

## Press Clippings 3/7/2018

---Courier News--- 3/7/18

### Friends recall Elgin teenager killed in crash

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO



A makeshift memorial surrounds the tree on South Street that was the scene of a car crash Monday in which Larkin High School student Jonathan Duran, 17, was killed. (Rafael Guerrero/Courier-News )



Students and others gather outside Larkin High School on Monday night to remember Duran. (Yareli Trujillo)

Larkin High School social worker Katie Smiley met Jonathan Duran when he was a freshman on the boy's volleyball team, when she coached.

She described him as a “goofy” but also “bright,” someone who showed maturity beyond his age.

He told her he admired her profession, and said “he wanted to be in the helping profession,” perhaps in law enforcement.

“He was the type of person who always wanted to help other students,” she said.

He also loved cars and driving, Smiley said, a sad irony given that the 17-year-old died Monday morning after he lost control of his car on eastbound South Street at Alfred Avenue and struck a tree, according to the Elgin Police Department.

The crash occurred at 10:45 a.m., and he was pronounced dead at Presence St. Joseph's Hospital in Elgin.

“His car was his baby,” Smiley said.

She would “scold him” like a mother when he would recount his driving stories, she said.

Students and staff at Larkin mourned his death Tuesday. The district crisis team was made available to those who needed help with the news.

“No words can convey the depth of our sorrow over the loss of our student,” Larkin Principal Jamie Crosen said Monday in a note he sent to parents.

Monday night, dozens of students braved the snow and wind to gather at Larkin to remember their fallen classmate. Crosen said a staff member welcomed the group to come into the school.

“I had no reservations with (students holding part of the vigil indoors) whatsoever,” Crosen said.

Members of car groups joined the students, staff and parents at the vigil, said Wendy Vega, a Larkin student and friend of Duran’s. She described the turnout as “amazing.”

The mood at Larkin was quiet Tuesday, Vega said. She said many students didn’t come to school, either because they were upset by Duran’s death or worried about the school threat that had been posted online Monday night.

“Jonathan was the class clown,” said Vega, 17, who first met him at a freshman transition group. “He would always make everyone smile. Teachers loved him because even if he didn’t do much in class, he didn’t stop others from getting their education.”

“He was incredible, he had so much potential,” added Larkin student Yareli Trujillo, 17. “School is very hard for me at the moment. Everyone is shocked. I pass by his locker (Tuesday), and it hurts a lot.”

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## **Police: Teen made online threat against Larkin High School**

### **15-year old arrested after posting about ‘shooting up’ facility**

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO

A 15-year-old has been arrested on charges he made a threat Monday night against Larkin High School in Elgin, authorities said.

The teen apparently posted an online message about “shooting up” the school at 1475 Larkin Ave., a message that several people posted a screenshot of on Facebook and Snapchat, Elgin police said in a news release.

Detectives investigated the case overnight and arrested the youth Tuesday morning. The teen is being held at the Kane County Youth Home pending a detention hearing later Tuesday, according to the release.

The suspect did not have a weapon or access to any guns, police said.

“We are glad that the community provided the information to authorities and ask parents to remind their children the seriousness of these types of threats,” Police Chief Jeff Swoboda said in the release.

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## **Elgin deputy chief: Police prepped for possibilities**

Officers train for any school shooter incident, analyze Parkland response

BY MIKE DANAHEY



The Elgin Police Department's school resource officers met Friday to go over protocols for active shooter events. Adam Green, right corner, is both a school resource officer and a member of Elgin's SWAT unit. (Janelle Walker/Courier-News)



In 2015, Elgin police officers and firefighters practiced an "active shooter" scenario. Two "shooting victims" lay prone at the bottom of a stairwell at Kimball Middle School in Elgin. (Jon Langham/Courier-News)

If there is one thing drilled into the head of a school resource police officer, it's that it's their job to go into a live shooting situation and take the shooter down, Elgin police Lt. Sean Rafferty said.

A school officer must ignore his initial reaction to stop and help the injured, which can be difficult, Rafferty said. And if an officer is outside, getting into the building by any means is the goal.

"Don't worry about a \$150 window," Rafferty said. "We will replace it."

Elgin has had police officers stationed at District U46 schools for at least 30 years. They're currently based at the two high schools, four middle schools and the Central School Program on Chicago Street, Deputy Police Chief Bill Wolf said.

The officers have been through a 40-hour training program and also are certified as juvenile officers, Wolf said. They received more training Friday, taking advantage of a day when U46 had no school to create scenarios and practice skills they might one day have to put to use.

The resource officers are a constant presence on campus, meeting with students who have issues or questions; interacting with students and faculty; patrolling the hallways, particularly during passing periods; and checking that doors are secured, Wolf said.

Elgin patrol officers make multiple passes by all schools, including private ones, on their beats. They interact with parents, school staff and students when possible, Wolf said.

It's ingrained in the members of police special units to keep tabs on social media, he said. The department has computer software that scans for keywords being used on local threads that would be of interest to police, Wolf said, and they communicate with U46 about what they are seeing online.

After last month's high school shooting in Parkland, Fla., Elgin police investigated comments posted on social media and traced them to their original sources, Wolf said. Ultimately, they found no credible threats to area schools, he said.

Elgin police also have a system that monitors addresses where they've had multiple calls and, under state law, they have the ability to confiscate weapons from those deemed a threat to themselves or the community, he said.

"That's happened many times over the years," Wolf said.

After shootings such as the one in Parkland happen, Elgin police wait until the official investigations are completed and then analyze how they should fine-tune their own operation, he said.

"We wait until we know as best we can what happened, what police did well and what could have been done better, to learn what tactics we might bring to our approach in Elgin," Wolf said.

Most summers, Elgin's police and fire departments hold a joint active shooter drill, Wolf said. The school resource officers also plan to do more training over U46's spring break, officers said.

Adding another layer to school security are the surveillance cameras in U46 schools that feed into the Elgin police department's Real Time Information Center, said John Heiderscheidt, U46's director of school safety and culture. While no one is constantly monitoring the feed, videos can be accessed when something happens inside the school, he said.

"They are only viewed when there is a reason — a police call or an alarm. That is the only time they can view the cameras within the school," Heiderscheidt said. "It is a significant commitment by the community for that kind of resource. It is an incredible resource."

The resource officers also meet bimonthly to talk about what is going on on campuses and with the students. Because students who live in one town may go to high school in another town, "what is happening in one community affects the others," Heiderscheidt said.

Three times a year, school district leadership also meets with resource officers to talk about safety as part of a district-wide task force, he said.

Elgin police have had to put their active shooter training to use just once, in 2001, when a man shot and killed two people and injured 20 others at the now-gone JB's Pub on McLean Boulevard.

Wolf said in that situation, police were able to distract the shooter so patrons were able to tackle him.

Janelle Walker is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.



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## **Board approves member guides**

Agreements include social media use by U46 elected officials

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO

The District U46 School Board approved a series of self-governance agreements Monday, including one calling on members to avoid posting “volatile” social media messages.

The vote was 5-2 in favor of the agreements, which are general guidelines by which elected officials are to measure themselves. The list was crafted by the board during a closed-session meeting in February.

Board member Jeanette Ward did not attend the February meeting and was particularly opposed to the guideline on social media comments, saying the board was attempting to silence her and other board members who choose to post online.

“If it doesn’t restrict speech, then why are we having an agreement?” she asked board members Monday.

Ward filed a complaint with the Illinois attorney general’s office last month over the closed meeting, saying the board violated the state’s Open Meetings Act by discussing her social media usage in private and when she was not present. No ruling had been made on the complaint as of Tuesday.

The issue became publicly contentious at last week’s school board meeting, with most of the board members defending the guidelines. Board President Donna Smith said they are “aspirations” for current and future board members, not requirements.

Smith voted in favor of the agreements as did Veronica Noland, Sue Kerr, Traci O’Neal Ellis, and Melissa Owens. Board member Phil Costello joined Ward in voting against.

---Daily Herald--- 3/7/18

## **Authorities: Former Elgin police officer stole \$34,000 from police union**

BY HARRY HITZEMAN

A former 25-year Elgin police officer was indicted Wednesday on felony charges he stole \$34,000 from the police union while president and treasurer from 2007 to 2013.

William F. Wood Jr., 50, retired from the department last August and is expected to surrender to authorities on the felony charges, which carry a punishment ranging from probation to up to seven years in prison if convicted.

Wood, formerly of the 1200 block of Evergreen Lane, Elgin, lives in Louisiana, authorities said.

Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon and Elgin Police Chief Jeff Swoboda announced the charges Tuesday morning. Swoboda said the department received a tip in August 2017, investigated and brought their information to prosecutors.

Swoboda said he was "disgusted" to learn of the allegations against Wood, who also served as school resource officer at **Elgin High School** and was a sergeant in the technical investigations unit.

"He knew we were beginning our investigation into this and he tendered his resignation very quickly," Swoboda said, adding the charges against Wood should not diminish the work done by the department as a whole. "Being a police officer is difficult enough. We're the good guys. When actions are counter to that, it makes our job much more difficult."

Over the past several years, several former and current Elgin police officers have been charged with crimes such as identity theft, financial theft and misconduct by Kane County prosecutors.

"People make bad decisions. What I'm proud about is our department and our leadership does not shy away from (investigating) it," Swoboda said. "We address them head-on and don't make excuses for it."

McMahon declined to elaborate on what Wood spent the stolen money on, other than to say Wood "co-mingled" funds and used them for "personal expenses." McMahon said Wood is accused of breaching his "fiduciary duty" but not of official misconduct.

"(Elgin police) held a former police officer to the same expectation of any citizen accused of wrongdoing," McMahon said. "This office made decisions based on the facts of the investigation. They have high expectations for their fellow officers."

Elgin police officer and Union President Anthony Rigano said the union changed its bylaws effective in October 2017 to eliminate virtually all cash transactions, require two signatures on checks, and have a quorum of members vote on expenditures of more than \$500.

"While it is never a positive experience to learn one of our own has committed a crime, especially when we are the victims of said crime, the process done in this case was the most appropriate for this type of situation," Rigano wrote. "All we as a union can do is fix the bylaws that govern our finances, which we have done, and move on, which we must do. This incident is clearly not a reflection of the (union) nor the Elgin Police Department, but rather the exception."

Wood's next court date will be set after he is booked at the Elgin Police Department or Kane County jail.

Gary Johnson, who is Wood's defense attorney, said his client is expected to surrender in about a week and had no other comment.

Wood's bail has been set at \$30,000.

---Daily Herald--- 3/7/18

## Central High senior named Youth of the Year in Elgin

BY ELENA FERRARIN

The Youth of the Year event Tuesday night in Elgin featured slam poetry, a viola performance and a huge announcement: Judson University will give the winner a four-year scholarship beginning this year.

That was great news for Xavier Hare, a senior at Central High School in Burlington who was selected by the Boys & Girls Club of Elgin to represent it at the state competition. The scholarship is valued at more than \$100,000, said Judson's Director of Financial Aid Diana Winton.

"I'll probably go to Judson, then," said a stunned Xavier, 18, of Elgin, who wants to study art, network communications and business.

Xavier performed slam poetry for the audience at the Centre of Elgin, and recounted how a club staff member noticed that he could barely read when he joined at age 8. That's because he rarely attended school while being raised by his mother, who got addicted to drugs by a man who beat him and his brother, he said.

That staff member helped him learn and, within a month, he'd read his first book, he said. He eventually became a ward of the state and was adopted by his grandmother. His mother died of an overdose when he was 11, he said.

Xavier said he stopped going to the club for a few years and rejoined as an 8th grader. That's when the club became a second family as he made friends and became more involved through activities such as drama and the "passport to manhood" program that helps boys build character.

"Now being a senior being a part of the club is less about what it gives to me and more about what I can contribute to others," he said. "I want to give back. I want to change lives."

Antonio Delgado from Kimball Middle School got the Junior Youth of the Year award. Other nominees were Desmond Foster, a senior at **Larkin High School** who wants to become a chef; Kevin Perez, a senior at **Elgin High School** who plans to study music and performed on the viola; and **Kimball Middle School** students Abigail Casas, Cristian Cruz and Geovanny Lara.

Judge Mike Nutter, who serves on the club's board of directors, said choosing the winners was a difficult task because all the youths exemplified the values of the club. As for Xavier, "joining really changed him for the better, and he became a leader while he was there," Nutter said. "He articulated that really well in his speech and in the interview process."

Club Executive Director Cathy Russell said she expects the scholarships will be life-changing for Xavier and future winners. "There are so many of our Youths of the Year who have not had the resources to go to college," she said. "And now they can."

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## **Elgin police arrest teen in connection to threat at Larkin High School**

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY

Elgin police arrested a 15-year-old in connection with a social media post threatening a shooting would occur Tuesday at **Larkin High School** in Elgin.

The teen was being held at the Kane County youth home and will face a detention hearing today. Police said the teen did not have access to any guns.

The threat was discovered Monday evening and police investigated through the night before making an arrest Tuesday morning.

"We are glad that the community provided the information to authorities and ask parents to remind their children the seriousness of these types of threats," Police Chief Jeff Swoboda said.

---Daily Herald--- 3/7/18

## **Police: Teen arrested in threat against Elgin High**

DAILY HERALD REPORT

Elgin police have arrested another student who made a threat against their school Tuesday night, officials said.

According to a message [posted on their Facebook page](#), the Elgin Police Department was made aware of a threat targeting Elgin High School about a shooting that was supposed to happen on Wednesday.

Elgin police said they arrested the 16-year-old responsible for the threat.

On Monday, police discovered a threat made against Larkin High School.

"We appreciate those in the community who are reporting these threats," Chief Jeffrey Swoboda said in a statement. "Kids really need to understand there are consequences for the disruption and fear they are causing."



# The Examiner of STREAMWOOD

Volume 23  
Number 43

"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  
March 7, 2018

Purchasing policies  
updated by village  
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Sabres boys hoops  
suffer regional loss  
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## Split vote ratifies pacts in U-46, evokes reaction

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 approved the controversial board agreements brought before the board on Feb. 26 by a 5-2 vote, Phil Costello and Jeanette Ward voting no, on Monday, March 5.

The agreements came back in the original form, including the undefined term of "volatile" with regards to board member social media posts, with one addition.

Added to the document was a paragraph to the top of the agreements which included language that states: "The Agreements are not to be construed as binding or limiting any Board member's First Amendment right to speak on matters of public concern."

One of the controversial points discussed at the previous meeting was an agreement that board members should not make "volatile" social media posts. Some board members, including Costello and Ward as well as Sue Kerr, questioned the reasoning for that word as well as how it would be defined while board members Melissa Owens and Veronica Noland suggested changing it to "harmful," which was not defined.

Donna Smith, the board's president, amended the additional language prior to the vote to strike the phrase "on matters of public concern" from the document.

Board member Traci Ellis objected saying: "I don't want to be picky about it but I don't believe that we should have the right to speak on matters of closed session."

Smith said closed session meetings

are "different than making comments and questioning at a board meeting. You're right, closed session should not be discussed at all."

Ward noted before the vote her objections to the document, which she expressed at the February meeting, remained and she asked rhetorically: "If it doesn't restrict speech, then why are we having an agreement?"

The agreements were viewed as targeted specifically at Ward by Ward herself and a supporter, Audrey Ossewaarde, who spoke during public comments at the previous meeting.

Both Ellis and Noland accused Ward of being "volatile" as well as attacking U-46 CEO Tony Sanders publicly. Ward asked for examples, but neither could provide any.

Rick Newton spoke during public comments at the March 5 meeting and called out the board's majority for "hypocrisy."

"As a citizen and a taxpayer in this struggling school district, observing the behavior of this school board's majority on Feb. 26 was not only embarrassing and pathetic but more than anything it exemplified the epitome of hypocrisy and intellectual dishonesty," Newton said.

Newton said the board's majority has its "own history of temper tantrums, phony indignation and intolerance of opinions and beliefs with which you do not agree."

"You went on to accuse Mrs. Ward of personally attacking the district's CEO in public when in fact she has always made the point of focusing on the issues and policies at hand rather than making personal attacks," New-

ton said. "True to your normal behaviors, however, several of you consciously ignored any comments she has made on policies and have sought to undermine her concerns by conducting your own personal attacks towards her. Could there possibly be any obvious irony here?"

Ward has had her intelligence questioned by colleagues on the board and called a liar and bigoted, among other personal attacks, during public meetings without Smith or any members of the board's majority interjecting. During previous closed session self-evaluation meetings, Ward has said "community members and I were spoken of in derogatory terms, such as, '...the 21st century brand of the KKK.'"

At the Feb. 26 meeting, members of the majority said expressing certain views can cause harm to the world but Newton said: "That sword cuts both ways. So while you proceed to falsely cast Mrs. Ward's policy statements as being personal attacks, have you ever stopped to consider the degree of harm that this board's majority members have imposed as a detriment to our students through your social engineering tactics and ideologically biased curriculum?"

Newton added: "Nothing could better depict the word hypocrisy than when you claim to be all about diversity yet you have no tolerance amongst yourselves for diversity of ideas, thoughts and values which aren't steeped in entitlement mentality or victimhood. Is it any wonder that our modern day public school systems have spawned the nation's collegiate snowflakes who seek to restrict or ban thoughts which differ

from the high school's indoctrinations and believe that such thoughts should only be spoken in free speech zones on our college campuses?"

Regarding "free speech zone," the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) says on its website, thefire.org, that such areas are still heavily used on college campuses despite having been ruled unconstitutional.

According to FIRE: "The sad truth is that free speech zones are far from free. Many college campuses restrict free speech solely to these areas, meaning that the rest of campus is not open for expression."

In 2004 Texas Tech University's use of "free speech zones" were called unconstitutional, and in 2012 a federal judge said concerning a case against the University of Cincinnati that they violate "the First Amendment and cannot stand." Still, according to FIRE, one out of every six of the nation's top 400 colleges continue using "free speech zone" and require American citizens to seek permission to exercise their civil right.

Newton concluded his comments: "While it is a sad reflection upon our society, it speaks volumes about the debilitating impact academia currently has upon impressionable students. I don't know if I will ever live to see the district adhere to a strict belief that teaching students how to discover and learn is much more useful and powerful than teaching them what to think. If it fails to change for the better, however, those of you who have facilitated its demise will certainly deserve the ire of those children you have cheated and the taxpayers of whom you have robbed blindly."

## House attic fire leaves \$100,000 damage in wake



Fire damage to the home at 306 Hillside Drive. (Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

On Saturday, March 3, at 2:22 a.m., the Streamwood Fire Department responded to a report of a fire in the attic of a one-story home at 306 Hillside Drive.

Upon arrival, Battalion 9 reported heavy fire coming from the roof of the structure. The first-arriving fire companies confirmed that the residents had already evacuated the building but conducted a search as a precau-

tion. The fire was brought under control using two hand lines. An adjacent building sustained minor damage from radiant heat from the fire.

There were nine occupants in the building at the time of the fire, all evacuated safely. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined, and fire investigators are continuing the investigation. Damage is estimated at \$100,000.



### Getting autographed T-shirts

Leonardo Morales, left and Daniel Salas had their T-shirts signed by deputy chiefs Daryl Syre and Josh Norum during the D.A.R.E. bowling party on Friday, March 2. For story and more photos see page 8.

(Examiner photo by Juli Schatz)



# Streamwood falls to Maroons to end season

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood boys basketball team saw its season come to an end as the No. 9 Sabres fell 53-43 to No. 7 Elgin in the St. Charles North Regional quarterfinals on Monday, Feb. 26.

Streamwood led 11-10 after one quarter and 14-12 early in the second when Elgin scored eight straight points to take the lead for good. Elgin led 25-19 at halftime and 34-27 after the third.

Offensive struggles harmed the Sabres who committed 21 turnovers and shot 31.9 percent from the field, and 6-foot-7 junior forward Keenon Cole was limited due to an injury as he finished with five points.

"Keenon being hurt definitely set us back," said Streamwood coach Paul Kowalyszyn. "Throwing over the top

to him wasn't an option, and they did a great job of fronting him."

Senior Brendon Marton finished with a team-high 11 points and senior Kevin Bauer added eight. Nikola Sinik contributed six points and Nick Droll five.

The Sabres end the season 11-19 and will lose seniors Sam Enno, Frank Fritzmann, Jack Maybrun, Lamont Cole and Philip Cruz.

"It's a tough loss, but I think the program took some good steps forward," Kowalyszyn said. "It's the first time we have had double digit wins in a long time."

Kowalyszyn added: "We have a good core returning. We just have to continue to teach them a better understanding of the game."



Brandon Marton of Streamwood pulling up off a dribble in front of the Maroons' Michael Weatherburn during the Sabres regional loss to Elgin.



Streamwood's Zack Marquez driving toward the baseline and past an off balance JC Fortman of Elgin.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

# Pet of the Week



## Hot Toddy coming down the trail

Hot Toddy is a 2-year-old, neutered Flemish giant mix weighing 12 pounds and looking for a home of his own. He is sweet and loves attention. One of the four rabbits surrendered when their owner could no longer care for them, Hot Toddy is ready and waiting for a family to choose him! While he waits this handsome, mellow boy has been impressing staff and volunteers with his calm demeanor and friendly disposition! Please visit [www.dupageco.org/animalcontrol](http://www.dupageco.org/animalcontrol) for more details or call 407-2800.

(Photo courtesy of County Animal Control)



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## U-46 proposals

Continued from page 3

disqualified when there were other categories scored beyond just pricing, and Phelps said "if they don't start off the data right" then it won't be considered. Phelps added that the district held a pre-bid meeting with all the vendors providing the information needed to bid.

The contract will be paid for through the education fund, but the district will seek e-rate funding with the federal government in which U-46 would be reimbursed 80 percent (\$1.2 million) of the expense. E-rate funds are paid by the nation's taxpayers through a tax imposed by the federal government on cell phone bills.

Kerr asked if the district would lose the ability of receiving the e-rate funds if it reopened the bid to allow AT&T a chance and Phelps said it would. Board member Melissa Owens asked if that was because of the timing and

Phelps responded it was.

Also approved unanimously were next year's school fees which will remain the same except for the driver education textbook fee which will be reduced from \$37 to \$13.

Three other expenditure proposals were approved unanimously including a \$245,239 expense with CDW Government to provide more WiFi coverage to elementary schools. The expenditure will come out of the education fund while the district will seek e-rate funding.

Another proposal with both Dell Marketing (\$133,562 for 395 chromebooks) and Heartland Business Systems (\$93,160 for 170 HP probook 11 G2) was approved and will be paid for by the nation's taxpayers through Title I funding.

A proposal with Tyler Technologies, Inc. costing \$79,195 for an annual license renewal for MUNIS software was approved, and it will be paid for through the education fund.

The board also voted 7-0 to approve of \$9.3 million in itemized bills.



# D.A.R.E. students celebrate at bowling party

Streamwood Bowl hosted more than 200 students from Hanover-Countryside, Heritage, Hilltop and Parkwood elementary schools for the semi-annual D.A.R.E. bowling party on Friday, March 2. Boys and girls bowled, played in the game and billiards rooms, took a break for lunch and then met and posed for pictures with the D.A.R.E. mascot Daren.



From left, Minela Holic, Jaslene Blabkimon and Stacia Mitchell won hundreds of tickets in the game room and turned them in for prizes.



More than 200 boys and girls from four elementary schools participated in the bowling party.  
(Examiner photos by Juli Schatz)




D.A.R.E. Officer Ed Polaski reminded students of the dance moves they learned in the program.

Examiner Columnist Rich Trzupek's

America's Journey: Underdog to Overlord, Regrets to Rebirth

AMERICA'S JOURNEY

Underdog to Overlord, Regrets to Rebirth



RICH TRZUPEK

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“Over the last decades, America's self-perception changed from idealistic hero to heartless bully. Will our apologetic stance stick, or can our nation unify and rally 'round the core beliefs that made it great?”

# Several U-46 teachers earn, renew certification

**By Seth Hancock**  
School District U-46 recently announced that eight teachers have earned their National Board Certification, and three more have renewed the credential.  
According to a press release, “only 33 percent of candidates pass on the first attempt” and there are currently over 100 teachers in U-46 with the certification.  
Among the eight newly certified teachers are Meagen Balzer and Nicole Fernstrom of Streamwood High School, Christine Bowen and Amanda Patano of South Elgin High School, district instructional coach Sandra Citron, Eric Hill of Larkin High School in Elgin, Brooke McGrath of Clinton Elementary School in South Elgin and Karen Witt of Horizon Elementary School in Hanover Park.  
Renewing their certification were Maryellyn Friel of Heritage Elementary School in Streamwood, Nicholas Vassolo of Streamwood High School and Naushina Rahman of Elgin High School.  
According to the press release: “Candidates must demonstrate their understanding of content knowledge in their chosen certificate area; design and implement instruction to advance student learning and achievement; describe, analyze and reflect on their teaching and interactions with students; and highlight their abilities as an effective and reflective practitioner in developing and applying their knowledge of their students.”  
The Board of Education recognized the teachers at its meeting on Monday, Feb. 26.  
Citron described the three-year process which “involves roughly 35 hours of professional development each year” which includes “planning, teaching, reflecting and applying that over and over and over again to get our videos right, to get our writing the way we wanted it, we had people reading for us. It was a very long process and so worth it.”  
Friel thanked the board for providing the resources for teachers to obtain the certification, and “it’s really a small percentage of teachers who have gone through the process and that have achieved the process.”



# Pet of the Week



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(Photo courtesy of County Animal Control)

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derstanding of content knowledge in their chosen certificate area; design and implement instruction to advance student learning and achievement; describe, analyze and reflect on their teaching and interactions with students; and highlight their abilities as an effective and reflective practitioner in developing and applying their knowledge of their students.”

The Board of Education recognized the teachers at its meeting on Monday, Feb. 26.

Citron described the three-year process which “involves roughly 35 hours of professional development each year” which includes “planning, teaching, reflecting and applying that over and over and over again to get our videos right, to get our writing the way we wanted it, we had people reading for us. It was a very long process and so worth it.”

Friel thanked the board for providing the resources for teachers to obtain the certification, and “it’s really a small percentage of teachers who have gone through the process and that have achieved the process.”

## Lots

Continued from page 1

“it should work fine.”

Trustee Raymond Deyne asked about the water and sewage from the property and Plonczynski said Kampert “will access our water system” but “there’s no sewer which is why he’s asking for the septic.”

Kampert said that there’s “plenty of

space for a septic” and his soil has been tested, and he added that septic systems are common in the subdivision.

“The reason I petitioned this was because we had a 95-foot lot with 50 feet of setback that you couldn’t build on” and “that is not common,” Kampert said.

Kampert said that it is a vacant lot with demand and said it was originally zoned improperly.

“I didn’t design it,” Kampert said. “I didn’t design the zoning back in ’78, and I’m sure none of you had anything to do with it either.”

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# U-46 Board approves pacts, fees and proposals

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved a three-year contract costing \$1.5 million for internet and wide area network services, but further questions were raised about the bid process on Monday, Feb. 26. The board also approved school fees for the 2018-19 school year as well as over \$500,000 in expenditure proposals.

Comcast was the winning bidder to provide both services, but when the proposal first came to the board on Feb. 6 a representative from WOW Business, which bid only on the internet portion of the contract, questioned the process. WOW came in with the lowest bid, \$18,180 lower than Comcast, for internet but lost the bid by a point on the evaluation score sheet.

The administration said there were six categories scored (price, technical functionality, completeness and accuracy of proposal, references and experience, service and support, price of ineligible goods and services) and Comcast edged WOW across all categories.

On the night of the vote, another bidder questioned the process. There were four qualified bidders of the contract and another, AT&T, was disqualified.

Rob Moskal, an AT&T representative, spoke during public comments and said they didn't learn that they were disqualified until seeing the board minutes. He said AT&T had competitive pricing and would have come in lower than Comcast.

Ultimately, the administration said it came down to a calculation error on AT&T's proposal, and U-46 was unable to provide a correction to that error due to it being a sealed bid.

Board member Jeanette Ward said that "the process stipulated that we could not reopen after the bid had already been submitted" and asked the administration for a public explanation of the process.

Bruce Phelps, senior business official, said the bid was opened in December and after receiving the proposals the district contacted each bidder to verify that prices were given as "site only." He said there are 59 edge sites and two core sites.

"We wanted to make sure that we're representing each price correctly so when we added up the total sites it comes out to the right dollar amount," said Phelps who added: "We cannot change the price that they put on there regardless of whether it's wrong or not."

Phelps said that AT&T did admit to making a mistake on totaling its price sheet and if U-46 were to reopen the bid for them to correct the error "we'd have to open up to everyone else in seal bidding. We cannot do that. It's against state law."

Board members Phil Costello and Sue Kerr asked for clarification that the error wasn't known until after

the bids were unsealed, which Phelps said "right, because it's a sealed bid."

Board member Traci Ellis said the calculation appeared to be correct from AT&T but the mistake was on how long they thought the contract was for. Phelps said "the monthly cost was correct," but AT&T calculated for a longer-term than the three-year contract.

Ward asked if the motivation for sealed bids was to avoid bidding wars saying "if someone came in lower, than someone else could also come in lower," and Phelps said that was correct and "it would be an endless cycle."

Board member Veronica Noland asked what the district could ask bidders after the bids are unsealed to which Phelps said "I can ask for clarification, but it cannot change the data that they gave me. I can't change the dollar amount that they provided us on the document."

Noland asked why AT&T was fully disqualified when there were other categories scored beyond just pricing, and Phelps said "if they don't start off the data right" then it won't be considered. Phelps added that the district held a pre-bid meeting with all the vendors providing the information needed to bid.

The contract will be paid for through the education fund, but the district will seek e-rate funding with the federal government in which U-46 would be reimbursed 80 percent (\$1.2 million) of the expense. E-rate funds are paid by the nation's taxpayers through a tax imposed by the federal government on cell phone bills.

Kerr asked if the district would lose the ability of receiving the e-rate funds if it reopened the bid to allow AT&T a chance and Phelps said it would. Board member Melissa Owens asked if that was because of the timing and Phelps responded it was.

Also approved unanimously were next year's school fees which will remain the same except for the driver education textbook fee which will be reduced from \$37 to \$13.

Three other expenditure proposals were approved unanimously including a \$245,239 expense with CDW Government to provide more WiFi coverage to elementary schools. The expenditure will come out of the education fund while the district will seek e-rate funding.

Another proposal with both Dell Marketing (\$133,562 for 395 chromebooks) and Heartland Business Systems (\$93,160 for 170 HP probok 11 G2) was approved and will be paid for by the nation's taxpayers through Title I funding.

A proposal with Tyler Technologies, Inc. costing \$79,195 for an annual license renewal for MUNIS software was approved, and it will be paid for through the education fund.

The board also voted 7-0 to approve of \$9.3 million in itemized bills.

2017). The police were asked to "step down" when it came time to protect conservative people from the Antifa-type radicals who attended the protests at Berkeley.

That being said, we now know that at least four Broward County Sheriff's deputies were at the Parkland, Florida, shooting. Perhaps they were asked to "step down" also? It sounds as if this has George Soros' fingerprints all over it just as the Black Lives Matter movement targeting police has.

We live in the age of rage and anarchy. Wake up, America!

Francine Freiberg

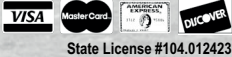


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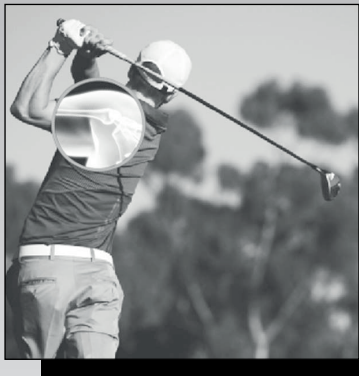
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## Letters

Continued from page 8

ese's letter to the editor, "How to stop the carnage?" I agree that the liberal left is using the Parkland, Florida, shooting as a push for gun control and ultimately an attack on our Second Amendment rights.

We already lost the battle for our First Amendment rights as evidenced by the fact that conservative speakers such as Ann Coulter and Milo Yiannopoulos have been shut down at UC Berkeley (in



# Hawks win three times to take regional title

By Seth Hancock

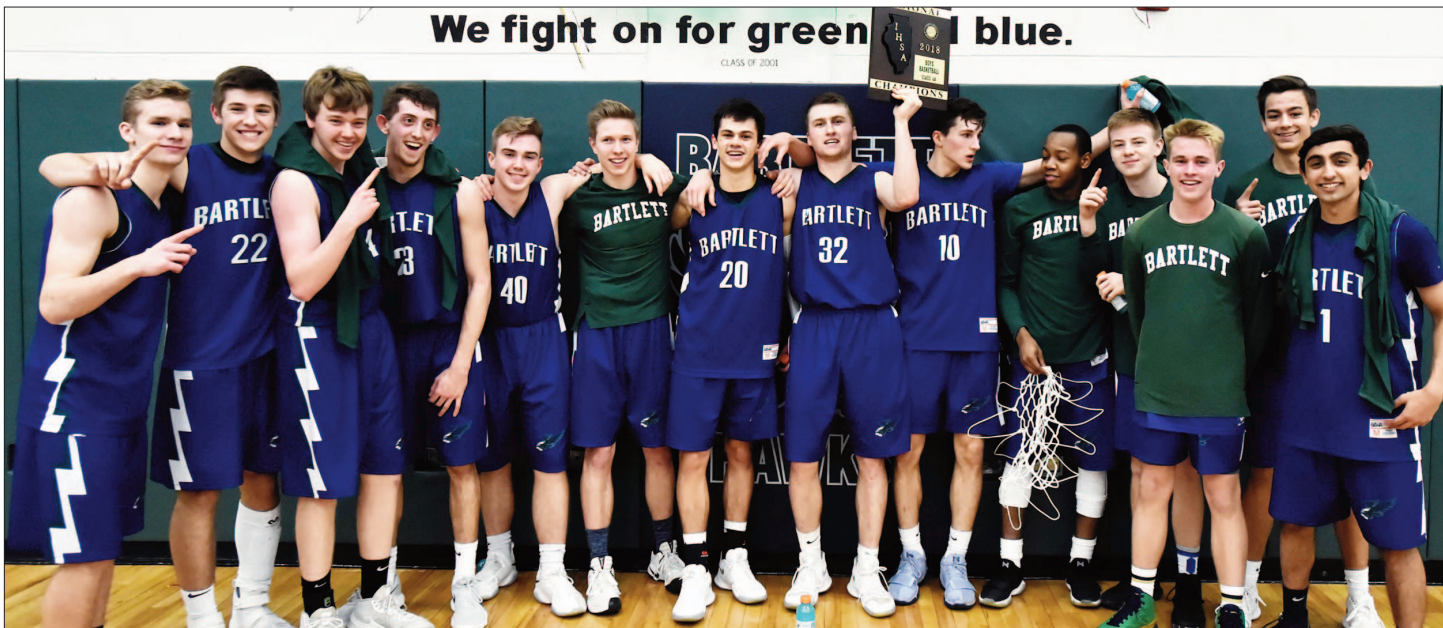
The upset minded Bartlett boys basketball team came through twice on its home floor.

The No. 12 Hawks used an 8-0 run to end a 42-37 victory over No. 6 Batavia in the Bartlett Regional semifinals on Wednesday, Feb. 28 then defeated No. 3 Wheaton Warrenville South 45-42 to capture their first regional title since 2010 on Friday, March 2.

“On our home floor, our goal was to win a regional title,” said Bartlett senior Ben Fisher who came through big



Bartlett's Garrett Jurina claiming an offensive rebound prior to launching a put-back effort between Glenbard North's Wyatt MacGaffey, left, and Lee Rady.



Following their final-second win over the Tigers the Hawks gathered with symbols of the regional championship.

in both games. “It means everything to accomplish it here.”

In the title game, Fisher led the effort with 16 points and Tomas Vikonis (13 points) came up with the game winner in the nail biter.

Wheaton South had tied the game at 42-42 with 43.4 seconds left to play, and with the possession the Hawks were playing for the final shot.

Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith said “the kids did a great job of moving the ball around,” and it found its way to Vikonis just left of the top of the key. Heavily guarded, Vikonis got a shot off that banked in for the 45-42 lead with .7 seconds remaining, and Ben Tompson (six points) had a steal on the inbound to seal the win.

“I was confident in my shot,” Vikonis said. “It just doesn’t get any better than that. It means a lot doing this on our home court.”

The Hawks had led through nearly

the entire first three quarters with their largest advantage at 19-11, but Wheaton South rallied and took a 35-31 lead early in the fourth and the game would be back and forth the rest of the way. Both Fisher and Vikonis went 4-for-4 from the free-throw line in the final frame.

“Great game, great game,” Wolfsmith said. “I thought they were as disciplined a team in person as we saw on film, and I thought our guys matched that discipline for the most part.”

Austin Gates and Byron Price both contributed five points. Although their first regional title since 2010, which eventually ended in the super-sectionals, the Hawks have played in four regional final games since then.

“Too damn long,” Wolfsmith said. “We’ve been knocking on the door. This is for not only these guys but all of the other guys who knocked on the

door but didn’t get through.”

Against Batavia, the Hawks trailed 37-34 in the final minute when they went on an 8-0 run to end it, Fisher (seven points) providing the go-ahead bucket. Gates and Vikonis each had 11 points, Tompson seven and Price six.

“What got us the win was we played with more grit and determination than we have all year,” Fisher said. “We were diving on the floor, making the extra play, whatever it took.”

Bartlett ran away with a 71-42 victory over No. 22 Glenbard North in the quarterfinals on Monday, Feb. 26. Gates (14 points), Tompson (13 points), Fisher (12 points, six rebounds) and Garrett Jurina (12 points, six rebounds) led the effort.

The Hawks are now 17-12 overall and will advance to the Glenbard East Sectional where they will open with No. 2 Benet Academy.



The scoreboard tells the story and virtually all eyes were on the shot that had just been released by the Hawks Tomas Vikonis which found the bottom of the net with less than one second remaining in the contest to give Bartlett a regional title victory over Wheaton Warrenville South on Friday, March 2.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

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# Regional host North ends South Elgin season



South Elgin's David Binion securing an offensive rebound over North's Cade Callaghan.



The North Stars' Erik Larson, left, attempting to cut off the Storm's Drake Montgomery on his route to the hoop. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin boys basketball team saw its season come to an end as the No. 5 Storm fell 47-36 to No. 4 regional host St. Charles North in the semifinals on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

Points were hard to come by for both teams in the defensive game, and the Storm fell behind for good after being held to just six points in the second quarter.

South Elgin trailed 8-2 early in the game but rallied for an 11-10 lead at the end of the first quarter capped by a thunderous dunk by Vincent Miszkiewicz (nine points, 12 rebounds) right before the buzzer, but that was the Storm's only lead of the

night as they fell behind 22-17 by halftime.

"It was a similar version of the game at the Sears Center," said South Elgin coach Brett Johnson referring to a 60-47 loss to North earlier this season. "I thought we really tested North in the first half, and then we ran out of steam in terms of getting open looks."

Johnson added: "When you can't buy buckets, it's hard to win games."

The Storm finished 13-for-40 (32.5 percent) from the field and struggled to make a dent in their deficit in the second half. South Elgin trailed 36-27 by the end of the third quarter and by as much as 15 points in the fourth.

"They played hard," Johnson said. "They did our game plan correctly defensively for the majority of the game. We just took some very unforced shots, and had a lot of open looks that didn't fall."

Senior Noah Rohr led the effort with 15 points including three three-pointers while senior David Binion added seven points and Drake Montgomery five.

South Elgin ends the season 16-13 overall and will also lose seniors Latrell Lamarca, Kyle Sy, Mohammed Rahman and Christopher Hankins.

"I'm proud of how these kids fought day in and day out," Johnson said. "Our seniors, we had six great kids who were great teammates and great to coach."

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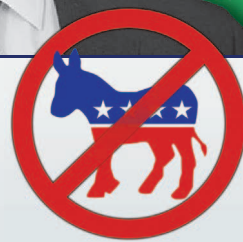
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# Children’s author travels to Bartlett Library

Children’s author Sarah Aronson, author of a new series of books for third-, fourth- and fifth-graders visited Sycamore Trails Elementary School on Tuesday, Feb. 27 to meet students and talk about her books.

A former physical therapist, Aronson began writing when someone in an exercise class dared her to try. Her most recent books are part of a series about the worst fairy godmother ever. After her 30-minute presentation, the author answered more than 20 questions and invited some students up to try out her characters’ magic wands.



Boys and girls pointed out the smallest student in the class to wave the author’s tiniest wand.  
*(Examiner photos by Juli Schatz)*



Several students gathered around Sarah Aronson to ask more questions after her presentation.



Students lined up to have their books signed by the author.



Author Sarah Aronson waved goodbye with the giant wand from her book, ‘The Worst Fairy Godmother Ever.’



From left, Danielle Whiteside, Suzanne Paskowski and Dylan Paskowski-Ramos waiting for their books.

## Gold Bartlett Hawks capture Husky Championship crown



Pictured, from left, top row are coach Greg Vesta, Drew Cwik, Olaf Gwiard, Coach John Sampey, Dylan Lainez, Brian Vesta, Jack Sampey and Connor Hare. Bottom row: James Kostomiris, Patrick Nelson, Ian Smith and James Dean. Not pictured Sammy Atkins and Shea Gaffney.  
*(Courtesy photo)*

The eighth grade Gold Bartlett Hawks traveled to NIU for the Husky Championship on the weekend of Feb. 10 and 11. The Hawks have won two of three tournaments they have played this season.

On Saturday they faced the Genoa-Kingston Cogs and won the game 61-52 and then defeated Next Level Basketball 66-56. On Sunday their first game was against Full Package and if the Hawks won that game they would move on to the championship contest. The Hawks put the game away in the

second half, winning 61-47.

In the championship game the Hawks faced the Midwest Elite United, which won all three of its games by an average of 24 points. The game started out with Bartlett hitting six out of its first seven shots to take an early 11-point lead. MEU fought back but Bartlett hit six three-point baskets in a row to go ahead at half 31-21. To begin the second half Bartlett hit its first six shots and increased the lead to 23 points on the way to a 69-51 title victory.

### Examiner Columnist Rich Trzupek's America's Journey: Underdog to Overlord, Regrets to Rebirth

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# North Stars season ends with regional final loss

By Seth Hancock

The No. 4 North boys basketball team came up short against No. 1 Larkin in the North Regional finals as the North Stars season ended with a 46-43 loss on Friday, March 2.

The close game got away from the North Stars late. The game was tied 33-33 at the end of three quarters when Larkin scored the first six points of the fourth to take the lead for good at 39-33, which was also the largest differential in the game.

Brendan Dal Degan hit a pair of three-pointers in the game for six points and had a game-tying attempt from behind the arc in the final seconds that rimmed out. Cade Callaghan, who hit three treys, and Kyle King each had 13 points to lead North.

During Upstate Eight Conference River Division play, the two sides split their two games with North handing Larkin its only conference loss in a 71-57 game. North dropped a 51-50 game earlier.

“We led 62 out of the 64 minutes in our two games against them,” said North coach Tom Poulin. “We were confident in our game plan.”

Poulin added: “The kids gave everything they had. I really thought we were two or three plays short.”

Zachary Ludwig added eight points in the effort.

In the semifinals, the North Stars

used a solid defensive effort to defeat No. 5 South Elgin 47-36 on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

North faced just one deficit at 11-10 at the end of the first quarter, but Lucas Heflen (six points) hit a three to open the second as the North Stars took the lead for good and he added another trey right before the break for a 22-17 halftime lead.

Ludwig (seven assists, four rebounds) then scored eight of his team-high 13 points in the third quarter as North’s lead grew to 36-27.

“We knew we were going to have to play defense and bring more energy,” Ludwig said. “Those were the keys and we did that.”

The North Stars later used a 6-0 run in the fourth quarter to take its largest lead at 47-32.

Dal Degan hit three treys and scored 12 points, Callaghan had five points and King scored four points and grabbed 11 rebounds.

“I was really proud of our defense,” Poulin said. “I thought we were prepared for what they did. We held them to 36 points. To do that to a varsity basketball team that won 16 games with a tough schedule is impressive.”

North ends the season 17-11 overall and will lose six seniors: Ludwig, Dal Degan, King, Callaghan, Jalen Chanthaboury and Erik Larson.



North’s Brendan Dal Degan securing the basketball in a battle with South Elgin’s Drake Montgomery that resulted in a jump ball call during the North Stars win over the Storm. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



North’s Kyle King alone under the basket working to bang in a shot off the glass above Larkin’s Pierre Black.



Following a drive on the Larkin basket, the North Stars’ Erik Larson attempted a reverse layup in front of the Royals’ Jalen Shaw.

Examiner Columnist Rich Trzupek's

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## SPORTS SECTION

### ---Daily Herald--- 3/7/18 **Bartlett's rally falls short**

BY GREGG VOSS

Whew.

Benet was well aware of Bartlett's giant-slaying capabilities coming into the teams' Class 4A boys basketball sectional semifinal Tuesday night at Glenbard East.

After all, the Hawks had dispatched sixth-seeded Batavia and third-seeded Wheaton Warrenville South in regional play en route to Lombard and a date with the Redwings.

True to form, Bartlett made things miserable for second-seeded Benet in the fourth quarter Tuesday, leveraging a full-court press that resulted in 8 turnovers. They even put together an 11-0 run that put the Hawks within striking distance of the lead.

But in the end it was Benet that had the last laugh, prevailing 47-41 and advancing to Friday's sectional final against Willowbrook, which defeated Naperville North 47-43 in the night's first sectional semifinal.

"Our coaches do a great job preparing us, with their sets and everything," said junior forward Will Engels, who led the Redwings with 15 points. "Bartlett, they're such an interesting team because they've got talent and they also play hard."

The Redwings jumped out to a 24-11 halftime lead and a 33-20 advantage at the end of the third quarter, and it looked like they were on cruise control, especially when senior guard Jacob Petrovic hit a 3-pointer to start the fourth quarter.

That's when Bartlett struck.

A steal and layup by senior guard Tomas Vikonis. Three free throws. A three-point play from senior guard Ben Tompson. And then the *crème de la crème* -- a 3-pointer from the right corner from senior guard Byron Price.

Suddenly, the Redwings (26-4) were in a ballgame, up just 36-31 with 5:20 to go.

Never fear, though. Colin Crothers came to the rescue with a 5-0 run of his own in the next two minutes that ultimately was the backbreaker for Bartlett.

Crothers finished with 9 points, 5 rebounds and 4 blocked shots. Not bad for a guy who, by his own admission, hasn't played up to par lately.

"I was just trying to turn it around," Crothers said. "I haven't been playing that well lately, and I just wanted to do what I could to help the team win, and I knew what I needed to do at that time, and so I executed the best I could."

Crothers added a layup off a shot block with 52.1 seconds to go that gave Benet a 47-38 lead. That turned out to be insurmountable for the Hawks (17-13).

"We had a little trouble with their pressure, but luckily, we played well enough defensively all the way through, which gave us a little cushion," said Benet coach Gene Heidkamp. "That's the nature of our team."

Benet outrebounded Bartlett 25-19, with Crothers, Engels and senior guard David Buh each corraling 5. Gates paced the Hawks with 8 rebounds, while Thompson led the team with 11 points. Gates had 9.

Neither team shot particularly well -- Benet had a slight advantage at 36 percent, compared to 33 percent for the Hawks -- but the Hawks shot well in the fourth quarter, including Gates' and Price's 3s.

"I thought after the first quarter where we were kind of tight and not scared, but not loose and with rhythm, I thought from that point on we settled in and played good basketball," said Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith.

But make no mistake -- the end is never easy. Just ask Thompson.

"Playing with these guys, they are my best friends," he said. "It's going to be tough to go away from them, but we'll go our separate ways and hopefully remain close."

---Daily Herald--- 3/7/18

## **Lynch, Shaw put Royals in final**

BY JERRY FITZPATRICK

Trailing Rockford Auburn by 5 points at halftime wasn't what Larkin had in mind, but the Royals were not overly concerned.

They opened the second half with an 8-0 run to take their first lead and never gave it back in a 60-54 Class 4A sectional semifinal victory at Jacobs on Tuesday.

"We have a mature group," said Larkin senior Anthony Lynch, who scored 16 of his game-high 28 points in the second half. "We wanted to come out better and we did. That was big. We just kept fighting."

Larkin 6-foot-10 senior Jalen Shaw was limited in the first half. Guarded by 6-3 Auburn senior Terry Purifoy, a JUCO-bound defensive end who benches 240 pounds and squats 300, Shaw picked up two first-quarter fouls. In the second half, he scored 13 of his 19 points and grabbed 9 of his 13 rebounds.

"We really felt we took their best shot in the first half and we were only down 5 with Jalen in foul trouble and us missing layups," Larkin coach Deryn Carter said. "We thought we were in good shape as long as we responded with high energy."

The victory advances Larkin (22-8) to a sectional final for the second straight season. The Royals will play the winner of Wednesday's semifinal between Rockford Jefferson (25-6) and Dundee-Crown (17-12) on Friday at 7 p.m.

"Two times in a row and you're in the Sweet 16, that's special," Carter said. "That's special for where we were as a program just six years ago. I'm definitely proud of that."

Shaw sparked the 8-0 run to open the third quarter with a pair of buckets in the post.

Lynch then gave the Royals their first lead when Auburn saved a ball but inadvertently threw it to Lynch under the basket for an easy layup.

Lynch subsequently swiped the ball from Auburn on the perimeter, drove the length of the floor with a defender on his hip and threw down a dunk to put the Royals ahead 33-30 with 4:13 left in the third quarter.

"I actually was expecting a layup, but I just got up so high," he said. "I just turned my wrist and the rest is history."

Lynch was assessed a technical for taunting on the play but Larkin never trailed again, partly because the Royals won the rebounding battle 18-5 in the second half. It had been a near draw through two quarters.

"That turnaround really was the story of the game, that third quarter," said Auburn coach Bryan Ott, whose team finished 20-12. "We did a really poor job executing our stuff with the lead and they took advantage like they're supposed to because they're a good team. They took advantage of our miscues and scored it at the other end. It seemed like we just couldn't get over the hump after that.

"I credit Larkin. Excellent team that seems to be coming together at the right time. It's a big deal in a sectional to have to come from behind and get the W, so my hat is off to them."

Shaw and Lynch combined on a big play down the stretch. The Knights trailed by 3 points with 37 seconds left when Jamus Neal stole the inbound pass intended for Shaw. He sent the ball to Purifoy in the lane, but Shaw recovered, blocked the shot and sent an outlet pass ahead to Lynch, who finished with a layup to restore Larkin's 5-point lead.

Yahmir Muhammad led the Knights with 12 points, Purifoy finished with 11 points and 7 rebound and Jamus Neal contributed 10 points.