

Press Clippings - 5/18/2023

– Courier-News –

Elgin News Digest: Otter Creek music teacher up for Grammy educator award

May 17, 2023

By Mike Danahey - Courier-News

Otter Creek music teacher up for Grammy educator award

Otter Creek Elementary School music teacher Morgan Lentino is one of 212 quarterfinalists for the 2024 Grammy Music Educator Award.

The award recognizes educators from kindergarten through college level for their outstanding work. Semifinalists will be announced in September, and the winner will be invited to and recognized during Grammy week in 2024.

For more information, go to

www.grammy.com/news/2024-music-educator-award-quarterfinalists-announcem-grammy-week-66th-grammys-awards.

To read the full article, click [here](#).

– Courier News –

District U-46 signs letter of intent to buy former Sherman Hospital campus in Elgin but not locked into sale yet

May 17, 2023

By Mike Danahey for Courier-News



A letter of intent to buy the old Sherman Hospital building and the 14 acres on which it sits at 943 Center St. in Elgin has been approved by the District U-46 School Board. (Mike Danahey)

The District U-46 School Board voted Monday to approve a letter of intent to purchase the former Sherman Hospital campus on Elgin's northeast side.

Board members took the action after an hourlong closed session, triggering a due diligence process during which its viability will be evaluated and after which a purchase agreement could be signed, U-46 Deputy Superintendent for Operations Ann Williams said.

No purchase price for the 943 Center St. site was discussed. It's currently owned by Westridge Lending LLC, which took control after a previous purchaser defaulted on payments.

In addition to the 254,000-square-foot hospital building, which underwent renovation work a few years ago when it was to be used as an COVID-19 overflow facility, the property includes a parking lot and open space on 14 acres of land.

It's possible the site could be used for a future middle or elementary school or pre-K center, Williams said.

Board President Sue Kerr noted the campus is near McKinley Elementary School, which is one of the schools under discussion for being replaced as part of the district's ongoing facilities master plan. It's also not far from two middle schools that have limited land, she said.

Board Vice President Melissa Owens said she has concerns about the direction the board is considering for this property, which was not disclosed publicly at the meeting.

"I'm going to vote yes on this letter of intent only because it's a letter of intent," Owens said. "It doesn't bind the board to anything at this point. I do believe it is in our best interest to go through the feasibility and do our due diligence on the property."

The vote was unanimous other than for Dawn Martin, who opted not to vote one way or the other.

"While I appreciate the location of the property, I struggle with putting time and resources into something so ill-defined," Martin said. "However, I appreciate everyone's

perspectives so I will just be abstaining at this point and letting the process play out and looking forward to seeing what comes out of it and voting again down the road.”

Speaking the day after the vote, board member **Samreen Khan** said she saw no downside to examining the feasibility of the property before any decision is made to purchase. The letter of intent is strictly exploratory and nonbinding, she said.

On Tuesday, Karla Jiménez, U-46 director of school and community relations, said additional information regarding the possible purchase will be shared at a June board update.

The former hospital campus closed in late 2009 when Sherman, now owned by Advocate Health, moved to its current location on Randall Road in Elgin.

Chicago-based Freedom Development Group purchased the site in 2019 but ultimately it went into foreclosure. In August 2022, a Kane County judge signed an order that allowed Westridge Lending LLC to take ownership of the property.

Mike Danahey is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

– Daily Herald –

U-46 considering former Sherman Hospital campus for school site

May 18, 2023

By Alice Fabbre

Elgin Area School District U-46 officials are considering the purchase of the former Sherman Hospital property.

School board members this week approved a nonbinding letter of intent and said they are studying the 14-acre property, located at 901 Center Street in Elgin, to determine if it suits the district's needs. Though the property has been inspected, the letter of intent allows for a deeper review before the district decides to purchase.

"It would be appropriate for a future school use supporting either an elementary or middle school or a Pre-K center if desired by the board of education," Ann Williams, the district's deputy superintendent of operations, told board members.

In April, voters approved \$179 million to help replace five elementary schools; two of which date back to the 1800s.

Sue Kerr, U-46 school board president, noted the property is near McKinley Elementary School, one of the two schools that date back to the 1800s.

The property also is near two middle schools that Kerr said are "very limited on land." The district is in the process of switching to full middle schools. Currently, sixth grade students are at the elementary schools while seventh and eighth grade students are in the middle schools. The district plans to eventually move all sixth grade students to the middle schools.

Though the board discussed the property in closed session before voting publicly Monday, board member Dawn Martin abstained from voting on the letter of intent, indicating not enough detail was provided.

"While I appreciate the location of the property, I struggle with putting time and resources with something so ill-defined," Martin said in explaining her decision to abstain.

Board member Melissa Owens also expressed concern about the process but ultimately voted yes on the letter of intent.

"This doesn't bind the board to anything at this point, and I do believe it's in our best interest to go through the feasibility and do our due diligence on the property," Owens said. "However, I have concerns about the direction that we have at this point with this property ... but it's worth it to the feasibility and due diligence to see if the property is usable."

In a statement, U-46 said the property was identified because of the acreage available for a school. The statement also noted the property is located in the center of the district and a neighborhood with several students.

The district is expected to share an update about the property in June.

– Examiner of Bartlett –

(This article also appeared in the Examiner of Streamwood/Examiner of South Elgin.)

Top graduating seniors honored by District U-46

May 17, 2023

By Seth Hancock

The top 2 percent of graduating seniors in **School District U-46** were recognized at a special Board of Education meeting on Monday, May 8 at **South Elgin High School**.

There were 50 total students acknowledged from the district's five high schools.

"The 50 students being recognized as this year's top 2 percent represents the best in terms of academic achievement from our five high schools.... I hope that all of you know how proud we are of our top 2 percent students," said Lela Majstorovic, assistant superintendent of schools.

Suzanne Johnson, interim superintendent, acknowledged parents, family and friends for their role. She added: "But students tonight, this is about you and your accomplishment and all that you have achieved throughout your high school career. Your hard work, your perseverance, your dedication brought you to this point, and we are incredibly proud of all that you have achieved and we look forward to celebrating those accomplishments."

From Bartlett High School were Ronin Shah, Anissa Patel, Gavin Trongnetpanya, Spencer Medendorp, Hannah Guerra, Tej Chaudhari, Joshua Dinh, Lucas Sanson, Vidhi Chavda and Mann Sheth.

From South Elgin High School were Mary Abraham, Piotr Brozek, Katelyn Cole, Kathleen Gillespie, Justin Hoffman, Kian Patel, Jayden Li Pineda, Lily Slowinski, Srisakthi Srinivasan, Andrew Strama, Cullen Watt and Alyssa Worden.

From Streamwood High School were Daniel Nevarez, Victor Perez Garcia, Casandra Medina, Jacqueline Benitez, Madeline Cruz, Darlene Vorarath, Liliana Mayo and Alexandra Mercado.

From Elgin High School were Natalia Gomez, Madeline Conter, Muhammad Hussain, Sadira Ali, Maahi Bhavsar, Ashka Patel, Sabrina Gomez, Aadi Patel, Giulia Scimonelli and Christa Kim.

From Larkin High School were Anthony Clark, Madelyn Dobbeck, Hannah Durrant, Heather Durrant, Jade Martinez, Kelsey Olsen, Liennay Sam, Kelly Stoffle, Emily Talavera and America Vasquez.

– Examiner of Bartlett –

(This article also appeared in the Examiner of Streamwood/Examiner of South Elgin.)

U-46 board approves extensive list of expenses

May 17, 2023

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved, by a 7-0 vote, of \$2.6 million in expenditure proposals at its Monday, April 24 meeting.

The largest item was a two-year contract with Canvas costing \$1.5 million from the education fund.

Included is a pilot program of Mastery Connect. “This system would house curriculum, assessments, and resources,” the proposal states. “With the addition of Mastery Connect, the system will also provide customized reports and student and family-friendly reports on progress towards meeting standards. It would also house personalized professional learning for staff, students, and parents.”

Another education fund item was a \$60,267 contract renewal with Advancement Via Individual Determination, a college and career readiness program.

Several items will be paid by the nation’s taxpayers through federal grants including an amendment to a service agreement with both Right at School (\$313,200) and the Boys and Girls Club of Elgin (\$270,000), \$271,691 with Easterseals Metropolitan Chicago for special education professional development, \$165,928 with Discount School Supply to purchase kindergarten furniture and \$35,496 with Automotive Equipment Specialists to purchase an alignment machine for **Elgin High School’s** automotive program, the proposals state.

Several operations and maintenance fund items were approved: Asbestos abatement projects at Elgin’s **Channing Memorial Elementary** and **Kimball Middle School** (\$96,000 with Celtic Environment, Inc.); asbestos abatement (\$37,250 with EHC Industries, Inc.) and hallway tile replacement (\$35,122 with Floor and Wall, Inc.) at Elgin’s **Ronald D. O’Neal Elementary School**; a loading dock concrete repair project at **Elgin High School** (\$44,654 with Abbey Paving) ; and a concrete repair project at **Independence School for Early Learners** in Bartlett (\$39,300 with Murphy Construction Services, LLC).

The board also voted 7-0 on \$10.4 million in itemized bills as well as approval of closed session minutes and destruction of closed session recordings. **Sue Kerr**, the board’s president, said “the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of closed session minutes.

The closed session minutes included 14 meetings, between October 2022 and March 2023. The closed session recordings to be destroyed are from 13 meetings, between April and October 2021.

– Daily Herald –

Girls soccer: Adams leads Wheaton Warrenville South over Elgin; SCN also advances

May 16, 2023

By Jake Bartelson - Shaw Local News Network

The stage is set.

Wheaton Warrenville South and St. Charles North will meet at 6 p.m. Friday at St. Charles North for the Class 3A regional final.

The question remains: Will the North Stars win a 20th consecutive regional title? Or will the Tigers play spoiler to a DuKane Conference foe and win a third straight title themselves?

"... We don't want to chase the game early [on Friday]," WW South coach Guy Callipari said following the Tigers' 4-1 victory over **Elgin** in the second semifinal on Tuesday previewing Friday. "The longer the game goes, I think, the better off we'll be."

Tigers standout forward Ashlyn Adams, who scored two goals to spark the run of play early vs. **Elgin**, thinks the Tigers need to play "[their] game" for Friday's match.

"They're a great team. We played them this year; we lost 3-1 ... they'll play well," Adams said of the North Stars. "We just need to play our game; play together [and] play for each other."

Brooke Ittersagen capitalized on a penalty kick for the 3-0 Tigers lead. **Elgin** (9-7-2) answered back on an artful rainbow shot for a score by Dahlia Perez about 30-yards out on the far right sideline, but an insurance goal from Lauren Barnett was all the Tigers needed for a relatively comfortable second half.

"Their composure, I think, is what I'm very impressed with," **Elgin coach Alicia Knoll** said of her team. "I think they had great composure. They didn't feel pressured. They stayed in control of themselves. They didn't put their head down when they got up on us, which I think is very easy to do sometimes. They just kept fighting back, which I think any coach is proud of at the end of the day: When you know that you know your girls don't put their heads down and quit."

St. Charles North (14-3-2) blasted past **Streamwood** 8-0 in the first regional semifinal. Rian Spaulding, Kaitlin Glenn, Keira Kelly and Abby Vichich all scored goals, while Laney Stark and Bella Najera scored two apiece.

The regional title streak, which began back in the 2002-03 season, is older than the players competing in the game.

"It's a really great program with a lot of tradition and some really great players in this area," Najera said. "So, wearing the shield [North Stars crest] means a lot. Every time you step on the field, you just want to give it your best for the players before us and for the future players ahead of us."

Two of the North Stars' losses this season have come at the hands of Barrington, a perennial Class 3A state title contender, and Neuqua Valley. The Sabres finished the season 5-17-1.

"Every practice, we're talking about sustaining our momentum," Najera said. "So, every practice, we give 100 percent. Because we know, every game is as important as the last. In the postseason, if you lose, you're out. So, it's really important. We want to stay focused and just keep going."

– Examiner of Streamwood –

Sabres softball prepare for postseason as losses mount

May 17, 2023

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood softball team dropped a 16-1 Upstate Eight Conference game to Bartlett on Tuesday, May 9 at Bartlett.

The Sabres had to play a player down due to an injury, but coach Nicolle Giliana was proud of her team's effort including from Hailey Dworak who had a pair of hits with an RBI. Giliana also said the team got "great pitching" from Sophie Saflarski as well as some good defensive performances from Kailey Pawlikowski in left field and Justice Coats from behind the plate.

"We suffered from an injury that resulted in us only playing with eight girls on the field," Giliana said. "This was a bit tricky, but overall, we kept up with the Hawks as best as we could."

Streamwood went on to drop a 20-0 UEC game against Larkin on Thursday, May 11 and a 17-6 UEC game to Elgin on Friday, May 12, both at Streamwood.

The Sabres had a pair of 3-for-3 performances against Elgin from Dworak (three doubles, RBI) and Pawlikowski (double, RBI). Saflarski added a double and two RBI.

Streamwood was coming off an 0-3 week in UEC games including 11-0 at Glenbard South on Tuesday, May 2, a 17-1 loss to Glenbard East at **Streamwood** on Wednesday, May 3 and a 24-14 loss at East Aurora on Thursday, May 4.

The **Sabres** had some quality performances at the plate against Glenbard East and East Aurora.

Dworak went 2-for-2 and **Saflarski** had an RBI against Glenbard East. **Brianna Coffey** (4-for-4, double, two RBI), **Pawlikowski** (3-for-4, home run, four RBI), Dworak (3-for-4, two doubles), **Susana Alanis** (2-for-3, double, three RBI), **Marissa Walker** (2-for-4, double, two RBI) and **Saflarski** (three RBI) led against East Aurora.

Streamwood enters the final week of the regular season 2-20 overall, 1-13 in the UEC. The No. 15 **Sabres** will prepare for No. 2 regional host Lake Park.

“They need to know it is just another game that they need to play and to communicate and talk to one another, back each other up, and hype up their teammates.... To prepare these girls for the postseason, we will be working on our fundamentals and how to stay calm and alert during games,” **Giliana** said.

– Courier-News –

Bradford, South Elgin rally past Bartlett to clinch conference

Two swings. Two doubles. Senior catcher delivers, sends Storm past Hawks: ‘I was just feeling it.’

May 17, 2023

By Paul Johnson for Beacon News



South Elgin's Quinn Bradford reacts to the cheers of his teammates for his double during the fourth inning of Monday's Upstate Eight Conference game. H. Rick Bamman/Beacon-News



South Elgin's Jackson Lee, left, is called safe at third base as Bartlett's Jack Sharko secures a throw during Monday's Upstate Eight Conference game. H. Rick Bamman/Beacon-News

South Elgin's Quinn Bradford knows his role on his team.

The senior catcher can hop out and play several positions. He also bats in the middle of the order for the **Storm**, providing solid contact all season.

"My role is to kind of just do what I'm asked — be a team player," **Bradford** said. "I play wherever I'm needed, which has mostly been catcher this season.

"My big thing is just moving runners. Usually I'm not the big hit guy, but (Monday) something was different."

Bradford took the starring role Monday as the **Storm** clinched the Upstate Eight Conference title with a 9-7 comeback win over rival **Bartlett**.

He had a two-run double in the fourth to cut the deficit to 7-6. Then in the bottom of the sixth, he had another two-run double to give **South Elgin** its first lead of the game.

Kyle Steinhofer went 3-for-3 with a walk and three runs for **South Elgin** (16-5, 15-2). **Jordan Green** was 2-for-3 with a triple and three runs, driving in the tying run in the sixth.

Tyler Glowacki earned the win on the mound. He went six innings, allowing seven runs, none of which were earned. He struck out three and scattered six hits and four walks.

Josh Colaizzi finished 2-for-3 with two runs, a walk and a stolen base and **Daniel Krulak** added two hits for **Bartlett** (17-14, 13-4).

After falling behind 5-0 in the first inning, **South Elgin** chipped away and grabbed the momentum. **Steinhofer** singled to lead off the sixth and scored on Green's RBI single to force a 7-7 tie.

"That was a big stress reliever," **Bradford** said. "Some stress was still there because I wanted to get my guys in, but him getting that big hit really helped me with my mindset.

"It gave me a lot of relief to go up there and swing freely."

Bradford then doubled in **Aedon Segovia and Green** with the winning runs.

"I was really feeling the rhythm that my teammates were putting together for me, getting people on," **Bradford** said. "I was just feeling it up there, sitting fastball.

"I knew I was going to hit it no matter what. Wherever it went, that's the game's decision. I'm fortunate they went where they went and people scored."

All the while, **Glowacki** kept his team in it despite having to work around a lot of mistakes.

"That's what a good pitcher does," **Bartlett coach Chris Baum** said. "He shakes off the first inning and hangs up a couple zeros on us right afterward.

"That's what a solid pitcher does. He didn't let it faze him. He stayed even-keeled and he gave his team a chance. They came through."

The **Hawks** surrendered leads of 5-0 and 7-4, walking six along the way.

"You can't walk guys," **Baum** said. "It doesn't matter if you're playing a sub-.500 team or if you're playing a really good team. It doesn't matter. You give teams extra at-bats and extra opportunities, they're going to come through."

It was yet another comeback win for the **Storm**.

"We're a tough team," **Bradford** said. "We get better as the game goes on. These guys, it's unbelievable what they can do late in the game."

And **Bradford** was right in the middle of it Monday.

"He likes the challenge behind the plate," **South Elgin coach Jim Kating** said. "He handles things well back there. Senior leadership, he's done a real good job.

"He does the things that we need him to do to be successful. You want a gritty at-bat, someone who's going to battle? He's one of them."

Paul Johnson is a freelance reporter for The Beacon-News.

– Daily Herald –

Baseball: Barlett scores 6 unanswered to stun South Elgin

May 17, 2023

By Dave Hess

Spoiler Alert.

The host **Hawks** made sure that didn't happen.

Behind outstanding pitching by starter **Ryan Renella** and closer **Brendan Campbell**, the **Hawks** stunned the **Storm** 7-4.

With the loss, the **Storm** ended UEC action 15-3, tying them with **Streamwood** who had the same conference mark.

South Elgin (16-6 overall) grabbed a 4-1 lead after 3½ innings off Renella. But, **Bartlett** scored the final 6 runs to pick up the win.

"We had our chances to add on and we didn't do it," said **South Elgin coach Jim Kating**. "We have to get back our energy for the postseason."

Renella, who surrendered 4 runs in the first 3 innings, blanked the **Storm** on 2 singles in his final 3 innings.

"I knew I had to hold them because we would come back," said the **Bartlett** pitcher. All my pitches, the fastball, slider, curveball and split were working. We have a lot of confidence going into the postseason."

Bartlett head coach Chris Baum summoned **Robby Stankus** to the mound to pitch the seventh. On only two pitches, **Stankus** hit both **Kyle Steinhofer** and **Aedon Segovia**. **Baum** immediately replaced **Stankus** with **Brendan Campbell**. **Campbell** got the final 3 outs with 2 strikeouts to register the save.

"I knew I had to pull the trigger right away," said **Baum**. "I know **South Elgin** has the capacity to score a lot of runs."

Campbell knew he was ready for the challenge.

"I had a lot of adrenaline," said **Campbell**. "I knew I had to go right after the guys."

In the pivotal fourth, Lewis University bound **Mario Prieto** crushed a solo homer. **Campbell and Renella** produced RBI singles while **Josh Colaizi** drove in a run with a sacrifice fly.