

## Press Clippings for 12/16/2022

– Elgin Courier-News –

### 300 Elgin students get big holiday surprise

Dec. 16, 2022

By Gloria Casas



Janney Munoz takes a sugar cookie from Cory Cole, manager of the Meijer store in Elgin, at a surprise holiday party Tuesday at **Washington Elementary School** in Elgin. The event was organized by the Boys and Girls Club and funded by the Meijer store. Gloria Casas/Courier-News photos



***First grader Ubiri Torres could barely contain her surprise and excitement Tuesday when she saw Santa Claus come through the door at Washington Elementary School in Elgin.***

**Washington Elementary School** first-grader Ubiri Torres gasped, and then covered her mouth in shock when she glimpsed Santa Claus coming through the door.

That he should give her a Christmas stocking containing a Barbie doll to boot was almost too much to believe.

Ubiri's friend, Yaylynn Villacana, found something similar in her stocking from Santa.

"It's Belle," she said of her doll, a character from the animated Disney movie, "Beauty and the Beast." "It's an awesome present."

Each of **Elgin school's** 300 students were given presents in a surprise holiday party Tuesday that included cookies and other treats, games and music, all courtesy of the Meijer store in Elgin and the Boys & Girls Club of Elgin.

Meijer gave its Elgin store \$10,000 to donate to whatever organization its employees chose, store manager Cory Cole said. They selected the local Boys & Girls Club.

It's something his company likes to do to "enrich the lives of the communities we serve," Cole

said.

The club has about 40 members who attend **Washington Elementary**, said the Elgin's organization's chief development officer. "We're very fortunate we have a good relationship with Meijer," she said.

Local Meijer employee James Ross is on the board of the Boys and Girls Club of Elgin and attended the school party to help with the holiday celebration.

"It brings a little warmth to your heart to see the smiles from the kids," he said.

And there were lots of smiles, noting the grins on the faces of 4th-graders Ava Thomas, who received a Disney Princess doll, and Romeo Mejia, who found a race car in his stocking.

Everyone got to have their photo with Santa.

"You feel the energy as soon as they walk through the doors," Ross said. "It makes the long hours and hard work worth it."

Gloria Casas is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

## **– Chicago Tribune / Elgin Courier-News –**

### **Long lines to pick up holiday food boxes in Elgin indicative of need that's 40% higher than last year, officials say**

**Dec. 15, 2022**

**By Mike Danahey - Courier-News**

A Santa-clad Ambers Peters greeted people as they waited in their cars for as long as two hours this week to pick up holiday box meals at an Elgin Community College parking lot.

It gave Peters, executive director of Elgin Partnership for Early Learning, a chance to interact with some of the families she knows, she said, as she joined volunteers from her organization, United Way of Metro Chicago and **School District U-46** in handing out 500 meal boxes put together by Geneva-based Northern Illinois Food Bank.

"This event provides us with a connection to the families we serve," she said.

United Way of Metro Chicago organized the ECC event, donating the money to cover the cost of meals and enlisting the help of volunteers to distribute them. Their "Uniting for the Holidays" program has held similar events in seven other communities this year, with Elgin's being the last.

The number of people needing help this year has been unprecedented, according to Maeven

Sipes, chief philanthropy officer for the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

“We are seeing a historically high number of neighbors experiencing food insecurity,” Sipes said. “Inflation and rising costs are driving neighbors to seek assistance from pantries and programs in our network.”

Since March, they’ve provided food to about 440,000 people monthly — 40% more than in 2021 and 50% more than prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Among them was Barb Hamblen, an Elgin widow on a fixed income who has been coming to food bank distributions to help make ends meet. The food she’s given helps feed her brother, his daughter and his two grandchildren, she said.

“I am very grateful for this,” Hamblen said.

This holiday season, with the support of corporate and individual sponsors, the food bank will distribute 60,000 meal boxes at events throughout the Fox Valley and beyond, Sipes said.

Each box given out Tuesday weighed 11.5 pounds and included a turkey or ham, a bag of regular or sweet potatoes, a bag of rice, turkey gravy, diced pears, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, a bag of pinto beans, two cans of whole kernel corn, two cans of green beans, brownie mix and seven cocoa packets.

Volunteers from St. Paul’s United Church of Christ in Elgin were at the event, too, distributing 2,000 boxes of disposable diapers they collected — an item in great demand this year because the cost climbed so high with inflation.

Escalating prices have had an effect on the food bank as well, which is paying a lot more for the items they purchase in bulk, Sipes said.

“We continue to see increased prices for the food we need to purchase and anticipate spending \$20 million on purchased food this year, nearly three times what we spent pre-pandemic,” she said.

For every \$1 donated to Northern Illinois Food Bank, they’re able to buy \$8 worth of groceries through its corporate partners, she said.

“Support from corporations has maintained relatively stable this year, and we are so grateful for our partners. We know our businesses have fluctuations in their budgets as well and we appreciate when they continue to invest in our community,” Sipes said.

Cash donations are down a bit this year, she said. And while the amount of donated food is up compared to this time last year, it’s still nearly 20% below pre-pandemic levels — about 2.5 million pounds less for the quarter.

With so many families struggling to make ends meet, Sipes said she remains hopeful the food

bank can keep up with demand.

“The year-end giving season is our most important, and it is critical to ensuring we have enough resources to meet our neighbors’ needs,” she said. “We have seen slowing in giving as we come out of the pandemic, but we are optimistic that our communities support one another and will continue to do so.”

*Mike Danahey is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.*

## — Daily Herald —

### Glenbard South gets the quick start its been looking for, drops Elgin

**Dec. 16, 2022**

**By Lou Nunez Jr.**

One of the area’s big prep hoop stories and in particular the Upstate Eight Conference is the return of new **Elgin coach Brett Johnson** to his alma mater after helming the **South Elgin** boys basketball program the past seven seasons.

“Our goal as a staff and as a program is (to) try and change the **Elgin** culture and bring it back to the tradition that it had,” said Johnson, a 2002 **Elgin** grad and former **Maroon** hoop alum. “We know (that) it’s hard and it’s difficult and the kids have to be willing to fight. We know it’s in them. As a team they have to start deciding that you know what, we’re tired of playing this way, let’s believe in what the coaches are saying and see what happens.”

For Johnson the road on which he seeks to restore **Elgin** to both UEC and area prominence is one that will require some more renovation and repairs. The **Maroons** dropped a 71-32 home decision to visiting Glenbard South Thursday evening at Chesbrough Fieldhouse.

The Raiders (4-4, 3-2) raced to an early 8-0 advantage in the opening minute of play thanks to nifty handiwork of senior guard D’Manual Payton. His 3-pointer and 3-point play were sandwiched around a Cam Williams layup that had South in cruise control as it never looked back.

After **Maroon** junior guard Maddox Hollian connected from beyond the arc to get the home team on the scoreboard at the 6:26 mark, another basket from Payton (game-high 18 points) keyed an 8-1 run that had the visitors from Glen Ellyn up 16-4 just past the halfway mark of the first (3:55).

The Raiders would lead 24-9 at quarter’s end, 39-21 at the break, and 64-32 after three to commence a running clock in the final frame.

Payton, who added 5 steals, spoke of the importance of getting off to a good beginning which set the successful tone of his team’s night.

“The last couple of games we started slow. We wanted to come out and just play hard and play

our game,” Payton said. “We’re all team players, we all want to move the ball and score. We just want to get our teammates involved and get some points and get the win.”

It was the point that Glenbard South coach Wade Hardtke seconded.

“That’s something that we’ve been stressing, something that we’ve been working on all season long and tonight was really the first night we’ve been able to see that,” Hardtke said. “That was our biggest take away of the game.”

Junior forward Jalen Brown joined Payton in double figures with 15 points. Glenbard South hosts UEC front-runner **Bartlett** Tuesday.

Hollian’s 16 points paced the **Maroons** (4-6, 1-4) who host St. Edward in a Saturday afternoon non conference matinee before a return to Upstate Eight play Tuesday at West Chicago.

## – Daily Herald –

### St. Charles East enjoys shot clock experiment

**Dec. 16, 2022**

**By Craig Brueska**

If you weren’t at St. Charles East’s 63rd annual Ron Johnson Thanksgiving Tournament, you missed a chance to look into the future of high school basketball.

For the first time, a 35-second shot clock was employed during the 32-game event.

The host Saints split 4 tourney games, scoring a season-high 80 points against East Aurora, while averaging 67 points per contest.

Without the shot clock 6 days later, the Saints lost a 40-32 Upstate Eight Conference decision to Lake Park.

“Credit Lake Park for maximizing their possessions,” said Saints coach Patrick Woods. “They had the ball for sometimes a minute and a half to two minutes. It’s hard to play defense for that long.

“I’m just not a fan of long possessions on offense because I don’t think it’s fun to watch.”

There should be fewer games in the 30s and 40s in the not-so-distant future.

“The shot clock is coming — it’s just a matter of how long the state (IHSA) wants to implement

it,” said Woods. “I’m hoping it’s here within three years.

“They (IHSA) can make all the excuses in the world about why not to have it, but we have a lot of football games with the play clock on the field, and we have water polo that has a shot clock. Why are we making such a big deal about this?”

Among Christmas tournaments that will use a shot clock is Plano where Burlington Central, Marmion and Kaneland are the top three seeds.

Count **Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith** as a believer in the shot clock — especially this season.

The **Hawks** scored a school-record 104 points during their 27-point victory over East Aurora last Friday. Leading 43-40 at halftime, **Bartlett** exploded for a 61-point second half.

Nathan Scarce led the Hawks with 30 points, while Kelton McEwen added 25 points and 8 assists, and Marty McCarthy had 14 points.

The new-look, up-tempo **Hawks** carried a 6-2 record into the week’s action.

“The last three years, we have played around a 7-foot center (Conrad Luczynski) and used the size advantage Conrad brought. Unlike the private schools that recruit athletes, we get what we get — and this year, we are small again.”

Small but effective.

“We worked very hard in the summer to create offensive pace and we are getting better at playing at that pace,” said Wolfsmith. “As a coach, I think it is hard for our opponents to speed up to play with us.”

Aurora Christian coach Dan Beebe might be a shot clock proponent as well following last Friday’s Eagles’ 33-30 loss to St. Francis.

The loss snapped the Eagles’ (9-1) 9-game winning streak.

“I didn’t really know what to expect, but if you would have told me that we would be 9-1 after 10 games, I would have taken it,” said Beebe.

Freshman guard Marshawn Cocroft scored 22 points, including the game-winning basket with

2 seconds left, during the team's 61-59 win over Joliet Catholic at the Burney Wilkie Classic.

**South Elgin** entered the week tied with **Bartlett** atop the Upstate Eight at 3-0.

Elias Cole Williams scored 25 points as the Storm downed Glenbard East 68-42 last Friday. Mason Montgomery added 5 points, 9 rebounds, 7 assists and 4 blocks.

The Storm dropped a 63-58 decision to Yorkville (8-1) as part of last Saturday's Storm Shootout. In other action, Hinsdale Central edged Oak Lawn 69-64 in OT, and New Trier clipped Rolling Meadows, 65-64.

"We had some awesome games," said Storm coach Philip Church. "We played a Yorkville team that people should be paying attention to."

The tourney could expand in future years.

"We have some community members interested in sponsoring next year's event and with our broadcasting academy at South Elgin being ESPN certified, it is a nice draw for suburban teams — to potentially have a chance to connect with ESPN."

Playing without junior Jakob Blakley (expected back in January), Larkin carried a 3-4 record into the week.

"Missing Jakob is a huge piece," said Royals coach Deryn Carter. "However, Jakob won't be able to correct things we are doing poorly at all by himself."

Carter remains patient — to a point.

"While there are some things we as coaches need to have additional patience on with guys who lack experience, there are some nonnegotiable things that come with playing at Larkin High School that we are still trying to understand," said Carter.

## – Elgin-Courier News

### LOCAL SCOREBOARD



**Dec. 16, 2022**  
**From Staff Reports**

## **TUESDAY'S RESULTS**

### **HIGH SCHOOLS**

#### **BOYS BASKETBALL**

Batavia 61, Glenbard North 46

Benet 68, Notre Dame 35

Dixon 57, Plano 38

Plano (2-8): A.J. Johnson 12 points.

Fenton 59, Larkin 46

Geneva 43, Hoffman Estates 38

IC Catholic 46, St. Edward 40

Lakes 82, Round Lake 44

Lakes (6-4, 2-0 Northern Lake County): Brock Marino 10 points. Cade Primack, Thomas Mercure 9 points.

Round Lake (0-9, 0-2): LaMarr Pierce 26 points.

Libertyville 67, Lake Zurich 52

Libertyville (7-3, 3-0 North Suburban): Aidyn Boone 27 points. Will Buchert 18 points. Jack Huber 12 points.

Marian Central Catholic 67, Harvest Christian 63

Marist 54, Carmel 43

Marmion 58, Leo 28

Marmion (6-3, 2-2 CCL White): Trevon Roots 28 points, 8 rebounds, 8 assists. Jabe Haith 15

points, 7 rebounds.

Oswego East 43, Metea Valley 33

Oswego East (9-10: Miles Gray 12 points. Mekhi Lowery 11 points.

Ottawa Marquette 81, Indian Creek 41

Putnam County 72, Somonauk 59

St. Charles East 65, Schaumburg 53

Sandwich 69, Serena 64 (OT)

South Elgin 87, Streamwood 45

Vernon Hills 69, Woodstock North 50

Vernon Hills (5-4): Milan Raval 23 points.

Wheaton Academy 70, Aurora Central Catholic 47

ACC (2-8, 0-2 Metro Suburban Red): Wandy Munoz 16 points. Sam Dykema 12 points.

Yorkville 65, IMSA 22

Yorkville (9-1): Ryan Green 11 points. Will Eberhart 10 points.

## **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Antioch 63, Grayslake North 48

Grayslake North (6-6, 2-2 Northern Lake County): Peyton Gerdes 17 points, 14 rebounds, 3 blocks.

Bartlett 53, Elgin 42

Elgin (4-6, 0-5 Upstate Eight): Alyssa Wysuph 19 points.

Burlington Central 55, Jacobs 21

Burlington Central (6-3, 3-2 Fox Valley): Page Erickson 20 points.

Dundee-Crown 28, Prairie Ridge 26

East Aurora 40, Glenbard South 28

Genoa-Kingston 48, Woodstock 35

Genoa-Kingston (7-5): Ally Poegel 17 points. Emily Trzynka 13 points.

Grayslake Central 44, Round Lake 33

Grayslake Central (6-5, 4-0 Northern Lake County): Madison Hoffmann 14 points, 6 assists, 6 steals, 5 rebounds, 4 blocks.

Hampshire 52, Crystal Lake Central 40

Kaneland 74, Plano 30

Kaneland (6-4, 4-0 Interstate Eight): Lexi Schueler 16 points. Kendra Brown 15 points. Kailey Plank 14 points.

Plano (6-5, 1-3): Makayla Walls 16 points. Josie Larson 10 points.

**Larkin** 49, Fenton 35

LaSalle-Peru 59, Sandwich 26

Naperville North 45, Schaumburg 35

St. Edward 49, Ridgewood 43

St. Edward (2-7): Maggie Jarzemsky 17 points. Jordin Sauls 14 points.

**South Elgin** 55, **Streamwood** 30

**South Elgin** (3-7, 2-3 Upstate Eight): Chloe Kmiec 25 points. Raina Yang 11 points.

Waubonsie Valley 77, Plainfield North 60

Wauconda 57, Grant 48

Wauconda (7-2, 3-1 Northern Lake County): Grace Parker 14 points, 6 rebounds. Sarah Palmer

11 points. Helen Macey 9 points, 10 rebounds.

Grant: Melissa Ketter 15 points.

Warren 64, Mundelein 36

Warren (3-7, 2-3 North Suburban): Mariah Phelps, Nari Powers 18 points each.

West Aurora 48, Wheaton Warrenville South 44

Wheaton North 62, Oswego East 46

Oswego East (2-7): Maggie Lewandowski 17 points. Cami Phillips 11 points.

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

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