

Press Clippings 9/26/2018

---Daily Herald---9/26/18

Elgin students to lead walking tour of historic black neighborhood

By Madhu Krishnamurthy



Fourth- through sixth-graders at Ronald D. O'Neal Elementary School will host a community walking tour Friday highlighting the early black residents of the Elgin neighborhood home to the school. *Courtesy of Elgin Area School District U-46*

Students at Ronald D. O'Neal Elementary School in Elgin will sponsor a community walking tour Friday highlighting the neighborhood's black heritage and cultural significance.

The Project 2-3-1 Community Walking Tour, from 9 a.m. to noon, is inspired by the acclaimed documentary film of the same name telling the story of the Civil War "contrabands" -- captured southern slaves who became the first black residents of Elgin.

Fourth- through sixth-graders at O'Neal have been researching the people and historic homes in the East Side neighborhood of Hill, Gifford, Fremont and Hickory streets where those first residents settled. Students will share their research during the tour.

Residents can join the tour anytime during the three hours. Maps will be available outside the front entrance of the school at 510 Franklin Blvd.

"We think attendees will come away with a renewed sense of pride in this beautiful neighborhood," Principal Marcie Marzullo said.

At the end of the tour, attendees are invited to meet at Clara Howard Park on Fremont Street between Hill and Gifford to share stories and reconnect with friends.

At 1 p.m., visitors can return to the O'Neal gymnasium for light refreshments and to watch the documentary "[Project 2-3-1: Two Boxcars, Three Blocks, One City -- A Story of Elgin's African American Heritage.](#)" A traveling exhibit associated with the film will be on display at the school.

The 75-minute documentary traces the history of the slaves who arrived in Elgin in 1862 in two boxcars and settled in three blocks on the city's east side and describes how they and their descendants grew to become part of the city.

"It's history that needs to be shared, and this is a great way to do it," said Ernie Broadnax, an Elgin community leader, lifelong resident of the neighborhood and a driving force behind the documentary's creation.

---The Courier-News---9/26/18

U46 outlines academy planning

District pushes back start date to 2021-22 school year

By Rafael Guerrero

School District U46 high schools will each have five career academies and one magnet academy beginning in the 2021-22 school year, district officials said Monday.

The Elgin area district narrowed its focus on what a high school model of career pathways and career academies could look like at Monday's school board meeting. The target date is now the 2021-22 school year, a year later than originally planned.

Administrators and educators in the district's team on career pathways and academies acknowledged Monday that public feedback on the ambitious plan has been mixed.

Some of the complaints included that the timeline was rushed, the middle school component of the plan was happening too quickly, students wishing to attend their home high school might not be able to do so, among others.

"We want you to know that we heard you," said Bartlett High School Principal Mike Demovsky. "Here is what we are doing to address these concerns: We will slow down, we are taking another year."

Under the revised plan from U46, each high school will have five identical career academies: STEM, arts, humanities, liberal arts and business. The decision makes it easier for students to attend their home high school and guarantees them a spot at their home school if they wish, Demovsky said.

Some of the pathways within the academies, though, will vary by school. A student pursuing welding as a career path would need to attend Elgin High School, for instance, as Elgin houses the welding lab.

"While we have identified the academies at each site, we are still in the process of identifying all of the pathways that will be housed at each site," said Lela Majstorovic,

U46's assistant superintendent for secondary schools instruction and equity. "We will be developing a framework to help us determine which pathways we have the capacity to currently implement, which pathways need to be written, and what the long-term process will be to add pathways in the future."

The pathways model would go into effect beginning with the high school freshmen of the 2021-22 school year. Middle schoolers would undergo the decision-making process of which pathway to pursue in the 2020 school year.

Majstorovic said students will have more entry and exit points than in the previous proposal to leave and/or join another career pathway, addressing concerns teenagers would be forced to follow a career route from middle school to high school graduation. Meanwhile, the district's current five academies will revise their offerings and transition into more rigorous magnet academies. Officials said Elgin's gifted academy is submitting its application to earn International Baccalaureate (IB) status, converting the academy to an IB magnet academy. South Elgin High School's digital arts and media academy recently earned approval to upgrade its curriculum. Bartlett's STEM academy and Larkin's visual and performing arts academy would require curriculum upgrades in order to distinguish themselves from the other STEM and arts academies in the district. Streamwood High School's world languages and business academy may be retooled into something entirely different, Majstorovic said. Officials will gather staff and community feedback on the Streamwood academy this school year; Majstorovic noted it has suffered declining enrollment and interest. She didn't rule out Streamwood remaining a world languages and business magnet academy in the future, but change is possible. U46 will hold additional town hall sessions throughout the district in October and November to gather more public input on the proposed high school model. The town halls will begin at 7 p.m. at the following locations and dates:

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U46 outlines academy planning

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By Rafael Guerrero



A student works on TIG welding at the Elgin High School welding lab on April 26. (Rafael Guerrero)

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Oct. 30, Larkin High School;

Nov. 6, Streamwood High School;

Nov. 14, Kimball Middle School;

Nov. 15, Ellis Middle School;

Nov. 28, Elgin High School;

Nov. 29, Bartlett High School

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District U46 board approves budget

By Rafael Guerrero

Board members in School District U46 approved a \$558 million budget for the 2018-19 school year, ahead of a state deadline this weekend.

Board members voted 4-2 in favor of the record-setting proposal at Monday night’s meeting. The budget includes funding for middle school counselors, a position eliminated by U46 a decade ago, and dozens of newly created positions.

Board members Jeanette Ward and Phil Costello were the “no” votes on the budget. Ward said the proposal does not address declining enrollment districtwide or paying off debt and doesn’t address a potential cost shift in the district’s share of covering employee pensions.

“I don’t support the direction that we’ve taken here,” Ward said. “Again, we should be paying down the debt and reducing property taxes.”

“We have a state that is not reliable. ... We have to be cognizant of a state that might stumble,” Costello said.

The budget calls for \$558 million in expenditures and \$561 million in revenue this school year, both record amounts.

Among the new expenditures in the budget are a nearly \$22 million increase in salary and benefits, nearly \$6 million more for new school bus purchases, \$7.5 million for computer purchases, among others.

The salary increases include 54 new positions districtwide. The jobs include new instructional coaches and eight middle school counselors, among others. The middle school counselor positions disappeared from the middle schools last decade, when U46 made drastic budget cuts. Some board members noted other school districts have counselors at the middle school level.

“Instructional coaches are a significant indicator on how well students achieve in their classrooms,” said board member Melissa Owens. “We are not just throwing money out there.”

“Anything we can do to help teachers — whether it’s with instructional coaches or additional social workers or guidance counselors at the middle school level — is important,” added board member Sue Kerr.

SPORTS SECTION

---The Courier-News---9/26/18

Mad about Madison

Hankins big addition as a freshman setter/right-side hitter for Bartlett

By Paul Johnson



Bartlett freshman Madison Hankins, left, tips the ball over the net during a match against Hoffman Estates on Monday. (H. Rick Bamman)

Most freshmen making the immediate move to varsity would be intimidated by the jump up in the level of competition.

Freshman setter/right-side hitter Madison Hankins plays club for Sports Performance, however, so she was ready to step right into a prominent role for Bartlett.

“I love it,” Hankins said. “I love the intensity and the high level of play. It’s really exciting. We’re really working well together. It’s going really well.”

Bob Schwantz was named Bartlett’s varsity coach only days before the season began. He was working with the sophomore team before that, but he remembers seeing the versatile Hankins arrive at summer camp.

“She’s something else,” said Schwantz, who’s also Bartlett’s boys volleyball head coach.

“She’s already talking about wanting to get her name out to colleges. She does everything. She even leads the team in digs. For a right side to lead a team in digs, that’s impressive.”

Monday’s 25-16, 25-17 nonconference win over Hoffman Estates was indicative of how Hankins’ season is going. She led Bartlett (12-4) with seven kills and tied setter Dakota Johnson with 11 assists.

The win eclipsed last year’s total of 11, with six regular-season matches and two tournaments to go. The Hawks have never won a regional title.

“We’ve got our sights set,” Schwantz said. “Seventy percent of our team is seniors, so we have a lot of leadership out there.”

The team looks up and sees that empty volleyball banner on the wall. Although Hankins is new to the school, she has taken notice as well.

“Our goal is to at least get a regional,” Hankins said.

Impressive encore: Last season, Maggie Wallenberger led Jacobs as a freshman with 174 kills.

This season as a sophomore, the 5-foot-11 outside hitter has taken things to a new level. She already has 103 kills to go with 17 digs, 13 aces and nine blocks.

Wallenberger has particularly turned up her performances as of late. In a three-game win over Cary-Grove, she had a season-high 13 kills. In a two-game win over Crystal Lake South, she had 12 kills.

“Maggie stepped up her game and went on an offensive fury, and the team followed her lead,” Jacobs coach Lisa Dwyer said. “She has learned to be more patient with her offense and has been put to the test to adjust her shots at a moment’s notice.

“Teams know she is one of our go-to hitters, and we constantly have to challenge her in practice to adjust her offensive attack.”

Leading the loop: South Elgin is the co-leader of the newly configured Upstate Eight, sharing a 5-0 record with Glenbard East.

Glenbard East handed Bartlett its only conference loss, so the Hawks sit a game back.

South Elgin (13-7) went 3-2 over the weekend at the Prospect Tournament, followed by a conference win Monday over Elgin.

The conference race will come down to the final week. South Elgin travels to Bartlett on Oct. 10 before hosting Glenbard East on Oct. 16 to close out the regular season.

Paul Johnson is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

The



Examiner of BARTLETT

Volume 28
Number 20

"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

75 cents
September 26, 2018

Nature center hosts
Sikhs kids festival
See Page 12

Budget approved by
District U-46 Board
See Page 16

Discussions continue on first BEDA application

By Seth Hancock

A vote on the first application for funds from the Bartlett Economic De-

velopment Assistance (BEDA) program will likely take place at the Village Board of Trustees meeting on

Tuesday, Oct. 2.

Ajay Tantuwaya submitted the application with the newly created BEDA program as he plans on opening Indian Express restaurant in the Westgate Commons shopping plaza off of West Bartlett Road, and the board discussed the application at the committee of the whole meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 18.

The plan is to open the restaurant by Nov. 7 which is the date of the Hindu festival of lights known as Diwali.

BEDA offers tax dollars to new or existing businesses for projects such as interior build-out or compliance issues. Business owners would spend the money for the projects up front and be reimbursed by the village taxpayers if their BEDA application is approved.

Tantuwaya requested the maximum amount from the program, \$50,000, but the village recommended \$25,000. The total projected cost to build Indian Express is \$123,000 which is slightly up from an original projection of \$119,000 when the board first discussed the application at an Aug. 21 committee meeting.

"Due to the finite amount of \$150,000 allocated to the first year of the BEDA program and the number of pending applications, [staff] recommends a rebate in the amount of 25,000, or twenty-one percent of total project costs," Tony Fradin, coordinator for economic development, wrote in a memo.

Fradin added: "This recommendation takes into consideration several additional likely applicants within the next several months in other vacant spaces and several existing businesses seeking to expand."

Scott Skrycki, assistant village administrator, said that staff has been meeting with Tantuwaya since 2017, and the village has made all business-

es know of the BEDA program at the same time and Tantuwaya was the first to submit paperwork.

According to Fradin, Indian Express would be the "first pure vegetarian Indian restaurant" in Bartlett which Skrycki said "really excites us." Tantuwaya's mom Radha will be the main cook of Gujarati, Punjabi and South Indian dishes while the business will also be focusing on catering.

The Indian population has been rising in the village and is expected to continue to grow according to Skrycki, and the restaurant will be in between two large Indian religious institutions off of Illinois Route 59, the BAPS Hindu temple and Jain Society.

Trustee Aaron Reinke asked that Tantuwaya submit a full business plan at the August meeting which was provided for the Sept. 18 review of the application. Tantuwaya's goal is for \$200,000 in sales in the first year of operations.

Trustee Kristina Gabrenya asked if work has already started on the build-out and Tantuwaya said it has. Tantuwaya said Indian Express would be open for lunch and dinner opening at 11 a.m. and closing at either 8 or 8:30 p.m., he would be a full-time manager and the current expectation is to have five employees.

Gabrenya suggested Tantuwaya apply to the Chamber of Commerce, calling it an "incredible asset."

In response to questions from Trustee Michael Camerer, Tantuwaya said the restaurant will have five tables seating four patrons at each and he does not plan to seek a full liquor license with a plan to be BYOB (bring your own bottle).

Kevin Wallace, village president, said he was "very impressed" and said the board should vote on the application at the next board meeting.



Homecoming parade in tune

Gauri Yadav kept in step while she played her clarinet with the marching band on Sunday, Sept. 23 during the homecoming parade. For story and more photos see page 11.

(Examiner photo by Andrea Kohl)

Fire District application results in grant award

By Joe Hyland

One of the ways the Fire Protection District stretches its funds is through the use of grant money. Two months ago at its July 20 meeting, the district's Board of Trustees received a summary of the types of grants available, an abridged version of the application process and the district's success at being awarded grants. Firefighter Wayne Maulding, who spearheads the application process, gave the presentation.

At the time, Maulding explained that the district applies for grants in three broad categories. The categories are government grants, local grants and business grants and reported that the district has applied for three government grants.

At the board's Wednesday, Sept. 19 meeting, Deputy Chief Bill Gabrenya reported that the district had struck

gold.

"We received a grant in the amount of \$47,710 from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant," said Gabrenya.

Gabrenya said that the grant money will be used to purchase a new compressor for charging firefighters' self-contained breathing apparatus units. He said that the current compressor is 22 years old.

Chief Mike Falese noted that the regular lifetime for such a unit is only around 12 years.

"Are we going to donate the old one to the Smithsonian?" Trustee Frank Giovanelli quipped.

"That's a really good question," Falese responded.

Gabrenya said that the purchase is now being put out for bid, although he did not give a timeline for the purchase.

By Joe Hyland

At its Aug. 7 meeting, the Wayne Village Board passed an ordinance regarding property maintenance. At its Tuesday, Sept. 18 meeting, trustees heard from Building Inspector Mike Gricus on the effect of the ordinance.

"The one big change is going from 18 inches down to 10," said Gricus, referring to maximum allowable weed/grass height. "Fortunately, we're nearing the end of the growing season."

Gricus said that most property owners move towards compliance after a written notice. The exception, he noted, was in the case of vacant properties, such as two empty houses on Honey Hill. In such cases, tracking down the owner, especially in the case of a foreclosure, could prove problematic. Gricus suggested the village contract with a private company to keep the properties mowed. The ordinance allows for this, with the property owner being billed for the mowing, with the possibility of putting a lien on the property if payment is not forthcoming.

Trustee Rob Reed said that there was

an additional six-acre property he knew of that was vacant.

Attorney Steve Anderson said that the amount for private mowing would be below the threshold number for having to put it out for bid.

Trustee Mike Anastasio suggested that Gricus try to get some pricing in any case.

Reed said he would check on the property he mentioned to see who the current owner was.

Anderson reviewed some of the access issues. He said that officials can go on a property unless there is a no trespassing sign or the owner specifically denies access.

"It's still trespassing, but it's not criminal trespassing," Anderson said.

Gricus said that issues beyond landscaping such as broken windows or physical deterioration of the structure usually means getting the police involved to board up the property. He said that the village is reluctant to put red stickers or some other such notice on a property since that lets potential undesirables such as squatters know that a property is vacant.

Wayne Board reviews recent ordinance impact



Stagnation hampers U-46, ETA union talks

By Seth Hancock

Contract negotiations between School District U-46 and its teacher's union, Elgin Teachers Association (ETA), continue to be contentious according to a Sept. 10 statement released by the ETA president, Barbara Bettis.

The previous contract expired on Aug. 10, as teachers are still working under that contract after a three-year tentative agreement was voted down by the ETA membership in May.

While pay raises under lane, based on educational attainment, from the previous contract are being honored, the Board of Education decided not to honor pay raises under step, based on tenure, until a new contract is negotiated according to a Sept. 7 statement released by U-46 CEO Tony Sanders. That decision was based on a change in state law according to Sanders who included a link to a fact sheet that stated this change could cost the district millions if the step increases were honored.

"Since 2005 school districts have operated under a state law that requires excess salary payments to the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) for any teacher raises that exceed 6 percent if that raise factored into the calculation for an individual member's initial pension," Sanders wrote. "On June 4, 2018, a new state law passed that lowered that threshold to 3 percent."

Bettis responded on Sept. 10: "At a time when our teachers would be moving on the salary schedule, we remained stagnant due to the decision to withhold step made by the Board of Education.... We stand with our members during these difficult times."

The ETA statement would go on to complain about Sanders negotiating publicly by making the Sept. 7 statement. However, the ETA first negotiated publicly as Sanders' statement came a day after a Sept. 6 statement by Bettis regarding the negotiations.

"We were perplexed to read CEO Tony Sanders weekly message, as it moved beyond our ETA and District leadership contract discussions," Bettis wrote on Sept. 10. "We are curious as to why this has escalated, since ETA leadership has continued to make good faith efforts to remain in this process. This email raises concerns as to how we proceed with Interest Based Bargaining."

Bettis added: "We are disappointed that the District Administration has decided to release this 'fact' sheet without telling the entire story. We look forward to returning to the table with both sides bargaining in good faith. Bargaining outside of the process and in public is not helpful."

The ETA had been informed of the board's decision regarding pay raises

in August during closed door negotiations, according to Sanders.

"I communicated the Board's decision and rationale on August 7th to the ETA leadership who requested a follow up meeting," Sanders wrote. "That meeting occurred on August 10 at which time the ETA leadership asked me to return to the Board with their request to provide step. After discussing with the Board, the reply back to the ETA on August 21 was that step would not be awarded pending a successor agreement. The Board will, of course, honor retroactively increases agreed to in a successor agreement."

According to the district's fact sheet, the change in state law would cost U-46 at minimum \$1.8 million in excess salary payments if step increases from the previous contract were honored, and those numbers could be even higher based on prior year numbers as the fact sheet stated the district "would need to set aside between \$7 million and \$10 million annually in future years to cover excess salary payments under our current salary structure."

The tentative agreement voted down in May was negotiated by the previous ETA leadership as Bettis was voted in as president in March. That agreement included increasing the starting salary for teachers from \$42,805 to \$50,000, "almost \$23 million in additional compensation," average 4 percent pay raises annually (up from 3.1 percent raises) and pay increases for "advanced education hours" and "longevity" according to the fact sheet.

The district would not have been affected by the change in state law had that tentative agreement been approved in May according to an Aug. 1 press release from trsil.org which stated: "The 3 percent threshold applies only to raises and salaries paid to TRS members 'under a contract or collective bargaining agreement entered into, amended, or renewed on or after' June 4, 2018 for a school year that begins after July 1, 2018."

That TRS press release also stated: "For a few years, many school districts will have to use both thresholds."

According to TRS, in Fiscal Year 2017 there were 343 school district, 34.7 percent, in the state that paid excess salary payments totaling \$3.3 million with an average district payment of \$9,569.

"In the 13 years that the law setting the excess salary payment threshold has been in effect, school district payments to TRS have declined," according to the TRS. "The high was \$7.5 million in payments recorded during Fiscal Year 2012."

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We Always Welcome New Patients

Resident urges more be done in memory of 9/11

By Seth Hancock

One Bartlett resident wants to urge the village and other residents to remember 9/11.

It's been 17 years since the terror attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. on Sept. 11, 2001.

Charlie Debow, who said he had served 24 years in the U.S. Navy and was an airline pilot in 2001, said he's attended the Bartlett Fire Department's remembrance ceremony the last two years as he addressed the Board of Trustees at its meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 18.

"The program was poignant, nice, professional and I encourage the village to try and get more information out about this very important ceremony," Debow said. "It's important for Americans to not forget what happened on 9/11."

Nearly 3,000 Americans were killed in the attacks and many more have

since died due to 9/11-related health issues after four passenger airliners were hijacked by members of the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda. Two of the jets were flown into the World Trade Center in New York, another into the Pentagon in D.C. and the fourth crashing in a Pennsylvania field as passengers of United Airlines Flight 93 fought back not allowing the terrorists to hit their target.

For Debow, he remembered seeing the images on the news when he was at a barbershop on that memorable day, and he said it's important to remember that day.

"I want to encourage the village to do more to recognize Patriots Day," Debow said. "That month or so after that happened you could not find a home in Bartlett or any of the villages around here that was not flying the American flag. It's important. It's important we don't forget."

Hawks football fall short against West Aurora

By Seth Hancock

In an evenly matched game, the Bartlett football team came up short in a 27-12 loss to West Aurora in Upstate Eight Conference play on Friday, Sept. 21 in Aurora.

The Hawks edged West Aurora 18-17 in first downs and forced two turnovers compared to one for the host while West Aurora edged Bartlett 325-294 in total yards.

Trailing 14-12 early in the fourth quarter, the Hawks were looking for their

first lead with a short field goal attempt. That attempt was blocked, and West Aurora went on to score 13 unanswered points to end the game.

"We started playing more physical, but that block was huge," said Bartlett coach Matt Erlenbaugh.

After falling behind 14-0 in the first quarter, the Hawks rallied with a pair of touchdowns in the second but failed on the extra point attempts for the two-

See Hawks, pg. 16



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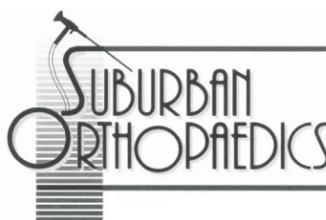
Backed programs to combat the growing Heroin-Opioid epidemic to include supporting the launch of the Heroin-Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Taskforce.

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Bartlett homecoming given grand start

On Sunday, Sept. 23, Bartlett High School kicked off their homecoming week with their annual homecoming parade down Bartlett Road. The students showed off their school spirit with the theme of "Haunted Homecoming." The Marching Hawks performed the school song as well as Michael Jackson's hit "Thriller," under the direction of Eric Hollaway. The parade was sponsored by the student council and many clubs, teams and organizations from the high school participated. Most groups walked alongside either decorated cars or trucks but some just walked with their classmates and celebrated the annual tradition.



The varsity dance team showed off their moves to the crowd as they marched down the parade route.



Members of the football team rode down the parade route in an antique military truck.



The senior class officers and The Hawk rode in their truck with the main color being red as their float represented the movie 'IT.'
(Examiner photos by Andrea Kohl)



Amanda Leveille and Naomi Latta walked and sang along to the music played through the speakers on their float.



Sandy Martin took a break with her dog as her daughter Sarah McEwen and grandson Liam McEwen waved to the students.



Color Guard members Kristen Johnson, Cassidy Thorner, Chase McGinnis, Maggie Wiatr, Maggie Berg and Ysabel Bena debuted their new parade wear along with their new flags for this season.

Rams seize UEC lead by defeating Bartlett



The Hawks' Morgan Myers receiving a Rams serve during Glenbard East's straight set victory over Bartlett.
(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



Ava Anagnostopoulos getting low to accept a Glenbard East shot during a volley between the two teams.



Bartlett's Madison Hankins setting for teammate Isabella Diaz during the Hawks Tuesday, Sept. 18 match against Glenbard East.

By Seth Hancock

A slow start hampered the Bartlett volleyball team as the Hawks fell 25-15, 25-21 in Upstate Eight Conference play against Glenbard East on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at Bartlett.

The Hawks led 2-1 in Game 1 when Glenbard East went on a 9-0 run to take the lead for good. Glenbard East later went on a 7-0 run and built as large as a 12-point lead in the set.

"They went on those two long runs in the first game, and that was it," said Bartlett coach Bob Schwantz. "We lost by 10 points, they had a 9-0 run and 7-0 run. Do the math."

Schwantz added: "That's been our MO all season. We take a lit-

tle time to warm up into the match, and you can't do that against teams like that."

Game 2 remained close the whole set despite Bartlett's last lead being at 4-3. The Hawks trailed by as much as five but would rally to a 17-17 tie after a Samantha Martino (five assists, five digs), and back-to-back points off a kill and an ace by Emily Baggot (seven kills, two aces) pulled Bartlett to 21-20 before Glenbard East ended the match in a 4-1 finish.

Mistakes also hurt the Hawks, especially in Game 1 when they committed 13 errors. Often in the match, an error would come after a short Bartlett run or big kill making it hard for the host

to build momentum.

"Every time we'd shoot ourselves in the foot right after we had made a big block, a big dig, a big play," Schwantz said.

Madison Hankins (six kills, six assists), Morgan Myers (six kills) and Dakota Johnson (10 assists) all contributed for the Hawks.

The loss was a setback for the Hawks in the UEC as both teams entered undefeated in league play. Bartlett is now 10-4 overall, 3-1 in the UEC.

"We knew what was at stake, but I told the girls we shouldn't be kicking ourselves too hard," Schwantz said. "We still have a good record, and we can rebound from this."

Nature center plays host to Sikhs children's festival

The Bartlett Nature Center hosted the 3rd annual Little Sikhs Children's Festival on Saturday, Sept. 22 for a celebration of Sikh American cultural awareness and diversity through the eyes of children. The event featured art activities, face painting, a talent show, animal show, archery and chess lessons, food and entertainment.



Haman, left, and Hersh Vohra colored mandalas to take home.



Gurpreet Kaur was introduced to a hissing beetle and a snake.

(Examiner photos by Julie Schatz)



Scott Triphahn gave Simryn Manchanda a short lesson in archery.



Balloon-maker Jay Collen with his creation for Nivaas Kaur.



In the talent show, Jupreet Singh sang a traditional song with support from his mom Sukvir and sister Simrat.

Police Reports

Continued from page 3

and charged with retail theft. She was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

SOUTH ELGIN

Wednesday, Sept. 12

- ★ At 2:33 a.m., police responded to Red Robin, 420 Randall Road, for a report of an activated alarm.
- ★ At 11:26 a.m., police responded to the 1500 block of Raymond for a report of a suspicious vehicle.
- ★ At 11:52 a.m., police responded to the 300 block of Oak for a missing person report.
- ★ At noon, police responded to the 400 block of Ann for a report of a fight.
- ★ At 1:01 p.m., police responded to the 200 block of Collins for a report of an abandoned vehicle.
- ★ At 1:54 p.m., police responded to Kenyon Woods Middle School, 1515 Raymond for a report of a fight.
- ★ At 4:19 p.m., police responded to

the 300 block of Windsor for a report of a domestic.

- ★ At 4:43 p.m., police responded to the 900 block of West Spring for a report of a suspicious incident.
- ★ At 5:50 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of Dean for a fraud complaint.
- ★ At 5:52 p.m., police responded to Children of America, 750 N. McLean Blvd., for a threats complaint.
- ★ At 6:35 p.m., police responded to the 0 block of Vernon for a request to assist fire department personnel.
- ★ At 6:45 p.m., police responded to the 1600 block of River for a request to assist fire department personnel.
- ★ At 7:49 p.m., police responded to the 1000 block of Mark for a 911 investigation.
- ★ At 9:29 p.m., police responded to Jim Hansen Park, 280 Concord Ave., for a report of a suspicious vehicle.
- ★ At 10:12 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of East Thornwood for a report of a domestic in progress.

★ At 10:58 p.m., police responded to the 200 block of Courtland for a threats complaint.

Thursday, Sept. 13

- ★ At 12:01 a.m., police responded to the 0 block of Concord for a report of a suspicious person.
- ★ At 4:33 a.m., police responded to Haumiller Engineering Co., 370 Joseph Drive, for a report of an activated alarm.
- ★ At 7:24 a.m., police responded to Clean Stream Carwash, 1306 W. Spring, for a dumping or littering complaint.
- ★ At 9:15 a.m., police responded to the Fox Meadow Elementary School, 1275 Jenna Drive, for a report of a traumatic injury or assault.
- ★ At 9:36 a.m., police responded to the Springs at South Elgin, 350 Gyorr, for a report of an activated commercial fire alarm.
- ★ At 10:31 a.m., police responded to the 800 block of Riverside for a report of an activated alarm.
- ★ At 10:49 a.m., police responded to the 300 block of Boston for a request to assist fire department personnel.
- ★ At 12:25 p.m., police responded to Chase Bank, 536 Randall Road, for a report of an activated commercial fire

alarm.

- ★ At 12:42 p.m., police responded to Children of America, 750 N. McLean Blvd., for a report of telephone harassment.
 - ★ At 3:51 p.m., police responded to the 9N400 block of Hobart for a report of telephone harassment.
 - ★ At 5:39 p.m., police responded to the 1300 block of Sandhurst for a report of a domestic in progress.
 - ★ At 6:09 p.m., police responded to the 200 block of Woodridge for a report of a suspicious incident.
 - ★ At 7:45 p.m., police responded to First American Bank, 632 Randall Road, for a report of an activated alarm.
- Friday, Sept. 14
- ★ At 2:15 a.m., police responded to Fleet Pride, Inc., 620 Stevenson Road, for a report of an activated alarm.
 - ★ At 10:03 a.m., police responded to the 300 block of Windsor for a fraud complaint.
 - ★ At 11:23 a.m., police responded to BP Amoco, 245 Randall Road, for a request to remove an unwanted subject.
 - ★ At 12:29 p.m., police responded to the 200 block of Courtland for a disorderly conduct complaint.
 - ★ At 12:57 p.m., police responded to

U-46 Board certifies high school graduate list

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 approved the list of 2018 high school graduates as well as an itemized bills list totaling \$18.1 million on Monday, Sept. 10. The votes were 6-0, board member Phil Costello was absent for the votes.

The vote regarding graduates was to certify the list of the class of 2018 graduates from the district's five high schools, and it is an annual vote.

"It's a requirement by state law that the board of education approve all high school graduates," said U-46 CEO Tony Sanders.

Prior to the meeting, both Costello and board member Jeanette Ward inquired about certain items from the itemized bills and accounts by vendor lists. Both asked about payments to Office Depot.

Ward asked about the \$647,014 to Office Depot under the accounts by vendor list and Costello about the \$697,290 to Office Depot under the assets and liabilities fund portion of the itemized bills list.

To both inquiries, the district responded: "The transaction was for 5,770 desks and chairs for middle schools and high schools."

In June, the board approved a \$628,919 expenditure proposal with Office Depot to purchase 5,770 chairs and 5,650 desks for secondary schools.

Costello also asked for the justification for disbursements of \$358,640 to Mesirow Insurance Services, Inc. and \$5,600 to the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE).

The MSOE disbursement was to fund five teachers to receive Project Lead the Way training according to the district.

Regarding Mesirow, the district responded that the "disbursement is for the annual Commercial Property Insurance renewal."

On Aug. 6, the board approved of a \$358,640 expenditure proposal with Continental National American regarding the district's property insurance policy.

Costello also asked before the meeting for an update on the cost of the surety bonds, which U-46 officials called essentially an annual insurance policy the district must take under state law in early August when the board approved a resolution regarding the surety bond.

Jeff King, chief operating officer, said when asked by Costello at the time of the resolution vote that he was unsure of the total cost but thought it "was just over \$50,000."

The cost was higher, the district responding on Sept. 10 that "the cost to acquire the Surety Bond was \$80,000 and the same was through Liberty Mutual."

South Elgin girls volleyball unbeaten in conference

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin volleyball team remained unbeaten in the Upstate Eight Conference play, improving to 4-0, as the Storm defeated West Chicago 25-15, 25-21 on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at West Chicago.

Led by four-year varsity starter senior Hayley Fisher (14 kills, five digs, two aces), the Storm was able to maintain control most of the match.

"This year the team has a goal to win conference, and winning a conference game in two is always a great feeling," said South Elgin coach Joni Plach. "This is just one step closer to a conference championship."

Fisher's offensive success was matched by the Storm's team defensive success led by 15 and 13 digs respectively from Emily Wellman and McKayla Geraghty.

South Elgin also got contributions from Kendall Richardson (12 assists, five digs, four kills, two aces), Anna Skrzypchak (10 assists, seven digs, ace) and Rylee Pompa (five kills, ace).

"West Chicago did a lot of tipping and ball placement," Plach said. "Emily Wellman, our libero, was able to

read the hitters and position herself on the court to make great digs. McKayla Geraghty is also a four-year varsity starter, and her defense is a large part of us being 4-0 in conference."

South Elgin went on to go 3-2 at the Prospect Invite on Saturday, Sept. 22. The Storm are now 12-7 overall.

Fisher again had a big day as she finished with 30 kills, 31 digs and five aces.

"All the work she has put in the last four years is showing on the court this year," Plach said. "She has embraced her role as our go-to and is producing on the court. She is a smart player and hitter and is having a great defensive season too."

The Storm's three wins were against Lake Park (25-12, 25-21), McHenry (25-15, 25-13) and Maine East (25-14, 25-13). Both losses were in three sets against Prospect (25-22, 16-25, 15-8) and Palatine (19-25, 25-13, 15-11).

Angie Negron (19 kills, 12 digs, five blocks), Pompa (14 kills, five blocks), Geraghty (12 kills, 29 digs, seven aces), Richardson (59 assists, 15 digs), Skrzypchak (53 assists, 21 digs), Wellman (44 digs) and Rachael Grenke (11 digs) all contributed.

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District U-46 board approves 2019 budget

By Seth Hancock

By a split vote, the Board of Education in School District U-46 approved the Fiscal Year 2019 budget at its meeting on Monday, Sept. 24.

The vote was 4-2, board members Phil Costello and Jeanette Ward voting no. Board member John Devereux was absent.

The budget hikes spending by \$40.2 million (7.8 percent, to \$558.1 million from \$517.9 million) and revenues by \$52 million (10.2 percent at \$561.1 million from \$509.1 million).

Salaries and benefits make up the largest expenditure item at \$389.3 million, up \$21.9 million (6 percent) from \$367.4 million. Property taxes make up the largest portion of the revenue side at \$303.8 million, up from \$303.4 million (0.1 percent) while U-46 plans to use an abatement for the fourth straight year.

The largest revenue increase comes from the state's so-called "evidence based funding" as U-46 expects \$174.5 million, up from \$120.7 million (44.6 percent) last year.

Both Costello and Ward offered some praise for the budget, Costello calling it "comprehensive and transparent" helping it receive a meritorious budget award, but they see fundamental problems with the budget.

Ward said the budget was "prepared well" based on the board's direction, but she's "in disagreement with the majority of the board." She said, "We should be paying down the debt and reducing property taxes."

The budget adds 54 new positions despite a projected 1.9 percent decline in enrollment this year, a trend over the last three years, and Ward said she doesn't support "expanding operations while enrollment is declining as our projections and past data indicate."

Using the budget and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) data, enrollment will drop 13.1 percent from 2012 to the 2021-22 school year but the district plans to spend more each year with a planned 36.3 percent increase in spending over that time.

Ward noted the problems at the state level, which could end up pushing pension costs to local school districts, as the Governor's Office of Management and Budget admits to at least a \$1.2 billion dollar deficit in the state's budget. Illinois has \$129 billion in unfunded pension liabilities.

Illinois's current debt is \$148.9 billion according to usdebtclock.org and the state is ranked 49th, a drop from 47th last year, in George Mason University's Mercatus Center's annual rankings of states on fiscal health.

"This imbalance at the state level cannot continue forever," Ward said. "Eventually there will be stark consequences."

Costello said his opposition stems from "mostly external factors including uncertainty of an overreliance on an unbalanced state budget that may turn into a forced transfer of tax burden to local school districts, past and future decline in student census without a corresponding drop in the budget, anticipated current and projected increases in contractual salaries and benefits over fiscal 2019, 2020, 2021 that are almost 70 percent of the budget projected to grow by 3 to 5 percent respectively without a sustainable source of increased revenues and most importantly, and I can't emphasize this enough, lack of support from the general population that have addressed me specifically."

Board member Sue Kerr said she's been bothered by U-46 finances in the past, but more spending is needed to improve student outcomes.

"I know that having additional staff is controversial, but in the last 10 years we had a huge increase in class size which we still have really not addressed," Kerr said.

According to ISBE data, the class size has been between 20 and 23 students per teacher since 2008. Last year, it was at 21.

Kerr said: "Our kids still aren't doing that well. We need to do better, and it's probably going to cost us some money to get to that point. Now money doesn't

answer everything, but when we talk about the taxpayers one of the things Illinois is going to be doing next year is grading our schools.... I don't think our community will be very happy if they live in a district with a majority of schools being graded with a C, D and F."

The ISBE's available data shows that spending per student has increased by \$2,434 since 2012 but academic results over most categories have declined including a 15-point drop in freshmen on track to graduate (96 to 81 percent), 13-point drop in student on target or advanced on the Dynamic Learning Maps (24 to 11 percent) and a 5-point drop in students meeting or exceeding standards on the PARCC test (33 to 28 percent).

Board member Melissa Owens called Ward's statement a "sound bite" and said that nobody thinks it's "a bad idea" to add staff because other districts have staff. The additional staff includes counselors at middle schools, assistant principals, behavior specialists and instructional coaches which Owens said are "positions that are desperately needed."

"To say that we are going to not approve a budget because numbers, we're expanding operations and we have declining enrollment, that's not the case," Owens said.

Owens said the enrollment declines amount to "two to three children per grade, per school" and "anybody who has even a rudimentary grasp on accounting and overhead knows that you do not change your overhead by losing two children."

Costello later said: "You do need to be cognizant of overhead. It's not just something that goes away just because it's always that platform that's there. I think most accountants would agree that overhead over time is something that you can manage and should manage."

Owens conceded that if the enrollment projections continue staff may need to be cut, but she wants to kick the can down the road.

Ward asked: "Illinois has the highest property taxes in the nation and how much money is enough, like where's the end?"

Owens said "I feel that pain" regarding property taxes, but "these are the kinds of things that we were going to use the evidenced based funding that we received from the state."

"I predict that property taxes will not go down," Ward responded. "They will continue to increase because that is what they've always done."

Owens said this was the first time she's heard the conversation on reducing property taxes and "I've not sat in one finance committee where we've talked about how exactly are we going to reduce our property taxes." She would also imply that Costello and Ward want to shut down schools by seeking a responsible budget.

Ward raised the same issues, including a desire to reduce property taxes, at the Sept. 10 and Aug. 20 meetings and she and Costello have raised the same issues since being seated in 2015. The board's majority have consistently ignored their concerns.

"Then the majority of the board would need to be in agreement with that," Ward said. "I've already said that the budget was prepared with agreement from the majority of the board."

Owens replied: "But the majority of the board hasn't sat in the last year and said 'we're going to raise property taxes.'"

"It kind of has," Ward said.

"We've got a state that is not reliable and has promised things," Costello said. "Hopefully they deliver, but we need to be cognizant of the fact that they might stumble and where does that leave us if we've committed to the spending of those dollars that may or may not be there."

Costello added: "The fundamental things that I'm looking at don't make that much sense, so I have to take the position of speaking for the taxpayers and the residents that talk to me and I'm taking that role.... I feel that my voice and representation are just as important on the issues that my convictions represent."

Hawks

Continued from page 9

point deficit at halftime. Quarterback Jonah O'Brien (22-for-36, 243 yards) threw a 36-yard touchdown pass to Mathew Young (five receptions, 78 yards), and O'Brien scampered five yards for Bartlett's second TD.

Nick Deckard had a big game with 108 total yards, 64 off nine receptions and 44 on 18 carries.

"I love his style," Erlenbaugh said. "He makes people miss, but when there's going to be contact he makes sure they feel it."

Tony DeRosa had an interception for the Hawks defense.

Bartlett is now 3-2 overall and in the UEC.

Flyin' Hawk Invite host boys / girls cross country

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett boys cross country team finished eighth, among 17 teams, as the Flyin' Hawk Invite host, and South Elgin was right behind in ninth on Saturday, Sept. 22 at Sunrise Park.

In the girls race, the Storm were 13th and Hawks 15th, also among 17 teams.

South Elgin junior Ryan Harvey finished 19th with a time of 16 minutes, 20.3 seconds and Bartlett junior Luke Jennes (22nd, 16:24.5) was close behind as their squads' respective leaders in the boys race.

The Hawks boys were followed by junior Sam Jennes (30th, 16:41.4) and seniors Alan Michalek (46th, 17:15.1), Isaac Johnson (51st, 17:24.1) and Patrick Stephen (60th, 17:46.7).

Despite poor running conditions much of the fall and losing some runners to injury, Bartlett boys coach Jeremy Ruston said his team has improved week to week.

"Everyone has stepped up to fill in the gaps including the younger guys," Ruston said. "This team has a lot of potential and we are still learning what they can do."

Ruston added: "We still have some things to work on in regards to racing together as a team. I just want them to continue to work hard and be competitive. If we just do those things, we will be successful."

The Storm boys had scoring finishes from senior Jace Warrick (29th, 16:39.8), junior Andrew Jo (50th, 17:22.5) and seniors Shane McBride (53rd, 17:33.7) and Christian Gruffy

(70th, 18:09.1).

In the girls race, South Elgin was paced by seniors Hannah Anderson (16th, 19:20.3), Katelyn Egetimeier (52nd, 20:52.8) and Nicole Kajpust (94th, 23:09.7) as well as juniors Megan McClure (104th, 24:11.7) and Jordan Lenox (105th, 24:25.7).

"Overall, I am very pleased with our teams performance," South Elgin girls coach Jorie Bartholomew said of her team's season so far. "Last year we graduated a lot of seniors, some of whom had been on varsity for the past two years. So we have had new faces on varsity and with that I think we have been able to do well."

The Bartlett girls were led by juniors Anna Zaborowski (80th, 22:15.1) and Madelyn Polly (81st, 22:21.9), seniors Madison Sharko (87th, 22:37.3) and Alyssa Carey (93rd, 23:07.3) and junior Sareena Shah (102nd, 23:53.1).

"All season, we have been taking steps to learn more about the sport, build up our physical endurance and become stronger overall," said Bartlett girls coach Amy Ehmen. "We continue to have a plethora of athletes who earn personal bests each week, and I can't ask for anything more than that. I am proud of all my athletes and how hard they have been working."

Ehmen said the goal heading toward the postseason is closing the gaps.

"We tend to get too spread out during races, so our best chance at advancing to sectionals will depend on how well we can run as a solid pack," Ehmen said.

Scoreless tie for Hawks boys soccer at conference

By Seth Hancock

A wild finish ended in a scoreless tie as the Bartlett soccer team and West Chicago had a 0-0 draw in Upstate Eight Conference play on Friday, Sept. 21 at West Chicago.

With 17.2 seconds left to play, Bartlett keeper Jeremy Taylor made a big save and the Hawks took it the length of the field for Rudy Reyes to take a last second shot.

Reyes' shot from about 20 yards out looked like it might sneak into the top of the net but instead skipped off the top of the crossbar as the final horn sounded.

"If you looked at their keepers face and all the players and coaches on the bench, our collective breaths were held," said Bartlett assistant coach Vince Revak.

"I felt overall we played a good game," said Bartlett coach Victor Marquez. "We just ran out of time."

Both sides had their chances, but Taylor and the Bartlett defense were stout in stopping West Chicago and preserving their second shutout of the season.

Taylor had 10 saves in the game, six of which came on solid shots in the

second half.

"I felt pretty good out there and the defense played well," Taylor said. "We did a good job preserving the shutout. It would have been nice if our last shot went in."

Bartlett's offense was able to apply pressure the West Chicago but struggled to get quality shots off. Reyes and Ethan Sproule had shots on goal in the second half.

The Hawks attack got stronger in the second half led by Reyes, Amine Medmoun, Nicolas Gomez and Omar Chavez.

"We had them more on their heels in the second half," Reyes said. "We found our rhythm a little bit more."

The game was the first of three in less than 24 hours. Bartlett went on to split games to start the Hampshire Tournament with a loss Romeoville before defeating Hampshire on Saturday, Sept. 22.

The Hawks opened the week with a 1-0 loss to Glenbard East in UEC play on Wednesday, Sept. 19 at Bartlett.

Bartlett is now 3-8-2 overall, 1-2-1 in the UEC.

The



Examiner of SOUTH ELGIN

Volume 14
Number 20

"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
September 26, 2018

Budget approved
by Dist. U-46 Board
See Page 5

Event committee
position eliminated
See Page 6

Stagnation hampers U-46, ETA union talks

By Seth Hancock

Contract negotiations between School District U-46 and its teacher's union, Elgin Teachers Association (ETA), continue to be contentious according to a Sept. 10 statement released by the ETA president, Barbara Bettis.

The previous contract expired on Aug. 10, as teachers are still working under that contract after a three-year tentative agreement was voted down by the ETA membership in May.

While pay raises under lane, based on educational attainment, from the previous contract are being honored,

the Board of Education decided not to honor pay raises under step, based on tenure, until a new contract is negotiated according to a Sept. 7 statement released by U-46 CEO Tony Sanders. That decision was based on a change in state law according to Sanders who included a link to a fact sheet that stated this change could cost the district millions if the step increases were honored.

"Since 2005 school districts have operated under a state law that requires excess salary payments to the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) for any teacher raises that exceed 6 percent if that raise factored into the calculation for an individual member's initial pension," Sanders wrote. "On June 4, 2018, a new state law passed that lowered that threshold to 3 percent."

Bettis responded on Sept. 10: "At a time when our teachers would be moving on the salary schedule, we remained stagnant due to the decision to withhold step made by the Board of Education.... We stand with our members during these difficult times."

The ETA statement would go on to complain about Sanders negotiating publicly by making the Sept. 7 statement. However, the ETA first negotiated publicly as Sanders' statement came a day after a Sept. 6 statement by Bettis regarding the negotiations.

"We were perplexed to read CEO Tony Sanders weekly message, as it moved beyond our ETA and District leadership contract discussions," Bettis wrote on Sept. 10. "We are curious as to why this has escalated, since ETA

leadership has continued to make good faith efforts to remain in this process. This email raises concerns as to how we proceed with Interest Based Bargaining."

Bettis added: "We are disappointed that the District Administration has decided to release this 'fact' sheet without telling the entire story. We look forward to returning to the table with both sides bargaining in good faith. Bargaining outside of the process and in public is not helpful."

The ETA had been informed of the board's decision regarding pay raises in August during closed door negotiations, according to Sanders.

"I communicated the Board's decision and rationale on August 7th to the ETA leadership who requested a follow up meeting," Sanders wrote. "That meeting occurred on August 10 at which time the ETA leadership asked me to return to the Board with their request to provide step. After discussing with the Board, the reply back to the ETA on August 21 was that step would not be awarded pending a successor agreement. The Board will, of course, honor retroactively increases agreed to in a successor agreement."

According to the district's fact sheet, the change in state law would cost U-46 at minimum \$1.8 million in excess salary payments if step increases from the previous contract were honored, and those numbers could be even higher based on prior year numbers as

See Union, pg. 10



Touchdown South Elgin

South Elgin's Patrick Noworol made a catch in the end zone for the Storm's only touchdown of the game on Saturday, Sept. 22. For story and more photos see page 9. (Examiner photo by Caroline Hollis)

U-46 Board certifies high school graduate list

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 approved the list of 2018 high school graduates as well as an itemized bills list totaling \$18.1 million on Monday, Sept. 10. The votes were 6-0, board member Phil Costello was absent for the votes.

The vote regarding graduates was to certify the list of the class of 2018 graduates from the district's five high schools, and it is an annual vote.

"It's a requirement by state law that the board of education approve all high school graduates," said U-46 CEO Tony Sanders.

Prior to the meeting, both Costello and board member Jeanette Ward inquired about certain items from the itemized bills and accounts by vendor lists. Both asked about payments to Office Depot.

Ward asked about the \$647,014 to Office Depot under the accounts by vendor list and Costello about the \$697,290 to Office Depot under the assets and liabilities fund portion of the itemized bills list.

To both inquiries, the district responded: "The transaction was for 5,770 desks and chairs for middle schools and high schools."

In June, the board approved a \$628,919 expenditure proposal with Office Depot to purchase 5,770 chairs and 5,650 desks for secondary schools.

Costello also asked for the justification for disbursements of \$358,640 to Mesirow Insurance Services, Inc. and \$5,600 to the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE).

The MSOE disbursement was to fund five teachers to receive Project Lead the Way training according to the district.

Regarding Mesirow, the district responded that the "disbursement is for the annual Commercial Property Insurance renewal."

On Aug. 6, the board approved of a \$358,640 expenditure proposal with Continental National American regarding the district's property insurance policy.

Costello also asked before the meeting for an update on the cost of the surety bonds, which U-46 officials called essentially an annual insurance policy the district must take under state law in early August when the board approved a resolution regarding the surety bond.

Jeff King, chief operating officer, said when asked by Costello at the time of the resolution vote that he was unsure of the total cost but thought it "was just over \$50,000."

The cost was higher, the district responding on Sept. 10 that "the cost to acquire the Surety Bond was \$80,000 and the same was through Liberty Mutual."

MetroNet representative updates village board

By Kristin Carreno

At the Village Board meeting on Monday, Sept. 17, a representative from MetroNet, Kathy Scheller, was present to give updates regarding any complaints from residents that may have been received about MetroNet since the prior meeting.

"I'd like to share with you our monthly report," said Scheller. "This talks about what we've done in a month and since I've been here last."

Scheller said they have deployed over 18,000 feet of fiber in South Elgin. "We take our tickets (inquiries) seriously," Scheller said. "Any tickets we get we have a commitment to try to re-

spond within 24 hours. I'm proud to say that 95 percent of the time it was responded to within 24 hours. The majority of those tickets were notifications."

Scheller said they did receive "a few" tickets that had to do with restoration, cable and damage.

"I think the number one thing that came through at the meeting last time was our open level of communication," Scheller said. "I appreciate direct communication with me. I just wanted to make sure I came here tonight to deliver this report to you and I look forward to doing it again next month."



South Elgin falls to both Chargers and Royals

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin soccer team couldn't get past the stifling defense of Dundee-Crown as the Storm dropped a 2-0 nonconference game on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at South Elgin.

Dundee-Crown entered the match with a solid record of 10-2-1 along with seven shutouts.

In Upstate Eight Conference play, the Storm were unable to hold onto a halftime lead as they fell 6-3 to Larkin on Wednesday, Sept. 19 at Elgin's Memorial Field.

After falling behind 1-0 off a free kick goal from Larkin in the game's first 10 minutes, the Storm rallied with a pair of Jacob Zupan goals for a 2-1 lead. Midway through the half Zupan scored off a Jack McCall free kick and just over two minutes later

Zupan ripped a shot off that was initially saved but he was able to follow-up to finish on the rebound.

For Zupan, he said it was just doing the little things right that led to both goals.

"It was just simple possession and us playing as a team," Zupan said.

However, Larkin would score three straight over the first 21 minutes of the second half to take the lead for good. Defending set pieces have been a struggle for the Storm this season and Larkin's equalizer came off a corner kick, and the go-ahead goal came on a penalty kick.

Daniel Quintana pulled the Storm to 5-3 with 15:30 left to play, but Larkin would put away the final goal of the game in the

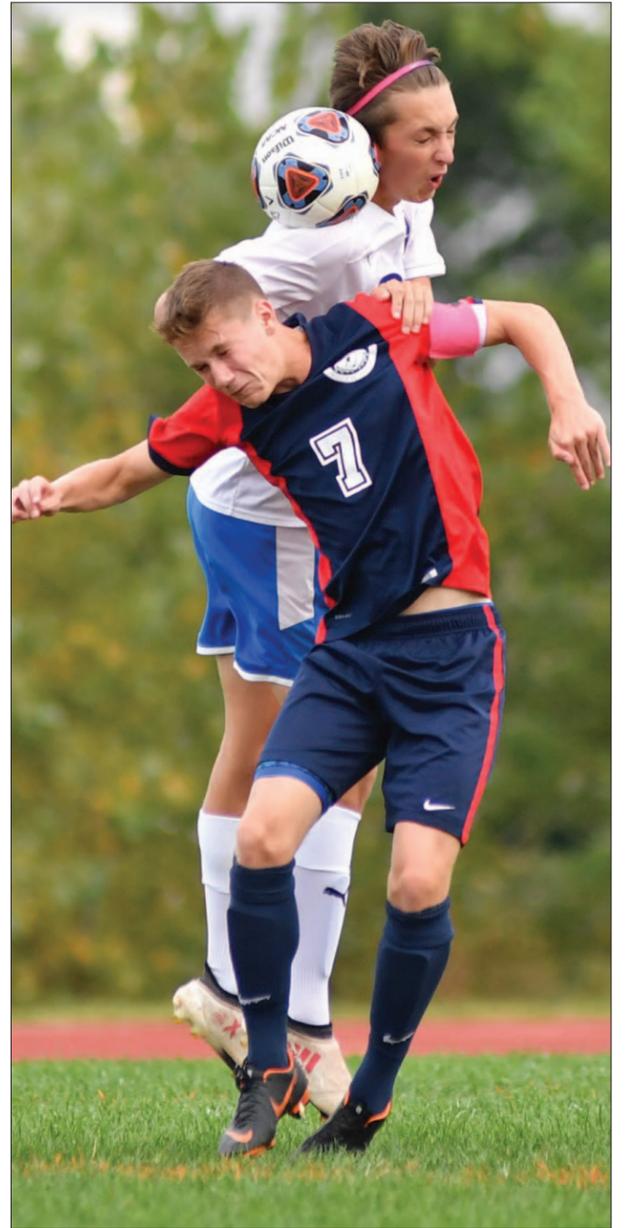
final 10 minutes.

"It's 2-1 at halftime and I thought we'd try to take the opportunity to jump on them a bit," said South Elgin coach Simon Brinklow. "Honestly it was a little disappointing that we came out flat in the second half."

Lucas Reutimann, Anthony Sisler and Grayson Downing all had scoring opportunities in the game. South Elgin keeper Zack Juszko made five saves.

The losses extended a winless streak for the Storm to 10 games as they fell to 1-9-1 overall, 0-5 in the UEC.

"We start off strong but when things don't go our way we kind of get a little lazy, a little down on ourselves," Zupan said. "We just need to pull everything together and be more consistent."



Dundee-Crown's Peyton Story executing a header above the Storm's Anthony Sisler.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



The Storm's Julian Defensor attempting to interrupt a dribble by the Chargers' Calvin Carlos.



Lucas Reutimann of South Elgin in a physical battle with Dundee-Crown's Roland Dearborn for possession of the ball.

SLAM DUNK FUN

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Register by October 1

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Youth Basketball



Storm football unbeaten record interrupted



South Elgin's Shiking Marshall pushed his way through a crowd of Glenbard East's players on a run in the third quarter. (Examiner photos by Caroline Hollis)

By Seth Hancock

South Elgin's unbeaten and string of shutouts ended against fellow undefeated Upstate Eight Conference foe Glenbard East on Saturday, Sept. 22 at South Elgin.

Glenbard East scored the first points against the Storm with a field goal about midway through the first quarter which was the start of a 35-7 victory for the visitors.

South Elgin was outgained 480-197 in total yards, committed three turnovers to Glenbard East's two and fell behind 10-0 after one quarter, 22-7 by halftime.

"Special teams wise, I thought we did ok," said South Elgin coach Dragan Teonic. "Defensively we couldn't stop them, offensively we couldn't move the ball consistently and part of that is on us and part of that is just how good they are."

Teonic added: "We couldn't get out of our own way. We were thoroughly beaten in every aspect. I was very disappointed with our fight, especially in the second half."

The Storm's lone touchdown pulled them to 16-7 in the second quarter when quarterback Azxavier Salinas (9-for-16, 95 yards) threw a 22-yard touchdown pass to Patrick Noworol.

Salinas (17 carries, 48 yards) and Leonides Aguirre (six carries, 30 yards) were South Elgin's leading rushers, and Davion Cherwin (five receptions, 46 yards) was the top receiver.

South Elgin falls to 4-1 overall and in the UEC.

"We have some things to do, but we're not going to let this game hold us back," Salinas said. "We're going to try our hardest the next game too."



Glenbard East's Nick Andrews tackles South Elgin's Samuel Robles in the first quarter.



South Elgin's Cristopher Mejia-Gomez latched onto Glenbard East's Daniel Hurtado after Hurtado intercepted a pass intended for South Elgin.



South Elgin's Alexander Ojomo, left, ran in to help Keshawn Smith, right, sack Glenbard East's quarterback, Bret Bushka.

PUMPKIN Patch

South Elgin's Fall Festival • October 6, 2018

Saturday, October 6
SEBA Park 9AM-3PM
Free Admission

Pumpkins and Mini Pumpkins
 \$1, \$2, \$3, \$5 Depending on size

Corn Stalks \$5

Pony Rides \$2

Concessions

Free activities: Pyramid of Hay, Petting Zoo, Touch-a-Truck, Kids Trolley Ride* and Carving & Painting Station*

*with purchase of pumpkin



While you're at SEBA Park, stop by the Fire Station from 10 am - 1 pm for an Open House!





Park Bench

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

Special Events

Pumpkin Patch & Fall Festival
Saturday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
SEBA Park

Pumpkins, pony rides, pyramid of hay, petting zoo, touch-a-truck, children's trolley rides, food truck and pumpkin carving station!

Youth

Youth Basketball – Kindergarten - Sixth Grade

Youth basketball is a co-ed instructional basketball league designed to develop basic basketball skills and general understanding of the game. Registration deadline is onday, Oct. 1. Practices start early November and the first game is Saturday, Dec. 1. The cost is \$110 for residents and \$125 for non-residents.

Halloween in Hollywood

Experiment with the science of shocking Hollywood gory special effects makeup. This class will be held Tuesday, Oct. 9 from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Municipal Annex. The cost is \$23 for residents and \$33 for non-residents.

Cookies & Canvas

If you are felling artsy come out and paint the town purple, blue, red and green. This class will be held Saturday, Oct. 13 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Municipal Annex. The cost is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents.

Martial Arts

Martial Arts classes are taught by National Karate. Register now for classes that begin the week of Oct. 1. We offer classes for four to seven year olds at the Municipal Annex or for eight years and older at National Karate. The cost is \$69 for residents or \$75 for

non-residents. A uniform purchase is required for classes at National Karate.

Fitness

Cardio-Kickboxing

This class is a fun, full body workout that will get you kicking and punching pads with motivating music. This class will be held Wednesdays, Oct. 3 to Dec. 5 from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. The cost is \$70 for residents and \$80 for non-residents.

Zumba Kids Jr. - four to six years old

Classes are rockin', high-energy dance parties packed with kid-friendly routines. This class will be held Tuesdays, Oct. 2 to 23 from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Municipal Annex. The cost is \$40 for residents and \$48 for non-residents.

Zumba Kids - seven to 11 years old

This is a great opportunity for boys and girls to be active and jam out to music. This class will be held Thursdays, Oct. 4 to 25 from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Municipal Annex. The cost is \$40 for residents and \$48 for non-residents.

Adult

Create Your Own Retirement Pension

Are pensions a thing of the past? With a bit of a twist you can create your own pension for retirement. There is no charge for this class but registration is required. This class will be held Thursday, Oct. 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Municipal Annex.

For more information on these and other programs offered by South Elgin Parks and Recreation, please call 847-622-0003 or visit our website at www.southelgin.com-Parks & Recreation-Programs-Seasonal Brochure.

Storm girls volleyball unbeaten in conference

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin volleyball team remained unbeaten in the Upstate Eight Conference play, improving to 4-0, as the Storm defeated West Chicago 25-15, 25-21 on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at West Chicago.

Led by four-year varsity starter senior Hayley Fisher (14 kills, five digs, two aces), the Storm was able to maintain control most of the match.

"This year the team has a goal to win conference, and winning a conference game in two is always a great feeling," said South Elgin coach Joni Plach. "This is just one step closer to a conference championship."

Fisher's offensive success was matched by the Storm's team defensive success led by 15 and 13 digs respectively from Emily Wellman and McKayla Geraghty.

South Elgin also got contributions from Kendall Richardson (12 assists, five digs, four kills, two aces), Anna Skrzypchak (10 assists, seven digs, ace) and Rylee Pompa (five kills, ace).

"West Chicago did a lot of tipping and ball placement," Plach said. "Emily Wellman, our libero, was able to read the hitters and position herself on

the court to make great digs. McKayla Geraghty is also a four-year varsity starter, and her defense is a large part of us being 4-0 in conference."

South Elgin went on to go 3-2 at the Prospect Invite on Saturday, Sept. 22. The Storm are now 12-7 overall.

Fisher again had a big day as she finished with 30 kills, 31 digs and five aces.

"All the work she has put in the last four years is showing on the court this year," Plach said. "She has embraced her role as our go-to and is producing on the court. She is a smart player and hitter and is having a great defensive season too."

The Storm's three wins were against Lake Park (25-12, 25-21), McHenry (25-15, 25-13) and Maine East (25-14, 25-13). Both losses were in three sets against Prospect (25-22, 16-25, 15-8) and Palatine (19-25, 25-13, 15-11).

Angie Negron (19 kills, 12 digs, five blocks), Pompa (14 kills, five blocks), Geraghty (12 kills, 29 digs, seven aces), Richardson (59 assists, 15 digs), Skrzypchak (53 assists, 21 digs), Wellman (44 digs) and Rachael Grenke (11 digs) all contributed.

Storm boys / girls cross country compete at invite

By Seth Hancock

Led by freshman Rachel Price, the North girls cross country team finished third in the 17-team field at the Bartlett Flyin' Hawk Invite on Saturday, Sept. 22 at Sunrise Park.

Price ran a time of 17 minutes, 59.1 seconds to finish fourth and teammates sophomore Grace Dorrance (sixth, 18:20.7) and senior Natalie Galvan (12th, 19:03.6) were right behind. Sophomore Ella Townsend (36th, 20:06.1) and senior Maddie Wiltrout (48th, 20:41.4) rounded out the North Stars.

"It's been a nice little threesome up front," said North coach Shari Hayes. "Hopefully we can close the gap between the three of them so we're not so far stretched. I think we're going in the right direction."

South Elgin's boys and girls also competed at the invite, the Storm boys finishing ninth (also among 17 teams) and girls 13th.

Junior Ryan Harvey (19th, 16:20.3), senior Jace Warrick (29th, 16:39.8), junior Andrew Jo (50th, 17:22.5) and seniors Shane McBride (53rd, 17:33.7) and

Christian Graffy (70th, 18:09.1) led the Storm boys.

South Elgin's girls were paced by seniors Hannah Anderson (16th, 19:20.3), Katelyn Egetimeier (52nd, 20:52.8) and Nicole Kajpust (94th, 23:09.7) as well as juniors Megan McClure (104th, 24:11.7) and Jordan Lenox (105th, 24:25.7).

"Overall, I am very pleased with our teams performance," South Elgin girls coach Jorie Bartholomew said of her team's season so far. "Last year we graduated a lot of seniors, some of whom had been on varsity for the past two years. So we have had new faces on varsity and with that I think we have been able to do well."

Bartholomew added: "I am hoping that before regional the team stays healthy and focused on getting into that post season... We are also hoping that we can get our times down to make sure we are advancing into the postseason. We are in a tough regional with 11 teams so we really need to give everything we've got for that."

that tentative agreement been approved in May according to an Aug. 1 press release from trsil.org which stated: "The 3 percent threshold applies only to raises and salaries paid to TRS members 'under a contract or collective bargaining agreement entered into, amended, or renewed on or after' June 4, 2018 for a school year that begins after July 1, 2018."

That TRS press release also stated: "For a few years, many school districts will have to use both thresholds."

According to TRS, in Fiscal Year 2017 there were 343 school district, 34.7 percent, in the state that paid excess salary payments totaling \$3.3 million with an average district payment of \$9,569.

"In the 13 years that the law setting the excess salary payment threshold has been in effect, school district payments to TRS have declined," according to the TRS. "The high was \$7.5 million in payments recorded during Fiscal Year 2012."

Union

Continued from page 1

the fact sheet stated the district "would need to set aside between \$7 million and \$10 million annually in future years to cover excess salary payments under our current salary structure."

The tentative agreement voted down in May was negotiated by the previous ETA leadership as Bettis was voted in as president in March. That agreement included increasing the starting salary for teachers from \$42,805 to \$50,000, "almost \$23 million in additional compensation," average 4 percent pay raises annually (up from 3.1 percent raises) and pay increases for "advanced education hours" and "longevity" according to the fact sheet.

The district would not have been affected by the change in state law had



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Library Card Sign-Up Month

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month! Show your Gail Borden Library Card to participating businesses during the month of September to receive great discounts. You will be supporting literacy and great local businesses throughout South Elgin, Elgin and the surrounding areas! Don't have a library card yet? Visit any Gail Borden Library location to get yours. One lucky person who signs up for a card this September will win a grand prize gift basket. Go to www.gailborden.info/deals for a full list of participating businesses and discounts.

Sci-Fi Book Club

Looking for a new group to meet with and discuss books that you enjoy? Our Sci-Fi Book Club meets monthly at the Rakow Branch from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This month, adults will be discussing "The Wee Free Men" by Terry Pratchett on Tuesday, Sept. 25. Stop by to try out this futuristic and fantastic new group!

Device Advice

Drop by for one-on-one help with your tablet, mobile device and more with our experts at Device Advice at the South Elgin Branch from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27. Bring your questions and your device(s). No registration is required.

Volunteerpalooza

Do you love to spend your time volunteering? Look no further than Volunteerpalooza at the Main Library, 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin, from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27. Stop by numerous booths by local organizations like Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Community Crisis Center, School District U-46, Gail Borden Public Library

Foundation and more to find out about local volunteer opportunities for teens to seniors. No registration is required to attend – just stop by!

Comic Book Mania

Dress up as your favorite superhero or comic book character and enjoy Comic Book Mania for a day of comics, art and fun at the Main Library from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 29. This annual celebration will feature an Artists Alley with over 40 comic book artists and writers, free comic books for every visitor, free face painting for the kids, pop culture merchandise and comic books for sale. This exciting event is for comic book lovers of all ages and does not require registration.

South Elgin Sentinels Chess Club

Checkmate! Take your chess skills to the next level or learn how to play with our South Elgin Sentinels Chess Club at the South Elgin Branch from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 2. Kids in grades 3 to 8 are invited to join others and hone their chess skills together. All experience levels are welcome and no registration is required to attend—just stop in!

Ninth Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

Celebrate the diverse cultural richness and contributions of Latinos in Elgin and the U.S. at the ninth annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration at the Main Library from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 6. Meet Latinos nominated by their fellow Elginites for inspiring and uplifting others through their lives and achievements and enjoy bilingual stories, dance with Ballet Folklórico Huehuecoyotl, crafts and more for everyone. All are bienvenidos! No registration.

The

Examiner of STREAMWOOD

Volume 24
Number 20

"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
September 26, 2018



Village welcomes
two new officers
See Page 3

Veteran program
anniversary/success
See Page 5

District U-46 board approves 2019 budget

By Seth Hancock

By a split vote, the Board of Education in School District U-46 approved the Fiscal Year 2019 budget at its meeting on Monday, Sept. 24.

The vote was 4-2, board members Phil Costello and Jeanette Ward voting no. Board member John Devereux was absent.

The budget hikes spending by \$40.2 million (7.8 percent, to \$558.1 million from \$517.9 million) and revenues by \$52 million (10.2 percent at \$561.1 million from \$509.1 million).

Salaries and benefits make up the largest expenditure item at \$389.3 million, up \$21.9 million (6 percent) from \$367.4 million. Property taxes make up the largest portion of the revenue side at \$303.8 million, up from \$303.4 million (0.1 percent) while U-46 plans to use an abatement for the fourth straight year.

The largest revenue increase comes from the state's so-called "evidence based funding" as U-46 expects \$174.5 million, up from \$120.7 million (44.6 percent) last year.

Both Costello and Ward offered some praise for the budget, Costello calling it "comprehensive and transparent" helping it receive a meritorious budget award, but they see fundamental problems with the budget.

Ward said the budget was "prepared well" based on the board's direction, but she's "in disagreement with the majority of the board." She said, "We should be paying down the debt and reducing property taxes."

The budget adds 54 new positions despite a projected 1.9 percent decline in enrollment this year, a trend over the last three years, and Ward said she doesn't support "expanding operations while enrollment is declining as our projections and past data indicate."

Using the budget and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) data, enrollment will drop 13.1 percent from 2012 to the 2021-22 school year but the district plans to spend more each year with a planned 36.3 percent increase in spending over that time.

Ward noted the problems at the state level, which could end up pushing pension costs to local school districts, as the Governor's Office of Management and Budget admits to at least a \$1.2 billion dollar deficit in the state's budget. Illinois has \$129 billion in unfunded pension liabilities.

Illinois's current debt is \$148.9 billion according to usdebtclock.org and the state is ranked 49th, a drop from 47th last year, in George Mason University's Mercatus Center's annual rankings of states on fiscal health.

"This imbalance at the state level cannot continue forever," Ward said. "Eventually there will be stark consequences."

Costello said his opposition stems from "mostly external factors including uncertainty of an overreliance on an unbalanced state budget that may turn into a forced transfer of tax burden to local school districts, past and future decline in student census without a corresponding drop in the budget, anticipated current and projected increases in contractual salaries and benefits over fiscal 2019,

2020, 2021 that are almost 70 percent of the budget projected to grow by 3 to 5 percent respectively without a sustainable source of increased revenues and most importantly, and I can't emphasize this enough, lack of support from the general population that have addressed me specifically."

Board member Sue Kerr said she's been bothered by U-46 finances in the past, but more spending is needed to improve student outcomes.

"I know that having additional staff is controversial, but in the last 10 years we had a huge increase in class size which we still have really not addressed," Kerr said.

According to ISBE data, the class size has been between 20 and 23 students per teacher since 2008. Last year, it was at 21.

Kerr said: "Our kids still aren't doing that well. We need to do better, and it's probably going to cost us some money to get to that point. Now money doesn't answer everything, but when we talk about the taxpayers one of the things Illinois is going to

be doing next year is grading our schools.... I don't think our community will be very happy if they live in a district with a majority of schools being graded with a C, D and F."

The ISBE's available data shows that spending per student has increased by \$2,434 since 2012 but academic results over most categories have declined including a 15-point drop in freshmen on track to graduate (96 to 81 percent), 13-point drop in student on target or advanced on the Dynamic Learning Maps (24 to 11 percent) and a 5-point drop in students meeting or exceeding standards on the PARCC test (33 to 28 percent).

Board member Melissa Owens called Ward's statement a "sound bite" and said that nobody thinks it's "a bad idea" to add staff because other districts have staff. The additional staff includes counselors at middle schools, assistant principals, behavior specialists and instructional coaches which Owens said are "positions that are desperately needed."

"To say that we are going to not approve a budget because numbers, we're expanding operations and we have declining enrollment, that's not the case," Owens said.

Owens said the enrollment declines amount to "two to three children per grade, per school" and "anybody who has even a rudimentary grasp on accounting and overhead knows that you do not change your overhead by losing two children."

Costello later said: "You do need to be cognizant of overhead. It's not just something that goes away just because it's always that platform that's there. I think most accountants would agree that overhead over time is something that you can manage and should manage."

Owens conceded that if the enrollment projections continue staff may need to be cut, but she wants to kick the can down the road.

Ward asked: "Illinois has the highest property taxes in the nation and how much money is enough, like where's the end?"

Owens said "I feel that pain" regarding property taxes, but "these are the kinds of things that we were going to use the evidenced based funding that we received from the state."

"I predict that property taxes will not go down," Ward responded. "They will continue to increase because that is what they've always done."

Owens said this was the first time she's heard the conversation on reducing property taxes and "I've not sat in one finance committee where we've talked about how exactly are we going to reduce our property taxes." She would also imply that Costello and Ward want to shut down schools by seeking a responsible budget.

Ward raised the same issues, including a desire to reduce property taxes, at the Sept. 10 and Aug. 20 meetings and she and Costello have raised the same issues since being seated in 2015. The board's majority have consistently ignored their concerns.

"Then the majority of the board would need to be in agreement with that," Ward said. "I've already said that the budget was prepared with agreement from the majority of the board."

Owens replied: "But the majority of the board hasn't sat in the last year and said 'we're going to raise property taxes.'"

"It kind of has," Ward said. "We've got a state that is not reliable and has promised things," Costello said. "Hopefully they deliver, but we need to be cognizant of the fact that they might stumble and where does that leave us if we've committed to the spending of those dollars that may or may not be there."

Costello added: "The fundamental things that I'm looking at don't make that much sense, so I have to take the position of speaking for the taxpayers and the residents that talk to me and I'm taking that role.... I feel that my voice and representation are just as important on the issues that my convictions represent."



Focused on the ball

The Maroons' Antonio Sanchez Lopez, left, attempting to interrupt the dribble and advance of the Sabres' Bryan Mora on Wednesday, Sept. 19 at Elgin. For story and more photos see page 6.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)



Honor Flight marks anniversary, success

By Kristin Carreno

The 2018 Honor Flight program marked the 10-year anniversary since it began in 2008. Fred Hossfeld is a Streamwood resident and Korean War veteran. Fred Hossfeld is on the board of directors of the Veteran's Network Committee of Northern and Western Illinois (VNC). The VNC is committed to sending veterans to Washington D.C. every year to see the memorials that reside there in their honor. The veterans that make the four-day trip also return home to a patriotic party.

The program is funded by donations from sponsors, organizations and fundraisers that are held throughout the year. Veterans do not pay anything in making the trip.

Eighty-five-year-old Hossfeld spends nearly all of his free time doing fundraisers and finding guardians for veterans going on the trip. A guardian accompanies every veteran and voluntarily undergoes the training to assist with any medical or personal needs. It costs nearly \$1,000 for each guardian to attend.

This year, 106 veterans were part of

the Honor Flight, Hossfeld said. They left on Thursday, Aug. 23 and returned on Sunday, Aug. 26.

Two busloads of veterans arrived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on the morning of Aug. 23. They were flown by Southwest Airlines from Milwaukee to the Washington D.C. area where they stayed at a Hilton Hotel in Virginia for three nights, according to Hossfeld. It was less expensive to fly the vets from Milwaukee and both Southwest Airlines and Hilton Hotels help sponsor veterans on the Honor Flights each year.

Hossfeld does all the recruiting, fundraising, membership and media relations for the Honor Flights to make this opportunity possible to veterans. The VNC Honor Flights have a long waiting list. Raising money for vets to attend is crucial and that's where Hossfeld comes in.

"I get the troops," said Hossfeld. "That's my job. My job is fundraising."

Texas Roadhouse, Jewel, Osco, Home Depot, Walmart, First American Bank and Fifth Third Bank are some of the sponsors of the VNC Honor Flight program. According to Hossfeld, there are many local businesses and organizations mainly in Bartlett and Streamwood who make generous donations.

Hossfeld said that the Honor Flights help make the dreams of veterans to see their memorials a reality. There are 15 memorials in Washington D.C. they visit including the Abraham Lincoln Memorial, World War II Memorial, Washington Monument, Iwo Jima monument, Korean War Memorial and the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

According to Hossfeld, veterans returned to a patriotic homecoming. This year over 900 cheering people were waving American flags as they welcomed them back on Aug. 26. A rock band also volunteered to per-

form at the homecoming party.

Each veteran receives an eight-by-10-inch group photo of all that made the trip. The visits to each memorial are recorded and a DVD of their adventure is also given to each veteran, Hossfeld added.

Hossfeld believes no veteran should be unable to view the memorial they fought for because of lack of money. He also believes it is his mission to ensure the funds are there to cover all expenses as veterans have already paid a price by fighting for their country. He vows to help as many veterans as possible to visit their memorial via a Honor Flight.

"I enjoy it," Hossfeld said. "I get to know them and they get to know us. I call up businesses. In the summer I have my table outside with my boombox playing as part of the fundraisers I do. People are delightful. They come up and will put a donation on the table."

Although many businesses have been generous with becoming sponsors and donating, there are still those who refuse to do so, according to Hossfeld.

"If you don't care about the veterans of your country then why are you here?" Hossfeld said. "That's what I say to them."

According to Hossfeld, most of the veterans on this year's Honor Flights were from the Vietnam War, Korean War and World War II.

"I fought in Korea, I fought for democracy and I'll fight to keep our country safe," Hossfeld added.

Hossfeld is already planning fundraising events for the 2019 flight. On Saturday, Oct. 13, a chili cook off will be held at Moretti's in Bartlett. "It's like a chili tasting contest," Hossfeld said. "The proceeds will go towards the 2019 Honor Flights."

For more information about the Honor Flights and fundraising efforts go to www.VeteransNetworkCommittee.com.

Sabres cross country continue to work hard

By Seth Hancock

A young Streamwood boys cross country team has been growing this season, and the Sabres finished 15th in the 17-team field at the Bartlett Flyin' Hawk Invite on Saturday, Sept. 22 at Sunrise Park.

Senior Carlos Ramirez paced the Sabres finishing 39th in a time of 16 minutes, 54 seconds.

Following for Streamwood were junior Brandon Munoz (62nd, 17:48.7) and seniors Marcos Villarreal (69th, 18:07.2), Christian Tello (106th, 22:02.7) and Edgar Gasca (107th, 22:26.9).

"Overall, I've been pleased with the performance of the team this season," said Streamwood coach Weert Goldenstein. "We have a lot of new guys on the team this year, and within the short time we've been in season there has been a tremendous amount of growth on the team. They have been working hard and the results are showing."

Goldenstein added: "What I would like to see from my team as we near postseason is to continue to work hard

and keep their goals in mind. We only have a few weeks left of hard workouts before we start to taper, and it's important for the guys to stay focused."

On the girls side, the Sabres didn't factor into the team standings with only two runners, but they saw junior Giulia Boshci (86th, 22:34.3) continue to lead. Junior Victoria Kopko was 112th (25:07.8).

"Giulia is a leader who comes out and works hard at every practice," said Streamwood girls coach Dylan Lau. "The younger girls see her work ethic and it spreads."

Although shorthanded, the Sabres program has seen growth with plenty of newcomers this year.

"I have been happy with our team's performances so far this year," Lau said. "We have a lot of girls new to the sport and they are learning each practice and meet."

Lau added: "I am looking for the girls to put together consistent splits in races. Coming out and running smart as we near the postseason is our main goal."

Woman's Club holds banquet for awards, office installation



Pictured, from left, officers Annette Porro, Teresa Lopez, Anita Galvan, Mary Henderson, Melba Mielke, Melissa Curtis, Marion Janiec, Pat Diehn and installation emcee Janice Kretchmer. (Courtesy photo)

The year 2017-2018 year came to a close for the Streamwood Woman's Club with its annual June Banquet at Jimmy's Char House in Elgin.

At the event, Teresa Lopez received the most valuable new member award and Club Member of the Year went to Marion Janiec. The installation of the newly elected 2018-2019 board also took place. President: Pat Diehn; Vice President: Melissa Curtis; Secretary: Mary Jane Garvey; Treasurer: Marion Janiec; Education: Teresa Lopez; Fundraising: Annette Porro; Government & Community Affairs: Mary Henderson; Health & Safety: Susan Conway; Membership: Anita Galvan; and Social: Melba Mielke.

The club's next event is Dining for Dollars, at JOJO, 1935 W. Golf Road in Schaumburg, on Wednesday, Sept. 26, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, go to www.streamwoodwomensclub.webstarts.com/.

Connections Poplar Creek Public Library

Intro to Mac for Seniors
Wednesday, Sept. 26 at 1:30 p.m.
Meeting Room 3

Learn the basics of using a Mac computer. This class will demonstrate how Mac iOS works compared with Windows. Topics include using the dock, searching files, Mac-only applications, and more. To register call 483-4910.

Anime Club
Thursday, Sept. 27 from 6 to 8 p.m.
Teen Space

Calling all teen fans of Attack on Titan, Black Butler, One Piece and more! Watch anime, talk about upcoming anime/manga, or share your drawings. Snacks will be provided. No registration necessary-just drop in!

'Alive Inside: A Story of Music'
Friday, Sept. 28 at 10:30 a.m.
Meeting Room 1

A wonderful documentary that demonstrates music's ability to combat memory loss and restore a deep sense of self to those suffering from it. Discussion will follow the 90 minute film. Drop-ins are welcome, refreshments will be provided. No registration necessary, just drop in!

Smash Brothers Tournament
Saturday, Sept. 29
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Check in starts at 11 a.m. and tournament play starts at 11:30 a.m. Consoles available for non-tournament players. Refreshments will be served. Questions? Call the Teen Department at 483-4928.

Crafty Teens
Monday, Oct. 1 from 6 to 8 p.m.
Teen Space

For teens ages 11 to 17 who are interested in arts, crafts, and being creative. Register online or call 483-4928.

Family Storytime
at the Branch Library
Tuesday, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m.

Come and see what's going on at the Branch Library in Hanover Park! Bring the family and join Ms. Lisa for stories, fun, and a take-home craft. New theme each time. Register online or call 372-3131

Chair Yoga
Wednesday, Oct. 3 at 1 p.m.
Meeting Room 3

Explore gentle postures, breath work, meditation, and deep relaxation with Karen Fotopoulos, certified yoga instructor from Discover Yoga with Karen. Register online or call 483-4910.

Filling Out the FAFSA
Wednesday, Oct. 3 from 6 to 8 p.m.
Studio 1405

Need help filling out the FAFSA online? Ask someone who understands all about it at this program. Bring your laptop, your taxes and a parent to help answer the really hard questions. Register online or call 483-4928.

For a complete listing of scheduled programs at Poplar Creek Public Library, 1405 S. Park Ave., in Streamwood or Sonya Crawshaw Branch, 4300 Audrey Lane in Hanover Park, visit www.poplarcreeklibrary.org. Questions? Call 837-6800.

Boys soccer ending in tie in conference play



Anthony Caldera of Streamwood heading to the turf after being tripped or tripping over Elgin's Manuel Ramirez, left. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood soccer team needed a boost in the second half against Elgin, and the Sabres got it to rally for a 2-2 tie in Upstate Eight Conference play on Wednesday, Sept. 19 at Elgin.

Last year, both squad tied in their conference match but Elgin edged Streamwood for the league title. Elgin looked like they were on the way to take the lead in the UEC race scoring in the first minute of play and taking a 2-0 lead into the break, but Streamwood responded in a big way over the first two minutes of the second half.

"I had a nice talk with them at halftime," said Streamwood coach Matt Polovin. "We wanted them to refocus and get back to doing what we do best, and they took that to heart. Anytime you tie, it's better than a loss. We'll take it."

With 38:34 left in the game, Bryan Mora took a free kick from 50 yards away which went to Alex Chavez standing near the right post. Chavez took a few steps and snuck the ball into the lower corner of the net to put the Sabres on the board.

A mere 17 seconds later it was tied as Jesus Limon

scored off an Edwin Peralta assist. Although the Sabres didn't find a go-ahead they controlled the second half with chances from Chavez, Limon, Rolando Martinez and Michael Rubio.

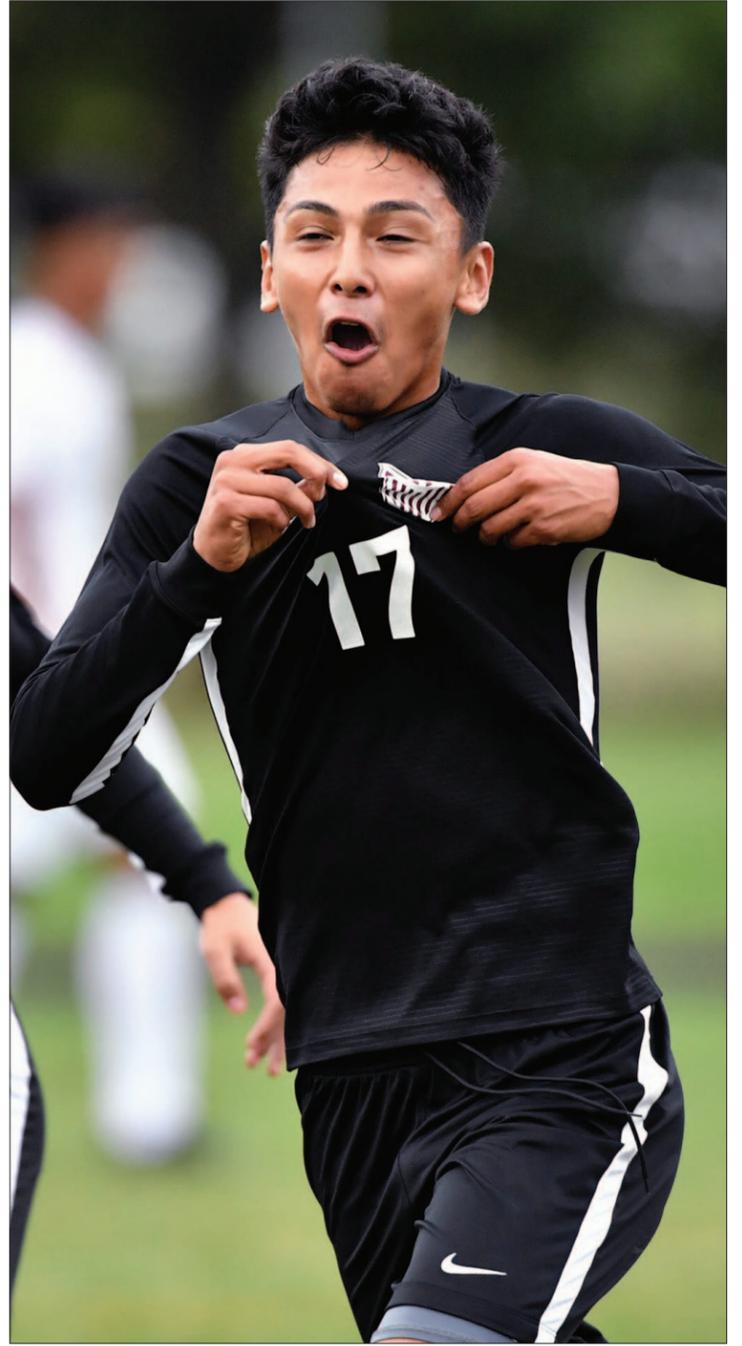
"Scoring quickly meant they were a little down and started to worry about the lead," Chavez said. "That's the perfect time to catch a team again."

"We talked about it at halftime that we had to grab the momentum, and we did just that," said Mora.

Streamwood keeper Hector Alfaro had two saves.

The Sabres went to 1-0-1 in the UEC with the tie coming after a 1-0 win over Glenbard South in their league opener on Monday, Sept. 17 at Glenbard South. Chavez scored in the first half off a Mora feed, and Alfaro made two saves.

Against Lake Park, the Sabres rallied from a 1-0 halftime deficit to finish in a 1-1 nonconference tie on Saturday, Sept. 22 at Lake Park. Peralta found the



Alejandro Morales celebrating after scoring the Sabres second goal against Elgin while showing the Streamwood emblem on his shirt.

net on a Limon assist, and Alfaro had three saves.

Lake Park had entered the game 12-1-1 allowing just eight goals this season and scoring 2.8 goals per game on average.

Streamwood is now 8-3-2 overall.



Elgin's Jesus Millan, left, and the Sabres' Jose Ibarra elevate to the ball with Ibarra winning the battle to execute a header.



Streamwood keeper Antonio Herrera snaring an Elgin corner kick as the crowd in front of his net look on at his effort.

Sabres win against East Aurora on homecoming



Sabres' defensive back Zion Council gets his face mask grabbed as he tries to tackle Tomcats runningback Jereye Stevenson. The play did draw a flag. (Examiner photos by George Niman)



Sabres' runningback Emmanuel Martinez gets sandwiched by the defense.



Sabres' runningback Simon Dixon tries to breakaway from his defender and gain some positive yards.

By Seth Hancock

Streamwood players and fans erupted in jubilation at the end of the football team's Upstate Eight Conference game against East Aurora on homecoming on Friday, Sept. 21 at Millennium Field.

Trailing 20-14 with 7:17 left to play, the Sabres manufactured a nearly seven-minute drive and made a two-point conversion run behind a hole made by senior lineman Elijah Beach, a North Dakota recruit, for a 22-20 win to snap a 14-game losing streak. Streamwood's last win was also against East Aurora, a 28-14 win on Oct. 14, 2016.

"To learn how to win is a big thing," said Streamwood coach Don Guindon. "When we're sticking with our base stuff, it makes them more competitive. With Elijah out there, it makes them all

more competitive and he paved the way for that two-point conversion at the end."

East Aurora had taken its first lead of the game with 7:25 left to play when Streamwood started the winning 13-play drive. The Sabres had to overcome a few setbacks including some negative yardage plays, and with fourth-and-two at East Aurora's 10-yard-line Serrion Dixon had a four-yard run to keep the drive alive.

Sophomore quarterback Omar Negron followed with a 6-yard run for the score and a 20-20 tie with 29.8 seconds left to play. Beach then opened the hole for Tremeyon Sanders to scamper in for the two-point conversion, and the Sabres recovered a fumble on the ensuing kickoff to seal the win.

"I knew I had to give it my best there, and I had to dig deep,"

Beach said and added: "It feels amazing to get this win. We've been working very hard for this."

A Sanders run gave Streamwood an early 6-0 lead but the score was tied 6-6 at the end of the first quarter. A Leonardo Marin interception in the second started a 10-play, 67-yard scoring drive which featured 28 rushing yard from Sanders and 27 from Emmanuel Martinez.

Martinez ran in an 18-yard touchdown to cap that drive and Dixon ran in a two-point conversion for a 14-6 lead at halftime.

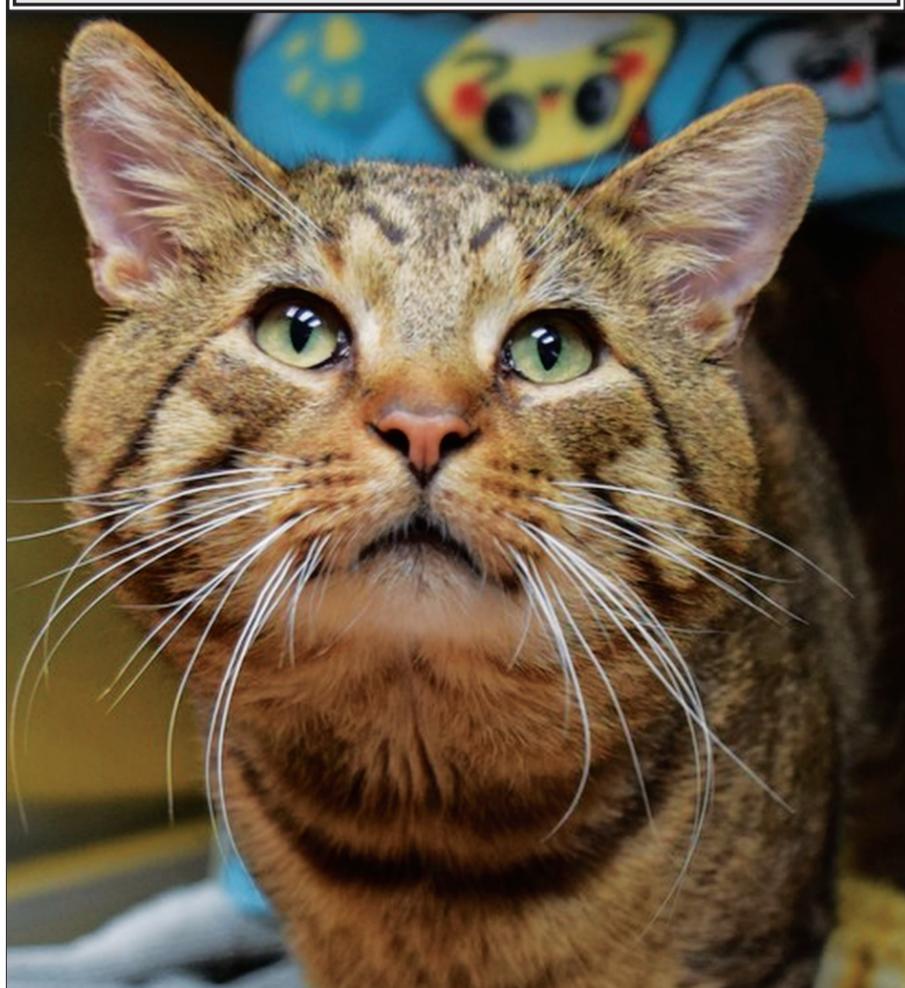
"We have a young group, and the seniors have worked really hard to get the younger guys up to speed," Guindon said. "I'm really happy for them to get this win and to do it at home on homecoming."

Streamwood is now 1-4 overall and in the UEC.



Sabres' defensive back Leonardo Marin attempts to tackle Tomcats' runningback Kimani Williams.

Pet of the Week



Please beam Scotty to your home

Scotty was surrendered to the shelter when his owner's wife didn't want a cat adopted. As such, Scotty is looking for a brand new pal that will love him. Super affectionate Scotty is a laid back dude who takes things as they come. He has lived with a dog and a parrot and wouldn't mind an animal pal or two in his new home. Scotty is 5 years old, neutered, up-to-date on vaccines and ready to live long and prosper in a new home. For more information please call 407-2800 or email us at AnimalServices@dupageco.org.

(Photo courtesy of County Animal Control)

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Letters to the Editor

Deadline for letters is noon on Monday. Please include a phone number for verification, and submit letters electronically.

All letters are printed as received. Grammatical and spelling errors are the responsibility of the author.

Is this the most toxic tax in Illinois politics?

Dear Editor,

How would you like for the state to track your car so that you could pay a tax for every mile you drive? That's an issue that has come up in the state's gubernatorial election, as explained in our Austin Berg's column this week:

There is one product that, for a century, has towered above all others as a symbol of choice, control and personal freedom in America: the automobile. There are more than 10 million registered vehicles in Illinois, according to the secretary of state's office.

One candidate for governor has ticked off a lot of their owners. And now he's trying to walk it all back.

In January, J.B. Pritzker told the editorial board of the Arlington Heights-based Daily Herald that Illinois should explore the idea of taxing people by how much they drive. This is called a vehicle miles traveled, or VMT, tax.

"It's only fair if you're on a road and traveling on that road then you should pay your fair share on the road like everybody else is paying," Pritzker said.

There are a slew of reasons why Illinoisans should be skeptical of this proposal.

First, Illinois hoses drivers at the pump with layers and layers of gasoline and sales taxes already. When gas prices are high, those taxes stand among the highest in the nation. Even if a VMT tax completely replaces the gas tax, the idea behind it is to raise more revenue. You'd likely pay more.

Second, a per-mile tax program would be an administrative nightmare. Illinois state government, especially the secretary of state's office, is not exactly known for being tech savvy.

Third, Illinois needs to get far more bang for its buck before devoting a single new dollar to infrastructure improvements.

Prevailing wage laws, for example, mandate inflated wages for certain construction workers on all government projects to the detriment of other construction workers, and taxpayers at large. Workers' compensation costs on those projects are far higher than neighboring states.

Finally, there are serious privacy concerns. VMT tax programs can require drivers to install a tracking device on their cars to monitor their use. How's that for a symbol?

In a different world, the VMT tax might not hit such a raw nerve with the public. It could be a more efficient way to charge people for the public infrastructure they use, whether they're driving a Tesla or a Model T.

Illinois is not that world. People here are tired of talk of more taxes.

Pritzker recently released an ad saying he never proposed a VMT tax plan, but why he would even go near the idea in the first place is politically confusing. In the eyes of much of the public, especially rural voters, a VMT proposal is like the soda tax on steroids.

Just ask Senate President John Cullerton, D-Chicago.

In 2016, Cullerton advanced Senate Bill 3267, which would have instituted a VMT plan in Illinois. All drivers would have to pay a per-mile road-user fee and pick one of three tracking options: two plans that used tracking devices, or a third option where drivers would pay a flat \$450 per year.

The backlash was so intense that Cullerton publicly walked back his intentions to move the bill out of committee.

One wonders how many times an unpopular idea must be knocked down before it rises back from the dead. Especially when it means more money for the state. And especially in Illinois.

Austin Berg is a writer for the Illinois Policy Institute. He wrote this column for the Illinois News Network.

Brett Rowland
News Editor

Illinois News Network

Offensive comments

Dear Editor,

Some candidates spend their primaries knocking doors, attending events and telling voters why they are fit to represent them in Congress.

Other candidates use that time to compare the president to a terrorist mastermind and call White House employees Nazis.

Eleven days ago the Washington Free Beacon revealed that Sean Casten compared President Trump to Osama Bin Laden. Today we learned that he also told voters there are Nazis working in the White House on two different occasions.

After widespread condemnation, Sean Casten's campaign said that he "regrets" comparing Trump to Bin Laden. Interestingly, he has no regret for calling an entire White House, Nazis. Instead he doubled down and invoked the death of Heather Heyer by white supremacists in Charlottesville in his defense.

Sean Casten's litany of offensive comments disqualifies him from representing Illinois' 6th congressional district in Congress. If he thinks he can just sweep these comments under the rug and move on, he is sorely mistaken. Sean Casten will be held accountable.

Maddie Anderson

Sabres volleyball topples Tomcats, extend streak

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood volleyball team extended an undefeated streak to five games after the Sabres earned a 25-17, 25-17 win over East Aurora in Upstate Eight Conference play on Tuesday, Sept. 18 in Aurora.

The Sabres built early leads in both sets and would maintain control.

"It was a good win for the Sabres tonight," said Streamwood coach Sheryl Hettinger. "They played as a unit and just controlled the game the whole time."

Corinne Angle (14 digs), Mary Rackow (12 assists), Leslie Garcia (four kills) and Mariely Sotelo (one block) led the Sabres effort.

The undefeated streak is the first for Streamwood this season after it suffered a 14-game losing streak that was snapped with a win to end the Round Lake Invite where the Sabres compet-

ed well despite a 1-4 finish. A week later, Streamwood went 2-0-2 at the Little Village Invite which was the start of the current undefeated streak.

"It was another good weekend for us," Hettinger said of the Little Village Invite. "The Sabres played tough and with energy throughout the whole tournament."

Streamwood is now 5-18-2 overall and picked up its first win in the UEC as the Sabres improved to 1-2 in conference play.

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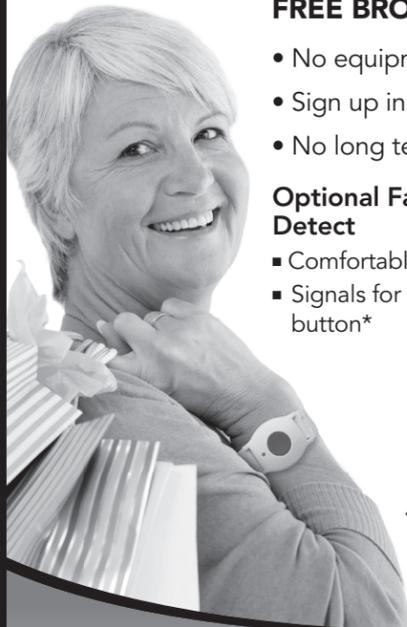
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