

Press Clippings for 11/21/2022

-- Daily Herald --

Look: The Week in Pictures photo gallery for November 14-20, 2022

Nov. 20, 2022

By John Starks

The first lady and the first significant snowfall are part of The Week in Pictures photo gallery for November 14-20, 2022.



Elgin High School teacher Juan Figueroa works with his class Thursday, November 3, 2022 in Elgin. Elgin Area **School District U-46** is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its bilingual program.

Brian Hill | Staff Photographer

-- Chicago Tribune --

Gov. J.B. Pritzker's top education official set to retire in January

By Jeremy Gorner

Nov 18, 2022



State Superintendent of Education Carmen I. Ayala at [South Elgin High School](#) during a news conference on March 31, 2021. (Stacey Wescott / Chicago Tribune)

SPRINGFIELD — Gov. J.B. Pritzker's top education official, whose oversight of the state's schools became a campaign issue during the recent election, announced Friday that she plans to retire early next year.

Carmen Ayala was named superintendent of the Illinois State Board of Education by Pritzker shortly after he took office in early 2019.

During the Democratic governor's reelection campaign, Ayala was regularly criticized by state Sen. Darren Bailey, the Republican candidate, over policies implemented during her tenure, including those that advance LGBTQ curricula in schools. Bailey said part of his "day-one agenda" if elected would be to fire her.

She also carried out Pritzker's order to shut down public schools during the early days of the pandemic, a move that was widely criticized by Republicans and many parents.

Pritzker on Friday issued a statement praising her leadership.

"Not only did Dr. Ayala's steadfast leadership guide our schools through an unprecedented (COVID-19) pandemic, but she also kick-started students' academic recovery," Pritzker said. "Under her leadership, we've seen significant growth in high school graduation rates and other key educational metrics, a true testament to her hard work and dedication to Illinois students."

State officials reported this fall that Illinois' four-year high school graduation rate was the highest in 12 years — 87.3% — and was driven by gains for Black and Hispanic students. The state board began reporting the graduation rate in 2011.

While Black and Hispanic students historically graduate at lower rates than their white and Asian peers locally and nationally, Illinois' graduation rates for Black and Hispanic students have grown every year since 2018, according to the state.

Prior to leading the State Board of Education, Ayala was superintendent of Berwyn North School District and assistant superintendent in the Plainfield and Aurora school districts. She was also a classroom teacher in Aurora and in the Chicago Public Schools.

Ayala will leave office when her contract ends on Jan. 31, according to the governor's office. Pritzker plans to conduct "a national search" to find a

replacement, his office said. The governor's recommendation for the post is forwarded to the State Board of Education, which makes the hire.

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– Elgin Courier-News –

Student at Elgin's Ellis Middle School recovering after being struck by object thrown by another student

Nov. 18, 2022

By Mike Danahey



Elgin police are investigating an incident in which an **Ellis Middle School** student was seriously injured when another student threw an object across a room, officials said. (Janelle Walker / The Courier-News)

Student at Elgin's Ellis Middle School recovering after being struck by object thrown by another student

Elgin police are investigating an incident in which an **Ellis Middle School** student was seriously injured when another student threw an object across a room, officials confirmed.

The incident occurred Nov. 10 shortly before school let out for the day, and the boy was taken to a local hospital for treatment, according to an online message sent to **Ellis** parents by principal Jaime Cadengo.

The boy is now recovering at home and did not attend school this past week, **District U-46** spokeswoman Karla Jiménez said in a statement. The nature of his injuries was not released.

A school resource officer assigned to Ellis, located at 225 S. Liberty St., is investigating what occurred, Elgin police said. According to Jiménez, there was no fight or altercation involved and the student who threw the undisclosed object did not intend to cause an injury.

Cadengo visited the injured student at his home, and support team members are available to speak with **Ellis** students and staff who are upset by what happened, Jiménez said.

No information was released on the status of the student who threw the object.

“The safety of our students and staff is a primary concern,” Jiménez said in her statement. “The school team, supported by district administrators, will continue to ensure **Ellis** is a safe, positive place for students to learn and grow.”

Freelance reporter Gloria Casas contributed.

Mike Danahey is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News

-- Daily Herald --

Football

State semifinals

Nov. 18, 2022

By Mike Miazga

Football

State semifinals

Class 8A

Glenbard West (11-1) at Lincoln-Way East (12-0), Saturday, 1 p.m.

Loyola (11-1) at York (12-0), Saturday, 1 p.m.

Class 7A

Mt. Carmel (12-0) at St. Rita (10-2), Saturday, 4p.m.

Batavia (9-3) at Lake Zurich (11-1), Saturday, 4p.m.

Class 6A

St. Ignatius (10-2) at Prairie Ridge (11-1), Saturday, 2 p.m.

East St. Louis (10-2) at Lemont (12-0), Saturday, 2 p.m.

Class 5A

Nazareth Academy (8-4) at Sycamore (12-0), Saturday, 2 p.m.

Morris (10-2) at Peoria (11-1), Saturday, 2 p.m.

Class 4A

Providence Catholic (8-4) at St. Francis (11-1), Saturday, 2 p.m.

Rochester (11-1) at Springfield Sacred Heart-Griffin (12-0), Friday, 7 p.m.

Class 3A

Byron (11-1) at IC Catholic Prep (11-1), Saturday, 3 p.m.

Tolono Unity (11-1) at Williamsville (11-1), Saturday, 2 p.m.

Class 2A

Tri-Valley (10-2) at Maroa Forsyth (12-0), Saturday, 1 p.m.

Johnston City (12-0) at Decatur St. Teresa (12-0), Saturday, 3 p.m.

Class 1A

Forreton (8-4) at Lena Winslow (12-0), Saturday, 2 p.m.

Camp Point C. (12-0) at Colfax Ridgeview-Lexington Cqop (12-0), Saturday, 2 p.m.

2022 IHSFCA ALL-STATE TEAM

Class 8A

Demir Ashiru QB sr., Plainfield North; Dominik Ball RB jr., Palatine; Michael Barretto OUDL sr., Taft; Jailen Duffie DB/WR sr. Warren; Cole Dutkovich LB/HB sr. Neuqua Valley; Julius Ellens RB/DB jr. Glenbard West; Gerald Floyd LB sr. Plainfield North; Jacque Garipey DUTE sr. Glenbrook South; John Nestor DB/WR sr. Marist; Mack O'Halloran DUTE sr. Downers Grove South; Cole Ostendorf LB jr. York; Danny Pasko LB/RB sr. Lyons; Jake Scianna LB sr. Lincoln-Way East; Jalen Smith WR sr. O'Fallon; Jake Steamey QB sr. Loyola Academy; Chris Terek OUDL sr. Glenbard West; Matt Vezza QB sr. York; Emmet Wolf DULB sr. Maine South

Honorable mention

David Petty DL sr. Glenbard North; Dashaun Manning LB sr. Huntley; Maverick Ohle DL/TE jr. Naperville Central; **Mason Montgomery WR/ RB sr. South Elgin**; Eulan Aghakhan DUOL Jr. Stevenson; Charley Thompson RB sr. Warren; Kole Weinberg OUDL sr. Warren

Class 7A

Kolby Anderson DB/OB sr. Collinsville; Ben

Bielawski DUTE sr. Downers Grove North;

Michael Cervantes WR/QB sr. Buffalo Grove;

Joe Coveliars LB/DLjr. Elk Grove; Frank Covey WR sr. Prospect; Aleksandar Dale LB/QB sr.

Whitney Young; Tyler Erkman WA/DB sr. Lake Zurich; Davonte Evans WA/DB sr. Argo; Riley

Fuller RB sr. Moline; Gatson Grove WA/P Jr.

Hersey; TYier Jansey L /RB sr. Batavia; Matt Kingsbury LB sr. St. Rita; Andrew Laurich DURB sr. Yorkville; cannon Mackey OL/DL sr. Normal Community; Neal May WR/DB sr. Bradley

Bourbonnais; Will Seibert DUOL sr. Jacobs; Drew Surges RB/LB sr. St. Charles North; Kanye Tyler RB/DB sr. Pekin

Honorable mention

Anthony Palano LB/RB jr. Buffalo Grove; Danny Vuckovic KIP sr. Lake Zurich; Josh Emeka DL sr. Maine West; Brandon Hansen OLjr.

Mundelein; Brad Vierneisel QB sr. Prospect; Ben Petermann WR jr. Rolling Meadows

Class 6A

Lynel Billups-Williams WR/DB sr. Crete-Mo.nee; Nate Compere O1/DL sr. Crystal Lake South; KeShawn Harrington-McKinney DUTE sr.

MaChesney Park Harlem; Brandon Harvey LB/P sr. Champaign Centennial; Antwon Hayden LB/TE sr. East St Louis; Brock Leenerman LB/ RB sr. Normal West; Marquise Lightfoot DL jr. Kenwood Academy; Miles McVay O sr. 'East St Louis; Kaiden Miller RB/WR sr. Grayslake Central; Joseph Neumann TE/LB sr. Antioch; Vinny Rugai RB/LB sr. Saint Ignatius; Payton Salomom QB sr. Lemont; Justin Scott DU

OL jr. Saint Ignatius; Kvion Thunderbird LB sr. Kenwood Academy; Breyahn Townsend RB/DB sr. Bremen; Tyler Vasey QB sr. Prairie Ridge; Luke Wallace WR sr. Lemont; Nicholas Winters LB/TE sr. Belvidere North

Honorable mention

Nathan VanWitzenburg RB/DB sr. Crystal Lake South; Troyer Carlson QB jr. Kaneland; Erik Boehmer HB/LB sr. Vernon Hills

Class 5A

Nikolas Belski OL sr. LaSalle-Peru; Askia Bullie QB/DB jr. Westinghouse; Lincoln Cooley OU DL sr. Sycamore; Owen Difranco OUDL sr.

Glenbard South; Chris Durr WR jr. Morgan

Park; Justin Hemmersbach O1/DL sr. Morris; Jack Leshar LB/RB jr. Marmion Academy;

Eli Meier QB sr. Sycamore; Allen Middleton

WR/DB sr. Mascoutah; Elijah Owens QB sr.

Jacksonville; Sam Reddinger LB/RB sr. Morris; Quenton Rogers WR sr. Mahomet-Seymour;

Kael Ryan LB sr. Sterling; Benjamin Wallace OL sr. Metamora; Pierce Walsh WR/DL sr. Benet Academy; Pat New

Malachi Washington RB sr. Peoria; Cam Williams WR jr. Glenbard South; Brent Wuebbels QB sr. Highland

– Elgin Courier-News –

BOYS BASKETBALL COURIER-NEWS 2022-23 PREVIEW

Top 10 teams and 25 players to watch in Aurora and Elgin

Nov. 20, 2022

By Rick Armstrong

1. Oswego East (33-2): A pair of 6-foot-6 senior guards in Towson recruit Mekhi Lowery and Ryan Johnson will be joined by transfers Bryce Shoto, a point guard from Plainfield Central, and Jehvion Starwood, a junior guard from Yorkville Christian.
2. West Aurora (17-14): Junior guard Josh Pickett, who has eight Division I offers, and 6-4 sophomore forward Terrence Smith return with seniors Datavion McClain, Jeffery Tyson and Derrick McKinney. They are bolstered by junior guard C.J. Savage, a transfer from East Aurora, and Jordan Brooks, a transfer from Oswego.
3. **Bartlett** (23-6): With graduated 7-4 center Conrad Luczynski off to a Missouri prep school, Hawks figure to pick up the tempo behind junior guards Kelton McEwen and Nathan Scearce and senior guard Marty McCarthy.
4. **Larkin** (31-4): Junior guard Jakob Blakley isn't expected to return from injury until January, so Royals are likely to struggle early but should still contend with **Bartlett** for top spot in Upstate Eight Conference.
5. Burlington Central (31-4): Even though Rockets graduated a strong, experienced senior class, 6-9 Drew Scharnowski is a good starting point. The multitalented big man, a Belmont recruit, can play inside and outside and passes well.
6. Yorkville (9-19): The team's top two returning scorers are a pair of quality posts in 6-9 Jason Jakstys and 6-5 LeBaron Lee Jr. They return to lead an improved team that will include six transfers from Yorkville Christian.
7. Marmion (15-14): Four senior starters return from Cadets' first team to finish above .500 since 2014-15. All-conference players in 6-1 guard Collin Wainscott and 6-6 forward Trevon Roots lead the way. They're joined by an improved Jabe Haith, a 6-5 swingman, and 6-0 guard Jacob Piceno.

8. Waubonsie Valley (15-15): Four starters are led by 6-6 senior forward Jackson Langendorf, who averaged 11.3 points last season. Six returning players are expected to pace the emerging Warriors.

9. Metea Valley (10-21): All-conference guard Jahki Gray, who averaged 13 points, headlines a quartet of returning starters who are joined by junior guard James Parker, a transfer from East Aurora.

10. East Aurora (19-11): Four-year varsity player Jabian Acosta, a 6-4 forward who averaged 9.6 points and 8.0 rebounds, returns to lead the young Tomcats. Senior guard Ralph Clark should also provide leadership. Transfers provide opportunity for junior guards Jalen Bealer and Kenneth Cooley.

25 PLAYERS TO WATCH

Jabian Acosta, East Aurora, senior, forward; Jack Ambrose, Batavia, senior, guard/forward; Jakob Blakley, Larkin, junior, guard; Troyer Carlson, Kaneland, junior, guard; David Douglas Jr., Yorkville Christian, senior, guard; Jahki Gray, Metea Valley, senior, guard; Ben Hintzsche, Hinckley-Big Rock, senior, guard; Jason Jakstys, Yorkville, junior, forward; Ryan Johnson, Oswego East, senior, guard/forward; Jackson Langendorf, Waubonsie Valley, senior, forward; Mick Lawrence, Geneva, senior, guard; LeBaron Lee Jr., Yorkville, senior, center; Ben Lothery, Harvest Christian, senior, guard; Mekhi Lowery, Oswego East, senior, guard; Kelton McEwen, Bartlett, junior, guard; Max Niesman, Oswego, senior, guard; Josh Pickett, West Aurora, junior, guard; Jimmy Rassmussen, Geneva, senior, guard; Trevon Roots, Marmion, senior, forward; C.J. Savage, West Aurora, junior, guard; Drew Scharnowski, Burlington Central, senior, guard; Bryce Shoto, Oswego East, senior, guard; Terrence Smith, West Aurora, sophomore, forward; Parker Violet, Kaneland, junior, forward; Collin Wainscott, Marmion, senior, guard.