

Press Clippings 03/07/2019

---The Daily Herald---03/07/2019

Catch the stars of District U-46 at TalentFest

By: Daily Herald report



- Singer Natalia Melandez, a senior at Streamwood High School, will be moving on to perform at TalentFest 2019 at the Hemmens.



- Junior Travis Beer shows emotion after playing the drums at the recent Streamwood High School talent show. He told the audience that his brother, who died in a motorcycle crash last year, had purchased the drum kit for Travis. Travis played to the song "See You Again" by Wiz Khalifa. He will perform at the districtwide TalentFest.



- This five-member band from Elgin High School named S Therory will perform at TalentFest at the Hemmens after winning at their own school talent show that had 14 acts. Members, from left, are Caleb Zamecnik, Jean Mann, Isabella Hernandez, Taylor Robery on drums and Adan Villa.



- Elgin High School seniors Rigo Rodriguez, left, and Adan Villa will move on to TalentFest. This marks their fourth consecutive EHS talent show appearance. They were also one of the top two acts from the last two years to advance to the U-46 show at the Hemmens.



- Shawna Ribano, a junior at South Elgin High School, will perform at TalentFest 2019 at the Hemmens.



- Kiersten Larsen, a senior at South Elgin High School, won the school's talent show and will move on to TalentFest 2019 at the Hemmens in Elgin.



- First-place finisher Julianne Merza sings at the Bartlett High School Talent Show. Merza will be one of the two acts representing BHS at the 2019 TalentFest competition.



- Second-place finisher Gauri Yadav sings at the Bartlett High School Talent Show. Yadav will be one of the two acts representing BHS at the 2019 TalentFest competition.



- Jennifer Villagran, freshman from Larkin, and Getsemani Aguirre, freshman from Hoffman Estates High School, dance to the traditional folk song "Jesusita en Chihuahua" during the Larkin High School Talent Showcase on Feb. 6. Villagran and Getsemani will be one of the two acts representing Larkin at the 2019 TalentFest competition at the Hemmens.



- Casandra Valdes, junior, and Eliana Bermudez, senior, perform at the Larkin High School Talent Showcase. They will be one of the two acts representing Larkin at the 2019 TalentFest competition at the Hemmens.

Elgin Area School District U-46's talented high schoolers will get to showcase their skills at the ninth annual TalentFest next Tuesday, March 12, on the Hemmens Cultural Center Main Stage.

The contest features 10 acts, made up of two finalists chosen from each of the five district high schools -- Bartlett, Elgin, Larkin, South Elgin and Streamwood. After these 10 final acts perform, the audience will vote for their favorites. The top five acts advance to the second phase of the night where they will perform again. A panel of judges will select the first, second and third-place winners.

Winners receive a cash prize as well as a commemorative plaque. In addition, the school whose acts receive the most total votes during intermission will be awarded the traveling TalentFest Trophy. Last year's winners were from Larkin High School.

"Each year, TalentFest provides an opportunity for the creativity of our high schoolers to be showcased on a professional stage in front of family, friends, peers, and community members," said TalentFest Coordinator Jeff Grosser. "It's always a fun night for the audience because they can be a part of determining the winner as they appreciate the talent of our students."

This year's TalentFest will also feature a performance from Mariachi Joya Dorada de U-46, directed by U-46's Fine Arts Coordinator Jaimie Giraldo. The mariachi ensemble has grown each year since it formed in 2009 and is made up of students from Elgin High School, Canton Middle School, Ellis Middle School, Larsen Middle School, and Tefft Middle School.

Tickets for the 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 12 event are \$5 and can be purchased through the Hemmens online box office, by phone at (847) 931-5900 or at the door. TalentFest is made possible with the support of the U-46 Educational Foundation and the Elgin Cultural Arts Commission.

This year's celebrity judges are Bud Wilson, chairman of the U-46 Educational Foundation; Jaimie Giraldo, U-46 Fine Arts Coordinator; and Warren Anderson, director of the Demoss Center for Worship in the Performing Arts at Judson University.

The acts this year include a vocal duo and dance duo from Larkin High, a vocalist and a drummer from Streamwood High, two vocalists from Bartlett High, a rock band and classical guitar duo from Elgin High, and a vocal/guitarist and vocalist from South Elgin High.

SPORTS

---The Daily Herald---03/07/2019

South Elgin stymies Harlem

By: Jerry Fitzpatrick



- South Elgin's starters including Drake Montgomery (3) celebrate a three-point basket in the closing moments of Wednesday's Class 4A boys basketball sectional semifinal at Rock Valley College in Rockford.



- South Elgin's Trace Ashby (4) goes up for a layup past Harlem's Bryson Thomas (10) during Wednesday's Class 4A boys basketball sectional semifinal at Rock Valley College in Rockford.



- South Elgin's Drake Montgomery (3) tries to control a rebound with Harlem's Nicholas Rivera (5) during Wednesday's Class 4A boys basketball sectional semifinal at Rock Valley College in Rockford.



- South Elgin's Lane McVicar (23) passes over Harlem's Bryson Thomas (10) during Wednesday's Class 4A boys basketball sectional semifinal at Rock Valley College in Rockford.



- South Elgin's Drake Montgomery (3) comes up with the loose ball and heads down court past Harlem's David Williams (5) during Wednesday's Class 4A boys basketball sectional semifinal at Rock Valley College in Rockford.



- South Elgin's Drew Cwik, right, heads to the basket past Harlem's Trey Tucker during Wednesday's Class 4A boys basketball sectional semifinal at Rock Valley College in Rockford.



- South Elgin's Jace Warrick (10) is swarmed by Harlem players during Wednesday's Class 4A boys basketball sectional semifinal at Rock Valley College in Rockford.



- The South Elgin bench explodes with excitement on their way to defeat Harlem in Wednesday's Class 4A boys basketball sectional semifinal at Rock Valley College in Rockford.



- South Elgin's Vincent Miskiewicz (33) goes up for a shot under pressure from Harlem's Tre Jones (33) and Bryson Thomas during Wednesday's Class 4A boys basketball sectional semifinal at Rock Valley College in Rockford.

ROCKFORD -- South Elgin used zone defense to smother Harlem 57-35 in a Class 4A Rock Valley College sectional semifinal Wednesday.

In a matchup between No. 3 subsectional seeds, Storm senior guards Trace Ashby, Jace Warrick and Drake Montgomery closed out on Harlem 3-point shooters Dominic Renteria, David Williams and Treye Tucker and limited the Huskies to 23-percent shooting from beyond the arc (5 of 22).

"We locked up the outside and let them shoot from the inside," Ashby said. "We left the middle open a little bit so their big man would take more shots than their guards because we knew the guards were stronger from three-point range than their big man was in the paint."

Harlem 6-foot-1 senior David Williams, who scored 25 points in a regional title victory over Crystal Lake Central, was held to 8 points, largely because South Elgin 6-foot-7 forward Vince Miskiewicz guarded the lane like it was his backyard and the Huskies jumped the fence. The senior batted away 6 shots and changed several more.

"I played my game on defense," Miskiewicz said. "I knew what he wanted to do and I sat there in the paint, blocked his shot, grabbed the rebound and went."

South Elgin (25-8) advances to a sectional final for the second time in school history and the first time since 2014. The Storm will face NIC-10 champion Rockford East (32-2), a No. 1 subsectional seed.

"I think we can stay with them," South Elgin third-year coach Brett Johnson said. "It's a matter of are we going to make shots when we have open opportunities and are we going to defend the way we defended tonight when we have to get it done. If we can do that, we can give ourselves a chance at the end and that's all I can ask from this team."

The Storm broke to a 15-7 lead through one quarter and led 28-18 at halftime. They opened the third quarter on a 9-4 run and extended the lead to 15 points when Miskiewicz grabbed one of his 16 rebounds and fired an outlet pass to Montgomery for a transition bucket.

That scenario repeated itself on a loop as Harlem (20-12) missed 24 of 30 second-half shots and the Storm won the rebounding battle 35-27.

"Their length in that zone, it caused some problems," Harlem coach Mike Winters said. "It kind of changes some passing angles and forces guys to step off that 3-point line a little bit. Uncharacteristically, we missed a lot of good looks, too. We're a really good shooting team and we shot 27 percent."

The Huskies made 14 of 51 field-goal attempts. Tucker scored a team-high 17 points.

Miskiewicz scored 17 points, Montgomery added 14 points and 5 assists, Warrick contributed 9 points and Ashby scored 8 for South Elgin, which has never advanced to a supersectional.

"We put ourselves in position to be successful," Johnson said. "Now, we have to go up against a very, very good Rockford East team. Hopefully, we can compete, do the best we can and see what happens."