

Press Clippings 5/27/2022

NBC 5 Chicago

Chicago-area schools raise concerns over safety following Texas shooting --- Aired on 5/25/2022

By Chris Coffey

To view interview with Superintendent Tony Sanders click on link below.

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/top-videos-home/chicago-area-schools-raise-concerns-over-safety-following-texas-shooting/2843522/>

Daily Herald

Fundraiser planned for former Elgin family who lost daughter in Uvalde school shooting --- 5/26/2022

By Alicia Fabbre



Roselle resident Esteban Peralez is planning a fundraiser to benefit Vincent Salazar and his family, who moved from Elgin to Texas in 2011. Salazar's daughter, Layla, 10, was among the 19 students killed at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, during Tuesday's mass shooting. *Courtesy of Esteban Peralez*

Over the years, Esteban Peralez has kept in touch with high school friend Vincent Salazar through social media.

The two attended Elgin's **Larkin High School** together in the 1990s, but Salazar later moved with his wife to Texas. Social media was an easy way to stay in touch.

But when Peralez read Salazar's post on Wednesday, he was devastated.

"Yesterday we lost our heart our whole world. We love you baby girl Daddy is sorry I wasn't there to protect you when you needed me the most we love you so much fly high my little angel, fly high ..." Salazar posted one day after a gunman shot and killed 19 students and two teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

Salazar's 10-year-old daughter, Layla, was among the victims.

"I lost it," Peralez, who now lives in Roselle, said about reading his friend's post. "I felt God talking to me that I had to do something."

That "something" is a fundraising event scheduled for June 10 to benefit his friend's family. Several DJs have already been confirmed for the event to be held at Mi Vallarta restaurant, 1101 N. La Fox St. in South Elgin.

"He's just a good friend of mine from high school, and I want to help out," Peralez said. "We're just trying to show kindness. I believe we need that right now with everything that's going on."

He said the fundraiser is a way for the Elgin-area community to get together and "help an old friend."

According to Peralez, Salazar and his wife, Melinda Alejandro Salazar, moved from Elgin to Texas in 2011. The couple, who also have two older sons, still have family and friends in the Elgin area who are grieving the loss of a young life taken too soon.

"It's heartbreaking," said Abraham Perez, who lives in Elgin and is a first cousin of Layla's mother. "Words can't explain all the devastation and emotion ... we're just trying to be here for each other right now."

Perez, whose family has lived in the Elgin area for four generations, said he reached out to his cousin after the shooting, and she sent a message back saying, "It feels like a bad dream."

"Something needs to change," Perez said Thursday when asked about the shooting. "You don't realize ... until it's close to home, and it's just a wake-up call about the reality of the world that we're living in today."

"I just feel saddened because, again, something like this happened in the nation, and it doesn't seem to get any better. People can say this or that. 'There was something more that could've been done.' But at this point, it's too late and we'll have to live with that tragedy."

Vincent Salazar told The Associated Press that his daughter loved to swim and to dance to TikTok videos. When Layla won six races at the school's field day, Salazar proudly posted a photo on Facebook of his daughter displaying two of her ribbons.

Father and daughter would regularly sing along to Guns N' Roses' "Sweet Child O' Mine" as he drove her to school each morning.

"She was just a whole lot of fun," Salazar told The Associated Press.

Peralez said many in the Elgin community want to help.

"We're overwhelmed with how many people are volunteering," he said, adding one person donated a television and others are donating baskets to raffle or auction at the fundraiser.

Perez said he is grateful for everyone who has reached out to help the family.

"I appreciate everyone who is showing concern and support," he said.

Perez said people also can donate to a [GoFundMe](#) account that has been set up to help the Salazar family; search for "Layla Salazar our Angel in Heaven."

Daily Herald

Students protest at South Elgin High School over concerns about gun violence --- 5/26/2022

By Rick West



Hundreds of students walked out of South Elgin High School Thursday as part of a nationwide Students Demand Action campaign by young activists committed to ending gun violence in their communities. *Rick West*
| *Staff Photographer*

Holding signs with messages like "Protect kids not guns" and "Why is my dress code stricter than your gun laws," hundreds of students walked out of **South Elgin High School** on Thursday as part of a nationwide effort by young people to help bring an end to gun violence.

"We are so tired of the silence," said junior Izzy Edwards, who helped organize the walkout with her twin sister, Genevieve. "The longer we wait, the more children that are killed. We do not have time to wait."

The effort was made in conjunction with the national group Students Demand Action, which urged high school students to protest after the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, where 19 students and two adults were killed.

"This is going to continue to happen until we put a stop to this at the national level," said Camryn Cook, who just completed her sophomore year at Jacobs High School and organized a rally Thursday outside of the Community Unit District 300 administrative offices.

District 300 students were already on summer break, but about 30 people turned out for Thursday's rally.

"We have a gun problem in America," said Cook, who organized the rally and founded the Fox Valley Chapter of High School Democrats of America. "We're rallying and showing up to let people know we're continuing to fight for this."

At South Elgin High School, students spent about 45 minutes outside the school, marching around the building and chanting, ending up back in front of the school. Speakers then took turns with a megaphone. One asked, "We are the future. Aren't they going to protect the future?" Another said, "We should not be fearing for our safety in our schools."

The protest ended with 31 seconds of silence; 21 for those killed in Uvalde and 10 for those killed in last week's shooting in Buffalo, New York.

Sophomore Mars Clements described the experience as "intense" with many students shedding tears.

"Everyone was very passionate," Clements said. "Everyone has a connection to the story. It was a lot of sharing of personal experiences."

Genevieve Edwards said she and her sister were compelled to act after the Texas shooting.

"Each time after a tragic event such as this, it gets talked about for a couple of days, and then we move on with no change," she said. "Thoughts and prayers are simply not enough. We need action and change, which begins with us."

Daily Herald

Elgin police: Larkin High student brought BB gun to school and struck another student --- 5/26/2022

By Rick West

Elgin police say a **Larkin High School** student brought a BB gun to school Thursday and struck another student, causing minor injuries.

An Elgin Police Department release on its Facebook page said the student, who is a juvenile, has been identified and that officers are investigating. The school resource officer at Larkin was notified about the incident at 11:50 a.m.

Police said the incident appears to be isolated with no further threat to the school or community.

Daily Herald

Boys volleyball: Glenbard West sweeps South Elgin in regional final --- 5/26/2022

By Jared Birchfield, Daily Herald Correspondent

A combination of team chemistry and preparation propelled Glenbard West to a two-set victory (25-11, 25-21) over **South Elgin** to win its eighth regional crown in row at Geneva Thursday.

The Hilltoppers, who finished third in the state last year, advance to the Schaumburg sectional and will face Conant in the first semifinal on Saturday.

"I think our chemistry was really on point today. We would get on runs and our hitting percentage was really high," said Glenbard West senior Sam Alles. "We knew what was coming on the other side of the net, so we were able to counter act it with strong offensive power."

Glenbard West coach Christine Giunta-Mayer was glad to see her team come together.

"We are trying to get our chemistry back. We haven't been all together all year," she said. "I thought that was nice that we're all here today. They had really good leadership today and came out ready to play."

The Hilltoppers dominated the first set. The Storm tied it early at 2-2, but then Glenbard West (34-3) took over going on a 15-2 run that ended with a Gavin Swartz (seven kills) spike. South Elgin finally found its pace and scored seven more points but could not overcome the Hilltoppers' lead.

"There are a great team, they're going to get their points. We needed to keep up with them and score as many points as we could in the first set," South Elgin coach Jesse Bossenga said. "We fell a little bit behind in that first game. We had to get our rhythm and I think we did it at the end."

One key to the first set win was the Hilltoppers doing their homework before the match according to Swartz.

"We scouted and prepared for the match. We spend a bunch of hours in the film room studying and learning what they were doing out there and it really paid off during the first set," the senior said.

Hitting its stride, South Elgin was more competitive in the second set. The Storm took a 5-3 lead on one of Michael Hankins' six kills. A Danny Dorsey strike (five kills, three blocks) put Glenbard West back on top, 6-5. South Elgin's Sean Harvey (nine kills, four digs) tied the set again at 6-6 with a spike.

Swartz responded with a kill that returned the lead for good to the Hilltoppers, South Elgin stayed close but could not close the gap.

The last of Hilltopper Liam O'Neill's nine kills put the set at match point. A Storm hitting error clinched the set and the match for Glenbard West.

"We weren't blocking as well as we should have but we fixed it toward the end," said Giunta-Mayer. "We were just siding out so well, and we were passing well. We just needed a couple more points and we found where to get them."

"In the second game we played tough, we responded well, and we took care of the ball," Bossenga said. "We did the things we needed to do but unfortunately we came up a little short."

"It was really a tough battle. I just think I just think it came down to errors," Galanes said. "I'm really proud of the team and how we how we played especially in the second set. We put up a really good fight and they just made less errors."

In addition to seven kills, Galanes had 11 assists and four digs.

South Elgin, which tied **Bartlett** for the Upstate Eight Conference title, finished the season with a 25-8 record. Kyle Aluquin and Caiden Kapruan both notched five digs for the Storm while teammate Ryan Vo tallied 12 assists.

Kenny Gibson had eight digs for Glenbard West and classmate Trevor Powell earned 34 assists.

Daily Herald

Baseball: McHenry ends Larkin's season --- 5/26/2022

By Michael Dwojak, Shaw Local



McHenry's David Horowicz is tagged out sliding into home by Larkin's Miguel Saavedra at the Dundee-Crown regional baseball game on May 26, 2022 in Carpentersville. *Karen Naess/for Shaw Local*

Lleyton Grubich knew McHenry needed to score early and often if it wanted to open the postseason with a win.

The Warrior designated hitter launched two home runs and led the way in an eight-run second inning to help McHenry win its Class 4A Dundee-Crown regional semifinal game against **Larkin**, 13-3, in six innings Thursday.

"It feels good," Grubich said. "We've got to have some energy in the dugout and we're just going to keep rolling in the playoffs, keep winning."

Down 1-0 in the first inning, McHenry (25-8) tied the game when Cole Kersten drove in Cooper Cohn from third base on a double to center field.

Grubich started the big second inning when he hit a towering two-run home run to center field off Larkin starter Elijah Holst to make it 3-1 McHenry lead. Cohn later drove in a run off reliever Javier Cervantes on a double, and Kersten knocked in two more before Richard Powell III hit a two-run home run to left-center field to make it 8-1.

McHenry capped the second inning when Eddie Synek scored from second off an error made on a groundout.

Chase Witt drove in a run in the fifth, and Grubich ended the game on a three-run home run to center field in the sixth.

Gavin Micklinghoff had a strong start despite not having his best stuff. The McHenry starter threw five innings, striking out nine batters and allowing three runs on five hits. He walked two batters.

Powell III came in for an inning of relief and retired the side, striking out one batter.

"I don't think Gavin had his best stuff, but he threw strikes and kept us in it," McHenry coach Brian Rockweiler said. "Overall, I thought he did a good job."

Larkin (9-21) started the game strong when Holst drove in a run in the first inning on a sacrifice fly to center field. He drove in two more runs in the third on a double to center field to make it a 9-3 McHenry lead.

While the Royals couldn't come back to win the playoff opener, Larkin coach Niko Morado was proud of the way his young team battled.

"It's a big step for us as a young team to be in a ballgame like this and to see a couple good arms like that," Morado said. "I think it's a step in the right direction for our future."

McHenry will play either **Streamwood** or Fox Valley Conference foe Dundee-Crown, who meet in the other semifinal Friday, for the regional title at 11 a.m. Saturday.

The Warriors won both regular-season meetings against D-C and did not play Streamwood.

While both Rockweiler and Grubich agreed McHenry didn't play a complete game with an error and other mistakes on the field, the Warriors aren't changing anything up as they move on in the postseason.

"We just need to stay doing what we've been doing," Rockweiler said. "For the last couple months, just be who we are."