

The

Examiner of SOUTH ELGIN

Volume 14
Number 46

"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
March 27, 2019

U-46 policy changes
ratified via vote
See Page 6

North volleyball
topples South Elgin
See Page 16

Child removed from U-46 due to 'hate crimes'

By Seth Hancock

Bullying continues to be an issue raised in public schools, including in School District U-46.

In U-46, a parent or student wishing to report an incident are asked to first go to their school administrator, the building principal, and can also submit a report online using the bullying form located under quick links and through the families tab at u-46.org according to Mary Fergus, director of school and community relations.

On the form the alleged victim is asked to give some details on the what, where, when and who of an incident as well as providing contact information, which is optional.

"The report form will be received by the Coordinator for Student Discipline and the School Principal," Fergus said.

Recently a mother, Tahira Stephens, contacted *The Examiner* stating she had pulled her son out of Liberty Elementary School in Bartlett after alleged "hate crimes" occurred against her son. Unhappy with the district's response, she chose to home school her son.

Fergus said "we don't speak about specific student cases," but she did provide details on the policies and procedures that are expected to be followed by the district when a report is made.

Bullying cases are mostly "handled by the building administrators" according to Fergus with support from the central office. She said social workers with the social-emotional response team, or SERT, investigate the case along with the school administration and central office help.

"The SERT will analyze the written report and conduct interviews with the student who was allegedly bullied, their family, and staff using a structured format," Fergus said. "The

student records of all students will be reviewed, including those who could be involved in the situation but aren't the primary students. If appropriate, the SERT team will go to the school and observe the students in the classroom or on the playground."

After gathering evidence, Fergus said it is reviewed alongside the board policy and state statutes in order to see if it meets the threshold of bullying.

Bullying is defined by the district, located on its bullying page, as an action "placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property," "causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health," "substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance" or "substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school."

If it is found to be bullying, Fergus said "the SERT will provide suggested resolutions for the administrators to use. They sit with the principal to discuss these, and even if it's not technically bullying, they might suggest a restorative conference. SERT will conduct the parent interview with the impacted student's parents and hear what the parent's(s') desired resolutions might be."

A student can request a transfer either in the same school or to another school according to Fergus who said to move to a different school a request in writing must be made to the proper assistant superintendent and is considered by the residency exception committee. In-school transfers are considered by building administrators "dependent on class size and class availability," and a parent can request a transfer for their child but "can't require the alleged bully to be

moved."

"We try to keep people in place as much as possible; to resolve the issues rather than separate," said Fergus who added: "Other restorative practices can be written apologies, returning something if taken, fixing some-

thing if broken, verbal apologies. Making it right is our goal."

Consequences for students in violation of the Student Code of Conduct could include "losing privileges, detention, all the way through an out-of-school suspension," Fergus said.

Missing village man located safe and sound

By Kristin Carreno

An 18-year-old South Elgin man, Jonathan Fundora, who was reported missing Friday, March 15 and considered endangered is now home safe, according to South Elgin Police Sgt. Michael Doty.

As previously reported by police, Fundora left his residence in the 700 block of West Thornwood Drive at approximately 12 p.m. Friday. Family had discovered he did not take his cell phone with him and found a text mes-

sage from Fundora indicating he wanted to harm himself.

Police had stated that Fundora attended Fremd High School in Palatine and had several acquaintances in that area as well as Schaumburg and Hoffman Estates. As it turned out that proved to be where he was eventually located on Tuesday evening, March, 19.

"Jonathan was located in Schaumburg, evaluated by medical staff and is now back home," said Doty.

Finance complaint filed against union committee

By Seth Hancock

A campaign finance complaint has been filed with the Illinois State Board of Elections (ISBOE) against the political action committee (PAC) of the teacher's union in School District U-46, the ETA-IPACE.

The complaint alleges that ETA-IPACE has not filed the necessary Schedule A-1 documents with the ISBOE for contributions received from the Illinois Education Association (IEA), the statewide teacher's union.

According to the complaint, the IEA transferred \$14,448 to ETA-IPACE on March 19, 2015 and another \$34,215 on Jan. 26, 2017. A Schedule A-1 has not been filed for either according to the complaint.

The complaint cites two sections of the Illinois Campaign Finance Act.

Under 10 ILCS 5/9-10(d), a contribution is defined as being "received on the date (i) a monetary contribution was deposited in a bank, financial institution, or other repository of funds for the committee, (ii) the date a committee receives notice a monetary contribution was deposited by an entity

used to process financial transactions by credit card or other entity used for processing a monetary contribution that was deposited in a bank, financial institution, or other repository of funds for the committee, or (iii) the public official, candidate, or political committee receives the notification of contribution of goods or services."

Furthermore, under 10 ILCS 5/9-10(c), the act states a PAC "shall file a report of any contribution of \$1,000 or more electronically with the Board within 5 business days after receipt of the contribution, except that the report shall be filed within 2 business days after receipt if (i) the contribution is received 30 or fewer days before the date of an election and (ii) the political committee supports or opposes a candidate or public question on the ballot at that election or makes expenditures in excess of \$500 on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate, candidates, a public question, or public questions on the ballot at that election."

The ETA did endorse candidates during both the 2015 and 2017 election cycles.



On the way to a big night

Katrina Barthelt taking charge of a South Elgin offensive rush on a night when the freshman forward netted four goals against the Tomcats. For a story and more photos about the Storm's, Wednesday, March 20 win, see page 9.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)



Multiple U-46 expenses to be voted upon April 1

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 is set to vote on expenditure items totaling \$596,820 at its upcoming meeting on Monday, April 1. The items were presented on March 18.

Included is a \$96,000 three-year contract with the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC) for professional development. It will be paid for through the education fund if approved.

According to the proposal, UIC "will collaborate with the leadership of School District U46 to incorporate professional development for continuous improvement of school and district administrative leadership practices and school outcomes."

Board member Jeanette Ward asked for an elaboration of what the professional development will entail.

Suzanne Johnson, deputy superintendent of instruction, said presenters from UIC would provide half- and full-day sessions for the administrative cabinet "as well as leadership development for teacher leaders and building a process for acquiring leadership skills and that development to potentially move into leadership positions."

Ward asked if she could see the resources or curriculum that would be used during the professional development which Johnson said "as they come forward, absolutely," but those resources weren't currently available.

"So I won't be able to see them before I vote?" Ward asked. Johnson said: "That's correct."

Johnson said she could make a request to UIC to provide examples.

Also presented were two proposals for asbestos abatement projects including one at 1019 East Chicago St., costing \$87,900 with DEM Services, Inc. and another at Elgin High School costing \$124,000 with Holian Asbestos Removal. Both would be paid for by the operations and maintenance fund if approved.

Regarding the Elgin High School project, board member Phil Costello asked why EHC Industries, Inc., which presented a bid of \$78,360, was not chosen to which Sheila Downs, director of plant operations, said: "They requested to have their bid withdrawn."

With Trane U.S. Inc., the district is proposing a \$56,367 expenditure (operations and maintenance fund) for replacement of building automation equipment that controls the heating and cooling systems at Elgin's Ellis Middle School.

The district is asking for a \$44,000 expense (operations and maintenance fund) with Trane Rental Services for a two-month rental of a 400-ton chiller to be used at South Elgin's Kenyon

Woods Middle School. The proposal stated the cooling system at the school can't "sufficiently cool the entire building."

Jeff King, chief operations officer, said a chiller was also rented for Kenyon Woods last fall.

A proposal costing \$188,553 split between Dell EMC (\$121,178) for Chromebooks and interactive displays as well as PACE Systems (\$67,375) for interactive display stands would be paid for by the nation's taxpayers through Title I funds I approved.

Responding to a question from board member Melissa Owens, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Trisha Shrode said the district's Title I schools "have additional funds allowable to them each year" and "had purchased technology well in advance of us starting to rollout one-to-one (technology)" district-wide, but that technology is now in a need of replacement.

Also presented to the board at the March 18 meeting was the district's age and obsolescence plan for replacing buses. Jeffrey Prowell, director of transportation, said bids will start going out in April with proposals presented to the board in May.

The plan would reduce the district's current bus fleet from 351 to 345 buses with an estimated cost of \$3.9 million.

The plan includes the purchase of 21 large buses, 19 diesel and two gasoline, while trading in 27 large buses. The trade-ins come from 2007 to 2009 equipment with mileage ranging from 108,905 to 160,201.

The buses to be purchased would all be new, 2020 model year.

"There are no used buses available with our specifications and 2019 is the first year where large school buses are available with electronic stability control and collision mitigation," Prowell said.

Regarding the gasoline buses, Prowell said: "These buses would be a test to determine if we purchase gasoline buses over diesel buses in the future."

Elaborating after a question from board member Sue Kerr, Prowell said two of three school bus manufacturers make gasoline buses and Rockford has a fully gasoline fleet. He said the engine is manufactured in Illinois but is "relatively new" and he'd "like to see how they work in our fleet."

The plan also calls for the purchase of 22 small buses, all diesel and 2020 model year, with 22 trade-ins. The trade-ins are from 2007 to 2012 with mileage ranging from 76,197 to 185,935.

Prowell is also asking to purchase five multi-function school activity buses "for use on athletic trips."

VOTE
APR. 2

Jeanette Ward
Incumbent



Tina Rio



Daniel Hancock

Ina Silva-Sobolewski

CANDIDATES FOR U-46 SCHOOL BOARD

- ★ Classroom: Quality, Modernized Resources
- ★ Curriculum: Pathway to College, Career or Trade
- ★ Funding: Equitable; Lower Taxpayer Burden
- ★ Safety: Students And Teachers Must Be Secure
- ★ Teachers: Provide Them The Resources Needed
- ★ Transparency: All Results And Costs Known

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Split vote approves changes to U-46 policies

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 approved changes to its policy under Section 7 (Students) by a 4-2 vote on Monday, March 18.

Board members Phil Costello and Jeanette Ward voted no on the policy. Board member John Devereux was absent.

Ward appreciated one specific change, that coming to Section 7.042

(participation in extracurricular activities and athletics), but overall disagreed with several provisions already in the policy. She noted her opposition stemmed largely from existing language in the policy.

"I understand the purpose of tonight's vote is to approve policy changes," Ward said. "However, in my mind voting yes on this policy signifies that I agree with its provisions

already in place."

A couple of the sections Ward opposed current language from were 7.010, concerning equal educational opportunities, and 7.020, concerning anti-harassment, which include language setting up special protections for certain subgroups of students.

"As I have explained previously, bullying should be prohibited, period, without the necessity to call out every disparate group of people," Ward said.

Costello later echoed that concern saying "simply put, it's all means all" as the district should concern itself with what the act is and not the characteristics of those students involved which he said is "where it crosses the line."

"I think that an act by and of itself is what we should be targeting," said Costello who added: "A crime is a crime, and that is what we should be looking at."

Ward elaborated on the danger that's presented with the language based on the district including special protection for students based on "gender identity."

"The danger exists that when a female student who doesn't want to share a locker room or bathroom with a biological male will be accused of bullying," Ward said. "The danger also exists that not using the preferred pronoun for a gender dysphoric student will be considered bullying."

Based on the administrations admission, Ward added that the policy "may allow for the participation of biological males in women's sports. Even feminist and lesbian Martina Navratilova thinks that is a bad idea."

Ward also expressed concerns with portions of Section 7.193 (Prevention and Response to Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment) which she emphasized the section which purports to give U-46 power over students "outside of school."

The policy "requires school officials to prosecute bullying occurring out-

side of school if it is brought to their attention and 'causes a substantial disruption to the educational process,'" Ward said. "That's pretty big brother-ish and is problematic on a number of levels. Suppose a student posted a Bible verse on social media and another student was offended by it and felt bullied by it?"

The language states prohibitions on student speech "through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a nonschool-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the School District or school."

Ward also noted changes to the policy included references to the Student Code of Conduct which "contains several provisions with which I profoundly disagree, including differential discipline based on cultural background."

Board member Melissa Owens pressed Costello on his opposition to the policy and what sections he opposed. He said both the bullying and harassment policies include language focusing on subgroup characteristics rather than focusing on acts.

"The act is what I think should draw our attention," Costello said. "Any type of bullying or any type of acts of aggression should be our focus point."

Regarding the change to Section 7.042, it will allow for the ability of homeschooled students in the district to take part in U-46 activities, including athletics.

"I think that's a fantastic start toward allowing educational flexibility for our families, and I'm very glad to see that in there," Ward said.

Police's Youn honored by Bartlett Fire District

By Joe Hyland

Station 1 was crowded with well-wishers for the Bartlett Fire District Wednesday, March 20 recognition ceremony.

"Tonight is a special night to recognize some of our personnel," said Bartlett Fire Chief Mike Falese.

A wide array of awards and recognitions were presented on members of

the Bartlett Fire District.

However, Bartlett personnel were not the only ones honored. Streamwood police officer Sooyung Youn received a Recognition Award for his assistance during a July 18 structure fire call in Streamwood where Bartlett also responded. Youn assisted in running supply lines, thus freeing up Bartlett personnel to assist inside the structure.

Streamwood volleyball goes 1-3 in opening week

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood volleyball team was unable to overcome nonconference foe St. Viator in a two-set loss to open the season on Thursday, March 21 at St. Viator.

St. Viator controlled the first set from the start winning 25-9. In Game 2, the Sabres were more competitive but still fell 25-15.

"The first game, we were a little nervous," said Streamwood coach Jonathan Bacheller. "We came out in the second game with intensity and confidence, but we made too many mistakes which cost us the match."

Abraham Martinez (14 digs), Carlos Jasso (five assists) and Joey Huizar (two kills) led Streamwood.

Streamwood went on to go 1-2 at the Grayslake Central quad on Saturday, March 23. The Sabres earned a 25-21, 23-25, 15-9 win over Huntley but suffered losses against Larkin (25-21, 23-25, 15-12) and Grayslake Central 25-23, 25-13).

"This tournament was about getting more experience as a team," Bacheller said. "We came out with a lot of energy and intensity, but it was too up and down on the court. Many games were close, but we didn't have the instinct to finish some of them. We were missing one of our starting middle hitters today also."

Huizar (30 kills), Jasso (57 assists, 16 kills) and Martinez (38 digs) led the Sabres on the day.

Tidbits

Continued from page 4

in Wheaton. There is no charge to attend their meetings. An a-la-carte breakfast is available for a nominal fee. Wheaton Bowl is located at 2031 N. Gary Ave. For more details, see westsuburbanpatriots.com.

Interested in playing bridge? Join in at the Hanover Township Senior Cen-

ter, Illinois Route 59, Bartlett. Bridge is played on the second and fourth Tuesdays (duplicate bridge on the first and third) from 1 to 4 p.m. Open to all residents in the area. For more information, call 483-5600.

Operation Airlift-Donations are being accepted at the following locations: VFW Post 5151, 520 S. Bartlett Road, 483-0055, email contact@vfw5151.org; and Streamwood Chamber of Commerce, 22 W. Streamwood Blvd.



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HINT: In some cases, a bad muffler can actually cause an engine to overheat.

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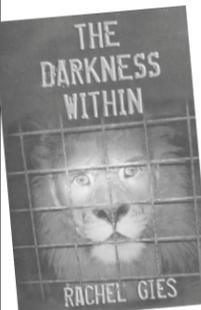
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The Examiner

Rachel Gies surprises her readers with this suspenseful thriller. **The Darkness Within** is a murder mystery that is hot, hot, hot. Kate and her brother, Nick, are being terrorized. Someone is playing cat and mouse with them as they unveil illegal shipments and are in danger of becoming the beast's next victim as they get closer to the truth. The list of suspects is constantly changing. Terror and suspense explode as it all comes to a terrifying shocking end. Previously self published books include **Captured Pearl** and **One Size Fits Most.**



THE DARKNESS WITHIN

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U-46 board candidates debate taxes, spending

By Seth Hancock and Joe Hyland
Candidates in next week's April 2 election for the Board of Education in School District U-46 differed on issues of taxes and spending at the Bartlett Woman's Club candidate forum on Thursday, March 21.

The eight candidates vying for four seats include incumbents John Devereux (Bartlett), Sue Kerr (Bartlett) and Jeanette Ward (West Chicago) as well as newcomers Daniel Hancock (Hanover Park), Eva Porter (Hanover Park), Tina Rio (Bartlett), Ina Silva-Sobolewski (Hanover Park) and Kate Thommes (Elgin).

Devereux, who was appointed last June to a vacated seat, and Silva-Sobolewski did not attend the March 21 forum. Devereux has missed 27.3 percent of public board meetings (6 of 22) since being appointed. U-46, which hiked spending \$40.2 million and added 54 new positions this year while enrollment dropped by 633 students, has lost 1,915 total students since 2014 but spending has increased by nearly \$100 million, over \$70 million faster than the rate of inflation according to the Bureau of La-

bor Statistics inflation calculator. At the same time, academic scores have been flat or declined and have lagged behind the state average according to the state board of education's annual report card.

Ward said there's "a conflict of visions" on several issues including "between those who respect the taxpayer and those who do not." She's aligned with Hancock, Rio and Silva-Sobolewski who have all stated a need for more fiscal responsibility that takes taxpayers into account especially with the continued enrollment declines, and they believe a concerted effort needs to be made to improve U-46's state report card results.

"Tax levies and budgets should not continue to rise while enrollment and student performance continue to fall," Ward said.

Hancock said regarding spending that he doesn't want to see cuts in the classroom but "we should be able to find other areas to cut," and Rio said "our property taxes are too high" and taxpayers need relief. Silva-Sobolewski, at a previous forum, said the board needs to be "forward thinking" and

consider how their decisions affect future students and taxpayers.

Devereux, Kerr, Porter and Thommes are all aligned and have argued for more spending while saying there is no need for property tax relief but also a need for more tax dollars from the state. At a previous forum, Devereux said there's "not a runaway property tax burden" and that there's "in-equities" from the state allowing other districts to have smaller class sizes.

"I have to see the state hold up its end of the bargain," Kerr said before she can consider property tax relief. Porter said she was "for holding property taxes" but "the state has to do its part."

The state's report card data shows U-46 has a 22-1 student to teacher ratio and receives \$4,128 per student from the state while CUSD304 (Geneva) is at 23-1 and \$943, D303 (St. Charles) 23-1 and \$1,125, USD101 (Batavia) 24-1 and \$1,321 and D300 (Algonquin) 23-1 and \$2,859. Despite larger class sizes and less state funding all outscore U-46 academically.

U-46 has continued increasing its tax levy by the maximum allowed under the law which Kerr has consistently voted for, but she said she supports continuing the abatement process. Ward, who has voted against the levy increases but for the abatements, pointed out that abatements preserve the tax hikes which taxpayers will pay in the future meaning increases on tax bills once the abatements end.

On issues of student discipline and curriculum, Thommes said it should be subjective and she cannot "impose" standards on the "diverse" students who come from different cultures and religions. "There's no one right, simple or easy solution" to these issues she said.

Ward, in contrast, said she believes in objective standards and "student discipline should be based on sound practice and not social engineering." She also believes in "academic freedom and diversity of thought."

Editor's note: Candidate Daniel Hancock is the father of Examiner reporter Seth Hancock.

North Stars soccer stifles St. Francis in 1-0 victory

By Seth Hancock
The North soccer team improved to 2-0-1 overall on the young season after battling out a 1-0 nonconference win over St. Francis, the defending 2A state champs, on Tuesday, March 19 at North.

The highlights of the game came near the midway point of the second half when senior goalie Sara Maleski (eight saves) made a diving stop, and moments later junior Samantha Rydberg netted the game's only goal, her second of the season, in the 56th minute.

Rydberg, who netted nine goals last year, is one of the key returners from last season's 21-1-1 squad that advanced to super-sectionals for the third straight year. Some other key returners are seniors Claudia Najera (11 goals last year), Celeste "CeCe" Wahlberg and Ali Wessel along with junior Sarah Andrey.

"This is a different year, but our focus is to get back to where we were last year," Rydberg said.

"We have a strong group of returning players that are eager to step into leadership roles," said North coach Brian Harks. "We will be combining young talent with returning experience, and it should make for an exciting season."

The North Stars finished with an 18-8 advantage in shots on goal, and Maleski earned her second straight shutout of the season.

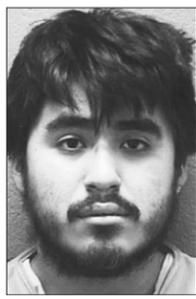
Also helping in the back is one of those young talents, freshman Sophia Hein who has impressed early on.

"What I love is we've got seniors that have taken her under their wing," Harks said. "They show her how we do things in this program. It's been fun to see her confidence grow just in the short time we've had this season."

Area man charged following vehicle crash that killed two

According to the Kane County State's Attorney's Office, a Glendale Heights man faces multiple criminal charges in a vehicle crash that killed two people.

Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon has charged 21-year-old Adrian Velasco of the 500 block of Gregory Avenue, Glendale Heights with the offenses of:



Adrian Velasco

- Aggravated DUI - causing death, Class 2 felony, four counts;
- Reckless homicide, Class 3 felony, two counts;
- Aggravated DUI - great bodily harm, Class 4 felony, two counts; and
- Aggravated DUI - no insurance, Class 4 felony, two counts.

Kane County prosecutors and Elgin police allege that early in the morning on March 19, Velasco was under the influence of alcohol while he was driving a 2012 Honda Accord in Elgin. A passenger was riding in the front passenger seat. Shortly after 1:40 a.m.,

as Velasco was driving west on Summit Street at Dundee Avenue at a speed of approximately 75 miles per hour in a posted 30 miles-per-hour zone, the Honda crashed into a vehicle that was stopped in a business exit and waiting to turn onto Summit Street. Thirty-year-old Omar Zavala, who was a passenger in the vehicle that was struck, was pronounced dead at the scene and 26-year-old Norieli Villagomez, who was driving the vehicle that was struck, was taken to a local hospital, where she was pronounced dead a few hours later. The passenger in Velasco's vehicle sustained serious injuries.

Velasco appeared in Kane County bond court on Friday, March 22 where Associate Judge Keith Johnson set Velasco's bail at \$500,000 with 10 percent (\$50,000) to apply for bond. Johnson set Velasco's next court appearance for 9 a.m., Thursday, March 28, in Courtroom 319 at the Kane County Judicial Center.

The charges against Velasco are not proof of guilt. Velasco is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the state's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

South Elgin baseball rallies to win opener 10-8

By Seth Hancock
The South Elgin baseball team opened the season with a win defeating Fremd 10-8 in nonconference play on Tuesday, March 19 at Heritage Park in Wheeling.

The Storm played as the home team but the game was moved to Wheeling due to field conditions.

Prior to the start of the season, South Elgin coach Jim Kating said "we play some good nonconference teams early in our schedule" as he hopes his team can learn and grow from them heading into Upstate Eight Conference play. The season opener gave the Storm a chance to learn how to rally late.

Trailing 6-2 heading into the bottom of the fifth inning, the Storm pulled

ahead for good with a five-run frame before taking a 10-6 lead in the sixth. The fifth was keyed by a trio of home runs from Garrett Wano (three RBI), Logan Romasanta (two RBI) and Grant Baker.

Patrick Keaty (2-for-4, RBI), Austin Doty (2-for-3, double), Cody Gallagher (2-for-3) and Anthony Nalbono (single) all contributed to the Storm's 10-hit attack, and Ben Hetelle drove in a run.

Joey Haslam got the win in three innings of relief work allowing one run off three hits, a walk and a hit batter and he struck out three. Joseph Teschke (three innings pitched, four strikeouts) allowed five runs, three earned, off four hits, a walk and a hit batsman in the start.

Tidbits

Continued from page 4

The South Elgin Food Pantry, at 400 W. Spring St., will be open two evenings a month, the first and third Wednesday of each month from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., in addition to its morning hours, 9:30 a.m. to noon the same first and third Wednesdays. Visitors to the food pantry only need to show proof of residence in South Elgin or the Valley View area of St. Charles to obtain food. Clients may now enter through the double doors facing the parking lot, making entry to the food pantry handicapped accessible. People who have difficulty or the inability to use stairs can use the elevator at the facility. For help in using the elevator, call 847-931-0563. For further information, visit cumcsouthelgin.com, email cumcsouthelgin@sbcglobal.net, or call 847-931-0563.

Hosanna! Lutheran Church Community Care Center Food Pantry has been serving area families in need for several years. Stocked by generous donations from parishioners, scout troops, businesses and others; the Pantry is open on the first Monday of the month from 6:30 until 8 p.m. and the first and third Tuesday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A photo ID is required in order to receive two prepackaged bags of food once a month per address. For more informa-

tion please contact the church office at 630-584-6434, email to Welcome@HosannaChurch.com or visit their website at www.HosannaChurch.com. Hosanna! is located at 36W925 Red Gate Road (entrance just east of Randall Road) in St. Charles.

The South Elgin Methodist Church Food Pantry welcomes anyone in need, and they also take donations. Currently, they could use cereal, condiments, paper products, cake mixes, crackers (assorted and/or saltines), pickles, pickle relish and salad dressings. There is a barrel in the entrance near the parking lot of church, which is open for drop-offs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to noon or Monday through Friday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Fox Valley Wildlife Center in Elburn, a wildlife hospital serving the needs of orphaned, injured, and sick wildlife from Kane County and surrounding areas, receives almost 2,500 animals per year! Donations of supplies are always appreciated. A current wish list of needed items can be found on the center's website at fvwc.org. Items can be dropped off at the center, located at 45W061 Illinois Route 38, Elburn, approximately one mile west of Illinois Route 47 inside the Elburn Forest Preserve. The center will be operating on spring hours of 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. every day starting April 1. You can reach the Fox Valley Wildlife Center at 630-365-3800 or contact@fvwc.org.

Press Clippings 03/27/2019

---Daily Herald---03/27/2019

More diversity on local ballots this year

By: Elena Ferrarin



Nazneen Hashmi



Eva Porter



Ekwutosi Ufodike



Mireya Vera



Trak Patel



Nafees Rahman

Nazneen Hashmi has been doing civic work for years, knocking on doors for candidates and helping train people interested in running for office. This year, according to Hashmi and other observers of local elections, there seems to be a larger number of diverse candidates on the April 2 ballot across the suburbs.

"I know quite a few (minorities) personally who are running this year," said Hashmi, who is Muslim and running for a spot on the Elgin Community College board. "I do see that people are trying to get involved."

The 2018 midterm elections in November delivered several "firsts" for women and minority candidates, and that has helped people of diverse backgrounds increasingly feel like they have a real shot at getting elected, Hashmi said.

"Previously ... they thought, 'It doesn't matter (if I run), I won't get elected,'" she said. "But if we don't get involved, we'll be taking a back seat and let somebody else drive." Also vying for two ECC board seats are Adriana Barriga-Green, Shane Nowak, Clare Ollayos and Ryan Weiss.

Glenbard Township High School District 87 board candidate Mireya Vera said it was her experience as a Latina parent -- such as noticing poor Spanish translations of letters to parents -- that prompted her to get involved with her local school district. She was appointed to the school board in December.

"It is so critical and important to reflect the communities that you serve, the students that you serve and the parents that you serve," she said. "They have to have a voice at the table."

Also running for three seats on the Glenbard school board are Margaret A. DeLaRosa, John Kenwood and Martha Mueller.

Nafees Rahman, who is of Pakistani descent and is one of three people running for mayor in Schaumburg, said he's seen "a huge shift in the diverse group of people who are going through this (election) process" this year.

It's important for elected officials and staff members who work in local government to reflect the diversity of the communities they serve, Rahman said. If elected, he said, he wants to foster diversity in the village, whose board has no Asian members and whose population is about 24 percent Asian, according to U.S. Census estimates. Rahman is competing against Tom Dailly and Matthew Steward in the race for Schaumburg mayor.

Ekwutosi Ufodike, whose father is Nigerian, is running for trustee in Hawthorn Woods and said she's been called "crazy" for seeking elected office in the largely white suburb.

"They say, 'Ha ha, you're running but your constituents don't look like you,'" she said. "But I fell in love with Hawthorn Woods at first sight ... I'm big on family values and low taxes. Even though we may not look the same, we believe in the same things."

Steve Riess, Dominick DiMaggio, Michael David and Farah Laman also are running for three trustee seats in Hawthorn Woods.

Trak Patel, who is of Indian descent and running for trustee in Lindenhurst, said his approach to reaching voters is to talk about why he's running.

"I'm not even talking about 'I'm a diverse candidate,'" he said. "I'm talking about the issues and 'This is where we stand and this is what we want to do.' My main goal is to really talk to them about 'This is the change we want to make.'"

Stacey Kramer, Casandra Slade, Dawn Czarny, Patrick John Dunham and Heath Rosen also are in the race for three seats on the Lindenhurst board.

While there might be more minority candidates on the ballot, there's still a ways to go to achieve diversity in office, said Eva Porter, who is on the Poplar Creek Public Library

board. Porter is running for a seat on the **Elgin Area School District U-46** board; her husband is a trustee in Hanover Park. "When I go places (for official events), my husband and I primarily are the only African-Americans there," she said.

The other candidates for four seats on the **U-46 board** are Jeanette Ward, Sue Kerr, John Devereux, Tina Rio, Kathleen Thommes, Daniel Hancock and Ina Silva-Sobolewski.

Still, while diversity is important, it shouldn't be all that matters when running for office, Porter said.

"You need to have that experience," she said. "You need to have been involved in the community to know what's going on."

---The Courier-News---03/27/2019

‘This is a good thing’

United Way merger with Chicago office will help bring ‘wealth of resources’ to Elgin area

By: Amanda Marrazzo



Volunteer Denise Maldonado reads to children in 2015 as part of a United Way of Elgin Reading Buddies program at **Illinois Park Center for Early Learning**. United Way of Elgin is merging with its office in Chicago.



Volunteer Ana Monreal colors with children in 2015 as part of a United Way of Elgin Reading Buddies program at **Illinois Park Center for Early Learning**. The local United Way chapter will merge with a larger Chicago branch during the summer.

A merger set to be complete this summer between the United Way of Elgin and its counterpart in Chicago will result in increased dollars and streamlined services available to local people in need, officials said.

“This is a good thing because Chicago has a wealth of resources that they can bring to our community,” said Lynn Bosley, president of the Elgin United Way for the last 17 years who is set to retire June 30, the day the merger is complete.

Bosley said the Chicago office has a large staff and Elgin has just two employees.

“It’s just hard to do all of the things that need to be done to really grow and thrive in today’s philanthropic environment,” she said.

Bosley, who plans to retire after 17 years leading the local organization on June 30 — the day the merger is complete — said the deal has been in discussions since 2014.

“We found what we thought was the best fit for us, and in the end, it turned out to be the last organization we talked to,” Bosley said. The merger was approved in February.

She is excited to combine efforts with the larger Chicago staff and confident it will ignite the ability to do even more for their clientele, who number in the thousands and range in age from birth through senior citizens.

Through about 20 different agencies and 24 different programs, Elgin United Way serves the needs of residents “who may be struggling in one way or another” throughout the greater Elgin area including South Elgin, Hampshire, Burlington and Pingree Grove.

The focus, which Bosley said is perfectly aligned with the Chicago office’s mission, is to provide basic safety net services, the necessities of life: food, shelter and safety. Each office also has a strong commitment to education, especially at the early stages, as well as health, financial stability and workforce development.

“Literally, we help everybody,” Bosley said.

The merger with the Chicago office also means increasing opportunities to raise money, afford more funding and investments into the community. She anticipates the ability to engage in digital fundraising that is difficult for a “two-person shop” to manage.

As Bosley approaches her retirement, she reflected on what has been done during her tenure and what will continue to grow.

For example, she was part of several programs in and around Elgin focused on reaching at-risk children in the early pre-K years to establish a stronghold in education as opposed to stepping in at crisis moments.

“About eight years ago we started to place a pretty significant emphasis on early childhood education and the recognition that learning begins at birth,” she said, adding the focus today is more on prevention than intervention.

“Now the whole community is getting on board with and recognizing that it is too late if you start in middle school and high school.

“We just don’t want to continually focus on crisis intervention. You have to figure out, how are we going to solve our challenges in the community over the long hall. Education is the great equalizer.”

Marcia McMahon, chief professional officer of the North/Northwest Region of United Way of Metro Chicago, said the merger “will save dollars that will be put back into the community.”

She said people from the Chicago branch have met with all the current agencies served by the Elgin office and a special meeting will be held in the coming months where agencies will learn about the new application cycle.

“Change is always different,” McMahon said.

“But they fund the same (programs) as we do, that is what is so attractive about the merger. We really line up very well.”

McMahon said the Elgin agency “knew they would survive” after Bosley’s retirement but “they really wanted to thrive.”

Stations work targets April

Construction on new facilities to start soon, officials report

By: Rafael Guerrero



The new Station 21 building of the South Elgin and Countryside fire district will replace the downtown headquarters beginning in 2020. Voters in South Elgin approved a referendum that gave funding for two new fire stations.

Work on two new fire stations in South Elgin soon will begin, fire officials said.

The goal is to break ground on the two projects in April, South Elgin and Countryside Fire Protection District fire chief Steve Wascher said. The \$11 million project is possible after voters approved via referendum the funding for it in March 2018.

Construction originally was to begin last fall, but Wascher said the project was delayed due to the winter weather, most notably the cold. As a result, Station 23 is projected to be completed next February while Station 21 is due to be completed in March 2020.

Trees will be removed from the two sites soon and fencing should go up next month, Wascher said. Elgin's Lamp Construction Co., is in charge of the two projects. Final bids for the interior work of the fire stations will go out in April, he added.

Station 21, 1090 Spring St., will replace the current South Elgin fire headquarters on West State Street. The 20,000 square-foot, two-story building would house administration offices along with fire engines, an ambulance and its ladder truck.

Station 23, 498 North South Elgin Blvd., will be 12,000 square feet, one story, and hold a fire engine and ambulance as well as diving equipment, Wascher said.

The long-sought expansion will benefit South Elgin in several ways, officials said. The addition of new facilities will allow the agency to hire six new firefighters, Wascher said.

According to a South Elgin and Countryside agency fact sheet, the agency employs 30 full-time firefighters/paramedics, 16 part-time firefighters/paramedics and multiple administrators and administrative assistants.

The agency is housed in two fire stations, the newer Station 22 and Station 21, which has existed for six decades.

"There are still areas where we cannot make it in six-and-a-half minutes," Wascher said. The increase of stations from two to three will cut emergency response time, he said.

Furthermore, Station 23 is the first fire station South Elgin will have on the village's east side; Station 22 was built on McDonald Road in 2000.

"This prevents us from getting stuck behind a train," Wascher said, noting emergency vehicles can get stuck waiting for freight trains on South Elgin's east side.

"This will allow us to get to the schools much quicker," he added, noting **South Elgin High School**, **Kenyon Woods Middle School**, and **Clinton Elementary School** are all east of the railroad tracks and the Fox River.

Sabres edged by Royals during 0-2 week



Diana Herrera of Streamwood dribbling in an effort to get past the Royals' Christina Moreno. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



Streamwood keeper Emina Causevic ranging out of the net to make a save on a Larkin shot.

By Seth Hancock

In a high-scoring contest, a late penalty kick did in the Streamwood soccer team in a 5-4 Upstate Eight Conference loss to Larkin on Wednesday, March 20 at Millennium Field.

Locked in a 4-4 tie, the winning goal came with 6:26 left to play when Larkin converted the PK.

Prior to that, it was a back-and-forth game that saw the Sabres take the early lead in the third minute when Josett Perez scored off a Diana Herrera assist.

The was the only lead for Streamwood as Larkin

rallied for a 2-1 lead by the 10th minute, took a 3-2 lead into halftime and built a 4-2 lead by the 49th minute.

"I thought mostly with their counterattack, that's where we broke down defensively," said Streamwood coach Kristin Duffy. "We need to do a better job staying in front of our opponents."

Despite the loss, Duffy was happy with the offensive output after scoring just three goals in three games in the opening week.

Josett Perez assisted a Jasmin Perez goal in the 16th minute to make it 2-2 at the time. A pair of

Herrera corner kicks setup Streamwood's second half rally to tie the game at 4-4 with Josett Perez finding the net in the 56th minute and Paulette Carranza in the 63rd.

"They played really well," Duffy said. "They worked together as a team more than they did last week. They moved off the ball well, passed well and we did a good job finishing."

Streamwood went on to drop an 8-1 nonconference game against Wheaton North on Thursday, March 21 at Wheaton North.

The Sabres are now 0-5 overall, 0-2 in the UEC.



With a leap, the Sabres' Lesly Jimenez, injected between the Royals' Arianna King, left, and Kelly Leon to seize control of the ball from the pair.



Larkin keeper Jocelyn Guerrero, left, was unable to prohibit a goal by the Sabres' Josett Perez on a header deflection off a corner kick that eventually trickled over the goal line for a Streamwood score.

North takes straight-set opener from Storm



North's Cameron Menini dealing with a Storm shot deep in the court.

By Seth Hancock

The North and South Elgin volleyball teams battled in their season opener, but the North Stars came out on top in the end of a 25-21, 25-22 non-conference match on Tuesday, March 19 at North.

Game 1 was within a couple points most of the set until late when North turned a 19-17 lead into a 22-17 advantage including a Ryan Forester kill and a Kyle Gruber (16 assists) ace. A Ben Woytych (nine kills, block) followed by an unforced error by the Storm eventually gave the North Stars the set win.

In Game 2, South Elgin scored the first two points when North coach Todd Weimer took a timeout. That turned into a 5-1 deficit before the North Stars went on a 15-3 run, Woytych and Sammy De-



The Storm's David Long was unable to successfully block a shot by North's Sammy DeDobbelaere as the ball fell to the court while the North Stars earned the volley point.

Dobbelaere both tallying two kills, to take the lead for good at 16-8.

"They scored the first two points and we weren't talking the way we needed to," Weimer said. "I took a timeout and

I was like 'guys, we need to open up our communication.' Credit South Elgin because they really clawed tooth and nail and made us work for the win."

Cameron Menini (18 digs), Marcus Janssen (four kills, block) and Kyle Spence (three kills, block) all contributed for North.

"I'm definitely pleased with the outcome of the match," Weimer said. "It's definitely good to come out with a young team and get a positive result right off the bat."

The Storm did battle back in the second set including a 5-0 run, Eugene Gueco (eight assists) capping it with a pair of aces, to pull to 16-13. Later

down 24-19, Anthony Viscuso had a kill and Mandep Sangha (six kills) two to keep the match alive at 24-22 before North scored the final point off a South Elgin service error.

Christian Ayar (10 assists, ace), Adam DeGuzman (three kills), David Long (three kills) and Jack Dulum (two aces, two blocks) contributed for the Storm. South Elgin was also playing without returning senior Vincent Miskiewicz for the opener.

"Obviously we would prefer a different outcome, but it was two pretty evenly matched teams and they just executed on a few more things," said South Elgin coach Adam Plach. "I'm happy with what I saw overall. I wasn't sure what to expect with some new guys, and it's good to see them play."

The North Stars did follow up with a 25-19, 25-17 nonconference loss against Maine South on Thursday, March 21 at North.



South Elgin's Christian Ayar making an athletic move above the court to set for a teammate against the North Stars. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



Anthony Gilio setting for a would be North kill shot against South Elgin.

Offense takes charge in Sabres season opener

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood baseball team came out strong in its season opener earning a 14-4 nonconference win over Hoffman Estates in a five-inning, 10-run rule game on Saturday, March 23. Streamwood played as the home team but the game was moved to Hoffman Estates due to field conditions.

Hoffman Estates scratched out an unearned run off starting pitcher Tyler Jones in the top of the first inning, but the Sabres scored four in the bottom half of

the frame to take the lead for good. A two-run double by Colin Bielinski and an RBI double from Connor Johnson keyed the early rally.

The Sabres never looked back in outitting Hoffman Estates 13-5 including six doubles.

"This is a great way to start the season," said Streamwood coach Ryan Lasota. "We had a couple of misplayed balls in the first inning and gave up a run early, but I loved the way we battled back and put up four in the bottom half."

Max Alanis (3-for-4, two doubles, five RBI), Jones (2-for-4, double, RBI), Anthony Caruso (2-for-4, double, RBI), AJ Reyna (2-for-3, RBI) and Dillon Skelnik (two RBI) all had productive days at the plate.

Jones went four innings on the mound for the win allowing three earned runs off four hits, a walk and a hit batter and he struck out three. Bielinski allowed a hit and struck out one in a scoreless inning of relief.

"When Tyler was pounding the zone and getting ahead of them in the count, he was great," Lasota said.



Hoffman Estates shortstop Adam Burks taking a throw at second base to force a sliding Max Alanis of the Sabres.



Tyler Jones got the start on the mound for the Sabres in their Saturday, March 23 win over the Hawks. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



Streamwood's Dillon Skelnik being nipped at first base on a close play.



Sabres' second baseman Dylan Caruso fielding a Hoffman Estates ground ball before throwing on to first to retire the hitter.