

Press Clippings 01/02/2019

---The Courier-News---01/02/2019

Elgin faces eventful year

Elections, road improvements, ruling on Clements' shooting death on docket

By: Rafael Guerrero



- Clements

A City Council election, the ongoing investigation into an officer-involved fatal shooting and the continued push to revamp District U46 high schools are among the big things on the horizon for Elgin in 2019. Here are some of the things to watch for.

DeCynthia Clements

During the summer the Illinois State Police finished their investigation into the March officer-involved shooting death of DeCynthia Clements, and state police then turned their findings over to the Cook County state's attorney's office.

The state's attorney review of the case, in which Elgin police Lt. Christian Jensen shot the 32-year-old Elgin woman as she emerged with a knife from the SUV she set on fire on Interstate 90, will determine whether the shooting was justified or charges should be filed against Jensen.

City Council races upcoming

On April 2, voters in Elgin will choose from among 10 candidates running for five open seats on the Elgin City Council. Three are running to complete the two years remaining

to former council member Rich Dunne's term, and the rest — including four incumbents — want to fill the four-year terms.

There could also be a new mayor if council member Carol Rauschenberger is successful in unseating two-term Mayor Dave Kaptain.

U46 career pathways

School District U46 is pushing ahead with plans to create a new high school program in which students would choose career pathways and attend career academies.

The goal is to have the new system in place by the 2021-22 school year, which means a lot of the groundwork will be done this year.

Administrators are expected to give the school board a status report in late February and address concerns and questions raised during the public forums held this past fall. Curriculum planning and adoption, conversion of existing academies to magnet academies and changes in middle school curriculum are among the topics likely to be tackled in 2019.

U46 teacher contract

School District U46 teachers have been working without a contract since August and have already rejected one offer presented to them by their collective bargaining team.

With new union members now at the table, negotiations will move into a high gear in January with several meeting dates already set, Elgin Teachers Association President Barbara Bettis said. One bone of contention is a district proposal to change the teacher pay structure, an issue that resulted in a strike by teachers at Geneva School District 304 in December.



- School District U-46 and its teachers union have eight contract bargaining sessions scheduled for January. The teachers have been working without a contract since August

Police crisis intervention unit

The Elgin Police Department, alarmed by a big spike in the number of suicide calls received — there were close to 500 in 2018 compared with 322 in 2014 — will create a new crisis intervention team this year.

Police Chief Ana Lalley said the new unit will be made up of a police officer and three part-time mental health professionals who will be available to handle calls regarding mental illness, drug addiction and other crises.

City infrastructure projects moves along

Among the capital improvement projects in Elgin's 2019 budget is \$2.3 million to reconstruct the intersection of Dundee Avenue and Summit Street.

Work will include aligning Summit Street east and west of Dundee Avenue, new traffic signals, widened lanes, new left-turns and new sidewalks that will be in compliance with federal Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

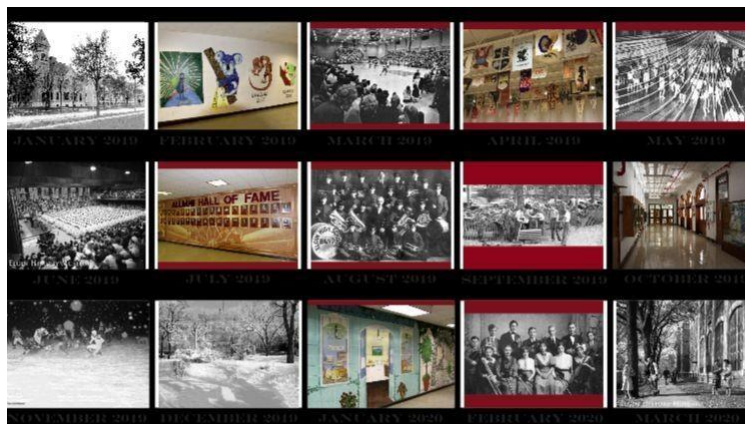
Another \$1.6 million is earmarked for the reconstruction of East Chicago Street, including new pavement, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, traffic signals, lighting, bike lanes and storm sewers, according to the budget proposal.

150 years

Calendar offers a look back

Elgin High School celebrates anniversary with photos

By: Rafael Guerrero



- Elgin High School's 150th anniversary calendar features new and old photos of the high school, a different one for each of the 18 months featured.

Some of the highlights of Elgin High School over the past 150 years have been captured in a new anniversary calendar being sold.

The 18-month 2019-20 calendar was put together by the Elgin High School 150th Celebration committee and is being sold for \$10 at the school, at the school's basketball games and online at www.u-46.org/ehs.

"It's the right time for people to get calendars," said John Devine, the Elgin High School social studies teacher in charge of the anniversary committee.

Elgin High School and School District U46 have been celebrating the school's 150 years this school year. An all-alumni marching band performance was held in the fall, a new banner celebrating the school's milestone will go up in February and an all-class reunion is planned for April.

Devine said the 150th Celebration group, made up of staff, alumni and community members, decided to make the calendar because of the countless of pictures and documents at their disposal. This past year, committee members and local volunteer archivists have been digitizing some items to make them easier to access, he said.

"We decided to go with an 18-month calendar to tell more of the history of the school through photos," he said.

The pictures contain a mix of new and old. Each month features one photo, some dating back several decades. The older ones capture buildings, athletic and social events, and pictures of student groups. The newer ones were recently taken at the current school building and the former building on Gifford Street.

"I knew there were some interesting things out there," said Chandler Swan, a member of the 150th anniversary committee. "Thank God people kept many of (the pictures)."

Swan, a former Sears Catalog art director, undertook the calendar design. Because they were limited in space, Swan added a few additional photos of things like the 1899 girls basketball team and the school's first orchestra in 1911 to an extra page that was added, he said.

Swan selected a painting from Charles Peterson, a 1945 Elgin High School graduate, for the cover.

The painting depicts the main entrance to the former Elgin High School on Gifford Street and currently hangs at the current high school on Maroon Drive.

"It's an interesting picture looking west from Gifford (Street) down to the old high school," he said. "There's a lot of students walking down to the high school. According to people who knew (Peterson), those are actual people (in the painting). ... You can see their actual faces."

The first printing run of calendars is 500, Devine said. With orders coming from as far away as California, another run may be necessary, he said.

“Especially with our under-50, under-60 crowd, they don’t know old Elgin High School, they only know of it,” Devine said.

SPORTS

---Daily Herald---12/29/2018

Bartlett stuns Wheaton North in overtime

By: Bobby Narang

Bartlett senior guard Savannah Standefer prefers intense pressure situations. Big games bring out the best in her.

That was evident in Friday's showdown against Wheaton North.

In a physical and bruising game, Standefer thrived in the second half. Standefer's aggressive play on offense and defense sparked the fourth-seeded Hawks to a thrilling 78-70 overtime win over top-seeded Wheaton North in the semifinals of the 35th annual Bill Neibch Falcon Classic. It was Bartlett's 13th consecutive victory.

The Hawks play Glenbrook South at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the title game.

With the Hawks (15-2) trailing 49-45 in the fourth, Standefer scored five straight points in a two-possession sequence, while her defense on Wheaton North (14-1) star forward Nikki Baird ignited the comeback. She also had a key block in the final seconds of regulation.

Standefer collected 11 points, 6 rebounds and a key steal and block.

"We had to pull together as a team and we all were on the same mindset and believed in each other," Standefer said. "(Physical games) are what get me going and give me energy and I feed off that and prefer that."

Standefer was one of many standouts players in a contest between two teams with a combined two losses. Baird led all scorers with 29 points and 11 rebounds, but Standefer and Danielle Hedeem's aggressive on-ball defense limited the Belmont recruit to 9 points after halftime.

In the first half Baird had a dominating effort on offense and defense. She missed only two shots to finish the half with 20 points, 7 rebounds and blocked 4 shots to give the Falcons a 35-29 lead.

"I'm very proud of my girls, on their floor in a hostile environment," Bartlett coach Brad Hunt said. "This was a playoff atmosphere. We were very resilient. We battled through all the turnovers and physicality and made enough shots to win the game.

"Danielle and Savannah played great defense. Savannah is our emotional leader. She shows the passion and the girls feed off her. Both of them did a great job, and I think they frustrated (Baird)."

Bartlett sophomore guard Alexis Sinclair hit numerous big shots to end with 21 points on 7-for-18 shooting. Freshman Mackenzie Hare also scored 21 points on 7-for-12 shooting.

Senior Teagan Noesen buried two 3s in overtime to finish with 13 points.

Wheaton North freshman guard Claire Hyde scored on a coast-to-coast lay-in with 5.6 seconds left in regulation to force overtime.

"They put the ball in my hands and I was just looking to score and take what the defense gave me," Hyde said of her key basket.

But Noesen drilled two 3s in a three-possession span to give the Hawks a 72-65 lead with just under two minutes left in overtime. The Hawks made three of their four 3-point attempts in overtime, and dominated the offensive boards for second chance points in the final eight minutes.

"My teammates did a really good job finding me," Noesen said. "We were all tired, but we all knew we had to keep shooting and playing good defense would all the shots to fall."

Wheaton North shot 4 for 16 on 3s, shot 16 for 25 on free throws and was outscored 17-9 in overtime. Wheaton North coach David Eaton played four underclassmen for part of the overtime, calling the loss a chance for growth. Julia Simon added 14 points for the Falcons.

"It was a good learning experience," he said. "You have to give Bartlett credit...Their kids fought and fought. We have been in a lot of close and tight games, and not getting it done might resonate more than the ones we won down the stretch. This is a good wake-up call."



- Bartlett's Justina Hernandez, right, drives on Wheaton North's Nikki Baird during the Wheaton North Bill Neibch Falcon Girls Basketball Tournament Friday.



- Wheaton North's Nikki Baird, left, drives on Bartlett's Savannah Standefer during the Wheaton North Bill Neibch Falcon Girls Basketball Tournament Friday.



- Bartlett's Alexis Sinclair, left, dribbles past Wheaton North's Julia Simon during the Wheaton North Bill Neibch Falcon Girls Basketball Tournament Friday.



- Bartlett head coach Brand Hunt cheers on his girls during their game against Wheaton North in the Wheaton North Bill Neibch Falcon Girls Basketball Tournament Friday.



- Wheaton North's Nikki Baird, left, drives on Bartlett's Danielle Hedeon during the Wheaton North Bill Neibch Falcon Girls Basketball Tournament Friday.



- Bartlett's Mackenzie Hare, middle, is trapped by Wheaton North's Ellie Hubbard, left, and Sarah Topps during the Wheaton North Bill Neibch Falcon Girls Basketball Tournament Friday.



- Bartlett's bench can't believe a call during their game against Wheaton North in the Wheaton North Bill Neibch Falcon Girls Basketball Tournament Friday.



- The Wheaton North bench cheers during their game against Bartlett in the Wheaton North Bill Neibch Falcon Girls Basketball Tournament Friday.



- Bartlett's Alexis Sinclair, right, is trapped by Wheaton North's Sarah Topps, right, and Wheaton North's Julia Simon during the Wheaton North Bill Neibch Falcon Girls Basketball Tournament Friday.



- Wheaton North's Sarah Topps, right, drives past Bartlett's Shelly Banks during the Wheaton North Bill Neibch Falcon Girls Basketball Tournament Friday.

---Daily Herald---12/30/2018

Bartlett takes second at Wheaton North

By: Scott Miller

The Glenbrook South girls basketball team had its backs against the wall on Saturday night when they fell behind 11-2 against Bartlett in the championship game of the Falcon Classic at Wheaton North.

However, enter Annie Streb, who came off the bench to help rescue the day for the Titans. The junior scored a game-high 15 points to help Glenbrook South capture the tournament title for the first time in 4 years with a 52-43 victory.

"She really gave us a big lift off the bench," Glenbrook South coach Steve Wessenstein said. "We were having trouble scoring and she came in and started making some big shots to get us going. We have a real resilient team and I'm just proud of the way they all battled back."

Streb scored 10 points in the second quarter alone all on drives to the basket as the Titans outscored the Hawks 17-10 to erase the early deficit and pull ahead 26-24 at halftime.

"I knew we had to change the momentum around," Streb said. "So, I was just trying to make something happen. I usually don't drive to the basket that much because I get a lot of my shots blocked. But I just decided to really go for it and they started to go in."

Streb scored 6 more points in the third quarter to help Glenbrook South stay in the lead the rest of the way.

Challen Flaws was also a big contributor for the Titans with 13 points, including three 3-pointers. Bartlett still only trailed 39-38 early in the third quarter when Flaws hit a 3-pointer that started the Titans on a 13-5 run to close out the game.

"Challen and Annie were great," Wessenstein said. "We don't usually count on them for a lot of scoring, but they really came through for us tonight when we needed them. I also thought our defense was much better in the second half at limiting touches and drives to the basket."

The tournament win was a nice turnaround after tough losses to New Trier and Benet.

"I think the biggest thing we can come away from this tournament is we learned how to win some close games," Wessenstein said. "We had lost a couple just before the tournament, so to be able to come back and win a few in this tournament is really going to help us moving forward."

The loss for Bartlett snapped a 13-game win streak, but didn't take away from a strong showing by the Hawks, who knocked off top-seeded Wheaton North in the semifinals.

"As young as we are to be able to come here against some really tough competition and finish second is really nice," Bartlett coach Brad Hunt said. "I'm really pleased with the way we are playing and where we are at right now, but there's still work to do. The streak was nice, but I think a really good team tonight exposed a few of our weaknesses tonight. We'll work on those and try to finish the last six weeks strong."

Alexis Sinclair had 12 points to lead the Hawks in scoring. Sinclair and MacKenzie Hare were named to the all-tournament team.

---The Courier-News---01/02/2019

Boys Basketball

Hungry hearts

Perez powers Larkin in consolation final loss at Proviso West Holiday Tournament

By: Patrick Z. McGavin

Playing in his final game at the Proviso West Holiday Tournament, Larkin guard Victor Perez was determined to prove a point.

“We have a lot of heart and hunger on this team,” Perez said. “We wanted to show that we are a much better team than what we showed against Uplift.”

Perez scored 14 points Saturday and hit a jumper to force a late tie for Larkin, but St. Joseph escaped with a 47-46 victory on a free throw by Jon Robinson with 0.4 seconds remaining in Hillside. Reaching the consolation championship game against the Chargers marked a sharp reversal for Perez after the Royals suffered an 82-41 loss against Public League power Uplift in the first round of pool play. Perez, a senior, uncorked a 60-footer at the buzzer against St. Joseph (7-7) that hit off the side of the rim.

Perez has been a catalyst for Larkin (6-11). He’s one of the few returning players from last season’s team that placed fourth in Class 4A.

He brings invaluable experience.

“I have a different role this year, and I think I showed it (Saturday) by scoring, playmaking and communicating,” Perez said.

The play of Perez, junior forward Jashon Johnson-Neals and junior guard Marcus Green helped the Royals fight back from an eight-point deficit in the third quarter.

Johnson-Neals scored a team-best 17 points. Green hit three 3-pointers for his nine points. Green’s baseline jumper with 30 seconds remaining barely missed.

“I liked that shot,” Larkin coach Deryn Carter said. “I was pleased with how we executed down the stretch defensively, but we just over-pressured on the shot that led to the late foul.”

Larkin also demonstrated far greater poise and cohesion against St. Joseph’s press, turning the ball over just eight times. They had 31 turnovers against Uplift.

“After the Uplift game, people doubted us because we were playing against bigger, faster teams,” Johnson-Neals said. “But we came out, proved everybody wrong and showed how we are capable of playing.”

Christmas tournaments typically serve as a litmus test of where a team is. Larkin goes into the new year optimistic about its growth.

“Any time you go 2-2 in this tournament, you are happy with it,” Carter said. “January is a big month for high school basketball. For the first time, I feel like this team is starting to find its identity.”



- Larkin's Jashon Johnson-Neals (21) pulls down a rebound between St. Joseph's Brandon Malone (23) and Antonio Hardaway (33) during the consolation final of the Proviso West Holiday Tournament. Larkin's Victor Perez, middle, looks to make a pass against St. Joseph during the consolation final of the Proviso West Holiday Tournament on Saturday.