Villa Park REVIEW

also serving OAKBROOK TERRACE

VOL. 18 • NO. 48 WWW.THEINDEPENDENTNEWSPAPERS.COM THURSDAY, NOV. 17, 2022





CHRIS FOX PHOTO *Villa Park Review*

INSIDE:

Police Reports.....6 Puzzles.....11
Viewpoint..... Classifieds.....13

Veterans Day in Villa Park

Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 held its annual Veterans Day service on Friday. Several residents and city employees from neighboring Oakbrook Terrace joined their Villa Park counterparts in attending the service, which honored veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Willowbrook High School's choir performed three songs at Friday's ceremony. The students sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the beginning of the ceremony. They also sang "America the Beautiful." Members of the choir are pictured while singing "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" near the end of the service. See more photos on page 4.

MADISON IL 60101-2787
2 FRIENDSHIP PLZ
DUPAGE HS DISTRICT 88
085152-09282023 C033
BAK



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTOS *Rock Valley Publishing*

Warriors commit to play baseball at the next level



Several members of the Willowbrook baseball team recently announced their commitments to continue their academic and athletic careers. One of the Warriors to disclose his future plans was senior Isaac Sobieszczyk (No. 9 - above), who announced he would attend Bradley University in Peoria and play for the Braves' baseball team. Senior Alex Chaltin (No. 5 - right) was another member of the Willowbrook baseball program who recently announced his collegiate plans. Chaltin will attend Triton College in River Grove, where he will play for the Trojans' baseball team. .

Morgan competes at state meet



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

Willowbrook sophomore Audrey Morgan swam in two events at the IHSA girls state swimming and diving meet, which took place on Friday and Saturday at the FMC Natatorium in Westmont. Morgan, who is a member of the Willowbrook/Addison Trail girls co-op team, qualified for the state meet by swimming to victories in a pair of events (the 200-yard freestyle and the 500-yard freestyle) at the Elk Grove Sectional on Nov. 5. Morgan swam in Friday's preliminaries at the state meet. She did not advance to Saturday's finals. The top 12 swimmers in each event of Friday's preliminaries moved on to Saturday's action. Morgan completed the 200-yard freestyle race in just over 2 minutes (2:00.18) during Friday's preliminaries to place 21st among the state meet's contestants in that event. Morgan delivered a finishing time of 5 minutes, 19.06 seconds in the preliminaries of the 500-yard freestyle, placing 23rd of all the meet's swimmers in that race.



JOE PEARSON PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

Warriors win regional title in Ohio; will play in Las Vegas in 2023

Willowbrook High School's girls flag football program continued its spectacular inaugural season by participating in the NFL FLAG Regional Tournament on Sunday in Canton, Ohio. Willowbrook, which won the title at the Girls Flag Football State Championship at the Chicago Bears' facility at Halas Hall in Lake Forest on Oct. 29, brought two teams (Black and Blue) to Canton—the home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The Warriors' Black team won five straight games in Canton on Sunday to claim the regional title. Willowbrook's Black team finished its perfect 5-0 run in Canton with a 26-0 victory over a squad from Rockford. With its win at the regional, the Warriors' Black team earned a berth in the Girls Division of the NFL FLAG Championships, which will be played in Henderson, Nevada—near Las Vegas—in February 2023. The NFL's Pro Bowl Games, which will also feature flag football action, will take place in Las Vegas that same weekend. Willowbrook's championship Black team, pictured left to right in Canton on Sunday, includes (front row) senior Rimon Kari, senior Olivia Brach, senior Kennedy Vannoy, senior Sarah Ball and senior Roslyn Sanchez; (back row) Coach Rachel Karos, junior Jaydah Smith, junior Emma Anderlik, senior Kayleigh Dennison, freshman Marli Smrz, senior Emily Pearson and Coach Nick Hildreth.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

A strong start for the Warriors

Willowbrook High School's dance team began its 2022-23 competitive season by earning second-place honors in its division at Sunday's Andrew High School Competitive Dance Invitational in Tinley Park. Pictured left to right are: (front row) junior Lena Wachholz, junior Tabitha Bernardi, sophomore Kelly Kramme and freshman Cecilia Oddo; (back row) sophomore Gianna Giampaoli, freshman Ava Jovanovich, freshman Maddy McElin and junior Kira Gamble. Not pictured is senior Gianna Wiegel. The Warriors finished their 2021-22 season by earning a ninth-place finish in the 2A division of the IHSA state meet in Bloomington in January.



This is Villa Park. I noticed an item in the police report dated Oct. 28 about unknown suspects entering multiple vehicles overnight and removing items. If the vehicles were locked, and these people had the means to get into them, that's one thing. If the vehicles were left unlocked, the question I have is this: how difficult is it to lock your car? If you don't lock it, you make it easy for thieves to go inside and help themselves. If I left my car unlocked and noticed things missing the next day, guess what? That's on me.

* * *

I'd like to know how my fellow residents here in Villa Park feel about the Safe-T Act; cashless bail, criminals committing crimes and getting out that same day if not the next day to commit more.

* * *

It's amazing that the policies of "climate change" radicals like Biden could lead to people freezing to death this winter, all in the name of saving the planet. Biden and his administration are presiding over completely unnecessary shortages of oil and natural gas.

* * *

I guess it was better to vote for the devil you know than the devil you don't know; better to stick with the Democrats than take a chance on the Republican challengers. As a Republican, being associated with the party of Trump has become toxic, even though I detest the man. I also think some of the Republican candidates, especially Darren Bailey, were just too radically right, yet he was positioned just as JB Pritzker apparently orchestrated it, to be the opponent. I agree with JB on one thing he said during his victory speech: "We need to do it [vote against extremist Republicans] at the ballot box." Former Gov. Jim Edgar commented that a more moderate Republican candidate may have had a fighting chance. Democrats were far more on the attack with their ads and commercials and made abortion the spotlight issue, instead of focusing on the economy. DuPage County has turned from red to purple to blue.

* * *

Now that JB has won again, let's see how long it takes for him to raise the gas tax again, and any other taxes and fees at his whim, since I foresee he will say he has to make up for all the gas tax revenues he lost—so we saved now, but will pay later. And not just him, but the state legislators who go along (to get along?) and vote in favor of tax increases. You are now comfortably elected, but are still beholden to the people who elected you, and even those who didn't. So, stop it in its tracks and work on keeping taxes down, not re-imposing them.

* * *

China is buying up farms and farmland. He who owns the land controls your food in the future. If you let someone make your bed, they control your sleep.

* * *

The Oct. 27 Speak Out column had two criticisms of fact checking resources. My suggestion of the sites was made in a sincere effort to help people check the veracity of what they read or hear. What is there for Politifact or any other of the sites listed to check about Joe Biden saying his son died in Iraq? He said it. That is a fact. Why he said it is not the remit of any fact checking body. The person writing criticisms about these sites appears to not really have looked at them. Politifact (and others) fact-check facts, not political parties. Regarding my "amusing" suggestion to check facts, I wonder if that person read Politifact's article about the Mr. DeSantis/Hurricane Ian remarks? It clearly explains why a rating of "Mostly False" was given to Mr. DeSantis' statements. I would have welcomed suggestions of fact checking resources you find more helpful. I don't know when facts became a symbol of something other than what they are. If something can irrefutably be shown to be a fact, it is a fact. Facts do not have political ambitions or positions.

* * *

Wow, the people have spoken. My personal opinion is they should have their heads examined. But let's wait for you to get carjacked or your favorite mom and pop place to close down before you have election remorse. You have voted to bring Cook County politics to DuPage County. You have voted to bring state corruption into DuPage County. Good luck with that.

* * *

Way to go, Illinois. Let's keep voting for high inflation, high crime and perpetual "emergency" declarations. And has anyone else noticed how DuPage County has deteriorated since it's become more Democratic? It's quite obvious to those of us who have lived here for many years.

* * *

The illegal immigrants that end up in New York City are treated like kings and queens. They go to hotels or to a tent city, where they are given three meals, laundry service, TV and video games. American homeless and veterans are subject to a cold sidewalk and hunger.

* * *

The Democrats need to need to own what they support. It's about time we take the southern border to the NIMBYS (not in my backyard) in Washington and Martha's Vineyard. This administration doesn't have the transparency that the last had, and doesn't seem to solve problems.

Obituary

JAMES TELLONE, 85

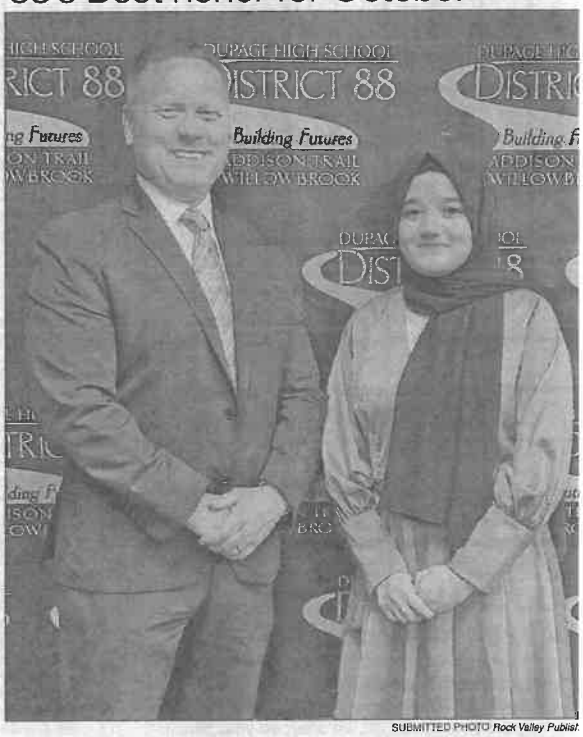
James Tellone, age 85, of Villa Park. Beloved husband of Margaret Tellone, nee Czajkowski; loving father of Julie (Andy) Willson , Claire (Dennis) Davis, Carol (Jeff) West, James Jr. (Lorre) Tellone, Suzanne (Mike) Langer, John Tellone, Nicole (Chris) Marshall, and Christopher Soraparu; dear son of the late Frances, nee Genovise, and the late John Tellone; devoted grandfather of 31; great-grandfather of 23; great great-grandfather of 3; fond brother of Marilyn (Ralph) Henschel and Michael (Debra) Tellone; uncle of several nieces and nephews; godfather to over 40, and loyal friend to so many.

Since he was a little boy in Chicago, Jimmy's life was full of adventure; traveling to Florida or Tennessee to spend the summers with family or friends. When he was old enough, he enlisted in the Illinois National Guard and was assigned to an MP unit for three years. He then became an apprentice plasterer, and in 1959, his dream of being a Police Officer was fulfilled when he was hired as a Deputy Sheriff for the DuPage County Sheriff's Office, where he would spend the next 39 years. Jimmy started as a Patrolman, and advanced to Detective Warrants Div., Detective Sergeant Violent Crimes/Narcotics Div., and Lieutenant/Watc Commander Patrol Division.

He was a member of the Anti-Sniper Team, and instrumental in forming the new Explosives and Hazardous Device Unit, as their Supervisor and Bor Technician. During his career, Jimmy experienced t many excitements, joys, long nights, and tragedies that came with the job. His dedication to the people in his personal and professional life will never be forgotten; and his love, kindness and generosity will remembered by all those who knew him.

Visitation is Friday, Nov. 18, 2022, from 3:00 PM 8:00 PM at Steuerle Chapel, 350 S. Ardmore Ave Vi Park, Illinois. Funeral Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022, 11:0 AM from the funeral home to St. Alexander Catholi Church, 300 S. Cornell Ave, Villa Park, IL 60181. M 12:15 PM. Interment Private. Funeral info: steuerlef com or (630) 832-4161.

Ruzaina Syeda receives 88's Best honor for October



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publist

Willowbrook High School senior Ruzaina Syeda was named her school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of October. Syeda was recognized during the District 88 Board of Education's Oct. 31 meeting. She is pictured (right) at the meeting with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause. The 88's Best honor recognizes students for their achievements in and out of the classroom. Syeda is an academic standout in Willowbrook's Class of 2023. When she graduates next year, she will have completed 12 Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses. Syeda is an Advanced Placement Scholar and an Illinois State Scholar. She's been named to Willowbrook's Distinction Honor Roll during each semester of her high school career. Syeda is an inductee of the National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society, the Math Honor Society, the World Language Honor Society and Willowbrook's social studies honor society—Civitas. Syeda is active in numerous extracurricular activities at Willowbrook. She's a founding member of MEDline—a club for students interested in a career in the medical field. She's also the treasurer of Willowbrook's Muslim Student Association, a publicist for the school's Environmental Club and a writer for the student newspaper—Skyline. Additionally, Syeda is a member of the school's Student Council, as well as its Best Buddies, Econ Challenge and Mock Trial programs. She is also a New Beginnings leader at Willowbrook; the New Beginnings progran assists freshmen with the transition to high school. Syeda plans to pursue a career in medicine.

FREE
TAKE ONE

Addison INDEPENDENT

VOL. 19 • NO. 48 WWW.THEINDEPENDENTNEWSPAPERS.COM THURSDAY, NOV. 17, 2022



Elmhurst postal carrier charged with stealing checks from those on mail route

Suspect allegedly pocketed 130 checks worth $60,000

On Wednesday, Nov. 9, DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Elmhurst Chief of Police Michael McLean announced that a postal carrier had been charged with Identity Theft for allegedly stealing more than 100 checks intended for others from his mail route.

Keevon Dockery, 22, of Chicago, appeared in bond court where Judge Ann Celine O'Hallaren Walsh set bond at $100,000 with 10% to apply. Dockery has been charged with five counts of Identity Theft and one count of Aggravated Identity Theft. All charges are Class 2 felonies.

On Thursday, Oct. 20, an Elmhurst police officer was dispatched to a local business for a report of check fraud involving five checks sent by the business to clients that were fraudulently deposited. An investigation into the matter led to Dockery as a suspect. On Monday, Nov. 7, while conducting surveillance, authorities allegedly observed Dockery's mail truck leave its route and park near a wooded area. It is alleged that Dockery left the mail truck and walked into the wooded area where he left three mail bins of undelivered United States mail. Authorities continued surveillance and detained Dockery as he was returning to his personal vehicle following his shift. It is alleged that when authorities detained Dockery, he was in possession of thirteen checks totaling approximately $20,000 intended for businesses and residents on his mail route. Further investigation into the matter found that Dockery had allegedly stolen 117 checks totaling approximately $40,000 from businesses and residents on his route.


Keevon Dockery

"It is alleged that Mr. Dockery betrayed the public's trust and stole mail from postal customers," Berlin said. "I want to stress

See CARRIER, Page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Addison Independent*

INSIDE:

Police Reports.....6 Puzzles.....11
Viewpoint..... Classifieds.....13

'School To Work' students visit moving company

On Thursday, Nov. 3, 12 Addison Trail students in Stacey Puccini's School To Work class participated in a career-exploration field trip to Midway Moving & Storage in Chicago. During their visit, students met with president and CEO Jerry Siegel, warehouse manager Norberto Ramos and office manager Stephanie Fordbey.

THE INDEPENDENT
Your Hometown Newspaper
240 N. West Avenue
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Main Phone 630.834-8244
Fax 630.834-0900

The Independent is published every Thursday by Rock Valley Publishing, LLC, 240 N. West Avenue, Elmhurst, IL. 60126.

Display Advertising:
630.834-8355
Classified Advertising:
630.834-8244
News:
630.834-8244
General Information:
630.834-8244

E-mail:
Advertising Department:
ads1@rvpublishing.com
News Department:
Independent@rvpublishing.com
Classified Department:
Classifieds@rvpublishing.com

Administration:
Dee Longfellow
News Coordinator

Debra Hamilton
Advertising Director

Pete Cruger
Publisher

Advertising:
Brenda Garcia

Subscriptions:
The Independent is mailed to the 60101, 60106 and 60181 zip code areas for $15.95 yearly. Out-of-area mail subscriptions are $29.95 yearly. For home delivery information call 630.834-8244.

Reprints:
Content appearing in the Independent may not be reprinted without permission of the publisher or editor.
Requests should be directed to Independent@rvpublishing.com or 630.834-8244.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to:
THE INDEPENDENT
240 N. West Avenue,
Elmhurst, IL. 60126

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 11am-3pm

ILLINOIS PRESS ASSOCIATION
225901

Addison receives Chicago Region Trees Initiative Recognition

At the Addison Village Board meeting on Monday, Nov. 7, the Village's Public Works Department Electrical and Forestry Division was honored for partnering with the Chicago Region Trees Initiative, a coalition of more than 200 public and private agencies including municipalities, conservation groups, and schools with the goal of enhancing urban forestry standards in the Chicagoland area.

"It focuses on many of the [urban forestry programs] that we're already doing here at the Village," said Rick Federighi, Village public works director. "Objectives of the initiatives include tree plantings, taking care of trees, pruning cycles, and [assuring a] diverse array of species on each block so one particular disease won't wipe out an entire canopy. This initiative is bringing [urban forestry] to the forefront."

A roadway sign indicating the Village's membership in the Chicago Region Trees Initiative was presented at the meeting to the Forestry Division crew.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

The Village's Public Works Department Electrical and Forestry Division was honored at the Village Board meeting on Monday, Nov. 7, for partnering with the Chicago Region Trees Initiative. Pictured are (from left): Division Foreman John Cooper, Brandon Danikowski, Matt Crandall, Greg Soltwisch, Eddie Paladino, and Director Rick Federighi.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

• Carrier

(Continued from front page)

however, that the alleged actions of one rogue postal carrier is in no way indicative of the hard-working men and women of the U.S. Postal Service who perform their duties with integrity and professionalism day in and day out. I thank the Elmhurst Police Department for uncovering this alleged scheme and bringing it to our attention."

"This pattern of thefts affected residents throughout our community, therefore, I'd like to thank the investigating officers and detectives that brought these incidents to a swift and proper conclusion," McLean said. "I also thank State's Attorney Bob Berlin's office for their assistance on this case."

Dockery's next court appearance is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 7, in front of Judge O'Hallaren Walsh.

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

Addison Trail boasts 33 State Scholars

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) recently announced the 2023-24 State Scholars and 33 Addison Trail seniors have earned the honor. The school hosted an event on Friday, Nov. 11 to recognize the honorees. Addison Trail 2023-24 State Scholars include (listed alphabetically, not as pictured): Sofia Angiulo, Jack Bolsinger, Esmeralda Bucio, Anabella Casucci, Eduardo Chairez, Diego De La Rosa, Miabella DiGrazia, Joslynn Elakkatt, Valeria Escobedo, Yahya Farooqui, Alexander Georgis, Alexander Hernandez, Letlia Hoda, Emilia Jarzabek, Xim a Juarez Martinez, Pawel Lesniak Jr., Lizbeth Lopez, Thomas Loslanowycz, Sean Mackey, Lorenzo Martinez-Almaraz, Hannah Melone, Verenise Morales-Saavedra, Leilani Nevado, Dariusz Nunez, Kathryn O'Connell, Anna Olsen, Kate Padilla, Raya Jacqueline Palmer, Erica Severino, Philip Sitkowski, Aiste Siupienius, Lea K. Staller and Gabriela Venegas.

Coming events

Editor's note: Unless otherwise specified, learn more about these events and programs at: addisonlibrary.org/events or call 630-543-3617.

Friday, Nov. 18

• Sublimation printing: Photo mug

From 10-11 a.m. at the Creative Studio of the Addison Public Library, create a custom mug with your photo on it! During this class, you will learn how to use the Creative Studio's Sawgrass sublimation printer and Cricut Mug Press to make custom mugs. Supplies will be provided. Please bring a photo saved on a USB flash drive.

• Craft time for littles: Holiday edition (drop in)

From 10-10:45 a.m. at the Addison Public Library, join us for crafts celebrating the upcoming holidays. Geared towards ages 2-5, but all ages welcome.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 17-19
Jigsaw puzzle and games exchange

Swap out your old jigsaw puzzles and family board games for something "new to you." For each puzzle or game you donate, you will get a ticket to receive a different puzzle during the exhange. Drop off at the Adult Services Desk on Nov. 17, 18 and 19. Pick up on Sunday, Nov. 20.

Coming events

Friday, Nov. 18
• Sublimation printing: photo mug

From 10-11 a.m. at the Creative Studio of the Addison Public Library, create a custom mug with your photo on it! During this class, you will learn how to use the Creative Studio's Sawgrass sublimation printer and Cricut Mug Press to make custom mugs. Supplies will be provided. Please bring a photo saved on a USB flash drive.

• Craft time for littles: Holiday edition (drop-in)

From 10-10:45 a.m. at the Addison Public Library, join us for crafts celebrating the upcoming holidays! Geared towards ages 2-5, but all ages welcome.

Monday, Nov. 21
• International Gaming Day (drop-in)

Have a game-fueled day for the entire family. Join a game in the pop-up arcade, share a board game with someone, or enjoy many of the other activities and events going on throughout the library. Stay tuned for a list of activities we'll have on each floor.

• DuPage Children's Museum pop-up

From 10-11:30 a.m. at the Addison Public Library, join the DuPage Children's Museum and Addison Partners for Play, Learning and Education (APPLE) for a morning of play. We will have pop-up exhibits from the museum, art stations, and information on early childhood education and programs in the community. All ages welcome.

Monday, Nov. 21 and Wednesday, Nov. 23
Cybersecurity basics

From 2-3 p.m. both days at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library, one in 10 adults are victims of a fraud or scam every year. Join our program to learn how to be safer online and avoid being a victim. Part of our Technology Made Simple series; learn more at https://www.addisonlibrary.org/Tech-Simple.

Saturday, Nov. 26
Movements stations (drop-in)

From 10 a.m.-noon at the Addison Public Library, at this program for littles, we'll have out some special toys in the Children's Department for you to try. Practice yoga moves, walk the balance beam, or move across some stepping stones.

Ongoing events
NaNoWriMo Writing Circle

Starting at 6 p.m. Nov. 28 and 29 at the Addison Public Library, join writers across the country for National Novel Writing Month. Every writer gets a starter kit with a branded tote and some goodies to get you motivated. Make progress on your novel by coming to our writing circles. We'll provide the snacks, but the writing is up to you. Get feedback from other writers or dive deep into your writing.

Open enrollment is ongoing for the Addison Park District Preschool

The Addison Park District preschool program curriculum reflects the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards. Visit www.illinoisearlylearning.org for more details. The Park District helps children develop prekindergarten skills, including letter/name recognition, listening skills, healthy habits, cooperative play, fine motor, and socialization skills. The experiences are both educational and recreational, which aid in social, physical, intellectual, and emotional growth. Registration is taken in-person at the Centennial Rec Center. Call (630) 233-7275 option 3 for registration availability. Visit addisonparks.org for required paperwork due prior to first day of program.

English conversation groups

At 2 p.m. Mondays on Zoom, and at 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library, practice listening and speaking skills in a small group setting. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

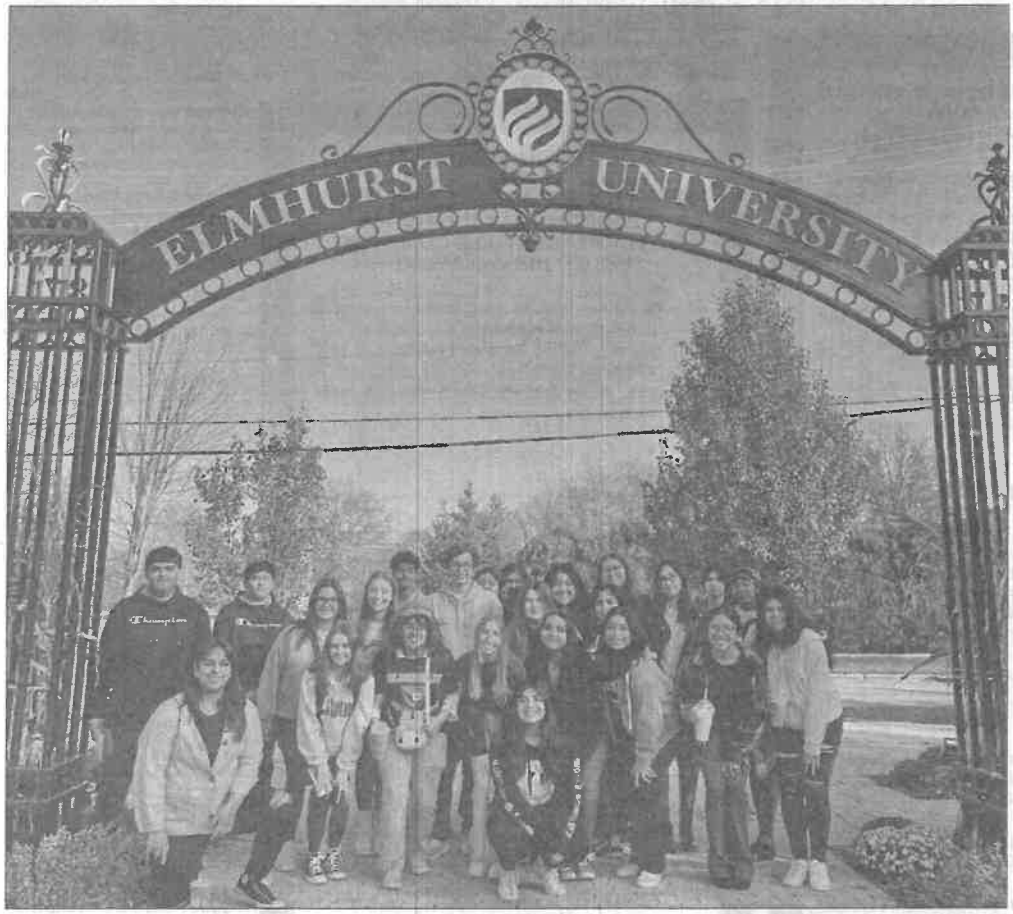
English reading circle

At 11 a.m. Tuesdays at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Heroes story time

From 10-10:30 a.m. at the Addison Public Library, join us for stories and activities about everyday heroes, superheroes, and more.

Clubs and organizations are welcome to send entries for this column to: news1@rvpublishing.com. Please include a phone number or e-mail address to contact for information.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

AT 'Hidden Voices' students visit Elmhurst University

On Wednesday, Nov. 9, 26 Addison Trail students who are enrolled in English teacher Michael Valeski's Hidden Voices class and English teacher Jessica Clark's Communication Studies (Mass Media) class visited Elmhurst University. As dual-credit courses, students have the opportunity to earn college credit with Elmhurst University. Through Hidden Voices, students study multiple perspectives from a variety of authors, characters and stories to continue to broaden their own experiences as readers and writers. Students read/watch essays, poetry, novels, short stories, film, etc. that encompass a wide range of voices and explore how these voices have shaped and continue to shape the country and world narrative. Students explore communication skills in a variety of mediums, then created a portfolio in their area(s) of interest such as podcasting, radio, newspaper writing, journalism, broadcasting, production, digital media, etc., in coordination with Elmhurst University professors.

Don't let respiratory viruses stop you this holiday season

The DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) continues to recommend residents stay up to date with COVID-19 boosters and get the annual influenza (flu) vaccine to help them stay healthy while visiting family and friends during the holiday season.

COVID-19 boosters and the flu vaccine are the best tools to protect yourself and your loved ones from becoming ill with these respiratory viruses.

Getting vaccinated and boosted at least two weeks before a gathering or traveling gives your body time to build the immunity it needs to fight infection.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Cold and flu season is off to an earlier start than usual, with respiratory viruses like flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) on the rise, especially among children."

In the past three weeks, six influenza intensive-care unit (ICU) hospitalizations among DuPage County residents have been reported, including three pediatric ICU hospitalizations reported in the past week.

The Moreci Family Invites You to Experience
the Finest Selection of Italian Cuisine. Roberto's Ristorante Features
One-of-a-Kind Gourmet Specialties Custom Created by Experienced Chefs
Inquire about our private party luncheons for Memorials, Corporate Meetings, Graduations, Confirmations, Weddings & Baptisms



ROBERTO'S
RISTORANTE & PIZZERIA
483 SPRING ROAD
ELMHURST
Reservations 630.279.8486
Pizzeria 630.279.8474
www.robertosristorante.com

Enjoy Our Outdoor Dining Area
Roberto's Pizzeria
Established in 1962
FAST DELIVERY AND CARRY OUT SERVICE
483 SPRING ROAD, ELMHURST • 630-279-8474 • www.robertosristorante.com
Open 7 Days A Week M-Th. 11am-10pm • Fri. 11am-11pm • Sat. 12pm-11pm • Sun. 12pm-10pm

$1.50 OFF On Full Slab of Ribs
Pick Up or Delivery Only
One Coupon Per Visit
Please Mention Coupon When Ordering
Not Valid In Dining Room
Expires Nov. 24, 2022
Roberto's Ristorante & Pizzeria

$1.00 OFF On 14", 16" or 18" Pizza
Pick Up or Delivery Only
One Coupon Per Visit
Please Mention Coupon When Ordering
Not Valid In Dining Room
Expires Nov. 24, 2022
Roberto's Ristorante & Pizzeria

FREE 2 Liter of Soda with $15 Purchase or More
Pick Up or Delivery Only
One Coupon Per Visit
Please Mention Coupon When Ordering
Not Valid In Dining Room
Expires Nov. 24, 2022
Roberto's Ristorante & Pizzeria

$1.00 OFF On 14", 16" or 18" Pizza
Pick Up or Delivery Only
One Coupon Per Visit
Please Mention Coupon When Ordering
Not Valid In Dining Room
Expires Nov. 24, 2022
Roberto's Ristorante & Pizzeria

427462



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

Helping hands

Members of the Addison Trail Veteran Service Organization (ATVSO) participated in the school's Veterans Day Luncheon on Friday, Nov. 4.

PARAMOUNT
THEATRE
DOWNTOWN AURORA

NOVEMBER 9, 2022
– JANUARY 15, 2023

THE HOLIDAYS COME TO LIFE WITH OUR
TWO-STORY CHRISTMAS TREE
AND FULLY DECORATED LOBBY

tickets PARAMOUNTAURORA.COM *or* 630.896.6666





THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!
SHOW SPONSORS:
RUSH
Rush-Copley Medical Center
AKE'S INC.
BROADWAY SERIES SPONSORS:
DUNHAM FOUNDATION
BMO
comed
ARTS
AURORA ILLINOIS
CITY OF LIGHTS

VILLA PARK REVIEW
Your Hometown Newspaper
240 N. West Avenue
Elmhurst, IL. 60126

Main Phone 630.834-8244
Fax 630.834-0900

The Villa Park Review is published every Thursday by Rock Valley Publishing, LLC, 240 N. West Avenue, Elmhurst, IL. 60126.

Display Advertising:
630.834-8355
Classified Advertising:
630.834-8244
News:
630.834-8244
General Information:
630.834-8244

E-mail:
Advertising Department:
ads1@rvpublishing.com
News Department:
CFox@rvpublishing.com
Classified Department:
Classifieds@rvpublishing.com

Administration:
Chris Fox
News Coordinator

Debra Hamilton
Advertising Director

Pete Cruger
Publisher

Advertising:
Brenda Garcia
Kate McCarty

Subscriptions:
The Villa Park Review is mailed to the 60181 zip code areas for $45.00 yearly. Out-of-area mail subscriptions are $50.00 yearly. For home delivery information call 630.834-8244.

Reprints:
Content appearing in the Villa Park Review may not be reprinted without permission of the publisher or editor. Requests should be directed to Independent@rvpublishing.com or 630.834-8244.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to:
THE VILLA PARK REVIEW
240 N. West Avenue,
Elmhurst, IL. 60126

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 11am-3pm

ILLINOIS PRESS ASSOCIATION
419968

Why you might see more coyotes this time of year

Young start to leave their parents' homes in fall to find their own territories

DuPage County residents might see more coyotes between now and February as young leave their parents in search of mates and territories to call their own, according to the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.

"Young coyotes are looking for a place to call home, yet most areas are already occupied. This forces them to move around in search of unclaimed territories," explained Forest Preserve District ecologist Dan Thompson. "As a result, sightings tend to increase this time of year."

People may also see coyotes more frequently in winter because there's less vegetation, which means the animals have fewer places to hide. Snow on the ground makes them easier to spot, too. Coyotes are also more active because they have to spend more time foraging for food.

A rise in sightings doesn't necessarily mean a rise in the county's coyote population, though. Still, because of this seasonal increase in activity, people with pets should be especially vigilant.

"Follow forest preserve regulations, and keep your pet on a leash when you're in a preserve," Thompson said. "It's smart to stay with your dog and keep it leashed in your yard, too. Even if you've never seen a coyote in your neighborhood, they're there."

Although uncommon, coyotes can target dogs to eliminate perceived competition for territory.

"Most of the time coyotes coexist with dogs without incident, but dogs that tend to be territorial and bark vigorously at other animals can inadvertently instigate an encounter," Thompson said.

Hungry coyotes may be drawn to unsecured garbage cans, pet food, open compost piles, bird feeders, or fallen fruit under trees and shrubs. Keeping yards clean can limit these attractions. Homeowners should never intentionally feed coyotes as it leads the animals to expect food from rather than fear humans.

Coyotes play a vital role in the ecological community, keeping populations of small animals and rodents in check in DuPage County ecosystems. Visit dupageforest.org for more information on living with coyotes and ways to keep pets safe.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

According to the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, you might see more coyotes between now and February as young coyotes leave their parents in search of territories and mates to call their own.

Villa Park Police Department urges motorists to buckle up during their Thanksgiving travels

Police will conduct increased traffic patrols during the holiday enforcement campaign, which runs through Nov. 28

As millions of motorists hit the road to celebrate Thanksgiving, Illinois law enforcement will be working around the clock to make sure holiday travelers are buckled up and driving safely.

The Villa Park Police Department is joining the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Illinois State Police to remind motorists to "Click It or Ticket."

The goal of this high-visibility effort, which will include increased police patrols through the end of the holiday period, is to reduce motor vehicle crashes and their resulting injuries and fatalities. Correct seatbelt use is the most effective way to protect vehicle occupants.

According to IDOT, the statewide seat-belt usage rate is at 93 percent.

"Wearing your seat belt is second nature for most," said Villa Park Police Sgt. James Cihak. "We're looking for the seven percent of Illinois motorists who skip this lifesaving step."

Drivers and passengers can expect a ticket from the Ville Park Police Department if they are spotted while not wearing a seat belt. The stepped-up patrols and seat belt enforcement zones began throughout Villa Park and the state on Nov. 18, and will continue through Nov. 28.

If you will be celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday with alcohol or other impairing substances, remember the following tips:

- Plan for a sober ride home before you go out.
- If you've been drinking alcohol or using marijuana or other drugs, call a taxi, take mass transit, or call a family member to get you home safely.
- Use your favorite ride-share service, such as Uber or Lyft, or use public transportation.
- If you see a drunk driver, pull over safely and call 911.
- Make sure everyone in your vehicle wears a seat belt. It is the best defense against an impaired driver.

The current Thanks ing enforcement effort is made possible by federal traffic safety f ds administered by IDOT.

Nearly 60 Willowbrook seniors recognized as State Scholars

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) recently announced the 2023-24 State Scholars, and 57 Willowbrook High School seniors have earned that honor. The school hosted an event on Oct. 27 to recognize the honorees.

According to the commission, the State Scholar Program recognizes students for their outstanding academic performance and superior academic potential. Recipients receive a certificate of achievement. About the top 10 percent of graduates from approved high schools are announced as State Scholars each year. Standardized test scores and performance-based academic data reported by high schools are key factors in the formula used to determine eligibility for this recognition.

The Willowbrook seniors who were recently recognized as 2023-24 State Scholars are:

Zoha Ahmed, Sarah Ball, Syeda Begum, Riley Biggs, Mary Brennan, Madeline Bullivant, Thomas Ciesla, Jackson Crowther, Annika Dalberg, John Davis, Alexander Dean, Mason Eisner, Dima Elagha; Mahnoor Fatani, Emma Foley, Lia Galindo, Sana Haque, Charles Hayes, Aidan Horwitz, John Hoving, Jade Inoshita, Dallas Isaacson, Henry Jarrett, Daniel Karl, Areej Khalid, Sufyan Khan, Neeraja Kumar, Benjamin Lome, Michael Long, Alyssa McKenna, Hanna Mitrick, Connor Nolan, Destinee Ortiz-Rivera, Aaron Padilla, Neil Pakhutko, Christina Pettinger, Logan Pufahl, Caroline Radomski, Ryan Riley, Muneebuddin Rizwan, Brandon Rodriguez, Elaine Roknich, Grace Roscoe, Anna Seelbach, Yazmin Setaram, Ava Sloan, Henry Sloan, Haniya Syeda, Ruzaina Syeda, Samantha Tantilla, Quinten Terselic, Amelia Tortorici, Joseph Tumilty, Grace Van Dyke, Michael Wangler Jr. and Garrett Williams.

• *Tribute* (Continued from front page)

of those new settlers came from New York, stated Karges during his presentation.

Karges added that the tree's location is near the 19th-century boundaries of three separate tracts of land. It's uncertain, therefore, who actually owned the tree.

"As the prairie was plowed, and farm animals raised, this tree grew into a sturdy 10-year-old sapling in 1843," Karges said. "Somehow, it escaped the plow and the foraging and trampling of farm and wild animals alike."

In 1908, when the tree was 75 years old, the surrounding area was subdivided, as farms gave way to smaller acreages, noted Karges. He added that if the tree had been located only a few feet to the south, it would have been cut down to allow for the construction of the road that's now Madison Street.

Continuing his remarks at the ceremony, Karges described how the area was further subdivided in the 1950s.

"Remarkably, if not unbelievably, the tree remains and survives the damage to its environment as sewers, streets, sidewalks, streetlights, houses and parkways are created within its root zone," said Karges in explaining the tree's history.

The tree's tale of endurance continued in the 1970s, when Dutch Elm disease reached its peak in North America, wiping out millions of trees.

"But some trees survived, possibly due to a rare genetic trait that fends off the effects of the dreaded disease," said Karges. "Once again, against all odds, this tree survives."

Mary Brunner-Hintze of the village's Community FUN Commission said the commission applied a formula to calculate the age of the tree. The formula includes the measurement of the circumference of the tree at about 4.5 feet off the ground.

"This is a rare living link in history, a witness to the end of the Potawatomi Nation and the settling of the pioneers, and everything that followed," said Karges, who referred to the tree as a "majestic giant" near the conclusion of his remarks.

"This tree is a treasured sentinel of the history of this area," and we must embrace its significance and ensure it will continue to thrive to inspire generations to come," stated Karges.

College Prep idea wins top prize at Bluejay Tank competition

Juniors from Addison, Lombard take 3rd place

Elmhurst University junior Angel Garcia took first prize at the Fall 2022 Bluejay Tank Pitch Competition with his proposal to launch a program that would prepare high school students for greater success in college.

Garcia won $1,500 for his pitch, Bluejay Hatchlings: The Elmhurst Experience, his idea for a nonprofit organization that would host summer programs for high school juniors and seniors from underserved communities. The programs would improve the students' college experience, leading to higher graduation rates and greater employment success.

"Having a program like this on campus is conducive to inspiring students' creativity and entrepreneurship," Garcia said. "I am thankful for the opportunity to be a part of it."

Garcia's was one of six business concept pitches given by seven student entrepreneurs during the most recent Bluejay Tank competition. The students vied for $3,000 in prize money and real-world business advice from a panel of University faculty and working entrepreneurs.

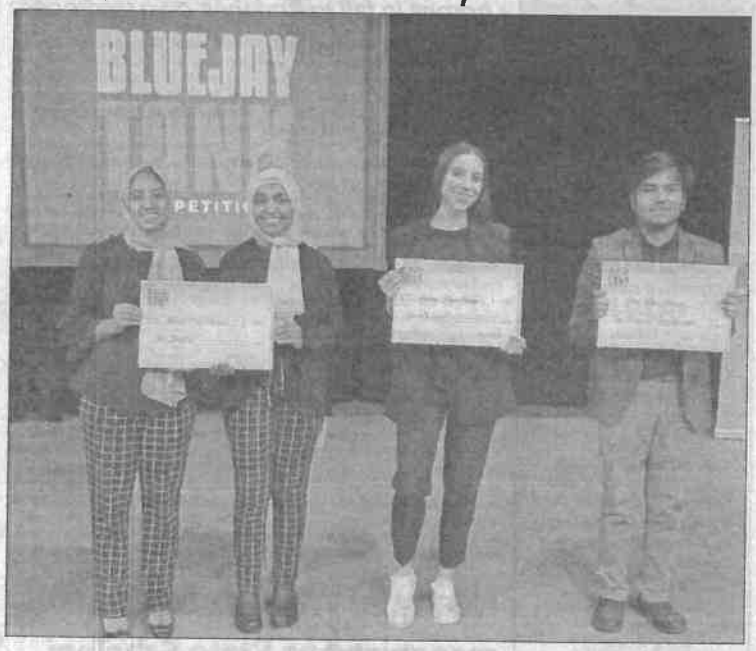
Jessica Pavliukovecas, a junior, won second place and $1,000 for her pitch, TuneUp. Her car service app would keep up with a vehicle's health by giving reminders for regular services, diagnosing problems and finding the best repair shop in the area. The app would be free but would offer premium services to subscribers, such as access to a 24-hour representative.

Juniors Miftha Syed, of Lombard, and Aaliya Khaja, of Addison, won third place and $500 for their pitch, Instapark. Geared toward colleges and universities, the app would help students find parking spots using geolocation. The app would be funded by the schools.

About the competition

The Bluejay Tank Pitch Competition is offered by the Elmhurst University E-celerator, a resource for students interested in launching a new business or innovating within an existing one.

"The E-celerator exists to inspire students to realize their entrepreneurial dreams," said Martin Gahbauer, executive director of the Weigand Center for Professional Excellence. "The Bluejay Tank competition helps bring that mission to life."



ELMHURST UNIVERSITY PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

These innovative Elmhurst University students took top prizes at the fall 2022 Bluejay Tank competition. The winners are (from left): Miftha Syed and Aaliya Khaja, third place winners; Jessica Pavliukovecas, second place; and Angel Garcia, who took 1st place. Syed and Khaja are residents of Lombard and Addison, respectively.

Elmhurst Hospital receives 'A' grade for safety from Leapfrog

The Leapfrog Group has awarded Elmhurst Hospital with an "A" Hospital Safety Grade for the 22nd consecutive time, recognizing it as one of the only 22 hospitals in the country and three in Illinois to be awarded an "A" in every Hospital Safety Grade cycle since 2012.

"We're proud of our straight-A streak, but we're also humbled because we realize we have to concentrate even more and work harder to maintain the high level of safety and quality of care we provide every day," says Pamela Dunley, RN, MS, MBA, CENP, president, Elmhurst Hospital.

Edward Hospital in Naperville earned a B. Edward and Elmhurst Hospitals are part of NorthShore–Edward-Elmhurst Health.

To see details, visit www.HospitalSafetyGrade.org.

Visitation Parish to host free Christmas Concert

Christian music artist John Angotti and his band will join the choirs of Visitation Catholic Church to perform a free family concert at the church, 779 S. York Rd. in Elmhurst, on Saturday, Nov. 26 at 6 p.m. "Prepare Ye the Way for Christmas" is part of Angotti's 2022 popular Music Mission tour.

An accomplished composer and pianist, Angotti is well known in the Christian music world. At last year's inaugural event held at Visitation Church, a packed house turned out to enjoy the his performance leading into Christmas.

"John Angotti sharing his gift with individuals and families alike between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays is the perfect opportunity to begin Advent and remember the true meaning of the season," said Tony Cuzzone, President of Visitation Parish Council: "Entrance into the performance is free, however donations that help defray Mr. Angotti's performance costs will be graciously accepted."

Visit johnangotti.com or call 630-530-2945 for more information.



Here's the deal. Safe drivers save more.

Stolper Insurance Agency Inc
Brian D Stolper, President
447 N York Street
Elmhurst, IL 60126
Bus: 630-832-0182

You could be lowering your insurance bill by upping your game. Call me today to talk about our Drive Safe & Save™ program. Save up to 30%* or more!

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

*Discounts may exceed 30% (does not apply to NY) and vary state-to-state. Not available in CA, MA, RI. OnStar not available in NY. In-app setup with beacon required for Mobile.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company
Bloomington, IL

State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas
Richardson, TX

2001311

StateFarm®

418431

Poinsettias
Grown right here in Lombard
2,000-Plus Plants To Choose From
6 Colors • 6 Sizes

Fresh Cut Premium Christmas Trees
Douglas Fir, Balsam, Fraser Fir, Scotch Pine, White Pine, Spruce ALSO Christmas Cacti, Evergeen Boughs, Garland, Straw, Christmas Planters and Firewood

PICKUP & DELIVERY

Fresh Green Wreaths
18"-60" Diameter

Monday-Wednesday 8:00-6:00; Thursday & Friday 8:00-8:00; Saturday 8:00-5:00; Sunday 9:00-5:00

Hacker's Glenbard Gardens
on Route 53, one block south of North Avenue
Lombard • 630.495.4220
www.hackersgardens.com

Warriors tip off their season with two home losses

Willowbrook completes play in its Thanksgiving invite with two more games this week

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls basketball team opened its 2022-23 season with a pair of losses at its own Thanksgiving invitational.

The Warriors began their season with a 71-44 loss to Plainfield East on Friday. One day later, Willowbrook lost 71-48 to Montini Catholic.

The Warriors will finish play in their five-team, round-robin tournament with this week's games against East Aurora and Lockport.

"We definitely have some girls who can shoot," said Willowbrook coach Terry Harrell after Saturday's loss to Montini. "But we didn't play good enough on defense to stay in the game."

Montini, which made 11 of 27 attempts from 3-point range in the first half of Saturday's game against the Warriors, held a 23-7 lead at the end of the first quarter. The Broncos held a 43-27 halftime lead. Montini's lead grew to 63-40 by the end of the third quarter.

Willowbrook enjoyed its own long-range success on Saturday by sinking 10 shots from 3-point territory in its loss to the Broncos. The Warriors made five 3-pointers in each half.

Senior Rimon Kari, who made four 3-point shots in Saturday's game, scored a team-high 14 points for Willowbrook. Senior Nina Nytko provided 13 points, while senior Yazmin Setaram supplied 12 points by draining four 3-point shots.

Junior Elle Bruschuk scored five points for the Warriors in their loss to Montini. Senior Sara Stout contributed four points and a team-leading 10 rebounds.

Setaram made five of eight 3-point attempts and scored a team-leading 15 points in Friday's season-opening loss to Plainfield East. Bruschuk scored 11 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Kari added eight points, while Nytko and Stout delivered six and four points, respectively.

"It's a work in progress for us," said Harrell while talking about the Warriors' goals this season. "Our girls are working hard. We'll eventually be fun to watch."



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS *Rock Valley Publishing*

Willowbrook's girls basketball team opened its 2022-23 season by playing in its own five-team Thanksgiving invitational. The Warriors began their season with Friday's 71-44 loss to Plainfield East. Willowbrook fell to 0-2 one night later, when it dropped a 71-48 decision to Montini Catholic. One photo from Saturday's game shows senior Rimon Kari (No. 30), who made four 3-point shots and scored a team-leading 14 points for the Warriors. Kari is pictured (above left) while launching and making a 3-point shot in the fourth quarter. Another photo from Saturday shows senior Nina Nytko (No. 21 - above middle) at the free-throw line. Nytko, who made all six of her free-throw attempts during the game, provided 13 points. Senior Yazmin Setaram (above right), who is shown driving toward the basket against Montini, contributed 12 points by sinking four 3-point shots.

Montini Catholic senior receives 'Bumber's Corner Locker' honor

Montini Catholic High School has announced its 2022 "Bumber's Corner Locker" recipient, named after 1989 Montini graduate and football standout, Brad Bumber.

This year's honor went to senior Bronco offensive and defensive lineman Luke Cushing.

"Luke embodies the toughness, character, and 'team first' attitude that Brad Bumber exhibited everyday as a Bronco football player," said head coach Mike Bukovsky. "He is an outstanding choice to represent Brad's legacy to future generations of players.

"I know that Brad's fellow 1989 classmates had a guy like Luke in mind when they wanted to create an award to honor the best attributes of their friend who loved Montini football, and gave his best day in and day out!"

Bumber played linebacker for the Broncos from 1985 to 1989. He passed away on Sept. 26, 2015 due to complications from his long battle with cancer.

The unique idea to honor a current football player each year with the use of this special locker was the brainchild of Brad's teammate, Montini Catholic alumnus, Brian Forde (Class of 1989).

Brian wanted to commemorate the memory of his friend. In the summer of 2018, during the renovation of Montini's locker rooms, he initiated the plan to create "Bumber's Corner Locker."

Luke is the fifth Bronco to receive this honor which also includes a $1,000 scholarship.

"I'm truly honored and humbled to have received such an award," said Luke. "I hope to embody everything that Brad stood for and represented. It was an honor to meet his widow and son, Michael, and I hope that I can live up to his legacy here at Montini."

Luke's parents, Matthew and Angela Cushing, are also very proud.

"They are honored as well to know that I was selected from a group of great young men to embody Brad and this award," Luke said.

Luke's name has been added to a special plaque that has been installed in the locker listing the names of each year's Bumber's Corner Locker award recipient.

The LaSallian Christian Brother educational tradition is structured to develop the spiritual, intellectual, social and physical development of students. During and after his time at Montini, Brad Bumber became a living example of the LaSallian traditions both on and off the football field, and how those traditions and values positively influence and shape students during and after high school, throughout their entire life.

Thanks to Brian Forde and his former Bronco teammates from the Class of 1989, each year, a Montini Catholic Bronco varsity football player will receive the honor to use the locker in Brad's honor.

"Dedicating a football locker in his memory is the best way our class could think of to honor Brad's memory," said Forde. "The player chosen by his coaches to receive 'Bumber's Corner' each year should feel extremely honored to be recognized for demonstrating similar attributes and qualities as Brad, and for the privilege to play Montini Bronco Football under the banner of his name and memory."

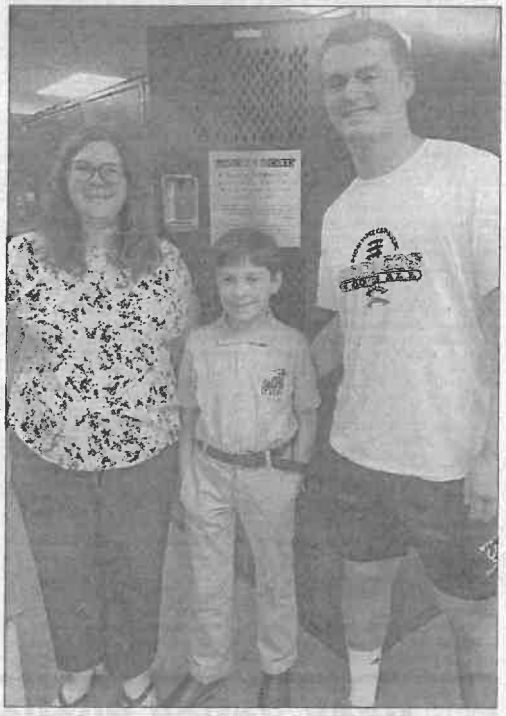
"Brad Bumber was the definition of a blue-collar player," added Forde, remembering his good friend. "He was never the fastest, strongest, or most naturally talented player on the field. Nobody outworked, out hustled or outperformed him and he never gave anything less than 100 percent—in the game, or at practice. "

One of Brad's last wishes was to return to Montini to see one last football game and spend time with his old friends and coaches. On Friday, Sept. 18, 2015, that dream was realized.

"At the time, he was in the final stage of a long battle with cancer. He had lost almost 90 pounds, and was in excruciating pain," Forde recalled. "In typical Baumber fashion, and against all odds, he showed up!"

Sadly, Brad passed away exactly one week after that final homecoming at the age of 45.

"His natural everyday disposition was truly inspired by the Gospel's golden rule, the traditions of the Catholic Church, and the spiritual teachings of St. John Baptist de La Salle," said Forde. "In the truest sense possible, Brad lived the principles instilled in us each day while at Montini."



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

The 2022 "Bumber's Corner Locker" award recipient, Montini Catholic High School senior Luke Cushing (right), stands next to Brad's Bumber's son, Michael Bumber, and Michael's mother, Christina (Brad's widow).