

## **Press Clippings 12/16/2017**

---Daily Herald--- 12/16/17

### **Elgin teen's service project? Music**

**BY MADHU KRISNAMURTHY**

To earn an Eagle Scout badge, Noah Akemann sought to do something different from the typical construction and beautification projects many Scouts undertake.

An upright bass player at Larkin High School's Visual and Performing Arts Academy, Noah wanted to use his musical talents to give back to Advocate Sherman Hospital in Elgin, which helped him as a baby.

He and other members of Larkin's string quintet have been playing Christmas-themed music in the hospital's main lobby this month to elevate the mood of patients and visitors and help with memory improvement and relaxation.

"I wanted to do something different that meant something to me," said Noah, 17, a senior who has been playing bass since fourth grade.

"(Research has) found that music stimulates part of the brain that helps memory. My goal is to help with memory loss and rehabilitation, and this is enjoyable because a lot of people like music. It helps them relax. I can look up and see the faces and see the smiles and joy it brings."

Noah's parents are involved in health care and many family members were born at Sherman, which is why he chose it for his project.

"We have family histories of Alzheimer's and dementia, so it struck a cord," said Noah's mother, Kelly Akemann, an Elgin nurse whose husband is a firefighter/paramedic in Morton Grove.

Nearly 18 years ago, Noah was born in Sherman's Family Birthing Center. A complication due to pre-eclampsia forced doctors to induce delivery when he was at 36½ weeks. Noah was kept in the Special Care Nursery for a week until he could breathe on his own.

Part of the project for Boy Scout Troop 128 at Epworth United Methodist Church in Elgin involves organizing and managing the schedule with other string players and working with hospital officials.

Jose Macias, Sherman's manager of development, said the hospital has a musicians care program designed to enhance patient care.

"Once a week we have the Elgin Symphony Orchestra quartet play one hour in the cafeteria and one hour on patient floors," he said. "In addition to that, we have a therapeutic musician who plays a harp for individual patients once a week.

"What Noah can bring is something different, something fresh with his age group. While the music can be for the patients, it's also (for) everyone in the hospital. It does bring

them to a happy place. It's a different way for that patient to experience the healing process."

Noah plans to record CDs of the quintet's holiday music to distribute to nursing homes to play at their facilities.

"We've prepared a few classical, a few modern, and a few movie soundtracks," he said.

It is being recorded and produced by Noah's grandmother, Donna Akemann, who volunteers with Children's Theatre of Elgin, which was co-founded by Noah's grandfather, Peter Akemann.

## SPORTS

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### **No rust for St. Charles North in big win over Elgin**

BY SCOTT MILLER

After a nine-day layoff the St. Charles North boys basketball team was back at work Friday night and taking care of business.

The North Stars rolled to their fourth straight win 49-26 at Elgin in Upstate Eight River Division action.

Kyle King led North (5-2, 2-0) with a team-high 13 points while Cade Callaghan added a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

"With the long layoff we figured we might be a little rusty on offense," North coach Tom Poulin said. "But it doesn't matter how long you have been off you can always play defense and I was really was pleased with the way we defended tonight. Our goal coming in was to limit them offensively and I thought we were able to do that by keeping them in front of us and keeping them to one side of the court."

The North Stars wasted no time taking control as they scored the first 8 points of the game. King had a pair of baskets in the opening run while Callaghan and Erik Larson each had buckets. Later in the first quarter the North Stars went on an 11-2 run to extend their lead to 19-6.

Callaghan showcased all of his talents on a quick series in the second quarter when he blocked a shot, grabbed the rebound, and scored a layup on the other end as the trailer a fastbreak.

"I am going to do whatever it takes to help the team any night," Callaghan said.

"Whether its rebounding, playing defense, or scoring. I thought the whole team played hard. We know we have to come out and play hard in every Upstate Eight game because every team is going to battle hard. So we stepped on the pedal right away and kept it going. The key was the defensive pressure. Good things always happen when we play tough defense."

The North Stars led 24-11 at halftime and continued to pull away in the second half. Callaghan had 6 points in the third quarter, including back-to back baskets in transition that capped an 11-3 run and made the score 35-14.

"I thought Cade played hard from start to finish," Poulin said. "He was in the right spots defensively and ran the floor real well. He's always a hard worker and gives it every he's got."

Elgin (1-6, 0-4) was a little short-handed and coach Mike Sitter shook up the starting lineup. It was to no avail as the Maroons once again struggled offensively and shot just 10 of 43 (23 percent) from the field.

"It was a chance to give some guys a chance to play," Sitter said. "Some responded and some didn't. I thought Tre Morris played really well when he got in the game running the point and Roy Panthier played hard on the defensive end. I thought our defense overall was much better than what it has been lately. But on the offensive end we just did too much standing around and didn't move the ball enough."

Michael Weatherburn and Dan Toolsie had 6 points each to lead the Maroons in scoring.

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## **South Elgin happy with road win at Bartlett**

**BY JERRY FITZPATRICK**

The Bartlett boys basketball team made it close early in the fourth quarter, but South Elgin senior Vince Miskiewicz, junior Drake Montgomery and the Storm were on a mission in Friday's 71-61 road victory.

After Bartlett pulled within 47-45, South Elgin erupted with an 11-2 run over a 2:15 span to take a 58-47 lead with 3:55 left.

Montgomery and Miskiewicz, who each finished with a team-best 19 points, played important roles in the decisive push. Miskiewicz scored the first and last baskets while Montgomery contributed an alley-oop layup from Noah Rohr's inbound pass. South Elgin junior Jace Warrick added fuel with a 3-pointer from the corner that staked the Storm to a 9-point lead.

The Upstate Eight Valley win for South Elgin (6-1, 1-1) snapped a 4-game losing streak against rival Bartlett (3-6, 1-1), which ended the Storm's season last March with a 65-60 overtime victory.

"This is great. We haven't won here in like three years, I think," Montgomery said. "To finally get a win under coach Johnson, his first win, feels good."

It was Bartlett's third game without leading scorer Ben Tompson, who has been in a cast since he rolled his ankle badly in a 62-59 win at Notre Dame on Dec. 2.

The Hawks looked discombobulated during South Elgin's decisive fourth-quarter stretch. They made it hard on themselves by turning the ball over three times and missing 5 straight shots. Overall, they shot 17 percent from 3-point range (3 of 19).

"We missed a lot of easy shots and we certainly struggled shooting the outside jumper, even if it was a good look," Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith said. "You can't win a game against a good team, even on your home floor, if you shoot poorly and you give up threes to their shooters."

Bartlett led 32-29 at halftime but the Storm took a 45-40 lead to the fourth quarter, thanks in large part to the 3-point shooting of Rohr. He scored 9 of his 14 points in the period, including three straight 3-pointers.

Johnson, whose team lost all three matchups against Bartlett last year in his first season as South Elgin's coach, called it a team victory because of the way his team followed its assignments.

"They executed the press breakers correctly and were smart with their decision making," Johnson said, "and that made those runs possible because we didn't get flustered. We didn't get confused about what we were supposed to do. So they did a great job of making sure they made the right pass, the correct pass, find the open guy and get the easy buckets and the layups and the wide-open shots. That's how you win games, when you get good looks like you're supposed to."

Senior guard Tomas Vikonis and junior forward Garrett Jurina led Bartlett with 13 points apiece while Ben Fisher added 12 points.

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## **Bartlett overcomes horrid first quarter to roll by South Elgin**

BY JOHN RADTKE

It's not often a team shoots 1 of 22 in the first quarter and then wins the game by 25 points.

But that's what happened to the Bartlett girls basketball team Friday night.

After senior Kayla Hare made the Hawks' first field goal attempt just 38 seconds into the game, Bartlett proceeded to miss its next 21 shot attempts, including all 10 from 3-point range, and trailed 7-4 after the first 8 minutes.

But the Hawks righted the ship, going 19-for-38 the rest of the way in posting a 52-27 Upstate Eight Valley win over South Elgin.

"We were a little down because we weren't shooting well," said Hare, the Missouri-St. Louis recruit who finished with a game-high 21 points, 10 steals and 6 rebounds. "We put all of our energy into our defense and that got our offense going."

"Every time we play South Elgin there's always this extra thing. We're always pumped and excited to go get 'em."

South Elgin had its own shooting woes -- at the free throw line. The Storm went 1 of 8 from the line in the first quarter and 7-for-22 for the game.

"The first quarter was probably the game," said Storm coach Dan Mandernack, whose team had a 3-game winning streak snapped.

"When you're up 7-4 but you go 1-for-8 from the free throw line ... it's a road game and we talked about being road tough and having a sense of urgency. We let an opportunity get away. It's disappointing."

Hare scored the first basket of the second quarter to draw Bartlett within 1 at 7-6 and when junior Teagan Noesen nailed a 3-pointer at the 5:34 mark of the period to give her team a 9-6 lead, the Hawks were off and flying. By halftime Bartlett (6-4, 2-0) was up 20-13 and South Elgin (4-4, 1-1) never got closer.

"We've been struggling shooting the basketball and it's cost us a couple of wins," said Bartlett coach Brad Hunt. "Teagan finally hit a 3 and it kind of let everyone know there's not a lid on the rim."

It didn't help South Elgin's cause that its leading scorer, senior Catora Brown, spent much of the game on the bench in foul trouble. Brown, who scored only 1 point, picked up her third foul with 4:43 left in the first quarter and her fourth with 4:29 to go in the half before fouling out early in the fourth quarter when the game was all but over.

"It's hard when your best player has three fouls in the first quarter," Mandernack said. "Our leading scorer has one point all night. It was hard for her to find her rhythm tonight."

As it was for the Storm as a whole. The Hawks' defense harassed South Elgin into 23 turnovers, 11 of which Bartlett turned into points.

The Hawks really turned on the jets in the second half. Hare opened the third quarter with a layup off a steal, then Noesen and Hare buried back-to-back 3s and Bartlett had a 27-13 lead less than 3 minutes into the third quarter. As South Elgin, which was 10-for-40 shooting from the field for the game, struggled to score, Bartlett extended the lead to 38-18 by the end of the third then scored the first 11 points of the fourth quarter to open up a 49-18 lead, its biggest advantage of the night.

"Although we didn't shoot well our energy was unmatched," said Hunt, whose team travels to Des Plaines Monday night to take on undefeated Maine West, the No. 3 ranked team in the Daily Herald Top 20. "Kayla on top with the steals -- that's all-state caliber. We needed that (win). It's a beautiful thing."

Noesen added 11 points and 7 rebounds for the Hawks while freshman Alexis Sinclair had 10 points.

Senior Aniya Zinnerman and junior Rachel Kelly led South Elgin with 6 points each

## Press Clippings 12/17/2017

---Courier News--- 12/17/17

### **GOP gubernatorial candidate Jeanne Ives says U46 too big, needs to be reduced**

**BY RAFAEL GUERRERO**

Just as some school districts are too small and should be consolidated to increase efficiencies so too should the state's two largest school districts be reduced in size, gubernatorial candidate Jeanne Ives said.

"Chicago (Public Schools) and Elgin (School District U46) are too big, too large in their number of students or their geographical area," said Ives, a District 42 state representative running against Republican Gov. [Bruce Rauner](#) in the March primary.

When districts are that large, local control is diminished and inefficiencies are more likely, she said.

Ives, of Wheaton, has made an issue of school district size, saying that a third of the state's 800-plus districts have 600 students or less and are too small. If all elementary school districts were to merge with neighboring high school districts to create unit districts, not only would there be a uniform vision for all of the grades from kindergarten to 12, there would be a cost savings for taxpayers, she said.

Consolidated districts would reduce administrative costs, improve student performance and reinforce local control, Ives said.

"At some point, (small districts are) a waste of resources," she said.

How U46 or the Chicago Public Schools system could be reduced in size is something she didn't address.

Ives has a supporter in U46 school board member Jeanette Ward, who said she generally agrees with Ives' position that all districts become K-12 unit districts and that U46 might benefit were it to be divided into smaller districts.

"In U46, (downsizing) might make it more responsive," Ward said. "When one gets too big, it gets difficult to be responsive ... big districts get to be unwieldy."

However, Ward said such a change would likely take years to accomplish.

Ives is not the first to suggest that U46 should be made smaller. Over the past two decades, the topic has been broached by various groups.

In 2004 and 2005, Bartlett, Carol Stream and Wayne residents considered and abandoned the creation of a separate school district. In the late 1990s, Bartlett residents briefly considered trying to establish their own district after Bartlett High School opened as U46's fourth high school.

Board member Traci O'Neal Ellis said she found it odd that Ives would advocate consolidation for many districts but then would split up Chicago schools and U46. She said the representative's comments were too vague and more likely "a political soundbite."

"It's hard to understand what she's talking about," O'Neal Ellis said. "What will downsizing do? What problems has she identified? And how will the problems (be fixed)?"

U46 officials declined to comment on Ives' remarks.

U46, based in Elgin, is made up of 11 communities in Cook, DuPage and Kane counties.

## Press Clippings 12/18/2017

---Courier News--- 12/18/17

### **Ives: U46 too big, needs to be split up**

**BY RAFAEL GUERRERO**

A Republican candidate for governor said Elgin-area School District U46 is too large and should be divided to give more control back to the communities served.

While making the case that most Illinois school districts are too small and should be consolidated to increase efficiencies, the state's two largest school districts should be reduced in size, gubernatorial candidate Jeanne Ives said.

"Chicago (Public Schools) and Elgin (School District U46) are too big, too large in their number of students or their geographical area," said Ives, a state representative running against Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner in the March primary.

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U46 officials declined to comment on Ives' remarks.

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