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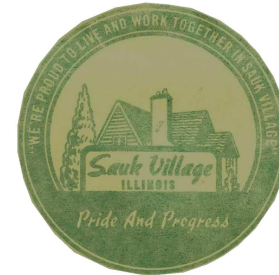
POSTAL CUSTOMER



Sauk Village's Original Community Newspaper

# THE SAUK VILLAGER

A Community News Service for the 21st Century



Volume 1, Issue 15

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2012

## WATER REFERENDUM— VOTE MARCH 20TH

### Iverson Ousted as Principal

By Joseph Wiszowaty

SAUK VILLAGE | School District 168 Board of Education voted for change and to not renew the contract of Rickover Junior High School Principal Julie Iverson following the end of the school year. The Board Room at the District 168 Administration Center was packed with an over-flow crowd of about 60 people, most wearing bright orange shirts emblazoned with "Team Iverson".

Shawna Havener, a school teacher at District 168 and IEA Union Representative, got up and spoke on behalf of her principal Julie Iverson of Rickover Junior High School whose head the school board had on the chopping block dur-

ing Monday night's agenda. "Iverson is our leader." Havener said. "She communicates with teachers and students on a daily basis and is very supportive. I can't speak enough about the test scores which have gone up each year. We're a close knit family" Havener said. Rank and file teachers from all three schools within the district then rose following Havener's remarks stating they support Iverson.

The meeting which began at 6pm finally adjourned into executive session to discuss the matter at about 8:30pm

Iverson has worked as assistant principal for District 168 since January,

2000 and became principal of Rickover in 2005-2006 and has taught for 15 years in the Chicagoland area including Chicago State University and St. Anns Catholic School in Lansing. Iverson was not sure what was behind the boards reasoning for the action they were to take. "Test scores have consistently gone up every year. I'm an educator not a politician" Iverson said while Board considered her fate. Iverson did not state if she would consider returning next school year or not.

At about 10pm, Board President Suzzanne Arnold came out to bring Iverson back into the closed session meeting. Iverson followed and  
*(Continued on pg 3- see IVERSON)*



Supporters of Julie Iverson at Monday's meeting



Board of Education members consider the fate of Julie Iverson, Principal at Rickover Jr. High School

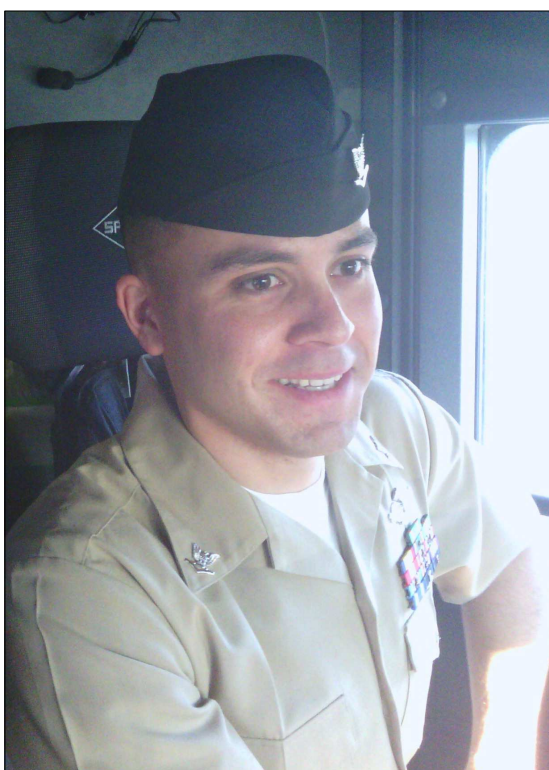
## Villager gets Hero's Welcome Home

by Joseph Wiszowaty

SAUK VILLAGE | With so many tragic events involving the War on Terrorism it's good to celebrate a true hero once in a while. Rene "Junior" Cantu, age 26, is single and is returning home from his third overseas deployment since entering the service in December, 2005. Cantu is in the United States Navy and has been serving in Afghanistan since July, 2011 Cantu is also a 2004 graduate of Bloom Trail High School and Sauk Village resident.

Cantu most recently has been training the regular Afghani military personnel on his most recent deployment. During his military career Cantu assisted with 9 casualty evacuations and has received military citations during his military career.

Cantu is currently a Petty Officer Third Class and will continue his career in the Navy at Great Lakes Naval Base and hopes to complete his education as a physician assistant at some point.



Cantu was greeted at the home of his uncle Sauk Village Fire Department Lieutenant Gary Bell with a hero's homecoming welcome. The Village's aerial fire engine arrived to bring him to the W. Leroy Hawkins Fire Station for a reception welcoming Cantu home. Cantu

rode to the fire stations sirens blaring and the trucks air horn blowing. "It's good to be home again" Cantu said on the ride to the fire station.

Cantu was greeted at the fire station to a crowd of family and friends welcoming a true American hero back to "the Village". Village Trustees Derrick Burgess, Rosie Williams, Edward Myers and David Hanks along

*(Continued on page 4, see HERO)*



# This is Debbie Halvorson

**Dedicated public servant. Relentless fighter. Pioneer.**

Debbie is the former Representative for the 11th Congressional District of Illinois. Prior to her election to Congress, Debbie served 12 years in the Illinois State Senate, and made history as the first woman to serve as Democratic Majority Leader. She is running to represent the people of the newly-drawn 2nd Congressional District.



## Background

Debbie Halvorson is a graduate of Bloom Township High School in Chicago Heights. As a working mother, she earned degrees from Robert Morris College and Prairie State College, and earned her Master's Degree in Communication from Governors State University. She attended the Darden School for Emerging



Political Leaders at the University of Virginia and completed the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University.

Halvorson was elected to the Illinois State Senate in 1996, defeating an 18 year Republican incumbent. Prior to entering the Senate, Halvorson spent 14 years as a small businesswoman and served as Crete Township Clerk from April 1993 to December 1996. She is married to Jim Bush, who is a graduate of Thornton Township High School in Harvey. They have four children and four grandchildren. Debbie, the

daughter of a veteran, the wife of a veteran and the mother of a son currently serving in the US Army, is proud to be in one of the many military families living in the south suburbs of Chicago.

## Legislative History

Debbie Halvorson earned the reputation of being one of the hardest working legislators in Springfield as a State Senator representing communities from Chicago Heights to Kankakee. She consistently led the charge to protect Illinois' most vulnerable citizens. She supported the creation of All Kids, Illinois' innovative health care program for

children. Halvorson also created a first-in-the-nation program that offered every senior and disabled person in Illinois cheaper prescription drugs. Halvorson championed legislation to increase penalties for Internet sexual predators and has also been a passionate advocate for victims of domestic violence.

When Halvorson went to Congress she once again earned the reputation of being one of the hardest working representatives in the House--flying home to meet with constituents every weekend, was additionally being elected the President of the freshman class. She successfully

worked with veterans in the community and the Veterans Administration to bring a VA mega-clinic to the south suburbs. She led an effort to create over 7,000 jobs at CenterPoint Intermodal facility and fought for infrastructure funding and other investments to save or create 8,600 jobs. As a member of the Small Business Committee, Halvorson worked on legislation to increase access to capital for small businesses that create jobs in their communities.

While in Congress, Debbie was one of President Obama's top supporters. In fact, she has a 90% record of support for the President's initiatives—one of the highest in Illinois. She supported President Obama's jobs bill because she knows what it's like to face tough times. Growing up, she had reduced lunch, and as she says "learned to love mayonnaise sandwiches" because that's all her family could afford. She supported the Affordable Care Act, President Obama's healthcare legislation, because she knows what its like to only go to the doctor or the emergency room when she was sick and to watch her mother have to make difficult choices when she faced breast cancer with no health insurance.



*Halvorson*  
*for*  
*US Congress*

Paid for by friends of Debbie Halvorson



(Continued from pg 1-  
**IVERSON**)

came back out at about 10:15pm. When the meeting reconvened about 11pm, over 20 people remained in the audience some had to leave so they could get home to their families.

The vote was 5 to 0 in favor of a resolution which states "The Board of Education has received information and reports from its administrative staff and has determined that it is in the best interest of the School District to reclassify Julie Iverson from the position of principle to another position within the District for which a lower salary is paid". Board Vice-President Mary Howard abstained on the vote and Jimo Kasali absent. The resolution provides that Iverson receive notice by April 1st per Illinois law.

It was not announced at Monday's meeting who would be replacing Iverson and what process will be put in place to ensure it is "open, honest and transparent". Some speculate that the reason for Iverson's removal just might be racially motivated. Iverson who is white is principal in a district which is predominately African-American. Al Travalegni, Superintendent of Schools categorically disagrees with the speculation. "We need to take the school and the district in a different direction and the principal is going in another with respect to education. We need to get parents and the community in general much more involved." Travalegni said. "The principal is going to be given a reassignment at the end of the school year" Superintendent Al Travalegni said following the meeting.

**COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED  
 SCHOOLS DISTRICT 168**

**CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY  
 "THE LEGACY"**

*Wednesday, February 29, 2012  
 6:00 P.M. @  
 Rickover Jr. High (Old Gymnasium)  
 22151 Torrence Ave.  
 Sauk Village, IL  
 Cost \$3.00*

*(Tickets Available @ Rickover, Strassburg & Wagoner)*

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 &  
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*Al Travaglino  
 Superintendent of Schools* *Suzanne Arnold  
 Board President*

*For More Information Contact  
 Valencia Mathis @ 708-758-1610*

**Vote**

**P.O.W.**

**NO**

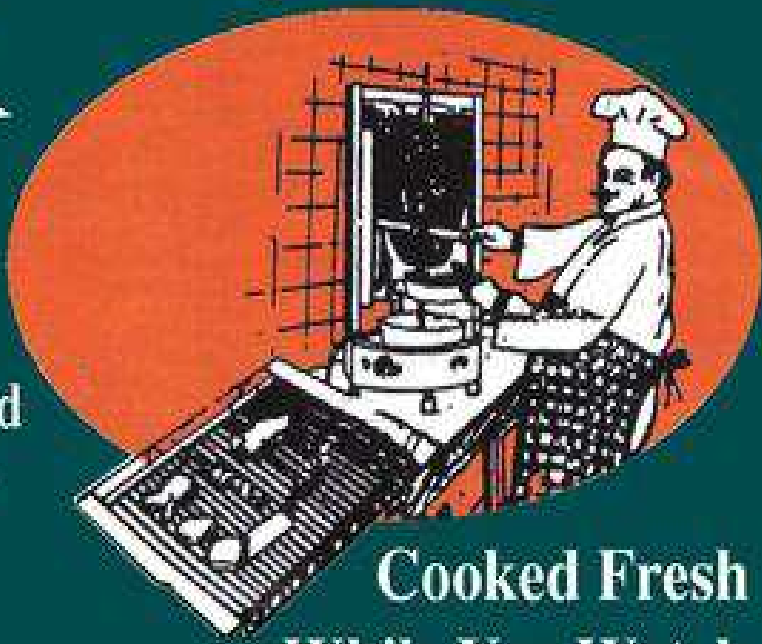
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## HERO- Con't from page 1



with Fire Chief Al Stof-  
fregen and many other  
fire fighting person-  
nel. Mary Bell-Castillo  
was very proud of her son  
and clearly glad to have  
him back home safe and  
s o u n d .

“We wanted to make sure  
that he had a homecoming  
that he deserved for the  
service to our country”  
Gary Bell said.

“I want to thank you for

your service to our coun-  
try” Burgess said to Cantu  
when the two were talk-  
ing together Saturday eve-  
ning. “The men and  
women who serve our  
country are true American  
Heroes and we’re fortun-  
ate to have one of our  
own returning home  
safely today” Burgess  
said. “We also remember  
those who did not return  
home like Sauk Village  
native Army Private First  
C l a s s S h a n e  
Penley. Penley made the  
ultimate sacrifice for our  
country in 2008” Burgess  
s a i d .

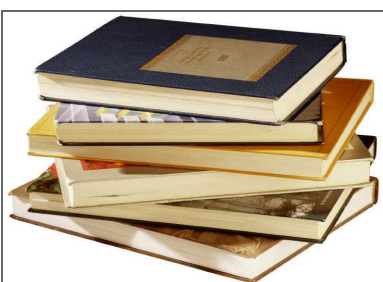
Nobody can relate to the  
worries of Cantu’s mother  
or of a child serving in the  
military more than Hanks,  
whose son Matthew is a  
Lance Corporal in the  
United States Marine  
Corp.

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# The P.L.A.N. Needs YOU

## STAFF REPORT

SAUK VILLAGE | The Community Organization People Looking for Answers Now (P.L.A.N.) is looking for donations to help with its second annual Easter Egg Hunt. Last year's event was

such a success we have decided to repeat our Easter Egg hunt.

Last year the rain didn't dampen the spirits of the crowd of kids that came out for the 1st Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the

P.L.A.N. (People Looking for Answers Now Organization) and hosted at the Sauk Village Church of God church grounds.

Pony rides, magic tricks and the Easter egg hunt were all a success for the crowd. P.L.A.N. leader Judy Cast said that the group sold raffle tickets and every penny they made from the raffle went toward the goodies the group gave out. "Since the Village didn't have any program for the kids last year we wanted to make sure that the kids didn't get left out once again" Cast

said.

The event was free to all children who wanted to attend. For many years the Village's Parks and Recreation Committee had sponsored the event; however, last year Village Trustee Enoch Benson was removed from the Committee by the Village Board the Mayor Lewis Towers unilaterally took over the responsibility of the committee. The Village's community center was closed under the leadership of Lewis Towers. That was last year.

This year the community center is open and Village Trustee Robert Chavez chairs the Parks and Recreation Committee which has been rebuilding slowly given the budgetary constraints.

This year, the P.L.A.N. organization and Parks and Recreation will co-sponsor the Annual Easter Egg hunt and Spring celebration over a two-day period according to Cast.

Plans have not been finalized but details will be announced soon.

"Our biggest obstacle is raising money of course and any amount helps" Cast said.

**If you would care to contribute please send a donation to:**

**P.L.A.N. PO Box 1655, Sauk Village, IL. 60411**

**anything would help! Donations needed by March 10th, and your support is greatly appreciated.**



Photo-courtesy of G. Holcomb - Last Year's Easter Egg Hunt Sponsored by the P.L.A.N. Organization

# Kyle Kasperek

Democrat For State Representative



**Integrity**



**Accountability**



**Loyalty**



**Vote Democrat Kasperek Tuesday March 20, 2012**



**[www.KyleKasperek.com](http://www.KyleKasperek.com)**

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# The Sauk Villager

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*Editorials are welcome 200 words or less subject to editorial review.*  
*News, photos and stories may be shared with the Southland Voice Newspapers*

## Unite! Fight for Sauk Village

### Editorial

By Sharon Nowak



When is everybody going to stop running? Come on folks no one has all the answers, but as long as everyone keeps on running nothing will change but a cancer will continue to spread. When will people face the fact that we are all people. We all have the same needs for air, water, food and love. It's not going to get better if everybody

keeps running and spreading the same old crap. When you recognize that, and can sit down at the table and work together, taking ideas from each other, implement them together then life will improve for everyone. You want to be treated like everybody else but continue to bring up the race card, many people do. Instead sit down and face the issues, crime, jobs, business, vacant homes, the economy.

I cannot think of one reason why this town being all one race or another would solve those issues. Crime is everywhere and the worse the economy gets the higher crime gets. Vacant homes the more there are the more each of us will have to pay to cover those loses. Business who would want to

open a business in a town that is always fighting? The town looks bad then lets join together and learn how to and go out and fix it. At some point everyone bought their first home. Homes and children do not come with instructions on how to take care of them. But we can learn from each other and help each other. You just need to stop bickering and talk and listen.

It's not about race it's about behavior. If God had meant for everyone to be alike there would be no races. I'll bet, just bet though, that He expects us to use the brains in our heads to work together to solve issues that make life difficult for each other. We could have a genius in our midst and miss it if all we do is fight. We could have a business at

our doorstep and miss it if we're too busy fighting. We could have solutions but we are too busy fighting.

Come on if you had all the answers you could have fixed it wherever you came from. If others had all the answers it would not have come to this point of divisiveness.

Now everyone wants to bicker and fight about water. Why did you leave the water you had before moving to Sauk Village? Everyone wants to solve the crime issues. If you had all the answers you would have fixed crime where you moved from. So when everyone decides to get off their high horse and stop saying it's my way or the highway then maybe just maybe people can find ways to fix what needs fixing and

everybody can stop running and whining and fighting. We can be the shining example of people helping people, people teaching people, people learning from people, people working together to make a lovely peaceful and safe community.

We just have to learn to be still and talk, listen, learn, share, help, compromise, plan and move forward for the greater good of the community not the greater good of any one person or any one idea. The community is your home on a larger scale. If it doesn't work in your home it won't work with your neighbors.

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## Underwood



5 children, Jeremy (Judy) Underwood, Joanne (late Wayde) Gipson, Timothy (Kristi) Underwood, Kathleen Underwood, and Josie (Jason) Visi. William also was grandfather of ten and great-grandfather of two.

*The Village of Sauk Village mourns the loss of an American Patriot and longtime resident who truly cared about his hometown. William E. Underwood, age 82, 52 year resident of Sauk Village, IL passed away peacefully on February 26, 2012. William served our country as a proud veteran in the United States Army. William was the loving husband of the late Pamela and the moved to Sauk Village, a place where he made his home for his wife and family. The couple had*

Friends and family may visit with the family on Saturday, March 3, 2012 from 12:00 Noon until the time of the funeral service at 4:00 P.M. at the Smits Funeral Homes - Steger Memorial Chapel, 3045 Chicago Rd. Steger, IL with services conducted by Rev. Jeff Dalton. Interment will be private. Memorial contributions may be given to AWANA, 1 East Bode Rd., Streamwood, IL 60107-6658. For further information please contact 708-755-6100.

## Sauk Village History 1970s to 2012



*Top- Bloom Trail High School- back in the day*

*Middle- Burger King about 1980*

*Bottom- "old Burger King" now Pop-eyes Chicken at the Surreybrook Plaza*

## Chmielewski



Cherished grandmother of Ashley and Andrew.

Chmielewski served on School District 168 School Board for a number of years. **Visitation Friday March 2, 2012 from 9:30 a.m. until time of Funeral Mass 11:00 a.m. at St. James Catholic Church - Sauk Village, IL.** Interment St. James Cemetery - Sauk Village, IL. Arrangements entrusted to Smits Funeral Homes - Steger Memorial Chapel (3045 Chicago Rd. Steger, IL.) Interment Calvary Cemetery - Steger, IL. Information 708-755-6100

**Beverly Helen Chmielewski nee Herdzina of Sauk Village, IL** (December 11, 1945 to February 27, 2012) Beloved wife of James Chmielewski. Loving mother of Edward (Pamela), Todd (Laura) and the late Kenneth Chmielewski.



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**The Sauk Villager**



# Sauk Village Parks & Recreation

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
CLOSED	5:00PM-7:30PM Basketball 16 & under (Novice)	5:00PM-8:30PM <i>Family Fun</i>	5:00PM-7:30PM Basketball 16 & under (Novice)	5:00PM-6:30PM Basketball 16 & under (Novice)	5:00PM-7:30PM <i>Family Fun</i>	CLOSED
	7:40PM-9:30PM Basketball 17 & over (Experienced)		7:40PM-9:30PM Basketball 17 & over (Experienced)	6:30PM-8:30PM <i>Family Fun</i>	8:00PM-10:30PM Basketball 17 & over (Experienced)	

## SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT THE SCHEDULE

\*\*\*\*During Basketball, all Family Fun activities are still offered\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*During Family Fun, NO BASKETBALL IS OFFERED\*\*\*\*



**Family Fun** is a time that people of all ages can come and join in the fun at the Community Center. This is a time for families to come together and enjoy some recreation time with your own family, as well as others in your community. The Community Center is not just for kids. In fact, we are very open to parent involvement and open to any new ideas. Currently we offer Board Games, Cards, Bean Bags, Ladders, Crafts, and more.

**Sponsor Opportunities**  
**Volunteers *always* welcome!**  
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*Chairman, Parks & Recreation Committee*

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