

Press Clippings 4/25/2018

---Daily Herald--- 4/25/18

From U-46 to a social justice think tank

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY



Traci O'Neal Ellis discusses the navigation of black males through the education system during the Brother2Brother panel discussion last year at Larkin High School. *Daniel White | Staff Photographer*

Traci O'Neal Ellis hopes her experience on the **Elgin Area School District U-46** school board helps her advocate for educational equity and criminal justice reform nationally.

Ellis resigned at Monday's board meeting citing opportunities "to take my social justice activism to the national level" arising from a controversy last fall over her comment about the American flag.

In a Sept. 24 Facebook post, Ellis likened the American flag to "toilet paper" while expressing support for NFL players who were kneeling during the national anthem last season in protest of black people being shot by police and how minorities are treated by law enforcement. It prompted death threats against Ellis.

She apologized for causing a "distraction" yet stood by her original statement.

Ellis will join a Washington, D.C.-based national think tank working to support black legislators and blacks running for national office.

"I'm going to be part of a policy brief writing team on issues of importance particularly to the black community," she said. "The importance of getting black candidates elected who are well versed in the policy issues for black America ... it was too enticing an opportunity to pass up."

She will focus on education equity, policing of black communities, criminal justice reform, and poverty.

Ellis, 56, an Elgin attorney, is not quitting her day job as executive director of human resources for Aurora-based Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy. Her work for the think tank will involve a lot of travel, weekly meetings with the group's policy team, and evenings and weekends spent writing briefs, she said.

"It's going to require a lot of time and attention," Ellis said in explaining why she couldn't finish her school board term, which expires next April. "It's like the opportunity

is here now. I felt like I was at a crossroads and had to make a decision. I love the ability to influence and impact policy."

Ellis has been outspoken about inequities in education for minorities at **U-46** having raised two boys who attended school in the district, one graduating from Larkin High School, as she did in 1980.

"The outcomes for black children are the worst," she said, speaking of U-46's statistics of racial inequities with the overrepresentation of black students in referrals for discipline. "The educational experience for black children in this country ... there is so much more to talk about than solely (closing) the achievement gap."

Though she won't be serving on the board, Ellis said she will remain an Elgin resident and continue to pay attention to what goes on in the district.

"U-46 is what launched and prepared me to go into the world and compete among the best this world has to offer. U-46 has a building that carries my father's name and therefore this district will always be held close in the heart of my family."

---Courier News--- 4/25/18

30 students earn \$1,000 scholarships

District U46 to honor seniors who will receive funds through former superintendent's program at event

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO

Thirty School District U46 seniors will be recognized as Superintendent's Scholarship recipients at an event Wednesday.

The students will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship through a program established by former U46 Superintendent José Torres in 2012 through the district's educational foundation, a district news release said.

The seventh annual Superintendent's Scholarship reception and awards ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday at [Elgin](#) High School. The reception and ceremony is for student recipients, their families and scholarship donors. The winners represent all five U46 high schools and the DREAM Academy.

"All 30 students believe in the American Dream," U46 CEO Tony Sanders said in a written statement. "All of these students, and their families, are striving for a better life, a life promised through higher education."

According to the U46 release, eligible seniors submitted applications for the scholarship in the winter. The application included their high school transcript, a copy of their Federal Student Aid application, a letter of recommendation from an adult and a personal essay. A panel of judges selected the 30 scholarship recipients from a pool of more than 80. Some grew up in poverty, some have disabilities, some overcame traumatic experiences and several are immigrants or children of immigrants, the news release said.

Among the schools the recipients will be attending are [Princeton University](#), Augustana College, the [University of Illinois at Chicago](#), [Southern Illinois University](#) and [Syracuse University](#).

The recipients are:

- Bartlett High School — Cindy Alba; Emilia Sordyl; Steven Phan; Ummie Ansari; Alden Williams.
- DREAM Academy — Rodrigo Arroyo; Montserrat Perez; Andres Bedolla.
- Elgin High School — Devin Wisniewski; Nereida Rosas; Katherine Irelan; Leslie Duran; Emmanuel Ntim.
- Larkin High School — Justin Kelsey; Rebeca Solis; Sheila Vasquez; Emily Renteria; Ezzry Leon; Jessie VanDyke; Monserrat Rivera.
- South Elgin High School — Sergio Perez; Jasmine Vergara; Alex Hernandez; Miguel Valencia; Colette Jones.
- Streamwood High School — Brianna Roldan; Monica Kulasik; Adriana D'Souza; Vanessa Garcia; Bryan Lopez.

---Daily Herald--- 4/25/18
U46 board honors employees
BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY



Randal Ellison



Tina Pizzitola



Natalie Simons

Elgin Area School District U-46 officials Monday night honored three employees who received statewide awards for their contributions.

Last month, Randal Ellison, U-46 coordinator of pre-K through 12th grade discipline and education options, was named Administrator of the Year by the Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth at its annual conference in Normal.

this past weekend, paraeducator Tina Pizzitola was named the Illinois Education Association's 2018 Education Support Professional of the Year.

And Natalie Simons, a health educator and assistant athletic director at Bartlett High School, was named the Illinois School Health Educator of the Year by the Illinois School Health Association at its annual conference in Naperville earlier this month.

The school board recognized all three with certificates of achievement.

"I was both shocked and humbled," said Pizzitola of being selected for the IEA award out of more than 30,000 education support personnel statewide, and more than 1,300 within U-46 alone. "I'm very proud to be part of this amazing team. My students need me. These children are my neighbors. This is my community and our students truly are the future."

Pizzitola is a member of the U-46 Para-Educator Intervention Team and rotates among buildings based on need.

"Tina is a talented, devoted paraeducator who fills such an important role for the Specialized Student Services department, and I'm glad to see her recognized," said Leatrice Satterwhite, department director. "Her devotion to the field and to children helps us to create a positive, productive learning environment for students."

Simons was nominated by fellow health educators, Jennifer Dellis at Kenyon Woods Middle School and Lisa Meister at Geneva High School, for her presentations at professional conferences and mentorship of younger teachers in northern Illinois. "She goes above and beyond to make sure her students have the highest level of emotional support and academic support," they wrote.

Simons said her passion for her work stems from her love for children.

"I'm always changing my lesson plans because I never want to see a kid bored or nodding off," she said.

Ellison was nominated by Dream Academy Principal Lourdes Baker who wrote, "He believes that every student, regardless of their circumstances, has the ability to learn and become a productive member of society."

Ellison said he loves his work and that it took him 42 years to get here. "To me the greatest honor is to be recognized by your peers," he said.

SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 4/25/18

Softball: West Aurora rebounds for UEC win over South Elgin

BY JOHN LEMON

A short memory proved to be a good thing for West Aurora.

A day after giving up 9 unearned runs in an 18-4 loss to Batavia, the Blackhawks looked like a different team against Upstate Eight Valley leader South Elgin.

Gab Drager pitched a complete game and was one of a number of Blackhawks who had a good day both in the field and at the plate in a 5-1 victory.

"We said yesterday let's forget about this, it happens to everyone, let's come out a lot stronger and we did," Drager said. "I think we went home and thought about what we did and reflected on it and came out a lot stronger."

Drager scattered 8 hits and walked just 1 while striking out 2. She said she's been texting last year's ace and three-time All-Area selection Hannah Beatus, now at Grand Valley State.

"Filling Hannah's shoes I knew I had to work so hard and I have and it's showing," Drager said.

West Aurora (6-6, 4-3) grabbed an early 2-0 lead in the first inning. Janae Holloway walked, Gab Nilles singled and Sophia Delgado walked to load the bases with no outs.

South Elgin starter Geneva Pollman hit Drager to score the first run, and Payton Lundberg plated the next with a sacrifice fly.

The Storm (6-7, 5-2) scored their only run in the third inning when Casey Brennan singled and scored on Pollman's double.

Kennedy Zies got the run back for West Aurora in its half of the third with a single up the middle. The Blackhawks added a pair of insurance runs in the fifth, a rally started with a single by Faith Pokryfke and Drager's double off the fence.

Lundberg singled home Pokryfke, and Shai Erdrich doubled home the final run. The inning ended in strange fashion when a West Aurora player in the dugout reached over the fence and interfered with a foul pop-up, forcing umpires to call the batter -- Holloway -- out and stranding two runners.

But Drager made the play meaningless, ending the game by getting Pollman to line out to Pokryfke in center.

"You couldn't have shaken off the nightmare (Monday) with a better performance," West Aurora coach Randy Hayslett. "We had a great approach at the plate. That was the best collective one through nine we've had. We were aggressive, we moved the ball. That's the best game we played all year hands down. That's how we need to play with our younger pitchers now. That's what we can be."

Brennan went 4-for-4 to lead South Elgin, and Pollman and Julianna Battaglia both added 2 hits.

After opening conference play with consecutive wins over St. Charles North, St. Charles East and Geneva, the Storm have lost consecutive games to Bartlett and West Aurora.

"I don't think we're as good as we played two weeks ago and we're definitely not as bad as we played here," South Elgin coach Brad Reynard said. "It's a race in the spring who can stay hottest the longest. We'll get back on track, we'll find it. We kind of opened the door back up for a few of the other teams. It's going to be a race to the finish."

---Daily Herald--- 4/25/18

Baseball: West Aurora downs South Elgin in 8

DAILY HERALD REPORT

Ryan Tuescher's single scored Alberto Martinez to finish off a wild eighth inning and hand West Aurora a 7-6 Upstate Eight Valley baseball win over South Elgin Tuesday.

South Elgin had scored twice in the top of the inning to take a 6-4 lead but the Blackhawks came back with 3 runs in the bottom half to win the game.

Cam Zimmerman (2B), Anthony Malczyk (2 hits, RBI), Jacob Peavy (2B, RBI), Tuescher (2 hits, RBI) and Adrian Ruiz (2 hits, RBI) led the offense for West Aurora (8-6, 2-3).

Garrett Wano (2 hits), Ryan Dominik (2 hits, RBI), Nate Gomez (2 hits, 2B, RBI) and Andrew Gambino (HR, 2 RBI) led South Elgin (3-4, 0-2).

Geneva 5, Streamwood 2: Nathan Dewey had a double and 3 RBI for Geneva (6-6, 3-4) in its UEC River win. Ian Hanson was the winning pitcher. Colin Bielinski and Tyler Jones each had doubles for Streamwood (8-5, 4-4). Michael Pawlikowski took the loss.

St. Charles North 9, Batavia 6: Justin Dunne had 2 hits with 2 doubles and 2 RBI while Steve Hamer added 2 hits with a double and an RBI for SCN (11-1, 7-0) in its UEC River win. Tommy Nelsen added 2 hits and an RBI for the North Stars and Egon Hein had a triple and an RBI. Christian Erickson picked up the win in relief. Jared Martin (3 hits), Carter Gette (2 hits), Justin Pelley (2 hits, RBI) and Michael Niemiec (2 hits, 2B, 2 RBI) led Batavia (9-6, 6-4).

St. Charles East 16, Larkin 6: Charlie Carpenter had 2 hits with a home run and 3 RBI and Drew Conn 2 hits with a double and 5 RBI to lead the Saints (9-5, 7-1) to a UEC River victory. Adding to the SCE offense were John Dellostritto (2 hits, 2B, 3 RBI), Cole Conn (2 hits, 2B, 2 RBI) and Kyle Hayes (2 hits, RBI). Alec Rupp was the winning pitcher. Max Anderson (2 hits, 2 RBI), Gunnar Boley (2 hits, 2B, RBI) and Sebastian Nava (2 hits) led Larkin (6-8, 3-6).

Glenbard East 9, Bartlett 4: Matt Angelone had 3 hits, Joey Allen a double and Geno Frieri 2 RBI for Bartlett (2-9, 1-3) in its UEC Valley loss.

Jacobs 7, CL South 6: Braeden Wegner's double scored Christian Scianna with the game-winning run in the top of the seventh inning as Jacobs (8-4, 5-1) kept sole possession of first place in the Fox Valley Conference with this win. Wegner had 2 hits and 3 RBI in the game while Spencer Foulks added 2 hits and Cory Dennison had 2 RBI for the Golden Eagles. Wegner was also the winning pitcher in relief. Noah Tyrell (2 hits, RBI), Evan Jewson (4 hits, RBI) and Steven Siavelis (2B, 2 RBI) paced Crystal Lake South (5-6, 2-4).

Prairie Ridge 12, Dundee-Crown 4: Nick Gregory had 3 hits and an RBI while Zach Hahn (2B, 2 RBI), Ray Gestrich (2B) and Henry Smith (3 hits, 2 doubles, RBI) produced for Dundee-Crown (4-11, 2-6) in its FVC loss.

Burlington Central 4, Woodstock North 1: Kyle Hresil gave up 4 hits over 6 innings with 8 strikeouts and 1 walk to lead the Rockets (10-5, 7-0) to a Kishwaukee River win. Colton Wallace (2B, 2 RBI), Ryan Knowlton (2B), Zach Schutta (2 hits) and Braden Seyller (2 hits) led the BC offense.

Illiana Christian 4, ACC 2: Chris Cartwright had 2 hits with a double for Aurora Central (12-7, 4-5) in its Metro Suburban loss. Kyle Czerak suffered the loss despite allowing just 4 hits with 7 strikeouts and 1 walk.

Elmwood Park 10, St. Edward 6: Mike Lopez (3B, RBI), Jack Olson (2 doubles, 2 RBI) and Ben Boydston (2 hits, 2B, RBI) led St. Edward (3-16, 1-5) in its MSC loss.

Aurora Christian 11, St. Francis 10: Clark Turek (2 hits, 4 RBI) and Jake Kuntzendorf (3 hits, 2B, 2 RBI) led the Aurora Christian offense in this nonconference game. Eric Hernandez (2 hits, 2B), MJ Stavola (2 RBI), Sam Tockel (3 hits, 3 RBI) and Hunter Thompson (2 hits) also contributed for the Eagles (13-1).

Westminster Christian 7, Hampshire 5: Theron Dorsey (2 RBI), Frankie Schlaffer (2 hits), Nathen Martinez (2 hits) and Sam Huguley (2 RBI) helped make a winner of JT Stoll on the mound for the Warriors (10-7) in this nonconference game. Andrew Krajecki (2 hits, RBI), Nicholas Sladek (2 hits, RBI), Matthew Jachec (2 hits, 2B, 2 RBI), Trevor Laffin (2 hits, HR) and Nicholas Tenny (2 hits) led Hampshire (8-10).

Elgin Academy 16, Northridge Prep 1: Colin Konicek had a double, triple and 5 RBI and Jordan Hare a double and 3 RBI for Elgin Academy (11-2, 5-0) in the Independent School League. Ethan Plantz had 2 doubles for the Hilltoppers while Christian Rodriguez added a double. CJ Carani was the winning pitcher.

Harvest Christian 35, Schaumburg Christian 0: Reilly Gebhards threw a four-inning perfect game with 6 strikeouts while Dylan Lockwood had 3 doubles and 4 RBI and Brock Wilken homered for Harvest Christian (10-6, 6-2) in the Northeastern Athletic Conference. Also doubling for the Lions were Dayne Frederick, Gebhards, Drew Lewis, Jack Nohava (2), Zach Pawelek and Joey Pepper.

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

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gearing up for kids
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Ellis resigns from District U-46 board post

By Seth Hancock

Board member Traci Ellis has resigned from her post in School District U-46 effective immediately as she made the announcement at the end of the Board of Education meeting on Monday, April 23.

Ellis, who was elected in 2011 and re-elected in 2015, cited "numerous opportunities for me to take my social justice activism to the national level" as her reason for leaving before her term was set to end in 2019. She said she will continue to reside in the district.

Donna Smith, the board's president, said the board now has 45 days to appoint a new member to fill the remainder of the term. The last appointment came after Frank Napolitano, who was elected in 2013, resigned because he moved out of the district.

Ellis, who gave no specifics on the opportunities, said her controversial social media post last September where she said the American flag "means nothing more than toilet paper to me" was what led to the opportunities.

"The intentionally stoked, ensuing uproar caused quite a distraction to this district and to my life," Ellis said

of her post. She called those opposed to her comments on the flag as "racist and white supremacist... intended to destroy me, but as it turns out it worked for my good."

At a subsequent meeting after her post was publicly shared by board member Jeanette Ward, who opposed Ellis' remarks, Ellis gave an expletive-laced speech claiming she received "over 1,000 private messages" of hateful messages. At the time, she ignored a request by *The Examiner* to provide evidence of such messages.

Ellis said she recently informed Smith and U-46 CEO Tony Sanders of her decision to step down as well as a few other board members.

"My biggest regret... is that I could not announce my resignation ahead of time and that I could not call all of you to personally tell you," Ellis said. "I am so sorry that you all had to learn this way, but I hope that you trust that I could not go around announcing my future resignation. I only recently shared my decision with Donna, Tony and some of my board colleagues."

During her time on the board, Ellis has shown disregard and disdain for anyone who expressed an opposing view to hers. She has personally at-

tacked and maligned members of the public and fellow board members, with Ward being her leading target, at public meetings while Smith has not shown any visible efforts to check that behavior.

Ward recently told *The Examiner*, regarding a separate issue, that when she was first elected in 2015 she's been able to speak with all other board members but "Ms. Ellis does not speak to me."

"You've done so much for this district, you really, really have.... We can't even begin to list them all," Smith said of Ellis.

Ellis said: "People should know that Donna did her level best to try to keep me in line.... For better or worse, I was not going to be bossed on this board and was going to do what I felt in my heart I was called to do."

In 2016, Ellis equated members of the public to racism, including four black students in the district, for opposing a change in bathroom/locker room practices in the district allowing students to use the facilities of their choice based on preferences rather than biological sex. She said "that word Christian has some ugly connotations behind it" and "you did not elect me to do what you say."

Also in 2016, Ellis organized an effort to have people come to a board meeting to scold Ward for making a social media post quoting conservative black author Jason L. Riley. Ellis emailed U-46 teachers during taxpayer hours claiming Ward has made "disparaging comments" about mi-

norities without providing evidence while, in contrast, Ward recently said during an "equity" presentation that "I hate dividing people up by ethnic groups."

Board member Melissa Owens said Ellis was "instrumental in getting me on-boarded," and board member Veronica Noland said she's "been impressed by your leadership."

Ellis thanked the board and despite Ward being a target for personal attacks by Ellis, Ward said: "I wanted to say that I do wish you the best, and since you said thank you then I'd say you're welcome. And I hope you can learn as you go forward that disagreement is not hate."

Despite the examples of Ellis personally attacking people who disagree with her, Sanders said she's always acted "in a respectful manner" and he started a standing ovation for her. Costello and Ward were the only board members to not stand, and Sue Kerr was not in attendance at the meeting.

"Traci, thank you for being more than just a boss," Sanders said. "Thank you for being a friend. Thank you for letting me into your family."

In March, Ellis called U-46 staff incompetent and racially biased, Sanders agreeing to those assertions, but neither provided any evidence of one instance of such biased incidents occurring. Sanders has also admitted the administration was doing "equity" work solely for Ellis despite a board discussion being necessary to direct staff work.

Several U-46 employees recognized for awards

By Seth Hancock

Several employees of School District U-46 were recognized by the Board of Education at its meeting on Monday, April 23.

Natalie Simons, a health teacher and assistant athletic director at Bartlett High School, was named the 2018 Educator of the Year by the Illinois School Health Association at its conference in Naperville earlier in April.

"I love what I do, and I'm in a great building," Simons said. "I also want to acknowledge I'm honored to receive this. I work in great company with several, a lot of health teachers in our district both at the middle school and the high school who could have easily achieved this, so I am truly humbled by this."

Simons said she's been with the district for 19 years starting at Larkin High School, and her focus with students is teaching the importance of health.

"I tell my students the first day that they walk into my class 'it's the most important class you'll ever take,'" Simons said. "So that's the challenge to try to get them to buy into the importance of their health and wellbeing now as a teenager and then obviously quality of life as an adult."

Simons added: "I'm passionate about what I do. I have fun in the classroom with the kids, always changing the lesson plans because I'd never want to see a kid bored or nodding off. I take that personally. I've got to do a better job at engaging my students and getting them hands on and getting them to buy into the importance of their health."

Tina Pizzitola, a member of the district's para-educator intervention team, was named the 2018 Education

Support Professional of the Year by the state's top teacher's union, the Illinois Education Association.

"I was both shocked and humbled," said Pizzitola who said she's been with U-46 since 1998. "Shocked because there are over 30,000 ESPs statewide and over 1,300 in our district alone. Humbled because I know most work as hard if not harder than I do."

Randal Ellison, coordinator of discipline and education options, was named by the Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth the Administrator of the Year.

Ellison thanked the administrators who "supported me with all the crazy ideas that I come up with and help me progress and move forward" including Terri Lozier, assistant superintendent, and U-46 CEO Tony Sanders.

"To me the greatest honor is to be recognized by your peers but also to be recognized by your teammates," Ellison said.

The district's financial team was also recognized for receiving the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Fiscal Year 2017 budget by the Association of School Business Officials International and the Meritorious Budget Award for FY2018 Government Finance Officers Association.

Jeff King, chief operating officer, and Dale Burnidge, financial operations director, thanked the board for the recognition and their team for their work, and King gave an added recognition to Burnidge.

"If any of you know Dale, he's one of the most humble people you can work with," King said. "You ask him to do something, he doesn't say much, he just gets it back to you about an hour later."



Net action

Streamwood's Ryan Tiaokhiao driving a shot over the net and past Bartlett's Garrett Jurina on Tuesday, April 17 at Streamwood. For story and more photos see page 5.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

Traveling and encountering a SUV adventure

So, after stuffing way too much luggage into the car for our short vacation, we made it home but knew it was an experience we never wanted to face again. Overall it was a great trip and the kids had a blast at the beach resort. Driving down was fun; however, on occasion the free-ways could be tedious and with some patience and self-restraint we managed to make it to and from our destination. While moments were fun, the trip was not without incident. Days of sun, fun and food eventually came to an end and we loaded up the kids, prepared for our drive home. For the most part the drive was enjoyable and scenic until Lester became car sick and puked without warning. Our vehicle came to a screeching halt and Lester, who was a far removed cousin to hubby, jumped out of the car and let loose. He then proceeded to climb back into the SUV and settled next to hubby, who was driving the vehicle, making me sit back with the three kids and play all sorts of games. We played everything from Scrabble to “Who is the boss” which certainly wasn’t me.

At one point the kids started fighting over who won Scrabble and I told them to stop acting like animals and behave. Next thing we knew, Johnny had to stop and go “potty” while Emily started whining about being hungry. Luckily we brought enough snacks for two weeks so I handed her some crackers and sweets to hold her over until our next food stop. As soon as that was settled and Johnny finished “doing his duty” we were on the road again. Within minutes Emily started fussing that her tummy was feeling yucky making Fred, my husband, stop the SUV once again. We were trying to get home before dark which grew more impossible with each passing minute, so we ended up locating a motel for the night.


Our three kids Herman, Johnny and Emily were tired and cranky so it was a good thing we stopped for the night. After driving several miles to the closest motel we had Lester go inside to check on room availability. He returned to the car sharing that there was no vacancy. Fred checked on his phone to see where the nearest motel might be and found one about 20 miles down the road. We felt lucky and after almost a half an hour we arrived at the motel. Relieved to be able to spend the night we headed to our rooms that were adjacent to one another and encouraged the kids to get ready to go to the swimming pool and have some fun. Lester said he would go along with the kids. Lester, being of college age, was a pretty responsible person so we felt okay about him taking them. Lester had spent the better part of his vacation with our family because he and his stepfather didn’t get along too well. Guess the problems they had stemmed from his stepfather cheating on his mother. He said he didn’t have the heart to tell his mom about cheating Roy because after his dad died his mom went into a deep depression. She met Roy on a cruise after her sister insisted she go with her and that’s when the free loader and cheat became part of their lives.

After a quick dinner at McDonald’s everyone went to bed. Lester had his own room and the two boys stayed with us in a double bed while Emily slept in a youth bed next to ours. Early the next morning everyone was up and ready to go home. After a quick breakfast of cereal and burned toast we were back in the car, driving home. After no more than 20 minutes on the road we experienced a flat tire and were fortunate that Fred kept the SUV as steady as he could pulling us to safety. Luckily Lester was a bit of a handyman and quickly changed the

left rear tire with the stored “doughnut” we kept in the trunk. Soon we were back on the pavement with strong hopes of getting to that wonderful place we called home. It was getting hot and the temperatures were

Tidbits...

By Rachel



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rising to a forecasted high of 99 degrees. We couldn’t even stop the SUV to stretch because of the heat so the only time we would pull the car over was for bathroom time, water refills and gasoline. There was a mere 300 miles to go yet it felt like 3,000 miles because of all the traffic stops and we were tired of being trapped in the vehicle.

As if that wasn’t enough the air conditioning suddenly pooped out and the next 200 miles felt like 6,000 because even with the windows down we were dying from the heat. It was the most miserable time for travel we had in years. Just when we thought the loss of cool air was the worst, a deer bolted in front of our vehicle, and Fred being a good driver, still couldn’t escape the collision. Yes, we were lucky to be alive with only minor injuries, cuts and scrapes, but the car on the driver’s side was a mess and the wheel on Fred’s side was destroyed from the impact.

It took several hours for help to come, and another couple of hours until our rented car was available, but we eventually transferred our luggage

and family into the new air conditioned vehicle. It was very late at night when we finally found our way home, but we were extremely thankful to be there with a few minor scrapes, but alive. Would we ever plan another trip driving in an SUV? Yep! We would do it again, slightly hesitant, but we’d do it anyway.

The Streamwood Blood Commission holds its next blood drive at the Village Hall, located at 301 E. Irving Park Road, on Wednesday, April 25, from 1 to 7 p.m. Anyone who is at least 17 years old, weighs at least 110 pounds, is in good health, and has not given blood in the past 56 days is eligible to donate. April is National Donate Life month, and donors will save three lives for each pint of whole blood donated. To schedule an appointment, please use the LifeSource mobile app or register online at www.lifesource.org and use the sponsor code SW98. You may also contact Lifesource at 877-543-3768. Walk-in donors are also welcome.

The Streamwood Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration will be taking back unwanted

Streamwood softball drops three of four contests

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood softball team rallied for a 3-2 win over Batavia in Upstate Eight Conference River Division play on Tuesday, April 17 at Batavia.

The Sabres tied the game at 1-1 in the top of the third inning and used a two-run fifth to take a 3-1 lead. Tessa Freedman was 2-for-3 with a double and Becky Roncone doubled to lead the Streamwood offense.

Taylry Crocilla went the distance in

prescription drugs on Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Streamwood Police Department, 401 E. Irving Park Road. Bring your pills for disposal. (The DEA cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps, only pills or patches.) The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs, go to www.DEATakeBack.com.

The community is invited to attend The Literacy Connection’s 21st annual Trivia Bee Fundraiser on Saturday, April 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Grand Victoria Casino in Elgin. Visit www.elginliteracy.org/events/trivia-bee-2018 for more information.

The Oakhill Elementary School PTO is hosting its annual Walkathon on Thursday, May 3 This event will be held at the school, located at 502 Oltendorf Road, Streamwood, and the theme will be Cinco De Mayo Fiesta! For more information and details on how you can contribute to the event, contact Krissi Novello, 440-7445 or oakhillptosoars@gmail.com.

the circle allowing three hits, walking three and striking out eight for the win.

Despite a loss, Crocilla also pitched well in a 5-0 UEC River Division game against St. Charles North on Friday, April 20 in St. Charles. Crocilla, who also went 2-for-4 at the plate, allowed four runs on nine hits, two walks and a hit batter, and she struck out four in six innings of work.

“Taylry is pitching well,” said Streamwood coach Will Shogren. “Her strikeout numbers have helped us early this year.”

Streamwood tallied the same number of hits as North, nine, but was unable to push a run across. Laura Dietrich was 2-for-2, Gabby Cardinale 2-for-4 and Freedman doubled.

The Sabres went on to drop a 4-3 game against St. Edward and a 6-5 game against Oak Lawn at the Larkin Slugfest on Saturday, April 21.

Freedman went 2-for-3 and Cardinale drove in two runs against St. Edward, and Ariana Wolfard suffered the loss in the circle. Hannah Jenig and Roncone each doubled against Oak Lawn and the Sabres had an RBI from Cardinale, Wolfard and Caitlin Randel, and Wolfard took the loss.

Streamwood is now 4-6 overall, 2-2 in the UEC.



Connections

Poplar Creek Public Library

Money Smart Week
Using Morningstar,
Wednesday, April 25 at 2 p.m.
Retirement Mistakes,
Thursday, April 26 at 7 p.m.
During Money Smart Week the library offers free classes to help consumers find ways to manage their personal finances. To register or for details, see page 11 of our current newsletter, go to our website at www.pclib.org or call 483-4925.

Movie at the Branch
Sunday, April 29 at 2 p.m.
Thursday, May 3 at 10:45 a.m.
Sonya Crawshaw Branch Library
Stop by the branch in Hanover Park and get out of the house to enjoy a children’s movie while snacking on popcorn. No registration necessary! Questions? Call 372-3131.

Computer Basics
Monday, April 30 at 2 p.m.
This hands-on class is a general introduction to computers, and will focus on understanding basic computer parts and lingo, as well as using applications and managing files. Register online or call 483-4927.

Teen Life Skills:
Safety and Fraud Prevention
Fraudulent transactions are an unfortunate part of today’s world, even for teens! We will discuss and review safety tips to protect your hard-earned money from scammers who try to obtain your personal, account, and consumer information in a variety of ways with a banker from Chase Bank. Register online or call the Teen Department at 483-4928.

Tween Makers: May Flowers

Tuesday, May 1 at 4 p.m.
Children’s Department
We will decoupage a can and use washi tape to decorate a pen and pencil. This would make a great gift for Mother’s Day! Register online or call 483-4923.

Small Business Counseling
Wednesday, May 2 from 1 to 4 p.m.
Free one-on-one business counseling provided by a SCORE business professional to anyone operating a small business or thinking of starting one. Please register at <https://chicago.score.org/branch/streamwood-poplar-creek-library> to schedule your free one hour session. By appointment only.

All Ages Chess Club
Wednesday, May 2 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Drop in Meeting Rooms 2 and 3 for our Chess Club! All ages and levels of experience are welcome. For more information, please call 483-4928.

Paws and Read
Thursday, May 3 at 3 p.m.
Bogart, a certified therapy dog, will be here to listen to you read out loud for 15 minutes. This program is for kids 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.

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. Questions? Call 837-6800.

The Examiner

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Streamwood beaten by Bartlett in straight sets



Joseph Huizar receiving a Bartlett serve for the Sabres on Tuesday, April 17.

Proclamation recognizes Arbor Day in village

By Kristin Carreno

At the Village Board meeting on Thursday, April 19, a proclamation recognizing Arbor Day was read by Trustee Michael Baumer.

"In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees and, whereas, this holiday called Arbor Day was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska," read Baumer. "Arbor Day is now observed through the nation and the world.

"Whereas, trees can reduce the erosion if our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provided habitat for wildlife, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood, for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products. Trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas and beautify our community and trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal."

According to the proclamation this is the 25th consecutive year the village attained a Tree City USA Award and the Tree City USA Growth Award from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The village "desires to continue its tree planting practices," Baumer said. "Therefore, be it proclaimed that the president and board of trustees of the Village of Streamwood, Cook County, Illinois, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 27, as Arbor Day in the village," Baumer concluded from the proclamation. "We urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, support our village's community forestry program, and plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations."

"We have no chemistry," Hettinger said. "The talent has shown, but there's a lack of chemistry."

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood volleyball team struggled to take momentum as the Sabres dropped a 25-21, 25-11 match against Bartlett in Upstate Eight Conference play on Tuesday, April 17 at Streamwood.

The Sabres never led but they kept things interesting in Game 1. Bartlett held just a one-point lead, 13-12, when it went on a 6-1 run for a 19-13 advantage. Streamwood twice pulled within three, 23-20 and 24-21, before Bartlett took the set.

Bartlett had seven service errors in the first game, but often Streamwood would follow up with a service error of its own which Sabres coach Sheryl Hettinger said a little intensity would have helped.

"We were controlling it, but we had no intensity," Hettinger said. "They had a lot of missed serves, and we didn't take advantage of it. I kept telling them if they play with intensity they could have taken that first set."

In Game 2, the Sabres trailed just 5-4 when Bartlett scored four straight for some distance at 9-4. Bartlett led 15-11 when it went on a 10-0 run to finish the match.

"We have no chemistry," Hettinger said. "The talent has shown, but there's a lack of chemistry."

Hettinger added: "They get down and they start fighting against each other instead of the other team."

Ryan Tiaokhiao had four kills, Jack Maybrun three kills, Sam Enno 12 assists and Abraham Martinez three digs to lead the Sabres.

Streamwood is now 1-14 overall, 0-4 in the UEC.



Jakob Kellermann extending well above the floor to deliver a kill shot against Bartlett.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

Pet of the Week



Laid back Pepe needs new address

Pepe is a mature gentleman who is looking for a committed relationship. His former relationship wasn't working out, so he came to the shelter with hope to find a forever home. Pepe can be a tad shy at first is laid back, but just give him some sweet talk and he will be all yours! Please visit www.dupageco.org/animalcontrol for more details or call 630-407-2800. The adoption fee for an adult dog six years plus with microchip registration is only \$65. This reduced-fee adoption is made possible by generous donors to DuPage Animal Friends.

(Photo courtesy of County Animal Control)



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The Examiner of SOUTH ELGIN

Volume 13
Number 50

"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
April 25, 2018

South Elgin soccer
shut down twice
See Page 2

Ellis leaves post on
District U-46 board
See Page 10

Concept plan supported for senior community

By Kristin Carreno

During the Village Board meeting on Monday, April 16, trustees voted unanimously in agreement on a proposed concept plan from PND 3001 Investments, LLC, Geneva for an age restricted residential development called Meridian Pointe Subdivision at 325 Umbdenstock Road. The proposed subdivision is targeted for residents age 55 years and older.

This item was first discussed by the committee of the whole at a meeting on April 2. It was agreed at that time that the petitioner would return and provide more information on the concept plan at a board meeting.

According to Director of Community Development Marc McLaughlin, acceptance of the concept plan is a requirement of the planned development process and signifies that the village board supports the overall development plan.

Petitioners Derek Fuller and Peter Lappin were present at the meeting along with Rich Olson, the land planner for the development and their attorney Rich Guerard.

According to McLaughlin, the concept plan was reviewed and accepted

at the planning and zoning committee on March 21.

The proposal is for subdivision consisting of 310 lots, according to McLaughlin. The property is approximately 88.7 acres and consists of four pods which would all be interconnected by local streets and a trail system. The primary access is located at the intersection of Montclair Drive and Umbdenstock Road with a secondary access off north Lancaster Road at Joseph Drive.

According to Lappin, consumer research indicated a significant demand for senior housing as 10,000 "baby boomers will be turning 65 every single day."

According to Lappin, this subdivision would be like townhome living whereas residents would own the house but not the land. The property owner would need to pay sales tax on the home and an annual privilege tax of about \$250 to \$300. The land owner would pay property taxes. These are manufactured homes that vary in size and cost between \$80,000 and \$150,000.

"I have long term concerns here," said Trustee Greg Liesure. "Manufactured homes generally depreciate....

I'm just concerned that by not owning the land, their houses depreciating in value... In 10 to 20 years from now, what that [development] might look like. When you own a house you own the land and when the value of a home goes up it's mostly through the ground. I'm probably not going to be in favor of something like this."

Lappin said all the homes are brand new.

"It's not the 'now' aspect of it," Trustee Scott Richmond said. "It's the fact the homeowner doesn't own the land, they're essentially renting a spot. That manufactured home may be built very well now, but if the homeowner

doesn't keep it up what happens then? And how do we maintain the integrity of the neighborhood well in the future so that these homes that are well built and beautiful now stay that way in 10 to 15 years because there's not that same tie to it as when you own your lot and when you own your land, pay taxes on it."

Residents will own the home and potentially in the future will want to sell it for a higher value because of a market demand, Lappin responded. It's up to the homeowner to maintain that piece of property and the developer to maintain all the landscaping.

The approved agreement is for the concept plan only.

Several U-46 employees recognized for awards

By Seth Hancock

Several employees of School District U-46 were recognized by the Board of Education at its meeting on Monday, April 23.

Natalie Simons, a health teacher and assistant athletic director at Bartlett High School, was named the 2018 Educator of the Year by the Illinois School Health Association at its conference in Naperville earlier in April.

"I love what I do, and I'm in a great building," Simons said. "I also want to acknowledge I'm honored to receive this. I work in great company with several, a lot of health teachers in our district both at the middle school and the high school who could have easily achieved this, so I am truly humbled by this."

Simons said she's been with the district for 19 years starting at Larkin High School, and her focus with students is teaching the importance of health.

"I tell my students the first day that they walk into my class 'it's the most important class you'll ever take,'" Simons said. "So that's the challenge to try to get them to buy into the importance of their health and wellbeing now as a teenager and then obviously quality of life as an adult."

Simons added: "I'm passionate about what I do. I have fun in the classroom with the kids, always changing the lesson plans because I'd never want to see a kid bored or nodding off. I take that personally. I've got to do a better job at engaging my students and getting them hands on and getting them to buy into the importance of their health."

Tina Pizzitola, a member of the district's para-educator intervention team, was named the 2018 Education

Support Professional of the Year by the state's top teacher's union, the Illinois Education Association.

"I was both shocked and humbled," said Pizzitola who said she's been with U-46 since 1998. "Shocked because there are over 30,000 ESPs statewide and over 1,300 in our district alone. Humbled because I know most work as hard if not harder than I do."

Randal Ellison, coordinator of discipline and education options, was named by the Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth the Administrator of the Year.

Ellison thanked the administrators who "supported me with all the crazy ideas that I come up with and help me progress and move forward" including Terri Lozier, assistant superintendent, and U-46 CEO Tony Sanders.

"To me the greatest honor is to be recognized by your peers but also to be recognized by your teammates," Ellison said.

The district's financial team was also recognized for receiving the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Fiscal Year 2017 budget by the Association of School Business Officials International and the Meritorious Budget Award for FY2018 Government Finance Officers Association.

Jeff King, chief operating officer, and Dale Burnidge, financial operations director, thanked the board for the recognition and their team for their work, and King gave an added recognition to Burnidge.

"If any of you know Dale, he's one of the most humble people you can work with," King said. "You ask him to do something, he doesn't say much, he just gets it back to you about an hour later."



Prom royalty

After voting on Friday April 20, the South Elgin High School prom king and queen became Kendall Montgomery and David Binion. For story and more photos see pages 8 and 9.

(Examiner photo by Andrea Kohl)

Village approves payout to Gail Borden Library

By Kristin Carreno

During the Village Board meeting on Monday, April 16, trustees voted unanimously to authorize a payout of developer donations totalling \$63,578 to the Gail Borden Library District.

"The village is holding \$63,577.55 from per-capita funds previously generated from developer cash contributions required by the village code of ordinances," said Director of Admin-

istrative Services Megan Golden.

The money has been accruing for about one year, Golden noted while also indicating there is no formal policy regarding these payments as it is the norm for the Gail Borden Library to periodically request funds.

According to Golden, the funds will be used for the support and operation of the library branch located in South Elgin.

Police Reports

SOUTH ELGIN

Wednesday, April 11
★ At 12:03 a.m., police responded to Kohl's, 350 Randall Road, for a noise complaint.
★ At 6:11 a.m., police responded to Panera Bread, 369 Randall Road, for a report of an activated alarm.
★ At 7:36 a.m., police responded to the 2100 block of West Thornwood for a report of an activated alarm.
★ At 10:37 a.m., police responded to the 0 block of Linden for a fraud complaint.
★ At 11:31 a.m., police responded to the 800 block of Greenfield for a fraud complaint.
★ At 12:45 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of South River and Locust for a report of a suspicious vehicle.
★ At 1:06 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of West Spring and Collins for an attempt to locate a subject.
★ At 3:05 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of West State and North Collins for a report of a drug law violation.
★ At 3:11 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of West Spring for a child custody dispute.
★ At 3:47 p.m., police responded to Premise Alert Record, 255 Prairie, for a missing juvenile report.
★ At 5:59 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Silver Glen and Randall roads for a report of a safety or health hazard.
★ At 6:53 p.m., police responded to 760 E. Main St., South Elgin High School, for a threats complaint.
Thursday, April 12
★ At 8:33 a.m., police responded to the 500 block of Chesterfield for a re-

port of a suspicious incident.
★ At 1:03 p.m., police responded to Heritage Woods of South Elgin, 700 N. McLean Blvd., for a fraud complaint.
★ At 1:55 p.m., police responded to Walgreens, 1201 W. Spring, for a 911 investigation.
★ At 3:26 p.m., police responded to Best Buy, 424 Randall Road, for a 911 investigation.
★ At 3:32 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of Dean for a request to assist fire department personnel.
★ At 4:04 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of Chesterfield for a report of a suspicious incident.
★ At 5:09 p.m., police responded to Culver's Restaurant, 280 Randall Road, for a report of a dispute in progress.
★ At 6:17 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of South Gilbert and Elizabeth for a report of an ordinance violation.
Friday, April 13
★ At 2:18 a.m., police responded to the 1300 block of Sandhurst for a failure to pay complaint.
★ At 2:36 a.m., police responded to PS Fuels, 14 Illinois Route 25, for a report of a drug law violation.
★ At 4:08 a.m., police responded to Auto Zone, 209 Randall Road, for a report of an activated alarm.
★ At 5:29 a.m., police responded to Auto Zone, 209 Randall Road, for a report of an activated alarm.
★ At 7:05 a.m., police responded to the 900 block of Kane for a report of a hit and run.
★ At 7:14 a.m., police responded to Auto Zone, 209 Randall Road, for a report of an activated alarm.
★ At 7:24 a.m., police responded to

760 E. Main St., South Elgin High School, for a report of a traumatic injury or assault.
★ At 8:37 a.m., police responded to the BP Amoco, 245 Randall Road, for a dumping or littering complaint.
★ At 9:11 a.m., police responded to the 300 block of Sanhurst for a truancy complaint.
★ At 3:23 p.m., police responded to the Premise Alert Record, 400 block of Collins for a child custody dispute.
★ At 6:19 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of Mill for a report of battery.
★ At 10:47 a.m., police responded to the 0 block of Lilac for a report of a suspicious incident.
★ At 9:52 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of Stearns and Randall roads for a 911 investigation.
★ At 10:47 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of Woodridge for a threats complaint.
★ At 11:41 p.m., police responded to the 1300 block of Prairie Pointe for a report of an activated alarm.
Saturday, April 14
★ At 12:01 a.m., police responded to the 100 block of Melrose for a report of an activated alarm.
★ At 12:12 a.m., police responded to the 300 block of Courtland for a report of a domestic in progress
★ At 3:51 a.m., police responded to McDonalds, 453 Redington Drive, for a report of an activated alarm.
★ At 5:59 a.m., police responded to Bookers Restaurant, 420 N. McLean Blvd., for a report of an activated alarm.
★ At 9:37 a.m., police responded to LA Fitness, 488 Randall Road, for a request to remove an unwanted subject.

★ At 9:43 a.m., police responded to the 300 block of Paine for a report of criminal damage to a vehicle.
★ At 11:44 a.m., police responded to the 500 block of Mill for a report of burglary to a motor vehicle.
★ At 12:37 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of South Collins for a dumping or littering complaint.
★ At 3:05 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of Mill for a trespassing complaint.
★ At 6:29 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of Woodridge for a report of an open door or window.
★ At 6:37 p.m., police responded to the 700 block of Rochester for a report of an activated alarm.
★ At 6:52 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of Williams for a report of a suspicious person.
★ At 8:43 p.m., police responded to Buffalo Wild Wings, 402 Randall Road, for a report of an activated alarm.
★ At 11:10 p.m., police responded to the 200 block of Harvard for a report of a liquor law violation.
Sunday, April 15
★ At 2:17 a.m., police responded to Bookers Restaurant, 420 N. McLean Blvd., for a report of a domestic in progress.
★ At 9:09 a.m., police responded to the 400 block of South Collins for a report of a domestic in progress.
★ At 10:25 a.m., police responded to the 1000 block of Mark for a report of a domestic in progress.
★ At 10:30 a.m., police responded to Midwest Carwash, 215 Randall Road, for a report of a suspicious vehicle.
★ At 11:16 a.m., police responded to the 500 block of Renee for a keep the

South Elgin blanked by Vikings and Dukes

By Seth Hancock
The South Elgin soccer team was unable to find the net as the Storm dropped a 2-0 Upstate Eight Conference crossover game against Geneva on Tuesday, April 17 at South Elgin.
Geneva scored once in each half while the Storm offense was held to three shots on goal for the game.
Despite the loss, the Storm defense held Geneva under its season average of 3.9 goals per game. The young South Elgin squad's bulk of returning experience comes from its backline: seniors Corinne Figueiredo, Camille Defensor and Fatima Busta-

mante; juniors Bridget Bondi, Ashley Kopczyk and Sarah Boghossian; and sophomore Taylor Latsonas.
The Storm went on to drop a 3-0 nonconference match against York on Thursday, April 19 at South Elgin. York scored in the first five minutes of play and built a 3-0 lead by halftime.
It was the fifth time South Elgin has been shutout this season coming off nine shutouts last year. South Elgin coach Laura Szwaja has said the focus for her team's offense needs to be on building attacks and finishing opportunities.
"We need to be able to build up our attack," Szwaja said

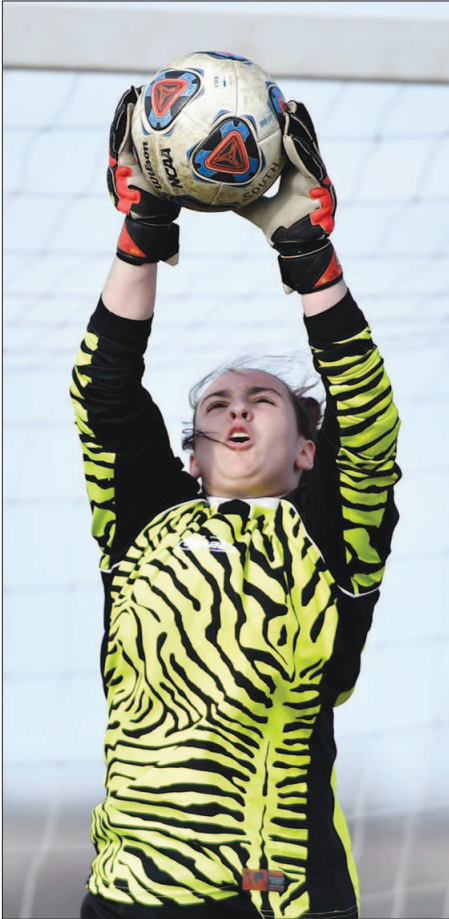
and added: "We have to finish when we have the opportunities to score. You can't go back and get them later."
Szwaja added: "If we want to win, we will have to score. And if we want to score, we have to shoot."
South Elgin has twice netted multiple goals in a game including two, freshman Abigail Roy and sophomore Isabella Tusa scoring, during a 3-2 loss against West Chicago and three during a 3-3 tie to Jacobs with Roy, freshman Madeline Freitag and junior Nikki Nguyen scoring.
The Storm, which has 13 underclassmen, are now 0-7-2 overall.



The Storm's Isabella Tusa executing a header in front of the Vikings' Rachel Lawrence.



Abigail Roy, left, of South Elgin and Geneva's Sydney Gratz in a close duel for the ball as the Strom attempted to mount an offensive attack against the Vikings.
(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



Corinne Figueiredo making a leaping save for the Storm of a Geneva shot that was destined for the top of the net.

U-46 Board updated on science curriculum

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 was given an update on science curriculum and resources at its meeting on Monday, April 9 as changes start to take effect in district classrooms.

Vince Fosco, science instructional coach, said that there will be “four big changes” in the district, one of which being a requirement for elementary teachers to include 90 minutes of science instruction each week. There were no requirements for science instruction in elementary school previously.

Debbie Perryman, science and planetarium coordinator, called the 90 minutes of science a “huge lift” and “we are asking teachers to do an awful lot.”

However, national data shows that 90 minutes is not much of a lift at all compared to past decades.

According to a statistical analysis report by the National Center for Education Statistics in the late 1980s and early 1990s first through fourth grade public school classrooms across the country “spent approximately 68 percent of their school time, or almost 22 hours per week, on core curriculum.”

Science had the least amount of time spent over the four core areas in the three years of data but was still over the 90 minutes a week. In 1987-88 students were taught 2.5 hours of science each week, in 90-91 they were taught 2.2 hours and in 93-94 they were taught 2.8 hours.

Board member Sue Kerr said that prior to this mandate science instruction in elementary school was “really hit or miss,” and she asked how teachers are doing at hitting that mandate right now.

Perryman said the district’s science office’s job “it’s kind of about helping [teachers] find the time, helping them with the schedule.”

Fosco said that elementary teachers are also required to spend 90 minutes each week with social studies. He said the best ways he’s seen teachers meet the 90-minute science requirement is two 45-minute blocks each week, but he’s seen various ways of meeting it.

“We’ve been in a lot of classrooms this year and seen different teachers play with the schedule, some of them just around their special schedule actually,” Fosco said. “Everybody needs to be a little unique with it.”

Kerr said it sounds like “we’re getting there” and Perryman reiterated “it’s that heavy lift.”

The board was also updated on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) that are being implemented.

“One of the big changes with these (NGSS) is that it puts equal emphasis on science skills and science content,” said Jesse Semeyn, science instructional coach. “So that means that students are learning science in a hands on and in inquiry ways in the classroom.”

Semeyn said that “as the years progress” students will be taught earth

and space, life and physical sciences and the skills that are taught include planning, conducting investigations, analyzing data, developing models and constructing explanations.

“Those are skills that are built on from kindergarten to 12th grade,” Semeyn said.

Fosco said the resources used in the district come from National Geographic, Pearson, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Carolina and Vernier.

“We continue to tell the teachers that the curriculum and resources are two separate entities,” Fosco said. “We follow the curriculum, and we use the resource.”

Perryman said there are several professional development opportunities including workshops and boot camps. She said select teachers, those in Title I elementary schools, are allowed to take part in the Golden Apple STEM Institute Fellows Program.

U-46 has adopted Defined STEM which Perryman said is “something that our team is using alongside the teachers during the time that we have to develop three performance tasks that will be common across all the grade levels.”

Along with the 90-minute requirement at the elementary level, Fosco said the other “big changes” include the new NGSS, new resources and standards based learning and assessment at the secondary level.

Fosco said there are small and large groups of teachers that work on the curriculum with the help of instructional coaches.

“This year a lot of the focus has been on content, working with teachers to understand the science content itself, working with secondary teachers on developing rubrics,” Fosco said.

Kerr asked for an example of performance tasks students are expected to learn under the NGSS and Semeyn said in middle school life science “students need to conduct an investigation to show that all living things are made of cells.” Kerr asked how that is done, and Perryman responded there are a “number of ways,” one being using microscopes with living and non-living things.

Perryman said there may be some updates to curriculum and resources coming soon including in Advanced Placement courses for environmental science which she said a new resource has been selected and should come before the board soon.

The district has held a STEM Expo and National Biodiversity Teach In this year, and Perryman said the goal is to hold both again next school year.

There will also be public shows at the district’s planetarium on Wednesday, May 9. There will be two one-hour long shows, starting at 4:30 and 6:30 p.m., and the planetarium will be open 30 minutes prior to each for self-guided tours.

Proclamation recognizes Municipal Clerks Week

By Kristin Carreno

During the Village Board meeting on Monday, April 16, Village President Steven Ward read a proclamation addressing Municipal Clerks Week.

“The office of municipal clerk is a time honored and vital part of local government, the oldest office among public servants,” read Ward from the proclamation. “The office of the municipal clerk serves as the information center of the community, providing a professional link to citizens and local government agencies.”

Ward added, from the proclama-

tion: “The International Institute of Municipal Clerks has designated the first week in May as Municipal Clerks Week since 1969. South Elgin’s Clerk Margo Gray is active in the Municipal Clerks of Illinois Association and is a member of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.”

“I hereby proclaim the week of May 6 through May 12 as Municipal Clerks Week in the Village of South Elgin and recognize Village Clerk Margo Gray for her exemplary service to the residents,” Ward said.



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South Elgin places wager on prom success



Sidney Strama, Danielle Carlson and Johnny Shubat showed off their rock star smiles in the photo booth. (Examiner photos by Andrea Kohl)

On Friday April 20, the Stonegate Convention and Banquet Centre in Hoffman Estates was the scene for the South Elgin High School prom. The theme of the event was Viva Las Vegas with over 700 students and guests in attendance. Upon entering the lobby, the teachers scanning each student's ID which sped up the check-in process. After check-in, the seniors stopped at the voting booth to cast their two choices for prom royalty. The prom court consisted of Alec Barlow, David Binion, Will Dunn, Nick Bremer, Alex August, Kendall Montgomery, Grace Houdek and Alyssa Ruiz. After dinner, Kendall Montgomery and David Binion were announced as the prom king and queen. The DJs from Street Phaze kept the crowd moving to the music. In line with the Viva Las Vegas theme, different casino games were set up in a side tent.



Emily Winters and Dominic Kraegel shared a quiet moment before the prom festivities started.



Not an inch of dance floor was open after the music started playing as the prom attendees hit the dance floor.



Rebekah Tobin, Alan Ramonowski and Talia Jacobson sat on the steps and rested their feet before heading back into the ballroom.



The night was about friendship for Hayley Fisher, Anna Skrzypchak and Bridget Bondi,



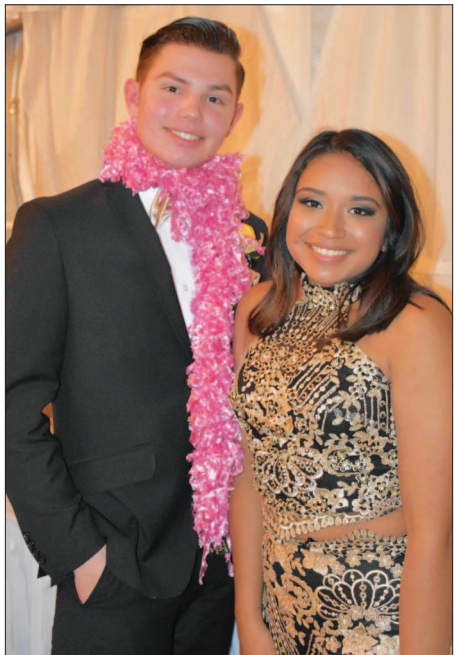
The prom court consisted of Alex August, Alec Barlow, Grace Houdek, Will Dunn, Kendall Montgomery, David Binion, Alyssa Ruiz and Nick Bremer.



Kyle Hayles, Grace Bishop, Nick Melone and Nicole Fisher relaxed for a few moments before dinner began.
(Examiner photos by Andrea Kohl)



Heather Malis took a break in the hall to catch a few quiet moments with her date Danny Namest.



Anamarie Lopez and Mario Mazzer picked out props before their turn in the photo booth.



Seth Quinn's red tie and rose matched his date Yulissa Gutierrez's red dress.



Abby Zabat got a little help from her friend Sarah Boghossian when she had an issue with her dress.



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The Examiner of BARTLETT

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

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April 25, 2018



Ellis leaves post on
District U-46 board
See Page 6

Hawks soccer roll
on with shutouts
See Page 12

Downtown building to be demolished

By Seth Hancock

A long-standing building in the village will no longer be standing sometime this summer as the Board of Trustees unanimously approved of an asbestos abatement and demolition of the building at 117-121 Railroad Avenue, most recently occupied by the bar Lucky Jack's, at its meeting on Tuesday, April 17. Trustee Vince Carbonaro was absent.

The board previously asked the village to acquire the abandoned property and a court ordered title was obtained.

"The Building has been abandoned for over three years and is deteriorated beyond reasonable repair," Jim Plonczynski, community development director, said in a memo to the board.

Deigan and Associates was used to

prepare the bid process for both the asbestos abatement and demolition and in a letter to Plonczynski the firm said eight bids were received for both, with the lowest bid of \$12,460 for asbestos abatement being awarded to Husar Abatement, Ltd. and the lowest bid of \$39,000 for demolition being awarded to Delta Demolition.

"We anticipate that a fully-cleared site ready for redevelopment will be accomplished as a result of these contract awards by approximately June 1, 2018," the firm's letter stated.

Prior to Lucky Jack's, the building housed general stores, a meat market, a print shop and a video rental among

other things.

The building itself has a long history dating back to the 19th century according to information from the Bartlett History Museum and provided to *The Examiner* by Pam Rohleder, director of the Village of Bartlett Museums.

The location was originally built in 1874 as a general store by Hayne & Grover and the Dunbar Brothers, and in the early 1900s it doubled as a post office under postmaster August C. Schick. The shop Banbury Fair first started operating out of the building in 1983.

The building has been empty since 2013 according to the museum.

Structure fire renders home uninhabitable



Visible fire damage at home in 200 block of Jackson Street.

(Photo courtesy of Bartlett Fire District)

On Monday, April 23, at 8:27 a.m. the Bartlett Fire District was called to a report of a structure on fire in the 200 block of Jackson Street. The first fire district crews arrived on the scene at 8:32 a.m. and reported fire and smoke visible from the first floor of a single-family home.

The first fire crews pulled a hose line to the front and began an exterior attack on the fire. Other firefighters pulled a hose line through the main entrance of the building to the first floor and aggressively attacked the fire from the interior, while other firefighters stretched a supply line to a fire hydrant. Firefighters also searched the smoke-charged building for any trapped occupants and had to open numerous walls and ceilings in the affected rooms to ensure the fire was extinguished. The fire was declared under control at 8:50 a.m. Firefighters continued to ventilate smoke and gases and perform salvage and overhaul activities.

No civilians or firefighters were injured in the fire, which left the building uninhabitable, displacing the occupants. Damage is estimated at \$150,000 to the structure and \$20,000 to the contents. The fire remains under investigation by the Bartlett Fire District investigators.

The fire was fought by 20 firefighters, staffing three engines, two ladder trucks and two ambulances which responded to the scene along with four command officers. Units from the Hanover Park and Carol Stream fire departments were among the initial responders to the scene as part of an automatic aid agreement. Bartlett police officers assisted at the scene with traffic and crowd control.

The fire district reminds everyone to have working smoke detectors in their homes, whether a single-family dwelling, an apartment or a condo. Have an escape plan, practice it, and be prepared to use it in the event of any fire.



Prom royalty

After voting on Friday April 20, the **South Elgin High School** prom king and queen became Kendall Montgomery and David Binion. For story and more photos see pages 10 and 11.

(Examiner photo by Andrea Kohl)

Phase one nearly done on police facility project

By Seth Hancock

The first of two phases on the new Bartlett police station is nearing completion according to John Eallonardo, executive vice president of construction management firm Frederick Quinn Company, who updated the Village Board of Trustees at its meeting on Tuesday, April 17.

The police department should be able to move in at the end of May as scheduled, and the second phase is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

"Things are moving along quickly, and it's a very busy place inside the building," Eallonardo said.

Eallonardo added: "We're scheduled to be substantially complete the third week of May, and the move is scheduled for the 24th of May for the police department to occupy the first phase."

Over the past few weeks, improvements on the north side of the building as well as concrete curbs and gutters have been put in place and the site will be open for parking Eallonardo said.

Eallonardo added that there is a lot of work being done on the inside of the building currently.

"We are in the last month of the first phase of the project, so on the inside of the project we're putting in carpet and light fixtures and ceilings and toilet fixtures and all the things we need to do in the last month of the project," Eallonardo said.

The new station is being built on the same site as the former police building but the work is expected to double the space, and the total project is expected to cost around \$20 million.

Bartlett streaks on with pair of shutout wins

By Seth Hancock

A shorthanded Bartlett soccer team got the job done twice to build a three-game winning streak.

The Hawks, who are playing without injured senior Jessica Mirsky and junior Kelsey Snitynsky, earned a 2-0 nonconference win over Hoffman Estates on Tuesday, April 17 at Millennium Field in Streamwood. Bartlett then defeated Streamwood 6-0 in an Upstate Eight Conference crossover match on Thursday, April 19 at Millennium Field.

"I think overall, the team has been progressing," said Bartlett coach Victor Marquez. "We're going into the last few weeks of the season, and we just want to continue to do the basic things

well heading into the postseason."

Against Hoffman Estates, the Hawks scored twice in the first half with Alyssa Modugno assisting a Maddie Donnelly goal then Mikayla Brown scoring off a Paige Bednarke free kick.

Serena Salvato, a freshman, helped the Hawks come out strong against Streamwood scoring two of her team's first three goals while helping Bartlett build a 4-0 halftime lead.

On two similar plays, Jenna Dombrowski and Morgan Myers made crosses to Salvato, who was in front of the net, leading to the game's first goal nine minutes into play and third goal with 24:38 left before the break. Off a Bednarke corner kick, Myers headed in the second goal and Makenna Hughes made it 4-0 with less than two minutes left in the half.

"We definitely have been passing really well lately," Salvato said. "We've been patient and strong on the ball."

Amber Fiedler gave the Hawks a 5-0 lead with 14:49 left in the game, and Dombrowski added the final goal with 7:51 left on the clock.

Bartlett goalkeeper Teagan Noesen finished with two saves to preserve the shutout.

"The key is to be patient," Marquez said. "That's something we forget to do at times, but tonight we saw them trying to do the right things. Little by little we are doing those basic important things more and more."

The Hawks are now 7-5-1 overall.



Bartlett's Jenna Dombrowski focused on an elevated ball that she would control against Hoffman Estates.



The Hawks' Serena Salvato, left, recoiling from possible contact due to a header while battling with Hoffman Estates' Payton Badziong. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

Hawks topple Sabres, beaten by North Stars



Sohum Desai accepting a Streamwood serve.



Carter Burzlaff setting for a teammate during the Hawks straight-sets victory over the Sabres. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett volleyball team overcame a slow start as the Hawks defeated Streamwood 25-21, 25-11 in Upstate Eight Conference play on Tuesday, April 17 at Streamwood.

The Hawks never trailed in the match, but in Game 1 their own service errors kept the host close. Bartlett committed seven service errors in the set.

Ahead just 13-12 in the opening game, Bartlett went on a 6-1 run with Jacob Bush (seven kills) producing three kills and Jonathan Ruge an ace for a 19-13 lead. Streamwood rallied within three points twice, 23-20 and 24-21, before a Bush kill ended the set.

"Once we understand that we just need to get the serve over, we can let our defense do the rest," said Bartlett coach Robert Schwantz. "We do have pretty good net defense. Anything that gets by, we have people who can play the ball in the backcourt."

Bartlett took control earlier in Game 2. Ahead 5-4, the Hawks got some distance with four straight points behind a pair of kills by Martin Radomski (nine kills) and a Ruge ace for a 9-4 lead.

With a 15-11 lead, the Hawks ended the match with a 10-0 run capped by Garrett Jurina's fifth kill of the match. Bush had three kills and Sohum Desai (five

digs) two aces during the final run.

"I thought they settled down a little bit in the second set," Schwantz said. "I think they came in a little lightly knowing we beat them easily at the U-46 tournament a few weeks ago."

Carter Burzlaff had 14 assists in the victory.

The Hawks did go on to suffer their first UEC loss falling 25-16, 25-18 against St. Charles North on Thursday, April 19 at Bartlett. Toiyon Walton (six kills), Jurina (four kills, one block), Ruge (10 assists, two digs) and Burzlaff (10 assists) led Bartlett.

Bartlett is now 16-10 overall, 3-1 in the UEC.