

Press Clippings 6/14/2018

SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 6/14/18

New Elgin boys basketball coach comes with plenty of experience

BY JERRY FITZPATRICK

New Elgin boys basketball boss David Hess arrives prepared for his second head coaching job.

Introduced to the players and their parents at a Monday meeting, Hess, 37, spent the last nine seasons as an under-level coach at Stevenson, the last six as sophomore coach at a time when the varsity won three state trophies, highlighted by the 2014-15 Class 4A title.

The 1999 Hersey graduate was a single 25-year-old in 2006, when college friends from Millikin encouraged him to apply for the then-vacant head coaching position at downstate Tuscola.

Hess landed the job, though his experience coaching high school basketball to that point amounted to one year as a varsity assistant under his former coach at Hersey, Don Rowley, and one year assisting Leroy Jarka at Lane Tech.

He directed the Warriors to a 41-46 record over three seasons, including two winning campaigns, a conference title and a regional championship in 2007-08.

"David knows what he's doing," said Stevenson coach Pat Ambrose. "He's been a head coach before and he did a great job as our sophomore coach. He was the head assistant during our runs and certainly did as much as anyone in our program at that point. He really helped us. He is worthy, willing and able. I could use a lot of adjectives. We're losing a good one."

Hess grew up in Arlington Heights, where he resides with his wife and three children. He was willing to take a step back from being a head coach nine years ago, he said, to return to the area and work in District 125 under a coach of Ambrose's caliber.

Better-seasoned, Hess gets a second chance to handle his own program, one that originated in 1899.

"I've prepared for a long time with this goal in mind," he said. "I feel I'm better prepared to know what to expect being a head coach. It's really like running a small business with your coaching staff, the feeder system, administration and players and communicating with them all. I feel I've improved in so many aspects."

Hess replaces Mike Sitter, who announced in January he was leaving after 11 seasons to become athletic director at Hampshire. Hess kept tabs on the opening -- brother-in-law Drew Smith is Elgin's boys track and field coach -- and first inquired about the job a month ago. He will teach social studies full time at Elgin.

"I've been looking last year and this year for something near where we live, a good program, a good school," he said. "Obviously, the tradition at Elgin is excellent."

Elgin athletic director Paul Pennington had two requirements during the hiring process.

"We were looking for somebody, number one, in the building," Pennington said.

"Number two, somebody that can relate to (the players) other than just basketball.

David has all the tools and the credentials and, certainly, the references to come with that coming from Stevenson and having that experience. But also being a head coach at a smaller school provided him some opportunities and some steppingstones to be here."

Hess spent Tuesday leading Elgin's summer basketball camp, then coached the Maroons in an evening summer-league game at Crystal Lake South.

"He's a hard worker already," Pennington added. "And he's shown us some things -- that he knows Elgin High School, knows the tradition it's had in basketball. He has that a depth of knowledge and has done his homework to want to be here and want to coach our kids."

Hess said Maroons fans can expect hard-nosed man-to-man defense "90-95 percent of the time" and a fluid offense he implemented at Stevenson.

"Offensively, it's a read-and-react system," Hess said. "Positionless basketball is becoming huge now, but I've believed in it for years as the game has evolved from two posts to one post to sometimes none.

"I've played one-in, four out and five out, similar to how the (Golden State) Warriors and Villanova play. It's an offense that gives structure yet provides freedom.

"You can't recruit in high school, so you have to be able to adapt to what you have. I believe you have to identify what the players' strengths are, and that the offense has to go through the best players."

OPINION

---Daily Herald--- 6/14/18

Editorial: Why are taxpayers still covering end-of-career pay boosts?

A few years ago, schools in the suburbs starting doing away with a perk that was patently unfair to taxpayers.

Starting a few years before retirement, longtime teachers often got an automatic annual pay bump that was significantly bigger than what was received by other teachers in the same district. It allowed them to pocket extra money, but had an even more lucrative goal: boosting the public pension the teacher would receive for the rest of his or her life.

School boards could afford to offer it up because the pension money didn't come from their coffers, but rather from the state. Taxpayers were on the hook either way.

We applauded when some school districts and teachers unions negotiated away the automatic pension-boosting pay raises. But not every school district followed suit, even in the face of financial penalties for school districts that give pre-retirement pay bumps over 6 percent a year.

Those penalties cost \$2.7 million from 2015 through 2017 for 86 suburban school districts that gave the pay raises to teachers and administrators who were about to retire, [Suburban Tax Watchdog columnist Jake Griffin wrote on Wednesday](#).

Elgin Area School District U-46 paid the most, \$436,542, followed by Algonquin-based Community Unit District 300 at \$312,949, Aurora East Unit District 131 at \$303,151, Stevenson High School District 125 in Lincolnshire at \$133,178, Bensenville-based Fenton High School District at \$117,152, and Indian Prairie Unit District 204 in Naperville and Aurora at \$107,055.

The penalties also come out of taxpayers' pockets, and there's a simple way to stop them: Get rid of the automatic, unearned final pay boosts. But that bonus dies hard.

Libertyville Elementary District 70 just [approved a five-year contract](#) that gives teachers 6 percent raises for up to four years in a row before retirement, as long as they're 55 years old and have 20 years with the district. Compounded, that's a 26 percent raise over four years, taking a \$91,805-a-year teacher to \$115,902. The district's average annual pay raise is 2.3 percent.

There's no logical way to justify that to taxpayers. And the penalties (you know the refrain -- they're paid by taxpayers) are only going to grow. A new state law requires penalties for end-of-career pay boosts over 3 percent, though it will only apply to new union contracts.

Reasonable people can agree on how to meet the need for high-quality teachers who get decent pay and promised pensions. People in the suburbs value teachers and want to be on their side. But extravagant add-ons weaken that partnership and should end.

Student code changes being proposed in U-46

By Seth Hancock

School District U-46 is proposing changes to its Student Code of Conduct but could that lead to discriminatory practices?

The changes were presented to the Board of Education at its meeting on Monday, June 4 and will be voted on at the June 18 meeting.

In a memo from John Heiderscheidt, director of school safety and culture, he said there were changes to nearly half of pages in the 50-page document. He said the changes came from recommendations from state and national organizations.

"These changes are recommended to the Board of Education by the administration to provide further clarity and transparency in the U-46 discipline process that will also address disproportionate discipline practices," Heiderscheidt wrote. "These changes are recommended to address fairness and equity for all students."

Heiderscheidt wrote the district has a "positive discipline philosophy" and the "focus is on teaching, rather than punishing, emphasizing and engaging by engaging in restorative practices to repair relationships and increase self and social awareness."

The idea is to keep students in school according to Heiderscheidt. That philosophy has appeared to already be in practice in the district with negative results including at Bartlett Elementary School where many parents came to address the board earlier this year including one father who said his daughter had to be kept home from school after death threats from another student who the district would not remove from her class.

The district wants to focus on "relationships and community above rules and regulations" according to Heiderscheidt who claimed it's not a "soft" approach and there still are "consequences."

Heiderscheidt also explained the districts continued desire to divide students by groups.

"We are committed to applying school discipline policies and practices in a fair and equitable manner so as not to disproportionately impact students of color, students with disabilities, LGBT students, students with limited English proficiency, or other at-risk students that have been historically marginalized in schools," Heiderscheidt said.

Board member Jeanette Ward asked prior to the meeting: "What precipitated these massive revisions?"

The district's response: "The work toward equity from the Board presentation a few months ago."

That presentation was done on the behalf of one, now former board member, Traci Ellis, when the district claimed staff were biased in how they implemented discipline. When asked by board member Phil Costello at the time for actual evidence, the administration either could not or would not as it claimed raw numbers were the sole proof of it.

Ward said the code was full of "undefined subjective terminology and unaccompanied by objective academic standards."

"It is difficult to believe that an academic institution cannot see that 'punishment' and 'consequences' are equal terms along with sidestepping the terms 'rules and regulations' which are applied in daily life to assist us in living together in a civilized society. To wordsmith these terms to the degree this entire document does, is counterproductive to educating students to the reality of the world they live in. Part of our job is to prepare our students to be fully productive and

participating citizens in the real world," Ward wrote in her questions to the district.

The district did not address all of Ward's questions directly.

Ward had asked: "If the district is to maintain equity in education, how is that achieved by treating students differently?"

The district responded: "The purpose of the language is to build consistency for all students as currently our data indicates that discipline is not implemented consistently."

The code singles out certain groups, including transgender students, for protection from bullying and Ward asked if students will be compelled to use made up pronouns or biologically incorrect pronouns based on preferences and she gave hypotheticals of a pro-life student being offended by someone wearing a pro-choice shirt or an immigrant student being offended by a shirt with an American flag and asked if that constitutes "psychological harm," a term used by the district, and "will the offending student be asked to change?"

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U-46 pathway plan ignites interest, debate

By Seth Hancock

The School District U-46 administration gave a presentation to the Board of Education regarding the career pathways plan.

One of the reasons for the planned change in focus for secondary education according to the district is for compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which was signed into law by former Democratic President Barack Obama in 2015. ESSA replaced No Child Left Behind (NCLB) signed by former Republican President George W. Bush.

Both the NCLB and ESSA showed that controversy and angst can be bipartisan when the federal government attempts to exert control over education. ESSA has sparked controversy among many U-46 parents, and the board meeting brought out a packed audience for the presentation.

According to the presentation a Career and Technical Education audit was done and recommendations from it include "provide opportunity to earn industry certifications and credentials for all pathways," "intentionally emphasize all postsecondary options, not just 4 year colleges," "provide career exploration opportunities as early as middle school," "create up to 14 'clearly defined pathways for students that conform to the economic and workforce needs of the community'" and develop a definition for college and career readiness.

Some of the industry credentials being sought are in areas such as manufacturing, automotive, welding, healthcare and culinary arts.

The district hopes to achieve magnet status for its current high school academics, commit time to career exploration, create "smaller learning communities" for every student, create several paths to graduation and develop more chances for industry credentials.

The plan is by the 2020-21 school year that every freshman in U-46 high schools would be enrolled in a career academy. Students would be able to stay at their home school, take fine arts and elective classes and change their path according to the district, and transportation would be provided for students attending non-home schools.

The intended paths would be Project Lead the Way engineering at all five high schools, business paths at four, government (public administration, public safety, military, etc.) at two or three, education and human services at four and healthcare at three. Autos would be offered at Bartlett, welding and autos at Elgin, precision manufacturing and autos at South Elgin and precision manufacturing and diesel at Streamwood.

Part of the controversy is around the idea that middle school students will be forced to choose a career path with no general education option, but the district said that is not the case.

Board member Jeanette Ward asked why there was no general education path before the meeting, and during the meeting she said: "How I think that you answered that is you said the professional pathway and many of the career pathways offers that because of the choices that they have in taking electives it's really adding more choices than they have now and that is the general education option. Am I understanding that correctly?"

Suzanne Johnson, deputy superintendent of instruction, said "that is correct" and "the professional pathway option will provide just that for students and provide even more opportunities for them."

Ward asked: "But do I also understand correctly that you still have to

pick a pathway, and the professional pathway is inside the pathway that you pick. So you still have to choose, right?"

Johnson said "that is correct.... At this time, that is the proposed plan that we have brought to you tonight."

Ward asked, which received applause from the audience, why not have an option "that lets them have the freedom of not having to choose a pathway, or it's a pathway called general?"

Johnson said "if that's the direction that you give this team, we can certainly consider it," but she suggested the district may not be in compliance with ESSA if they did that.

In further response to questions from Ward, Assistant Superintendent Terri Lozier said career endorsements are required on all diplomas by 2021 and the district said it could not provide costs for this change at this time. Lozier said high school schedules will go from six periods to seven allowing for more electives to be taken.

Board member Melissa Owens said she was "having a really hard time understanding... the ESSA requirements" and suggested this change is swinging too far away from college preparation towards career readiness.

Owens called the ESSA indicators "terrible" but wanted further presentations to understand ESSA's requirements. She said how a district is judged, although she said she doesn't "like the word judge," on career readiness is "a very small portion."

A work requirement in the plan also raised concerns for Owens who said "I don't know why we're asking students to work 12 consecutive months in their junior year" and it's "ridiculous to ask students to work for two consecutive summers."

U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said he found some of ESSA's requirements "troubling," but it "does assure that students are both college and career ready."

Board member Veronica Noland said she agreed with Owens' concerns and Donna Smith, the board's president, said special meetings were being planned to better understand ESSA but were pushed off due to the need to fill a vacant board seat.

Board member Phil Costello said there were still a lot of logistical and cost discussions that need to be had before he can make a final judgment, but although recognizing he may be in the minority he said he likes the initial idea of the plan saying: "I really think it does tell our community that we want successful kids, and they have to identify what it is to be successful."

"It's probably a counterpoint, but it is genuinely exciting to see the focus on careers whether its college based or technical or whatever else," Costello said. "And I think you're asked to focus on something, you're asked to explore something and at some point you're going to say 'I don't want to do this' and that's a very distinct possibility that we have to recognize and I think that's what this program is about."

Costello added: "So I'm kind of excited about the return on investment of what we're doing here to provide our community with the jobs that are out there that we need to focus on. This to me is very dynamic because of all the kids, your children, who hasn't said 'well, what do you want to be when you grow up?' This is the model for getting there."

The district does plan more presentations to the public, and Ward said: "I don't think you can over communicate on this issue because obviously the community is very, very interested in this."

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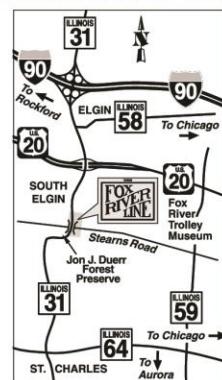
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Hawks recognized with five all-UEC honorees

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett softball team had many contributors to its 21-13 season, 11-5 in the Upstate Eight Conference.

The Hawks finished with five all-conference selections in the UEC Valley Division, senior catcher and first baseman Taylor Rotondo capturing the honor for her third straight season.

Rotondo also set the program's record for career home runs as her 10 this season gave her 29 for her career. She batted .430 and slugged .871 as she had 27 RBI, 22 runs scored and 11 doubles.

"Taylor had a phenomenal year and three in a row on varsity," said Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith. "She's been a phenomenal hitter for us and an underrated defender. Good team leader with a big power bat."

Senior pitcher/first baseman Janelle Ulaszek (35 hits, 24 RBI, four doubles), who went 11-5 in the circle, and senior pitcher/shortstop/third baseman

Amber Pagan (25 hits, 23 RBI, seven doubles, one home run) both made the all-conference list for the second straight year.

Senior catcher/first and third baseman Dani Kleeman (32 hits, 24 RBI, 11 doubles, one home run) and junior catcher/infielder Charlotte Linnartz (27 hits, 15 RBI, 10 doubles, five home runs, one triple) also made the all-conference list.

The season had some ups and downs, one being an injury to Pagan late in the season keeping her out of the lineup for a few weeks, but in the end Bartlett was able to capture its first regional title since 2013. The Hawks lose a total of six seniors which also includes Annamarie Bucaro and Caitlin Fippinger.

"I think it was an up and down season with some craziness from the weather to some injuries," Wolfsmith said. "The girls came through and persisted. We have six seniors who gave it their all throughout their time here."



Taylor Rotondo awaiting a pitch from behind the plate against Streamwood.



Charlotte Linnartz making contact while leading off the game for the Hawks against Fremd during the sectional semi-final contest.



After taking a throw from the catcher, Danielle Kleeman was unable to make a tag in time to prevent a Fremd theft of third during playoff action this year.



Janelle Ulaszek, a fixture in the circle this year for the Hawks, delivering a pitch to a waiting hitter.



Shortstop Amber Pagan firing to first base in an effort to complete a double play after forcing the Sabres' Alayna Levey at second during a game this season.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

Wayne stages its 50th annual Flag Day parade

Story and photos by Joe Hyland

The usual onlookers were missing, possibly due to the threat of rain, but that didn't stop the marchers who participated in Wayne's 50th Flag Day parade on Sunday, June 10.

The parade kicked off from Village Hall at 4 p.m., and made its usual way down to the Little Home Church by the Wayside just as it has every year since its inception in 1968.

After Army Trail Road had been blocked off, police Sgt. Lance Spurling cleared the way for the parade, which

was led by Trustee Rob Reed carrying the Stars and Stripes and Little Home Church pastor Richard Malmberg with the church's flag.

It wouldn't be a parade without a fire truck, and the Fox River and Countryside Fire Protection District filled that need, sending both an engine and a medic unit.

It also wouldn't be a Flag Day parade without many flags, and there were plenty of those in evidence, including an extra-large flag that was carried by Jerry Marchese and a group of volunteers. When Marchese's group reached the end of the parade, the Wing and a Prayer band broke into "The Star Spangled Banner."

The parade also included Boy Scout Troop 99 and civic groups such as the Wayne Garden Club. New this year

was a group from the Friends for Therapeutic Equine Activities.

As usual, the parade also included a considerable number of children on bikes and scooters, all of which were decked out in red, white and blue in honor of the occasion. Also as usual, the final group was the Wayne DuPage Hunt Club.

Illinois State Treasurer Mike Frerichs was a surprise addition to the parade.

Frerichs said he had received an invitation to participate, and was happy to do so, saying he always had a soft

spot for small town parades having grown up in a small town himself.

"It's a great little parade," Frerichs said.

After all of the various groups had made their way to the end of the parade, Life Scout Jason Predki asked people to remove all non-religious headgear before leading them in the "Pledge of Allegiance." This

was followed by the singing of "America."

As is traditional for this event, Wayne's Citizen of the Year was honored. This year's winner was Barbara Lyon. Village President Eileen Phipps noted that the parade held special meaning for Lyon.

"She brought the idea of Flag Day to Wayne," said Phipps.

Phipps recalled that the original pa-



Wayne Citizen of the Year and originator of the Flag Day parade, Barbara Lyon, said a few words after receiving her award.



The post Flag Day parade ice cream social was quite popular.

rade consisted of a military band and village residents.

"The town was so little that the whole town participated," Phipps said.

Lyon thanked Phipps and said that the parade still brought tears to her eyes.

The ceremonies weren't over yet,

however. There was a special resolution honoring Phipps for 25 years of service to the village.

"Without her, Wayne would not be what it is today," Trustee Ed Hull said. "We can't thank you enough for everything you've done."

After the awards, the crowd adjourned for cake and ice cream.



What would a Flag Day parade be without a (very big) flag?

Storm have two players named to all-UEC team



Bartlett's Serena Salvato, left, and the Storm's Fatima Bustamante during a battle for possession of the ball as the rivals competed during a match this past season. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin soccer team finished the year with two all-conference recipients in the Upstate Eight Conference Valley Division.

The Storm, who went 2-12-3 overall and 1-3-1 in the UEC Valley Division, saw senior Fatima Bustamante and freshman Abigail Roy earn the honors.

Bustamante was a defender helping the Storm earn three shutouts this season, and she added three goals including a header during South Elgin's senior day game. Showing her resiliency, Bustamante battled injuries during her career to have a full senior season.

"I can't say enough good things about Fatima," said

South Elgin coach Laura Szwaja. "She put in an extreme amount of work in the offseason to come out strong this season, and that she did. She has battled two torn ACLs in her past, and she has overcome a lot to make a name for herself here at SEHS."

Szwaja added: "While she played in our backline, she was a dangerous player once we were able to move her up. She was responsible for holding us in many games and also responsible for a lot of the offense we did create this season."

Roy was one of 13 underclassmen on this season's team, and she started her varsity career as a forward strong. She found the net 11 times and assisted on four goals.



Abigail Roy executing a header against West Chicago this season between the Wildcats' Alex Alcantar, left, and Vanessa Montenegro.

"Although a freshman, Abby was a strong leader on this team on and off the field," Szwaja said. "She has an incredible passion for the game that led her to be one of our strongest threats in the offensive end."

Szwaja added: "As a freshman she not only played every single game but was elected a captain by her teammates because she genuinely is a playmaker and has the ability to generate so many different opportunities for her teammates. I am looking forward to see her grow and add to that goal total in years to come."

South Elgin will also lose seniors Camille Angela Defensor (defender/midfielder), Corinne Figueroa (goalkeeper) and Nicole Matustik (midfielder).

BARTLETT Public Library District **Read! Learn! Connect!**

Drop-in LEGOs/STEM Activities Wednesday, June 13, 2:30 and 6:30 p.m.

All ages. Join us for some LEGO or STEM activities to stretch your brain and have fun. Children under age eight must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Grandma Goes to Antarctica Wednesday, June 13, 7 p.m.

When asked why she went to the coldest, driest, windiest and most barren place on earth, Jeanne Roppolo responds, "Why not?" This is the true story of a 57-year-old grandmother stationed in Antarctica for five months as a contract worker for the National Science Foundation. Tag along with her and be inspired as she tells you of her extreme excursions!

Meditation for Stress Relief Thursday, June 14, 7 p.m.

The scientific community has recently been exploring the use of meditation as a healing modality. Join Renate Lanotte, MS LCSW psychotherapist as she discusses the extraordinary ability of meditation to reduce stress-related responses, improve concentration, and enhance clarity of thought and mental equilibrium. She will also present a simple, yet powerful meditation technique that can enrich one's life personally, professionally and spiritually.

Family Painting Afternoon Saturday, June 16, 2 p.m.

Ages three-years-old and up with a caregiver. Join us for some family fun! Gather up the artists in your family to create a canvas representing each member of your group. There is a limit of one canvas per family. Please call the Youth Services at 837-3548 or stop by the Youth Services Desk to Register. Registration required.

Two for One Broadway Sunday, June 17, 2 p.m.

Accomplished cabaret performers Matt and Cynthia Gruel present Broadway musical numbers from the 1930s to the 1980s, featuring favorite tunes from Annie Get Your Gun, West Side Story, Fiddler on the Roof, Grease, Cats and more. Matt and Cynthia's tight harmonies, theatrical performances, and engaging arrangements will be treasured by all musical theatre lovers!

Before You Call the Handyman: Common Home Repair Fixes Tuesday, June 19, 7 p.m.

Wondering what tools you need in your toolbox? Join us as we learn basic home repair (electrical, plumbing and structural) from handyman Daniel Findley and discover what we can do before we call the experts.

Commit to be Fit: Pilates Thursday, June 21, 7 p.m.

Kick off the first day of summer with this Pilates program, which will help you achieve your fitness goals! Pilates improves balance, flexibility and overall strength. Look forward to prizes, raffles and ideas for you and your family's improved health and wellness. Pilates Instructor Kasia Andrzejuk will demonstrate a few simple routines you can practice anytime and anywhere. Guests may participate and/or observe a 15-minute Pilates session at the end of the program. If participating, bring your own yoga mat. Registration required. Sponsored by the Bartlett Public Library District Foundation.

For a complete listing of scheduled programs at the Bartlett Public Library, 800 S. Bartlett Road, call 837-2855 or visit www.bartlettlibrary.org.

Hawks baseball records tie, loss in doubleheader

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett baseball team opened the summer league with two tight games against Streamwood on Tuesday, June 5 at Streamwood.

The Hawks came out winless but did tie in the second of two five-inning games.

Game 1 went to the host as Streamwood scored two runs in the first inning which held up in the 2-0 game. Bartlett did outpitch Streamwood 4-3 in the game.

Game 2 finished in a 2-2 tie, the Hawks striking first with a two-run third inning.

For Bartlett coach Devin Rosen, it was his first chance to see what kind of talent he'll have for next spring and that's the key to the summer league.

"It's just good to be back out playing,

good to see some new faces," Rosen said. "We're not going to put a whole lot of pressure on them over the summer. We're just looking to see them improve and grow."

The third inning rally for the Hawks started with a pair of one-out walks which setup juniors Kevin Vesta and Geno Friar to drive in the runs on a single and fielder's choice respectively. Streamwood tied the game in the fourth but sophomore Nathan Gargano, one of four Bartlett pitchers on the day, did maintain the tie by stranding runners at first and third base.

As the summer moves on, Rosen said he's looking to see growth between league games and summer camps.

"We're looking for steady growth from the whole team," Rosen said. "Some guys will do that faster than others and that's a good thing. We hope to create some competition for some spots."

Firearm deer permits still available

Resident and non-resident deer hunters can apply for the second lottery drawing for 2018 Illinois firearm deer and muzzleloader-only deer permits. The deadline to apply for the second lottery is Saturday, June 30. For more information on deer hunting, check the website at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/DeerHunting.aspx>.

Youth Soccer Scores

InterVillage
Girls U-14

Saturday, June 2

Bartlett Marquette - 6
Elgin Sting - 3

Goals for the Bartlett Marquette were scored by Jillian M. (1), Brianna D. (1), Peyton S. (2) and Olivia (1). Assists were made by Jillian O., Alyssa G. and Jillian M. Goalies were Veronika H. (with 3 saves) and Justine O. (with 5 saves). Outstanding defensive plays were made by Hailey H. and Olivia. Outstanding offensive plays were made by Jillian O. and Emily G.

U-46 Board set to vote on resolutions, expenses

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 will vote on a series of resolutions as well as \$1.9 million in expenditure proposals at its upcoming meeting on Monday, June 18. The items were presented on June 4.

One of the resolutions sets prevailing wage rates for the district which are essentially a minimum wage for outside contractors used by U-46.

Board member Jeanette Ward asked: "Where did the prevailing wages come from?"

Jeff King, chief operating officer, said they are from the Illinois Department of Labor (IDL) and added last year's numbers are being used because "new ones have not been published yet."

Ward and board member Phil Costello have both opposed the resolution in the past as the district relies on the IDL numbers which are driven by unions rather than market forces, and they have advocated for the district doing its own study.

"I've advocated for doing our own prevailing wage survey," Ward said.

King said "we just don't have the personnel to do that" and Miguel Rodriguez, chief legal officer, said "it's unlikely that that would be acceptable" under the law.

However, previously the district administration has said it could do its own study and has advocated for the elimination of the prevailing wage requirement for school districts.

In 2016, U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said: "State law still requires the board should pass the resolution establishing a prevailing wage, but it does allow school districts to survey... across our communities to determine our own prevailing wage."

A Government Accountability Office report has found that prevailing wage laws lead to "a lack of transparency in the survey process" and benefit entrenched contractors and unions to force out competition. A study by Suffolk University's Beacon Hill Institute found that prevailing wage laws increase costs by an average of 22 percent.

Other resolutions to be voted on include one authorizing the district to take part in federal and state programs, another approving of hazardous transportation area designations (street crossings that are deemed dangerous for students to cross), another allowing a transfer of interest earnings to the transportation fund and another allowing King to pay down some of the district's debt.

Contracts to be voted on include a \$25,000 renewal, from the education fund if approved, with the American Reading Company for Schoolpace, which is a "platform for reading

teachers to collect formative student reading evidence and data on a daily basis," according to the proposal.

The district is also asking for a one-year contract renewal with Sentinel costing \$119,697 (education fund) for a technical support agreement "to its telecommunications network Cisco licenses and hardware," the proposal states.

With Frontline Education, the district is asking for a contract renewal costing \$31,717 (education fund) for software pertaining to U-46's human resources information system.

A contract renewal costing \$38,200 (education fund) with Heartland Business Systems for AirWatch software which would allow the district to manage and track student usage of tablets, or iPads.

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U-46 is asking for a one-year contract renewal with CDW-G costing \$127,796 (education fund) for Microsoft Office Suite licensing.

The district is asking for a two-year contract approval with Northern Illinois University costing no more than \$224,000, paid for by the nation's taxpayers through federal grant funds, for current district teachers to receive special education endorsements. Teachers who took part in it would have to commit to staying with U-46 for five years or pay the tuition back.

The district also proposed a \$1.2 million expense (education fund) with Dell Marketing LP to purchase 2,712 desktop computers. Dell was not the lowest bidder but the proposal stated others "did not meet our hardware specifications."

A proposal with Southpaw costing \$74,247 (federal grant funds) would go towards seven sensory rooms for special education students to "create relaxing and calming yet stimulating environments that work to develop users' sensory needs," according to the proposal. Another bid, by Flaghouse, came in over \$4,000 cheaper but the district said "Southpaw was determined to have a superior and higher quality product for sensory room use."

The final proposal, costing \$55,433 (federal grant funds), with Brecht's Database Solutions would go towards creating a "data management system that will support (Individualized Education Programs), 504 plans, service log management and Medicaid billing and claims," the proposal states.

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Four Storm players named to all-UEC squad

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin softball team had a banner year capturing the program's first conference title with a 13-4 mark in the Upstate Eight Valley Division.

Leading the way for the Storm, who were 16-12 overall, were four all-conference honorees including the Conference Player of the Year in junior Casey Brennan. Senior Julianna Battaglia and juniors Geneva Pollman and Sidney Strama were all-conference.

Brennan, an outfielder, had a huge year at the plate with a .521 batting

average as she finished with 49 hits, 39 RBI, 37 runs scored, 14 doubles, five triples and four home runs.

"She's our best athlete," said South Elgin coach Brad Reynard. "She has a cannon arm and led us in most of offensive categories."

Reynard called Battaglia "arguably one of the best leaders we've ever had." At the plate she batted .446 with 41 hits, 27 RBI, 25 runs, eight doubles and four home runs.

"She was our team leader, and she did a great job in the outfield," Reynard said. "The heart and soul of our

squad."

Pollman went 3-4 in the circle and added four saves and at the plate she batted .396 with 35 hits, 29 runs, 26 RBI, 10 doubles and two triples. Strama was the Storm's ace going 8-3 in the circle with a 3.40 ERA and 35 strikeouts in 75 innings, and she had a .395 batting average at the plate.

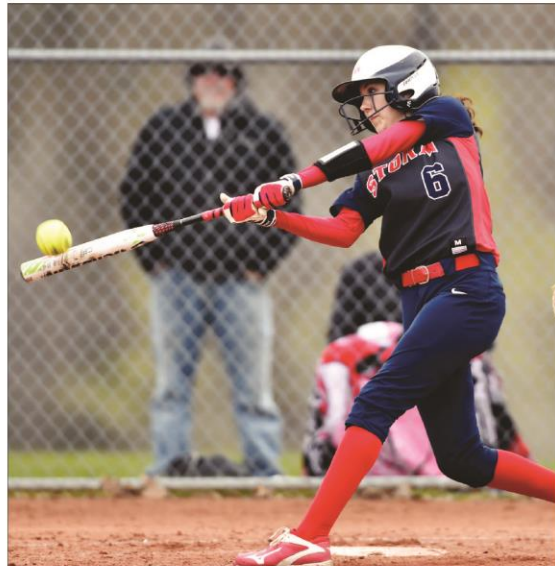
Reynard called Pollman a "great all

around player with a good arm who covers a lot of ground, and she was on fire at the plate the second half of season." Of Strama, Reynard said she was "our number one. She pitched in a lot of the big games this season."

South Elgin will also lose seniors Samantha Dietz, Alivia Doyle and Daisy Fuentes.



Geneva Pollman who has been a fixture in the circle for the Storm.



Casey Brennan doing what she did often during her high school career, connecting for a two-run home run, this one against Batavia..



Sidney Strama arriving safely at second base as St. Charles North second baseman Olivia Osborne was unable to handle a throw this past season.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

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Carranza named all-UEC for Streamwood soccer

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood soccer team hopes its experience gained this season will help the young squad going forward after a 3-13 season, 0-6 in the Upstate Eight Conference River Division.

One of those players who the Sabres will look to for leadership next year is junior Paulette Carranza, a midfielder and forward, who earned all-conference honors this season. She finished the year with three goals and four assists.

"Paulette is a hard worker on and off the field and has a great commitment to the team," said Streamwood coach Kristin Duffy. "She is a player who will play anywhere on the field without question, while playing on the

field she is a great asset to our team by setting up plays to counter attack on offense."

The Sabres had eight underclassmen and five juniors on this year's squad. Going into next season, Duffy expects to see growth from her team.

"Next year will be better," Duffy said. "Having a young team obviously is always hard. There's a summer camp we have, and hopefully our girls are playing club."

Streamwood will lose five seniors from this year's squad including Regina Alvos (forward), Alex Bonilla (midfielder), Kaila Ford (midfielder), Michaela Gundersen (midfielder/defender) and Esmeralda Navarro (midfielder).

Arbor Day Foundation offers tree identification book

The Arbor Day Foundation has a book that helps people identify trees in a simple, step-by-step process. The book, "What Tree Is That?" is available for a \$5 donation to the nonprofit tree-planting organization.

"What Tree Is That?" is a fun, easy-to-use tree identification guide that features hand-drawn botanical illustrations highlighting the distinctive characteristics of many tree species.

Nature lovers and professional arborists alike have called this pocket field guide a must-have, user-friendly resource. Its beautiful, full-color illustrations are in precise detail and depict natural colors, shapes and textures so users can make a positive species identification in just a few easy steps.

The Arbor Day Foundation offers this book to help people identify trees throughout the Eastern and Central regions of the United States. "What Tree Is That?" uses a unique step-by-step ap-

proach for identifying the species of each tree, explaining what to look for in the shape and arrangement of the leaves, differences in the leafstalks and specific characteristics of fruits, flowers, buds and bark.

"Our What Tree Is That?" pocket guide is an ideal resource for developing a greater appreciation for trees," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "The Arbor Day Foundation strives to help people enjoy and appreciate trees, and we feel our pocket field guide will do just that."

"What Tree Is That?" is also available as an online interactive version at arbor-day.org.

To obtain a tree identification guide in full color, send name, address, and \$5 for each guide to What Tree Is That?, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410. The book may also be ordered online at arbor-day.org.

It's the time of year to expand the bison herd at Fermilab



First calf of the year, born at Fermilab. (Photo courtesy of Fermilab, by Reidar Hahn)

Fermilab offers several annual traditions for its neighbors, from the Family Open House to the STEM Career Expo. But none are quite as anticipated as the birth of the year's first baby bison.

On April 18, baby bison season officially began. The first calf of the year was born in the early morning hours, with a second appearing before noon. The first two baby bison calves are healthy and keeping up with their mothers, walking and nursing.

Fermilab is expecting between 10 and 14 new calves this spring, and all of the neighbors are welcome to come on site to visit with and photograph the newborns. (They are always a hit with young children.) The Fermilab site is open every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and admission is free. You'll need a valid photo ID to enter the site.

Fermilab's first director, Robert Wilson, established the bison herd in 1969 as a symbol of the history of the Midwestern prairie and the laboratory's pioneering research at the frontiers of particle physics. The herd remains a major attraction for families and wildlife enthusiasts.

And thanks to the science of genetic testing, Fermilab's ecologist con-

firmed that the laboratory's herd shows no evidence of cattle gene mixing. Farmers during the early settlement era would breed bison with cattle in an attempt to create more tame bison or more hardy cattle.

A herd of bison is a natural fit for a natural laboratory. Fermilab hosts nearly 1,000 acres of reconstructed tallgrass prairie, as well as remnant oak savannas, marshes and forests.

While at the Fermilab site to see the bison, visitors can also learn more about the ecological efforts by hiking the Interpretive Prairie Trail, a half-mile-long trail located near the Pine Street entrance in Batavia. The Lederman Science Center also offers exhibits on the prairie and hands-on physics displays. The Lederman Center hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. And the 15th floor of Wilson Hall is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For up-to-date information for visitors, please visit www.fnal.gov or call 630-840-3351. To learn more about Fermilab's bison herd, please visit the wildlife area of our website.

U-46 pathway plan ignites interest, debate

By Seth Hancock

The School District U-46 administration gave a presentation to the Board of Education regarding the career pathways plan.

One of the reasons for the planned change in focus for secondary education according to the district is for compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which was signed into law by former Democratic President Barack Obama in 2015. ESSA replaced No Child Left Behind (NCLB) signed by former Republican President George W. Bush.

Both the NCLB and ESSA showed that controversy and angst can be bipartisan when the federal government attempts to exert control over education. ESSA has sparked controversy among many U-46 parents, and the board meeting brought out a packed audience for the presentation.

According to the presentation a Career and Technical Education audit was done and recommendations from it include "provide opportunity to earn industry certifications and credentials for all pathways," "intentionally emphasize all postsecondary options, not just 4 year colleges," "provide career exploration opportunities as early as middle school," create up to 14 "clearly defined pathways for students that conform to the economic and workforce needs of the community" and develop a definition for college and career readiness.

Some of the industry credentials being sought are in areas such as manufacturing, automotive, welding, healthcare and culinary arts.

The district hopes to achieve magnet status for its current high school academies, commit time to career exploration, create "smaller learning communities" for every student, create several paths to graduation and develop more chances for industry credentials.

The plan is by the 2020-21 school year that every freshman in U-46 high schools would be enrolled in a career

academy. Students would be able to stay at their home school, take fine arts and elective classes and change their path according to the district, and transportation would be provided for students attending non-home schools.

The intended paths would be Project Lead the Way engineering at all five high schools, business paths at four, government (public administration, public safety, military, etc.) at two or three, education and human services at four and healthcare at three. Autos would be offered at Bartlett, welding and autos at Elgin, precision manufacturing and autos at South Elgin and precision manufacturing and diesel at Streamwood.

Part of the controversy is around the idea that middle school students will be forced to choose a career path with no general education option, but the district said that is not the case.

Board member Jeanette Ward asked why there was no general education path before the meeting, and during the meeting she said: "How I think that you answered that is you said the professional pathway and many of the career pathways offers that because of the choices that they have in taking electives it's really adding more choices than they have now and that is the general education option. Am I understanding that correctly?"

Suzanne Johnson, deputy superintendent of instruction, said "that is correct" and "the professional pathway option will provide just that for students and provide even more opportunities for them."

Ward asked: "But do I also understand correctly that you still have to pick a pathway, and the professional pathway is inside the pathway that you pick. So you still have to choose, right?"

Johnson said "that is correct.... At this time, that is the proposed plan that we have brought to you tonight."

Ward asked, which received applause from the audience, why not

have an option "that lets them have the freedom of not having to choose a pathway, or it's a pathway called general?"

Johnson said "if that's the direction that you give this team, we can certainly consider it," but she suggested the district may not be in compliance with ESSA if they did that.

In further response to questions from Ward, Assistant Superintendent Terri Lozier said career endorsements are required on all diplomas by 2021 and the district said it could not provide costs for this change at this time. Lozier said high school schedules will go from six periods to seven allowing for more electives to be taken.

Board member Melissa Owens said she was "having a really hard time understanding... the ESSA requirements" and suggested this change is swinging too far away from college preparation towards career readiness.

Owens called the ESSA indicators "terrible" but wanted further presentations to understand ESSA's requirements. She said how a district is judged, although she said she doesn't "like the word judge," on career readiness is "a very small portion."

A work requirement in the plan also raised concerns for Owens who said "I don't know why we're asking students to work 12 consecutive months in their junior year" and it's "ridiculous to ask students to work for two consecutive summers."

U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said he found some of ESSA's requirements "troubling," but it "does assure that students are both college and career ready."

Board member Veronica Noland said she agreed with Owens' concerns and Donna Smith, the board's president,

said special meetings were being planned to better understand ESSA but were pushed off due to the need to fill a vacant board seat.

Board member Phil Costello said there were still a lot of logistical and cost discussions that need to be had before he can make a final judgment, but although recognizing he may be in the minority he said he likes the initial idea of the plan saying: "I really think it does tell our community that we want successful kids, and they have to identify what it is to be successful."

"It's probably a counterpoint, but it is genuinely exciting to see the focus on careers whether its college based or technical or whatever else," Costello said. "And I think you're asked to focus on something, you're asked to explore something and at some point you're going to say 'I don't want to do this' and that's a very distinct possibility that we have to recognize and I think that's what this program is about."

Costello added: "So I'm kind of excited about the return on investment of what we're doing here to provide our community with the jobs that are out there that we need to focus on. This to me is very dynamic because of all the kids, your children, who hasn't said 'well, what do you want to be when you grow up?' This is the model for getting there."

The district does plan more presentations to the public, and Ward said: "I don't think you can over communicate on this issue because obviously the community is very, very interested in this."

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Sabres baseball records win, tie against Bartlett

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood baseball team saw some solid pitching in its summer league opener, a doubleheader against Bartlett on Tuesday, June 5 at Streamwood.

The summer is an opportunity for coaches to see the returning talent grow and what some new guys can do, and Sabres coach Ryan Lasota said he saw some good things from his pitching staff which led to a 2-0 Game 1 win and a 2-2 tie in Game 2 in the five-inning contests. In total, four Streamwood pitchers issued just four free passes over 10 innings.

Anthony Caruso (two strikeouts, one walk, one hit batter) went all five innings in the opener for a four-hit shutout and both Ryan Renkosiak (one hit, two strikeouts) and AJ Reyna (one hit, four strikeouts) tossed two scoreless innings in the second game. Tyler Jones (two strikeouts) allowed two runs on a hit and two walks in the third inning of Game 2.

"I thought we did a good job of pounding the strike zone on the mound," Lasota said. "Hitting was so-so, but that's something that comes as you get more opportunities as the summer moves on."

Colin Bielinski and Connor Johnson each drove in a first inning run in Game 1 as the 2-0 lead held for the game. After falling behind 2-0 in

Game 2, the Sabres tied it in the fourth inning which included an RBI double by Johnson.

Reyna had two hits in Game 2.

"It was a good day overall," Lasota said. "We have an interesting mix of players, some returning and some trying to move up, and it's good to see them play."

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