

Press Clippings - 11/27/2023

- Daily Herald -

Elgin rings in the holiday season with festive ceremony

By: Brian Hill

November 26, 2023



The Larkin High School Jazz Ensemble performs during the tree-lighting ceremony Saturday, Nov. 25, at Festival Park in Elgin. (Brian Hill | Staff Photographer)

With the flip of a switch, the holiday season began Saturday evening at Festival Park in Elgin.

The spirit of the holidays was evident as residents and visitors gathered together with Mayor David Kaptain to light a 25-foot Christmas tree.

The Elgin Children's Choir and the **Larkin High School** Jazz Ensemble performed during the ceremony.

To the joy of children of all ages, Santa arrived on an Elgin fire truck for the festivities.

Children who write a letter to Santa and drop it off in the mailbox located in front of the Edward Schock Centre of Elgin (100 Symphony Way, Elgin) will receive a letter back from Santa himself! No postage (stamps) required, but a sealed envelope with a return address is needed to receive a response. Santa's mailbox is in place now through Friday, Dec. 15. All letters will be mailed out the week before Christmas.

- WGN News -

Greater Elgin-Sing Along Messiah raising funds for Habitat for Humanity

November 27, 2023



This event includes the Larkin High School concert choir. To watch the full story, please click [here](#).

- The Examiner -

Lower enrollment trend continues for Dist. U-46

By: Seth Hancock

November 22, 2023

For the ninth straight year, enrollment dropped in **School District U-46** with a 1.3 percent decline of 474 students (35,338 to 34,864) this year.

The numbers were presented to the Board of Education on Oct. 23.

Brian Lindholm, chief of staff, said the numbers are as of Sept. 30 and includes “students who were enrolled but never reported to school as well as students who enrolled some time after the first day of school.”

Of the historic data provided, enrollment has dropped 13.9 percent from 40,487 students in 2014- 2015.

Current forecasts based on the trends, the district expects to “bottom out somewhere around 30,000 students within the next several years,” Lindholm said. The district expects to lose “several hundred” students annually through 2026.

Lindholm said the decline is “primarily due to declining birth rates in our attendance area.” Birth rate data, 2006 to 2021, showed a decline from 2,925 in 2020 to 2,773 in 2021, and the rates are down from around 4,500 in 2006.

The district has received questions, Lindholm said, from residents concerned with the “border crisis and the bus loads of migrants... arriving in Chicago.”

“This is something that we will continue to closely monitor to determine how it may impact U-46,” Lindholm said. “I can tell you, we have seen an uptick in the last two years in new U-46 students from outside of the U.S. including places that we have not typically received students like Ukraine, Columbia and Venezuela.”

Those students “represents a small 1 or 2 percent portion,” Lindholm said. He added: “So, it hasn’t made a significant difference in the overall enrollment, but it has helped to slow the declines that we have been experiencing.”

The only increase in students this year was with early childhood, 1,108 to 1,166 for an increase of 58. Elementary school (16,808 to 16,634, a drop of 174), middle school (5,109 to 4,900, drop of 209) and high school (11,954 to 11,849, drop of 105) enrollment all declined. Half of 40 elementary schools, six of eight middle schools and four of five comprehensive high schools saw a decline.

- The Examiner -

School conversion costs top ratified U-46 expenses

By: Seth Hancock

November 22, 2023

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** unanimously approved of \$53.7 million in expenditure items at its meeting on Monday, Nov. 6.

The vote was 5-0, board members Samreen Khan and Dawn Martin were absent.

The largest item was \$52.4 million, from the capital projects fund, to George Sollitt Construction Company for the additions and renovations to convert Bartlett’s Hawk

Hollow from an elementary to a middle school.

“The project consists of renovation of the existing 58,000 sq. ft. Hawk Hollow Elementary School, plus a 92,000 sq. ft. new building addition for the middle school program,” the proposal states. “Upon completion, there will be space for [sixth to eighth grade] students. Each grade will have dedicated science labs, grade-level teacher planning spaces, and flex teaching spaces. The addition will include a new library, new gymnasium, auxiliary gym, and cafetorium with a full-service kitchen. Additional classrooms will include Culinary Arts, Music, Band, and Choral rooms.”

Two agreements with DLA Architects were approved for architectural services for an addition and renovations at Elgin’s **Kimball Middle School** and to construct a new middle school in Elgin off Rohrsen Road.

No exact numbers were given, but DLA will be paid 7.85 percent of the cost of work for the **Kimball** project and 6.5 percent for the new middle school which have respective “conceptual all-in budget” costs of \$56 million and \$100 million listed in the DLA agreements. That would put the DLA payments at \$439,600 and \$650,000 for the respective projects.

Also approved were a \$675,829 (education fund) bid with DHE Computer Systems to replace staff laptops, \$176,433 (school safety funds) with Alpha Prime Communications to replace two-way radios and a \$119,849 (operations and maintenance fund) with Peters Electric and Technology to conduct emergency lighting inspections across the district.

Contract renewals were approved with TNT Landscape Construction for snow removal services (\$171,465, operations and maintenance fund) and MusicFirst Classroom for secondary music resources (\$51,397, education fund) as well as a contract extension with MDQ14Kids for professional development (\$19,200, Title I funds).

The board also voted 5-0 on a contract renewal of a mutual-use of facilities agreement with Judson University as well as \$14.7 million in itemized bills.

- The Examiner -
Streamwood girls hoops off to flying start
going 2-0
By: Seth Hancock
November 22, 2023

The **Streamwood** girls basketball team started the season strong going 2-0 in a pair of nonconference contests, ending the opening week with a 48-38 victory over Glenbard North on Thursday, Nov. 16 at Streamwood.

It's a big confidence boost for a squad that went 3-29 last year, 1-17 in the Upstate Eight Conference play. It wasn't until the ninth game last season that the Sabres got into the win column.

"We worked really hard over the summer to get where we're at right now," said **Streamwood** coach Elizabeth Endriukaitis. "So, we're going to enjoy these two wins right now. We've got another nonconference before conference. Hopefully we just keep the momentum going in the right direction."

Endriukaitis added: "Definitely, our goal is to get some 'Ws' early on in the season. I know last year our first win was **Elgin**, and we then didn't get a win until the Christmas tournament and then again not until the end of the season."

Against Glenbard North, the Sabres had to rally after the first half, where they trailed 22-14. Rally they did with a 20-5 third quarter, 34-16 for the second half.

Brianna Coffey (five rebounds, three assists, three steals) scored 11 of her 13 points in the second half, Jamia Gatlin (10 rebounds, three steals) nine of her game-high 15 points and Ayumi Ishikawa (four steals) scored all eight of her points in the second half. Donielle Smith had five points and six rebounds.

Streamwood defeated Hoffman Estates 51-35 in its season opener on Monday, Nov. 13 at Hoffman Estates. Coffey (20 points, 13 rebounds), Gatlin (18 points, 13 rebounds, four assists, three steals), Smith (eight points, 10 rebounds), Kailey Pawlikowski (nine rebounds, four assists, four blocks), Cassandra Cruz (eight rebounds, three assists) and Ro'Naja Stewert (three steals) led the effort. **Streamwood** has a small roster, eight players, which is "intentional," Endriukaitis said.

"We want to work and develop those girls that we have right now," Endriukaitis said. "Jamia is our only senior, and I know she wants to go out with a bang. So, we're working really hard to send her off on a good note."

Endriukaitis added: "We want to continue to focus on our defense. We're hoping to be able to press more and just transition. I think our girls are going to be able to fly this season."

- Chicago Tribune -

Football and basketball scores for the Southland, Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County

By: From Staff Reports

Nov 24, 2023

Results and highlights of high schools and local colleges from the Southland and Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County coverage areas.

BOYS BASKETBALL

ROCKFORD AUBURN TOURNAMENT

Morgan Park 55, **Larkin** 49

WHEATON ACADEMY TOURNAMENT

Oak Park-River Forest 70, **Bartlett** 34

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

BOB SCHICK TOURNAMENT

Geneva 53, Prairie Ridge 39

Wheaton St. Francis 63, **South Elgin** 51

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

ASHTON-FRANKLIN CENTER TOURNAMENT

Indian Creek 68, Durand 54

BOB SCHICK TOURNAMENT

South Elgin 68, Prairie Ridge 51

GIRLS BASKETBALL

DUNDEE-CROWN TOURNAMENT

Huntley 60, **South Elgin** 23

St. Viator 57, Dundee-Crown 49

- Daily Herald -

Boys basketball: Scouting Fox area

By: Craig Brueske and Joe Stevenson

11/21/ 2023

Bartlett

Coach: Jim Wolfsmith, 16th season.

Last season's record: 19-13 overall, 12-6 in the Upstate Eight Conference.

Top returners: Nate Searce, sr., G; Dimitre Petrasiunas, jr., C; Colin Taylor, jr., G; Keegan Taylor, jr., F.

Key newcomers: Brendan Campbell, sr., F; Robbie Stankus, sr., F; John Bowler, jr., G; Deedum Lege, jr., F; Joey Cwik, fresh., G; Brandon Pelz, soph., G; Gio Scivittaro, soph., G; Mikey Kampa, soph., G; Danny Jasso, soph., G.

Worth noting: The Hawks suffered a loss with the transfer of All-Area guard Kelton McEwen to St. Francis. "We had a lot of key losses this year, but we really like how our team has prepared for the season this fall after a solid summer," said Wolfsmith, who received word of McEwen's transfer plans toward the end of June. Searce's return should help, after the 6-4 guard averaged 17 points, 5 rebounds, and 2 ½ assists last season.

"Nate is our senior leader and has really grown his game," said Wolfsmith. "He can shoot from 25 feet out as well as play inside. He's on the radar for several D2 teams and most area D3 schools." At 6-6, Petrasiunas has tremendous upside. "He is a smooth post with great passing skills," said the coach. The 6-3 Taylor twins are inside-outside players who should contribute. Campbell heads the list of newcomers. A D2 baseball commit to Minnesota-Duluth, the 6-5 Campbell returns to the court after focusing on baseball a year ago. Stankus, a 6-3 forward, is another baseball player (Loras commit) who decided to return to basketball for his senior campaign. "We are big this year and will play to that strength, but all our size can move so we will continue to try and be aggressive, moving the ball for quick shots and using our size in the half-court game," said the coach. "The biggest question is that we only have one returner with extensive experience in Nate (Searce). I love the return of the baseball guys, who would have been in the rotation last year had they played. They have worked hard to regain their skills." The Hawks open their season against Wheaton Academy at the Warriors' Thanksgiving Tournament on Nov. 20.

Elgin

Coach: Brett Johnson, 2nd season at **Elgin** (8th overall).

Last season's record: 11-21 overall, 3-15 in the Upstate Eight Conference.

Top returners: Maddox Hollian, sr., G; Angel Nunez, sr., F; Victor Reynoso, sr., G.

Key newcomers: Justin Mendez, jr., F; Gerardo Depaz, jr., F; Nick Avina, jr., F; Ryan

Varghese, soph., G.

Worth noting: In his first season as head coach at **Elgin** after several successful years at **South Elgin**, the Maroons won more games than the previous 3 years combined. It was **Elgin's** best overall season since 2016-2017. That said, there is more work to be done as Johnson continues trying to put **Elgin** basketball back on the map. "The goal is to improve our team play and record," said Johnson. "As the players continue to work hard, we can hope to finish above .500 for the first time in 7 years. Finishing in the middle of the pack in conference will be a challenge but it can be done." Johnson expects a lot out of Hollian. "Maddox is a player to watch," said the coach. "He is quick, strong and can score in bunches. He is the leader of this team, and it shows on and off the court. He is only a few points short of 1,000 for his varsity career." **Elgin** begins its season against Westminster Christian at Westminster's Thanksgiving Tournament on Nov. 20. "Every conference game is going to be a tough one," said Johnson. "Each team will come to compete every night, and the title will come down to the last play in February."

Larkin

Coach: Deryn Carter, 15th season.

Last season's record: 14-17 overall, 11-7 in the Upstate Eight Conference.

Top returners: Logan Leaver, sr., G; Jack Casebeer, sr., F; Tre Reed, sr., G; Peyton Wemken, sr., F; Leandre Williams, sr., G; AJ Jones, jr., G; Josh Hibbert, jr., G.

Key newcomers: Deangelo Mister, sr., G; Tyler Burkner, jr., G; Landon Kilberts, jr., F; Cobia Burke, soph., F; Jahvi Sowers, soph., G.

Worth noting: The Royals lost last year's leading scorer, Jakob "Cheese" Blakley, as the senior guard transferred to Chicago Payton Prep. "We are a young team who will be much better in January than we are to start the season," said Carter, who guided the Royals to an Elite Eight berth two years ago. "I believe there are a few teams in the conference that would be considered as favorites. I do not see us as one of them right now. But by the end of the season, I believe we will be a difficult team to play. It will be a challenge early with so many new faces, but the kids are hungry, and we are working hard." **Larkin** opens its season against Rockford Jefferson at the Rockford Auburn Thanksgiving Tournament on Nov. 20.

South Elgin

Coach: Philip Church, 2nd season.

Last season's record: 19-13 overall, 16-2 in the Upstate Eight Conference -- 1st place.

Top returners: Luis Vergara, sr., G; Shay Shukti, sr., G; Caden Scholl, jr., F; Ethan Zagore, sr., G; Derek Clark, sr., F.

Key newcomers: Troy Linsenmeyer, jr., G; Ishmael George, jr., F; KJ Brooks, jr., G; Frank Clemente, jr., G/F; Drew Harms, jr., F; Ryan Mirante, jr., F; Ryan Brown, soph., G/F.

Worth noting: A year ago, Church guided the Storm to the Upstate Eight Conference championship in his first season as head coach. While the Storm lost several players to

graduation, Church remains optimistic about his team's chances. "We graduated a lot of scoring and minutes but I'm excited about the depth this team offers," said Church. "We have a couple football guys (George, Brooks) getting their legs back, and a couple transfer athletes (Brown, Linsenmeyer) who had a nice fall league. I've got some great senior leaders in Miller Meincke and Luis Vergara, who were big parts of that scout team last year. I think Fenton and Glenbard East are going to be at the top of the mountain this year, but I like our depth and our chances pushing for a top spot in our conference. We've also got some unknowns with the addition of new coaches at WeGo and Glenbard South. East Aurora is a team people should be keeping an eye on. They bring back some athletes and could make for some tough nights with their pressure. **Bartlett** and **Larkin** both lost a top scorer, but they are so well-coached that I wouldn't be surprised to see one or both in the mix for another conference title." **South Elgin** begins its season against Geneva at the Vikings' inaugural Bob Schick Thanksgiving Tournament on Nov. 20.

Streamwood

Coach: Quentin Ruff, 2nd season.

Last season's record: 1-32 overall, 0-18 in the Upstate Eight Conference.

Top returners: James Donato, sr., C; Francis Sagadraca, sr., G; Tre'Sean Bush, sr., G; Sincir Hunter, sr., G; Joseph Calderon, jr., G/F.

Key newcomers: Kaiden Conner, jr., C; Payton Clements, jr., F; Aden Strong, jr., F; Byron Walton, fresh., G.

Worth noting: The Sabres hope to improve behind a senior-dominated group, led by Donato and Sagadraca. **Streamwood** opens its season against Marmion, Waubonsie Valley, and Batavia on Nov. 20-22 in the Ken Peddy Windmill City Classic at Batavia.

- Daily Herald -

Huntley runs away from South Elgin to finish Dundee-Crown tournament 2-2

By: Alex Kantecki

11/21/ 2023



Huntley's Cece Romano drives to the ball against South Elgin's Molly Stahl on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023,

during a basketball game in the Dundee-Crown High School Girls Thanksgiving Tournament in Carpentersville. (Gregory Shaver/for Shaw Local News Network)



Huntley's Madison Diaz drives to the basket against South Elgin on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, during a basketball game in the Dundee-Crown High School Girls Thanksgiving Tournament in Carpentersville. (Gregory Shaver/for Shaw Local News Network)



Huntley's Madison Diaz beats South Elgin's Madison Hunt to the ball on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, during a basketball game in the Dundee-Crown High School Girls Thanksgiving Tournament in Carpentersville. (Gregory Shaver/for Shaw Local News Network)



Huntley's Anna Campanelli passes the ball as he drive she lane against South Elgin's Madison Hunt on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, during a basketball game in the Dundee-Crown High School Girls Thanksgiving Tournament in Carpentersville. (Gregory Shaver/for Shaw Local News Network)



Huntley's Paula Strzelecki grabs a pass intended for South Elgin's Olivia Miller on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, during a basketball game in the Dundee-Crown High School Girls Thanksgiving Tournament in Carpentersville. (Gregory Shaver/for Shaw Local News Network)



Huntley's Anna Campanelli tries to steal the ball from South Elgin's Addison Tinerella on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, during a basketball game in the Dundee-Crown High School Girls Thanksgiving Tournament in Carpentersville. (Gregory Shaver/for Shaw Local News Network)



Huntley's Anna Campanelli looks to drive against South Elgin's Addison Tinerella on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, during a basketball game in the Dundee-Crown High School Girls Thanksgiving Tournament in Carpentersville. (Gregory Shaver/for Shaw Local News Network)



South Elgin's Addison Tinerella blocks the shot of Huntley's Yasmine Morsy on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, during a basketball game in the Dundee-Crown High School Girls Thanksgiving Tournament in Carpentersville. (Gregory Shaver/for Shaw Local News Network)



Huntley's Cassidy Serpe (left) pushes the ball up the court as her teammate, Huntley's Anna Campanelli, and South Elgin's Addison Tinerella follow on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, during a basketball game in the Dundee-Crown High School Girls Thanksgiving Tournament in Carpentersville. (Gregory Shaver/for Shaw Local News Network)



Huntley's Cassidy Serpe shoots the ball in front of South Elgin's Addison Tinerella follow on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, during a basketball game in the Dundee-Crown High School Girls Thanksgiving Tournament in Carpentersville. (Gregory Shaver/for Shaw Local News Network)

Huntley coach Steve Raethz called a timeout two minutes into the Red Raiders' game against **South Elgin** on Tuesday and emphasized the importance of not allowing any more easy

baskets.

Huntley, which won 28 games a year ago but graduated eight, is still in the early stages of finding its groove.

"We just wanted to see them respond defensively and not give up any more buckets in the manner that they did," Raethz said. "With 10 new varsity players on the team, I think it's a positive to be in those types of situations early on."

After allowing the first four points of the game, the Raiders came out of the timeout with the next 21.

Twelve players went on to score for the Raiders, who ran away with a 60-23 win over the Storm and finished the Dundee-Crown Thanksgiving Tournament with a 2-2 record.

Junior guard Anna Campanelli led Huntley (2-2) with 13 points, junior Isabella Boskey chipped in 10 points, including two 3-pointers, and senior Cassidy Serpe had eight points.

Freshman forward Paula Strzelecki finished with six points and six rebounds for Huntley, which shot 50% (19 of 48) from the field over the first three quarters.

Huntley got a running clock on **South Elgin** (1-3) with 7:30 remaining in the fourth quarter after back-to-back putbacks by Serpe.

The Raiders' defense forced 32 turnovers.

"I think we learned a lot," Campanelli said. "We started off a little rough, but we knew we had it in us to compete. We just had to put it all together, and I think throughout the tournament, we got better every game.

"I'm just really excited to open up the conference games."

Campanelli returns as the Raiders' leading scorer after averaging 8.1 points as a sophomore. Her older sister, Sammi Campanelli, was one of eight players to graduate from last year's 28-5 team. The team's top scorer, Jessie Ozzauto, also graduated.

Huntley went undefeated in the Fox Valley Conference last season.

Campanelli, who has multiple college offers, is taking on a bigger leadership role this year, but said she has had a lot of help from her teammates early on.

"It's very different this year," Campanelli said. "The leadership role has been good, and having my teammates helping me in practice and picking me up in games has been great. I feel like we have a very coachable team, and with the older players that have been on varsity, we all get along together so well."

Boskey, who is seeing more time on varsity this year, made two 3s from the same spot to close out the first half, with her second coming right before the buzzer.

"I feel like after a timeout, our energy as a team on the bench and on the court is a lot better," Boskey said. "My teammates were really able to push the ball up in transition and find me open and I was just ready to shoot it."

Huntley started the tournament with losses to Boylan and Hononegah, although both were close.

"There were segments in both of those games where we competed really well," Raethz said. "At the same time, there were some segments where we let things get away from us a little bit. Tonight was a great way to finish off the tournament here with a lot of contributions and really solid efforts from all 15 of our kids. I was just happy for them to get a win heading into Thanksgiving."

South Elgin was led by junior guard Lexi Lopez with nine points while senior Madison Hunt tossed in eight, including two 3-pointers.

The Storm finished the tournament 1-3, picking up a 50-44 win against Dundee-Crown.

"We're very young and inexperienced," **South Elgin** coach Emily Driessen said. "We only have three girls returning (from last year), which has been an adjustment. But we've seen glimpses. We see good things coming. We just need to start doing it for a full 32 minutes."