

Press Clippings - 2/21/2023

– Daily Herald –

Neighbors in the news: Des Plaines Park District lauds dedicated employee with award

Feb. 16, 2023

Norrine Twohey



U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jedd Tabladillo. - Courtesy of U.S. Navy Office of Community Outreach

- During the 2023 Super Bowl national anthem performance, three Navy tactical squadrons conducted a unified flyover. **Petty Officer 2nd Class Jedd Tabladillo**, a native of Elk Grove Village, was one of the sailors maintaining the aircraft for Electronic Attack Squadron 129.

Tabladillo, a 2015 graduate of Streamwood High School, joined the Navy seven years ago. Today, he serves as an aviation machinist's mate.

"Growing up and being a part of a team sport, like football, taught me the importance of teamwork, discipline and selflessness," said Tabladillo. "It has helped me throughout my Navy career."

As he continues to train and perform missions, there's a great deal of pride serving in the United States Navy.

"Serving in the Navy means a lot to me," added Tabladillo. "It has given me many life lessons and friends."

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

– Daily Herald –

Bartlett police honor three, including officer of the year

Feb. 17, 2023

By Eric Peterson

The Bartlett Police Department recently honored three members of its staff for their outstanding contributions during 2022, including Officer of the Year Steven Blaser.

Department officials also recognized Investigations Secretary Christine Sanchez as Civilian Employee of the Year, and Det. Stephanie Novarro as the recipient of the Spirit Award, given to someone who displays a positive image both within the department and while interacting with the public.

A member of the department for the past seven years, Blaser was recognized by his supervisors and peers for providing exceptional service and consistently presenting himself in a highly professional manner. He's an accomplished drug recognition expert (DRE) who's assisted in numerous DRE evaluations for Bartlett police and surrounding agencies.

Blaser has been involved in several in-depth investigations and has used his communication skills to de-escalate intense situations.

In October, he received a tip which led to the seizure of about one pound of illegal marijuana and felony charges for two individuals. On another occasion, he uncovered several fraudulent registrations being placed on vehicles and provided valuable information to the proper jurisdiction to assist in its investigation.

Sanchez has been a member of the department for three years and was recognized for her outstanding performance and strong work ethic.

She spent extensive time over the past year researching and articulating the Freedom of Information Act process, reviewing reports and bulletins, and exhibiting professionalism and outstanding customer service.

Novarro has demonstrated a high level of volunteerism by participating in the Row for Dough, Polar Plunge and Torch Run to support Special Olympics Illinois athletes. The three-year member of the department also has helped organize the annual Cop on a Rooftop fundraiser at the Bartlett Dunkin' Donuts, which raised nearly \$6,000.

Novarro also contributed her time to the community by volunteering at **Bartlett High School's annual Powder Puff football game**. She represented the department at Bartlett Park District's Fourth of July Special Needs Carnival by sharing carnival rides with children and displaying a spirit of camaraderie with community members during the event.

– Chicago Tribune –

Elgin News Digest: Elgin to hold public meeting on Lords Park pool future; U-46 holding Black History Month college event, celebration

Feb. 17, 2023

By Elgin Courier-News

City holding public meeting on Lords Park pool future

The Elgin Parks and Recreation Department will be holding a special public meeting on potential plans for Lords Park Family Aquatic Center from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, at **Lords Park Elementary School**, 323 Waverly Drive.

Director of Parks and Recreation Maria Cumpata said the community is invited to offer input on aquatic amenities offered at the park. The aquatic center has been closed for three years by the pandemic and for financial reasons, and won't open this year because of a lack of lifeguards.

One plan under consideration is to convert the center into a splash pad.

For more information, contact Barb Keselica at 847-531-7056 or keselica_b@cityofelgin.org.

U-46 holding Black History college event, celebration

Among **School District U-46** offerings for Black History Month will be a virtual college night Thursday, Feb. 23, and a celebration held Friday, Feb. 24, at **Larkin High School**.

The college night starts at 6 p.m. and will feature representatives and alumni from four Historically Black Colleges and Universities — Howard, Tuskegee, Grambling State and North Carolina A&T State.

To register to attend, go to info.u-46.org/HBCU-Panel.

The Black History Month celebration at 7 p.m. Friday will feature Roger Simmons, Judson University's director of diversity and spiritual development, who will do a presentation on "Power, Promise and Purpose: Our Gaze is Fixed!"

The event at 1745 Larkin Ave. in Elgin is open to the public.

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

– Daily Herald –

Larkin's Bring a Book to Life dance performance returns with 'Mr. Men Little Miss'

Feb. 17, 2023

By Daily Herald Report



Larkin High School's Visual and Performing Arts Dance Academy's Bring a Book to Life performance returns this week with "Mr. Men Little Miss." Courtesy of Kelli Myhre-Bahwell



Larkin High School's Visual and Performing Arts Dance Academy's *Bring a Book to Life* performance returns this week with "Mr. Men Little Miss." Courtesy of Kelli Myhre-Bahwell



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Larkin High School's VPAA Dance Academy's *Bring a Book to Life* performance returns this week with "Mr. Men Little Miss," a dance production based on the "Mr. Men and

Little Miss" books created in the 1970s and 1980s by British author Roger Hargreaves and his son Adam Hargreaves.



Larkin High School's Visual and Performing Arts Dance Academy's Bring a Book to Life performance returns this week with "Mr. Men Little Miss." - Courtesy of Kelli Myhre-Bahwell

It is directed by Margaret Palmer and Kelli Myhre-Bahwell.

Shows are at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, and at 3 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18. Tickets, available at the door, are \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students.

The **Larkin High School** Auditorium is at 1475 Larkin Avenue, Elgin. Call (847) 888-5200 for details.

— Daily Herald —

For U-46's departing 'proud Superintendent' Sanders, it was always about the students

Feb. 18, 2023

By Alicia Fabbre



Elgin Area **School District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders** made sure he was no stranger to students and made a point of visiting schools, supporting special events and stopping to chat, or take selfies, with students. *Courtesy of Elgin Area School District U-46*



Requests for snow days might be one of the things **Tony Sanders** misses when he starts his new job as Illinois' superintendent of education. **Sanders** had fun posting about snow days on social media and played off that when he had a cameo appearance as the pope in **Bartlett High School's** production of "Sister Act." *Courtesy of Elgin Area **School District U-46***



Elgin Area School District U-46 held a reception Wednesday for outgoing Superintendent Tony Sanders at South Elgin High School. Sanders has been selected to be the next state superintendent of education. John Starks | Staff Photographer



Outgoing U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders was the guest of honor Wednesday during a reception at South Elgin High School. His last day with U-46 is Wednesday. John Starks | Staff Photographer



Suzanne Johnson, pictured at a reception for outgoing U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders, this week was named interim superintendent. John Starks | Staff Photographer

You can ask **Tony Sanders** what he'll miss most about his job leading Elgin Area **School District U-46**, but the answer is obvious -- the students.

Not only are students the center of his work philosophy, but **Sanders** also has made it his mission to get to know students, listen to and address their concerns, and share in their successes.

His Twitter feed describes him as a "proud Superintendent" and is littered with selfies of **Sanders with U-46 students**.

Throughout his tenure leading the state's second-largest school district, Sanders regularly visited schools. He would attend plays, concerts, sporting and other special events to show his support for students.

"The blessing of working every day in a school district is if you're having a rough day, you can visit a school, and being around students just fills your bucket and keeps you going," Sanders said.

This week, students, parents, alumni, teachers and community members said goodbye to Sanders, who is leaving to become the state superintendent of education. His last day with the district is Wednesday.

During a reception this week at South Elgin High School, attendees thanked Sanders for his years of service in U-46. The event included performances by members of the various high school bands, a Bartlett High School string quartet and South Elgin High School student Xitlali Garcia. Members of Sanders' cabinet shared stories and presented him with a trophy crafted out of a coat rack that featured various trinkets representing his time with the district.

"He's a great guy," said Tarani Kalagara, a South Elgin High School junior who attended the farewell reception. "It's pretty cool to see someone from our district go (to serve as state superintendent)."

Chris Romeo, an Elgin man who also attended Wednesday's event, said, "The best thing about him is he stands up for what he believes in to do what's best for the students."

Sanders started his career in education in 2004, as acting director of communications and governmental relations for the Illinois State Board of Education. After serving a year in that role, he went on to head up the communications office for St. Louis Public Schools before joining U-46 in 2007 as the district's chief communications officer.

Sanders worked his way up, earning a master's in business administration, a chief school business official endorsement and finally a superintendent endorsement.

During his tenure, **U-46** launched a full-day kindergarten program, expanded its dual-language and dual-credit programs, and revamped its disciplinary policy so that expulsion now rarely is used as a means to deal with disruptive behavior.

Sanders also lobbied for a change in the state's funding formula that helps steer more resources to under-resourced schools, a move that has helped **U-46** over the years.

"My philosophy here has been that we need to change our structures until they measurably work for all kids," **Sanders** said. "And that's the same imperative that I'll take with me to the state of Illinois."

It's that philosophy, coupled with his ability to connect with students, that trickles down to classrooms, those at Wednesday's reception said.

"Kids want to learn and excel, in part, because you make it so," Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein of Congregation Kneseth Israel in Elgin said during her remarks at Wednesday's reception.

Though **Sanders** did not start as a teacher, he says he is well aware of the challenges teachers face in today's classrooms and will work to ensure that schools across the state have the tools necessary to meet student needs.

"We have great teachers. We have great support professionals," he said. "We just need to make sure that the systems that support teaching and learning are in place across the state."

Sanders views himself as educators' "biggest fan" and considers the work of teachers "the most noble profession." He comes from a family of educators. He now finds himself in the same spot as his father, Ted, who brought his family to Illinois in the 1980s to

take a job as the state's superintendent of education. His father later was named as undersecretary for the U.S. Department of Education under President George H.W. Bush in 1989.

"He's very excited," Sanders said of his father. "He's been sending me articles ever since (the announcement)."

U-46 employees and board members also are proud to have one of their own lead the state board of education.

"We are blessed to have him, and now we will be blessed to share him with the rest of the students throughout the state of Illinois," said Ann Williams, deputy superintendent for operations.

Sanders noted U-46 is at a pivotal time. The district is seeking voter approval in April to borrow \$179 million to help pay for a building program expected to cost more than \$300 million.

Approval would not increase the district's tax rate as it would replace retiring debt with new debt.

Sanders said he regrets the timing of his departure but remained hopeful that voters would see the benefits of upgrading the district's aging schools.

"I'm hopeful that they'll see the benefits of replacing buildings that were built in the 1880s and giving students the opportunity to be in 21st-century learning environments," Sanders said.

Though he could not officially endorse the proposal, he made sure to mention it during his parting remarks Wednesday and encouraged voters to get information before heading to the polls. "Our kids deserve the best of the best, and this is an opportunity for

the community to send that message to us and do it in a way that does not increase their taxes."

– Daily Herald –

Elgin Area League of Women Voters to host Meet the Candidates Nights

Feb. 20, 2023

Carol Grom

The League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area will host a series of Meet the Candidates Nights for local candidates in contested races. The candidates will have the opportunity to introduce themselves and speak briefly on selected topics related to policy and governance of their respective board of trustees.

Please note that starting times vary according to the venue and number of candidates.

- Tuesday, Feb. 28: Two candidates for Elgin mayor and 10 candidates for Elgin City Council from 6 to 9 p.m. in Gail Borden Public Library's Meadows Community Room, 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin.
- Thursday, March 2: Four candidates for Elgin Community College board and six candidates for **Elgin Area School District U-46 board** from 6 to 9 p.m. in Gail Borden Public Library's Meadows Community Room, 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin.
- March 7: Seven candidates for East Dundee Village Board Trustee from 7 to 9 p.m. at the East Dundee Police Department, 2nd floor, 115 E. Third St.
- March 9: Four candidates for Gilberts Village Board Trustee from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Eagles Club, 325 Raymond Drive, Gilberts.

- March 16: Eight candidates for Algonquin-based Community Unit District 300 board from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Rakow Adult Activities
- March 21: Six candidates for West Dundee Village Board Trustee from 7 to 9 p.m. at West Dundee Village Hall, 102 S. Second St.

- March 23: Eight candidates for Gail Borden Public Library board from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in Gail Borden Public Library's Elgin Room, upstairs, 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin.

For more information, visit the League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area website: lwvelginarea.org or call Carol Grom at (847) 428-4064.

Check out the Illinois Voter Guide, an online voter resource by the League of Women Voters of Illinois, at illinoisvoterguide.org.

– Daily Herald –

Harper launches mentorship program for Black, Latino students

Feb. 20, 2023

By Madhu Krishnamurthy

Black history

Elgin Area **School District U-46** will host a Black History Month celebration at 7 p.m. Friday at **Larkin High School** in Elgin.

It will feature a keynote speech from Roger Simmons, Judson University's director of diversity and spiritual development. He helps develop programs, policies, and practices promoting an institutional culture of diversity, equity and inclusive excellence.

His presentation, "Power, Promise and Purpose: Our Gaze is Fixed!," is open to all members of the **U-46** community.

Also this week, **U-46** and the Alignment Collaborative for Education will host a college admissions panel with representatives and alumni from four Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

High schoolers and their family members can attend the virtual panel discussion at 6 p.m. Thursday.

Register at info.u-46.org/HBCU-Panel.

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

– Daily Herald –

Bartlett teen receives Eagle Scout Award

Feb. 20, 2023

By Ralph Grieco



BSA Troop 26's Joshua K. Grieco earns his Eagle Scout award at a Jan. 29 ceremony at the Bartlett Fireman's Barn in Bartlett. Courtesy of Ralph Grieco

Since an early age, Joshua Grieco has had two wishes -- to become an Eagle Scout like his dad, Illinois Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Kevin Grieco, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2008, and to serve his country in some capacity.

On Jan. 29, he got his first wish.

Joshua, 18, of Boy Scout Troop 26, was honored at a special Eagle Scout ceremony on Sunday, Jan. 29, at the Bartlett Fireman's Barn.

Joshua's Scouting trail began in October 2011 as a Cub Scout in Pack 231, Bartlett, where he participated in many adventures and outings. He earned his Arrow of Light and crossed over to Boy Scouts in March 2016, joining Troop 26 in Bartlett, sponsored by Immanuel United Church of Christ.

Overall, Joshua earned a total of 23 merit badges, attended four summer camps, and served in many different leadership positions such as: historian, librarian, troop scribe, troop guide, assistant patrol leader and patrol leader.

For his Eagle project, Joshua designed and led the building of six activity kits to help young children learn to cope with sensory feelings, fidgety activities and skills of daily living. These activity kits assisted the pediatric occupational therapy staff at St. Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates.

Joshua is a senior at South Elgin High School and will graduate in May. He is planning on attending Elgin Community College next fall. He has a strong interest in military history, museum career fields and a desire to serve his country.

- Submit 'Your News' at www.dailyherald.com/share.

– Daily Herald –

Who will be celebrating next?

Feb. 18, 2023

Girls basketball Tuesday's sectional semifinals Games at 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Class 4A At Highland Park No. 1 Fremd vs. No. 4 Lake Zurich No. 2 Libertyville vs.

No. 3 Hersey At New Trier No. 1 Maine South vs.

No. 4 Glenbrook South No. 2 York vs.

No. 3 Loyola At Glenbard West No. 1 Geneva vs.

No. 4 Lake Park No. 2 St. Charles North vs. No. 3 Batavia At Hampshire No. 1 Barrington vs. No.

2 Rockton Hononegah No. 4 Rockford Guilford vs. No. 2 **South Elgin** At West Aurora No. 1 Benet vs.

No. 4 Neuqua Valley No. 6 Waubonsie Valley vs. No. 7 Naperville Central Class 3A At Deerfield No. 1 Carmel vs.

No. 4 Vernon Hills No. 2 Deerfield vs.

No. 3 Lake Forest At Glenbard South No. 1 Montini vs.

No. 3 Burlington Central No. 1 Sycamore vs.

No. 2 Providence Class 2A At Timothy Christian No. 1 Noble/Butler vs.

No. 2 Timothy Christian At Winnebago No 1 Byron vs. No. 2 Aurora Central Catholic No. 1 Marian vs.

No. 2 Stillman Valley Winners advance to sectional finals Thursday Boys basketball Tuesday's regional semifinals Games at 6 and 7:30 p.m.

At Geneva No. 3 Geneva vs.

No. 14 Naperville Central No. 6 Glenbard West vs.

No. 11 Glenbard North Wednesday's regional semifinals Class 4A At Warren No. 1 Libertyville vs.

No. 16 Zion-Benton No. 8 Warren vs.

No. 10 Mundelein At Wheeling No. 4 Fremd vs.

No. 13 Wheeling No. 5 Barrington vs.

No. 12 Buffalo Grove At Lake Zurich No. 2 Stevenson vs. No. 15 Highland Park No. 7 Hersey vs. No. 9 Lake Zurich At Palatine No. 3 Palatine vs. No. 14 Grant No. 6 Prospect vs.

No. 11 Waukegan At Conant No. 3 Glenbrook South vs. No. 14 Hoffman Estates No. 5 Evanston vs. No. 9 Conant At Rolling Meadows No. 3 Rolling Meadows vs. No. 13 Schaumburg No. 6 Loyola vs.

No. 12 Maine South At Addison Trail No. 1 Benet vs.

No. 16 Addison Trail No. 8 Bartlett vs.

No. 9 Batavia At Willowbrook No. 4 Metea Valley vs.

No. 13 Willowbrook No. 5 Lake Park vs.

No. 12 Wheaton North At West Chicago No. 2 WW South vs.

No. 15 Glenbard East No. 7 Naperville North vs. No. 10 York At Rockton Hononegah No. 1 Huntley vs.

No. 7 Harlem No. 4 Rockford East vs. No. 6 McHenry At Streamwood No. 2 St. Charles East vs. No. 9 Streamwood No. 3 South Elgin vs.

No. 7 Dundee-Crown At St. Charles North No. 1 DeKalb vs.

No. 6 St. Charles North No. 4 Hampshire vs. No. 5 Larkin At Rockford Auburn No. 2 Guilford vs.

No. 8 Jefferson No. 3 Auburn vs.

No. 5 Jacobs At Downers Grove North No. 4 Downers Grove North vs. No. 13 Downers Grove South No. 6 Proviso East vs.

No. 12 Morton At Chicago Lane No. 2 Hinsdale Central vs. No. 15 Proviso West No. 7 Riverside-Brookfield vs. No. 11 Lane At East Aurora No. 4 Lincoln-Way East vs. No. 13 East Aurora No. 5 Neuqua Valley vs.

12 Plainfield East At Waubonsie Valley No. 2 Bolingbrook vs.

No. 15 Lincoln-Way Central No. 8 Waubonsie Valley vs. No. 10 Oswego At Lockport No. 3 Oswego East vs.

No. 14 Lincoln-Way West No. 7 Lockport vs.

No. 11 West Aurora Winners advance to regional finals Friday

– Elgin Courier-News –

Yang changes things up as South Elgin repeats

Senior guard scores 15 of team's final 20 points as Storm holds off Larkin

Feb. 19, 2023

By Paul Johnson for Beacon-News



South Elgin's Madison Hunt (3), Caitlyn Tolentino (1), Caroline Croft (11), Raina Yang (12), Zole Lewis (24), Chloe Kmiec (4), Jenna Jurcy (21) and Ariana Lopez (13) celebrate after beating Larkin in Thursday's Class 4A South Elgin Regional championship game. **H. RICK BAMMAN/THE BEACON-NEWS**



South Elgin's Raina Yang reacts in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter against Larkin during Thursday's Class 4A South Elgin Regional championship game. H. RICK BAMMAN/THE BEACON-NEWS

South Elgin senior Raina Yang prides herself on being a passfirst guard.

But during a season that saw the Storm ravaged by injuries, Yang started to look for her shot more often. That new skill came in handy Thursday night against Larkin.

“There needed to be a change because things weren’t working,”

Yang said. “I tried to create for my own and get to the hoop. I think I could have penetrated earlier in the game.

“I kind of waited for the fourth quarter.”

It turned out Yang was right on time.

Yang earned the lead twice in the fourth quarter on creative drives to the basket as the host Storm held on for a 47-43 victory in the Class 4A South Elgin Regional championship game.

Yang led all scorers with 19 points and Caitlyn Tolentino added 13 for South Elgin (16-16), which won back-to-back regional titles for the first time in program history.

Baylei Johnson had 15 points and 11 rebounds and Sanaii McPherson notched nine points and 10 rebounds for **Larkin** (17-14).

“Shots weren’t falling and she said, ‘Coach, I can get to the rim,’ ”

South Elgin coach Dan Mandernack said of **Yang**. “I said, ‘Any time, kid.’ “She made one at the beginning of the fourth and I said, ‘Just keep doing your thing.’ ”

Yang scored only four points in the first half. The **Storm** also shot 5-for-26 from 3-point range, so Yang knew an adjustment needed to be made.

She scored 15 of **South Elgin’s** final 20 points to help the Storm survive.

“I saw that we were down and it was a close game so I tried to make a difference and get to the basket more,” **Yang** said.

Considering the fact she’s no stranger to games like this, especially since the **Storm** made a run last season to the sectional championship game, Mandernack knew **Yang** had things in control.

“She’s so smart,” Mandernack said. “She’s our quarterback. She’s our leader. She’s our everything.

“She’s pass-first. That makes it even more amazing that she got to 1,000 (career) points. She’s very unselfish.”

Larkin relied on Johnson, a senior center and the tallest girl on the court, to stay in the game.

Johnson battled foul trouble in the first half but was a force in the second half. She gave the **Royals** a 37-36 lead early in the fourth and forced a 39-39 tie with another basket.

Fittingly, the player who had over 1,000 career points and rebounds ended her career with another double-double.

“I can’t say anything more about Baylei,” Larkin coach Stephen Knapp said. “It really hurt us she was out for five or six minutes in the first half. She played smarter in the second half. We needed her in at all times.”

Knapp looked across the court at South Elgin’s three senior guards, envisioning what it may look like when his young guards learn from Thursday’s experience.

“Champions have to fail first to learn how to be a champion,”

Knapp said. “To be honest, I don’t think it could have gone any better outside of winning.

“We were in that game. I thought we had it.”

The season for South Elgin, meanwhile, began with heightened expectations after the Storm went further in the postseason than any team in program history.

A string of injuries and tough losses added to the pressure.

It all paid off Thursday.

“It was definitely a struggle,”

Yang said. “We had a lot of injuries.

Thankfully, we recovered, and they were able to come back and we were able to put the team back together.”

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

– Chicago Tribune –

Basketball scores for Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County

Feb. 20, 2023

By From Staff Reports - Aurora Beacon-News

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

CLASS 4A REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS

STREAMWOOD

Streamwood 46, Elgin 45

BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING

SECTIONALS

ST. CHARLES NORTH

Top local team: 2. St. Charles North 237.

Local winners: Diving: Jake Scalise, St. Charles East, 466.45. 100 fly: Isaac Scherman, Bartlett, 51.73. 500 free: Kyle Algrim, St. Charles East, 4:38.93. 100 breaststroke: Kane Kriz, St. Charles North, 58.07.

Compiled by Josh Krockey.