

Press Clippings 1/8/2022 to 1/10/2022

Kane County Connects School Closing Update: Central High closed Monday due to staffing; All U-46 schools open --- 1/10/2022

Central High School in School District 301 is closed Monday (Jan. 10, 2022) due to staffing shortages.

All schools in **U-46** are back up and running Monday, according to the most recent post on the district's website.



Five U-46 schools were closed on Tuesday and three were closed Wednesday. All schools reopened Thursday.

Scroll down or [visit the U-46 website](#) for details.

Several Kane County school districts return to in-person classes Monday. Click the links below for updates from each public school district in Kane County.

Website statement from Superintendent Tony Sanders

JAN. 9 UPDATE

All U-46 Schools Open on Jan. 10

Este mensaje se repetirá en español

Jan. 9, 2022

Dear U-46 Staff and Families:

Our Health Services Department and Human Resources spent the weekend clearing staff members who had been in quarantine using the updated guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health. Thanks to their diligent work, all U-46 schools will be open tomorrow, Monday, January 10.



Tony Sanders

In our collective effort to keep our staff and students safe and healthy and our schools open, it is important to keep your child home and notify your [principal](#) or [school nurse](#) if your child has tested positive for COVID-19 or is showing any symptoms of having COVID-19. When notifying the schools, it is important to be as specific as possible so we can follow up appropriately.

As a reminder, masks must be worn properly in all U-46 facilities by students and staff. Social distancing is encouraged to the extent possible. We also will continue to discourage visitors at this time.

We will continue to monitor our data, and collaborate with our local health departments, as we make decisions regarding any classroom or school closings. Thank you for your cooperation and continued efforts as we all work together to ensure the safety of all our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Tony Sanders, superintendent of School District U-46

Elgin Courier-News

U-46 puts restrictions on attendance at sports events after COVID-19 closes two schools Friday --- 1/8/2022 **By Mike Danahey**

After staff shortages forced the closure of two schools Friday, **School District U-46** reinstated restrictions for attending sports events and other activities and postponed an upcoming middle school music festival.

Glenbrook Elementary School in Streamwood and Nature Ridge Elementary School in Bartlett were closed and the preschool program at Horizon Elementary School in Hanover Park canceled Friday.

It was the third day in a four-day school week in which buildings could not open because there were not enough substitutes available to cover all of the teacher absences resulting from the most recent COVID-19 spike, many tied to the highly contagious omicron variant.

U-46 spokeswoman Karla Jiménez said they have no plan to add makeup dates to the schedules of the schools that had to be closed.

Any school closures required Monday will be announced by 5:45 a.m. that day, Jimenez said.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Lela Majstorovic announced Thursday that spectator capacity at all U-46 athletic events and other activities would be limited to 25% through Jan. 17. At middle school sports events, only parents and siblings of players will be allowed to attend, she said.

Freshman and junior varsity basketball games this weekend were moved to the main gyms, meaning some game days and times needed to be adjusted, Majstorovic said in her statement.

Tickets to high school athletic events would be distributed to coaches, players, band, cheer, and dance students, and immediate family members of those students rather than sold for general admittance, she said. Any remaining tickets will go to students.

To accommodate fans not allowed to attend, high school games were to be live-streamed. In-person spectators will be required to keep a social distance and to wear masks properly, covering their mouths and noses for the entirety of the event, Majstorovic said.

Daily Herald
Shawn Schleizer to serve as East Maine School District 63's
next superintendent --- 1/8/2022
By Russell Lissau



A familiar name has been tapped to serve as East Maine School District 63's next superintendent.

[Shawn Schleizer](#), currently the Des Plaines-based district's associate superintendent, will fill the role effective July 1, the school board decided Thursday night.

Current Superintendent Scot Clay announced in September that he planned to retire this summer.

Schleizer joined the district in 2010 as principal at Melzer Elementary School. He was promoted to assistant superintendent of human resources in 2014 and to his current post in 2017.

In a [news release](#), Schleizer said he's "excited to continue working with the entire District 63 community to build on our past success."

Schleizer previously worked in [Elgin Area School District U-46](#), Evanston/Skokie District 65 and Elmwood Park District 401.

Schleizer was among more than 30 candidates evaluated for the post, officials said in the news release.

"Dr. Schleizer has been a key part of our leadership team for more than a decade and an integral part of our success," school board President Alexandra Brook said in the release. "His in-depth knowledge of (the district), ability to build and manage an outstanding staff and unwavering commitment to ensuring that every student receives an equitable education is exceptional."

Schleizer will collect a \$220,000 base annual salary in his new role, officials said. He currently has a \$197,456 annual salary.

Clay has served as District 63's superintendent since 2009. He'll collect a \$259,489 salary this school year.

Clay previously served as the district's assistant superintendent of personnel and pupil services and as the principal at the now-closed Stevenson Elementary School in Des Plaines.

"I couldn't have asked for a better professional home than District 63," Clay said in the news release. "My time here is one I will treasure."

Before coming to District 63 in 2003, Clay was a teacher and administrator in Waterloo, Indiana.

District 63 serves Des Plaines, Niles, Morton Grove, Glenview and Park Ridge. It has about 3,500 students, from preschoolers through eighth-graders, in seven schools.

Daily Herald

Boys' Basketball: Wheeler-Thomas, Larkin keep foot on the gas in win over Elgin --- 1/8/2022

By Chris Casey, Daily Herald Correspondent

It doesn't matter who the opponent is for the **Larkin boys' basketball team** this year.

The mindset has been and always will be taking one game at a time.

With high hopes for a deep postseason run come March, Larkin took yet another step toward those goals in a dominant 87-19 victory over **Elgin** Friday night in Upstate Eight Conference play.

This was the largest margin of victory in this rivalry dating back to 1990.

A very balanced offensive effort, led by Damari Wheeler-Thomas's 14 points, saw all 11 Larkin players that entered the game Friday night contribute to the scoring.

However, it was the suffocating defense that led the way for the Royals (16-1, 7-0 Upstate Eight Conference).

"We hang our hat on our defensive pressure," Larkin coach Deryn Carter said. "Without a couple of guys tonight, we're really proud of the defensive effort tonight. We'll take the win, move on from this and continue to try and get better."

Larkin forced 33 Elgin turnovers, which led to a number of fastbreak opportunities, including the 26-5 first quarter advantage.

The Royals were without Jamarion Stubbs and Jasavion Rogers Sowers Friday night for undisclosed reasons, but it didn't seem to inhibit them on either side of the ball.

A basket from Elgin's Victor Rivera at the 4:35 mark of the second quarter not only snapped a 22-0 Larkin run, but ended a 6:45 scoring drought for the Maroons.

"I think it was important tonight to just stick to the fundamentals on both sides of the ball," said Wheeler-Thomas, who scored 12 of his 14 points in the first half. "I would say it comes down to just wanting it more and working harder than any other team. When we're down in size, it makes putting pressure on the ball that much more important."

The Royals used that pressure to build a 48-10 halftime advantage and allowed Carter to play much of his reserves in the final 16 minutes.

Larkin didn't miss a beat, though, as it outscored Elgin 39-9 after the break.

"I think we just know that we're supposed to dominate games like tonight so we wanted to make sure and do that," said Larkin forward Dontrell Maxie, whose thunderous breakaway dunk propelled Larkin's 22-point second quarter. "I think that gives us an opportunity to work on things that we might not be as good at, so that come playoff time, we're ready for anything."

Though it has faced limited adversity thus far, Carter has seen his team's maturity continue to grow throughout the first 17 games.

He thinks that it doesn't matter who is filling the stat sheets for the Royals on any given night because they all have one common goal each time they step on the floor together.

"It doesn't matter who we're playing," Carter said. "We always just want to play one possession at a time and stack good possessions after good possessions. The goal for this group doesn't change. We don't play the scoreboard. There are no egos on this team. We hold ourselves to a certain standard of play and I'm proud of the way we did that tonight."

Rivera led the way with five points for Elgin in the loss.

Adrian York (12 points), Darnell Wilder (11) and Maxie (10) joined Wheeler-Thomas in double figures for the Royals, who will take on unbeaten Glenbard West on Wednesday.

Larkin girls 59, Elgin 33:

It was a dominant performance from the Larkin girls basketball team, as well, in the night's opening game as it cruised to a 59-33 victory over the Maroons.

Baylei Johnson finished with 25 points, while Chelsea Herrick added 11 points for Larkin in the victory.

Elgin's Jocelyn Bardesi led the way for the Maroons with 12 points.

Daily Herald
Girls' Basketball: Shorthanded South Elgin knocks off
Bartlett --- 1/8/2022
By Allen Oshinski, Daily Herald Correspondent

Even down "two-and-a-half" starters, **South Elgin** got the job done against visiting **Bartlett**.

Caroline Croft scored 16 points, Ella Winterhalder 14, and Caitlyn Tolentino 12 as the Storm downed Bartlett, 59-38, in upstate 8 action in South Elgin. First-time starter Chloe Kmiec hit a couple of big 3-pointers in the second half and finished with 9.

Zoie Lewis and Raina Yang were out of the Storm lineup and Winterhalder was hampered by plantar fasciitis. Still, the Storm led 33-19 and broke the game open with a 19-7 advantage in the third quarter.

Amadea Montijo led the Hawks with 10 points, while Laney Stark added 8.

"Right now, we're going through crazy, crazy health protocols and injuries," said Storm coach Dan Mandernack. "Ella is basically playing on 1 foot, but she kept us in it. They made the first 3 to start the game, then I think Ella had our first 8 points."

Winterhalder set the school record for made 3-pointers in a career at 202 on Tuesday, as well as scoring her 1,000th point at South Elgin.

"We're feeling a lot of adversity with injuries and COVID and everything," said Winterhalder. "Our shots weren't necessarily falling, but we stuck together, and that was a big key to today's game."

"Between Ella and Caroline, they refuse to lose," Mandernack said. "They just had that look in their eye."

Daily Herald

Boys' Basketball: Bartlett pulls away from South Elgin in 2nd half --- 1/8/2022

By Allen Oshinski, Daily Herald Correspondent

And just like that, a 1-point **South Elgin** lead turned into a 20-point **Bartlett** lead.

The Hawks broke open a close game with a couple of big second-half runs in defeating the Storm, 70-49, in South Elgin on Friday.

Conrad Luczynski had 27 points and 17 rebounds for the Hawks. Nobody other than Luczynski reached double figures for Bartlett, but Ian Smith scored 9 points, all in the second half, Martin McCarthy scored 8, and Kelton McEwen and Nathan Searce added 7 apiece.

Despite a 25% capacity limit imposed by District U-46 earlier in the day, the crowd was plenty raucous for the rivalry game, jacking up the energy level on both sides.

For most of the first 3 quarters, the Storm was content to concede Luczynski his points and stifle the Hawks' outside shooters. It worked well enough as Bartlett led just 24-23 at halftime. Luczynski scored 16 of those points as he nearly compiled a double-double by halftime by adding 9 rebounds.

After intermission, Bartlett started to hit some outside shots. South Elgin began double-teaming Luczynski and the Hawks' marksmen continued to connect from the perimeter, allowing the Hawks to pull away.

"In the second half our defense was the same but we started hitting some shots," said Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith. "They started doubling Conrad, he made a few great passes to guys who were open. [Smith] had a few shots, [McEwen] had 1, Marty hit a couple of big ones in there. When you start hitting shots around Conrad, that's when we're really dangerous and that's what you saw in that second half."

"In the first half they didn't double me and I got my points," said Luczynski. "In the second half, they doubled me and then we got the wide-open shots. The second-half push is what won us the game."

South Elgin took its last lead at 37-36 on a 3-pointer by Brian Vesta. The Hawks answered with a 9-1 run to close out the third quarter. Four different Hawks scored during the run, with Luczynski netting just the last bucket.

Then a 13-0 spurt in the fourth quarter blew the game wide open. Jesse Singh's basket closed the run and put Bartlett up 61-43.

"I thought we did a really good job in that first half of executing," said South Elgin coach Brett Johnson. "Conrad's going to get his 20 points and we're OK with that. And we shut everybody else down, we're going to win the game, 22-20, and we're going to be OK with that. The first half was that: he had his 16 or 18 points in the first half, but they only had 6 or 8 between the other guys. The problem is in the second half, our offense got stagnant, and we started taking contested shots, but then we didn't get back and defend, and they made a couple "3s," which forced us to do some things differently."

Vesta finished with 17 points and added 7 rebounds for the Storm. Drew Cwik and Elias Williams added 7 apiece for South Elgin.