

# Press Clippings - 1/30/2024

**- Daily Herald -**

## **Elgin High School's annual National Biodiversity Teach-In returns with 25 free webinars**

**Submitted By: Tara Burghart, Elgin Area School District U-46**

**January 29, 2024**

Scientists from around the world will participate in this year's National Biodiversity Teach-In, organized annually by environmental science students at **Elgin High School**. Featuring a series of webinars in February, the event is designed to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and inspire participants to take part in environmental protection.

The National Biodiversity Teach-In will feature 25 webinars, all free and open to the public, on Fridays in February. Subjects to be addressed during this year's Teach-In include the evolution of snakes and their venom; snow leopard conservation; rare frogs; welfare of captive whales; prairie restoration; the importance of native plants; and polar bears in a changing Arctic.

As in previous years, the 2024 Teach-In is expected to draw environmental science enthusiasts, as well as whole classrooms of students, from around the globe. Over the years, it has registered more than 110,000 participants from more than 27 countries.

Environmental students at Elgin High School, guided by several teachers, have been working on the 2024 Teach-In for months. Student organizers delegate the event responsibilities by committees. They troubleshoot technology issues, register participants, respond to media requests, advertise, and create promotional materials.

Autumn McGowan, an Elgin High graduate, is now a conservation fellow at The Nature Conservancy. McGowan supports the work of the organization across the Midwest and the Great Lakes with research, writing, and data analysis. She will be presenting on The Nature Conservancy's work with reefs in the Great Lakes on Feb. 9.

"From being an EHS student who helped with the National Biodiversity Teach-In in 2019, to now having the opportunity to be a presenter, is incredible," she said. "It is so much fun working with the EHS students and staff, and I am really looking forward to the 2024 webinars."

The webinars are scheduled during the school day on Fridays, Feb. 2-23. Each speaker will give a presentation based on their specialty and also include dedicated time for questions and answers.

As was the case in recent years, the Teach-In will feature a day of sessions with nearly all female presenters for the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, a declaration from the United Nations General Assembly to encourage a new generation of female scientists to tackle the major challenges of our time by leading innovation in science and technology.

In addition to McGowan, among the women presenting Feb. 9, are Jillian Morris, a marine biologist and a shark conservationist; Naomi Rose, a marine mammal scientist; Dr. Bonnie Hamilton, a ecotoxicologist who studies contaminants in the Arctic; Sonya Harris, a plant biologist; and Dr. Cassandra Debets, an arctic ecologist who works with Polar Bears International.

Student organizers of the Teach-In made an effort this year to add programming on topics that have mass appeal. For instance, Becky Chaplin-Kramer is a global biodiversity scientist who works at the World Wildlife Fund to advance the science and implantation of conservation strategies to support biodiversity. In Feb. 23 presentation, she will focus on how satellites can monitor biodiversity and be a tool to help reduce global deforestation.

The webinars first began at EHS in 2013 to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity. The 100th anniversary of the extinction of the passenger pigeon in 2014 and the story of Martha, the last known living passenger pigeon, increased the students' interest and desire to discuss biodiversity with some of the best experts in the field.

"Every year is more exciting as we make contact with scientists in different fields, allowing our students an opportunity to explore science in a new and different way," said Elgin High science teacher Brigid Trimble, who helped launch the event.

The Teach-In website at [nationalbiodiversityteachin.com](http://nationalbiodiversityteachin.com) has a full schedule and details on the speakers and topics being discussed. Those who register to attend a webinar will receive a personalized Zoom link.

Webinars will also be live streamed on the Teach-In's YouTube channel the day of the event and [facebook.com/natbioteachin](https://facebook.com/natbioteachin).

Feb. 2

Koustubh Sharma, a senior regional ecologist with the Snow Leopard Trust, returns to the Biodiversity Teach-in to offer an update at 8 a.m. "Prairie Restoration and Soil Biodiversity" by Elizabeth Bach of The Nature Conservancy's Nachusa Grasslands at 9 a.m.; "Ecology and Evolution of Snakes and their Venoms" by herpetologist Neil Balchan at 10 a.m.; "Confiscation to Conservation: Returning Turtles to the American Landscape" by Jordan Gray of the Turtle Survival Alliance at 11 a.m.; "Amphibians and Global Change: What Do We Stand to Lose?" by Loyola University biology professor Joe Milanovich at noon; "It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's a Super Marine Mammal!" by herpetologist Deanna Leonard at 1 p.m. The final program for the day will be Hadley Copeland, an Elgin High School alumni, on "The Biology of Basking" at 2 p.m.

Feb. 9

Marine biologist Jillian Morris will present "Saving Sharks with Science: How and Why We Study Sharks" at 8 a.m. Autumn McGowan will talk about "Reefs in the Great Lakes" at 10 a.m. Bonnie Hamilton, an ecotoxicologist and National Geographic Explorer, will focus on "Plastics in the Poles" at 11 a.m., followed by "Using Plants for the Bioremediation of Soil" by Sonya Harris at noon. At 1 p.m., Cassandra Debets of Polar Bears International will talk about "Polar Bears in a Changing Arctic."

Feb. 16

Sonya Harris, founder of the Bullock Garden Project, will return at 8 a.m. to speak on "More than the Monarch: The Biodiversity Surrounding Milkweed," followed by Martha Parker of the International Rhino Foundation at 9 a.m. Lindsey Banks of Seacrest Wolf Preserve will focus on "The Wolf is KEY" at 10 a.m., followed by "Amazing Arctic Plants Above the Treeline" by York University biology professor Dawn Bazely at 11 a.m. Illinois Extension educator Peggy Anesi and naturalist Pam Otto will present "Wildlife Isn't Random" at noon, followed by "Captive Cetacean Welfare" by the Animal Welfare Institute's Naomi Rose at 1 p.m. and "Protection of Predators" by Natalie Parra of the Oceanic Preservation Society at 2 p.m.

Feb. 23

The final week of the series will begin with "What Makes a Frog Rare?" with vertebrate biologist Owen Edwards at 9 a.m., followed by Frank Sladek of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division, at 10 a.m. Nancy Lamia and Jean Muntz of Wild Ones will talk about "Native Plants: Changing the Nature of Our Impact" at 11 a.m. and Kat Gerdts of the Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District will present "When a Drop of Water Falls Here" at noon. Chris Benda, a botanist and past president of the Illinois Native Plant Society, will focus on native wildflowers at 1 p.m., followed by Becky Chaplin-Kramer, global biodiversity lead scientist with the World Wildlife Fund, answering "What Can Satellites Do for Biodiversity?" at 2 p.m.

Elgin Area School District U-46 serves families in 11 communities: Bartlett, Elgin, Hanover Park, South Elgin, Streamwood and Wayne, as well as portions of Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg, and West Chicago. In total, the district encompasses 90 square miles within the Fox River Valley, approximately 45 minutes west of downtown Chicago, and includes communities within Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. More than 34,000 preschoolers through 12th-graders attend the 57 district schools and programs. To learn more, visit the U-46 website, or like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

## **- Chicago Tribune -**

### **Basketball and local scores for the Southland, Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County**

**By: Staff Reports**

**Jan 29, 2024**



Marian Catholic's James Bullock Jr. (13) puts up a shot over Marist's Achilles Anderson (24) during an East Suburban Catholic Conference game in Chicago Heights on Friday, Jan. 26, 2024.

Results and highlights of high schools and local colleges from the Southland and Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County coverage areas.

## SATURDAY'S RESULTS

### HIGH SCHOOLS

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

Burlington Central 47, Freeport 46

Christ the King 63, St. Edward 36

Glenbard South 46, **South Elgin** 34

Grayslake Central 72, Johnsburg 70

Grayslake Central (15-7): Cayden Woods 24 points. Xavi Granville 23 points. Chris Jaimes 10 points. Jayden Hall 9 points; GW basket as time expired.

Highland Park 54, Buffalo Grove 43

Jacobs 60, St. Charles East 46

Kaneland 89, North Chicago 52

Kaneland (17-4): Troyer Carlson 21 points. Freddy Hassan 19 points. Isaiah Gipson 12 points. Parker Violet 12 points.

Lake Park 60, **Larkin** 36

Phillips 77, Lake Forest Academy 53

Plainfield Central 55, Naperville Central 53

Quincy 58, Batavia 41

Rolling Meadows 67, Libertyville 59

Libertyville (8-15): Liam Hanson 20 points. Ben Van Lyssel 19 points.

St. Viator 49, Mundelein 36

Sandburg 68, Argo 51

Sandburg (12-11): David Vargas 16 points.

Argo (6-18): Kassam Saleh 15 points.

Stagg 90, Bradley-Bourbonnais 64

Stagg (15-9, 3-1 SWSC Red): Domas Narcevicus 28 points; eight 3-pointers tie school record. David Ortiz 18 points. Connor Williams 17 points, 7 rebounds, 5 assists.

Warren 57, Palatine 56

Warren (22-4): Jaxson Davis 15 points.

Waubonsie Valley 65, Plainfield East 35

York 64, Lake Zurich 62

Lake Zurich (15-6): Anton Strelnikov 24 points.

Yorkville 56, Oswego 34

Yorkville (14-8): Bryce Salek 13 points. Jason Jakstys 12 points. Mike Dunn 10 points.

BATTLE OF THE TITANS SHOOTOUT

Benet 61, Normal Community 60

Benet (19-3): Gabe Sularski 24 points. Jayden Wright 17 points. Patrick Walsh 11 points.

Glenbrook North 59, Hillcrest 58

HOOP IT UP CLASSIC

Marist 87, Hansberry 52

Marist (19-4): Stephen Brown 22 points. Marquis Vance 21 points. Achilles Anderson 11 points.

Darshan Thomas 11 points.

JOSH BAUMGARTNER SHOOTOUT

Beecher 64, Cornerstone Christian 51

Beecher 62, Rockridge 40

Beecher (23-0): Orlin Nesbitt 17 points. Zack Johnson 13 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists, 4 steals. Adyn McGinley 12 points, 6 steals, 5 rebounds.

Ag. Science 66, Southland Prep 40

Ag. Science (14-8): C.T. Taylor 18 points. Bryce Tillis 10 points.

Joliet Catholic 50, Lisle 41

JCA (8-14): Drew Wilis 15 points. James Pilapil 12 points.

KANKAKEE SHOOTOUT

Peotone 58, Chicago Christian 42

KIVISTO SHOOTOUT

St. Charles North 72, Wheaton Academy 60

St. Charles North (8-15): Parker Reinke 33 points, 5 rebounds.

Bolingbrook 52, Naperville North 28

Lyons 55, Oswego East 54

Oswego East (16-9): Jahvion Starwood 16 points. Noah Mason 15 points. Mason Lockett 10 points.

Wheaton Warrenville South 77, East Aurora 60

East Aurora (6-18): Jalen Bealer 28 points. Jeremiah Brown 22 points, 6 rebounds.

LINCOLN-WAY WEST WARRIOR SHOWDOWN

Lincoln-Way Central 66, Oak Forest 41

Lincoln-Way West 62, Lemont 60

Lincoln-Way West (11-13): Jacob Bereza 23 points. Wyatt Carlson 18 points. Eli Bach 15 points; GW basket with: 06 remaining.

Neuqua Valley 70, Andrew 49

Oak Lawn 65, Lincoln-Way East 54

Oak Lawn (15-6): Donte Montgomery 26 points. Jack Dempsey 12 points. Corey Lee 10 points.

Lincoln-Way East (15-7): Brent Taylor 29 points.

LITTLE TEN TOURNAMENT

IMSA 55, Leland 21

Newark 58, LaMoille-Ohio 30

RICH TOWNSHIP SHOOTOUT

Leo 34, Clark 26

Rich Township 75, Manley 62

T.F. North 56, Payton 34

Glenbard East 68, Antioch 52

Antioch (10-14): Carter Webb 20 points.

VASHON (Mo.) WINTER CLASSIC

Chaminade (Mo.) 51, St. Laurence 50

St. Laurence (13-10): Josh Pickett 21 points. Bradley Stratton 11 points.

WAR ON THE SHORE SHOOTOUT

West Aurora 66, New Trier 65

West Aurora (15-8): Jordan Brooks 26 points. Gabe Gonzales 14 points, 8 rebounds. Jayvyn Marion 10 points.

Loyola 53, Bloom 39

Bloom (13-7): Jaden Clark 21 points, 5 rebounds.

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Campbell Hall (Calif.) 65, Naperville Central 55

Naperville Central (10-16): Erin Hackett 21 points.

Carmel 43, St. Viator 30

Carmel (14-12, 4-5 ESCC): Josie Hartman 19 points. Keira Ackerson 17 points.

DeKalb 46, Dundee-Crown 30

Evanston 61, Warren 33

Highland Park 33, Regina 25

Lake Zurich 64, New Trier 61

**Larkin** 43, Glenbard North 36

Marian Catholic 72, Joliet Catholic 45

Marian (22-6, 7-2 ESCC): Madison Davis 21 points. Ty Jackson 12 points. LaParis Poe 10 points.

Metea Valley 55, **Bartlett** 53

Naperville North 59, Plainfield Central 55

Neuqua Valley 63, Yorkville Christian 40

Richards 52, Riverside-Brookfield 41

Richards (9-12): Iyanah Crosby 15 points, 14 rebounds. Mercedes Santiago 12 points. Brittany Williams 10 points.

Romeoville 53, Oswego East 46

Rosary 38, Spring Valley Hall 31

Sandburg 63, Rich Township 48

Sandburg (15-11): Juliana Paddock 15 points, 10 rebounds. Ellie Driscoll 14 points. Olivia Trunk 10 points.

Sandwich 46, Richmond-Burton 39

Serena 52, IMSA 21

Waubonsie Valley 75, Rockford Auburn 33

Wauconda 49, Grant 41

Wauconda (15-5, 9-1 Northern Lake County): Grace Parker 24 points. Alexia Manalo 11 points.

Grant (9-13, 5-6): Alyssa Sandquist 15 points.

Willows 44, Chicago Christian 42

Woodstock 46, Plano 34

Plano (12-14, 4-6 Kishwaukee River): Josie Larson 18 points.

Yorkville 67, Oswego 45

Yorkville (18-8, 10-2 Southwest Prairie West): Brooke Spychalski 21 points. Madi Spychalski 12 points. Kenzie Sweeney 11 points.

**KANKAKEE SHOOTOUT**

Kankakee 63, Evergreen Park 24

**BOYS BOWLING**

**STATE FINALS**

Final Results

Local team: 4. Lockport 11,983.

Top local individuals: 4. Trevor Anifer, Lemont, 2,656; 7. Austin Cetwinski, Lincoln-Way Central, 2,626; 15. (tie) Tommy Kradenpoth, Naperville Central, 2,579; Michael Rossini, **South Elgin**, 2,579; 27. Ricardo Avila, Bremen, 2,502; 29. Austin LiCausi, Lockport, 2,495.

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

## - Chicago Tribune -

### **Rick Armstrong's Aurora-Elgin area boys basketball rankings and player of the week**

**By: Rick Armstrong**

**Jan 29, 2024**



Waubonsie Valley's Tyreek Coleman (12) looks to move past Neuqua Valley's Colin Gerrity (24) during a DuPage Valley Conference game in Aurora on Friday, Jan. 5, 2024.

Yorkville and West Aurora move up behind Waubonsie Valley at the top, while South Elgin moves into rankings. Tyreek Coleman is the player of the week.

Top 10

With records through Monday and previous rankings in parentheses.

1. Waubonsie Valley 22-0 (1)

Moses Wilson makes clutch 3-pointer, delivers key steals to lift Warriors past Metea Valley.

2. Yorkville 14-8 (6)

Illinois recruit Jason Jakstys tops 1,000 points for career as Foxes win streak hits five.

3. West Aurora 15-8 (4)

Jordan Brooks scores 26 points as short-handed Blackhawks beat New Trier (21-5).

4. Oswego East 16-9 (2)

Wolves rally from 16-point deficit to tie Lyons three times. Lose 55-54 at Kivisto Hoopfest.

5. Metea Valley 16-8 (3)

Will Ashford scores 17 points as Mustangs drop 48-45 nail-biter to Waubonsie Valley.

6. Batavia 15-7 (5)

CJ Valente, Bulldogs top conference rival St. Charles North but lose to Quincy (21-2).

7. Kaneland 17-4 (7)

Troyer Carlson, Freddy Hassan lead five in double figures against North Chicago.

8. Burlington Central 16-8 (9)

Myles Lowe scores 16 points for Rockets in 47-46 overtime win against Freeport.

9. Aurora Christian 15-5 (8)

Losses to Christ the King and Hope drop Eagles to third place in conference race.

10. **South Elgin** 12-11 (NR)

Senior forward Derek Clark paces Storm defense with 40 steals, 45 deflections.

Player of the Week

Tyreek Coleman had game highs of 21 points and seven rebounds Friday night as Waubonsie Valley edged district rival Metea Valley 48-45. The 6-foot-2 junior guard added 26 points and four rebounds Saturday in a 65-35 rout of Plainfield East. Coleman averages a team-best 13.8 points and ranks second with 4.1 rebounds.