

Press Clippings 08/09/21

--Daily Herald---08/09/2021

Second Bartlett High School teen dies after Tuesday's single-vehicle crash
by Barbara Vitello



A second **Bartlett High School** student involved in a single-vehicle crash Tuesday has died, according to a social media post by an Elgin Area School District U-46 official.

Cameron Kelty, 16, died Friday, **U-46 CEO Tony Sanders** wrote.

"Please keep all of the students and families involved in this tragedy in your thoughts and prayers," he said.

Kelty was one of four 16-year-old boys riding in the car.

Alex E. Czerwik, who was sitting in the front passenger seat, died from his injuries at the scene of the crash, which took place about 9:15 p.m. Tuesday.

Authorities say the car was traveling west on Devon Avenue from Newport Boulevard, east of Newport Lane in Bartlett, when it struck a curb, a speed limit sign and a utility pole before rolling over onto its roof.

All the occupants had to be extricated from the car. The driver suffered injuries that were not life-threatening and was taken to St. Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates, along with another injured boy. Another injured teen was taken to Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield.

The cause of the crash is under investigation, police said.

All the teens were Bartlett High School students and football players, according to a social media post by the Bartlett Raiders, a nonprofit youth football and cheerleading organization.

--Chicago Tribune---08/09/2021

A second Bartlett High School student has died, following Tuesday night car crash, school says

By Maya Mokh

NOTE: This article was also published in The Courier-News

The [single-vehicle crash](#) that left [Bartlett High School](#) student Alex Czerwick dead has claimed the life of another student.

Cameron Kelty has died, according to a message sent to parents on Friday morning by the school principal, [Michael Demovsky](#).

“No words can convey the depth of our sorrow over the loss of another young life,” the principal said.

According to a news release on Wednesday, police responded about 9:15 p.m. to a crash in which a 16-year-old boy was driving with three other Bartlett High School students before the “vehicle struck a curb, a speed limit sign and a utility pole before rolling over.”

The conditions of the other two involved in the crash were not available Friday afternoon.

The school is continuing to provide grief counseling for affected students and parents, and urges parents to stay informed in order to talk to their children about death if they have questions, according to Demovsky.

--Daily Herald---08/09/2021
StoryWalks bring books outside in Elgin
by Rick West



Lauryn Ellis, 3, of Elgin reacts to a page while taking a StoryWalk with her mom Felicia at Lords Park in Elgin on Thursday. The Elgin Partnership for Early Learning and Alignment Collaborative for Education have used a grant to make bilingual StoryWalks they can deploy around town. The StoryWalks are deconstructed picture books on signs and kids walk from one page to the next. One side of the sign is English and the other Spanish. *Rick West | Staff Photographer*

A new program in Elgin makes it possible for kids to enjoy the outdoors and read a book at the same time.

The Elgin Partnership for Early Learning (EPEL) and Alignment Collaborative for Education hosted their first StoryWalk on Thursday at Lords Park. The StoryWalk features a picture book broken down by pages and mounted on metal frames along a path. Kids walk from page to page to read the story. The book is offered in English on one side and Spanish on the other.

"The thing I like about a StoryWalk is that it's an innovative way to explore literature and not just your regular book," said Amber Peters, executive director of EPEL. "It gets you out in nature, which I think is important for kids because you learn through being outside and in the community."

EPEL is a nonprofit organization working to ensure children have access to quality early care and education in Elgin and the surrounding neighborhoods. It partners with other area stakeholders to provide resources, early childhood initiatives, information, and support for families and providers for children under 5 years of age.

Four stories were chosen by the Gail Borden Public Library to use on the StoryWalks, each with about 18 pages. Peters said the library chose stories that were culturally and linguistically responsive and inclusive, while offering readers colorful pages to interact with while building critical kindergarten reading skills and boosting brain development.

Reaching young kids before they start their formal schooling is important, said Kathleen Cox, director of early learning for **Elgin Area School District U-46**. She also sits on EPEL's board.

"Eighty-five percent of a child's brain development happens before their fifth birthday, so the more work the school district does partnering with child care providers to get the same message out about language development and social skills, the stronger all of our kids are going to be when they come in to school."

Copyright issues prevented EPEL from using reproductions of the pages, so they bought a couple of copies of each book and broke them down, laminated the pages and mounted them on boards that are inserted in the frames that can be stuck in the grass. The program is funded by a collaborative partner grant written to Making Kane County Fit for Kids, Kiwanis of Elgin, and Elgin Township.

The plan is to have story walks where their audience is already gathered, be it block parties, city events, or, like Thursday, near a Gail Borden story time at Lords Park Zoo. Peters said people can reserve the story walk materials for family parties or school events. "They're for the community to use," she said.

Peters said StoryWalks is a perfect fit for EPEL's "learning on the go" model.

"These movable story walks allow us to relocate them to different locations during the year," she said. "Anywhere you go, there's opportunity to learn. It's just a matter of you engaging the child."