

# Press Clippings - 5/3/2023

## – Courier-News –

### Elgin News Digest: Health and wellness fair at the Centre of Elgin Thursday

May 2, 2023

By Mike Danahey

The city of Elgin, **School District U-46** and other organizations are hosting the “May Your Health Be With You” health and wellness fair from 2 to 7 p.m. Thursday, May 4, at The Ed Schock Centre of Elgin, 100 Symphony Way.

The event will feature eye and dental screenings, food tastings, cooking demos, car seat safety checks, a pop-up farmers market, fitness activities, food trucks and sports mascots, according to a social media post.

There also will be a raffle for several items, including sports tickets, sporting goods, a car seat, a skateboard and a bicycle.

For more information, call 847-888-5000, Ext. 54.

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

## – Chicago Tribune –

### District U-46 hires architecture firm to help map out plans for massive school building changes

May 2, 2023

By Mike Danahey - Courier-News

The **U-46 School Board** has hired an Itasca architecture firm to help prioritize the myriad building projects the district is undertaking as part of its \$380 million facilities master plan.

DLA Architects will be paid a maximum \$135,000 for the work needed to determine what

should be done when and for how much in terms of the renovation, expansion and maintenance work needed.

District voters approved a referendum last month through which \$179 million in building bonds will be sold, an expenditure that will not require a tax increase. The remaining funding will come from money already set aside in the district's budget.

"This is a huge project with a lot of moving parts," board President Sue Kerr said Tuesday, the day after the unanimous board vote. "The agreement with the architects allows us to prioritize what needs to be done."

In the first phase of its work, DLA will list and identify the required improvements and predicted occupancies related to moving sixth-grade students from the elementary school buildings in which they're currently located to the district's one new and eight existing middle schools.

They also will look at the district's eight existing elementary schools to determine what renovation or expansion work might be needed, especially in terms of adding pre-kindergarten programs to some of the buildings, according to district documents. Changes needed at the Dream Academy alternative education high school and for the Central School Programs for middle school students will be evaluated as well.

After reviewing the first phase with the district, DLA will then work with consultants to determine the costs and feasibility of the proposed projects, considering factors that include stormwater management, zoning, school boundaries, environmental impact, engineering and plumbing.

The firm will then work with consultants to set up a tentative project schedule and a drawdown financial plan for the district to share with its bond consultant.

Conceptual floor plans and renderings will be needed to convert an elementary school into a middle school and additions to be built at two middle schools and one new elementary school, district documents said.

The planning work will take three to six months to complete, officials said.

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

## – Examiner of Bartlett –

(This article also appeared in Examiner of Streamwood/Examiner of South Elgin)

### **Dist. U-46 dismisses 118 as part of annual process**

**May 3, 2023**

**By Seth Hancock**

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** approved of the dismissal of 118 staff members over four board meetings in February and March.

The dismissal letters are approved annually with most staff members eligible for rehire if positions are available.

**Suzanne Johnson, interim superintendent**, said the dismissals are “in order to follow state guidelines that allow for staff dismissal up until 45 days before the end of the school year. “Depending on the budget situation and when programs and classes are determined for the next school year, some of these individuals may be rehired providing they have proper licensure.

While the Board of Education takes this action very seriously, dismissal consideration is customary at this time of year in order to follow state requirements.”

At the Feb. 27 meeting, the board voted 7-0 for the honorable dismissal of 17 teachers.

There are six reasons listed as why a teacher may be dismissed, according to the resolution, including: “1) you were hired for a part-time teaching position, 2) you were hired for a one year only or semester only teaching position, 3) you were hired for a temporary instructional staff position, 4) you currently do not hold a license in the area you are currently assigned, 5) you were hired for a grant-funded position, or 6) you were subject to a targeted reduction in force.”

The board voted 7-0 on March 6 for the honorable dismissal of 30 teachers, the dismissal of 28 building substitute teachers and honorable dismissal of one project funded education support personnel.

A 7-0 vote on March 13 included dismissal of 29 non-tenured teachers, non-renewal of five contract or certified administrators, non-renewal and reassignment of four tenured administrators, honorable dismissal of four teachers, dismissal of three final-year probationary teachers, dismissal of one non-certified administrator and non-renewal of one first, second or third year non-tenured administrator.

The board voted 6-0, **board member Dawn Martin** absent, on March 6 for dismissal of four teachers without proper licenses and honorable dismissal of one teacher.

## – Examiner of Bartlett –

(This article also appeared in Examiner of Streamwood/Examiner of South Elgin)

### **New student advisor approved by U-46 board**

**May 3, 2023**

**By Seth Hancock**

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** unanimously approved, via a 7-0 vote, of the **superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SAC)** pick for the next student advisor to the board at its Monday, April 24 meeting.

**Asraar Ahmed Siddiqui, a Bartlett High School junior,** will replace current student advisor, **South Elgin senior Angelica Harris.** **Yumna Hashmi, a South Elgin junior,** was the runner up who will take Siddiqui's place if he is unable to serve.

In both candidate's letters, they promoted a need for more diversity in the district. "As an individual with a diverse background and as someone who spends majority of his time with a diversified community, I believe it is my prime duty to represent and voice the opinions of those around me who struggle to fit in or need support," Siddiqui wrote.

"My qualities and humbling experiences as a student, teacher, friend, son, brother, and community member have shaped me in such a way that I find it to be my responsibility to help those around me and bring positivity in their lives and to serve as an example and a source of inspiration for others to do the same after me."

"Some things I would really like to focus on if I were the student advisor is to diversify the schools as well as try and make the student body feel more connected," Hashmi wrote.

"I would also love to make school a more fun place to be at and do more spirit weeks for fun where we get to decorate the school."

Both candidates had reference letters, **teacher Christy Knapp** for Siddiqui and **teacher Allison Ozog** and **South Elgin principal Kurt Johansen** for Hashmi. Both were described as being involved in clubs, organizations and volunteering.

# **– Chicago Tribune –**

## **Baseball, softball and girls soccer scores for Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County**

**May 2, 2023**

**By From Staff Reports - Aurora Beacon-News**

### **MONDAY'S RESULTS**

#### **HIGH SCHOOLS**

#### **BOYS VOLLEYBALL**

**Bartlett** d. Schaumburg 26-24, 25-19

Carmel d. Grant 25-23, 25-13

Carmel (13-13): Michael Schofield 8 kills. Xander Ikusz 15 assists.

Lake Zurich d. Rolling Meadows 25-18, 25-20

Lake Zurich (16-9): Gabe Schwartz 8 kills.

Maine West d. Highland Park 27-25, 25-13

Wheaton Warrenville South d. Naperville Central 25-14, 25-15

Vernon Hills d. Niles North 25-19, 21-25, 27-25

Vernon Hills (19-4, 6-0 Central Suburban North): David Rzepa 9 kills. Max March 8 kills. Sarthak Agrawal 15 assists.

York d. **South Elgin** 25-12, 25-18

### **FRIDAY'S RESULTS**

#### **HIGH SCHOOLS**

#### **BASEBALL**

Aurora Central Catholic 12, Crossroads Christian 0 (5 innings)

**Bartlett** 12, Fenton 2 (5 innings)

**Bartlett** (12-10, 10-2 Upstate Eight): Mario Prieto 2-for-3, 3 RBIs.

Batavia 4, Wheaton Warrenville South 3

Batavia (10-8, 5-5 DuKane): Jackson Bland GW RBI in bottom 7th.

Grayslake Central 19, Round Lake 1

Hinckley-Big Rock 5, Newark 3 (10 innings)

Hinckley-Big Rock (10-10): Preston Johnson GW 2-run single in top 10th.

Larkin 5, East Aurora 2

New Trier 10, Libertyville 9

Libertyville (11-9-2): Graham Goodman 2-for-5, HR, 3 RBIs. Quinn Schambow 2-for-5, double, 3 RBIs.

Oswego East 10, Lincoln-Way East 8 (8 innings)

Oswego East (14-6): Zach Polubinski 2-for-5, 2 runs, 2 RBIs.

St. Charles East 7, Geneva 6

St. Charles East (15-1, 10-0 DuKane): Eddie Herrera GW RBI in bottom 7th. James Brennan solo HR.

Geneva (11-8, 6-4): Nate Stempowski 2-for-4, double, HR, 3 RBIs.

St. Francis 6, Benet 4

Benet (10-8): Marc Iozzo 2 RBIs.

St. Viator 6, Carmel 5

Carmel: Will Bartels 2-for-3, 2 RBIs.

South Elgin 8, Glenbard South 6

South Elgin (8-4, 7-1 Upstate Eight): Jordan Green 3-for-4, 2 RBIs.

Stevenson 15, Vernon Hills 1 (5 innings)

Stevenson (17-6): Luca Morelli grand slam, 5 RBIs.

Wauconda 11, Grant 6

Wauconda (8-8-1, 7-4-1 Northern Lake County): Jackson Rudolph 3-for-3, 3 RBIs.

## **GIRLS SOCCER**

Elgin 6, Streamwood 1

Kaneland 3, Sycamore 0

Kaneland (9-4, 5-0 Interstate Eight): Mallory Nitsche 2 goals.

Mundelein 3, Waukegan 2

South Elgin 1, East Aurora 0

South Elgin (8-6-1, 6-0-1 Upstate Eight): Ella Dihel goal.

Vernon Hills 4, Maine East 1

## **SOFTBALL**

Addison Trail 10, Elgin 0 (5 innings)

Aurora Central Catholic 18, Rosary 0 (4 innings)

Deerfield 15, Lake Forest 0 (5 innings)

Grant 12, Dundee-Crown 7

Grant (10-11): Abbi Themanson 4-for-4, 3 runs, 3 RBIs.

Lincoln-Way West 4, Oswego 3

Oswego (14-6): Cori Kennedy triple, 2 RBIs.

Lisle 13, Aurora Christian 8

Aurora Christian: Macy Salek 2-for-4, double, HR, 2 runs, 4 RBIs.

Maine West 6, Vernon Hills 4

Vernon Hills (7-15, 1-3 Central Suburban North): Lily Kozin HR, double, 2 RBIs.

St. Charles East 2, Wheaton North 0

St. Charles North 10, Batavia 0 (6 innings)

St. Charles North (13-1, 6-0 DuKane): Paige Murray CG, 4 H, 8 Ks.

St. Francis 18, Streamwood 3 (4 innings)

Sycamore 6, Kaneland 1

Wauconda 11, Evanston 4 (6 innings)

Wauconda (15-8): Lesleigh Reimers 4-for-4, 3 RBIs.

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

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

## – Elgin Courier-News –

### The real Dihel for South Elgin Backyard birthday party changed everything for Storm's forward: 'I just immediately fell in love.'

May 3, 2023

By Patrick McGavin for Naperville Sun & Beacon-News



**South Elgin's Ella Dihel (12) outruns East Aurora's Yaritza Servin (26) for a goal in the second half of an Upstate Eight Conference game on Friday, April 28, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)**





**South Elgin's Ella Dihel (12)** looks to pass in front of East Aurora's Michelle Monjaraz (19) during an Upstate Eight Conference game on Friday, April 28, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)



**South Elgin's Ella Dihel (12)** heads the ball against East Aurora during an Upstate Eight Conference game on Friday, April 28, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)



***South Elgin's Ella Dihel (12) signals to her teammates against East Aurora during an Upstate Eight Conference game on Friday, April 28, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)***

South Elgin's Ella Dihel remembers the moment like it was yesterday.

Dihel, now a junior forward for the Storm, went to a birthday party when she was 7 years old. Up to that point, she had never played soccer, not even with her family or her friends.

"There was all of this darkness in the backyard," she said. "As soon as they brought the balls out and I felt one at my foot, I just immediately fell in love with the sport.

"I knew I wanted to play it for the rest of my life."

Dihel continued to live the good life Monday, scoring twice for South Elgin in a 2-0 non conference victory over Streamwood. She boosted her season goal total to 15.

One of Dihel's strengths for the Storm (9-6-1) is being able to capitalize on the chaos and disruption up top. She gets constantly free and open, knowing the possibilities are endless. "I like to try to play with as little predictability as possible," she said. "I try to make creative runs in order to get involved in behind. When I do get those balls, I try to move each time in order to throw the defense off.

"They never know what's coming, and that makes me even more unpredictable and dangerous."

The only predictable action is how likely Dihel is to score — underscoring the many ways her composure, balance and sharp play have created her breakout season.

Scoring is a talent, a state of mind, a philosophy.

“As a forward, my mindset is that I need to score and get the ball into the back of the net,” she said. “The ability is important, and so is having the sight to see where the ball needs to go.

“In any game, you are only going to have so many opportunities. I realized I have to take advantage of every chance I get.”

The 5-foot-4 **Dihel** also stands outside the typical presuppositions about the game. She’s not physically dominant or blessed with an overpowering presence.

“I never let that determine who I am as a player,” she said. “Being smaller is sometimes an advantage if people don’t always look at me as a super threat when I first walk on the field.”

With her speed, quickness and feel for the game, she renders the normal standards as irrelevant.

“**Ella** is a very special player,” **South Elgin coach Jerzy Skowron** said. “Talent aside, she’s a sponge for knowledge. She always wants to learn more.

“Since her freshman year, she has played every position on the field except goalkeeper. She has taken on the challenge of being a greater offensive threat and passed with flying colors.”

**Dihel** also has an outside impact on every player on the team, regardless of age or experience.

**Freshman midfielder Ellie Vidic** assisted her second goal against **Streamwood**, illustrating a natural bond and connection on the field.

“As a freshman making varsity, it was nerve wracking for me to join a team where I didn’t know anybody,” Vidic said. “Right off the bat, **Ella** was there for me. She just started offering me rides without any questions.

“Her leadership skills definitely affected our team and is the key to our success. If someone is off in a game or practice, she is always the first one to lift their spirits.”

**Senior goalkeeper Karissa Cruz** watched **Dihel’s** trajectory from a freshman defender to her current state as a dynamic scorer.

“I have known her for six years, and **Ella** is one of the fiercest and most reliable players I have ever met,” Cruz said. “She gives us the fire and the energy we need in every game.”

Patrick Z. McGavin is a freelance reporter for The Beacon-News.

# – Elgin Courier-News –

## Local scoreboard

May 3, 2023

### MONDAY'S RESULTS

#### HIGH SCHOOLS

##### BOYS VOLLEYBALL

**Bartlett** d. Schaumburg 26-24, 25-19

Carmel d. Grant 25-23, 25-13

Carmel (13-13): Michael Schofield 8 kills. Xander Ikusz 15 assists.

Lake Zurich d. Rolling Meadows 25-18, 25-20

Lake Zurich (16-9): Gabe Schwartz 8 kills.

Maine West d. Highland Park 27-25, 25-13

Wheaton Warrenville South d. Naperville Central 25-14, 25-15

Vernon Hills d. Niles North 25-19, 21-25, 27-25

Vernon Hills (19-4, 6-0 Central Suburban North): David Rzepa 9 kills. Max March 8 kills. Sarthak Agrawal 15 assists.

York d. **South Elgin** 25-12, 25-18

### FRIDAY'S RESULTS

#### HIGH SCHOOLS

##### BASEBALL

Aurora Central Catholic 12, Crossroads Christian 0 (5 innings)

**Bartlett** 12, Fenton 2 (5 innings)

**Bartlett** (12-10, 10-2 Upstate Eight): Mario Prieto 2-for-3, 3 RBIs.

Batavia 4, Wheaton Warrenville South 3

Batavia (10-8, 5-5 DuKane): Jackson Bland GW RBI in bottom 7th.

Grayslake Central 19, Round Lake 1

Hinckley-Big Rock 5, Newark 3 (10 innings)

Hinckley-Big Rock (10-10): Preston Johnson GW 2-run single in top 10th.

Larkin 5, East Aurora 2

New Trier 10, Libertyville 9

Libertyville (11-9-2): Graham Goodman 2-for-5, HR, 3 RBIs. Quinn Schambow 2-for-5, double, 3 RBIs.

Oswego East 10, Lincoln-Way East 8 (8 innings)

Oswego East (14-6): Zach Polubinski 2-for-5, 2 runs, 2 RBIs.

St. Charles East 7, Geneva 6

St. Charles East (15-1, 10-0 DuKane): Eddie Herrera GW RBI in bottom 7th. James Brennan solo HR.

Geneva (11-8, 6-4): Nate Stempowski 2-for-4, double, HR, 3 RBIs.

St. Francis 6, Benet 4

Benet (10-8): Marc Iozzo 2 RBIs.

St. Viator 6, Carmel 5

Carmel: Will Bartels 2-for-3, 2 RBIs.

South Elgin 8, Glenbard South 6

South Elgin (8-4, 7-1 Upstate Eight): Jordan Green 3-for-4, 2 RBIs.

Stevenson 15, Vernon Hills 1 (5 innings)

Stevenson (17-6): Luca Morelli grand slam, 5 RBIs.

Wauconda 11, Grant 6

Wauconda (8-8-1, 7-4-1 Northern Lake County): Jackson Rudolph 3-for-3, 3 RBIs.

## **GIRLS SOCCER**

Elgin 6, Streamwood 1

Kaneland 3, Sycamore 0

Kaneland (9-4, 5-0 Interstate Eight): Mallory Nitsche 2 goals.

Mundelein 3, Waukegan 2

South Elgin 1, East Aurora 0

South Elgin (8-6-1, 6-0-1 Upstate Eight): Ella Dihel goal.

Vernon Hills 4, Maine East 1

## **NAPERVILLE INVITATIONAL**

### Championship Semifinals

St. Charles North 2, St. Charles East 1

St. Charles North (11-2-1): Juliana Park goal. Sophie Kirsten goal.

St. Charles East (16-1): Grace Williams goal.

Barrington 2, Naperville North 1 (SO)

Naperville North (9-4-1): Cam DeCook goal in regulation.

### Consolation Bracket

Benet 1, Geneva 0

Benet (11-4): Ivana Vukas goal.

Neuqua Valley 1, Lyons 1

Oswego 3, Bartlett 0

Fremd 2, Naperville Central 1

Hinsdale Central 6, Waubonsie Valley 1

## **SOFTBALL**

Addison Trail 10, Elgin 0 (5 innings)

Aurora Central Catholic 18, Rosary 0 (4 innings)

Deerfield 15, Lake Forest 0 (5 innings)

Grant 12, Dundee-Crown 7

Grant (10-11): Abbi Themanson 4-for-4, 3 runs, 3 RBIs.

Lincoln-Way West 4, Oswego 3

Oswego (14-6): Cori Kennedy triple, 2 RBIs.

Lisle 13, Aurora Christian 8

Aurora Christian: Macy Salek 2-for-4, double, HR, 2 runs, 4 RBIs.

Maine West 6, Vernon Hills 4

Vernon Hills (7-15, 1-3 Central Suburban North): Lily Kozin HR, double, 2 RBIs.

St. Charles East 2, Wheaton North 0

St. Charles North 10, Batavia 0 (6 innings)

St. Charles North (13-1, 6-0 DuKane): Paige Murray CG, 4 H, 8 Ks.

St. Francis 18, Streamwood 3 (4 innings)

Sycamore 6, Kaneland 1

Wauconda 11, Evanston 4 (6 innings)

Wauconda (15-8): Lesleigh Reimers 4-for-4, 3 RBIs.

Woodstock North 10, Jacobs 0 (5 innings)

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

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

## **– Examiner of Streamwood – Youthful Sabres softball seeking growth this year**

**May 3, 2023**

**By Seth Hancock**

A young Streamwood softball team has faced some adversity in the win-loss column, but this season is about learning and growing to build the program.

The Sabres were 0-4 last week, all at home, as they fell to 2-14 overall, 1-8 in the Upstate Eight Conference.

The week opened with a 19-0 UEC loss to Fenton on Monday, April 24. Streamwood dropped UEC games against West Chicago, 25-3 on Tuesday, April 25, and South Elgin, 16-0 on Thursday, April 27. Hailey Dworak and Marissa Walker each had an RBI against West Chicago.

The week ended with a 19-3 non conference loss to St. Francis on Friday, April 28. Kailey Pawlikowski (3-for-4, triple, RBI) and Ashley Harrison (2-for-2, double, RBI) led the Sabres.

Despite the losses, first-year Sabres coach Nicolle Giliana is seeing improvements.

“This season, we have a young varsity team of freshmen and sophomores,” Giliana said. “So, seeing them keep up with other varsity teams and put forth effort shows their dedication.”

Giliana added: “We are learning each game and practice to help build our skills and create a foundation for the sport. As we are building up this program, I am not looking at our wins/losses but how this group of girls are coming together, with all different skill sets, and are creating not only a team but a family.”

The Sabres did earn their second win of the season the previous week, an 11-4 UEC victory over Elgin on Friday, April 21 at Elgin.

Streamwood had dropped a 17-2 game to Elgin less than a week earlier at the Larkin Slugfest.

Susana Alanis (4-for-4, two RBI), Dworak (3-for-5), Harrison (3-for-4), Walker (2-for-4, two RBI), Brianna Coffey (2-for-5), Genavy Rodriguez (2-for-5), Pawlikowski (double, two RBI) and Sophie Saflarski (two RBI) led the Sabres' offense. Saflarski went the distance in the circle allowing four runs, all unearned, off six hits and six walks, and she struck out seven.

Streamwood fell 18-1 in UEC play to Bartlett on Tuesday, April 18 at Streamwood. Pawlikowski doubled in the effort.

At Larkin, the Sabres dropped an 11-1 UEC game on Thursday, April 20 with Streamwood led by Dworak (2-for-2) and Harrison (RBI). At Dundee-Crown, the Sabres dropped a 16-1 non conference game on Saturday, April 22 despite solid efforts at the plate by Pawlikowski (2-for-2, double, RBI) and Harrison (2-for-2, triple).