”



Ryan Corn: “It means you are generous and kind to others, and that makes you feel good.”

(By Juli Schatz)



# South Elgin storms back to defeat rival Hawks



South Elgin's David Binion firing off a jumper from the top of the key against Bartlett.

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett boys basketball team couldn't hold off a strong finish by South Elgin as the Storm took the first of two Upstate Eight Conference Valley Division rivalry games 71-61 over the Hawks on Friday, Dec. 15 at Bartlett.

The first quarter featured six lead changes and ended in a 14-14 tie while Bartlett (3-6, 1-1 UEC Valley Division)

sion) got 11 points in the first half from Garrett Jurina (13 points), eight from Austin Gates (15 points) and seven from Tomas Vikonis (13 points) to build a 32-29 lead by the break.

In the second half, the Storm's (6-1, 1-1) leading scorers Vincent Miskiewicz and Drake Montgomery, both finishing with 19 points, helped lead the comeback giving South Elgin coach Brett Johnson his first rivalry win after losing three to the Hawks last year, including in a regional semifinal.

"We've been looking forward to this since the start of the season, but we have to treat it as a normal game," Montgomery said.

Ben Fisher (12 points) hit a bucket to open the third quarter for a 34-29 Bartlett lead but Noah Rohr (14 points), who had four three-pointers, hit three straight from behind the arc to give the Storm a 38-34 lead which extended to 43-34 with 2:25 left in the period.

South Elgin led 47-41 in the opening minute of the fourth quarter when Gates hit a bucket to pull to 47-43 and the Storm were called for a technical foul and Vikonis hit both free throws to pull to 47-45. On its



Vincent Miskiewicz driving home two points with authority after pivoting past the Hawks' Bryan Price. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



Tomas Vikonis leading a break for the Hawks as South Elgin's Jace Warrick attempted to disrupt the effort from behind.

possession following the technical, Bartlett was unable to tie and the Storm would maintain their lead till the end using an 11-2 run for a 58-47 lead and the Hawks pulled no closer than nine.

"They stayed focused on the task at hand," Johnson said. "They did a phenomenal job grinding that one out."

Latrell Lamarca and Jace Warrick both finished with five points for South Elgin.

Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith said the game ultimately came down to the third quarter and the end of the second quarter, where the Hawks saw a seven-point lead trimmed to three by the break, but also problems hitting baskets and not taking full advantage of the technical foul.

"When you're fighting back like that against a good team, you've got to capitalize on that," Wolfsmith said. "You can't win a game against a good team, even on your home floor, if you shoot poorly and you give up threes to their shooters."

# Hawks dominate Storm in 52-27 defeat of rival



A driving Kayla Hare executing a reverse layup for the Hawks against South Elgin as the Storm's Megan McClure defended on the effort. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett girls basketball team came out energized against rival South Elgin as the Hawks ran away with a 52-27 Upstate Eight Conference Valley Division win on Friday, Dec. 15 at Bartlett.

The Storm (4-4, 1-1 UEC Valley Division), who saw a three-game winning streak snapped, hit first by taking a 7-4 lead after one frame. South Elgin could have added to its lead after going just 1-for-8 from the free-throw line in the frame, 7-for-22 for the game.

However, the Hawks (6-4, 2-0) quickly turned the tide after shooting just 1-for-22 from the field in the first quarter. Bartlett used a 9-0 run at the start of the second quarter to pull ahead for good 13-7 as Kayla Hare scored six and Teagan Noesen hit a three-pointer for a 9-7 lead.

decided in the first quarter by not adding to its lead while the Storm's season leader in scoring Catora Brown drew three fouls limiting her time on the court the rest of the game.

"The wheels just kind of fell off," Mandernack said. "We were the nail today, and they were the hammer."

Bartlett snapped a three-game losing streak with the win and was coming off a 51-40 UEC crossover loss to St. Charles East on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at Bartlett. Hare had 17 points and Sinclair 11 to lead the Hawks.

South Elgin was coming off a 47-40 nonconference win against DeKalb on Tuesday at South Elgin. Brown had 22 points, Casey Brennan nine and Galvin seven to lead the Storm.



South Elgin's Miah Galvin attempting a shot from the paint over the Hawks' Shelley Banks.



The Bartlett defense was a factor during the entire contest, often keeping the Storm on the perimeter as was the case as South Elgin's Madison Waichunas worked against the Hawks' Savannah Standefer.





Bartlett Park District's

# Park Bench

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

The following programs and services are provided by Bartlett Park District, some require advance registration. For more information, call 540-4800 or visit [www.bartlettsparks.org](http://www.bartlettsparks.org).

**'Mulan Jr.' Cast**

Thank you to everyone that attended "Mulan Jr." auditions. For a cast listing please see our website under the program menu and theater sub menu. Although we cannot cast everyone to the show there are areas that need volunteers to help. For more information call 540-4873. "Mulan Jr." takes the BCC Oak Room stage March 15 to 18, 2018. Tickets go on sale Jan. 23, 2018.

**Karate Suits Needed**

We are getting ready for the upcoming "Mulan Jr." youth musical and are looking for some costuming help. If you have a used white karate suit (plain) that you would be interested in donating for costuming purposes it would be truly appreciated and put to good use. Sizes we are looking for are more in the eight to 15-year-old range for boys. Cotton suits are most appreciated as they can easily be dyed the color that we need. Any questions should be directed to Stephanie at 540-4834.

**Winter Sports Season at Villa Olivia**

Yes, Villa Olivia is open for the winter sports season! Whether you are a beginner or seasoned skier or snowboarder Villa Olivia offers an opportunity to practice close to home! Lessons are offered throughout the season. For more information call 289-1000 or visit [villaoivia.com](http://villaoivia.com). Not into skiing or snowboarding? Come for a two hour snow tube experience. Warm up and socialize at our ski café filled with yummy treats including chili, hot

chocolate, pizza, hamburgers, and more. The season runs through March 4, 2018 weather permitting.

**Ski/Snowboard with Santa:  
Saturday, Dec. 23**

Come to Villa Olivia, 1401 W. Lake St. in Bartlett, on Saturday, Dec. 23 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., find Santa on the slopes to take a photo and get a treat. You must have a slope ticket to ski/snowboard with Santa. 289-1000.

**Christmas Day Gourmet Brunch**

**Monday, Dec. 25 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Villa Olivia has a delectable Christmas Day Brunch. Our staff works hard to make this day as delicious and stress free as possible starting with a glass of complimentary champagne when you are seated at your table. Reservations are required at 630-289-1000 and are for one and a half hour seatings.

**Holiday Hours**

The Bartlett Nature Center, Parks Department, and Thomas C. White Administration Building will be closed Dec. 22, 25, 29 and Jan. 1, 2018. The Bartlett Community Center including LIFECENTER and Splash Central will be closed Dec. 24, 25 and Jan. 1, 2018. LIFECENTER and Splash Central will have limited hours on Dec. 31 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Have a safe and happy holiday.

**School Day Off Camp at BCC**

Enjoy your days of school with us at the Bartlett Community Center. Please register early to avoid camp cancellation. Open to grades K to sixth. Program runs 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 26 to 29, Jan. 2 to 5, 8 and 9, 2018. Select individual days or attend them all. Extended hours are also available for each day.

# Bartlett Hawks A squad captures title at Thanksgiving tourney



Pictured, in the bottom row James Dean, Jack Sampey and Dylan Lainez. Back row, coach Greg Vesta, Shea Gaffney, Connor Hare, Ian Smith, coach John Sampey, Sammy Atkins, Olaf Gwiazdowski, James Kostomiris, Brian Vesta, Patrick Nelson and Drew Cwik. (Courtesy photo)

The Bartlett Hawks A team traveled to play in the Carol Stream Thanksgiving Shootout on Sunday, Nov. 26. They were the defending tournament champions after winning the event last year.

The tournament was a three-game, one-day shootout and Bartlett's first game was against the Western Springs Blazers which they won 56-42. In the second game they played the Bloomingdale Bulldogs and Bartlett had to fight back from as much as a 12-point deficit in the first half and still trailed by four points after three quarters. Late in the fourth quarter, after sever-

al lead changes, Bartlett took a two-point lead with three seconds to play. Bloomingdale had one last shot and a would-be winning three-point attempt hit the front of the rim to seal the Hawks 58-56 victory.

The final game was for the championship and Bartlett faced the Downers Grove Nomads where the Hawks jumped out to a 12-point lead after the first quarter and never looked back for a 64-48 victory.

The tournament win qualified Bartlett for the Illinois State Middle School Championship to be played next March in Rockford.



# Read! Learn! Connect!

Please note the library will be closed on Sunday, Dec. 24 and Monday, Dec. 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday. In addition, the library will be closed on Sunday, Dec. 31 and Monday, Jan. 1, 2018 in observance of the New Year.

**Holiday Treat Recipe Swap**

**Wednesday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m.**

Grades seven to 12. Make a batch of your favorite holiday treat and bring the recipe to share! We'll swap recipes and baking tips while enjoying our treats. Registration required.

**Streaming and eMedia**

Did you know that you don't have to physically come to the Library to use our services? You can download eAudiobooks and eBooks from our eMedia collection using OverDrive, download free music from Freegal Music, download eMagazines from Flipster and eMovies, eBooks and more from Hoopla. Our virtual library never closes!

**Family LEGOs**

**Thursday, Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m.**

All Ages. Families build LEGO creations together.

**Drop-In Crafts**

**Friday, Dec. 22, 3 p.m.**

All Ages. Join us to make a fun craft! Children under age eight must be accompanied by a caregiver age 16 or older.

**Museum Adventure Pass**

You can use your library card to get tickets or discounts at local participating educational destinations such as the Brookfield Zoo, Cantigny Park and more! We have a limited number of passes for each participating organization that are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Your library card will lead you to your next adven-

ture!

**Adult Chess Club**

**Wednesday, Dec. 27, 6 p.m.**

Interested in chess or simply love the game? Come learn and play in a friendly, welcoming environment. All boards and pieces will be supplied. Volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and provide instruction.

**Social Media**

Stay connected with us through our social media sites to learn the latest and most up-to-date information concerning our programs, services and more. Our sites are regularly monitored, so feel free to reach out to us on any of them if you have any questions or comments.

**Community Blood Drive**

**Thursday, Dec. 28, 12:30 to 6 p.m.**

Participate in the library's community blood drive sponsored by LifeSource. Give blood and save three lives. To schedule an appointment, visit


<https://donateblood.lifesource.org>. The library sponsor code is 141D. Donors must be at least 17 (16 with parent permission).

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3. Enter your email address and click Subscribe. You'll be on your way to getting library news and programs delivered directly to your email!

For a complete listing of scheduled programs at the Bartlett Public Library, 800 S. Bartlett Road, call 837-2855 or visit [www.bartlettlibrary.org](http://www.bartlettlibrary.org).



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