

Press Clippings for 11/16/2022

## --- The Daily Herald---

**‘Privilege to say I know 2 languages’**

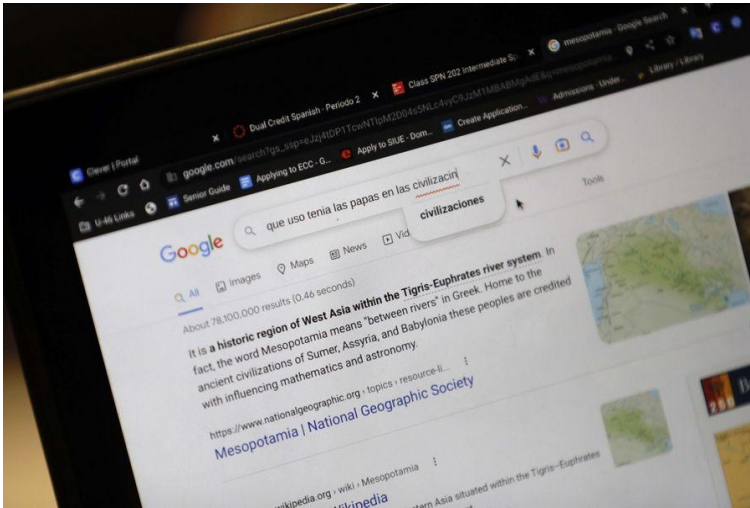
**How the dual language program has evolved over half a century**

**Nov. 16, 2022**

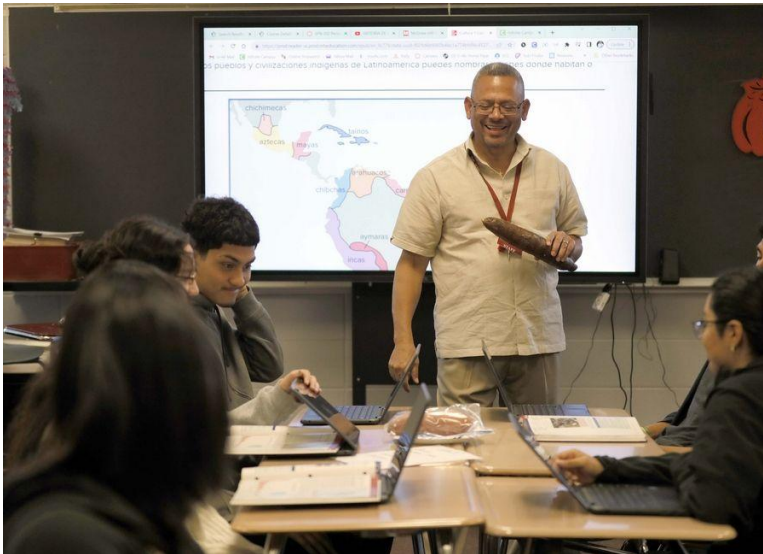
**By Madhu Krishnamurthy**



**Elgin High School** students Xixtlally Chavez, left, and Gabriela McChuca work on an assignment in a dual language class. Elgin Area **School District U-46** is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its bilingual program.  
*Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*



Elgin Area **School District U-46** is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its bilingual program. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*



**Elgin High School** teacher Juan Figueroa works with his dual language class. Elgin Area **School District U-46** is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its bilingual program. More than 12,000 students are enrolled in the district's dual language program this year. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*



**Elgin High School** teacher Juan Figueroa works with his dual language class. Elgin Area **School District U-46** is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its bilingual program.



*Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*

**Elgin High School** teacher Juan Figueroa works with his dual language class. Elgin Area **School District U-46** is marking the 50th anniversary of its bilingual program this year.

*Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*



In this Jan, 4, 1980, photo, Laotian students in Duansamone Sivilay's bilingual class learn how to trace and cut a Christmas tree. Elgin Area **School District U-46's** bilingual program is marking 50 years. *Courtesy of Elgin History Museum*



In this Jan, 4, 1980, photo, third-grader Mee Thao tests her artistry skills using an oversized pen with a furry top to color in a bilingual class at Elgin Area **School District U-46**. *Courtesy of Elgin History Museum*

Growing up in a predominantly Spanish-speaking household, Giselle Naranjo wanted to stay connected to her roots and to family members who spoke only her native tongue, while fitting in at school and in a community where English dominated.

The 17-year-old **Larkin High School** senior, the daughter of Mexican American parents, has participated in Elgin Area **School District U-46's** bilingual program since elementary school and is graduating from it next spring with an added distinction of earning an Illinois State Seal of Bilingualism.

“It has connected me more with my identity,” Naranjo said of the program. “It has helped me better understand my culture, my parents and myself, emotionally, mentally.”

U-46's bilingual program is marking 50 years of helping students become bilingual and biliterate. It has evolved from just a few classes at select sites into an award-winning dual language program offered districtwide starting in prekindergarten and going through high school.

Last school year saw the first graduating class of high school students from the dual language program. And the first group of students who started in the program in first grade, including Naranjo, will graduate next spring.

For the 2022-23 school year, U-46 has roughly 12,000 students enrolled in the dual language program, making it one of the largest dual language districts in the country.

“It made me feel welcome and connected here and not feel isolated from everybody else. ... Like I belong, like I'm being represented,” said Naranjo, who certainly is not in the minority at the state's second-largest school district.

U-46's population of 35,377 students is 56.4% Hispanic, 24.4% white, 8.5% Asian, 6.2% Black and 3.3% two or more races, Illinois School Report Card data show.

Naranjo, who is on the superintendent's Student Advisory Council, says not losing her Spanish language and her identity helped her gain confidence to succeed in other aspects of academics.

“It's a great privilege to say I know two languages,” she said. “It's just a great gift to be able to communicate.”

It's a skill Naranjo hopes will translate into an asset for a future career in business and criminal justice.

## Bilingual education

The Bilingual Education Act of 1968 is the first federal recognition of the needs of students with limited English-speaking ability.

The law has undergone four reauthorizations with amendments. Over time, the definition of the population served has been broadened from limited English speaking to limited English-proficient students.

U-46 embraced the new law's requirements with enthusiasm amid an explosion in the Elgin area's Latino population.

“One of the things I always admired about the district was how they were very proactive,” said Lois Sands, a retired district bilingual teacher and former principal of Streamwood Elementary Early Childhood Center, which served bilingual students. “Before it became law, they had already been offering bilingual services.”

Sands, 70, of Elgin, is originally from Uruguay and studied in Mexico. She said bilingual educators like herself saw students' Spanish skills as a strength that could be transferred when learning a new language.

"Keeping kids strong in their home language was an emphasis," she said. "And you would notice the difference. Students who were strong readers in their native language made that transition to English more quickly.

"It was just common sense. I believe in it so strongly. I didn't speak English to my son until he was about 8 because I wanted him to maintain Spanish. You see the world in a different way and you are open to other languages, also."

In the early days of the bilingual program, Sands helped organize meetings with Hispanic parents to teach them how to support students at home.

"We would model to them reading to their children," she said.

Such parent resources later evolved into **U-46's Family Welcome Center**, which helps newcomers and primarily immigrant families navigate the school system, and tests students' English language skills to determine whether they qualify for the dual language program.

The center was established in 2005 to address the district's changing demographics, reflecting the diversity within the 11 communities **U-46** serves. It has helped guide countless families through the enrollment process and get acclimated.

#### Language evolution

**U-46's** 80:20 dual language program serves Spanish-speaking English learners from prekindergarten through eighth grade. It offers a bilingual educational environment in which students are taught literacy and academic content in English and Spanish starting in kindergarten, where 80% of classroom instruction is in Spanish and 20% in English.

As students move up in grades, the portion of English instruction increases by 10 percentage points per grade until both languages reach parity by third grade.

High school students in the dual language program are required to take four years of Spanish language arts and four years of English language arts. Coursework includes Advanced Placement offerings in Spanish.

Last school year, the district adopted honors Spanish Language Arts/Latinx Studies curriculum as an elective and capstone course for seniors in the dual language program.

The goal is to foster bilingualism, biliteracy and multiculturalism. Officials say that helps students improve academically while incorporating awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity.

The graduating Class of 2024 will have students who have been with the program since kindergarten.

"Our district has done a fantastic job of committing to the dual language model, so much so that it's part of board policy," said Griselda Pirtle, **U-46** director of the Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department.

Today's dual language program comes from an entirely different mindset than its predecessor, the Transitional Bilingual Education model, in which students were required to exit the program once they reached proficiency in English. The earlier model did not promote bilingualism.

"The transitional model was more of like a remedial ... 'let's fix them because they can't speak English' type of mindset," Pirtle said. "Whereas the dual language program is more of like enrichment."

It capitalizes on and helps maintain students' home language skills instead of seeing them as a deficit, she said.

More than 100 native languages, other than English, are spoken by students in the district. Nearly 70% of district students speak another language at home. U-46 offers resource teachers for some other languages, such as Gujarati, Polish and Urdu, but there aren't enough students to establish a dual language model for those languages, officials said.

Pirtle said there are proven cognitive benefits that come from being bilingual, and many qualitative measures show U-46's dual language program is helping students gain a leg up over their peers by expanding students' worldview, promoting multiculturalism and helping them gain the 21st-century skills sought by colleges and employers.

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

## **– The Examiner of Bartlett –**

### **Bartlett siblings work to aid less fortunate in area**

**Nov. 16, 2022**

**By Seth Hancock**

Helping the unfortunate has become a mission for four siblings from Bartlett.

Albert, AJ, Adrian and Aaron Azarias have started the Aza Essentials not-for-profit charity, and they've been pretty active this year starting with distributing over 300 backpacks in August to School District U-46 and Chicago Public Schools' students.

The charity has worked with several area organizations, primarily with Greg Schiller of Hope for the Homeless through the Vineyard Church of Elgin as well as with Jim Cook, a dean's assistant at South Elgin's Kenyon Woods Middle School.

There have been 200 full-sized blankets, 150 pairs of snow gloves and socks and razors/hygiene products distributed to homeless/domestic abuse shelters in recent weeks and

months. Aza Essentials also plans to distribute propane tanks for those living in tents as well as turkey drives and Christmas giveaways.

Albert Azarias called it a “humbling experience” as he helped distribute the supplies and visited a tent city in Elgin with Schiller.

“There are three camps in the woods with tents that you can’t see from any road,” Azarias said. “It was a sad realization knowing these people would have to eventually endure the negative temperatures for winter in a tent. Most people take basic necessities for granted.” Azarias’ parents have been in Bartlett for over 30 years and all of his siblings currently reside in the village. They all attended **South Elgin High School** graduating between 2009 and 2020.

Albert Azarias had the idea when he was in high school wanting to help the less fortunate by the time he was about 35 and had the funds to do so. He was 25 in 2020 when the effects of the lockdown hit and decided the charity needed to start earlier.

Although his idea, Azarias said his siblings were all receptive and ready to help.

Azarias said he saw the disparity firsthand with his school friends from the extremely rich to those in poverty. His parents are immigrants from the Philippines, and he also saw the effects of poverty when he traveled there.

“My plan is to continue to do events in the northwest suburbs and then move throughout Chicago as we expand and help people transition out of homelessness and get out of poverty,” Azarias said. “Many nonprofits are a band aid on a broken arm. We want to be more than that. We aim to help people get out of survival mode and eventually get back to society and become contributors to society. But it all starts with what we’re doing now. We can’t do those things right away so for now, all the support is needed so we can start to make the rest of their lives the best of their lives.”

To learn more, visit [Instagram.com/azaessentials](https://www.instagram.com/azaessentials) and [facebook.com/azaessentials](https://www.facebook.com/azaessentials).

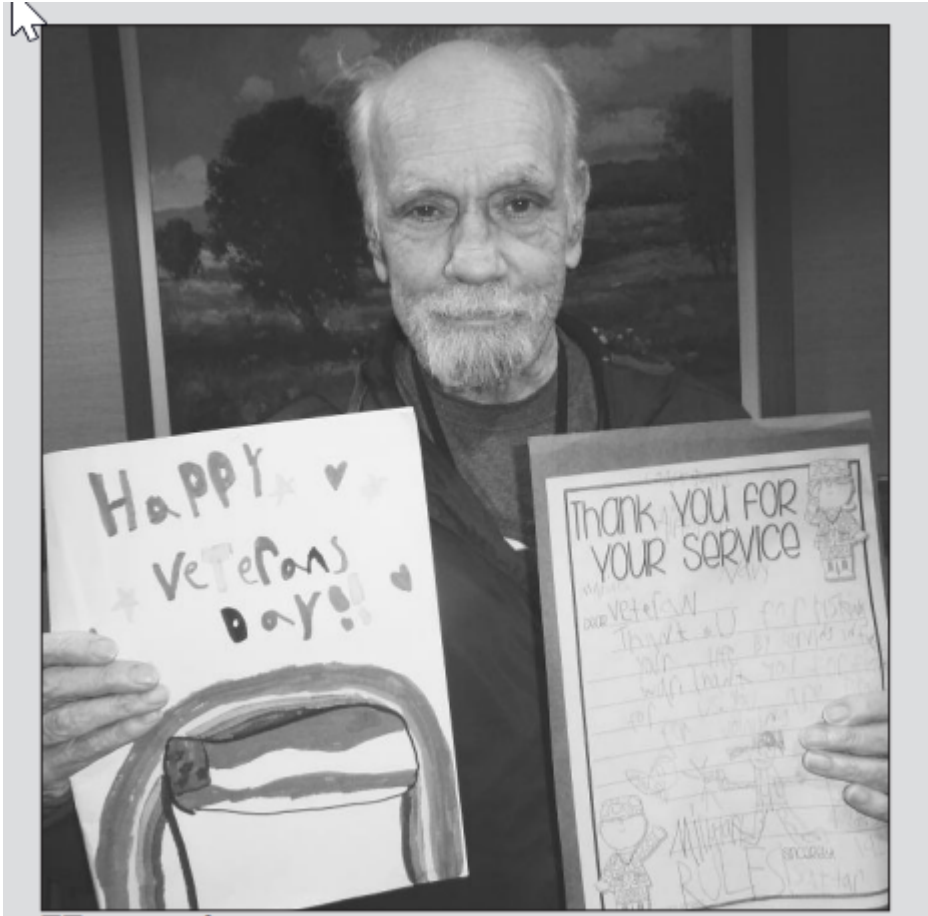


# – The Examiner of Bartlett –

## Tidbits...

Nov. 16, 2022

By Rachel



*Honoring veterans Third grade students from **Hawk Hollow Elementary School** recently honored veterans residing at Victory Centre of Bartlett by providing handwritten messages of thanks and recognition. Pictured is US Army veteran Henry Skogstad holding two cards he had received. (Courtesy photo)*

# – The Examiner of South Elgin –

## Latest property tax levy reviewed by committee

Nov. 16, 2022

By Seth Hancock

The Village Board of Trustees was presented with the proposed 2022 property tax levy and abatements at its committee of the whole meeting on Monday, Nov. 7.

The proposed levy is \$7.2 million including \$4.6 million for limiting property tax, \$1.9 million from bond and interest payments, \$332,819 for the special recreation levy and an allowance of \$234,620.

The allowance is effectively a defensive levy based on official equalized assessed valuation (EAV) numbers not being available at the time of the vote, said Steve Super, village administrator.

The 2021 extension, excluding the debt portion and special recreation levies, was \$4.4 million.

“Since staff’s recommended aggregate levy is greater than the 2021 Net Property Taxes extended (\$4,645,498) plus abated (\$1,921,791), staff is preparing for a [Nov. 21] Truth in Taxation Public Hearing,” wrote Megan Golden, director of administrative services, in a memo.

The levy can rise based primarily on the price inflation rate, or consumer price index (CPI), capped at 5 percent as well as EAV.

The estimated rate is 0.6001 percent, and it has been dropping each year since 0.6319 percent in 2018.

Super said about the levy increasing while rates decreasing is “because of the growth” in property valuations, which includes new construction as well as existing properties increasing in value. Despite the rates dropping, Super noted that doesn’t mean a property tax bill will drop because there are many factors including other taxing districts as well as property values.

The village’s property tax levy represents 7 percent of a South Elgin resident’s bill, schools making up the largest portion at 60 percent for those in School District 303 and 65 percent in School District U-46.

“One of the things, over the years, you begin to realize as a board member, there’s probably 50 percent of the population that doesn’t understand their property tax bill,” said Trustee Mike Kolodziej. “They don’t know how it works. They don’t know where their money goes. And that’s not an insult, that’s a reality.”

Kolodziej added: “Our rate is actually going down year after year after year. So, we’re actually doing a pretty good job at it.... I think people need to be educated on who to be angry with it.”

# **– The Examiner of Bartlett –**

## **Budget, property tax levy reviewed by fire district**

**Nov. 16, 2022**

**By Seth Hancock**

The Bartlett Fire Protection Board was presented with the budget and property tax levy for 2023 at its Wednesday, Oct. 19 meeting.

Both items will be voted on by the board at its December meeting.

The budget expenditures are expected to rise 1 percent, \$11.4 million to \$11.5 million, and revenue by 1.6 percent, \$12.7 million to \$12.9 million, compared to what was budgeted last year. However, last year's budget is projected to be under in expenditures, at \$11 million, but over in revenue, at \$13.5 million.

“It’s kind of a zero-based budget,” said Chief William Gabrenya. “We basically meet with each of the individuals who are responsible for an area, we go through their budget worksheets and basically starting their worksheets from zero and they justify the expense for the upcoming budget.”

The largest expenditure line is personnel costs and benefits increasing from \$7.5 million to \$8.1 million, a 7.5 percent increase. The largest capital project for 2023 is a Station 1 remodel at \$2.5 million.

There is a planned transfer of funds totaling \$1.5 million going to the building fund (\$1.1 million), vehicle fund (\$350,000) and equipment fund (\$76,006). James Howard, the district’s accountant, said the transfer will largely fund the building remodel.

There will be a fund balance draw down of about \$1.5 million for a projected fund balance of \$4.4 million at the end of Fiscal Year 2023.

All reserve funds are expected to meet replacement plan fund balance targets which is important, Howard said, as “even with inflation and all the upticks in costs, we’ve got to make sure that we’re hitting all of our targets.”

The fund balance history showed that since the approval by voters of a tax increase referendum in 2017, the fund balance has increased from \$2.2 million in 2018 to just under \$5 million in 2021.

“We’ve got a nice separation of revenues over expenditures,” Howard said. “We’ve been striving to do that. It’s going to allow us to continue operational increases as well as those capital projects.”

The proposed tax levy is a 5 percent increase to \$10.8 million between the corporate (\$5 million), ambulance (\$4.3 million) and fire pension (\$1.5 million). The tax rate is expected to slightly rise from 0.689 percent to 0.691 percent.

The district represents about 7.7 percent of a property tax bill, **School District U-46** representing 67.3 percent for the largest portion.

## – The Examiner of Bartlett –

### **Expense items, IGA slated for vote in District U-46**

**Nov. 16, 2022**

**By Seth Hancock**

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** is set to vote on an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) and \$479,160 in expenditure items at its upcoming meeting on Monday, Nov. 21.

The items were presented at the Monday, Nov. 7 meeting.

The IGA is with Elgin Community College to continue a dual credit program “allowing high school students to take high school courses and college courses concurrently,” the proposal states.

Currently, there are 40 juniors and 70 seniors in the full-time program. There are 524 students in part-time programs.

The board will vote on a \$404,160 contract with Gorbold Behavioral Consulting which will be paid for by the nation’s taxpayers, if approved, through federal bailout funds. It is a supplemental contract to a \$181,725 contract approved in September.

“Additional specialized support is needed for the Emotional Development Instructional Program (EDIP) classrooms to assist staff and our students within an EDIP classroom exhibiting challenging behaviors towards self and/or others,” the proposal states. “Specialized Student Services is opting to contract with GBC to provide training, interventions, revision of BIPs, and behavior supports. These services and training will assist and support the EDIP classrooms and the Instructional Learning Programs (ILP) across the district based on student IEP needs.

” Costing \$75,000 from the education fund, the board will vote on a contract with 5 STAR Interpreting.

“With staffing shortages, we are also experiencing a shortage in sign language interpreters,” the proposal states. “Sign language interpreters are necessary for some of our students to access their educational learning environment because they have an eligibility of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH). In lieu of not being able to hire our own sign language interpreters, we contract with 5 STAR Interpreting. This year, we are again accessing their services for seven students every instructional day.”

## – The Examiner of Bartlett –

### U-46 Board discusses IASB resolution positions

Nov. 16, 2022

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** discussed its positions on resolutions for this weekend’s Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) convention.

The IASB is the taxpayer funded lobbyist arm of government-run schools in Illinois. The Nov. 19 delegate assembly meeting, where Kate Thommes will represent the U-46 board, is when members vote on what the IASB will lobby for, or against, at the state and federal levels.

The board discussed the resolutions at its Oct. 24 and Nov. 7 meetings.

The most debated of three resolutions was one seeking the IASB to lobby the state to increase the distance requirements from 500 to 1,500 feet for gun stores from schools because the submitting district, from Mundelein, claims students seeing Americans exercising their Second Amendment rights has a negative effect on “mental health.”

The IASB resolution committee opposed the resolution because it’s not enforceable, but **Superintendent Tony Sanders** said: “My thought on this one was that the law says you can’t have a gun store or carry a firearm within 1,000 feet of real property of a school, but there was no enforcement mechanism.... I would actually say do adopt.”

Ultimately, the **U-46 board** agreed with the IASB committee, **board member Melissa Owens** stating: “I do understand the principle of it, but I think it’s not very enforceable.”

U-46 will support a resolution to lobby for legislation that will limit the ability of taxpayers to file lawsuits against a school district for “excessive accumulation” in fund balances.

Sanders said the district is “not close to the Miller Ratio,” a measure used to determine fund balances. He said currently a school district cannot have over two years’ worth of fund balances in any fund and the resolution seeks to increase it to three.

“I think it seems to make sense to increase it, good fiscal stewardship,” said Sanders who added that the state increased it for townships to two and a half years recently.

U-46 will oppose a resolution seeking federal and state tax dollars for electric buses and charging stations. Board members liked the resolution but feared it would negatively affect current transportation reimbursements.

The IASB delegates will also vote on five proposed amendments to existing position statements as well as various deletions of language from statements.

## **– Elgin Courier-News – GIRLS BASKETBALL SEASON PREVIEW**

### **Top 10 teams and 25 players to watch**

**Nov. 16, 2022**

**By Paul Johnson for Beacon-News**

## **Top 10 teams**

1. Geneva (25-5): Vikings have a bunch back from the team that won its 13th straight regional title and was undefeated DuKane Conference champion. Reigning area player of the year Cassidy Arni, Leah Palmer and Lauren Slagle all return.
2. St. Charles East (22-7): Torrie Kortan graduated from last season's surprise sectional champion, but Lexi DiOrio, Alexis Maridis and Emma Yakey return after a full offseason with coach Josh Foster, who took over last winter in midseason.
3. St. Charles North (18-13): Expectations are high for North Stars with a talented group of returnees leading the way. Reagan Sipla has multiple Division I offers, Alyssa Hughes is committed to Washington in St. Louis and Katrina Stack also returns.
4. South Elgin (27-6): Storm look to keep it going after steamrolling to undefeated Upstate Eight Conference title, program-record 27 wins and first-ever appearance in the sectional championship game. Zoie Lewis, Caitlyn Tolentino and Raina Yang headline the returnees.
5. Waubonsie Valley (16-15): Coming off a regional championship, Warriors return a lot of length and scoring. Senior guard Taylor Curry and junior forward Hannah Laub each averaged 15 points last season. Sophomore guard Lily Newton is also back.
6. Batavia (19-15): Tessa Towers is now a freshman center for Wisconsin, but the Bulldogs return one of the area's most dynamic players in junior point guard Brooke Carlson. She's 209 points shy of 1,000 for her career. Kylee Gehrt also returns.
7. Burlington Central (23-10): Rockets graduated a large part of their core, including Taylor Charles, a freshman forward at Princeton. But the Rockets look to keep things rolling behind returnees Page Erickson, Samantha Origel and Emma Payton.
8. West Aurora (15-13): Blackhawks finished second in the Southwest Prairie West. Aspen Weeks is back for her second season after transferring from Aurora Christian. The Flagler recruit is 57 points away from 1,000 for her career.
9. Kaneland (18-13): Coming off back-to-back 18-13 seasons, the Knights enter first year under coach Brian Claesson. They will rely on many new young players but can count on a trio of guards in senior Kailey Plank, junior Lexi Schueler and sophomore Kendra Brown.
10. Newark (22-8): Norsemen reached the sectional final last season and have three key returnees for first-year head coach Glenn Clausel in seniors Emily DiClementi, Breannyn Dixon and Taylor Kruser.

## **25 players to watch**

Claire Allen, Sandwich, senior, center; Cassidy Arni, Geneva, senior, guard/forward; Anastasia Bellamy, East Aurora; junior, center; Brooke Carlson, Batavia, junior, guard; Avery Cartee,

Hampshire, junior, guard/forward; Sofia Corral, Aurora Central Catholic, sophomore, guard; Taylor Curry, Waubonsie Valley, senior, guard; Lexi DiOrio, St. Charles East, junior, guard; Riley Doggett, Oswego East, senior, guard; Kylee Gehrt, Batavia, junior, guard; Ashley Herzing, Hampshire, junior, guard; Alyssa Hughes, St. Charles North, senior, guard; Baylei Johnson, Larkin, senior, center; Hannah Laub, Waubonsie Valley, senior, guard; Alexis Maridis, St. Charles East, junior, guard; Mia Moore, East Aurora, senior, guard; Leah Palmer, Geneva, junior, guard/forward; Raina Penttila, Metea Valley, senior, forward; Cami Phillips, Oswego East, junior, guard; Reagan Sipla, St. Charles North, junior, guard; Alex Stewart, Yorkville, senior, guard; Caitlyn Tolentino, South Elgin, senior, guard; Aspen Weeks, West Aurora, senior, guard; Emma Yakey, St. Charles East, senior, guard/forward; Raina Yang, South Elgin, senior, guard.

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

## – Elgin Courier-News –

### LOCAL SCOREBOARD

**Nov. 16, 2022**

**Compiled By Josh Krockey**

Note: Schedules are subject to change because of weather and other factors.

#### MONDAY'S RESULTS

##### HIGH SCHOOLS

##### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Genoa-Kingston 42, Belvidere 34

Genoa-Kingston (1-0): Ally Poegel 20 points. Bryce Boylen 16 points.

Hinsdale South 49, Oswego 45

##### BURLINGTON CENTRAL TOURNAMENT

Burlington Central 59, Marengo 45

Burlington Central (1-0): Emma Payton 14 points. Page Erickson 12 points. Emersyn Fry 10 points.



Kaneland 48, Larkin 31

Kaneland (1-0): Lexi Schueler 14 points. Kendra Brown 11 points.

St. Charles North 62, Prairie Ridge 15

St. Charles North (1-0): Reagan Sipla 20 points. Alyssa Hughes 12 points. Julia Larson 11 points. Laney Stark 10 points.

#### HAMPSHIRE DOREEN ZIERER TOURNAMENT

Geneva 66, Sycamore 52

Geneva (1-0): Leah Palmer 15 points.

Fremd 52, Lake Zurich 44

#### MCINTOSH CLASSIC

At IMSA

**Elgin** 59, IMSA 20

**Elgin** (1-0): Izzy Castro 11 points.

Rockford East 60, Indian Creek 24

Indian Creek (0-1): Isabella Turner 11 points, 9 rebounds.

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