

– Daily Herald –
The best of the best
A selection of our photojournalists' top photos of
2022

Dec. 28, 2022



Gana Taylor waves to family as she carries a photo of her cousin who had recently died. “We’re both graduating today,” Taylor said. **South Elgin High School** held its graduation ceremony at the Now Arena in Hoffman Estates on May 28. Staff Photographer: Jeff Knox



Senior Ali Anwar-Hashim dropped to the stage floor to do a few push-ups after receiving his diploma at the **South Elgin High School** graduation at the Now Arena in Hoffman Estates on Saturday, May 28, 2022. Jeff Knox | Staff Photographer



Heritage Elementary School salute as they carry out flags to kick off their Veterans Day assembly Friday in Streamwood. Rick West | Staff Photographer

Full article with additional photos available [here](#).

– Examiner of Bartlett –

Two area high school students among photo contest winners

According to the Kane County Regional Office of Education (ROE), its 2022 Student Photography Contest ended in celebration with a reception at the Batavia Fine Arts Centre on Wednesday, Dec. 7. The reception celebrated all of the high school photography participants' artwork with the top weekly winners displayed on canvas prints that the students were able to take with them at the end of the evening.

“The arts, in all mediums, challenges everyone with different points of view and compels audiences to understand and reflect on the human condition,” said Patricia Dal Santo, ROE regional superintendent during the reception. “Art is impactful, it helps make sense of past and present events. Through art, we learn the aspects of life that were important and documented in that moment of time. I am proud and honor and recognize students tonight, who’s work stood out among so many photo entries.”

Among the nine weekly winners were **Julia Wojtan (“Artist Choice,” Bartlett High School)** and Nick Jenco (“Editorial,” St. Charles North High School).

The photo contest helps to recognize and celebrate the talent within the art departments in Kane County high schools. This includes the knowledge and support handed down by the instructors, as well as the creativity harnessed by students. To learn more about the Kane County ROE student photography contest, visit <https://kaneroe.org/student-photography-contest/>.

– Examiner of Bartlett –

U-46 debt plan contained within referendum issue

Dec. 28, 2022

By Seth Hancock

As previously reported, **School District U-46** will be asking voters to support adding new debt with a referendum question on the April 4, 2023 ballot seeking support for \$179.6 million for school building bonds.

The claim by the district is that the new bonds can be added without increasing the property tax rate on the debt service portion of a tax bill by adding new bonds as current bonds are paid off.

When the Board of Education approved of putting the referendum question on the ballot by a 6-0 vote, **board member Veronica Noland** was absent, at a special meeting on Monday, Dec. 19, **Superintendent Tony Sanders** said the district should remain perpetually in debt.

The district stated, in a memo, that the new debt “would be paid back in 20 years” with the debt service levy annually remaining just above \$30 million (about where it currently is at) through 2032 if the referendum is approved, dropping below \$20 million after that through 2042. If opposed, the debt service levy will drop below \$20 million next year and around \$15 to \$17 million thereafter until being fully paid in 2032 wiping out the debt service levy completely.

Sanders wants taxpayers to perpetually pay over \$30 million a year in debt service.

“I think in the long run, it would behoove future boards to continue to ask voters to continue that... to make sure that the bond debt continues to remain at that viable level... to continue to have access to those dollars,” **Sanders** said.

Sanders said the \$179.6 million number was chosen because “that’s what keeps property taxes flat,” but admitted that’s with “all things relative.” Of note, there is a climate of rising interest rates and the expectation that the Federal Reserve will continue rising rates in 2023.

Although separate, **Sanders** also noted there are no plans to stop asking for the highest tax levy allowed for corporate/special use stating “future levies will increase, obviously, by the rate of inflation, as they always have.”

This year’s budget was the eighth straight with spending hikes along with enrollment declines. Since 2012, spending has increased 62 percent and enrollment has declined 13.5 percent. Board members called the new bonds necessary to fix aging buildings as well as to address enrollment declines.

– Examiner of Bartlett –

Bid, resolution primed for upcoming U-46 votes

Dec. 28, 2022

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** will be voting on a \$52,600 bid for pest control as well as a resolution for disposal of surplus property at its next meeting on Monday, Jan. 9, 2023.

The items were presented at the Dec. 12 meeting.

The pest control bid is with Able Pest Control, the lowest of three bidders. It will be paid for from the operations and maintenance fund if approved.

The proposal states it’s “to establish a primary agreement” in order to “schedule pest control services as part of the district’s comprehensive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program.”

“The IPM program is a process of achieving long-term, environmentally sound pest suppression and prevention using a wide variety of technological and management practices

that align with Board Policy,” the proposal adds. “Additionally, providing pest control services will comply with State regulatory guidelines.”

It includes pest prevention and use of pesticides when necessary, as found through monitoring. District staff oversees daily pest control management and monitors for infestations.

“Once pest infestations are identified, the district relies on a partnership with a pest control vendor in support of the IPM program,” the proposal states. “The services offered by this vendor include monthly kitchen inspections, and same day or next day service for stinging insects, such as wasps or hornets, general insects, such as ants and cockroaches, commensal rodents, bed bugs, lice, and ticks by its state-licensed employees.”

The resolution to be voted on allows for “vehicles to be removed from service and sold to a company ‘as is’ or to a junking company,” the proposal states. Included are 13 plant operations vehicles from between 1996 and 2006.

Sue Kerr, the board’s president, asked if used vehicles are ever donated to the district’s automotive programs. “We definitely use our grounds and maintenance vehicles very hard,” said Patricia Waldau, director of plant operations. “So, I don’t know that there’s much that could be left for them.”

Waldau said the district estimates to receive \$400 to \$500 per vehicle.

– Examiner of Bartlett –

Bus location app available for Dist. U-46 parents, students



According to School District U-46, the Versatrans My Stop helps parents and guardians of U-46 students who ride the bus track the location of their child's bus. The app is updated automatically with GPS information about the current location of the bus, which will be especially helpful when there are weather or traffic delays. However, the information on My Stop does not guarantee or supersede scheduled times, as computers and GPS signals may have glitches or delays. Parents and guardians are asked to have their child ready and waiting at their bus stop prior to the scheduled time listed in Infinite Campus. Bus substitutions may not always be reflected.

The app is free and is available from favorite app stores for both Android and Apple devices. Search for “Versatrans MyStop” in the app store.

– Examiner of South Elgin –

Application process for special events unchanged

Dec. 28, 2022

By Seth Hancock

The application process for groups looking to hold a special event in South Elgin will remain the same in 2023. After recent changes to the process, the Village Board of Trustees held a review at a committee of the whole meeting last month.

Kim Wascher, director of parks & recreation, wrote in a memo that the board approved of an application process for issuing a license for special events in 2020 which took effect in 2021.

After a first-year review with the fire district, changes were approved by the board in February of this year which included every application being reviewed and approved by the board.

“In the past year, there were five (5) applications submitted,” Wascher wrote. “Four (4) of those applications met all the criteria for submittal to the Village Board for approval.”

The approved special events were held by Back the Blue, the Boys and Girls Club, Fox Valley Trolley Museum and **South Elgin High School**.

Wascher said there were “a few little housekeeping things” to address by staff, but there were no issues from any of the events in 2022.

“As we wrapped up the season, Village staff and Fire District staff met to review the application, processes and ordinances,” Wascher wrote. “Staff from both entities agree that the ordinances and application work well and don’t have any recommended changes for the upcoming year.”

Wascher asked the board if it had any changes to recommend, but the board agreed with the assessment that no changes were needed. She added that there are already events in the early stages of planning for next year.

– Daily Herald –

Prairie Ridge’s depth steps up vs. South Elgin



*Prairie Ridge's Drake Tomasiewicz runs their offense against **South Elgin's Shailen Patel** during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. (Gregory Shaver/for Shaw*



*Prairie Ridge's Joseph Vanderwiel tries to steal the ball from **South Elgin's Shailen Patel** during a Hinkle Holiday Classic*

*game Tuesday at Jacobs High School in Algonquin.
(Gregory Shaver/for Shaw Media)*



Prairie Ridge's Joseph Vanderwiel tries to control the ball between South Elgin's Elias Williams, Ethan Zagore and Nathan Dinse during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. (Gregory Shaver/for Shaw Media)



Prairie Ridge's Fernando Rodriguez shoots the ball over South Elgin's Caden Scholl during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. (Gregory Shaver/for Shaw Media)



Prairie Ridge's Cade Collins drives on South Elgin's Derek Clark during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. (Gregory Shaver/for Shaw Media)



Prairie Ridge's Ben Gablenz tries to knock the ball away from South Elgin's Derek Clark during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. (Gregory Shaver/for Shaw Media)



*Prairie Ridge's James Muse tries to drive on **South Elgin's Elias Williams** during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. (Gregory Shaver/for Shaw Media)*



Prairie Ridge's Fernando Rodriguez shoots over South Elgin's Sean Harvey during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. (Gregory Shaver/for Shaw Media)



Prairie Ridge's James Muse hits the ball away from South Elgin's Derek Clark during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. (Gregory Shaver/for Shaw Media)

Dec. 28, 2022

By Joe Stevenson (Shaw Local News Network)

Prairie Ridge's Drake Tomasiewicz and Ben Gablenz softened the absence of starters Samuel Loeding and John Fuery as the Wolves started the Jacobs' Hinkle Holiday Classic.

Those two made huge contributions in their expanded roles, scoring all but two of the Wolves' fourth-quarter points as they rallied to defeat South Elgin 46-43 in their opening game of the tournament on Tuesday at the Eagles' Nest.

Prairie Ridge (6-5) led 44-43 with 42 seconds remaining and Tomasiewicz was fouled with 15 seconds to go for a bonus free-throw attempt. Tomasiewicz made both.

South Elgin (6-7) got Sean Harvey a 3-point look in the final seconds, but he missed and Gablenz tipped the ball to the left corner as time expired.

"I was shaking in there," Wolves coach Ryan Smith said. "I can't imagine how (Tomasiewicz) was feeling. Part of it was I was cold, the gym was freezing. Drake stepped up huge. We're

down a couple of guys, Drake can do a lot for us. He came up with some big buckets and hit two huge free throws at the end. He really played well.”

Tomasiewicz had eight of his 11 points in the fourth quarter.

“My teammates were keeping me in check (on the free throws), telling me to take a deep breath and use my legs,” Tomasiewicz said. “That’s what I did. It was a great win. A lot of people stepped up, like myself and Ben.”

James Muse led Prairie Ridge with 13 points and 13 rebounds. Cade Collins added nine points and Gablenz scored seven points and had eight rebounds.

Loeding suffered a broken nose in Friday’s win against Crystal Lake Central and underwent surgery on it Tuesday. He will miss the tournament. Smith said Fuery, who recently had games of 20 and 19 points, has a stomach bug and could return.

The Wolves will play Hoffman Estates at 3 p.m. Wednesday in a quarterfinal. **South Elgin** will play Marian Central in the consolation bracket.

“(Loeding and Fuery) are probably our top two scorers on the team,” Muse said. “A lot of our 3s are from them. It shows we can mix it up and have other guys step up.”

Prairie Ridge played a solid first half and led 25-19, but the **Storm** picked it up in the third quarter with a 15-6 advantage and pushed the lead to 39-31 early in the fourth quarter.

“We just shot poorly today,” **South Elgin coach Philip Church** said. “We had a lot of open looks by shooters who can hit them. Sometimes you make shots, sometimes you don’t. Once we handled their downhill drives and ran our offense in the third quarter we started making plays.”

With the **Storm** leading 39-31, Tomasiewicz sparked the Wolves with a driving layup and a rebound bucket and Gablenz scored on a short jumper.

South Elgin’s Elias Williams made a pair of free throws for a 41-37 lead, but Gablenz hit a 3, then got a defensive rebound and fired a pass to Tomasiewicz for a fast-break layup and the lead.

Muse scored on a rebound basket for a 44-41 lead.

“We were playing really good defense and we weren’t getting uncomfortable with their pressure and weren’t turning it over,” Muse said.

Smith was pleased with the way the Wolves came back after the six-point third quarter.

“We did a nice job defending down the stretch,” Smith said. “The third quarter got away from us. We did a little better talking through some screens in the fourth. We didn’t get beat on all the 50/50 balls. We got out in transition and got a couple layups to get back in it.”

Williams led the Storm with 11 points. Shailen Patel added eight points with two 3s. The Storm hit 15 of 15 free throws.

“It’s learning to trust your system,” Church said. “We can run this the whole game. We started forcing a lot of shots. They converted and we didn’t.

“You have to understand time, situation and score and trust what you’re doing in practice. We did that in the third quarter and didn’t quite do it in the fourth.”

– Daily Herald –

Dec. 28, 2022

By Staff Correspondents

Memories:

Barrington softball continues dominance:

When it comes to winning Mid-Suburban League softball titles, nobody does it better than Barrington. Hall of Fame coach Perry Peterson’s Fillies won an unprecedented 16th crown last spring led by three players who will return in 2023. Sophomore catcher Emma Kavanagh and junior first baseman Ainsley Muno crushed home runs to stake the state-ranked Fillies to a 3-0 lead after one inning and they never looked back in an 8-4 triumph over visiting East champion Buffalo Grove, which had a 16-game winning streak halted. Kavanagh’s batterymate, junior pitcher and Daily Herald Cook County All-Area Captain Allie Goodwin, earned the win while running her record to 22-4.

— John Leusch

St. Francis beats Glenbard South in regional final:

It took nine innings to decide the Class 3A Burlington Central regional baseball final. Will Gilroy's bases-loaded walk gave the Spartans the championship. St. Francis junior Rocco Tenuta pitched all 9 innings.

— Dave Hess

Class 4A **South Elgin** baseball sectional:

Trailing Lake Park 2-1 with two outs and nobody on base in the bottom of the seventh inning, York loaded the bases with back-to-back singles and a walk before junior Ryan Turner delivered a clutch 2-run single up the middle during the Dukes' stunning 3-2 victory at Elgin Community College. "That's a scene in a movie right there — it's crazy," Turner said. It marked York's first sectional diamond championship since 1996.

— Craig Brueske

Class 2A Warren girls golf regional:

It was a first for Kate Dirst, and it ensured that it wouldn't be the last tournament of the year for Libertyville. With just two holes remaining, the Wildcats trailed in their attempt to qualify for sectionals, and it looked like their season was coming to an end. That's when Dirst stepped to the 17th tee and fired a hole-in-one, leading her team to the sectional advancement. The humble junior said that "I never thought I could do something like this."

— Bill Esbrook

DuKane Conference girls tennis tournament:

Wheaton Warrenton South's Brooke Ittersagen beat Batavia's Dhruthi Daggubati to win the No. 1 singles title. The first two sets in the nearly three-hour match went to tiebreakers. After dropping the first set, Ittersagen, a sophomore, rallied to win the next two. It was the fifth match between Ittersagen and Daggubati. The Batavia senior had won the first four in straight sets. Both girls qualified for the Class 2A state tournament.

— Jared Birchfield

Another wild football finish between Naperville teams:

Naperville North and Naperville Central have squared off in a number of classic contests over the years, including playoff games when both teams were among the state's elite. When the two met up again this fall at North Central College, it was yet another down-to-the-wire storybook ending. The Redhawks stuffed the Huskies with an impressive goal-line stand in overtime before Logan Ellison kicked the winning field in a 10-7 thriller. Just to prove how unpredictable this rivalry is, the Huskies thumped the Redhawks 31-3 just a couple weeks later in a season in which both teams qualified for the state playoffs.

— Stan Goff

Stevenson soccer's 3A supersectional thriller:

It was in dramatic fashion that Stevenson advanced into the 3A state tournament where the Patriots would earn their second state trophy in program history by finishing in third place. Filip Janda would provide thrilling late game-winning goals against Waukegan and Fremd

before Rohan Gopalam stunned New Trier in the 93rd minute to win the supersectional to play into the final weekend of the fall season. Patriots senior Steven Nyc would earn all-state honors in addition to being named captain of the 2022 Daily Herald Lake County All-Area team.

— Mike Garofola

Wang gets it done at girls state tennis tourney

It was brief. It was firm.

It was so ... Sarah Wang.

My favorite prep sports moment in 2022 had nothing to do with the Stevenson ace's brilliance on a tennis court. It featured, instead, what the junior did the moment she defeated Plainfield North sophomore Jessica Kovalchik 7-5, 6-2 for her second straight Class 2A state singles championship in October.

Wang, a righty, executed an understated, lefty fist pump as she jogged to shake Kovalchik's hand at the net. I hadn't seen her make such a gesture at any point in the match at Buffalo Grove, unless I missed it while either sneezing or jotting something down.

Wang choosing not to express a scintilla of satisfaction until after the final point didn't surprise Patriots coach Jose Morales in the least.

"What helps Sarah a lot is her strong mentality," he said. "She's always thinking, 'Next point, next point, next point.'"

Can't wait to watch Wang go for title No. 3 next fall.

The last Illinois female to net three consecutive state singles titles was Naperville Central's Elizabeth Lumpkin, who won four from 2001-04.

— Bill McLean

43rd IHSA girls state cross country meet:

It was a banner year for Hersey in Class 3A and Grayslake Central in Class 2A as they both brought home girls cross country championships from Peoria. With five runners in the top 18, Prospect coach Peter Wintermute's squad recorded the lowest score in state history with 39 points to defeat defending champion York by 19 points. The Rams had a more difficult path to toppling rival Lakes 106-124 for the title as coach Jimmy Centella's team brought home the first-place trophy for the second straight year.

— John Bumbales

– Examiner of Streamwood –

Rebounding battle dooms Sabres girls hoops in loss

Dec. 28, 2022

By Seth Hancock

The **Streamwood** girls basketball team struggled on the boards as the **Sabres** fell 63-49 in Upstate Eight Conference play against **Larkin** on Tuesday, Dec. 20 at Streamwood.

It was a close game most of the night, but **Larkin** was aided by a 43-27 rebounding advantage.

Streamwood trailed 24-17 at halftime when Leana Williams (19 points, four rebounds) hit back-to-back buckets from behind the arc to pull the **Sabres** to 24-23. But **Larkin** was able to maintain the lead throughout the second half.

“Our girls played hard,” said **Streamwood coach Elizabeth Endriukaitis**. “It was a close game up until the end, when **Larkin** went on a run in the fourth quarter.” **Larkin** finished with 22 second chance points compared to the **Sabres’** 10 as **Streamwood** struggled to boxout against **Larkin’s** 6-foot-1 forward, but Endriukaitis said it was a learning experience that will assist her team when they face **Larkin** again.

“We will have a much different game when we play **Larkin** at their home,” Endriukaitis said. “We saw the things we need to do against **Larkin** and will be more prepared next time.”

Jamia Gatlin added 17 points and five rebounds.

Streamwood is 1-12 overall, 1-6 in the UEC. Despite struggling in the win-loss column, Endriukaitis is seeing progress as the **Sabres** have been in games.

“We need to be a team with more stamina to play an entire game; all four quarters. We get tired and then get lazy on defense,” Endriukaitis said.

“We also talked about continuing to play within a system. We need to be able to run our plays and work through the defensive counters. Our team is very methodical and if the defense counters the first option, we freeze, and cannot continue to work through the other options.”

Endriukaitis added: “Our girls are young, which may come across as a downside at the varsity level. But, we see it as an opportunity to grow and mold our players. Our girls have a lot of talent, they just need to trust themselves, each other, and the basketball system more. I am excited to see how we do in our holiday tournament and the second half of the season.”