

Press Clippings 02/13/20

---The Courier-News---02/13/2020

South Elgin engine teardown team honored for placing 10th in national competition

By:Rafael Guerrero



South Elgin High School engine teardown team members were recognized by the U-46 School Board Monday for their 10th place win at the Hot Rodders of Tomorrow engine teardown competition at Performance Racing Industry trade show in Indianapolis.

South Elgin High School's auto engine teardown team was honored at the District U-46 School Board Monday for finishing 10th in a national competition.

When the team started competing in May 2019, it was one of about 300. To be in the top 10 in the country only seven months later was an amazing feat, South Elgin High automotive teacher and coach Steve Schertz.

It was their performance in November at the National Speed Equipment Manufacturing trade show in Las Vegas, where they tore down and rebuilt an auto engine in 26 minutes, that guaranteed them a spot in the Hot Rodders of Tomorrow engine teardown competition at Performance Racing Industry trade show in Indianapolis a month later.

"We're very proud of their accomplishments," Schertz said. "They made great sacrifices, not being able to go out with friends, some of them even skipped prom for our regional competition."

The effort requires "lots of communication, lots of trusting each other," Schertz said in a news release about the team's 10th place finish. "(Engine teardowns are) choreographed almost like a dance. If someone isn't doing their part or is out of position, the whole team comes to a crashing halt."

The team, sponsored by JEGS Performance Auto Parts, was led by Schertz and South Elgin High School 2016 graduate LeeAnne Driscoll. Team members were seniors Andrew Clark, Casey Gebala, Dan Godinez and Jared Pena and juniors Hayden Shaw, and Omar Quiroz.

The students won scholarships to pay for technical college costs for the 10th place win, Schertz said.

At the school board meeting, team members were presented with Accent on Achievement certificates signed by CEO Tony Sanders and U-46 board president Sue Kerr.

“We all pushed each other to do better than what we expected,” Gebala said in the release. “If we started to think down about ourselves, someone on the team would help pick us up.”

---Daily Herald---02/13/2020

Panel upholds dismissal of lawsuit against Elgin school after 11-year-old dies of seizure

By: Harry Hitzeman



A lawsuit against Highland Elementary School in Elgin remains dismissed after an appellate court ruling.

An appellate court panel has upheld a Kane County judge's decision to dismiss a wrongful death and negligence lawsuit against Highland Elementary School in Elgin after an 11-year-old student died in 2017 from a seizure while playing tag.

The mother of Marcus M. Price, a fifth-grader, sued staff members at the Elgin Area School District U-46 school, seeking unspecified damages.

The lawsuit argued staff members knew the boy was asthmatic, had a severe seizure disorder and carried an inhaler when he was playing a game of tag, also known as "statue," in an unsupervised classroom on May 19, 2017.

Marcus began to shake, fell and hit his head, according to the suit.

School personnel were called, but the lawsuit argued they failed to provide appropriate medical care, supervise the classroom, find or use the inhaler, promptly call 911 or perform CPR.

A Kane County judge dismissed the case in May 2019, ruling the lawsuit failed to state a claim for "willful and wanton conduct" and that the school was protected under the Local Governmental and Governmental Entity Tort Immunity Act.

In a [20-page ruling](#) late last week, the appellate panel confirmed the decision.

"Willful and wanton conduct goes beyond mere negligence in that it requires a conscious choice by a defendant to either cause harm or to engage in a course of action with knowledge that it involves a risk of serious danger to another," read part of the ruling. "It is well settled that a teacher's mere act of leaving students unsupervised, without more, is not sufficient to establish willful and wanton conduct."

The appellate panel noted the lawsuit did not allege there were previous instances of rough physical activity that caused Marcus to have an asthma attack or seizure. The panel also noted school personnel immediately called paramedics, who arrived in seven minutes.

"There are no allegations that the decedent exhibited signs of these conditions when his class was left unsupervised, or that any planned activity in the classroom had previously resulted in the decedent suffering either a seizure or asthma attack," the panel wrote.

Decluttering tips offered Elgin Woman's Club March 7 luncheon

Submitted by Elgin Woman's Club

The Elgin Woman's Club will hold its next program and luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 7, at Villa Olivia Country Club, Route 20 and Naperville Road in Bartlett.

The program will feature the presentation "Decluttering: Living a Life With Less" by local author and speaker Cindy Palm. She will share her passion for minimizing.

Rita Corbett, club president, along with Elgin Woman's Club committee chairs, will serve as hostesses for the meeting.

Since the club was founded in 1887, Elgin Woman's Club members have supported hundreds of local projects including yearly scholarships to students from Elgin Area School District U-46 high schools and their major accomplishment -- the founding of Sherman Hospital in 1888. In addition, members serve as volunteers at agencies throughout the Elgin area and are active in recycling, conservation, women's health, international affairs and many other projects.

Cost for the luncheon and program is \$20, payable by check or cash the day of the meeting.

Members and guests are asked to make reservations by calling or texting (630) 240-2192 by Monday, March 2. Women interested in receiving more information about Elgin Woman's Club may also call the hotline.