

Press Clippings 06/03/20

---Daily Herald---06/03/2020

How George Floyd's death has wounded the psyche of suburban black community

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy



Clyde Brooks



Nathaniel Edmond



Traci Ellis



Michael Childress



Marteen Mendel- Duckins

Don't say anything. Don't reach for anything. Keep hands on the steering wheel or visible at all times. Simply answer questions.

This is what black parents teach their children about how to behave when pulled over or stopped by police, says the Rev. Nathaniel Edmond, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Elgin.

"You want to get out of the encounter alive," said Edmond, of Lake in the Hills. "The same applies to me, and I am almost 70 years old. This is the same talk that my parents had with me in Birmingham, Alabama, 50 years ago. And 50 years later, I am still having that same talk with my grandson. That's a problem."

Last week's death of George Floyd, who was choked by a Minneapolis police officer pressing a knee against the back of his neck as he lay handcuffed in the street, has rekindled those fears among suburban African Americans while reigniting America's protracted debate over race and police brutality.

Floyd's final words -- "I can't breathe" -- have reverberated across communities of color and disenfranchised people worldwide, bringing back memories of the 2014 choking death of Eric Garner by a New York City policeman.

It's the latest in a growing list of killings of black men and women that profoundly has scarred the community's psyche creating angst, frustration and anger unleashed through global protests and riots reminiscent of the 1960s.

"We are tired of being the victim ... of hearing all the excuses," Edmond said. "I will never condone violence, rioting and looting, but some folks feel that's the only way they can be heard."

Leaders say peaceful protests across the suburbs seeking justice for Floyd are being infiltrated by disrupters, distracting people from focusing on the real problem of systemic racism. Yet, unlike previous #BlackLivesMatter movements that have dissipated, many believe these protests will be a catalyst for change.

That's because white people and other communities of color are standing with black people like never before, said Traci Ellis, chief equity and human resources officer for Aurora-based Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy.

"The world has joined us," Ellis said. "We're not going to be sidetracked by trying to explain (the violence). This idea that somehow we will be taken more seriously if we protest a certain way, it is hypocrisy and intellectual dishonesty and we are not having it. When it comes to black protests, white people don't want to see it anywhere whether it is peaceful or not."

Though Ellis' two sons are grown, she feels black mothers like her live in "constant unrelenting fear" of their children being attacked, which takes a severe toll manifesting in psychological and physical exhaustion. She cried for three days after watching the video of Floyd's death.

"Our souls are traumatized," Ellis said. "Our entire mental state just gets thrown out of equilibrium. It is a system that is designed to command and control and break black people. It is anguishing and quite frankly we've had enough."

Many black leaders are calling racism a "white problem" and believe it will take the support of white community leaders to bring about institutional change.

It starts with transforming perceptions of black people, recognizing their humanity, and diversifying the ranks of suburban police departments, said the Rev. Clyde Brooks, chairman of the Arlington Heights-based Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations.

"Why is it that Arlington Heights has no sworn police officers who look like me?" asked Brooks, adding that many Northwest suburban towns have failed to address the issue. "Our area is ripe for trauma. If you don't have a policy (on diversity and inclusion), then no one is accountable. If diversity has value, if black life has value, why does it always take trauma to wake us up?"

White high school students carrying #BlackLivesMatter signs were among those attending a weekend protest in Arlington Heights.

The diversity of protesters marching for Floyd across the suburbs underscores the message of injustice is resonating with people of all backgrounds, said Michael Childress, president of the DuPage County NAACP.

"They are about as sick and tired of it as we are," he said, noting that the race riots of the early 1900s are what gave birth to the NAACP.

For Larkin High School graduate Marteen Mendel-Duckins, 18, of Elgin, the protests and riots highlight the harsh reality of racial divisiveness and stereotyping that persist in America as she steps into adulthood.

"It's a really scary time," she said. "We are striving toward our goals. It's very hard to do that when you see police brutality always on the news. It's hard to progress as people, if we're still being constantly put in this position. It's almost pushing us back when we should be moving forward."

SPORTS

---The Courier-News---06/03/2020

Bartlett's Schrader finds success on, off the court

By: John Lemon



Lindsay Schrader scoops in a basket during a win over Bolingbrook in the 2005 Class AA semifinals. She scored over 2,400 points at Bartlett before a stellar career at Notre Dame.

To everyone who remembers Lindsay Schrader as Illinois Ms. Basketball and a McDonald's All-American in 2005 at Bartlett, one of the best basketball players the suburbs and state has seen, the following might come as quite a surprise.

Schrader, now a district manager for major accounts at ADP in Seattle, said not only does she not play basketball casually these days, it's been six or seven years since she's even touched a basketball.

She needed a break from a sport that brought her so much.

"When you put so much effort into something for so long, I was done," Schrader said. "People say how can you just walk away from something that's been part of your life for so long?"

Honestly it's pretty easy. Because when you are consumed by something for so long it's good to take a breath."

Schrader averaged 22.4 points and 10.5 rebounds that senior year at Bartlett when the Hawks went 30-5 and reached the Class AA state championship game, losing a hard-fought 52-48 battle to Peoria Richwoods. She finished with a school-record 2,422 points.

Schrader continued at Notre Dame, a tri-captain of the Fighting Irish her final two seasons in South Bend. She scored 1,388 points in the 125 Notre Dame games she played.

After a couple coaching stints and an internship with the Big Ten, Schrader decided she was done with basketball and it was time to put her business degree to use. She went into sales and worked at United Rental for six years before moving to Seattle two years ago.

"I love it out here even though I miss my family," Schrader said. "I'm the one who spread my wings a little bit. The mountains, the hiking, my dog loves it."

Schrader said even if she wanted to play basketball again her body would tell her differently.

She also knows the memories of those special seasons at Bartlett will always be there.

"I definitely knew when I was done my senior year in college," Schrader said. "My body was breaking down. I've been paying for it ever since. I wake up and hurt.

"(High school) went by too fast. It's hard to believe how long ago it is now. Senior year we got far that year, put a lot of work into it. We didn't get the championship but we came close."

The Examiner of SOUTH ELGIN

Volume 16
Number 4

"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
June 3, 2020

More Storm seniors
impact their teams
See Page 7

Caputo's plan given
commission support
See Page 8

Mine operator seeking extension of work hours

By Frank Muisenga Jr.

At the Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, May 18, trustees provided mixed opinions while discussing a LafargeHolcim request to temporarily extend its above ground operations. The request proposed extending operating hours until 10 p.m., Monday through Friday, for six months at the mine located near the intersection of Stearns Road and McLean Boulevard.

The meeting was conducted remotely in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"LafargeHolcim sent us a letter requesting that the village consider temporarily extending the allowed operations of its above ground, dirt surface mining activities," said Director of Community Development Nancy Hill.

According to Hill, annexation agreements and special use permits allow

surface mining operations from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Sunday operations are prohibited. Below ground mining is allowed to operate 24 hours a day.

LafargeHolcim U.S. Land Manager John Fay said COVID-19 protocols have slowed down production.

COVID-19 has caused the company to create work restrictions and downscale operations in Illinois, according to LafargeHolcim's Head of Mid-America Region Yuliya Kravtsov.

"We're kindly asking the village to grant an emergency waiver for us to add an additional four hours to our above ground operation in order to continue to supply the important projects of our state, out of this quarry, while protecting our employees and suppliers and truck drivers that are coming to our site," said Kravtsov.

Kravtsov said the extended hours

would not increase truck traffic. The intent is to add to the site's supply, which would be transported during current operational hours.

Trustee Mike Kolodziej asked: "You wouldn't have the trucks there later, but would you have more trucks coming during the hours of truck operation because you would have more

product that would need to be trucked out?"

LafargeHolcim Regional Director of Land & Environment Randi Wille responded yes.

Kolodziej said he does not like the idea of added truck traffic in the village.

See Mine, pg. 5

Village Board approves pickup truck purchase

By Frank Muisenga Jr.

Trustees, at the Village Board meeting on Monday, June 1, unanimously approved a purchase not to exceed \$27,845 for a 2020 Dodge Ram 1500 Classic pickup truck from Bob Ridings Fleet Sales, Taylorville, Illinois. The meeting was held electronically due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Just want to let the board know, this is a different vehicle than we originally intended to replace and I'll tell you why," said Director of Public Works Mike Millette. "(Utility Services Manager Dan) Mann's truck is the one that's on the ERF (equipment replacement fund) for this year. Our mechanic looked at it and it's really not in bad shape."

Millette added that Mann's truck does not have high mileage, nor is it in need of maintenance.

"On the other hand, our water utility truck that the J.U.L.I.E. (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators) locator uses, is in not-good shape," Millette said. "It's showing some severe underbody rusting. We are afraid of some mechanic issues going forward."

According to Millette, staff determined a new pickup truck with a cap topper and standard toolbox was the best option to store J.U.L.I.E. supplies and equipment.

"So, that's what we're presenting, basically, a pickup truck with an enhanced cap on it," Millette said.

The Fiscal Year 2021 budget included \$31,989 to replace a 2012 Ford F-350, according to Millette, adding that Bob Ridings Fleet Sales is the state bid contractor being used for the fiscal year.



Well protected, socially distanced

An especially prepared man enjoyed a pleasant sunny afternoon Sunday, May 31, along the Fox River, while sporting a mask in response to the coronavirus pandemic and an umbrella as a shield from the sun. He also maintained more than an adequate 'social distance' from others.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

Summer program data announced by District U-46

By Seth Hancock

School District U-46 announced summer program information as well as its intent to continue providing taxpayer funded meals through the summer as the 2019-2020 school year ended last week.

The last day of school was Tuesday, May 26 as the year ended with distance learning due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

"This is not the last day of school that any of us envisioned," Superintendent Tony Sanders wrote in a message. "Our world has changed since school doors closed on March 13 and we have all had to adapt and learn a new way of teaching and learning - while also providing comfort and care - and staying safe and socially distant. Our planning for next school year is underway, though much of it depends on the guidance we expect to receive from state and federal authorities."

The previous week, U-46 announced that virtual summer school would begin for secondary students on June 8,

and Sanders stated the same would be for elementary summer school.

"Our virtual elementary summer programming also begins on June 8th," Sanders said. "We will communicate with select elementary students who are eligible for engaging distance learning opportunities this summer."

The district will continue to conduct its summer reading challenge along with public libraries while online resources used for distance learning will be available to all students through the summer.

The district's summer program SAFE has been cancelled "due to our current and foreseeable restrictions on in-person activities and gatherings, in compliance with State Board of Education guidelines," Sanders wrote.

Recently, the district announced that it had reached 1 million taxpayer funded meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner, snack) to anyone, no questions asked or paperwork needed, and Sanders stated that U-46 "will continue to distribute meals at 14 sites

through at least July 31."

Health requirements were also posted for students for the 2020-2021 school year with one change being a

requirement for incoming freshmen to complete a dental exam. Dental exams were already required for first, second and sixth graders.



A sign in front of South Elgin's Willard Elementary School announcing the continuation of the free U-46 meals program being extended into summer. The meals will be available at all schools throughout the district.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

Varied proposals passed at U-46 board meeting

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved, \$2 million in expenditure proposals as well as a secondary arts resources curriculum proposal at its meeting on Monday, May 18 which was held electronically due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

Expenditure proposals set for District U-46 vote

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 will vote on \$744,131 in expenditure proposals at its upcoming June 1 meeting. The items were presented at the Monday, May 18 meeting which was held virtually due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

Included are two proposals the district expects the nation's taxpayers to fund through the federal CARES Act. That act was meant to help businesses, including those deemed "nonessential" by the government, that have been harmed due to the shutdown, but schools are also receiving the bailout funds.

Included in those is \$194,831 with Learning A to Z for its distance learning resources and \$40,000 with Notable, Inc., also for distance learning resources.

"U-46 currently is currently implementing distance learning for all students Early Childhood through 12th grade," the Learning A to Z proposal states. "As we have implemented distance learning we have identified the need for online-based guided readers in English and Spanish especially for our younger students."

The Notable, Inc. proposal states: "When we began distance learning in March of 2020 a gap was immediately identified. When students and teachers left the buildings, they did not know we would not be returning. This meant that many teachers and stu-

The secondary arts proposal concerned a curriculum update approved last year. It is for purchasing resources at an estimated price of \$1.7 million including \$815,236 for technology and \$500,000 for capital improvements including classroom remodels, and there is an estimated \$120,000 annual cost for consumable items.

dents did not take relevant learning materials such as their Eureka Math Modules."

To replace 100 smartboards and mounted balance boxes, the district is asking for \$232,300 with TIERNEY for the smartboards and \$110,000 with PACE Systems, Inc. to be paid through the education fund if approved.

Sue Kerr, the board's president, said the smartboards being replaced were nine to 15 years old and asked how often they are replaced. Laura Macias, director of information services, said there is an age and obsolescence plan and "these are the oldest," but she added more replacements will be asked for next year.

With Mind Research Institute, the district is asking for \$102,000 (education fund) for a contract renewal for ST math intervention resources. Last year's cost was \$131,768.

Costing \$65,000 (education fund), the district is seeking a contract with BlueStreak Education for a math intervention to replace FASTT math, which will be discontinued this July. FASTT math cost \$75,000 last year.

Additionally, the board will vote on a resolution allowing the display and public hearing on the Northern Kane County Regional Vocational System budget for Fiscal Year 2021. The tentative budget is expected to be presented on June 15, a public hearing to be held on July 20 and a final board vote on Aug. 3.

"The instructional resources recommended in this proposal will be the tools and materials necessary to create, present, connect, and respond to the artforms taught in the various adopted courses," the proposal states.

The board approved \$1.4 million, from the transportation fund, with Midwest Transit Equipment to purchase 20 used large replacement buses. All of the buses will come from Round Lake School District 116 and have fewer than 20,000 miles as well as a three-year engine warranty and a five-year transmission warranty.

Costing \$170,400 (operations and maintenance fund), the district will purchase four sets of portable bleachers from Bleachers International to be used at all U-46 high schools. The proposal states that Bartlett and South Elgin high schools have consistently been renting portable bleachers in recent years with rental costs as high as \$10,000 for a single event.

The board approved of \$135,344, to be paid for by the nation's taxpayers through grant funds, with Crossland Literacy-Okapi Educational Publish-

ing to purchase reading comprehension cross cat resources.

With SolarWinds, the board approved of a three-year contract renewal costing \$86,421 (education fund).

"This agreement is used for monitoring the district's 640 network devices and over 45,000 interfaces at 59 campuses such as network switches/routers/security access devices, phones and phone system servers," the proposal states. "In addition, each device's processes and functions are being monitored/detected and advance warnings are provided when issues are identified. Also, this system performs all backups for our switching and routing devices on a daily basis."

U-46 will spend \$83,991 (education fund) for a three-year contract renewal with Catalogic Software for maintenance and backups "to support the protection of the district's data," the proposal states.

Costing \$35,584 (education fund), the board approved of a software renewal with Frontline Education which concerns the district's human resources information system.

Reflecting on seniors from Hawks girls sports teams

By Seth Hancock

This is the second of two stories highlighting Bartlett senior athletes.

The COVID-19 shutdown has led to the loss of spring athletics meaning seniors lost out on their final seasons, but those seniors have dedicated years and will leave lasting impacts to their respective programs.

The Bartlett girls programs will lose 26 seniors, both athletes and managers.

The Hawks soccer program will lose two seniors, varsity captains Maddie Donnelly and Christina Mondelli.

On what was supposed to be the soccer team's senior night game earlier in May, coach Vince Revak said the team organized a car parade and left gifts and made videos for the two graduates. "Nothing can replace a senior night game, but I think that this will still be a memorable sendoff for them," Revak said.

Revak added: "It's hard to be anything other than disappointed when you even think of the phrase 'lost season.' We were excited to see how we've developed from last season, as well as see some new players in action. I can't imagine losing a season as a player, let alone a senior season."

The softball program at Bartlett will also lose two seniors, Erika Rosberg and Riley Scrivner.

"These two seniors were focused and ready to lead the team to a solid season," said Hawks softball coach Jim

Wolfsmith. "They are great young women who have grown as students, softball players and people. I am so proud of how they led us in the pre-season and during our brief season. I will miss the chance to coach them in their senior year."

The Hawks track and field team will lose seven athletes including Lucy Beck, Olivia Bozinovich, Katherine Garay, Roxanna Perez, Madelyn Polly, Biak Sung and Jenna Hasenstein. It will also lose two managers, Dhruvi Patel and Hanna Farley.

"Just when we were starting to come together and witness team chemistry evolving, their season was cut short," said Bartlett track coach Jaron Baker. "These girls are more than just student athletes. They are teammates, friends, and leaders."

Baker added: "The coaching staff hopes each one of the seniors understands that they were the heart of this program. We will truly miss them and they will always be part of our Hawk family."

The badminton team will lose five athletes including Nicole Bac, Mia Hanrahan, Elaina Hernandez, Jessica Morrissey and Jullia Pawa along with three managers in Angel Guzman, Kevin Correa Castro and Adam Smith. The lacrosse team will lose five seniors in Nicole Helgesen, Rachel Hovious, Sophie Praxmarer, Kailey Halterman and Savanna Waghorne.

Parent group organizes parade to honor Bartlett Class of 2020

According to a press release issued by a group of parents with Bartlett High School senior students, a car parade honoring the Bartlett High School Class of 2020 is scheduled for Saturday, June 13 starting at 10:30 a.m.

The parade route will start at the Metra Train Station parking lot at the corner of S. Eastern Avenue and W. Oneida Avenue and end by driving the circular drive around the high school. The exact route will be communicated at a later time. Families, friends, and area residents are encouraged to line the parade route to cheer on the graduating seniors.

"As proud parents of the BHS Class of 2020, we want to celebrate their achievements and recognize them publicly even though they weren't able to attend their original graduation ceremony," said Mary Connors, one of the parent organizers. "This class unfortunately endured many disappointments as their senior year ended, but we hope this parade creates a lasting, positive memory as they move forward in their lives."

All Bartlett High School seniors are invited to participate in the parade by wearing their caps and gowns, decorating their cars, and having a parent or family member drive the car while the senior sits in the front passenger seat. Photographers will be positioned along the parade route to capture the event, and photos will be available for downloading afterward. All state-issued guidelines for social distancing and wearing masks if outside the cars should be followed.



Bartlett Park District's

Park Bench

...have a seat and we'll fill you in

Park District Coronavirus Update – Greeting Friends,

We are very excited to be moving into Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois Plan which will allow us to open additional outdoor facilities and start summer programs. Outlined is a brief update on facilities and programs.

Summer Camps and Programs Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois plan is allowing the Park District to begin offering a variety of summer programs and camps with strict safety guidelines in place for both participants and staff. For the month of June all programs will be limited to 10 participants – once we move into Phase 4 we will expand these programs to allow more participants. We will also be offering virtual programs to those who prefer to stay home. Specific information about summer programs and registration is on our website.

Fitness Classes and Personal Training Group fitness classes will be held outside in early June in accordance the requirements of Phase 3. Classes will be limited to 10 participants. Information will be available on our website. One on One Personal Training will be offered starting mid-June.

LIFECENTER Health & Fitness Club Phase 3 does not include opening LIFECENTER for members to workout. Phase 4 will allow for the opening of the Health Club. We are hopeful Phase 4 will happen in early July.

Splash Central Indoor Pool At this time the indoor pool remains closed.

We are waiting for guidelines from the Illinois Department of Public Health about opening for swim lessons, lap swimming, and aquatic-based fitness programs.

Basketball Courts and Skate Park Outdoor basketball courts and the skate park have reopened. We encourage everyone to continue social distancing and limit the number of people playing/skating at one time. The tennis courts are already open for recreational play.

Golf Courses Both the Apple Orchard Golf Course and Villa Olivia golf courses were opened on May 1 with restrictions. New restrictions are in place to ensure the safety of the players and staff. Tee times are required to play – please call the course to make a tee time.

Parks All Playgrounds remain closed – we are hopeful that these will open in Phase 4. All trails are open for walking, running, and bike riding. Fishing is allowed. No organized athletic competitions can be played at our parks.

Bartlett Aquatic Center / Spray Playgrounds Bartlett Aquatic Center and spray playgrounds will not open for the 2020 season.

We are looking forward to creating fun again and cannot wait to see you back in our parks and programs. Please visit our website: www.bartlett-parks.org for additional information as it becomes available.

Rita Fletcher, Executive Director

Varied proposals passed at U-46 board meeting

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved, \$2 million in expenditure proposals as well as a secondary arts resources curriculum proposal at its meeting on Monday, May 18 which was held electronically due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

The secondary arts proposal concerned a curriculum update approved last year. It is for purchasing resources at an estimated price of \$1.7 million including \$815,236 for technology and \$500,000 for capital improvements including classroom remodels, and there is an estimated \$120,000 annual cost for consumable items.

"The instructional resources recommended in this proposal will be the tools and materials necessary to create, present, connect, and respond to the artforms taught in the various

adopted courses," the proposal states.

The board approved \$1.4 million, from the transportation fund, with Midwest Transit Equipment to purchase 20 used large replacement buses. All of the buses will come from Round Lake School District 116 and have fewer than 20,000 miles as well as a three-year engine warranty and a five-year transmission warranty.

Costing \$170,400 (operations and maintenance fund), the district will purchase four sets of portable bleachers from Bleachers International to be used at all U-46 high schools. The proposal states that Bartlett and South Elgin high schools have consistently been renting portable bleachers in recent years with rental costs as high as \$10,000 for a single event.

The board approved of \$135,344, to be paid for by the nation's taxpayers through grant funds, with Crossland

Literacy-Okapi Educational Publishing to purchase reading comprehension cross cat resources.

With SolarWinds, the board approved of a three-year contract renewal costing \$86,421 (education fund).

"This agreement is used for monitoring the district's 640 network devices and over 45,000 interfaces at 59 campuses such as network switches/routers/security access devices, phones and phone system servers," the proposal states. "In addition, each device's processes and functions are being monitored/detected and advance warnings are provided when is-

ssues are identified. Also, this system performs all backups for our switching and routing devices on a daily basis."

U-46 will spend \$83,991 (education fund) for a three-year contract renewal with Catalogic Software for maintenance and backups "to support the protection of the district's data," the proposal states.

Costing \$35,584 (education fund), the board approved of a software renewal with Frontline Education which concerns the district's human resources information system.

Also approved unanimously was \$8.3 million in itemized bills.

Dist. U-46 Board approves minutes status, expenses

By Seth Hancock

The minutes of 13 closed session meetings and the approval to destroy 15 closed session audio recordings was approved in School District U-46 by the Board of Education.

The board approved the items at its May 4 meeting, held virtually due to the COVID-19 shutdown, with a 6-0 vote, board member Veronica Noland was absent.

Sue Kerr, the board's president, said "the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of closed session minutes" and will "remain confidential."

The minutes approved ranged from meetings on Sept. 23, 2019 to March 9 this year. The audio recordings to be destroyed ranged from closed session meetings from April 23, 2018 to Oct. 15, 2018.

Additionally, the board unanimously approved \$1.3 million in expenditure proposals at the meeting.

The largest item was a three-year contract renewal with APEX Learning at a cost of \$620,625 to come from the education fund.

"Students who fail a graduation requirement are more at risk to drop out of school," the proposal states. "APEX Learning allows a student to take a graduation requirement online, under the supervision of a certified teacher, to recover the lost graduation requirement. We also offer APEX Learning as a part of our blended learning model for our alternative schools."

Three items, all from the operations and maintenance fund, were approved concerning individual school projects the largest being \$418,870 with Lorusso Cement Contractors, Inc. for exterior waterproofing, foundation wall insulation repairs and sidewalk and drainage improvements at Streamwood High School.

A sidewalk and drainage improvement project will take place at Elgin's Washington Elementary School with Landmark Contractors, Inc. costing \$107,938. A sound system project for Elgin's Larsen Middle School's gymnasium will cost \$56,739 with Advanced Communications, Inc.

The district will spend \$57,449 (transportation fund) with Sutton Ford to purchase a service truck.

The board formally approved an already made purchase with School Specialty costing \$39,000 to give backpacks with items, such as glue sticks and number boards, to preschoolers. The district expects to be reimbursed by the nation's taxpayers through the recent federal CARES Act, a bill with the stated purpose of helping businesses that were shutdown by the government over COVID-19.

Superintendent Tony Sanders said the district would make the "emergency purchase" before the May 4 vote stating he was given the authority to do so after the board suspending policies due to the shutdown.

Also approved 6-0 was \$9.4 million in itemized bills.

Missing woman's body found at Blackwell Forest Preserve

According to the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, an autopsy on Thursday, May 28, confirmed the body found in the West Branch DuPage River at Blackwell Forest Preserve Wednesday, May 27, is that of an 18-year-old West Chicago woman who was swept away by the flooded river on May 15.

The preliminary cause of death was drowning, according to the DuPage County Coroner Dr. Richard Jorgensen.

Anna DeJong was walking her two dogs at Winfield Mounds Forest Preserve in Winfield when she was swept away by the flooded river as she walked through waist-high water on a pedestrian bridge.

Searchers rescued one dog on May 15 the second dog's body remains were recovered on May 21 in the river at Winfield Mounds.

More than 100 search-and-rescue

personnel and volunteers scoured the West Branch DuPage River from Winfield to Warrenville May 15 and 16 in search of the woman, using boats equipped with sonar and infrared-equipped underwater drones.

On May 27 two DuPage Forest Preserve police officers searching the waterway in a kayak found DeJong's body in the river in West Chicago just south of Mack Road about five-plus miles downriver from Winfield Mounds. West Chicago and Warrenville fire departments assisted with the recovery.

"On behalf of the Forest Preserve District, I would like to send our sincere condolences to her family and friends," said Forest Preserve District Police Chief David Pederson. "All of us are truly saddened by today's news, and our appreciation goes to all of the first responders and volunteers who worked so tirelessly to find her."

More Storm athletes leave their enduring mark

By Seth Hancock

This is the second of two stories highlighting Storm senior athletes.

The COVID-19 shutdown has led to the loss of spring athletics meaning seniors lost out on their final seasons, but those seniors have dedicated years and will leave lasting impacts to their respective programs.

The South Elgin girls programs will lose 41 seniors, both athletes and managers.

The Storm softball team will lose three players including McKenna Eichholz, Kaylie Humes and Sophia Salazar as well as manager Anna Winterhalder.

"Our three seniors mean the world to our program," said South Elgin softball coach Brad Reynard. "We were coming off a season where we lost three all-conference seniors from the year before so these girls were ready to make a mark of their own since we won back-to-back conference championships."

Reynard added: "They set up all off-season workouts, rallied for fundraising and were our go-to leaders of the program. It was finally their chance to lead. Personally, for me it's been very difficult. In 23 seasons as a head coach, this is something I never thought we would have to deal with, a cancelled season."

The track and field team at South Elgin will lose five athletes in Adrienne Adams, Asia Bullocks, India Bullocks, Jenna Cochran and Kristin Delaney as well as manager Kellie Flanagan.

Storm track coach Tushebra Crump

spoke directly to her seniors: "My heart goes out to each and every one of you. I know that the cancellation of our season was hard for all of us to come to grips with. I truly believe that this season was supposed to be our season of great successes. All of you have put in tons of hard work and given great efforts over the past four years."

Crump added: "I want you all to take pride in being the student athletes that you are, and cherish all of the memories that we have created together as a team. As your coach I could not be prouder of each and every one of you. I wish you all the best of luck in the pursuit of all of your goals and aspirations. Know that I will always be there for you and that you all will be truly missed."

The badminton team will lose 12 including Allison Cuniffe, Amtul Farah, Danzel Gerona, Jennifer Ketdy, Jordan Lenox, Isabella McManus, Alexandra Polly, Abby Stoner, Haley Szymczak, Karolina Terlikowski, Caroline Thompson and Emily Zozokos.

The lacrosse team will lose nine in Casey Byrne, Lauren Byrne, Shannon Martin, Madison Procnier, Alyssa Raval, Rebecca Reinhofer, Sarah Seabolt, Heather Tutak and Rielly Vanis.

The soccer team will lose 10 including Danielle Kucharski, Kaleigh LaRue, Taylor Latsonas, Kayla Mathis, Megan McClure, Haley Molitor, Nicole Peeters, Olivia Piaskowy, Brianna Saenz and Isabella Tusa.

Kane County Treasurer asks for funds to supply PPE gear

At the Wednesday, May 27 meeting of the Coronavirus Relief Fund Task Force, Kane County Treasurer David Rickert requested the release of up to \$5,000,000 in CARES Act funds for the purchase and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) to Kane County residents.

"At this time we need to make sure our citizens at risk have the necessary supplies to safeguard against the COVID-19 virus," said Rickert. "I pledge my full cooperation to work with our health department to ensure the most vulnerable in our community receive this assistance."

This request shall now be submitted for approval at the Wednesday, June 3 meeting of the Kane County Board Executive Committee. If agreed upon, it will then advance to the full board for consideration on June 9.

Once approved, Barb Jeffers, head of the county health department, would be in charge of this program. The PPE kits would include hand sanitizer, protective masks and gloves. In addition, other COVID-19 health related items may be included such as first aid supplies.

Under the CARES Act, the federal

government has provided Kane County with \$92.9 million in funds that can only be used for certain necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



www.bazosfreeman.com

AARON H. REINKE, ESQ.

Attorney at law serving the Bartlett Community

areinke@bazosfreeman.com

1250 Larkin Avenue

Suite 100

Elgin, IL 60123

847-841-2024

Reflecting on seniors from Sabres girls sports teams

By Seth Hancock

This is the second of two stories highlighting Streamwood senior athletes.

The COVID-19 shutdown has led to the loss of spring athletics meaning seniors lost out on their final seasons, but those seniors have dedicated years and will leave lasting impacts to their respective programs.

The Streamwood girls programs will lose 34 senior athletes.

The Sabres softball team will lose five seniors including Gabby Cardinale, Holley Calvin-Garcia, Gabby Byers, Isabela Camahalan and Lindsay Fowler.

"The five girls were exceptional leaders on and off the field," said

Streamwood softball coach Colleen Hill. "Together they accepted the challenge of a new coaching staff and carried the torch for future generations of Sabres. Despite never stepping foot on the dirt this year they continued working hard toward their goals and keeping the team together through social distancing."

The soccer program at Streamwood will lose seven seniors in Lesley Jimenez, Gyselle Delgado, Alex Meza, Adamari Jimenez, Monserat Gonzales, Jatziry Mazon and Pari Patel.

"This year's senior class meant a lot to me because they have been a part of the girls soccer program at Streamwood High School for all four years,"

said Sabres soccer coach Kristin Duffy. "Not only did they strive on the soccer field, but they were always dedicated to their academics as well. Their leadership qualities will be missed greatly."

Duffy added: "Having made it to every offseason conditioning session, they made it a priority to help their younger teammates succeed on and off the field. The senior class have had a huge impact on our girls soccer program because through their hard work, dedication and passion they have instilled their strong work ethic into their younger teammates. I am thankful for their hard work and for shaping our program with these qualities. The seniors are a fantastic

group of girls, and I know they will go far in life with all their qualities they have shown over the last four years."

The Streamwood badminton team will lose 13 seniors including Isabella Anibarro, Clare DeJesus, Yesenia Gonzalez, Lynise Gutierrez, Emily Hinson, Shivani Khanna, Natalia Lopez, Carla Magpayo, Charmi Parikh, Prachi Patel, Jessica Robles, Maya Wilson and Kyla Zolina.

The Sabres track and field team will lose nine seniors including Giulia Boschi, Deanna Dickens, Maryluz Gonzalez, Alayzia Hairston-El, Vanessa Hammond, Victoria Kopko, Jessica Mendoza, Ivy Mrugala and Veronica Viruel.

Lawmaker soliciting support to have governor removed

By Rebecca Anzel

Capitol News Illinois

An Illinois lawmaker dissatisfied with Gov. JB Pritzker's handling of the large number of COVID-19-relat-

being "left behind" in the state budget meant officials were unprepared to handle complications caused by the pandemic.

The department's website was de-

state government instead of hollow it out the way he has voted over the course of his career."

Illinois' Constitution provides an avenue for lawmakers and voters to recall a governor. It was added to the governing document in 2010 and was an initiative of former Gov. Pat Quinn, said Ann Lousin, a professor at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago who helped draft the Constitution five decades ago.

But there are many big hurdles to getting a recall question to voters.

First, 30 legislators — 20 representatives and 10 senators, half from each party — must sign an affidavit supporting the motion to remove a governor from office. Once officials from the State Board of Elections certify that notice to circulate a petition, voters may weigh in with their signature.

At least 636,825 residents — or, 15 percent of the votes cast in the guber-

natorial election — have 150 days to sign the petition for it to be successful. There also must be at least 25 counties with 100 signatures among those on the petition.

If those requirements are met, a special election on whether to recall the governor must be held within 100 days of the petitions' certification. A special election with candidates from "established" political parties — currently, only Democrats and Republicans — would also occur concurrently.

The Constitution provides that once a governor survives a recall vote, there may not be another challenge during "the remainder of the current term of office."

Skillicorn said Tuesday he began the process to gain lawmaker support. He said he already secured three representatives' support and "fully (plans) to be able to get the full 30 we need."

State emission test locations reopened effective June 1

Illinois EPA Director John J. Kim announced on Friday, May 29, the agency was resuming vehicle emissions testing at most Illinois Air Team testing locations on June 1. The agency suspended operations on March 21, to aid in the state's efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Illinois. Extensive precautions are in place at Air Team testing locations and follow Illinois Department of Public Health COVID-19 workplace guidelines to protect motorists and staff.

"Consistent with Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois Plan, the Vehicle Emissions Testing Program is preparing to resume operations on Monday, June 1, with a top priority of protecting motorists and personnel," said Kim. "This will be a phased-in approach as we work to test vehicles that were due for testing when operations were suspended nearly 10 weeks ago."

All Illinois Air Team testing stations will be open with the exception of the Markham and Waukegan locations. In cooperation with Applus Technologies, Illinois EPA's vehicle emissions testing contractor, these locations have been utilized for COVID-19 drive-through testing as part of the ongoing efforts to provide COVID-19 testing. These two locations will reopen in the near future. For a list of available emissions testing locations, motorists may visit <http://illinoisairteam.net>.

In order to reduce traffic volume and motorist wait time at testing locations, the Illinois EPA is recommending motorists with a March or earlier vehicle registration expiration date have their vehicles tested in the month of June. Vehicle registration expiration dates have been extended without penalty by at least 90 days, allowing motorists to wait to have their vehicles tested

and renew vehicle registrations.

With the extension of vehicle expiration dates, motorists who are not comfortable visiting an Air Team testing location at this time may have testing completed at a later date, or may have someone else bring the vehicle in for emissions testing. In addition, Illinois EPA encourages those 65 and older, healthcare workers, first responders, and those with pre-existing health conditions to visit Air Team testing locations during the first testing hour of each day (8 to 9 a.m., Monday through Friday and 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. on Saturdays).

The Illinois EPA is monitoring the COVID-19 crisis and relying on public health guidelines in the re-opening of vehicle emissions testing stations. Special precautions to protect motorists and staff include:

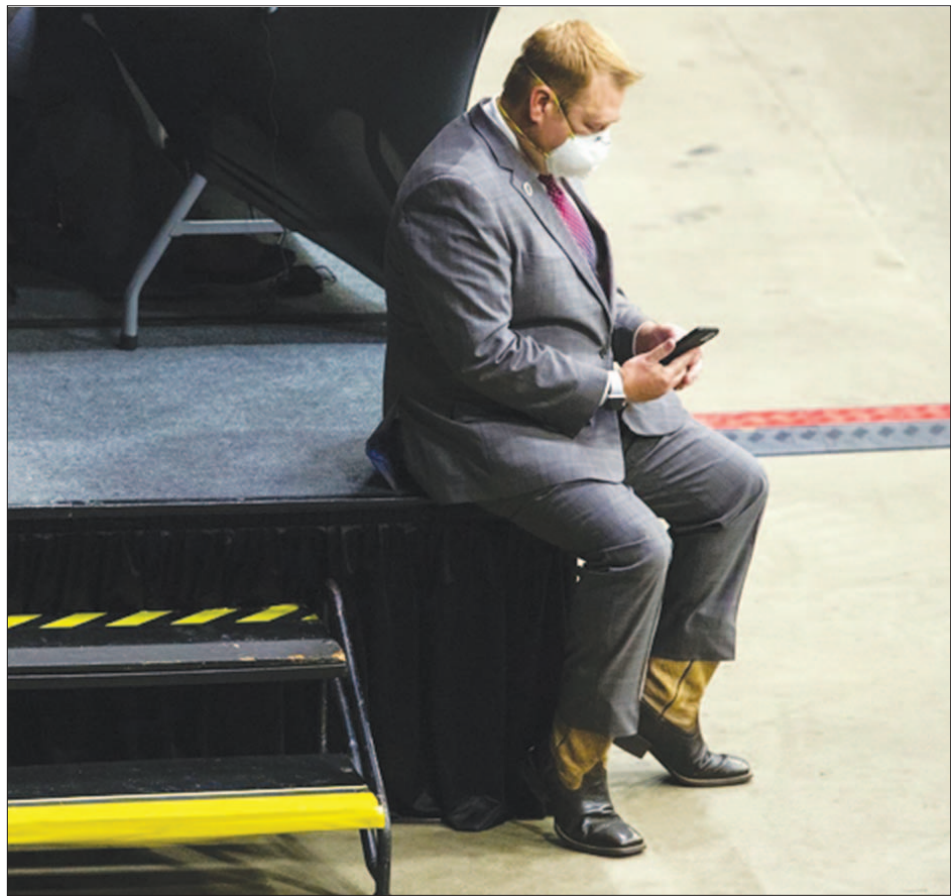
Illinois Air Team Staff will:

- Wear masks at all times;
- Practice social distancing;
- Clean and disinfect testing stations regularly; and
- Minimize contact with vehicles.

Motorists are asked to do their part to keep us all safe and abide by the following:

- Do not visit an Air Team testing location if you are currently under self-quarantine, isolation or if you are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms;
- One person per vehicle and no pets;
- Wear face coverings; and
- Practice social distancing and follow the procedures in place at Air Team testing locations.

Additional information and updates will be made available on the Illinois Air Team website at <http://illinoisairteam.net>. Motorists may also call the Air Team Call Center at 844-258-9071.



Republican Rep. Allen Skillicorn, of Crystal Lake.

(Courtesy photo)

ed unemployment claims is calling on his colleagues to support an effort to remove the governor from office.

Republican Rep. Allen Skillicorn, of Crystal Lake, said lack of staffing at the Illinois Department of Employment Security and its website's disclosure of sensitive information is evidence of Pritzker's "continued inaction."

After issuing a news release notifying residents of his initiative, Skillicorn told reporters in a video news conference Tuesday he "would actually prefer to avoid coverage."

"This is a nonpartisan issue. This is about the people of Illinois," he said. "This is not my voice, it's the voice of over 1 million people in Illinois that are now unemployed. ...It's not about me. It's not about my party."

The representative, who said his constituents contact him daily about their challenges in getting unemployment claims processed, said he will drop his effort to recall Pritzker if the governor better secures IDES's website and hires more call center agents.

But Pritzker on Tuesday said it is not that easy.

No one could "possibly anticipate that we would have a number of unemployment filings that was an enormous multiple of that which occurred during the Great Recession" in 2008, he said during his daily COVID-19 press briefing in Chicago. Those claims coupled with decades of IDES

signed 10 years ago, the governor added. The state since hired Deloitte, a third-party private firm, to upgrade its capabilities "as quickly as we could."

On May 15, officials detected a security issue — the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance portal had a "glitch" that allowed one resident filing a claim to view personal information of more than 32,000 Illinoisans.

"In typical Chicago Democrat fashion, the governor decided the best way to fix the website was to hand out a lavish no-bid contract," Skillicorn said in a written statement. "Now secure data has been unleashed into the public domain. It is an epic failure."

The department and Deloitte worked to "quickly correct the issue and conduct an investigation and analysis," according to a news release.

And the number of call center agents was increased "modestly," the governor added, due to restrictions implemented by the federal government. Those who process unemployment claims over the phone must receive rigorous training because those agents handle private information.

Skillicorn accused the governor of "minimizing" the IDES issues.

Pritzker, in a response to a reporter's question Tuesday, said he is "glad to hear that the representative ... apparently believes that we need to fund