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THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022

Glenbard East student charged with alleged threat against school

On Thursday, April 21, DuPage County State's Attorney Robert B. Berlin and Lombard Chief of Police Roy Newton announced that a 16-year-old male Glenbard East High School student had been charged with allegedly placing a drawing addressed to a teacher in the teacher's file cabinet depicting an act of violence targeting the school. The juvenile appeared at a detention hearing recently where Judge Brian Jacobs ordered that the juvenile be released to the custody of his mother on home detention lockdown. The juvenile has been charged with one count of Disorderly Conduct - Threat to a School, a Class 4 Felony. His next court appearance is scheduled for Thursday, May 5.

It is alleged that on or about Wednesday, April 20, the teen placed a drawing in the teacher's file cabinet depicting a character holding a bloody knife with blood seeping out of classrooms with the caption "school stabber at Glenbard East 120 dead." Wednesday afternoon, authorities became aware of the alleged threat and the teen was taken into custody, where he remained until his hearing Thursday morning.

"Any threat to the well-being of our students, teachers and school personnel will be taken very seriously," Berlin said. "Students have got to understand that school threats are no joking matter and can have a chilling



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

Addison Trail preps mural designed by EL students

On Thursday, April 21, these Addison Trail students came together after school for a painting party to begin work on a mural that has been designed with English Learner (EL) students to carry out AT's commitment to fostering an inclusive environment and a sense of belonging. Spearheading the effort are Addison Trail seniors Mateo Gomez and Joel Olvera, who remember their early days as EL students, when they often felt left out. Story and more photos inside.

See THREAT, Page 4

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Crestview Garden Club members Annelie Fletcher and Pat Nabor, along with other volunteers, are getting prepared for this year's plant sale, which will be held Saturday, May 14 from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. This year's sale will be held at a new location at the Depot at Wild Meadows Trace, 511 S. York (near the Prairie Path, just north of Vallette) in Elmhurst.

Crestview Garden Club to host 42nd annual plant sale

The Crestview Garden Club of Elmhurst annual plant sale will be in full bloom on Saturday, May 14 from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. This year's sale will be held at a new location at the Depot at Wild Meadows Trace, 511 S. York St., near the Prairie Path, just north of Vallette in Elmhurst.

There will be more than 1,200 plants to choose from and 130-plus varieties that includes sun and shade perennials, natives, herbs, tomatoes, groundcover, shrubs, vines and grasses.

The sale will also feature plants that attract pollinators. Want more butterflies and hummingbirds in your yard? Visit the special butterfly and hummingbird sections filled with plants that will attract them to your

yard. Most plants average in price from \$5 to \$10.

As the popularity of houseplants continue to attract more collectors, the sale will also feature hundreds of houseplants for sale and looking for new homes. Many houseplants help purify the air and their presence provides a calming effect.

The sale will also feature vendors selling wind chimes and a beekeeper offering honey. Club members will be available to answer gardening questions and help with plant selection. Personal checks, cash and major credit cards will be accepted for purchases. Sale takes place rain or shine.

The plant sale is the club's only fundraiser with a portion of the proceeds donated to community projects

that support its mission to encourage the love of horticulture and gardening by educating its members and our community.

New members welcome

The club is always welcoming new members. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month (except for January) at 7 p.m. at Community Bank of Elmhurst, 330 W. Butterfield Rd. (at Spring Rd.), in Elmhurst. Interested in joining? Check out and follow the club on Facebook: Crestview Garden Club - Elmhurst and send a message on our page or to the club's email at crestviewgardencub@yahoo.com for more information. The club was established in 1975 and is affiliated with the Elmhurst Park District.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Acquiring career skills

This District 88 student is learning new skills by participating in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Youth Apprenticeship Program, available to seniors at Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools.

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District 88 partnerships ensure students are college, career ready

In the latest District 88 newsletter, the administration underscored its commitment to making sure students are college and career ready. The District continues to focus on teaching skills and offering learning experiences to achieve that goal through providing multiple and flexible pathways for students.

District 88 partners with colleges, universities and local businesses to expand these opportunities and plans

to continue to enhance these initiatives.

One opportunity is the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Youth Apprenticeship Program, which is available to seniors at Addison Trail and Willowbrook. Through this class, students can earn school credit and receive on-the-job training, all while getting paid. Students interested in the CTE Youth Apprenticeship Program should speak with

their counselor and request to register for course IT65093CTDB. For questions or more information, contact Willowbrook CTE Department Head Mary Barney at mbarney@dupage88.net or 630-782-2823.

Through a collaboration with GPS Education Partners and College of DuPage (COD), seniors in this course meet with Barney to receive credit, training and certification in OSHA 10, along with résumé, interview and soft skills preparation for an apprenticeship placement in Ad-

dison. Apprentices interview at a local company and, once hired, earn an average of \$15 an hour. Participants are able to gain experience in:

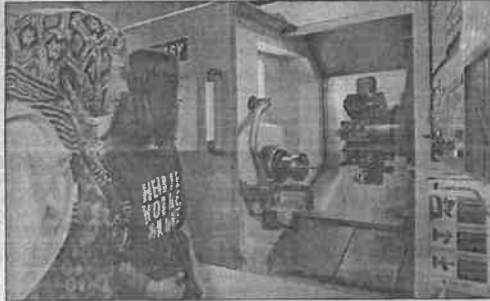
- Manufacturing (general manufacturing, industrial maintenance, CNC, machining, electro-mechanical)
- Information technology (software/app/game design, network and security, database management, data science)

Students in this course also can qualify for free college credit and

paid job training through COD's Project Hire-Ed Apprenticeship Program.

For more information about the CTE Youth Apprenticeship Program and the Project Hire-Ed Apprenticeship Program, go to dupage88.net/Pathways.

A virtual information session about the CTE Youth Apprenticeship Program will take place starting on Tuesday, May 10 at 5:30 p.m. The Zoom link to attend the session can be found at tinyurl.com/4sxfy3pe.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

These District 88 students learn about an elaborate piece of equipment that could be useful in their future careers. The opportunity was provided by one of D88's partners in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Youth Apprenticeship Program.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Hirsch named 88's Best for April

Willowbrook High School senior Max Hirsch was recently named his school's April recipient of the 88's Best award. Hirsch was recognized during the District 88 Board of Education meeting on April 11. He is pictured (right) at the board meeting with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause (left). The 88's Best award honors students for their achievements in and out of the classroom. The award is presented to nine students at each of District 88's two schools—Willowbrook and Addison Trail—each school year. Hirsch has consistently pursued the most rigorous academic courses available at Willowbrook. When he graduates in May, he will have taken 10 Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses, as well as several honors and college-credit-earning courses. Hirsch is an Illinois State Scholar and an Inductee of the National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, Math Honor Society, World Language Honor Society and Willowbrook's social studies honor society—Civitas. He has been named to Willowbrook's Distinction Honor Roll in each semester of his time at the school. Hirsch has served as a leader and board member in the New Beginnings program, a program in which upperclassmen mentor freshmen and assist them in adjusting to high school. He's also been a member of Willowbrook's Student Council, Key Club, Econ Challenge and Math Team. Hirsch was a four-year member of Willowbrook's boys golf team. He also caddies in the summer at Glen Oak Country Club in Glen Ellyn. Hirsch plans to study finance and is finalizing his decision as to which college/university he will attend.

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202501

Addison Trail to unveil mural spearheaded by EL students

When Addison Trail seniors Mateo Gomez and Joel Olvera first stepped into the school as freshmen, they hardly spoke or understood English and were enrolled in English Learner (EL) courses. Later, as they recalled feeling alone and isolated from their peers and the community, they shared with staff members and administrators their desire to help other students who are going through that same experience.

Addison Trail's student population is nearly 65 percent Hispanic, and the school anticipates a 23 percent increase in the number of EL students next year.

Addison Trail's core values include ensuring all students, staff, parents/guardians and community members feel safe, valued, respected and welcome — regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation,

gender identity or ability level.

As part of that commitment to fostering an inclusive environment and a sense of belonging, about 15 Addison Trail students who are enrolled in EL 1, 2 and 3 classes have been working since December to create a mural that will be showcased in the EL hallway at the school.

The project is being organized by Addison Trail EL reading teacher Maria DiNovo, and students are working on the design with Addison Trail art teacher Maria Ramon.

On April 21, eight of those students came together after school for a painting party to begin bringing the mural to life on canvas. The images reflect places that are important to the students and have helped form their identity.

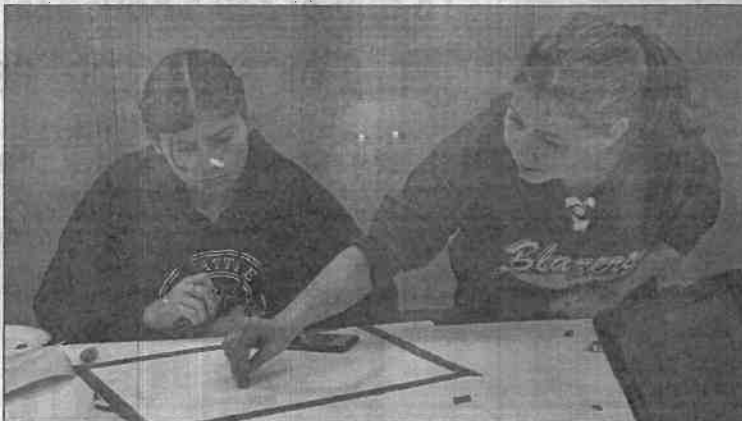
The mural will be revealed soon — stay tuned for details.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Above: Thanks to the efforts of Addison Trail seniors Mateo Gomez and Joel Olvera, about 15 students enrolled in EL 1, 2 and 3 have been working since December to create a mural that will be showcased in the EL hallway at the school. It is part of AT's commitment to an inclusive environment.

Left: These students were among several who came together on Thursday, April 21 to begin painting a mural that will eventually adorn the EL hallway at Addison Trail. The mural is designed to foster a sense of belonging for all students.



Man pleads guilty to Roselle shooting death, sentenced to 20 years

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin has announced that a Chicago man charged with the 2019 shooting death of 22-year-old Jerry McCray of Roselle has been sentenced to 20 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections—the maximum penalty allowed by law.

Brandon J. Foster, 28, entered a plea of guilty to second degree murder—unreasonable belief of self-defense in front of Judge Brian Telander, who handed down the sentence. On Jan. 30, 2019, Foster appeared in bond court where his bond was set at \$3 million with 10 percent to



Jerry McCray

apply. He has remained in custody since that time.

On Jan. 13, 2019, at approximately 4:10 p.m., officers from the Roselle Police Department responded to a 911 call for a report of a male victim down in a parking lot near the 200 block of Springhill Drive.

The victim, later identified as McCray, had been shot multiple times. He was immediately transported to Alexian Brothers Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased. An investigation led by the Roselle Police Department found that prior to the 911 call, Foster and McCray were in a vehicle in the parking lot smoking marijuana.

At some point in time, an argument ensued between the two men at which time Foster pulled out a gun

and shot McCray multiple times in the torso and arms. After the shooting,

Foster fled the scene and was ultimately traced to Nashville, Tenn. On Jan. 19, 2019, Foster was taken into custody in Nashville. After waiving extradition, Foster was transported to DuPage County.

"Mr. Foster took responsibility for the shooting death of Jerry McCray," Berlin said. "I offer my condolences to Mr. McCray's family and friends on their loss. I thank the Roselle Police Department and several other law enforcement agencies ... for their efforts in identifying and apprehending Mr. Foster."

Addison Trail Blazettes to hold tryouts

Attention, Blazettes! The Addison Trail Blazettes (Poms) Team will host tryouts for students who are interested in joining the group for the 2022-23 school year. See details below.

To audition, students must:

• Complete the form at tinyurl.com/5a7rxvex9

• Attend a tryout informational meeting on Tuesday, May 3 (at 7:30 a.m. or at 9:10 p.m. in room 120)

• Attend tryouts at 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4 and Thursday, May 5 in the Addison Trail Dance Gym.

Blazettes (Poms) is a spirit squad that performs during varsity football and basketball games and also competes in Illinois High School Association (IHSA) dance competitions. Blazettes continue to show their Blazer Pride by being positive role models within the school and community, as they participate in various school and community events.

• Threat (Continued from front page)

effect not just on students, teachers and staff, but also on parents, siblings and the entire community. As I have said in the past, anyone suspected of making a threat, even if made in jest, will be fully investigated and appropriately charged."

"Teachers can't teach, and students can't learn if they instead are

concerned about their own personal safety," Newton said. "We must do all we can to ensure that our schools remain free from violence and threats of violence."

Members of the public are reminded that this complaint contains only charges and is not proof of the defendant's guilt.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

Trivia Night champions

More than 125 people participated in Willowbrook High School's annual Trivia Night. The Willowbrook Music Booster Club held the event in the school cafeteria on April 9. Willowbrook math teacher Ed Sullivan emceed the event and kept the crowd entertained during an evening filled with information and facts. The event, which also included raffle baskets and a Pick-A-Prize game, served as a fundraiser for the Willowbrook Music Booster Club. This year's Trivia Night raised more than \$5,000, which will be utilized for student scholarships, grants and other causes supported by Willowbrook's music department. Of the 14 teams that competed at Trivia Night 2022, the highest-scoring team was "The No Names." The members of "The No Names," (pictured left to right) are: Diana Watkins, Nick Janopoulos, Jill Kelly, John Kelly, Jeff Taylor, Ralph Watkins, Tina Janopoulos, Mason Watkins, Jean Taylor, Gina Mucha and Kevin Mucha.

• Letter (Continued from page 7)

opment of White Pines Golf Course is in Direct Conflict of the Mission Statement of the Bensenville Park District. The mission statement reads, "We enhance the quality of life through the preservation of our local history, open spaces and recreational opportunities for residents of all ages to enjoy."

White Pines Golf Course has been a landmark in Bensenville since 1928! Is destroying the wetlands, removing all of the vegetation and the 4000 trees throughout this golf course, along with all the wildlife that inhabit this area, really preserving our history and open spaces?

This re-development will affect all Bensenville residents' quality of life. As Mr. Vallez has explained, the de-

cision to move forward with this proposed re-development is in the hands of his five commissioned Park Board Officials. This group of residents believe that a sale of this magnitude that can generate \$125 million in the pockets of the Bensenville Park District MUST NOT BE and SHOULD NOT BE in the hands of these 5 part-time Park District Officials. As of this date, the Park District has not made a village wide announcement of their "conceptual" plans for the sale of White Pines Golf Course for light industrial use. Let the residents of Bensenville be heard and vote on this important issue in the form of a village referendum.

Bill Hibner

Guidelines for writing, submitting a letter to the editor

The *Independent* encourages our readers to reach out to the community by writing a letter to the editor.

Letters are limited to 500 words; if a letter exceeds 500 words, it will be sent back to the author to reduce the length of the letter. Authors must include their first and last name, the city or village in which they reside, and a phone number and email address where they can be reached in case of questions.

Send letters to: independent@rvpublishing.com

Letter-writers will be limited to one letter per month except for locally elected officials, or individuals specifically associated with local village governments or entities such as school districts, park districts or library districts.

No letters directed to a third party will be accepted for publication.

We reserve the right to edit a letter for reasons of clarity, space restrictions and libel.

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Women's Bible Study Mondays at 4:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Study Wednesdays after 7 p.m. service (7:40 p.m.)

April 30 Game Night from 4-8 p.m.
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Learning environmental sustainability

On April 7, 13 Addison Trail students in science teacher Daniel Fernandez's (AP) Environmental Science class visited the A.J. LaRocca Wastewater Treatment Plant. Students learned about the engineering that goes into cleaning wastewater and saw firsthand the steps required to turn wastewater into clean, reusable water. The trip served to expand the students' understanding of environmental sustainability and how those practices are implemented within the community.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Learning from visitors

Barbara Heredia of Quest Diagnostics in Wood Dale explains how to extract samples from a tube to a group of Fenton students who attended her presentation as part of Career Talk Thursday.

Bensenville Park District to host 'Fitness de Mayo' May 5

Free group fitness class activities at Wood Street Fitness

Want to try a group fitness class? Wood Street Fitness for free? We Bensenville Park District is offering a fun way to explore these options Thursday, May 5, as part of its "Fitness de Mayo" celebration.

Stop by the Deer Grove Leisure Center from 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. for a free Zumba® Gold class and around for fun Mexican fiesta games, light snacks and a piñata from 11:30 p.m. Patrons are invited to try any of the other classes that day as well. Fees are just \$6 for residents and \$12 for non-residents. The full schedule for May 5 is as follows, with fees noted:

10:15-11 a.m.

Core Foundations with Silvia (\$6/\$8)

11:15-11:45 a.m.

Free Mexican-fiesta-themed Zumba® Gold with Silvia

12 noon-1:30 p.m.

Free Mexican fiesta games and activities

6-7 p.m.

Cardio Blast with Debbie (\$6/\$8)

7:15-8:15 p.m.

Mexican-fiesta-themed Zumba® Toning with Traci (\$6/\$8)

In addition to single class rate, Wood Street Fitness center offers "core class" membership that includes unlimited in-person and virtual classes for \$35 per month for residents (\$45 for non-residents) or \$300 annually for non-residents.

Most classes are offered virtually and new classes are being offered often. A full weekly class schedule is located on the Wood Street Fitness website, WoodStFitness.com/class.

Wood Street Fitness membership information can be found at WoodStFitness.com.

To register, visit the Deer Grove Leisure Center, 1000 W. Wood St. from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon Saturday.

History Museum, Elmhurst Library present 'Stories and Stones'

On Sunday, May 22, beginning at 2 p.m., the Elmhurst History Museum and the Elmhurst Public Library present a free program called "Stories and Stones" at the library, 122 Prospect.

Storyteller Marilyn Kinsella presents traditional Native American stories including "Skunny Wundy the Stone Giants" from the Iroquois and a riveting tale from the Northwest, "The Whistling Tsonquas."

She will be joined by primitive specialist Larry Kinsella as he demonstrates some of the tools mentioned in the stories including bows and arrows and more. This is a 45-minute program suitable for families. Registration is required at elmhurstpublibrary.org. For more information, visit elmhursthistory.org/320/Program.

Answers

PUZZLE 1

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CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

On May 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., a meeting conducted by Villa Park School District 45 will take place at 255 W. Vermont St., Villa Park, IL. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the district's plans for providing special education services to students with disabilities who attend private schools or home schools within the boundaries of District 45 for the 2022-2023 school year. If you are the parent of a home-schooled or privately placed student who has been or may be identified with a disability within the boundaries of School District 45, you are urged to attend. Please RSVP whether you will be attending or not to Linette Miceli at lmiceli@d45.org by May 6, 2022. If you have further questions pertaining to this meeting, please contact Diana Brown at 630-516-7700.

(Published in the Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent, Villa Park Review & the Lombardian April 28, 2022) 416149

P F A R N H D H R R P H N I L C B S N T
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V D I E O M N H G N W E L F A E D L P

Warriors beat Mustangs

Senior Annabelle Romero of the Willowbrook badminton team pictured during last week's West Suburban Gold Conference meet against Downers Grove South. The Warriors defeated the Mustangs 14-1 in Villa Park on April 20. Romero is pictured during the No. 2 doubles match. She teamed with senior Allison Harr to a 21-13, 22-24, 21-14 victory. Romero also provided a 21-15, 2 win in the meet's No. 7 singles match. Willowbrook won all 10 gles matches in the meet and claimed four of five doubles cont Willowbrook's other singles winners included senior Becca L Egan (No. 1), sophomore Lillian Caron (No. 2), senior Amelia Ge (No. 3), Allison Harr (No. 4), freshman Abby Schnitker (No. 5), J Emma Foley (No. 6), senior Kali Becker (No. 8), Junior Adreana (No. 9) and senior Mary Whiting (No. 10). Gesicki teamed with Emma Rattana to earn a victory in the No. 1 doubles match. The of Lopez Egan and Caron won the No. 3 doubles contest. The tan of seniors Claire Harr and Molly Williams battled to a 21-16, 1: 23-21 win in the No. 5 doubles match. The Warriors improved conference dual-meet record to 4-1 with last week's win over Mustangs. The Warriors opened their conference season with a to Hinsdale South. They then earned victories over Leyden, Mo Addison Trail and Downers Grove South. Willowbrook will com in this week's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet.

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Warriors earn thrilling victory over Glenbard East

Manning's late goal helps Willowbrook to a 2-1 win; Aderholt provides 11 saves for the Warriors, who secure their first win over the Rams in recent memory

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls soccer team claimed an exciting victory over a neighborhood rival on Friday night. The Warriors defeated Glenbard East 2-1 in an intense match in Villa Park.

Following a scoreless first half, the visiting Rams took a 1-0 lead about three minutes into the second half on a goal by junior Jasmine Dhamers. Senior Sarah Liljestrand assisted Dhamers's goal.

Willowbrook senior Erin Fitzgibbon delivered the equalizer about five minutes later, scoring an unassisted goal to tie the score at 1-1 with about 32 minutes to play.

It looked like the two teams might be headed for a 1-1 tie, but Willowbrook senior Izzy Manning provided the winning goal when she scored on a lengthy free kick with about 1:30 left in the match.

The Warriors improved their overall season record to 7-4 with their victory over the Rams. Glenbard East's season record dropped to 7-5.

Junior goalkeeper Maddie Aderholt was one of the Warriors' key players in Friday's win.

Aderholt made 11 saves during the match. Several of those saves stopped well-struck shots from the Rams.

Willowbrook's players and coaches savored Friday's win for multiple reasons. For starters, the win came against a nearby rival featuring several of the Warriors' childhood friends and teammates. Many of the current Glenbard East and Willowbrook players have grown up playing together in the Firebirds Soccer Club.

The Warriors also celebrated Friday's win because the Willowbrook girls varsity squad had not beaten Glenbard East in recent memory. The two teams usually compete in a non-conference match each season. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, neither program had a season in 2020. The teams did not play during the 2021 regular season, but they did meet in an IHSA Class 3A regional semifinal at Glenbard East. The Rams beat Willowbrook 4-1 in that contest, which took place in Lombard on June 2, 2021.



Willowbrook coach Julio Del Real noted after Friday's match that the victory marked the program's first win over Glenbard East in his six years at the helm.

"I told the girls earlier this week that I wasn't going to say much about this match, because if you can't get up to play a match like this, then you've got a problem," said Del Real. "These girls [the Warriors and Rams] are rivals, but they also have a tremendous friendship. This wasn't a dirty match; it was hard-fought. There was a lot of hard soccer, so

that was really nice to see. I've got to give Glenbard East a lot of credit. We beat a really good team. They probably had more possession of the ball, but we were able to generate opportunities."

Friday's win also helped the Warriors bounce back from a few recent losses. Three days before facing the Rams, Willowbrook suffered a 5-0 loss at Downers Grove South in a West Suburban Gold Conference match on April 19. That result followed a 3-1 non-conference loss to Dundee-Crown on April 16, and a

5-0 conference loss to Morton on April 14.

Last week's loss to Downers Grove South sent Willowbrook's conference record to 1-2.

"That was the best feeling," said Aderholt after Friday's triumph over the Rams. "We've been in such a slump. I think we really needed the win, and I think we deserved it because we've put in a lot of hard work."

Aderholt stated that she has been playing with the Firebirds Soccer Club for several years, since she was

around 8 years old. She added that she's been a goalkeeper since she was 10 or 11 years old.

"She's a hard worker, and she's got quite a bit of talent," said Del Real of Aderholt. "She brings something to our team that probably very few keepers do; she has the ability to make that great save and get the whole team going. We're very proud of the job she's been doing."

Willowbrook's schedule this week includes non-conference home matches against Fenwick, West Chicago and Ridgewood.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls soccer team defeated Glenbard East 2-1 in Friday's non-conference match in Villa Park. The Warriors and Rams are quite familiar with each other. Many of both teams' players grew up playing together in the Firebirds Soccer Club. Willowbrook and Glenbard East usually square off in a regular-season match each year. The teams did not meet during the 2021 regular season, and neither team played in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Friday's result marked the Warriors' first win over Glenbard East in recent memory. One photo from the match shows Willowbrook junior goalkeeper Maddie Aderholt (below middle - No. 11), who made 11 saves to help her team to the win. Another photo shows (below right - left to right) Willowbrook senior Erin Fitzgibbon (No. 18) and Glenbard East sophomore Hope McKenna (No. 15). Another photo shows (below left - left to right) Willowbrook senior Izzy Manning (No. 24) and Glenbard East junior Jasmine Dhamers (No. 4). Dhamers scored early in the second half to give the Rams a 1-0 lead. Fitzgibbon scored about five minutes later to even the match at 1-1. Manning scored the winning goal on a free kick with about 90 seconds to play. The Warriors improved their overall season record to 7-4 with the win, while Glenbard East's overall record fell to 7-5. The Willowbrook team is pictured above after Friday's victory over the Rams.





This is Villa Park. Recently Trump said and I quote, "I am the most honest human being perhaps that God ever created." This statement doesn't jive well with the *Washington Post* fact-checkers who tallied during from four years as president a total of 30,573 lies for an average over 21 lies per day. This dangerous liar, this mentally unstable egotistical traitor needs to be arrested, and to be imprisoned for the rest of his natural life. Thank you.

Congratulations to the person who said in the April 21 issue regarding Speak Out only being about political: Biden, Trump, Trump, Biden. This is so true. We used to have a very nice Speak Out column where you could talk about things that were happening in the neighborhood, but not anymore. It doesn't even pay to read Speak Out because everyone is political, political, political. I give up.

I can't wait to get that \$50 rebate check from Governor Billionaire. I figure I can use it as a down payment for one of those \$50,000 electric vehicles.

The Joe Biden puppet shows on TV these days is a big let-down from the Howdy Doody time and Muppet shows of yesteryear. They are boring and don't leave you with a feel-good for the future. In the old days you could be happy after being entertained.

It's back: On Saturday, May 14, the Lombard and Villa Park post office carriers will collect food for our local food pantry. It's been two years since the last one, and the need is greater than ever. Why not start now, buy a couple things each week and make this a great collection to help feed our neighbors? "To those who have much, much is expected."

Pritzker amuses me. I'm reading a story online about him signing the largest spending plan in state history, and I noticed one of his remarks. Quote, "Do you remember just five years ago when our state was held hostage by the former governor and the majority of the Republican Party?" That's interesting. I remember how you, governor, have held this state hostage the last two years with your endless authoritarian COVID executive orders that have destroyed businesses, especially restaurants. The state's unemployment rate is still the highest in the Midwest. I remember how you have

held this state hostage with your endless mask mandates, especially with our school age children; even children 2 years old. You've got a lot of nerve, governor.

Illinois is now offering free health care to some adult illegal immigrants after state lawmakers approved the program last year. The program will provide the free health care to undocumented individuals between the ages of 55 and 64. The program expands upon the state's effort to provide health benefits for immigrant seniors. The program will expand again on July 1 to cover eligible adults ages 42 to 54. My wife and I who are U.S. residents, born and raised in Illinois, have to pay in excess of \$1,600 a month for the same coverage. What a great state the Democrats have created here in Illinois. Come to the country illegally and get free health care, but live here your entire life and pay taxes and pay an extraordinary amount for the same healthcare. This is what's wrong with the country today.

Spare me the outrage about the Biden bashing in Speak Out. Where were these people when Trump was frequently accused, in Speak Out, of being a Russian pawn? If you want to see an American president who's propping up Putin and Russia, look at Biden. Biden's far-left policies that are preventing American oil production have driven up the price of oil and enriched Russia. Have you considered that Biden is being criticized because he's doing a terrible job?

I'm a Democrat, but I think the commercial against Richard Irvin is terrible. There is no reason he should be ashamed for defending people, no matter what they did. This country says you are innocent until proven guilty, and even then, someone has to defend accused citizens. Where would we be if there were no lawyers to defend us when we are innocent?

If lawmakers in Washington won't visit the southern border to see the problem of illegals entering the country, bring the border to Washington.

Most people think food deserts are inner-city problem. But upon looking at DuPage County one can see that we still have a food desert problem in several cities. There is no large grocery or chain in the area from downtown Lombard to downtown Glen Ellyn to downtown

Wheaton. There was talk of trying to put a grocery store in downtown Lombard. But instead, they are building more apartments with store businesses on the bottom that likely will remain empty as is much of the case in the past or it will be some physical therapy, health-related business. The food desert problem is a problem for these communities. There should be no reason that people have to drive on Roosevelt Road or North Avenue to do simple grocery shopping, and even on those streets, the choice to shop for food is very limited. We need a discussion about the food desert and bring about more mid-to-small-sized grocery stores that are local and people can access readily and available in the train station area of DuPage County.

This is for the caller who said he or she is getting sick and tired of the bashing of Biden. Excuse me? Hey, look at all the people who were bashing Trump. And it doesn't matter whether I voted for Trump or I voted for Biden because you sound like you're one of these people, "Oh,

don't bash Biden, but it's OK to bash Trump." Excuse me: these two candidates were equally bad. That's all there is to it. If you want to get back to living a normal life, you will vote Mr. Biden out. And if you think that he's cognitive, just take a look. If you can't see it, then you're lost. Get a life.

I am all for keeping Speak Out mostly local, except for some of the goofy questions that people call in to ask. Why not call the village yourself for an answer, and not waste the newspaper staff's, and the village's, time? Instead, use this space to mention a school play, a good deed, a helpful neighbor, etc., to brighten our week.

Hello, this is to the Speak Out caller from Thursday, April 21, who is tired of the Biden bashing and absolutely, thoroughly disgusted by it. You know, what I'm disgusted about? Inflation is 8.5 percent. I'm disgusted with the situation at the southern border where millions, and I repeat millions, are coming across

the border. I'm disgusted with blatant crime that is everywhere every city that we have. I'm disgusted with the Justice Department after regular people trying to sue their mind. I'm disgusted with way this country is going and very scared to where this count going to right now. You should be disgusted by the real issues that people are talking about. These are self-inflicted wounds by this current president.

Bravo to the Florida legislature for passing a bill that prevents classroom instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation in kindergarten through third grade, and to DeSantis for signing it. They got it right. Children this age should be exposed to any discussions all gender identity or sexual orientation. I don't care if it's heterosexual, LGBTQ, or whatever. Let this age be kids, for God's sake, leave it to the media for being the usual irresponsible selves and call this a "don't say gay" bill. This says nothing of the sort.

Warriors deliver three straight wins over Leyden Willowbrook wraps up a 4-0 week with Saturday's non-conference win at Hinsdale Central

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook baseball team completed a successful week with Saturday's 9-6 non-conference victory at Hinsdale Central.

The Warriors improved their overall season record to 12-3 with

their win over the Red Devils. Willowbrook swept a three-game West Suburban Gold Conference series against Leyden during the week to move its conference record to 7-2.

The Warriors began their three-game conference series against

Leyden with a 16-1 victory April 18. One day later, Willowbrook beat the Eagles 16-0. The Warriors completed the sweep with a 7-0 win on April 21.

Senior Bennett Fleming connected for four hits in Willowbrook's first game of its series against Leyden. Senior Max Vaisvila pitched the complete game in the series opener. Vaisvila allowed two hits in five innings. He recorded 13 strikeouts.

Junior Alex Chaitin homered in the second game of Willowbrook's series against the Eagles. Senior David Wright contributed three hits, two stolen bases and three runs batted in. Junior Jose Braden supplied two hits and two RBIs. Senior Jacob Skinner pitched a complete game for the Warriors. He struck out six batters in four innings.

Sophomore Dayne Meyer earned the victory in the third game of the Warriors' series against Leyden. Meyer allowed just one hit in six innings on the mound. He had five strikeouts.

Wright, senior Jacob Kutella and junior Colin Slivka provided two hits each for Willowbrook in the series finale against the Eagles.

Junior Aidan Pieniazek of the Warriors pitched the first four innings of Saturday's game at Hinsdale Central.

Pieniazek allowed one earned run and three hits. Fleming connected for two hits and drove four runs. His bases-loaded trip in the third inning drove in three runs to give the Warriors a 4-1 lead.

Chaitin provided two hits in Saturday's victory over the Red Devils. He also pitched two scoreless innings.

Willowbrook's schedule this week includes a three-game conference series against Addison Trail along with this Saturday's non-conference home game against York.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Willowbrook baseball team completed a winning week with Saturday's 9-6 non-conference win at Hinsdale Central. The Warriors moved to 12-3 overall with their victory over the Red Devils. Willowbrook swept a three-game West Suburban Gold Conference series against Leyden during the week. The Warriors improved their conference mark to 7-2 with their three wins over the Eagles. One photo (above left) from Saturday's win at Hinsdale Central shows junior Aidan Pieniazek firing a pitch. Pieniazek pitched the first four innings for the Warriors. He allowed three hits and one earned run. Pieniazek recorded three strikeouts. Another photo (above right) shows senior Bennett Fleming, who went 2-for-2 with four runs batted in. Fleming drove in three runs when he hit a bases-loaded triple in the top of the third inning. That hit gave the Warriors a 4-1 lead. Fleming drove in one more run when he lashed another triple in the fifth inning.