

## **Press Clippings 12/27/2018**

### **---The Courier-News---12/26/2018**

School District U46

#### **CEO lauds common accomplishments**

#### **Year-end message cites students, staff, the community**

By: Rafael Guerrero



- School District U46 CEO Tony Sanders looks on as elementary school teacher Mary Fulin speaks in May about being recognized as Kane County Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

School District U46 students, staff and community have plenty of which to be proud in the accomplishments achieved in the last year, the district's chief administrator said in his final weekly message of 2018.

CEO Tony Sanders, writing in his last note before winter break, listed some of the successes made and accolades received by the Elgin-area district in the last year, ranging from student academic growth to expansion of the district's technology resources to work on career pathways in the high schools.

"As we head into this winter break, I hope you have time to reflect on your personal accomplishments as well as the accomplishments we have achieved together this past year," Sanders wrote Friday.

The CEO noted U46 schools in 2018 made strides academically. The Illinois State Report Card results ranked 45 of 53 U46 schools as "commendable," largely due to demonstrated improvements made in the last year.

The district's efforts were cited by The New York Times in its analysis of five-year student growth data in a Stanford University study, which placed U46 20th among large U.S. school districts for long-term student growth, Sanders said.

Financially, the changes made in how Illinois funds K-12 schools meant more money for U46 this year, he said.

Because of that, the district was able to reduce kindergarten through second-grade class sizes, provide Chromebook laptop computers to every high school student and restore middle-school counselor positions lost in the last decade because of cuts, Sanders said.

Officials also “invested in curriculum and resources to support the roll-up of dual language to high schools, to support literacy in elementary schools, to increase our Advanced Placement offerings, and to refresh secondary math,” Sanders said.

The district’s plan to bring career pathways and academies to the high schools have moved forward, and Sanders thanked parents and community members who provided feedback on the proposal in a series of public forums in the summer and fall.

He also thanked the district’s more than 6,000 full-time, part-time and substitute employees who “open our doors for students every day.”

Student accomplishments were noted as well.

“We have 277 (high school) seniors named Illinois State Scholars,” Sanders said. “We have students from South Elgin, Larkin and Streamwood high schools heading to the state theater festival. Students heading to state for musical performance. Students recognized for saving lives. Bluestars (Special Olympics team) who have earned gold medals in Special Olympics. Larkin High (boys basketball) playing for the state championship in Peoria.”

## **---The Courier-News---12/21/2018**

### **District U46 talks to resume in 2019**

Union, school set 8 sessions for January

**By: Rafael Guerrero**



- U46 and its teachers union have eight contract bargaining sessions scheduled for January.

School District U46 and its teachers union have eight contract bargaining sessions scheduled for January as both sides work to stave off the conflicts that led to a strike in

Geneva District 304 and contentious battles in East Aurora District 131 and Township High School District 211.

U46's contract with the Elgin Teachers Association expired in August. A tentative contract settlement was rejected by union members in May.

"(Members) been mindful of what's going on in the other unions," union President Barbara Bettis said. "I think we'll get a better feel of how things are going in mid-January."

Negotiations are described as being in the early stages. The union and U46 issued a joint statement saying they've already broached several issues, including early learner education, school safety, professional development, technology, parent-teacher conferences and meetings.

"There are a number of topics to be discussed and as more information is available, we will be sure to keep all informed," said the statement issued by Bettis and U46 Deputy Superintendent of Instruction Suzanne Johnson.

"We appreciate your ongoing patience and support during this process."

Bettis took over this summer as president of the Elgin Teachers Association, which represents more than 2,400 educators, after the initial contract was turned down by nearly 70 percent of their membership.

Since then, she's put together a nine-member bargaining team, a mix of primary and high school teachers and experienced and inexperienced contract negotiators.

"So far, so good," Bettis said. "Negotiations are moving collaboratively, and I'm really liking the conversations we are having."

The contract proposal rejected in May called for a move away from the traditional salary schedule in which teachers' pay is based on experience and education attained.

Geneva teachers went on strike over largely the same issue, and Bettis said she is using the results from the first contract vote to support a stance that members do not want to change the salary model.

Bettis said she and union members followed the Geneva strike and near strikes in East Aurora and the Schaumburg-Palatine area. The Elgin union backed their counterparts in Geneva, who walked out for a week and ultimately settled for a deal in which the traditional pay structure would stay in place for two years and the new setup implemented for the following three years.

"We will support our colleagues in the unions," Bettis said when asked about the Geneva strike. "I don't think they wanted to be out of the classrooms and their students. But sometimes (teachers) need to make the difficult decisions and I think they felt they needed to do that."

## **U46 doubles funding to group helping district**

Elgin collaborative to help incorporate career pathways

**By: Rafael Guerrero**

School District U46 will double the funding it pays to the Elgin-area collaborative that's assisting district efforts to incorporate career pathways and academies into the high schools.

School board members voted 6-1 Monday to renew the partnership with the Alignment Collaborative for Education for another year. The one-year, \$51,000 deal is more than double the \$25,000 board members paid last year.

The collaborative works with the district and local businesses and organizations to make improvements to early childhood education, trauma-informed care and education, and the career pathways programs. This fall, the collaborative helped U46 to revamp its annual curriculum and career expo, relocating it to the Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates and putting its focus on middle school students.

The group is also one of U46's main partners as it prepares to incorporate career pathways and academies into district high schools. The goal is for U46 students to choose and follow a career pathway by attending one of the career academies to be set up at each high school, a transition that's expected to start in 2020.

In a letter to U46 officials, collaborative Executive Director Nancy Coleman said the organization operates on a budget of just under \$200,000, employing two full-time employees. The \$25,000 payment accounted for 12 percent of its 2017-18 operating budget, with another 60 percent coming from business and private donations, Coleman said.

The funding increase makes U46 one of the collaborative's largest financial sources in the 2018-19 fiscal year, putting the group's operating budget at \$196,000, not counting other donations that may come in during the year, she said.

"I understand that jumping from \$25,000 to \$51,000 is a significant increase," board member Phil Costello said at a meeting Dec. 3, "but I think this is the type of innovation that we as a district need to take to reach out to the community, make sure we're a part of the community. I think it's a good investment even if I can't see tangible results right here today."

Jeanette Ward cast the only no vote Monday, saying she preferred to keep the funding at \$25,000.

Ward also questioned whether the school board made a mistake last year when it voted for a one-year renewal rather than a three-year agreement, which would have locked in funding at \$25,000 annually for three years.

"I'd like to see (the collaborative) go back to its original intention, which was to be funded by donations and not by tax dollars," Ward said.



- Students and local businesses and agencies participated in the 2018 U46 Explore curriculum and career expo in September at the Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates. Alignment Collaborative for Education helped revamp the event.

## **Doors to kindness**

Students and teachers decorate doors of South Elgin elementary school

**By: Rafael Guerrero**

Educators at Fox Meadow Elementary School pondered how to “visualize” kindness so they could create a positive message for students before the start of their two-week winter break.

Ultimately it was a fifth-grade teacher who came up with something simple but creative, Assistant Principal Mike Basich said.

“Why don’t we do some kind of kindness door?” he recalled the teacher asking. “And every teacher got behind it.”

Two dozen doors at the South Elgin school were decorated using kindness as the theme. It proved that it was, indeed, possible to visualize kindness for children and adults, Basich said.

The 550-student school has incorporated the theme of kindness into the 2018-19 academic year. Fox Meadow uses the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports system to improve student behavior, and data shows that positively reinforcing kindness and showing its importance helps improve student behavior and reduces disciplinary referrals, Principal Sjoukje Brown said.

Fox Meadow adopted several efforts to push the message, including rewards for random act of kindness. When students return from winter break, they will be asked to make new year’s resolutions on how they can be more kind, Brown said.

In the weeks between the Thanksgiving and winter breaks, teachers and their students decorated classroom doors using the theme of kindness. Classrooms later voted on their favorite decorations and messages.

“Seeing these decorations around the school gets the kids talking (about kindness),” said Alicia Fikis, a second-grade teacher at the school.

The door decorations varied greatly. Some featured holiday-themed figures, like the Grinch or the characters from the movie “Frozen.” Others revolved around specific interests, such as camping, quilting and hockey.

The winning door design belonged to third-grade teacher MaryAnn Hopp’s class. Borrowing the Dunkin’ Donuts’ slogan “America runs on Dunkin’,” the students used cutouts of doughnuts, coffee and iced drinks to provide messages to go with their “America runs on kindness” theme.

Each included a simple suggestion on how to be kind — “encourage others,” “shovel snow for the elderly,” “say please and thank you.”

“Kindness can be big or small messages,” third-grader Lia Aranda said.

“You can make friends, stay friends when you’re kind to each other,” third-grade student Olivia Slaughter added.

## **---The Courier-News---12/20/2018**

### **Election 2019**

### **Races for school boards heating up**

Several elected seats throughout Kane Co. will be contested

**By: Rafael Guerrero**



- Voters in School District U46 and other districts will have multiple candidates to pick from.

This spring’s school board races in Kane County finalized this week, and voters in School District U46, Geneva, West Aurora and others will have multiple candidates to pick from.

Monday marked the last day for candidates to file petitions with the Kane County clerk’s office to be listed on the ballot for the April 2 consolidated election. Most school districts in the county will feature contested races, the county clerk’s list shows.

The school board for the Elgin-area school district will have at least one new board member as only three of the four board members whose terms are up are seeking re-election. Eight candidates total filed to run for the four open seats in the spring race.

St. Charles School District 303's school board elections feature five candidates seeking three four-year terms and two candidates seeking one two-year term. Only one incumbent, board president Kathleen Hewell, filed for re-election among the three seats.

Board member Nick Manheim did not seek re-election for another four-year term, but the St. Charles resident did file for the lone two-year seat. Manheim has been on the St. Charles school board since 2011. One other person, Poonam Gupta-Krishnan of St. Charles, filed for the two-year term.

Five candidates will compete for four spots on the Carpentersville-based District 300 school board.

The Geneva school board race features the largest lineup of candidates among Kane County school boards, with nine candidates filing for three seats. Only one of the candidates is an incumbent. Board member Mike McCormick will seek re-election. He has been on the District 304 school board since 2011.

Six candidates, including two incumbents, will seek to fill three seats in Batavia School District 101.

Central School District 301's school board race, meanwhile, will go uncontested, as four candidates filed for the four seats up for grabs — all four of them incumbents. Board member Jeff Gorman, of St. Charles, joined fellow board members Eric Nolan, Laura Rabe and Mitchell Penar, who filed last Monday.

East Aurora's school board race will also be uncontested this spring, as four candidates filed for four seats. Board member Kimberly Hatchett joined fellow board member Alex Arroyo in filing petitions by Monday's deadline. The other two candidates are Juan Manuel Sifuentes Jr. and Avis Patterson Miller.

The school board race in West Aurora will be one of the more contested races, as eight candidates, including three incumbents, seek to fill four four-year seats.

**---Daily Herald---12/22/2018**

## **Taylor YMCA's preschool provides the cornerstone for educational success**

**By: Dave Burisek**

To help nurture and inspire kids to discover their educational potential, the Taylor Family YMCA is operating a preschool in partnership with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at the church's former school site at 1111 Van St. in Elgin.

The ultimate goal for the YMCA is to have students enter the Elgin Area School District U-46 kindergarten program socially and academically prepared to succeed.

The YMCA's Early Learning Center (preschool) will offer a full-day program for children ages 3 and 4, with the school day running weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. to accommodate working parents.

The YMCA is currently in the process of finalizing licensing through the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

The preschool on Van Street is one-half mile away from the Taylor Family YMCA on McLean Boulevard.

It can accommodate up to 60 3- and 4-year olds, and employ about 15 staff members including full-and part time positions.

According to Adia Walker, preschool director for the YMCA's Early Learning Center, "Less than 2,000 of the 6,000 children ages 3 to 4 within the U-46 boundaries are being served by public or private preschool classes, so the sooner we can educate and get children learning and developing reading skills, the better off they will be at the higher grade levels."

Registration is currently open for the preschool, with open house dates available during the holiday break to tour the facility and talk with Walker about the school curriculum.

The open house dates are: Friday, Dec. 21, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and Friday, Jan. 4, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m.

Or stop by the preschool's booth at the Gail Borden Public Library's Preschool Fair from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 19.

For information about the Taylor Family YMCA's Early Learning Center, contact Adia Walker, YMCA's Early Learning Center Director, at [adiaw@gcfymca.org](mailto:adiaw@gcfymca.org) or call (224) 769-7441.

## **About the Y**

The Y is one of the nation's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

Across the U.S., 2,700 Ys engage 22 million men, women and children -- regardless of age, income or background -- to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors.

Anchored in more than 10,000 communities, the Y has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change.

For information, visit [www.taylorymca.org](http://www.taylorymca.org) or [www.facebook.com/taylor.family.ymca/](https://www.facebook.com/taylor.family.ymca/).





- The Taylor Family YMCA Y Early Learning Center will host open houses during the holiday break for parents to tour the facility and talk with the preschool director about the school curriculum.

## **Suburban Hero: How a 7-year-old helped his neighbors escape a house fire**

**By: Lauren Rohr**

As Shaun Mielke Jr. ran through his neighbors' burning house last month, the only thing crossing his mind was making sure they got out safely.

The 7-year-old, who lives in an unincorporated area near St. Charles, had been doing his homework with his mom after school on a Wednesday afternoon when they started smelling smoke. After realizing it was coming from the adjacent unit in their duplex, Ashley Mielke called 911 and thought her son had gone outside to safety.

Little did she know Shaun had pushed his way into the unit that was on fire and yelled for his neighbors to get out.

The residents -- a mother and her three children -- were still evacuating when fire crews arrived shortly after 4:15 p.m., said Chief John Nixon of the Fox River and Countryside Fire/Rescue District. The building was damaged from the smoke and flames, Nixon said, but no injuries were reported.

The fire started in the attic and likely was caused by a malfunctioning bathroom fan, officials said. Firefighters told the Mielkes the outcome could have been vastly different had Shaun not acted quickly, or if the fire had sparked overnight.

"(Shaun) took immediate action to notify the families of the danger and helped get everyone out safely," Nixon said.

Ashley Mielke was a confusing mix of angry and proud when she realized her son had put himself in danger to save others. When she asked what he was thinking, Shaun responded, "You can replace stuff, but you can't replace people."

Impressed by the heroic actions of such a young boy, the responding firefighters returned the next day and invited him to the fire station for dinner. They also let him turn on the engine's lights and sirens, Ashley Mielke said.

Shaun, a Clinton Elementary School student, was honored for his bravery during a recent Fox River and Countryside fire board meeting. Nixon presented him with a medal and life safety award before designating him an honorary junior firefighter.

"I'm just super proud of him. He's my little hero," Ashley Mielke said. "You never think that your kid is going to do something like that. It really wasn't that big of a fire, but for a little one to have the initiative to go do that, it's amazing."



- Shaun Mielke Jr., 7, got to visit the Fox River and Countryside Fire/Rescue District fire station in honor of his bravery last month, when he warned his neighbors in an unincorporated area near St. Charles that their house was on fire.



- Seven-year-old Shaun Mielke Jr. was honored by the Fox River and Countryside Fire/Rescue District after he warned his neighbors that their house was on fire.



- Shaun Mielke Jr. was designated an honorary junior firefighter for the Fox River and Countryside Fire/Rescue District after he helped his neighbors escape a house fire last month.

## **Santa's Helpers bring South Elgin children a very merry Christmas**

**By: Patrick Kunzer**

South Elgin village staff members, firefighters and police hosted a mini-Christmas on Saturday for 15 children from eight families.

The day started with breakfast and a new bicycle for each of the kids at village hall. The kids then shopped with Santa's Helpers at Elgin Walmart with \$100 gift cards. Lunch followed at Village Tavern & Grill in South Elgin.

South Elgin police officer Jim Creighton earlier this month had reached out to South Elgin schools to learn names of those who might benefit from the event.

"The joy is amazing," said Fox Meadow Elementary School Principal Sjoukje Brown, whose school was represented by four families at the event. Brown came to watch the families check out and then greet Santa before heading off to lunch.



- X'Zaiden Hernandez, 6, of South Elgin delights at a stuffed creature he purchased during South Elgin's inaugural Santa's Helpers event at Elgin Walmart on Saturday morning. South Elgin police and fire personnel joined 15 children from eight families for breakfast and lunch as well as shopping with provided gift cards. Hernandez's mother died Dec. 1 after a brief illness.



- Dan and Jessica Bird of South Elgin head to the checkout with children Barbara, 2, and Nathan, 6, during South Elgin's inaugural Santa's Helpers event at Elgin Walmart on Saturday morning. South Elgin police and fire personnel joined 15 children from eight families for breakfast as well as shopping with provided gift cards.



- South Elgin Police Community Service Officer Rosie Vazquez helps check items out during South Elgin's inaugural Santa's Helpers event at Elgin Walmart on Saturday morning. South Elgin police and fire personnel joined 15 children from eight families for breakfast as well as shopping with provided gift cards.



- Melisa Creighton and her son, Aidan, 1, left, share a laugh with Peg Haacker of the South Elgin Police records division during South Elgin's inaugural Santa's Helpers event at Elgin Walmart on Saturday morning. Creighton's husband, South Elgin police officer Jim Creighton, assisted in organizing the event.



- Helper Grace Kmiecik, front, 6, of South Elgin assists participant Adanni Rodriguez-Odio, 11, as they select Squishies during South Elgin's inaugural Santa's Helpers event at Elgin Walmart on Saturday morning. South Elgin police and fire personnel joined 15 children from eight families for breakfast as well as shopping with provided gift cards.

## **SPORTS**

**---Daily Herald---12/19/2018**

### **Larkin holds off Streamwood**

**By: Craig Brueske**

Coming off a pair of double-figure losses during its Missouri trip last weekend, Larkin's basketball team got back on the winning track Tuesday night.

Senior Victor Perez scored 9 of his team-leading 17 points in the fourth quarter as the Royals (4-8, 3-2) held off a furious late comeback from Streamwood (3-7, 2-3) while beating the host Sabres 59-56 in Upstate Eight Conference action.

"I'm happy for them to get the win," said Larkin coach Deryn Carter. "We had a rough weekend in Missouri (at the Route 66 Shootout) on the court but it was a phenomenal weekend for the team and program."

The Royals were forced to play catch-up after falling behind by as much as 17-4 late in the opening quarter.

Led by sophomore point guard Zach Marquez (15 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists) and senior forward Nick Droll (14 points), the Sabres connected on 8 of their first 11 field-goal attempts while building the early double-digit advantage.

However, Larkin retaliated with 15 unanswered points, capped by a 3-pointer from freshman Fernando Perez (11 points) that gave the Royals their first lead at 19-17 early in the second quarter.

"We got off to a great start and then we sputtered," said Sabres coach Kent Payne.

Droll and Marquez combined for 18 first-half points as Streamwood clung to a 27-26 halftime lead.

The lead failed to last, however, as the Royals grabbed the lead for good at 32-31 on a nifty up-and-under layup by junior Jashon Johnson-Neals (12 points) with 6:09 left in the third quarter.

Johnson-Neals added 3 more inside baskets during a 10-0 run that extended the lead to 38-31.

Larkin led 43-38 after 3 quarters.

The Royals continued to take it to the basket in the fourth quarter.

Layups from Victor Perez and Johnson-Neals, and Fernando Perez' 3-point play upped Larkin's lead to 52-42 with 5 minutes remaining.

"We're all guards so we all have the ability to attack the hoop," said Victor Perez. "We play with a lot of aggression and confidence."

"We liked the first half," said Payne. "In the second half, they just got us off the dribble way too much."

Trailing 56-46, the Sabres pulled within 58-56 on a runner by Nikola Sinik (8 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 blocked shots) with 42 seconds remaining.

After Victor Perez split a pair of free throws with 8.2 seconds left, Streamwood senior forward Keenon Cole's potential game-tying 3-pointer rimmed out with 3 seconds remaining.



Cole finished with 16 points and 17 rebounds.

"We kept competing," said Payne. "It came down to two possessions. We had a shot at the end to tie it -- that's all you can ask. We competed the whole 32 minutes."

Despite being outrebounded 40-22, the Royals forced 21 turnovers while committing only 9.

"We're small and we're going to get outrebounded a lot but we've got to win the possession battle on the turnover side," said Carter, whose team hosts Elgin Friday night.

"The offense was good enough but the defensive effort was special. Keenon (Cole) is one of the best players in the state. Christopher Rose, Vic Perez and Jashon (Johnson-Neals) did their individual jobs but the whole team did a great job defensively."

## **West Aurora's press rattles South Elgin**

**By: Jerry Fitzpatrick**

The West Aurora boys basketball team sprung a late trap on host South Elgin in a 65-61 Upstate Eight Conference win on Tuesday.

Several of them, actually.

After West Aurora point guard Trae Brown tied the score 52-52 with 4:45 left in an early showdown between UEC co-leaders, the Blackhawks set up a full-court press that turned the tide in their favor.

West Aurora (8-2, 5-0) caused 4 turnovers in the next 5 South Elgin possessions and Brown capitalized in between by scoring 3 more baskets, including a 3-pointer with 2:42 left that gave the Blackhawks a 61-54 lead.

"That pressure was pure heart," Brown said. "We never did a trap like that. Everyone was scrambling. Everybody was confused. We were just trying to get the ball and it worked out somehow."

West Aurora coach Brian Johnson credited 6-foot-4 junior Dimitrios Bazos for his contributions on both ends during a 13-2 run over 2:18 that decided the game's outcome. He came off the bench to cause 2 steals and scored 2 fourth-quarter buckets.

"He really brought in a ton of energy," Johnson said. "We were going to send him at the ball, make the game go a little faster and take advantage of some turnovers."

South Elgin was led by a career-high 30 points from 6-foot-3 senior guard Drake Montgomery. The West Aurora press was designed, in part, to slow his roll. Montgomery shot 11 of 18 from field, 4 of 5 from 3-point range.

"We were supposed to run at (Montgomery) as soon as he gets the ball away," Bazos said. "Then trap it or find the scramble, either or. See where the open man is and rotate."

"They shocked us," Montgomery said. "They came out and trapped us and we didn't know how to respond. We didn't know how to make the right pass and make the right reads. They did a good job trapping us and executing."

West Aurora grabbed a 17-8 lead after a quarter but the Storm caught up in the third quarter as Montgomery scored 9 points.

South Elgin took its biggest lead at 49-44 when Montgomery backed his defender up in the post, turned and scored with 7:25 left in the game.

The Storm made 9 of 18 attempts from 3-point range over the first three quarters but missed 2 fourth-quarter attempts.

Senior Moshe Rogers made South Elgin senior Vincent Miskiewicz work for his 11 points. Miskiewicz grabbed a game-best 13 rebounds. Rogers pulled down 7.

The victory puts the Blackhawks in the UEC driver's seat in the season's early stages.

"That puts them in a pressure position to want us to lose instead of us wanting them to lose," Brown said.

**---Daily Herald---12/22/2018**

## **Hot shooting lifts South Elgin over Bartlett**

**By: Scott Miller**

It took over 7 minutes for the South Elgin boys basketball team to make its first basket on Friday night. However, it wasn't long after that it was raining 3s for the Storm.

What started out as sprinkle with the first coming in the closing seconds of the first quarter followed by 4 more in the second turned into an outright downpour with 7 in the third quarter and then 1 more for good measure in the fourth quarter. A total of 13 three-pointers helped the Storm overcome an early 16-5 deficit to surge past host Bartlett for a 64-44 Upstate Eight Conference win.

"Slow starts seem to be our M.O. this year," South Elgin coach Brett Johnson said. "We've had to come from behind in a lot of games. So, we told the kids not to worry



because we've been here before. We never feel like we are out of a game, so we never get down. I give our kids credit for being able to turn it around and understanding the magnitude of this game."

Jace Warrick led the 3-point barrage for the Storm (10-2, 6-1) with 5 and he finished with a game-high 17 points. He knocked down the Storm's first 3-pointer at the close of the first quarter. He then had three 3-pointers during South Elgin's 27-point outburst in the third quarter as the Storm pulled out to a 51-39 lead. Warrick's 3-pointer with 5:10 left in the third was the bucket that put the Storm ahead for good 30-28 after the lead had exchanged hands 6 times late in the second quarter and early in the third.

"When you get zoned like we did tonight you are going to get some good looks," Warrick said. "You just have to be patient and keep working the ball around to get those open shots, Then you need to hit them and we did. It's always fun to play against Bartlett. It was great to see a big crowd come out to support us on the road."

Alex Errington also had 3 three-pointers in the third quarter deluge. He finished with 11 points.

"I think our defensive pressure started opening things up for us," Errington said. "Some other guys started hitting shots. Then I started getting some open looks, so I took them. It was a big for us to beat our rivals."

The Storm had already started to heat up before their third quarter outbreak. They closed the second quarter on a 19-7 run to grab a 24-23 halftime lead. Drew Cwik knocked down a couple of big 3-pointers while Drake Montgomery and Lane Mcvicar added one each.

"In the high school game you have to be able to hit the 3-point shot," Johnson said. "Sometimes you live and die by it. But our philosophy is to keep shooting especially against a zone. It was great to see more guys stepping up to make some shots. It makes it that much tougher to defend us."

The Hawks (3-9, 1-5) found that out.

"I thought the first half we played our game, but the second half they played their game," Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith said. "Early on defensively we contested shots and rotated on the perimeter and offensively we were patient. In the second half we didn't do that. We gave them open looks and once a team like that starts getting in a rhythm they are really tough to stop. Then on offense we stated rushing things."

Jack Stuenkel had 14 points to lead the Hawks.

# **Larkin pulls away from Elgin in second half**

**By: Allen Oshinski**

The first half between Elgin and Larkin was close all the way through but, shortly after halftime, the Royals suddenly took control.

Larkin outscored its crosstown rival 34-6 in the second half and pulled away for a 62-28 win in the Upstate Eight girls basketball contest at Larkin Friday night.

The game was the opener of a doubleheader with the boys' teams on Blackout for Easter Seals night.

Larkin led 28-24 after Elgin's Kamiyah Harvey made 2 free throws to open the second-half scoring. But a layup by Ashley Miller, a steal and layup by Janelle Clements and a bucket by Amber Allen got the Royals started on an 18-2 run to close the quarter. Larkin didn't let up in the fourth, outscoring the visitors 16-2 to turn a close game into a blowout.

Miller and Aaliyah Dixon scored 14 points each to lead Larkin. Allen finished with 13. Brianna Young had 10 rebounds to go with 8 points.

"We said in the locker room at halftime that we had to turn up the energy level," said Young, "And we came out and got a couple of quick scores and were able to keep it going."

Elgin's Dajha Cooper set a school record with 11 blocked shots. She also grabbed 10 rebounds for the Maroons (3-10, 1-7).

After a decent shooting first half, the Maroons couldn't find the range after the break, and Larkin took advantage.

"Offensively, we missed some shots and just didn't get into a very good flow in the second half," said Elgin coach Dr. Nick Bumbales. "I thought that was the big key. They got some buckets and got a little spread in between and it was difficult to come back after that."

Emily Graves scored 10 points to lead Elgin while Harvey finished with 6.

Larkin never trailed, but couldn't put the Maroons away, at least in the first half. The Royals shot out to a 14-6 lead only to watch Elgin tie it at 16 on a shot by Cooper that capped an 8-0 run. Larkin pulled back ahead 28-18, but Graves scored 4 straight points to close the first half and make it 28-22 at the break.

After shooting just 26 percent in the first half, the Royals finished at 34 percent while holding Elgin to just 22 percent. Larkin forced 23 turnovers and outrebounded the visitors, 41-31. Besides Young, Dixon and Clements crashed the boards with 6 apiece.

## **Bartlett topples South Elgin to take UEC lead**

**By: Scott Miller**

The Bartlett girls shooting went from as cold as ice to as hot as a firecracker on Friday night as they blazed a trail to the top of the Upstate Eight Conference with a 54-36 win over visiting South Elgin.

Both teams came into the contest undefeated in the UEC, but Bartlett now stands alone at the top of the standings at 8-0 while South Elgin falls to 7-1.

Bartlett went scoreless for nearly the first 7 minutes of the game and fell behind 15-0. However, the Hawks caught fire in the second half, knocking down 17-of-23 shots (73 percent) from the field.

"Honestly we had some open shots early on and we just weren't hitting them," Bartlett coach Brad Hunt said. "But we told the girls if you just keep playing strong defense we can get back in it and the offense will come around. That's exactly what happened. Our defense started creating some scoring opportunities. Then it carried over to the other end and we started executing some plays."

The Hawks trailed 22-15 at the half, but outscored the Storm 39-14 in the second half to pull away.

Lexie Sinclair led the comeback. She scored 14 of her game-high 16 points in the second half. Her driving layup with 4:40 left in the third quarter put the Hawks up for good 25-24.

"We knew the shots weren't falling early in the game, so the defense was going to have to get us back in it," Sinclair said. "Eventually the offense got rolling. Everyone started hitting shots. That opened some gaps for me to get to the basket."

Mackenzie Hare had some big buckets and finished with 12 points. Her 3-pointer in the final seconds of the first half pulled the Hawks to within 22-15 and gave them momentum heading into the locker room. Hare then started the second half with another 3-pointer. After a 3-pointer by Teagan Noesen, Hare gave the Hawks their first lead of the game 25-24 on a driving layup.

Justina Hernandez had a strong game defensively for the Hawks.

South Elgin managed just one basket in the fourth quarter.

"It was a great atmosphere," South Elgin coach Dan Masernack said. "Two undefeated teams. The rivalry. Pack the gym night. This is what it's all about. To be able to come out the way we did and throw the first punch on the road says a lot. We embraced the challenge. Unfortunately in that second half we just ran out of gas. We couldn't get the key stop when we needed them. But we'll get another shot at playing them. It's definitely a day to circle on our calendar. However, we can't worry about that now. We have to focus on what is right in front of us and keep trying to get better."

**---Daily Herald---12/23/2018**

## **Elgin ends 16-game losing streak to Larkin**

**By: Jerry Fitzpatrick**

The streak is over.

Elgin defeated rival Larkin 55-52 on the city's west side Friday night to snap a 16-game series losing streak that began during President Obama's first term in office.

"This has got to be the greatest feeling I've had since birth," said 6-foot-3 Elgin sophomore Jeffrey Lomax, who finished with 14 points and 9 rebounds. "This is something surreal. I can't believe it's happening. I've got so many emotions going on right now. This is just great."

Elgin (3-7, 1-5 Upstate Eight) defeated Larkin (4-9, 3-3) for the first time since Feb. 10, 2012, largely by crashing the boards better. The Maroons used their height advantage against a smaller Larkin squad to win the rebounding battle 30-19. The Maroons pulled down 12 offensive rebounds to Larkin's 6.

"The shots they missed they rebounded," Larkin coach Deryn Carter said. "More power to those guys. They deserve to win. The deserving team is sitting in the other locker room. In the Elgin-Larkin rivalry, it's been a while since that happened."

Elgin extended its all-time series to 80-56, but it wasn't easy. The Maroons led 13-11 after a quarter, 27-22 at halftime and 41-37 after three quarters.

Twice Elgin built 7-point leads in the final period, but Larkin did not go quietly. Playing without injured senior guard Pierre Black (labrum), the Royals drew within 52-50 with 1:52 left when freshman guard Damari Wheeler-Thomas was fouled and sank 2 free throws.

Larkin had an opportunity to tie with just over a minute left, but an off-balance shot by senior Victor Perez would not fall. Perez led all scorers with 22 points, 16 in the second half.

Elgin rebounded the miss and converted at the other end. Senior Kejuan Harvey scored on a putback to give Elgin a 54-50 lead with 50 seconds to play.

Perez scored on Larkin's next trip, and Elgin subsequently threw the ball out of bounds with 19 seconds on the clock to give the Royals one last chance to tie.

Perez drove the lane with nine seconds remaining, but his bank shot rimmed out. Wheeler grabbed the rebound and had a good look from four feet but could not get the shot to fall, nor the ensuing tip-in attempt.

The tip was rebounded by Lomax, who was fouled and sank the second of two free throws with 1.7 seconds left to establish a 3-point lead.

Larkin inbounded to Perez, but his desperation shot from well beyond midcourt hit the top of the backboard at the buzzer.

The Maroons stormed from the bench and celebrated together at center court, all the while mugging for the television cameras on hand.

"We've seen growth," said first-year Elgin coach Dave Hess, 1-0 against Larkin. "We haven't seen it in wins the last couple of games, but we've talked about seeing growth. They really performed in this moment. I'm so proud of them."

The Elgin players said they were inspired by a pregame talk by alumni Brandon Grissette ('07) and Desmond Douglas ('16).

"The alumni were telling us that we need to pull it off, so basically we just came in and had to compete for 32 minutes," said Elgin junior Xavier Bonds, who finished with 14 points. "We kept the alumni in our heads and fought to the end."

Trey Yarber had 10 points and 5 rebounds, Harvey contributed 8 points and 6 rebounds and Z'Kwan Stewart contributed 8 points and 5 rebounds for Elgin.

**---Daily Herald---12/27/2018**

## **Uplift, star guard too much for Larkin**

**By: Patrick Z. McGavin**

If the past is prologue, Larkin knew not to relax.

Playing against Public League power Uplift for the third consecutive year, the Royals knew they had to account for star guard Markese Jacobs, the DePaul recruit who is the top-rated senior in the state.

Jacobs sat on the bench the first 3:42 and Larkin enjoyed the early lead. Then Jacobs appeared and the Royals' lead vanished.

"They are obviously a good team and he is a phenomenal player," Larkin coach Deryn Carter said. "We have played them enough at this point. Hopefully today is going to be a learning experience."

Jacobs scored 36 points and added five steals and five assists as the Royals were on the wrong side of a 82-41 score in a first round Proviso West Holiday tournament game Wednesday in Hillside.

The Royals (4-10) move to a consolation quarterfinal against Longwood Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

Larkin graduated its entire starting lineup from last year's Class 4A state qualifiers. Jason Johnson-Neals, a junior elevated to the varsity for the state tournament, scored 17 points on 7-of-9 shooting.

His ability to slash to the basket and pull up and hit the jumper provided the early inspiration for the Royals. Even after Jacobs was inserted into the game, Larkin only trailed 25-17 midway through the second quarter.

Jacobs buried two straight 3-pointers as part of a personal 10-0 run as Uplift (8-2) ended the second quarter on a 15-0 run that swelled its lead to 40-17 at halftime.

"This is not how we wanted to start the tournament," Johnson-Neals said. "Our offense broke down. We were not playing together, trying to do too much one-on-one and we came out flat."

Proviso West is a marquee historic event and Johnson-Neals made a strong initial impression.

"I can do it both ways, either drive or shoot if they leave me open," he said. "We are still encouraged by the rest of the tournament. Everything stays in the locker room and we know we have to come out strong (Thursday) and keep playing hard."

Sophomore shooter Trace Boley was another second quarter bright spot. He drilled his only two 3-point attempts in scoring 6 points. The Uplift defenders made a point of finding him after his early outside marksmanship.

"They were attacking me a little more and not helping as much on other shooters," Boley said. "I am just trying to get the ball moving and get open shots. If I can't get mine, I'd like to get others involved."

Most disconcerting for Carter was the Royals' inability to handle pressure. Larkin surrendered 31 turnovers, including 15 in the first half.

"We have a team full of guards, and we should not be turning the ball over the way we have been," Carter said. "It is something we have to work on, and we will. As far as our record, I don't worry about that as far as expectations. I have been a little disappointed the last week or so where we are mentally."

"We have to get better and we will."

## **Sinik steps up, leads Streamwood past Jacobs**

**By: Dave Hess**

With senior standout Keenon Cole plagued with foul trouble all night, Nikola Sinik realized he needed to step up in Cole's absence.

Sinik rescued Streamwood with 20 points including three 3-pointers to lead the Sabres to a 63-52 win over host Jacobs in second round action of the Hinkle Holiday Classic in Algonquin Wednesday night.

"We know it is a challenge for our team when Keenon goes out of the game," said Sinik. "We have to execute, be smart and stay aggressive. I felt confident with my shot and got good looks. It was a good win."

Cole, despite playing most of the fourth quarter with 4 fouls, ended with 18 points, 12 rebounds and a resounding tomahawk dunk to end the game.

"I knew I still had to be careful in the fourth quarter with 4 fouls but stay aggressive," said Cole. "My teammates especially Nikola really stepped up and played great. It was a great win after the King loss. We know we have a tough game with Grant tomorrow coming up."

Streamwood (5-8) picked up the win despite 21 turnovers.

"Jacobs plays hard and forced some of those turnovers," said Streamwood coach Kent Payne. "Give Jacobs credit. We had a lot of unforced turnovers and mental lapses. We need to clean some things up. We let them get back in the game but we made plays when we had to."

Streamwood's biggest lead of the game was 40-24 after a long 3 from the corner by Sinik with 2:46 left in the third quarter.

The Golden Eagles (5-8) refused to quit.

Spearheaded by 5 points from Jaden Henderson including a trey and 4 points from reserve sophomore guard James Hayes, the Eagles ended the third quarter on a 10-3 run and sliced the Sabre lead to 43-34 after 24 minutes.

With Cole on the bench, Jacobs started the fourth quarter on a 6-0 run keyed by 3s from Henderson and Jalen Ramsey to make the score 43-40 with 5:10 left.

The Eagles couldn't get any closer.

Henderson paced Jacobs with 13 points including a 3.

"We didn't make enough winning plays," said Jacobs coach Jimmy Roberts. "We played very poor defense in the first half. We mucked things up in the second half and got some turnovers."

Roberts was impressed with the play of sophomores Hayes, Robert Pennel, Zach Leahy, Max Stec and junior Riley Anderson.

"Our young guys played well," said the Jacobs coach. "Zach Leahy came in and hit some shots. Robert Pennel, who came out of the game concussed played very hard. James Hayes came in and made some things happen. Max Stec played hard and gave us some good minutes. RJ (Riley Anderson) had some great shot fakes and got some key baskets. The play of the young guys was certainly a positive."



# The Examiner of STREAMWOOD

Volume 24  
Number 33

"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 26, 2018

Police promotions  
ratified at meeting  
See ..... Page 2

D.A.R.E. graduation  
held at Sunnydale  
See ..... Page 6

## U-46 pursuing tax relief that likely will not come

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved of a property tax relief grant application at its meeting on Monday, Dec. 17 but it came with markedly different expectations than what was presented at the Dec. 3 meeting.

The board's vote comes after a Dec. 3 vote approving of the district's 3 percent hike in the 2018 property tax levy via a 5-2 vote, board members Phil Costello and Jeanette Ward voting no.

Regarding the grant application, U-46 is now asking for \$10 million in property tax relief from the state instead of the original request of \$43 million while the district expects to not see a dime from the grant.

Jeff King, deputy superintendent of operations, said he didn't "see any downside to it whatsoever" on Dec. 3 when board member John Devereux raised concerns he'd heard, such as districts possibly "trading dollars away." Those concerns may now appear to be true.

The state set aside \$50 million total for the grant open to all school districts through its new so-called "evidence-based" education funding formula. Using the state's formula, U-46 is eligible to request \$43 million with

King originally expecting \$1 million to \$5 million from it.

After further review, King said 851 school districts in the state are applying for \$3.2 billion from the grant with \$2 billion of eligible requests. Furthermore, if U-46 were awarded the now \$10 million request it would only receive \$9.4 million from the state while the district would have to cover \$610,000 which King described as a "loss."

"For every dollar that we would be awarded in the abatement, we'll actually only receive about 93.9 cents on the dollar," King said. He said each district would have a different rate.

Responding to a question from Ward, King said "it's a calculation that the state provided when they sent out basically the sheet with the information on what each district could apply for." King said a district's tax rate was the top factor for determining the calculation.

Asked about other districts by board member Sue Kerr, King said another nearby district would only receive 40 cents per dollar from the state which led that district not to apply.

King said the entire \$50 million will probably be disbursed to the top 22 school districts, and based on tax rates

U-46 is ranked 189th. He said there's \$505 million in requests in front of U-46 and "after looking at it this way, I find it pretty unlikely we'll get anything."

"So this whole property tax relief is really symbolism over substance," Ward said. "It's not really property tax relief at all because first off you don't get the full amount you asked for and second off you're unlikely to get any."

King responded: "Unless they funded it with a higher dollar amount, correct. So you would have to be the most needy. Your tax rates would have to be the worst in the state in order to really have a high probability of qualifying."

What should be noted is the grant will not provide any real substantive tax relief as the property tax relief would be paid for by another tax, state income and corporate taxes, rather than a taxing body, in this case government schools, presenting fiscally responsible budgets. To pay for the "evidence-based" formula, the state hiked its personal income tax rate by 32 percent and the corporate tax rate by 33.3 percent which U-46 CEO Tony Sanders lobbied for.

Costello asked for a further explanation of the process to which King said if U-46 received the full grant it would abate the \$10 million, provide proof to the state of the abatement and the state would reimburse \$9.4 million. Costello said the scheme "makes no sense."

Board members Veronica Noland and Melissa Owens expressed skepticism that U-46 was 189th and that the "neediest" districts could abate, but King said they could.

Noland later said: "It feels like school choice.... You had to be the neediest school in the neediest district and be the student who needed the most in order to actually be able to make a choice."

Ward, who said she was "still going to vote yes for this because I believe

we should try to abate property taxes," noted this year's budget process when the administration and board's majority justified increasing the budget despite enrollment declines in part because "we were going to apply for property tax relief, and now it turns out this isn't really property tax relief."

"Well, it is," Sanders said. "It's just not a dollar for dollar property tax abatement."

"Well, it's not if we're not going to get any," Ward said which Sanders said: "True."

U-46 saw a decline in enrollment for the third straight year, a trend it continues to project, but hiked spending in its current budget by \$40.2 million and added 54 new positions. Costello and Ward voted no on the budget.

Regarding the Dec. 3 tax levy vote, the board approved the certificate of tax levy and a tax levy resolution after approving two related resolutions in November. Costello and Ward consistently opposed the tax levy resolutions citing the concerning trends as Devereux, Kerr, Noland, Owens and Donna Smith voted for the tax hikes.

"We're spending more and we have a lower census," Costello said. "We have a lot of taxpayers that are leaving the district and I just get concerned. So I don't know if we've considered the options here."

The total approved levy is \$279.8 million, an \$8.2 million increase from the 2017 actual levy of \$271.6 million. That is a defensive levy as U-46 expects a \$6.8 million increase, or 2.5 percent, for a \$278.4 million total.

Additionally, a \$42.2 million levy for debt service and public building commission leases brings the 2018 total proposal to \$322 million, a 2.2 percent increase from the 2017 total extension of \$315 million.

The board did unanimously approve a pair of itemized bills at its December meetings, \$7.9 million on Dec. 3 and \$9.9 on Dec. 17.

## Award given to teacher from Streamwood High

By Seth Hancock

A Streamwood High School teacher was awarded a \$50,000 prize by Harbor Freight Tools.

In November, the company surprised Matt Erbach, a precision manufacturing teacher, at his classroom with the news that he was a second-place winner, one of 15 nationally, in its Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence award.

"We definitely want to give a huge congratulation to Matt Erbach as well as Streamwood high on this great accomplishment," said Brian Cohen, a representative for Harbor Freight Tools. "It's been our pleasure to support anybody who's supporting skill trades."

Eric Smidt, CEO of Harbor Freight Tools, started the award in 2017 through the company and the Smidt Foundation. Erbach was a semifinalist last year.

Over 500 teachers applied for the

award this year while three first place winners earned \$100,000 awards according to a School District U-46 press release. Erbach was the only Illinois teacher to be awarded.

The release stated that Erbach was awarded by Harbor Freight Tools because of his "broad background in both education and private industry, his dedication to his own continued professional development, and the supportive environment he creates for his students in the precision manufacturing program."

Erbach has taught at four U-46 high schools over the last decade and previously worked in the private sector according to the district. He earned his education degree from Northern Illinois University and a workforce development master's degree from Southern Illinois University.

The \$50,000 award will be split with

See Teacher award, pg. 4



### It's time for Christmas cookies

After making crafts at the 'Polar Express' trolley event, Ruby Rozhan ate cookies on Sunday, Dec. 16. For story and more photos see page 12.  
(Examiner photo by Juli Schatz)



# Haste plus bad weather can be very hazardous

Driving can be hazardous, especially when it is slippery outside, but who doesn't know that? Didn't your mother warn you every time you left the house? Growing up riding my bike in the old country gave me a leg up, so to speak, because not only didn't we get a lot of snow there but riding bikes was the way to go. Whenever I'd ride my bike to get someplace I actually got up early enough so I wouldn't get stuck in the traffic and get tangled up in the hundreds of other bikes riding beside and in front of me.

Today, luckily, I am privileged to drive a car and boy, what a treat it is to have my own car. As I hit the road it is clear that I have to be even more careful driving thousands of pounds of steel because not only are there hundreds of others on the road, but when there is snow or ice it is brutal. When it is snowing or slick I drive as careful as possible but suddenly someone, who's in a hurry, flies past and nearly wipes me off the road! We keep hearing we should be more aware, slow down and allow extra time when driving in the snow rather than being in such a hurry. But it is frustrating when another person drives too fast, rides your tail as if they are in your back seat and expects you to get out of the way causing you to panic and possibly slide off the road or into another car.

Allowing a little extra time when you have to go can't hurt. Watch for the icy spots because they are there and sometimes you can't see them coming and you know what could happen next. Somehow I wrecked my 1972 red Mustang as I slid on a slick spot some years ago. It occurred when I was driving to care for a friend's dog and was in a bit of a rush, because I stepped on the gas to go around another driver. I hit black ice and it was too late to do anything but slide, for what seemed forever, before hitting a utility pole. When the car came to a rest I realized I had smacked the front end pretty hard causing major damage. I was angry at the mess I created in my haste but was grateful that I didn't hit another car hurting anyone else. My poor beaten car had to be towed and my insurance company called.

It happened in Geneva during the day. I was mortified since my hubby had given me the car for my birthday and it was less than a year old. I loved that car and referred to it as my red devil because it was bright red and had an 8-cylinder engine which made it fast. On that day, hubby was at home with a case of Montezuma's Revenge (flu bug) and he slept through the whole thing never knowing I wrecked my sporty Mustang. I left the house about noon that day and didn't return until about 4 p.m. since this mess took hours due to calling the police, being checked over by the paramedics, filling out a report, contacting the insurance company and dealing with the tow truck company. Little did he know how fast my heart was pounding when I walked in the house because I had to explain to him what happened to my red devil. When I told him I wrecked my car he didn't look too happy since he spent a lot of money on it, but was relieved I was okay and hadn't hit anyone else.


Thank God I only beat up the front of the car and dented a utility pole. When the police arrived I asked one of the officers if I had to pay for damaging the pole. They both looked very serious and told me yes, I had to make payments to fix it. I took them at their word and then was told to take it easy on the roads, especially when there's snow creating black ice. They were both smiling and it was then I realized I didn't have to pay for the pole after all. Thank goodness for that positive

news since the bad news was that fixing my car would cost \$5,000 because the front was smashed badly and needed a lot of work. We got the red devil fixed and a few months later opted to trade it in on a bigger and

## Tidbits...

By Rachel

[tidbits@examinerpublications.com](mailto:tidbits@examinerpublications.com)



safer car. Having driven a Mustang was fun but on icy roads it really was a devil to drive.

Please note: Holiday deadlines are still in



## Connections

Poplar Creek Public Library

The Board of Trustees and Staff of Poplar Creek Public Library District wish you a very happy New Year! Please note the following library closures: Monday, Dec 31, Closing at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan 1, 2019, Closed

**Winter Coat and Clothing Drive**  
**Jan. 7 to Feb. 8, 2019**

Help those in need in our community stay warm this winter season. Beginning Jan. 7, 2019, drop off new or gently used (and freshly laundered) coats, glove, scarves, hats, boots and other cold weather items to our donation box, which will be located in our main lobby. All items will be donated to the Hanover Township Welfare Services.

**Winter Reading Challenge**  
**"Are You Yeti to Read?"**  
**Jan. 7 to Feb. 22, 2019**

Join our Winter Reading Challenge "Are You Yeti to Read?" and earn prizes along the way. For every 150 minutes you read, earn a raffle ticket for the chance to win one of our many grand prizes! Registration begins Jan. 7, 2019.

**Save the Date!**  
**Winter Reading Kick-off Event**  
**Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019 from 1 to 3 p.m.**

Join us at the Main Library to kick off our Winter Reading Challenge! We'll have a magic show, hot chocolate, cookies, and crafts! No registration necessary-just drop in! Visit our website calendar for more details.

**Anime Club**  
**Thursday, Dec. 27 at 6 p.m.**

Teen fans of Attack on Titan, Black Butler, One Piece and more! Watch anime, talk about upcoming anime/manga, or share drawings you have done. Snacks will be provided. Register online or call 483-4928.

## Teacher award

Continued from page 1

\$35,000 going to Streamwood's program and \$15,000 going to Erbach personally.

Erbach said that the award will help purchase equipment for trades such as carpentry, Manufacturing, Plumbing and welding and the program now has "years of that kind of stuff in front of me now."

"Skill trades offer a great window for students who like to work with their hands," Erbach said. "In the last five

effect for the next issue. Please submit copy by noon Friday, Dec. 28 for inclusion in the Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019 issue.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Congratulations to Kayla Karin Palia of Streamwood who recently graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in hospitality, restaurant and tourism management from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Congratulations to Manikumar Veeravally of Streamwood who recently graduated with a master of science degree in information technology management from Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, Kentucky.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Congratulations to Biridiana Salgado of Streamwood who recently graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in nursing (RN) from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Children's Movie at the Branch**  
**Thursday, Dec. 27 at 10:45 a.m.**  
**Saturday, Dec. 29 at 2 p.m.**

Looking for something free to do with the kids while on winter break? Stop by the Sonya Crawshaw Branch Library in Hanover Park and enjoy a children's movie and popcorn. No registration necessary-just drop in! For specific movie information, please call the Branch at 372-3131.

**Paws & Read**  
**Thursday, Dec. 27 from 3 to 5 p.m.**  
**Children's Department**

Bogart, a certified therapy dog, will be here to listen to kids read out loud for 15 minutes. This program is for children who already know how to read but need more practice. Registration is limited to one person/family per 15 minute time slot. Call 483-4923 to register.

**Happy New Year!**  
**Friday, Dec. 28 at 2 p.m.**  
**Children's Department**

Ms. Vynette and Ms. Estrella will be combining their classes for some New Year's fun. Bring in 2019 with some special activities. Ages 6 to 11. Call 483-4923 to register.

**Chair Yoga**  
**Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019 at 1 p.m.**  
**Meeting Room 3**

Explore gentle postures, breath work, meditation, and deep relaxation with Karen Fotopoulos, certified yoga instructor from Discover Yoga with Karen. Register online or call 483-4910.

For a complete listing of scheduled programs at Poplar Creek Public Library, 1405 S. Park Ave., in Streamwood or Sonya Crawshaw Branch, 4300 Audrey Lane in Hanover Park, visit [www.poplarcreeklibrary.org](http://www.poplarcreeklibrary.org). Questions? Call 837-6800.

Emergencies don't take a holiday. The American Red Cross urgently needs blood donors to make an appointment now to give and help ensure patients can get the treatment they need at a moment's notice. Now is an important time to give blood. A seasonal decline in donations occurs from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day when donors get busy with family gatherings and travel. In addition, severe winter weather can cause blood drive cancellations and negatively affect the blood supply. Give the gift of life. The next local opportunity to donate is on Jan. 13, 2019, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, 751 Army Trail Road, Bartlett. You may also make an appointment to donate blood anytime by downloading the free American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). As a special thank-you for helping meet the urgent need, those who come to give Dec. 20 through Jan. 6, 2019 will receive a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Take time to give back to your local community by joining the Streamwood Woman's Club. Enjoy fellowship with members who work on local philanthropic projects to help the community become a better place to live. They meet at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of every month, September through May, at the Streamwood Police Station. Membership is open to any woman who is 18 years and older. Not restricted to Streamwood residents. Contact Anita at 247-2359 for more information.


\*\*\*\*\*  
West Suburban Patriots Patriots Breakfasts are held on the second Saturday of each month from 9 until 11 a.m. at Wheaton Bowl banquet room in Wheaton. There is no charge to attend their meetings. An a-la-carte breakfast is available for a nominal fee. Wheaton Bowl is located at 2031 N. Gary Ave. For more details, see [westsuburbanpatriots.com](http://westsuburbanpatriots.com).

\*\*\*\*\*  
Interested in playing bridge? Join in at the Hanover Township Senior Center, Illinois Route 59, Bartlett. Bridge is played on the second and fourth Tuesdays (duplicate bridge on the first and third) from 1 to 4 p.m. Open to all residents in the area. For more information, call 483-5600.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Operation Airlift-Donations are being accepted at the following locations: VFW Post 5151, 520 S. Bartlett Road, 483-0055, email [contact@vfw5151.org](mailto:contact@vfw5151.org); and Streamwood Chamber of Commerce, 22 W. Streamwood Blvd.

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# Pet of the Week



## Elevate to the Max

Max is a 1-year-old terrier-mix. He is a very high-energy, active wild child in need of an abundance of training. Max also has the sweetest temperament and is extremely loving to people. He doesn't mind other dogs, especially small ones if they can tolerate his nosiness. Max was an owner-surrender due to his family not having the time to train him or give him the one-on-one time he really needs.

All Kane County Animal Control adoptable cats and dogs are spayed/neutered, microchipped, up-to-date on all vaccines including rabies. They are tested for feline leukemia/FIV and heartworm. The adoption fee for dogs is \$200 and \$100 for cats. Adoption of two dogs is \$300 and it is \$150 to adopt two cats. For more information regarding Kane County Animal Control's adoptable animals and for an adoption application, please go to [www.kanecountypets.org](http://www.kanecountypets.org).

(Photo courtesy of County Animal Control)

# U-46 has 278 seniors honored as state scholars

By Seth Hancock

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission has released this school year's list of Illinois State Scholars and 278 come from School District U-46.

The scholar designation is given to Class of 2019 seniors who rank in the top 10 percent for academic achievement.

According to a U-46 press release, there are over 21,000 students who achieved the status coming from 757 schools.

"Congratulations to our Illinois State Scholars," U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said in the release. "We are proud of their accomplishments in our schools and cannot wait to see their future successes."

There were 110 scholars from Bartlett High School, 71 from South Elgin High School, 51 from Elgin High School 24 from Larkin High School and 22 from Streamwood High School. Listed below are students from those schools in *The Examiner's* coverage area.

Bartlett: German Acevedo, Najma Ahmed, Rafia Aziz, Jacob Bagley, Keaton Bandur, Paige Bednarke, Patrick Biedrzycki, Devakar Boini, Carter Burzlaff, Gianna Campo, Alyssa Carey, Camryn Charter, Jeet Chaudhari, Jasmin Chaudhry, Amy Chen, Shreya Chenna, Harsh Chheda, Austin Cichon, Sohum Desai, Nee-ladri Dhar, Anthony Digiulio, Nicholas Eckelberry, Christopher Emmett, Aaron Farabaugh, Mohammed Faraz, Jenna Fitzgibbon, Kimberly Gamalo, Ramya Gandhi, Austin Garbacz, Andres Garces, Yaseen Ghani, Abigail Hawes, Rachel Helgesen, Emily Hettinger, Ryan Hogan, Roshni Jacob, Garrett Jurina, Azam Khan, Lindsay Kovach, Andriy Kylyushyk, Erin Leone, Philip Lesniak, Amanda

Leveille, Nathan Linkevich, Charlotte Linnartz, Dirk Locascio, Monica Lulek, Kayla Malinowski, Patricia Marasigan, Samantha Martino, Daniel McCarthy, Kelly McGee, Laura McGee, Jasmine Mendez, Alan Michalek, Meher Mirza, Smridhi Mittal, Alexa Mogan, Muna Mohammed, Mustafa Mohammed, Anna Monson, Rachel Montesano, Katelyn Mundorf, Aakash Nagarapu, Braden Nicholson, Jeremy Noesen, Joseph O'Callahan, Meha Pandya, Aayush Patel, Aayush Patel, Harshal Patel, Om Patel, Payal Patel, Rushi Patel, Siddhi Patel, Eduardo Perez, Regan Polly, Dharra Prashaad, Celeste Pratt, Jenna Rajewski, Jason Roberts, Natalie Rock, Victoria Rzucidlo, Zain Sattar, Paula Sawicka, Tyler Serpico, Rohan Shah, Frenki Shyti, Erica Smith, Kelsey Sniatynsky, Sachi Solanski, Evan Springer, Amogh Srigopal, Preethi Srinivasan, Sophia Szubert, Nimesh Tailor, Isabella Talae, Sofia Terenzio, Matthew Tomasek, Michael Tomaso, Denise Valdez, Kevin Vesta, Theresa Videckis, Hannah Walker, Tessa Wanthal, Anika Wilen, Nick Wolf, Michael Yonker, Jack Young and David Zepeda.

South Elgin: Dina Aldabbagh, Carli Allen, Nicole Allen, Hannah Anderson, Kathleen Bardfield, Sarah Boghossian, Bridget Bondi, Madison Caliendo, Delaney Catania, Grace Cork, Sydney Cuda, Abigail Culloton, Jack Cullotta, Izabella Cyran, Katelyn Delaney, Emily Deleon, Parth Desai, Alia Echols, Nathaniel Evensen, Hayley Fisher, Kyle Fox, Luke Fox, Ian Garvin, David Hahn, Jane Holish, Kylee Hunter, Jeremy Ivanauski, Zach Joseph, Rachel Kelly, Madeline Kordecki, Samantha Koss, Trevor Kravis, Hayoung Kwon, Benjamin La Vine,

See Honored, pg. 12

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# This week in... South Elgin

Wednesday, Dec. 26	
• 9 a.m.	South Elgin boys basketball vs. Marian Catholic High School at Jacobs Holiday Tournament.*
• 5:30 p.m.	St. Charles North girls basketball vs. Trinity High School at Dundee-Crown Holiday Tournament.*
• 7 p.m.	South Elgin girls basketball vs. Fenwick High School at Dundee-Crown Holiday Tournament.*
Thursday, Dec. 27	
• TBD	St. Charles North boys basketball at Pontiac High School Holiday Tournament.*
• TBD	South Elgin girls basketball vs. TBD at Dundee-Crown Holiday Tournament.*
• TBD	St. Charles North girls basketball vs. TBD at Dundee-Crown Holiday Tournament.*
Friday, Dec. 28	
• 6 p.m.	South Elgin boys basketball vs. Jefferson (Rockford) High School at Jacobs Holiday Tournament.*
• TBD	St. Charles North boys basketball at Pontiac High School Holiday Tournament.*
• TBD	South Elgin girls basketball vs. TBD at Dundee-Crown Holiday Tournament.*
• TBD	St. Charles North girls basketball vs. TBD at Dundee-Crown Holiday Tournament.*
Saturday, Dec. 29	
• TBD	South Elgin boys basketball at Jacobs High School Holiday Tournament.*
• TBD	St. Charles North boys basketball at Pontiac High School Holiday Tournament.*
• TBD	St. Charles North girls basketball vs. TBD at Dundee-Crown Holiday Tournament.*
Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019	
All administrative offices closed. Happy New Year!	

\* All games are home games unless otherwise noted.

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# Sunnydale honors its D.A.R.E. graduates

More than 50 fifth-graders at Sunnydale Elementary School graduated from the 14-week Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) course on Tuesday, Dec. 18. Guests included village officials and police personnel, as well as parents and families of the graduates. The cere-

mony featured dancing demonstrations, presentation of diplomas, a slide show of photos taken during the course, a song sung by students and refreshments provided by the PTO. The PTO also, along with the police department, contributed to the purchase of D.A.R.E. T-shirts.



Sunnydale Elementary's D.A.R.E. graduating Class of 2018.



Margaret Orsonio presented D.A.R.E. Officer Ed Polaski with a gift on behalf of the entire graduating class.



Sebastian Sanchez-Sosa and D.A.R.E. Officer Ed Polaski demonstrated one of the dances students learned.



Arya Patel, left, and David Ordaz received congratulations from Police Chief David Syre, Village President Billie Roth, Sunnydale Principal Dr. Maria Valdovinos and Village Manager Sharon Caddigan.



The winning essayists from left, Arya Patel, Zack Moore and Stephanye Arroyo.



The public service announcements students made during the D.A.R.E. course were on display in the gym.



# Hawks totally dominate Rams in 81-19 victory



Mackenzie Hare of the Hawks driving through the paint and on the Rams' Joselyn Molinar on her way to laying in two points for Bartlett. Hare finished with 19 first-half points against Glenbard East.



While leading a fast break for the Hawks, Alexis Sinclair delivered a pass into the corner to set up a three-point bucket for Bartlett against the Rams.

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett girls basketball team shot its way to an easy Upstate Eight Conference win, an 81-19 victory, over Glenbard East on Monday, Dec. 17 at Bartlett.

Hitting 16 total shots from behind the arc, the Hawks set a new school record for three-pointers in a game. Bartlett had already set that record twice this season with 12 treys against both East Aurora and Streamwood.

Mackenzie Hare led the Hawks with 19 points and hit a pair of threes while Lexie Sinclair (16 points), Teagan Noesen (nine points) and Hannah Walker (nine points) each hit three treys to lead from behind the arc.

"I felt really good about our performance," said

Bartlett coach Brad Hunt. "I believe our press got things going for us offensively, and that opened up our shooting from the outside. It was simply a night where everything was working for us."

Hunt added: "As for the record, it is great for the girls because they work really hard on their shooting. It is the third time this year we broke the record. I do not know if we will do it again, but it certainly was fun to watch. Shooting is contagious, and we caught the shooting touch on this night."

Shelly Banks (10 points) added a pair of threes and Bartlett got one each from Savannah Standefer (nine points), Kailey Halterman and Justina Hernandez.

While the offense was clicking, so was Bartlett's defense using a strong press to create turnovers

throughout the night. Outside of a 12-point third quarter, the Hawks allowed no more than four points in a frame.

The Hawks led 25-2 after one quarter and 48-6 at halftime. The lead was 64-18 after three quarters when Bartlett won the fourth 17-1.

"When you can turn a team over like we did, it is hard for a team to develop any kind of rhythm offensively," Hunt said. "The girls have really worked hard to stay in front of their player and be cognizant of where the other team's best players are. We were able to force girls who are not used to scoring to lead their team, which ultimately was an advantage for us."

Bartlett improved to 11-2 overall, 7-0 in the UEC.



With four Glenbard East defenders collapsing upon her, Bartlett's Justina Hernandez left the floor to launch a short jump shot. *(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)*



The Hawks' Danielle Hedeon driving past Glenbard East's Sophie Moore on her way completing a layup.



# Quick Storm start not enough to beat Hawks



Bartlett's Teagan Noesen applying close defensive pressure to the Storm's Megan McClure as McClure attempted to back toward the hoop and narrow the South Elgin deflection late in the game.

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin girls basketball team hit first but Bartlett found its rhythm to earn the K.O. in the Upstate Eight Conference rivalry, a 54-36 Hawks victory on Friday, Dec. 21 at Bartlett.

The game featured the only remaining undefeated teams in the UEC, and Bartlett's win was its 10th straight.

The Hawks (12-2, 8-0 UEC) struggled to hit their layups early going scoreless until 1:06 remained in the first quarter. The Storm (9-6, 7-1), on the other hand, opened up a 15-0 lead behind six points from Miah Galvin and five from Megan McClure, who led her team with nine points.

Trailing 22-15 at halftime, the Hawks offense lifted off in the second half winning the final two frames

"The shots weren't falling so we knew defense had to get us back into the game," Sinclair said. "Everyone started hitting their shots in the second half and that opened some gaps for me to get to the basket."

The lead changed hands three times in the third quarter and Sinclair hit back-to-back buckets to spark an 8-0 run for a 31-24 lead with 1:50 left in the frame as the Hawks led for good.

Still, South Elgin kept it close until a final Bartlett rally. The Hawks led just 34-32 entering the fourth quarter and 38-36 with 4:37 left in the game when they scored the final 16 points.

"[Bartlett] came out hot at halftime,"



Justina Hernandez of the Hawks driving on the South Elgin basket while pursued by the Storm's Caroline Croft during Bartlett's comeback victory on Friday, Dec. 21.

39-14. Lexie Sinclair scored 14 of her game-high 16 points in the second half, Mackenzie Hare had nine of her 12 points, Teagan Noesen hit a pair of three-pointers and Danielle Hedeem had a six-point fourth quarter to lead the comeback.

said South Elgin coach Dan Mandernack. "We weathered the storm so to speak, but we were just gassed at the end."

Casey Brennan had seven points and Ella Winterhalter six for the Storm.

Justina Hernandez scored six points for the Hawks but her strongest contributions came defensively and on the glass, finishing with 11 rebounds, and she helped keep Galvin scoreless after the six-point opening frame. Savannah Standefer also had six points for Bartlett.

"Justina was phenomenal," said Bartlett coach Brad Hunt. "She loves scoring but she really did it on defense tonight. The rebounds, some blocked shots. She did everything tonight."

South Elgin was coming off a 34-31 UEC win over West Aurora on Tuesday, Dec. 18 in Aurora. Brennan (12 points), McClure (10 points) and Caroline Croft (eight points) led the effort.



South Elgin's Casey Brennan surveying the floor and leading an offensive drive while being defended by the Hawks' Alexis Sinclair.



Madison Waichunas eyeing the Bartlett basket on a scoring mission for South Elgin against the Hawks.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)