

Mariners recognize outgoing senior swimmers

All five of the longtime Mariners are members of Willowbrook High School's Class of 2022

STAFF REPORT

The Villa Park Mariners honored their five senior swimmers before last week's home meet against Woodridge.

All five of the outgoing Mariners graduated from Willowbrook High School in May.

The Mariners' outgoing swimmers include Regina Brisbois, who spent seven years with the program. Brisbois is the valedictorian of Willowbrook's Class of 2022. She will attend Augustana College, where she will

major in biology with plans to follow a pre-med course. She intends to become a surgeon.

Avery Magierski, who spent 10 years with the Mariners, is another of the program's outgoing swimmers. Magierski will attend the University of North Carolina Wilmington, where she will study forensic psychology.

Saverio D'Alessandro is closing out 13 years as a member of the Mariners. D'Alessandro has enlisted in the United States Air Force for the next six years. He heads off to boot camp

on Aug. 2.

Scotty Fitzgerald, who has been a member of the Mariners for nine years, is preparing to compete in another sport. His goal is to become a Formula 1 racecar driver. He is currently training for Lucas Oil Formula Car Race Series events in the fall.

This year's quintet of outgoing Mariners also includes Zach Fox, who has spent 12 years with the program. Fox will attend College of DuPage and will eventually transfer to Northern Illinois University.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The Villa Park Mariners faced the Woodridge Sea Lions in last week's meet at Jefferson Pool. The visiting Sea Lions defeated the Mariners in the team standings of the July 6 event to send Villa Park's season record to 3-3. One photo from the meet shows Villa Park's Naomi Aldana, who won three individual events in the 13-14 girls division. She is pictured during her victory in the 100-meter individual medley. The Mariners will complete their regular season with this week's home meet against the Lombard Waves. Some Villa Park swimmers will finish the 2022 season at this Saturday's DuPage Swim and Dive Conference Blue Division 'B' Meet in Hanover Park. Other Mariners will close out the season by swimming in the Blue Division 'A' Meet in Glendale Heights on July 23.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Senior standouts

The Willowbrook High School Athletic Booster Club held its Senior Athletic Banquet near the end of the 2021-22 school year. The senior members of all of the Warriors' athletic teams from throughout the school year received certificates during the event. One photo from the banquet's awards ceremony shows the senior members of Willowbrook's girls cross-country team—Madeline Barrington and Lily Weder. Pictured left to right are assistant coach Janet Ramirez-Franco, Barrington, Weder and head coach Clyde Ware. Weder was named to the West Suburban Gold Conference's All-Conference team. She was also the Warriors' team captain and MVP (most valuable player) during the 2021 fall season. Barrington and Weder both earned academic all-conference honors.

Mariners close in on end of their 2022 season

STAFF REPORT

The Villa Park Mariners faced the Woodridge Sea Lions in last week's DuPage Swim and Dive Conference dual meet at Jefferson Pool. The Sea Lions defeated the Mariners 406-237 in the team standings of the July 6 contest. Villa Park's overall season record stood at 3-3 after the loss.

The Mariners will finish their regular season with this week's home meet against the Lombard Waves.

Villa Park's individual champions in last week's meet against Woodridge included Naomi Aldana, who won three events in the 13-14 girls level. She earned her victories in the 100-meter individual medley (which she won in 1 minute, 18.76 seconds), the 50-meter butterfly (which she completed in a first-place time of 32.83 seconds) and the 50-meter breaststroke (43.37).

Ryan Mueller provided the Mariners with two individual wins in the meet against the Sea Lions. Swimming in the 9-10 boys division, he won the 100-meter individual medley (1:56.09) and the 50-meter butterfly (1:03.60).

Lydia Aldana delivered a pair of individual wins for Villa Park in last week's meet. She won the 100-meter individual medley (1:46.07) and the 50-meter breaststroke (53.07) in the 9-10 girls level.

The Mariners' female swimmers who won one individual event against Woodridge included: Ruth Aldana (8-and-under girls; 25-meter freestyle-22.75), Ariana Knudtson (8-and-under girls; 25-meter butterfly-33.58), Maddie Lynch (8-and-under girls; 25-meter breaststroke-32.04), Phoebe Aldana (11-12 girls; 100-meter individual medley-1:31.97), Lily Chivilo (13-14 girls; 50-meter backstroke-46.94) and Grace Roscoe (15-18 girls; 50-meter breaststroke-43.49).

Villa Park's male swimmers who won one individual event against the Sea Lions included: Kyle King (8-and-under boys; 25-meter backstroke-39.54), Caleb Vaughan (9-10 boys; 50-meter breaststroke-1:00.80), Jurgen Carrola (13-14 boys; 50-meter

backstroke-45.28) and Scotty Fitzgerald (15-18 boys; 50-meter freestyle-28.64).

The Mariners' 15-18 boys foursome of James Burns, Sam D'Alessandro, Scotty Fitzgerald and Benjamin Dean won a pair of relay events in the July 6 meet against Woodridge. The four Villa Park swimmers won the 200-meter medley relay in 2:16.97. They delivered another first-place finish in the 200-meter freestyle relay, which they completed in 1:59.49.

Villa Park's 8-and-under girls foursome of Leighton Stempel, Maddie Lynch, Ariana Knudtson and Ruth Aldana won the 8-and-under girls level's 100-meter freestyle relay in last week's meet against the Sea Lions. The four Mariners finished the relay in a winning time of 1:41.10.

Cillian Connolly, Ryan Mueller, Caleb Vaughan and Liam Grobe won the 9-10 boys division's 200-meter medley relay against Woodridge. The four Mariners completed the relay in 4:10.76.

Ryan Mueller moved up an age level to join Ryan King, Sean Daly and Jon Lynch on the Mariners' victorious foursome in the 11-12 boys division's 200-meter freestyle relay. The four Villa Park boys finished that relay in a winning time of 2:59.73.

Allison Smaczny, Maisie Thompson, Hannah Daly and Naomi Aldana formed a winning team for the Mariners in the 13-14 girls level's 200-meter freestyle relay. The four girls finished the event in a first-place time of 2:20.87.

Some of Villa Park's swimmers will finish the 2022 season by competing in this Saturday's DuPage Swim and Dive Conference Blue Division 'B' Meet in Hanover Park. Some other Mariners will close out the season by taking part in the conference's Blue Division 'A' Meet in Glendale Heights on July 23.

The Mariners will compete against swimmers from three other teams (Glendale Heights, Hanover Park and Wood Dale/Addison) at the Blue Division 'B' and 'A' meets.

Scholarship recipient

Tess Placek, who graduated from Willowbrook High School in May, has been named a recipient of the National Merit University of Oklahoma Scholarship.



College-sponsored Merit Scholarship winners were selected from among the finalists of the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. While at Willowbrook, Placek completed nine Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses, along with several honors courses. She was named to Willowbrook's Distinction Honor Roll during each semester of her time in high school. She was recognized as an Illinois State Scholar and was an inductee of multiple honor societies, including the National Honor Society. Additionally, Placek is distinguished artist who earned recognition at Willowbrook and local art shows. She was also a member of Willowbrook's band, and was a standout member of the school's girls gymnastics team. She is pictured during her floor exercises routine while competing for the Warriors at the 2022 IHSA Glenbard West Sectional in February. Placek plans to attend the University of Oklahoma, where she will major in biology with a concentration on research.



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988 Suicide Prevention Lifeline now available

Gov. JB Pritzker has announced that the Illinois Department of Human Services' (IDHS) Division of Mental Health, in coordination with the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is expanding Illinois' mental health safety net by rolling out 988—a new, nationwide suicide prevention and mental health crisis line.

The code is now available. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which has existed since 2005, is now available nationwide.

via a three-digit dialing code—988—making it easier for those in crisis to get the help they need.

Converting to this easy-to-remember number offers the public increased access to potentially lifesaving, trained crisis counselors.

State and federal funding have made it possible to increase staffing at Illinois' six existing 988 call centers to ensure that calls are answered in-state.

"Thanks to the many incredible counselors answering the call to serve those in crisis, the expanded 988

Lifeline number will help save many lives," said Pritzker. "To any Illinois resident who might be struggling, know that you are not alone. We are here to support you. You can receive help by dialing or texting 988."

The 988 call and text line is a crucial first step toward ensuring SAMSHA's three-part aspiration for our country: that over time, all Americans experiencing mental health crises have *someone to call, someone to respond, and somewhere to go*. The new code is a first step toward transforming crisis care in America, a

universal entry point to needed crisis services in line with access to other emergency medical services.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death for young adults ages 15-34 in Illinois and fourth leading cause of death for those ages 35-44. Overall, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the state.

"This is good government doing the right thing for our citizens," State Rep. Deb Conroy (D-Villa Park). "988 is an important step for Illinois to improve the accessibility of mental health help for the people of Illinois."



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

District 88 Board recognizes Willowbrook's Science Olympiad team

The District 88 Board of Education honored several district students during the June 20 board meeting. The students were recognized for their state-level and national-level achievements during the spring season of the 2021-22 school year. The honored students included members of Willowbrook High School's Science Olympiad team. The team competed in the Illinois Science Olympiad State Tournament in April. Two members of the team—Neeraja Kumar (left) and Ryan Riley (right) are pictured at the board meeting. Kumar and Riley are both members of Willowbrook's Class of 2023. Illinois Science Olympiad is a non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by students and teachers.

St. Paul Lutheran Church plans community celebrations

St. Paul Lutheran Church, located at 545 S. Ardmore Ave., Villa Park, invites the surrounding community to join in celebrating completion of its major renovation.

The celebration begins with three open houses, which will include tours. The first open house will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 3, at 7 p.m. The second open house will begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6, while the third open house will start at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 7.

The celebration continues with a fiesta that kicks off homecoming weekend at the church. The fiesta, which starts at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10, will feature tacos and fellowship.

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, St. Paul Lutheran Church has been rooted in its Villa Park neighborhood for over 80 years. Renovations began in April 2021 and have made the church campus more welcoming and accessible. Improvements include an eleva-

tor, new restrooms, more parking, an additional entrance and more flexible spaces. These changes will support the church's ongoing work in the community, including St. Paul Christian Day Care and the Hands and Feet Outreach, which provides basic household necessities, personal care items and baby items to DuPage County residents.

For more information about St. Paul Lutheran Church, its faith community, and its work in the wider community, visit its website at stpaulvp.org.

Knights of Columbus family barbecue this Saturday

The Villa Park Knights of Columbus will be hosting a family-oriented barbecue from noon-6 p.m. Saturday, July 23, at St. Alexander Church, 300 S. Cornell, Villa Park.

The barbecue includes a raffle and family friendly activities to benefit local scout troops.

Food items available will be

smoked brisket, pulled pork, burgers, hot dogs, roasted corn on the cob, baked beans, cole slaw and chips.

The price for a hand-smoked beef brisket or pulled pork combo meal is \$10; \$7 for a burger combo; \$5 for a hot dog combo.

The raffle includes raffling off prizes that includes a portable gas

Weber grill, Yeti cooler, sports tickets and more.

There also will be music and games.

Admission is free; proceeds benefit Scout Troops 199 and the Knights of Columbus.

For more information, go to Facebook and visit: @VillaParkKnights.

Obituaries

DAVID WEILAND, 71

David Weiland, age 71, was born in LaCrosse, Wis., on Jan. 2, 1951. He graduated from Aquinas High School in LaCrosse, Wis., in 1969 and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1973. He then moved to the Chicago area in 1974 to start his career in engineering.

Early in his first job he met his soul-mate, Carol Schrader, and they married in May 1977. He started as an engineer and continued to advance his career with increasing responsibilities, culminating in achieving the Electrical Department Manager role. After 10 years in that position, he stepped down from the manager role to do what he really loved, engineering.

He was blessed throughout his life with loving parents, siblings who both cared and inspired, a wife whose love and belief made life meaningful and joyous, and the two children who filled him with pride and humility. Given a lifetime filled with blessings, he tried to give back in a small way by mentoring young engineers, coaching various sports for kids, tutoring math for adults studying for their GED and volunteering at Habitat for Humanity to help deserving people obtain a house and home.

Beloved husband of Carol Weiland, nee Schrader; loving father of Michelle Weiland and Stephen Weiland; fond brother of Marie (the late Kent) Thurston, the late Richard (Mary Jane) Weiland, the late Lori Patros, and the late Sue Welch; uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Memorial Gathering, Thursday, July 21, from 3-8 p.m. Prayer service at 5 p.m. Memorials to Restore, Addison are appreciated. Funeral info: knollcrest.net or 630-932-1500.

BETTE WEIR, 97

Bette Weir, nee McIntyre, age 97, of Villa Park, Illinois. Beloved wife of the late Jerome Weir; loving mother of James, Tom, Mari, and loving mother-in-law to Judy; devoted grandmother of Jerome (Julie Ann); great-grandmother of Karley and Kendall; and friend to many of all ages.

Bette was a devoted parishioner of St. A's since 1950 and worked for the Villa Park Public Library for 26 years.

Services were held Tuesday July 19. Interment was private. Funeral info: steuerleh.com or 630-832-4161.



Mariners conclude regular season with a battle against Lombard

Waves edge Villa Park in the overall standings; Mariners will finish their season at this Saturday's Blue Division 'A' Meet

STAFF REPORT

The Villa Park Mariners finished their 2022 regular season with last week's home meet against the Lombard Waves.

The visiting Waves outscored Villa Park 363-295 in the July 13 meet at Jefferson Pool. The Mariners won 27 of the meet's 58 individual events in their competitive contest against Lombard. Villa Park swimmers prevailed in nine of the meet's 20 relay races.

The Mariners finished their regular season with a record of 3-4.

Villa Park's individual champions in last week's meet against the Waves included Naomi Aldana, who won three events in the 13-14 girls level. She earned her victories in the 100-meter individual medley (which she completed in 1 minute, 18.39 seconds), the 50-meter butterfly (which she finished in 33.07 seconds) and the 50-meter breaststroke (41.01).

Lydia Aldana also won three individual events for the Mariners in last week's meet against the Waves. Swimming in the 9-10 girls division, she delivered wins in the 100-meter individual medley (1:47.33), the 50-meter butterfly (52.80) and the 50-meter breaststroke (56.72).

The Villa Park swimmers who won two individual events in the meet against Lombard included Kyle

King, who won a pair of races in the 8-and-under boys level. He swam to first-place finishes in the 25-meter freestyle (30.27) and the 25-meter breaststroke (38.92).

Ruth Aldana of the Mariners swam to two wins in the 8-and-under girls level of last week's meet. She won the 25-meter freestyle (23.52) and the 50-meter freestyle (51.80).

Elin Stempel of Villa Park provided a pair of wins in the 9-10 girls division during the July 13 meet against the Waves. She won the 100-meter freestyle (1:41.04) and the 50-meter backstroke (51.61).

Ryan Mueller of the Mariners won the 9-10 boys level's 100-meter individual medley (2:00.55) and 50-meter butterfly (1:08.32) during last week's meet against Lombard.

Villa Park's Phoebe Aldana swam to two wins in the 11-12 girls level of the meet against the Waves. She earned her victories in the 100-meter individual medley (1:31.46) and the 50-meter butterfly (41.07).

Maisie Thompson of the Mariners earned two individual victories against Lombard. Competing in the 13-14 girls division, she won the 50-meter freestyle (34.51) and the 50-meter backstroke (41.09).

Jan Mueller posted a pair of first-place finishes for the Mariners in their

regular-season finale against Lombard. He won the 100-meter individual medley (1:29.16) and the 50-meter breaststroke (43.98) in the 13-14 boys level.

Villa Park's other individual champions in the July 13 meet against the Waves included: Leighton Stempel (8-and-under girls; 25-meter backstroke-29.52), Mary Turner (15-18 girls; 100-meter individual medley-1:34.51), Grace Roscoe (15-18 girls; 50-meter breaststroke-43.31), Cillian Connolly (9-10 boys; 50-meter backstroke-1:07.11), Ryan King (11-

12 boys; 100-meter individual medley-1:58.51), Jurgen Carrola (13-14 boys; 50-meter backstroke-45.95) and Alexander Dean (15-18 boys; 50-meter backstroke-36.38).

The Mariners' 9-10 girls foursome of Elin Stempel, Lydia Aldana, Ary Carrola and Colleen Pienkos won a pair of relay races against Lombard. The four Villa Park swimmers won the 200-meter medley relay (3:26.76) and the 200-meter freestyle relay (3:05.35).

Villa Park's 9-10 boys foursome of Cillian Connolly, Caleb Vaughan, Ryan

Mueller and Everett Veia also swam to two relay wins against the Waves. The four boys won the 200-meter medley relay (4:14.18) and the 200-meter freestyle relay (3:36.82).

The Mariners' 8-and-under girls foursome of Leighton Stempel, Caitlin McQuillan, Ariana Knudson and Ruth Aldana won the 100-meter medley relay (1:57.83).

Villa Park's 11-12 girls quartet of Sophia Maffia, Lauren Chivilo, Phoebe Aldana and Soleil Capulong won the 200-meter medley relay (3:13.16).

Ryan King, Sean Daly, Nolan Raczkowski and Andrew Urton formed the Mariners' winning team in the 11-12 boys level's 200-meter medley relay (3:58.75).

Jurgen Carrola, Ian Mueller, Nick Van Dyke and Aiden Aristak teamed up to provide the Mariners with a win in the 13-14 boys division's 200-meter medley relay (3:02.00).

The Mariners' 15-18 boys foursome of Alexander Dean, Scotty Fitzgerald, James Burns and Benjamin Dean won the 200-meter medley relay (2:19.75).

Villa Park swimmers won seven of the eight individual medley races during last week's meet against the Waves. The Mariners prevailed in seven of the meet's 10 medley relays.

Some Villa Park swimmers concluded the 2022 season by competing in Saturday's DuPage Swim and Dive Conference Blue Division 'B' Meet in Hanover Park. Other Mariners will finish the season by swimming in this Saturday's Blue Division 'A' Meet in Glendale Heights.

The Mariners will battle swimmers from three other teams (Glendale Heights, Hanover Park and Wood Dale/Addison) in this Saturday's season finale.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Villa Park Mariners wrapped up their regular season with last week's meet against the Lombard Waves at Jefferson Pool. The visiting Waves outscored the Mariners 363-295 in the team results. The Villa Park swimmers who won multiple individual events in the July 13 meet against Lombard included Lydia Aldana (bottom left), who won three events in the 9-10 girls level. She is pictured during her victory in the 100-meter individual medley. Another photo shows Ryan Mueller (left) of the Mariners, who claimed two wins in the 9-10 boys division. He's pictured during his first-place performance in the 100-meter individual medley. One more photo shows Villa Park's Elin Stempel (above), who won two individual events against Lombard. She is pictured during her winning effort in the 9-10 girls level's 100-meter freestyle. Some Mariners finished the 2022 season by competing in Saturday's DuPage Swim and Dive Conference Blue Division 'B' Meet in Hanover Park. Other Villa Park swimmers will conclude the season by participating in this Saturday's Blue Division 'A' meet in Glendale Heights.



Willowbrook baseball standout recognized

Max Valsvila, who led Willowbrook High School's baseball team to the West Suburban Gold Conference championship during the 2022 spring season, recently received all-state recognition from the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association (IHSBCA). Valsvila, who is a member of Willowbrook's Class of 2022, was named to the IHSBCA Class 4A All-State Team. He was recognized at the District 88 Board of Education's June 20 meeting. Valsvila (left) is pictured at the meeting with Willowbrook head baseball coach Vic Wisner (right). A left-handed pitcher, Valsvila posted a 9-0 record during the Warriors' 2022 season. He struck out 95 batters in 47 innings while posting an earned-run average of 1.19. Valsvila helped Willowbrook to an overall record of 25-5 during his senior season. The Warriors posted a 15-3 record in West Suburban Gold Conference play to win sole possession of the conference title. Valsvila, who earned academic all-conference honors during the recent season, will continue his baseball and academic careers at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. "He challenges himself in the classroom," said Wisner of Valsvila during last month's board meeting. "He's an amazing, amazing baseball player." Valsvila plans to study business and real estate at Loras College.



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