

KANE COUNTY CHRONICLE

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STUDENTS SERVICE AREA

BATAVIA TEENS VOLUNTEER TO DO YARD WORK FOR SENIOR CITIZENS. PAGE 3

Rena Naltsas - For the Kane County Chronicle

Andrea Heinz of Batavia High School lays out a sheet Sunday to transport fall leaves on North Van Nortwick Avenue in Batavia for the Batavia United Way's Day of Caring.

LOOKING FORWARD

Habitat for Humanity Craft Show set

ELGIN - Christ the Lord Lutheran Church, 12N462 Tina Trail, Elgin will host a Habitat for Humanity Craft Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free; the church is handicap accessible. Proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity-New Hope. To learn more, call 847-741-8141.

Bird walk planned at Nelson Lake

BATAVIA - A bird walk is planned for 8 a.m. Saturday at Nelson Lake/Dick Young Forest Preserve in Batavia. Meet in the parking lot by the silo, on Nelson Lake Road, a mile south of Main Street in Batavia and one miles west of Randall Road. For information, call 630-896-3219.

THE WEATHER



High 53
Low 37

Today

Sunny during the day and mostly clear at night.



High 59
Low 42

Tuesday

Mostly sunny during the day and party cloudy at night.



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Rena Nahtsas - For the Kane County Chronicle

From left, freshman soccer teammates of Batavia High School Tyler Mansfield, Justin Spler and Adam Maris volunteer Sunday for the Batavia United Way's Day of Caring in Batavia. Students from the Batavia High School dance and soccer team split into five groups to rake five yards for local senior citizens.

Batavia students rake yards for Day of Caring

By ERIC SCHELKOPF
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BATAVIA - Batavia High School sophomore Samantha Spengler didn't mind the chill in the air Sunday afternoon as she methodically raked the leaves from the front lawn of senior citizen Joyce Hoelscher.

"It's a pretty day, and you always want to help someone who can't help themselves," said Spengler, who is a member of the high school's dance team.

Spengler joined her fellow members on the dance team as well as the members of Batavia High School's boys soccer team in volunteering for this year's Batavia United Way Day of Caring.

The high school students along with others, including members of the Batavia United Way board, raked leaves Sunday at the homes of five seniors living in Batavia.

This was the 5th year of the event. Batavia United Way Executive Director Jody Haltenhof sees the benefits as

"We thought this would be a good way to get them out in the community. The residents come and support us. We figure we should support them."

Rebecca Bombard

Coach of the Batavia High School JV dance team

two-fold.

"It helps the seniors in town and it gives high school students the opportunity to volunteer to help the community," Haltenhof said.

The students also gain more understanding of what Batavia United Way does, she said. Batavia United Way will be allocating \$90,000 this year to 20 nonprofit agencies. Those agencies provide 25 programs that serve more than 6,000 Batavians, Haltenhof said.

Batavia High School freshman Jon Faraone, a member of the high school's soccer team, helped carry a tarp full of leaves from Faye Cassingham's back yard to her front yard.

He embraced the job.

"It's good to be outside,"

Faraone said.

For the Bombard family, the day proved to be a family affair. Dan Bombard, a Batavia United Way board member, chaired Day of Caring, and his two daughters, Sarah and Rebecca, volunteered their time to help.

Rebecca Bombard is the coach of the Batavia High School JV dance team, and Sarah is her assistant.

"We thought this would be a good way to get them out in the community," she said. "The residents come and support us. We figure we should support them."

Sarah Bombard agreed.

"It feels good to give back to the community," she said. "It is so simple and easy, but people appreciate it."



FACE TIME WITH PAUL MOELLER

South Elgin resident Paul Moeller, 38, was visiting Mount St. Mary Park in St. Charles with his daughter, Bella, 5, when he answered 10 questions from the Kane County Chronicle's Brenda Schory.

Where did you grow up? Wonder Lake.

Pets? Three cats, Tortie, Creamy and Girlfriend.

Who would play you in the movie of your life? Matthew McConaughay.

First job? Paper boy.

As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? I wanted to be a guitarist and musician, and that is what I am. It is my profession. I am in a band called Plush, a local rock band, and I also teach guitar out of my home and at Elgin Community College.

A book you'd recommend? "The Happiness Project" by Gretchen Rubin.

Favorite charity? St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Best Halloween costume? Last year I went as Bret Michaels from Poison with a rock 'n' roll wig on.

Favorite local restaurant? Francesca's by the River in St. Charles

What is an interesting factoid about yourself? I met The Fonz, Henry Winkler, once in Chicago. His son studied guitar with me at Northwestern for a summer, and I got to have lunch with The Fonz. It was pretty cool.

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