

Press Clippings - 2-14-2023

– Daily Herald –

Saying farewell: U-46 school board recognizes Sanders before he takes state's top education job

Feb. 13, 2023

By Alicia Fabbre



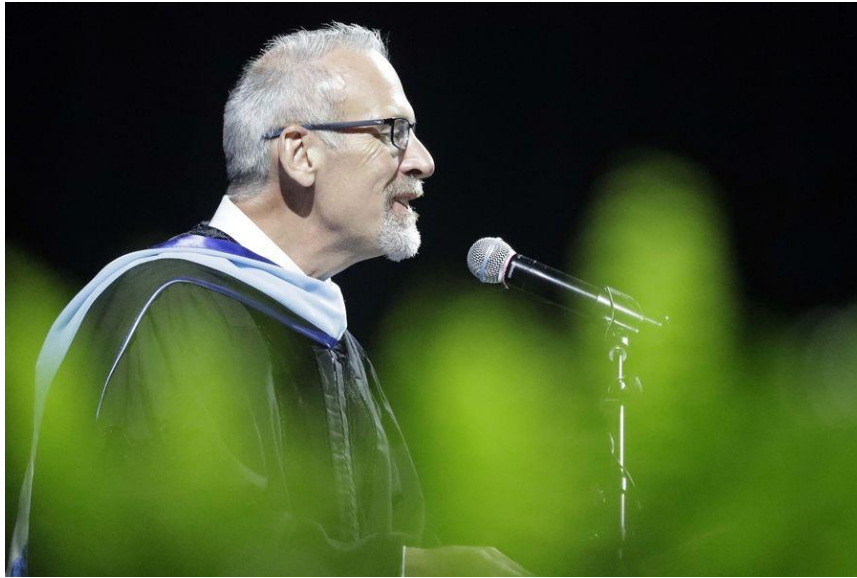
South Elgin High School Senior Angelica Harris, left, who serves as a student adviser on the Elgin Area **School District U-46 board**, and **U-46 school board member Veronica Noland** wish **Superintendent Tony Sanders** well as he leaves **U-46** to take on a new role as the state superintendent of education. "I definitely know that students, like myself, are going to miss seeing your face in the hallways and see you take selfies with a bunch of people in line at the cafeteria," Harris said. Alicia Fabbre | Staff Photographer



Suzanne Johnson



U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders shoots a selfie with eighth-graders attending the Explore 2022 expo at the Now Arena in Hoffman Estates last fall. (Rick West | Staff Photographer, 2022)



Superintendent Dr. Tony Sanders delivers his speech during the **Elgin High School** commencement ceremony Saturday May 28, 2022 at the Now Arena in Hoffman Estates. (Brian Hill | Staff Photographer, 2022)



Elgin Area **School District U-46 superintendent Tony Sanders**, second from left, accompanied State Superintendent of Education Carmen Ayala during a 2022 tour of the **Channing Elementary School dual language** classrooms in Elgin. (Paul Valade | Staff Photographer, 2022)

It was a night of mixed emotions as Elgin Area **School District U-46 board members** bid farewell to **Superintendent Tony Sanders**.

Monday was Sanders' last school board meeting before he takes on a new role as the state superintendent of education. His last day in U-46 is Feb. 22.

"Your leadership and guidance have served our students, staff and communities well," board President Sue Kerr said as she presented Sanders with a plaque recognizing his 15 years of service, the last nine as superintendent.

As the board voted to approve his resignation agreement, Kerr quipped, "I know none of us wants to vote yes on this, but I need a roll-call vote."

Board members unanimously approved naming Suzanne Johnson, the district's deputy superintendent for instruction, as interim superintendent effective Feb. 23.

A graduate of Elgin High School, Johnson started her career in U-46 as a language arts teacher at Canton Middle School in Streamwood. Before joining the district's leadership team in 2013, she served as principal of Bartlett High School.

"I'm honored to be selected by the board of education and given this opportunity to serve our students, staff and community," she said. "To have their confidence means everything."

Sanders has agreed to provide consulting services as needed until the end of the school year. The board also agreed to inform Johnson of its intentions to name a permanent superintendent by June 1.

Kerr said the board expects to make an announcement in the coming weeks about plans to name a permanent superintendent for the state's second-largest school district. She declined to provide additional details.

Sanders, who started out as chief communications officer in the school district, thanked the board for taking "a chance" on hiring him as superintendent.

"It's not lost on me the many opportunities that have been given to me in this district," he said. "To be able to come into this district as the chief communications officer and walk out after being the superintendent for nine years is really awesome.

"You gave me many opportunities to improve myself, like you're now doing for teachers and bus drivers and everyone else," Sanders said, referring to the additional training and education he pursued during his tenure. "I'm just living proof that when you invest in people it pays off."

He said was "especially grateful" to the board members who hired him.

One of those board members, Jennifer Shroder, sat in the audience Monday and told board members they have "big shoes to fill" in finding Sanders' replacement.

"I will miss the sense of peace I got knowing he was in charge," she said.

U-46 school board member Veronica Noland admitted that hiring Sanders was a "tough sell" for her but added that she quickly realized the district made the right choice when it hired him.

"We couldn't have asked for anyone better," she said. "We expect wonderful things at the state level."

– WGN News Now –

2 Chicago natives will play a role in the Super Bowl LVII flyover

Feb. 12, 2023

By Larry Hawley

<https://wgntv.com/sports/two-chicago-natives-will-play-a-role-in-the-super-bowl-lvii-flyover/>

GLENDALE – One of the most popular parts of the Super Bowl experience is what happens before the game, and that includes the activity in the skies above the venue.

The annual big game flyover is one of the final spectacles before the contest starts, and this year it will be historic. For the first time, an all-woman crew will take part in the Super Bowl LVII flyover at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona as the United States Navy celebrates 50 years of women flying for that branch of the armed forces.

As they make history, there will be two other members of the Navy who are from Chicago who will be part of the effort to pull off the flyover.

Lt. Slawomir Glownia of Electronic Attack Squadron 129 will be supporting the flyover on Sunday in Glendale, Arizona. He'll be airborne near State Farm Stadium and will be ready to substitute for one of the planes should it have technical issues before the flyover.

"One day I was in my office and my boss walks in and he asked me if I like football, and I was like 'Of course,'" said Lt. Glownia when talking with WGN News Now ahead of Super Bowl LVII. "He asked me if I wanted to be a part of this flyover and I said 'Of course, of course, I would.'"

A native of Chicago and a 2003 graduate of Steinmetz High School and enlisted in the Navy from the Six Corners recruiting district. He spent eight years in the service and then finished his degree at San Diego State University in 2013.

After two years of flight school in the Navy, he's now an instructor pilot for Electronic Attack Squadron 129 out of Whidbey Island Naval Station in Washington.

"I want to represent my community, where I came from, my family, my friends, my co-workers," said Lt. Glownia. "Then just being part of this team of these brilliant people who are here making this event happen.

"It's a great privilege. It's humbling to see all the work that goes into this along the way just to make it happen."



(Courtesy: United States Navy)

Petty Officer 2nd Class Jedd Tabladillo of Chicago is also in Glendale for Super Bowl LVII as he will be one of the sailors helping to maintain the aircraft for Electronic Attack Squadron 129.

He grew up in Chicago and would later attend Streamwood High School, where he graduated in 2015.

Larry Hawley has more on both of these members of the Navy who'll have a part in the Super Bowl LVII flyover from WGN News Now, which you can watch in the video above.

— Elgin Observer —

(Elgin Community College newspaper)

Trista Skelnik: ECC student athlete and aspiring elementary school teacher

Feb. 12, 2023

Yesenia De La Torre - Staff Writer



Dominic Di Palermo, Editor in Chief

Trista Skelnik poses for a photo on Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023

Trista Skelnik is a **2022 Streamwood High School graduate** and a first-year Elgin Community College student athlete majoring in elementary education. Skelnik intends on becoming an elementary school teacher and believes it is important for teachers to form connections with their students.

“I want to be able to change the lives of kids around me,” said Skelnik. “And be someone they can go to.”

Skelnik gains experience in her field by working a part-time job at the Elgin’s Boys & Girls club. There, she works with kids ranging from kindergarten to sixth grade. Each day the kids go through a schedule that includes, free time, snack time and homework time. Depending on the day of the week, she works with the kids on learning about social, emotional and current events while discussing their thoughts on the topics. “I’ve bounced around on ideas such as neonatal nurse, pediatrician and even a therapist,” said Skelnik. “I ultimately landed on becoming a teacher.”

Skelnik is also a multi-sport athlete playing both softball and volleyball in high school. She started playing softball at seven years old but after a break she was nervous to start playing. With the encouragement from family and friends she picked up the glove and the bat once again.

“I feel like [if] I stayed consistent with the sport I would’ve had more skills,” Skelnik said.

Skelnik decided to join **Streamwood High’s softball team** during her sophomore year of high school, but the pandemic paused her plans.

“I felt very discouraged because the world shut down,” Skelnik said. But I knew it was something I wanted to do so badly.”

After the pandemic she went on to play softball for the remainder of her high school career.

Skelnik submitted a recruiting form to play for ECC’s softball team and attended an open gym but the season was canceled due to a player’s injury.

“I was excited to play with new people,” Skelnik said. “But it’s sad that the season was canceled.”

Skelnik plans to play for ECC’s softball team next spring when the season comes around and also plans to try out for the girl’s volleyball team next fall. She started playing volleyball in 5th grade with the Streamwood Park District.

“I joined as soon as I was old enough to play,” said Skelnik.

Skelnik's academic plans consist of finishing off her two years at ECC then later joining Northern Illinois University's 2+2 Program for Elementary Education', meaning she would be considered an NIU student but still takes classes at ECC.

– Chicago Tribune –

Basketball scores for Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County

Feb. 13, 2023

By From Staff Reports - Aurora Beacon-News

MONDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Glenbard South 56, **Larkin** 47

IMSA 62, Westminster Christian 41

Sandwich 64, Ottawa Marquette 61

Walther Christian 49, Rochelle Zell 35

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Antioch 51, Ridgewood 28

Downers Grove North 59, Waubonsie Valley 42

Elgin 70, Round Lake 35

Glenbard North 72, South Elgin 45

Grayslake North 65, Woodstock 42

Grayslake North (14-15): Dominic Jankowski 27 points.

Hersey 75, Grayslake Central 69 (2 OT)

Grayslake Central (24-5): Sam Cooper 26 points.

Hoffman Estates 53, North Chicago 42

IMSA 64, Elmwood Park 31

Libertyville 62, York 52

Libertyville (24-5): Will Buchert 22 points.

Metea Valley 68, Geneva 54

Naperville North 69, Prairie Ridge 33

Pontiac 89, Yorkville Christian 74

Prairie Central 64, Plano 40

Plano (10-20): Christ Keleba 10 points, Kaleb Videckis 10 points.

St. Charles East 68, Mundelein 41

Yorkville 63, Sandburg 40

Yorkville (24-5): Jason Jakstys 17 points.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CLASS 4A REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS

CONANT

Bartlett 51, Hoffman Estates 37

GIRLS BOWLING

SECTIONALS

DUNDEE-CROWN

Advancing local teams: 3. Grant 5,759, 4 **South Elgin** 5,548.

Top local individuals: 1. Lida Burgos, St. Charles East 1,391; 2. **Hailey Leuze, South Elgin**, 1,349; 3. Emma Pernice, Kaneland, 1,341; 8. **Paige Rawlings, South Elgin**, 1,301.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Aurora Central Catholic 65, Elmwood Park 55

Aurora Christian 55, Chicago Christian 49

Bartlett 55, **Larkin** 53

Batavia 53, St. Charles East 44

Batavia (15-14, 7-6 DuKane): Jack Ambrose 20 points.

Benet 60, Marist 53

Benet (27-1, 15-0 ESCC): Brayden Fagbemi 14 points.

Burlington Central 66, Crystal Lake South 40

Deerfield 54, Maine East 43

Deerfield (21-5, 9-1 Central Suburban North): Miles Cohan 14 points, Aaron Pelts 14 points. Won share of conference title.

DeKalb 59, Naperville Central 32

Dundee-Crown 45, McHenry 41

Dundee-Crown (13-13, 8-8 Fox Valley): Tyler DiSilvio 13 points.

Earlville 72, Somonauk 53

Somonauk (10-19, 5-4 Little Ten): Carson Bahrey 22 points.

Glenbard East 82, Elgin 41

Glenbard North 55, St. Charles North 53

Glenbard South 69, Streamwood 35

Grant 64, Round Lake 9

Grayslake Central 70, North Chicago 46

Grayslake Central (24-4, 11-2 Northern Lake County): Sam Cooper 14 points. School record for wins in a season.

Hinckley-Big Rock 57, Newark 55 (2 OT)

Hinckley-Big Rock (22-7, 8-1 Little Ten): Martin Lebetter 22 points.

IMSA 72, Leland 25

Indian Creek 56, LaMoille-Ohio 55

Indiana Creek (9-19, 3-6 Little Ten): Jeffrey Probst 17 points.

Jacobs 53, Hampshire 51

Kaneland 52, Sycamore 48

Kaneland (24-5, 13-0 Interstate Eight): Gevon Grant 15 points.

Lake Forest 60, Mundelein 46

Lake Forest (18-10, 9-4 North Suburban): Asa Thomas 31 points.

Lake Zurich 72, Waukegan 44

Lake Zurich (15-12, 6-7 North Suburban): Brendan Powers 23 points.

Lakes 47, Grayslake North 38

Lakes (19-7, 11-2 Northern Lake County): Brock Marino 14 points, Tyler Anderson 14 points.

Libertyville 41, Stevenson 40

Libertyville (23-5, 12-1 North Suburban): Aidyn Boone 13 points. Won conference title.

Naperville North 57, Metea Valley 39

Naperville North (17-10, 6-3 DuPage Valley): Bryce Welch 17 points.

Niles North 71, Highland Park 55

Neuqua Valley 58, Waubonsie Valley 35

Oswego East 72, Oswego 56

Oswego East (24-5, 15-0 Southwest Prairie West): Jehvion Starwood 23 points.

Oswego (15-15, 9-7): Dasean Patton 26 points.

Plano 44, Morris 37

Plano (10-19, 4-9 Interstate Eight): James Pugh 12 points.

Providence 59, Marmion 58

Marmion (17-11, 5-8 CCL White): Collin Wainscott 14 points, Jabe Haith 14 points.

Rock Falls 86, Genoa-Kingston 59

Genoa-Kingston (10-18, 1-7 Big Northern): Hayden Hodgson 17 points.

Rockford Christian Life 57, Mooseheart 49

St. Edward 61, Westmont 40

St. Patrick 39, Carmel 33

Carmel (10-20): Kaleb Jackson 15 points.

Sandwich 72, Rochelle 61

South Elgin 62, East Aurora 45 (OT)

Vernon Hills 67, Maine West 57

Vernon Hills (16-14, 6-4 Central Suburban North): Milan Raval 24 points.

Warren 64, Zion-Benton 35

Warren (16-14, 7-6 North Suburban): Adam Panek 19 points.

Wauconda 64, Antioch 48

Wauconda (14-11, 7-5 Northern Lake County): Braeden Carlsen 26 points.

West Aurora 68, Plainfield North 59

West Aurora (16-14, 8-7 Southwest Prairie West): Josh Pickett 22 points.

Wheaton North 59, Geneva 53

Yorkville 61, Minooka 37

Yorkville (23-5, 12-4 Southwest Prairie West): LeBaron Lee 11 points.

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

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

– Chicago Tribune –

Only a freshman, Mia Carter knows all about the Larkin-Elgin basketball rivalry. Her dad is the boys coach.

Feb. 13, 2023

By Paul Johnson - Aurora Beacon-News



Larkin's Mia Carter (o) calls out a play against **Elgin** during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Elgin on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

Freshman guard **Mia Carter** grew up entrenched in **Larkin's** basketball culture.

As the **older daughter of boys basketball coach Deryn Carter**, Mia understands how big the **Royals'** rivalry games are against **Elgin** — but even she had to pinch herself this season.

All three times.

“Growing up and living in **Larkin** basketball, I know how important those games are,” Mia said. “My first time, it was surreal that I was actually playing in that game.”

And if the third time is the charm, this is something else. Carter and the **Royals** get a fourth shot playing against **Elgin** in Tuesday's Class 4A **South Elgin** Regional semifinals.

Carter has adjusted quickly to the varsity, earning a starting spot right away. She was named honorable mention all-conference Friday.

“A big thing that I think has come a long way is her aggressiveness to the basket,” **Larkin coach Stephen Knapp** said. “She's going to be really successful when she figures that out, and she's been very successful the last couple games she's done that.”

“That will open up her outside shot, and she can be a very scary player here in a couple of years.”

While the talent was always evident, Carter had to figure out how she fit in with older players on the team.

“At the start, I was very nervous,” she said. “You’re a freshman and you’re playing with juniors and seniors. At some point you don’t want to speak up or be as aggressive because you feel like you’re taking somebody else’s spot.”

“As the year went on, I guess I just noticed how much the team actually needs me.”

Carter has more than enough sounding boards to get her through the process. Primarily, she calls on her father, who also happens to be her AAU coach.

“It’s been fun to see it from that side,” Deryn said. “It’s two different hats. When she’s asking questions, I don’t know if she’s asking dad or if she’s asking coach.”

“I’m proud as heck of her. She’s come a long way since November. She’s gotten a lot better, a lot more comfortable. It will be fun the next three years.”

Coach Carter knows carrying the family’s name puts more eyes on Mia than most players.

“It’s not easy,” he said. “There are probably expectations on her that not a lot of 14-year-olds have, but she’s handled it well.”

And Mia Carter has at least one more game to continue her development this season for **Larkin** (16-13), coming against **Elgin** (8-23).

“I’m going to be nervous, especially playing against our rival,” she said. “I know how much it means, but I don’t know how much it means to seniors when this could potentially be their last game.”



After getting bandaged up, **South Elgin's Raina Yang (12)** came back to help the **Storm** defeat Hononegah in a Class 4A DeKalb Sectional semifinal on Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022. (Mark Black / The Beacon-News)

Milestone moment: On Feb. 8 against Fenton, **Raina Yang** became the sixth player in **South Elgin** program history to eclipse 1,000 career points.

The four-year starter, who also was named all-conference Friday, has filled a variety of roles this season for the injury-riddled **Storm**.

“She went from a pass-first point guard to scoring more because that is what we needed to succeed,” **South Elgin coach Dan Mandernack** said. “She has really excelled not only getting to the rim as always but has added a great 3-point shot to her game.”

Stealing the show: Junior guard **Laney Stark** has made an immediate difference for St. Charles North, especially on the defensive end.

She recently became the program’s all-team leader in single-season steals, breaking the previous record of 85.

“Laney has been such an incredibly valuable addition to our team,” North Stars coach **Mike Tomczak** said. “What she brings on the defensive end of the floor with her length, physicality and versatility has really taken what we wanted to do to the next level.”

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

