

## Press Clippings 7/19/2018

---Daily Herald--- 7/19/18

### **Do you hear the people sing?**

U-46 students to stage 'Les Miserables' July 19-31

SUBMITTED BY ELGIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

High school students from across Elgin Area School District U-46 came together this summer to participate in the Summer Theatre production of "Les Miserables: School Edition."

The musical opens at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 19 at the Larkin High School Auditorium, 1475 Larkin Ave. Performances will continue through the weekend at 7 p.m. July 19-21, with a matinee performance at noon Saturday, July 21. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

South Elgin High School graduate David Larsen will be performing the role of protagonist Jean Valjean. Larsen was nominated for the Illinois High School Music Theatre Awards' best actor award for his performance as Quasimodo in the 2018 spring musical "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." Larsen will be attending Western Illinois University in the fall to study music education.

Bartlett High School rising senior Naomi Latta will be performing as Éponine, and South Elgin High School's Andrea Michel, also going into her senior year, will be a member of the ensemble. Both were selected for the cast of the upcoming 2019 Illinois High School Theatre Festival All-State production of "In the Heights" during the Theatre Festival in January 2019 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Many of the actors were part of the Bartlett High School Group Interpretation theatrical production that took first place at the IHSA Group Interpretation State Competition in March. That team included Alden Williams, a recipient of the Class of 2018 United Black Scholarship and also a Superintendent's Scholarship. Williams is performing in "Les Miserables" as part of the ensemble.

This was the first time in Bartlett High and U-46 history that a U-46 school won the sectional tournament and placed within the top 10 in the state, said director and Bartlett High teacher Mike Miserendino.

Miserendino chose the musical after seeing a Chicago performance with students last winter. Students were thrilled when they learned that "Les Miserables" was the summer production.

The Summer Theatre program has grown exponentially these past three years, said Miserendino.

Karen Brhel of South Elgin High School and Hector Hernandez of Streamwood High School started the program along with Miserendino in the summer of 2016 with the

production of “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” and performed it at the Steel Beam Theatre in St. Charles. Approximately 30 students were involved with the production in its inaugural year.

In the summer of 2017, the team produced “Almost, Maine” and performed it at BHS. Now with “Les Miserables,” the program has expanded to involving 110 kids in the cast, crew, and pit.

“We’re hoping that the momentum will continue for years to come,” said Miserendino.

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## **Elgin Woman’s Club awards two health scholarships**

SUBMITTED BY ELGIN WOMAN’S CLUB

The Elgin Woman's Club has awarded two \$1,500 scholarships to graduating students from **Elgin Area School District U-46's** Elgin High School who are pursuing careers in the field of health occupations. The organization, now in its 131 year, continues its emphasis on education with the scholarships as it has for many years.

The scholarship recipients are graduating seniors Sarah Turner and Angelina Olivarez. Sarah will attend Western Michigan University. She plans to major in Dietetics Science and Angelina, plans to attend DePaul University, where she will major in Health Science (Pre-Occupational Therapy).

Rita Corbett, scholarship chairwoman, was pleased with the number of U-46 senior applicants. "We were pleased to be able to once again award scholarships to two very well qualified students in order to help as they begin their college education. "The Scholarship committee includes EWC members Loa McLean and Georgia Ross, in addition to Corbett.

Scholarship funds are raised during the year by club members through a variety of fundraising efforts, including an annual Fundraising luncheon.

Since the club was founded in 1887, members have supported hundreds of local projects including the yearly scholarships to students from U-46 high schools. Their major accomplishment was the founding of Sherman Hospital in 1888. In addition, members volunteer in hospitals and other agencies throughout the Elgin area and are active in recycling, conservation, women's health, international affairs and other projects.

The Elgin Woman's Club invites women interested in community service, philanthropy and education to call the club hotline, (847) 426-7301 for details about membership.

The club meets monthly from September to May for luncheon meetings and programs.

Elgin Woman's club members also participate in General Federation for Women's Club's district, state and international efforts as well as in leadership positions in those areas of the organization.