

FREE
TAKE ONE

Addison INDEPENDENT

Group Fitness FREE WEEK Jan. 9-14

New Year
NEW YOU!
Start 2023 right!

Try all of our fitness classes! **FREE!**

WOOD St. X fitness center

WoodStFitness.com | 1000 W. Wood St., Bensenville (630) 766-7015

VOL. 20 • NO. 2

WWW.THEINDEPENDENTNEWSPAPERS.COM

THURSDAY, DEC. 29, 2022

Man charged following alleged threat to Villa Park police officer

Last week, DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Villa Park Chief of Police Michael Rivas announced that bond had been set for a Rosemont man for allegedly threatening a police officer outside Demito's Saloon located on Kenilworth Avenue in Villa Park.

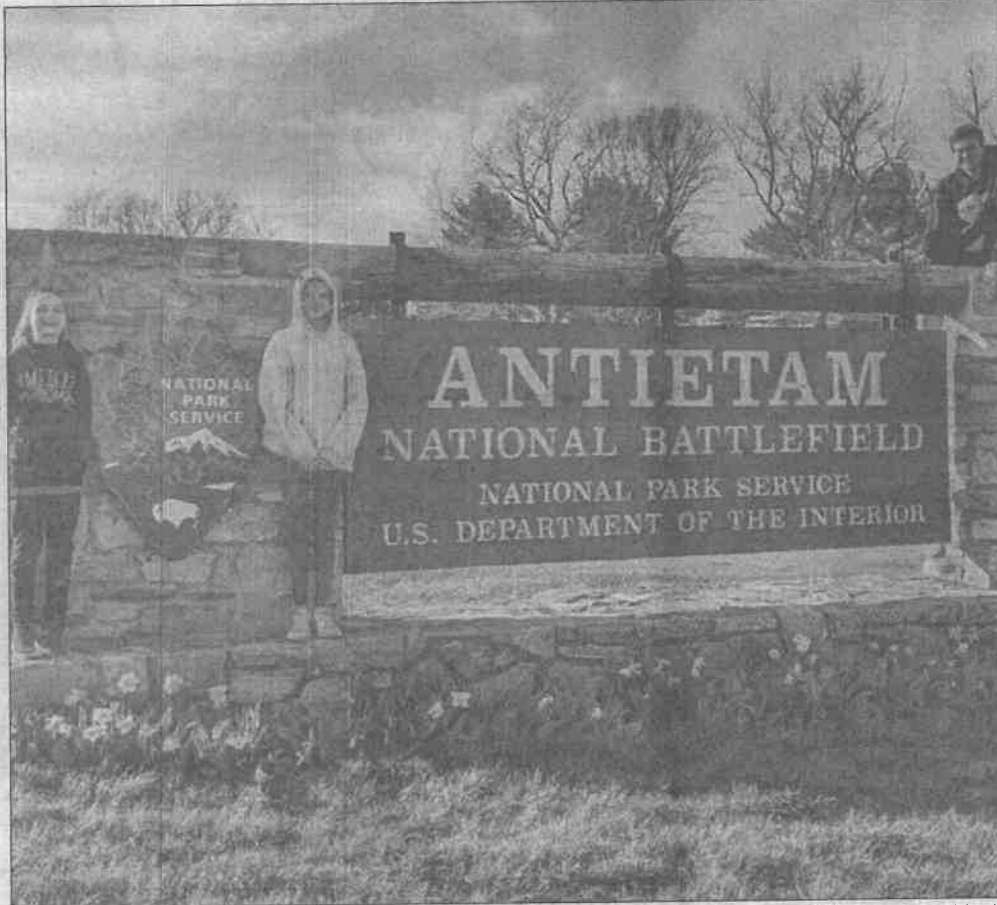


Ryan McGovern

Ryan McGovern, 24, appeared in bond court where Judge Jennifer Martyn set bond at \$75,000 with 10 percent to apply. McGovern has been charged with one count of threatening a public official, a Class 3 felony. McGovern's brother, Aiden, 21, also of Rosemont, has also been charged with one count of misdemeanor resisting or obstructing a police officer for his alleged involvement in the incident.

On Saturday, Dec. 24 at approximately 1:24 a.m., officers with the Villa Park Police Department responded to a disturbance

See THREAT, Page 5



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

INSIDE:

Police Reports..... 6 Puzzles 13
Viewpoint 8 Classifieds..... 15

Students take a history lesson

On Sunday, Dec. 18, students in Addison Trail social studies teacher Mark Olson's Advanced Placement (AP) United States History class participated in an event with the National Park Service and the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park in Wheaton to meet benchmark 5.8 Military Conflict in the Civil War. Ranger Mark Chaney from the Antietam National Battlefield talked to students via Zoom about Antietam, or the Battle of Sharpsburg, which took place on Sept. 17, 1862. President Abraham Lincoln used that occasion to announce the Emancipation Proclamation.

VILLA PARK IL 60181-3100
101 W HIGHRISE RD

042085-06/09/2023 C011
DISTRICT 88

PROBATION
OFFICE
JAN 10 2023



Women's Club collects in honor of late teacher

On Friday, Dec. 9, the Women's Club of Addison donated more than 40 gift bags with personal care items to Addison Trail's Blazer Relief Center in honor and memory of Addison Trail teacher aide Suzanne Flemming, who was a member of the club and helped implement the Blazer Relief Center. Flemming, who passed away suddenly on Oct. 9, was a longtime member of the Women's Club of Addison and served as Vice President of Programs.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

ASE certifies 16 from Addison Trail High School

A total of 16 Addison Trail students recently earned Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Entry-Level Certifications.

Abraham Garcia and Michael Sampey each earned all ASE Entry-Level Certifications including: heating and air conditioning, suspension and steering, manual drive train and axles, maintenance and light repair, engine performance, engine repair, electrical/electronic systems, brakes, automobile service technology, automatic transmission/transaxle.

Other certifications went to the following: Alejandro Serna, heating and air conditioning; Bryan Villa, heating and air conditioning, suspension and steering, brakes, manual drive train and axles; Brandon

Mejia, heating and air conditioning, brakes, electrical/electronic systems; Jack Holleman, brakes; Jovanny Galarza, heating and air conditioning; Kevin Guardado, heating and air conditioning, brakes; Antonio Lopez, heating and air conditioning; Brayan Mondragon, heating and air conditioning, brakes; Ruben Gomez, heating and air conditioning; Olivier Pietras, brakes, engine performance, electrical/electronic systems; Huguer Jaimes, heating and air conditioning; Anthony Verdin, heating and air conditioning; Adrian Gurrola, brakes; and, Orlando Mercado, heating and air conditioning.

Garcia, Galarza, Mondragon and Jaimes are seniors. All others are juniors.

•Threat (Continued from front page)

at Demito's. Upon their arrival, officers made contact with Ryan and Aiden McGovern outside the establishment.

It is alleged that as officers spoke with the McGovern brothers, both brothers advanced toward the responding officers. It is alleged that both men were verbally assaulting the officers and that Ryan McGovern told an officer, "I have an automatic weapon and I'm going to shoot you." Ryan McGovern was placed under arrest at this time. It is alleged that as the officer placed Ryan McGovern under arrest, he continued to act belligerently and harass the officer telling him, "I pay for you. I'm gonna sue the f--- out of you." Both men were taken into custody at this time.

"Regardless of the circumstances, threatening to shoot a police officer,

as alleged against Ryan McGovern, is an extremely serious accusation and will not be tolerated in DuPage County," Berlin said, "I commend the Villa Park Police Department for their work on this case and for their extended efforts this holiday season in keeping our restaurants, bars and retail businesses safe for all to enjoy."

"The Villa Park Police Department will take any threat against its officers seriously," Rivas said. "It is alleged these two individuals refused to leave the business and had every opportunity to do so. ... I would also like to thank the midnight shift for handling this alleged incident in a professional and direct manner."

Ryan McGovern's next court appearance is scheduled Jan. 23 for arraignment in front of Judge Margaret O'Connell.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Siupienius named '88's Best'

Pictured here with Addison Trail Principal Jack Andrews is Aiste Siupienius, who has been named as Addison Trail's December recipient of 88's Best recognition for her outstanding academic accomplishments. Siupienius, a senior, was recognized during the Dec. 12 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

60¢

VOL. 19 • NO. 3

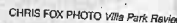
WWW.THEINDEPENDENTNEWSPAPERS.COM

THURSDAY, JAN. 5, 2023

Happy New Year!
Stay warm with Unlimited

(630) 834-4777

unlimitedheatingcooling.com
185 N. York St. Rear, Elmhurst



1
4
3
7
9
H
4
4
4
1
1

Warriors win tournament's consolation title

Willowbrook High School's girls basketball team played four games in last week's Bill Neiben Holiday Classic at Wheaton North High School. The Warriors lost their first game in the 16-team event. Willowbrook then won its next three games to win the tournament's consolation championship. The Warriors are pictured after their 51-44 victory over Glenbard South in the consolation final (front row) senior Tatum Pate (No. 3), junior Tia Kelly (No. 25), sophomore Kendall Medinger (No. 14), senior Sara Stout (holding the trophy), senior Rilmon Karl (No. 30) and senior Yazmin Setaram (No. 4); (back row) junior Adija Seynabou Fall, junior Lillian Vish, junior Kalina Henry, sophomore Halle Ahrens and junior Elle Brusuch (No. 33). Stout was named to the event's all-tournament team. For more about the Warriors, see Page 5.

005152 09/28/2023 0033
DUPLICATE HS DISTRICT 88
D. BRINK
2 FRIENDSHIP PLZ
ADDISON IL 60101-2787

SAK

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



410968

Tips for winter fun safety

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County reminds residents to play it safe while enjoying ice fishing, snow tubing, cross-country skiing, and other winter activities. "The safest way to enjoy the outdoors is with another person so you're not alone if there's an emergency," said Dan Jones, longtime district ranger and assistant manager of rangers. "If that's not possible, let someone know exactly where you're going and when you expect to be back."

As a guideline, there should be at least 4 inches of solid clear ice for one person and at least 8 inches for a group. Rangers do not monitor ice conditions in DuPage forest preserves, so visitors step onto the ice at their own risk.

"It's always a good idea to carry a set of ice picks with you in case you fall through the ice," Jones added.

Ice strength can be affected by wind, snow, rain, sunlight, water levels, underground springs and temperature, and can vary greatly over one body of water. Anyone venturing out on the ice should know the signs of dangerous conditions.

- Cracks, ridges or faults
- Different-colored ice, especially dark gray or black
- Ice that looks rotten or porous
- Ice covered by snow, water, or slush
- Running water or bubbles under the ice

"If you fall through the ice, turn toward the direction you came from because that's probably the strongest ice," Jones said. "Place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface, kick your feet, and try to pull yourself out using ice picks if you have them. Once you're out of the water, lie flat on the ice and roll away from the hole. Get to a warm, dry, sheltered area as soon as possible, and call 911."

Visitors should also take care to dress for the weather. Even mild temperatures can cause frostbite and hypothermia, two medical conditions that require treatment. Signs of hypothermia include shivering, exhaustion, confusion, slurred speech, and loss of motor skills. Signs of frostbite, which most frequently harm extremities like fingers, toes, ears, and noses, include numbness, a white or grayish-yellow skin color, or an unusual waxy feeling to the skin. Keep in mind that some people are more susceptible to the cold, particularly children, the elderly and those with circulation problems.

To help prevent injury, dress in layers with moisture-wicking underclothes and outer heat-retaining layers. Wool, silk, and synthetic fleece retain body heat better than cotton. Waterproof boots, thick socks, a hat, and gloves or mittens help keep extremities warm. A scarf, neck tube or face mask will keep your face warm

and help cover as much exposed skin as possible. Traction cleats will keep you from slipping on icy trails.

Obituary

KATHLEEN DORMAN, 82

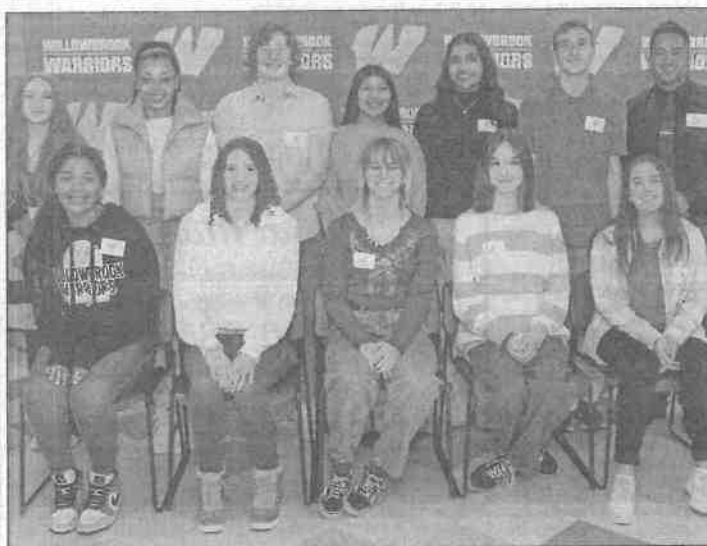
Kathleen Dorman, nee Gaughan, age 82, of Villa Park, Illinois. Beloved wife of (the late) Dale E. Dorman; loving mother of Debbie (Kenn) Dorman, Sandy (Steve) McCullough, and Diane (Thaddeus) Daszkiewicz; devoted grandmother of Courtney (Dave), Dan, AJ, Olivia, Leksi, Luka, and Lauren; great-grandmother of JoJo; fond sister of Jack (Nancy) Gaughan, Diane

(Jim) Keating, Shirley (Tom) Faille, Kenny (Donna) Gaughan, Bob (Sharon) Gaughan; aunt of many nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, 3:00 PM until time of service at 7:00 PM, at Steuerele Chapel, 350 S. Ardmore Ave, Villa Park, IL 60181.

Interment Private.

Funeral info: steuerlefh.com or (630) 832-4161.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Outstanding Warriors

Eleven Willowbrook High School students were recently recognized as Outstanding Students for the second quarter of the 2022-23 school year. The students were honored during a breakfast at the school on Dec. 14. Principal Dan Krause and Assistant Principal Jamie Gourley welcomed the students and their families to the event. Staff members who nominated the students for the awards also attended the breakfast. To be chosen for the award, students must demonstrate extraordinary achievement and outstanding effort. Additionally, students must exhibit a commendable attitude and the ability to overcome obstacles while maintaining a continuous exemplary performance. Willowbrook's Outstanding Students for the second quarter (pictured above, left to right) are:



(front row) sophomore Mia Simmons (English), junior Lillian Vish (Science), freshman Emily Hanson (Physical education), senior Brianna Smalling (Art) and freshman Mary Smith (Literacy); (back row) Hannah Greenbauer (Learning services), sophomore Trinity Smith (Social studies), senior Michael Wangler Jr. (Career and technical education), senior Yavilin Garcia-Gutierrez (Music), senior Sana Haque (Math), senior Kevin Diederich (World languages) and math teacher Edgar Dorado (who received the Outstanding Teacher award for the second quarter). Another photo (left) shows freshman Suha Salman (left) of the Willowbrook Student Council, who presented the Outstanding Teacher award to Dorado (right) at the Dec. 14 breakfast. To earn that award, a staff member must treat teaching as a passion, create a positive learning environment, use a variety of strategies to engage students, be willing to offer extra support, provide prompt and effective feedback to students and relate to and understand students' viewpoints and perspectives.

Warriors win consolation title at Wheaton North

After opening tournament with a loss, Willowbrook reels off three straight wins

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls basketball team won three of four games and claimed the consolation title at Wheaton North's 16-team Bill Neibich Holiday Classic last week. After opening the event with a loss on Dec. 26, the Warriors posted three wins over the next three days. Willowbrook held an overall season record of 8-8 at the end of the tournament.

The Warriors began Wheaton North's holiday competition with a 59-32 loss to Downers Grove North. One day later, Willowbrook beat Palatine 34-28. The Warriors pounded Bartlett 60-34 on Dec. 28. Willowbrook earned the consolation trophy following its 51-44 win over Glenbard South on Dec. 29.

Senior Sara Stout of the Warriors was named to the event's all-tournament team.

Willowbrook trailed Downers Grove North 13-3 after one quarter of last week's game. The Trojans' lead grew to 36-14 by halftime.

Junior Elle Bruschuk scored a team-leading 13 points for the Warriors in the loss to Downers Grove North. Stout added six points.

Palatine led Willowbrook 10-5 after one quarter of last week's second-round game. The Pirates held a 16-15 halftime lead. The Warriors owned a 25-22 advantage at the end of the third quarter.

Stout scored 10 points and pulled down 15 rebounds in Willowbrook's victory over Palatine. Bruschuk supplied eight points and 10 rebounds. Stout made four of six attempts from the free-throw line, while Bruschuk made all four of her free throws.

Senior Yazmin Setaram sank a pair of 3-point shots to provide six points. Sophomore Halie Ahrens made three field goals to contribute six points. Junior Tia Kelly added four points. Kelly made both of her free-throw attempts for the Warriors,



who converted 10 of 12 shots from the foul line.

Willowbrook built a 15-5 lead after one quarter of its Dec. 28 contest against Bartlett. The Warriors pushed their lead to 34-13 by halftime.

Stout made 12 of 18 attempts from the field on her way to a 26-point output that led Willowbrook to its victory over the Hawks. Stout also grabbed eight rebounds in the win. Bruschuk, who made all five of her free throws, provided 16 points and 18 rebounds. Ahrens and sophomore Kendall Medinger contributed six and four points, respectively.

The Warriors led Glenbard South 14-13 after one quarter of the consolation final of last week's tournament. Willowbrook led the Raiders 29-25 at halftime and 44-32 at the end of the third quarter.

Bruschuk scored 14 points and grabbed seven rebounds in the Warriors' win over Glenbard South. Setaram, who made four 3-point shots in the first half, scored 13 points. Senior Rimmon Kari, who drained two of her three 3-point baskets during



the third quarter, added 12 points. Stout provided 10 points and seven rebounds.

Glenbrook South defeated Schaumburg 58-51 in the Wheaton North tournament's championship game.

Willowbrook's season continues with a pair of West Suburban Gold Conference games this week. The Warriors, whose conference record now stands at 2-2, will face Leyden on Friday in Villa Park. Willowbrook will play a conference road game at Proviso East on Saturday.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS/Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls basketball team won three of four games and claimed the consolation title at last week's 16-team Bill Neibich Holiday Classic at Wheaton North High School. The Warriors opened the event with a loss to Downers Grove North on Dec. 26. Over the next three days, Willowbrook defeated Palatine, Bartlett and Glenbard South. The Warriors beat Glenbard South 51-44 in the consolation final on Dec. 29. Junior Elle Bruschuk (No. 30 - left) scored 14 points in Willowbrook's win over the Raiders. Senior Rimmon Kari (No. 30 - far left) made three 3-point shots and contributed 12 points in the win. Senior Sara Stout (No. 15 - above) added 10 points. Stout, who scored 26 points in the Warriors' 60-34 win over Bartlett on Dec. 28, was named to the event's all-tournament team. Willowbrook's overall season record stood at 8-8 at the end of the tournament. The Warriors' season continues with this Friday's West Suburban Gold Conference home game against Leyden.

Willowbrook boys basketball team ends 10-game losing streak

Warriors close Hinsdale Central's tournament with two straight wins

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook boys basketball team played four games in four days at last week's Hinsdale Central-Holiday Classic. The Warriors lost their first two games of the event. Those two losses extended Willowbrook's losing streak to 10 games. The Warriors finished the tournament on a positive note by winning their last two games to move their overall season record to 3-10.

In its first game at Hinsdale Central last week, Willowbrook lost 60-47 to Rockford's Auburn High School on Dec. 26. One day later, the Warriors dropped a 52-40 decision to Maine South. Willowbrook ended its 10-game losing streak by beating Oak Forest 79-73 in double overtime on Dec. 28. The Warriors finished the holiday tournament with a 65-61 victory over a familiar opponent—West Suburban Gold Conference rival Morton—on Dec. 29.

Willowbrook began its 2022-23 season with a win over South Elgin at the St. Charles East Thanksgiving Tournament on Nov. 22. The Warriors lost their next three games of that holiday tournament. Willowbrook then kicked off its conference season with a 69-67 loss at Morton on Dec. 2. The Warriors fell to 1-8 after losing four straight home games, including a 59-48 conference battle against Downers Grove South on Dec. 16.

Auburn led the Warriors 14-4 through one quarter of last week's opening-round game in Hinsdale. Auburn's lead stood at 33-20 at halftime. The two teams played an even second half. Each squad scored 14 points in the third quarter and 13 points in the fourth quarter.

Senior Noah Campbell scored 22 points for the Warriors in the loss to Auburn. Senior Isaac Sobieszczyk provided 14 points. Senior Jimmy Degnan supplied six points, while junior

Andrew Ciesinski contributed five points.

The Warriors dug themselves an early hole in last week's game against Maine South. For the second day in a row, Willowbrook trailed 14-4 after one quarter. The Warriors cut Maine South's lead to 24-19 by halftime. The Hawks held a 39-31 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Sobieszczyk scored 17 points and grabbed 10 rebounds in Willowbrook's loss to Maine South. Campbell added 11 points, while seniors Joey Tumilty and Tyler Royal contributed five and four points, respectively.

Campbell erupted for 30 points in Willowbrook's double-overtime win over Oak Forest on Dec. 28. Sobieszczyk piled up 18 points and 15 rebounds. Senior Luke Davis scored 13 points, while Tumilty delivered 12 points.

The Warriors led Oak Forest 13-8 after one quarter. The Bengals domi-

nated the second quarter, outscoring Willowbrook 17-6 to take a 25-19 halftime lead.

The Warriors and Oak Forest were tied at 56-56 at the end of regulation. The two teams were deadlocked at 65-65 after one 4-minute overtime period.

Willowbrook turned in a dominant third quarter in its final game of the tournament, outscoring Morton 26-10. The Warriors trailed the Mustangs 17-11 after one quarter and 27-24 at halftime. Willowbrook owned a 50-37 lead by the end of the third quarter.

Davis scored the Warriors' first nine points of the third quarter by connecting on three 3-point shots. Davis added one more 3-point shot during the quarter; his fourth long-range shot of the period pushed Willowbrook's lead to 43-34.

Campbell made a 3-point shot early in the fourth quarter to boost Willowbrook's lead to 53-37. The Warriors held a 64-50 lead with three minutes

to play. Morton closed the game with an 11-1 run. The Mustangs made a 3-point shot with about 40 seconds to play to account for the last points of the game.

Campbell scored 22 points for the Warriors in last week's win over Morton. Davis finished with 14 points. Degnan, who made three shots from 3-point range, delivered 11 points. Sobieszczyk scored 10 points and snared 10 rebounds. Royal provided six points.

Hinsdale Central won the title at its own 16-team holiday tournament. The Red Devils defeated Oswego East 54-41 in the championship contest on Dec. 29.

The Warriors' season resumes with a pair of games this week. Willowbrook will play a West Suburban Gold Conference game at Leyden on Friday. The Warriors will travel to Hillside for Saturday's non-conference matchup against Proviso West.



I was at a local fast-food drive-through where there is a young guy who approaches drivers on a regular basis. I was never approached before but on this day, he asked me for money as I was placing my order. I offered to buy him a breakfast sandwich or some coffee but he said no. The cashier mentioned him as being a "frequent flyer" there, and she said others have offered to buy him food, including employees, but he always refuses and wants money instead. It is this kind of situation that can quickly turn people off to helping individuals who truly need it. We cannot, should not, turn our backs on the less fortunate, but just like with other circumstances and situations—think of stereotyping race, ethnicity and religion—a few bad apples can spoil the whole barrel, as the saying goes. Unfortunately, but true.

Just so we are on the same page, we are giving billions of dollars to a foreign country as their borders are being invaded, but all the while our borders are being invaded and will be an additional drain on taxpayer money. In addition, in the new omnibus bill, there are billions for Jordan to protect its borders. Can't make this stuff up.

I was proud to serve as an election judge for DuPage County Board of Elections. Many of my neighbors and friends also served. Early election workers started on Oct. 24. It's the week after Christmas and we still haven't been paid. How is it that the votes can be counted in a day or two, but election judges need to wait more than eight weeks for payment? DuPage Board of Elections says that it just takes six to eight weeks. Speak Out, can you make sense of this? We worked hard and deserve to be paid. Is it even legal for them to keep our paychecks this long? Those who volunteered long hours will appreciate any help you can render. Had hoped to use it for Christmas gifts, but still have not received my check as of Dec. 28. Thanks, a confused election judge.

Editor's note: If you haven't already, contact the county clerk's office at 630-407-5500 or email countyclerk@dupageco.org. The only thing we could find is that there was a similar issue in 2019, with a two-month wait for paychecks to be received.

Leading to President Trump's first impeachment, President Trump started investigating why Joe

Biden's son was appointed to the board of directors of the Ukrainian energy company Burisma. This is very peculiar, especially when Joe Biden's son has no qualifications to be involved in running an energy company. It was also revealed that Joe Biden's son was receiving significant payment to be on the board of directors creating a conflict of interest. This conflict of interest is what President Trump was trying to investigate. I think it is likely that Joe Biden was involved in a pay to play scheme known as influence peddling. This is a form of graft in which money is paid to a person in a position of power in order to influence policy. In this case, it is a crime to accept money from foreign nationals for political favors. The much larger crime is in the compromising of the national security interests as well as the foreign policy interests of the United States.

Hello everybody. Happy holidays to all. Let's remember to brush the snow off of headlights, taillights and your rear window. Visibility is important, especially when the weather gets snowy. Thanks!

The weather forecasters ought to jump into Lake Michigan with their sophisticated weather instruments, instead of scaring us with 12, 16, 18 inches of snow predicted. And then they say, "Oh, it just missed us."

The Democratic Party has totally abandoned Americans. Now that the Republicans have the House of Representatives, they are talking investigate this, investigate that. What about the American people and the suffering that has been thrust upon them? Presidents Washington and Jefferson warned about the party system we have; it could be our downfall. The main focus of the party has become the party over Americans and the people.

I like reading the Book of Proverbs because of how the sayings in it apply to life. Proverbs 29:18 caught my attention one day. "A nation without God's guidance is a nation without order." Take a look at our society overall and the crime in our major cities these days, and tell me if there's order.

This probably makes me a holiday scrooge, but I get a laugh out of people who put antlers and a red nose on their cars. It looks ridiculous! I have to ask: does your car fly after you put those on?

Warriors win two straight games



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS/Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's boys basketball team opened last week's Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic with losses to Auburn High School and Maine South. Those two losses extended the Warriors' losing streak to 10 games. Willowbrook delivered a positive finish to the tournament by winning its last two games of the event. The Warriors beat Oak Forest 79-73 in double overtime on Dec. 28. One day later, Willowbrook completed the tournament with a 65-61 win over Morton. The Warriors improved their overall season record to 3-10 with last week's win over Morton. One photo from that game shows senior Noah Campbell (No. 25 - top right), who scored a team-leading 22 points for Willowbrook. Another photo shows senior Luke Davis (No. 5 - bottom right), who made four 3-point baskets in the third quarter. Davis finished the game with 14 points. Senior Jimmy Degnan (No. 21 - above), who sank three shots from 3-point range, provided 11 points. See story on page 5.



FREE
TAKE ONE

Addison INDEPENDENT

Save 15% With Annual Membership

New Year
NEW YOU!
Enroll Today!

WOOD ST. 11X11
fitness center

WoodStFitness.com | 1000 W. Wood St., Bensenville
(630) 766-7015

VOL. 20 • NO. 1

WWW.THEINDEPENDENTNEWSPAPERS.COM

THURSDAY, DEC. 22, 2022



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

INSIDE:

Police Reports.....7 Puzzles.....13
Viewpoint.....6 Classifieds.....14

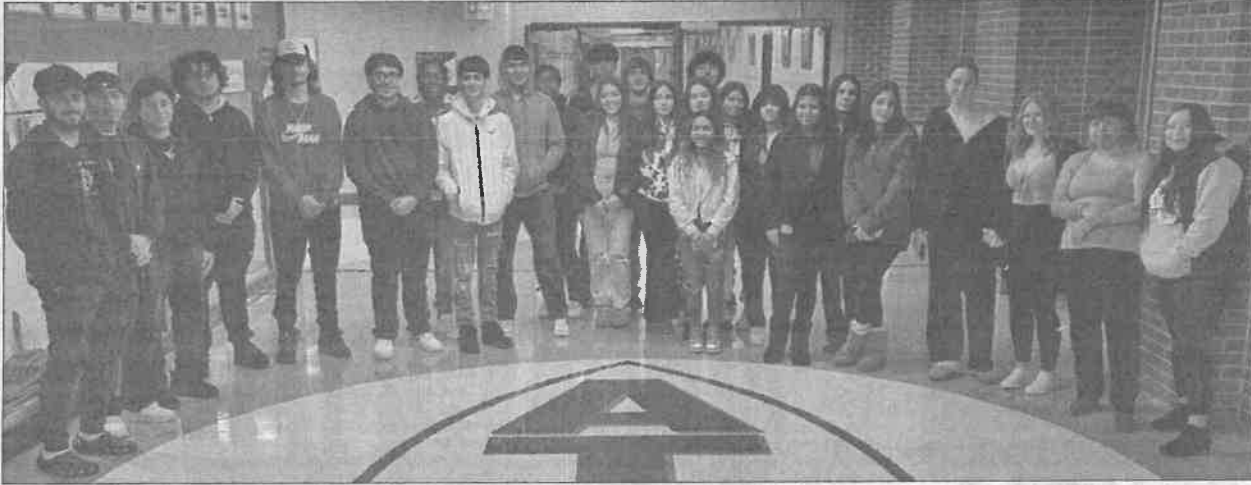
Addison Trail High School cheerleaders take first place

On Dec. 11, members of the Addison Trail Cheerleading Team participated in its first Illinois Cheerleading Coaches Association (ICCA) competition of the 2022-23 season, which took place at Marian Catholic High School. The team won first place and a bid to the ICCA Championships, which will take place in Springfield on Jan. 21 and 22.

101 W. HIGHWAY RD.
WILKINSON, IL 60181-3100
DISTRICT 88
042085-06/09/2023 C011

SAK

PRINTED
ON
RECYCLED
PAPER



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Addison Trail graduates 40 in December

On Thursday, Dec. 15, Addison Trail celebrated and recognized 40 students as December graduates for the 2022-23 school year. They include (listed alphabetically, not as pictured): Despolna D. Alexakos, Rolando Banuelos, Jason Barajas Lopez, Richard Ehrlich Jr., Yahya Farooqui, Shanice Fox, Arianna Fricano, Maria-Fernanda Galindo, Melissa Galvan, Miguel Garcia Jr., Samantha Garcia, Javier Godinez, Hester Gomez, Armando Gonzalez, Lizbeth Gonzalez, Adrian Guerrero Valenz, Malik Hopkins, Yahira Humphrey-Abram, Sabrina Jimenez, Roselyn Mancilla-Garcia, Carlos Martinez Jr., Samira Melendez, Kimberly Montero, Karen Montes

Leal, Paulina Nowak, Daniel Ortega, Marlen Pereida, Angel Perez, Keira Ramos, Giovanni Rebollo, Danilo Rivas, Melissa Salazar, Alondra Sandoval, Djordje Stanovich, Alexa Torres, Angel Valadez and Giselle Villa. School officials noted that the class of 2023 has shown "extraordinary adaptability, empathy and resilience as they've overcome the COVID-19 pandemic as they have worked to develop lifelong proficiencies that will help them in future years."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Packing the Place for Special Olympics

On Tuesday, Dec. 6, Addison Trail hosted a Pack the Place night for the school's Special Olympics Basketball Team to fill the stands and encourage students, staff and community members to show their Blazer Pride and cheer on the players. The team played against Hinsdale South. Showing their support on the court were the

Addison Trail Boys Basketball Team, Girls Basketball Team, Blazettes and Cheerleaders. Members of the Addison Trail Special Olympics Basketball Team are Francesco Conforti, Brianna Duncan, Geronimo Galan Jr., Nathan Jacinto, Alexis Juarez, Berenice Melendez-Rios and Dwen Morris.

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 Cramer
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



419956

Tow truck driver sentenced to 50 years in Oak Brook road rage fatal shooting

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin has announced that Anthony Tillmon, 40, a tow-truck driver formerly of Lansing, has been sentenced to 50 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for fatally shooting the driver of a semitrailer truck following a road rage altercation in April, 2017.

On May 18, Judge John Kinsella found Tillmon guilty of one count of first-degree murder following a five-day-long bench trial. He has remained in custody on a bond of \$3 million with 10 percent to apply since turning himself in on April 25, 2017.

On April 21, 2017, at approximately 4:50 p.m., the victim, Eduardo Munoz, 43, of Florida, was traveling east-

bound on I-88 in Oak Brook. While driving, Munoz and Tillmon were involved in some type of "road rage" incident and appeared to be yelling at each other.

Shortly thereafter, near the I-294 Interchange, Tillmon pulled his vehicle alongside the driver's side of Munoz's semitrailer, pointed a handgun at Munoz and pulled the trigger, hitting Munoz three times as he was driving.

Following the shooting, Tillmon exited the highway and sped away. An investigation into the shooting conducted by the Illinois State Police and the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office led authorities to Tillmon. On April 25, 2017, Tillmon turned himself in to authorities at the

DuPage County Sheriff's Office. After being shot, Munoz was able to pull his semitrailer to the right shoulder of the road. He was found in the driver's seat of the semitrailer and transported to Elmhurst Hospital where he was pronounced dead due to multiple gunshot wounds.

"Anthony Tillmon, in a complete display of disregard for public safety, opened fire during rush hour on a crowded highway and murdered a man he had never met simply because he could not control his anger," Berlin said. "Truck drivers have an extremely stressful job and for someone to violently take the life of a man who was just trying to make an honest living is inexcusable. This senseless loss

of life drastically changed the lives of Eduardo's family and friends, who are now left with only their memories of Eduardo to see them through their days. I wish them all strength, particularly at this time of year as they once again celebrate the holidays without Eduardo."

"I thank the Illinois State Police and Director Brendan Kelly for their outstanding efforts on this case which enabled my office to bring a strong prosecution against Mr. Tillmon, ultimately resulting in this sentence."

Tillmon will be required to serve 100 percent of his sentence before being eligible for parole. He will receive credit for time served in the DuPage County Jail.

Obituaries

JOAN M. HOWE, 80

Joan M. Howe, nee Sheahan, age 80, of Villa Park, IL. Beloved wife of Edward Howe;

loving mother of Tim (Susan) Howe, Lauren (Randy) Walters, Julie (Mark) Lis, and Daniel (Renée) Howe; dear daughter of the late Naomi Sheahan, nee Treon, and the late William Sheahan; devoted grandmother of Dylan, Alexandra, Adam, Ashley, and Zacary; fond sister of Tom (Nancy) Sheahan, Patricia (the late Hugh) Baskin, Michelle (Bill) Dukes, Mary (the late Tom) Albyn, and Karen (Roger) Foreman; aunt of many nieces and nephews.

Joan began her career as a flight attendant for United Airlines in the early 1960s. After raising her children, she was a Director at Various Hotels. Later she concluded her career in management for United Airlines. Joan was an inquisitive person eager to learn and an avid reader. She had a passion for cooking and enjoyed feeding the birds and squirrels.

Her kindness and selflessness extended to many people around her. We are deeply saddened by the loss.

Celebration of Life will be planned

for a later date. Funeral info: steuerlefb.com or (630) 832-4161.

RUSSELL ERVIN LUNDQUIST, 82

Russell Ervin Lundquist, age 82, of Villa Park, IL passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022.

Russell, also known as Russ, was born March 27, 1940, in Phelps, Wisconsin to the late Glen and Mabel Lundquist and was a loving son and brother. He was preceded in death by his three sisters: Deanna Turner, Glenna Berg, and Carolyn Lundquist.

Russ was married to Jean Brede Lundquist and together they had a large family. Russ is survived by his six children, Robin (Rick) Kinney, Mark (Jill) Lundquist, Terri Lundquist, Peggy Lundquist, Jennifer (Leon) Baker, and Eric (Kellee) Lundquist; his fourteen grandchildren, Sarah, Mandy (Will), Courtney (David), Sophie, William, Chance, Nicholas (Tric), Kaylee, Kelly, Erin, Kaitlin, Jordan, Huxley and Phoenix; his six great-grandchildren; his two great-great-grandchildren; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Russell loved all his roles as son,

brother, dad, grandfather, uncle, and friend. Russ was the kind of guy who was ever dependable and would jump in to help friends and family alike and always had a ready smile. He was a devout Lutheran believing in a personal relationship with God and Jesus and he instilled this love and spirituality into his children. His faith shaped his character, and he modeled truthfulness, loyalty, forgiveness, and a strong work ethic.

Russell enjoyed his career as a heavy equipment operator and was a loyal member of Local 150 International Union of Operating Engineers serving the union over 55 years and proudly obtained his Golden Lifetime Membership Card. Russ brought precision and skill to many Chicagoland buildings, bridges, and roads including the 2003 reconstruction of Soldier Field. During the winter season, Russ used his operating skills to remove snow at Chicago's O'Hare Airport working long 36-hour shifts and held several other roles ranging from Mason shoe salesperson, service station attendant, and even a chauffeur in his early years.

The most rewarding jobs, however,

were being father to his children and grandfather to his grandchildren.

Russ grew up in Wisconsin's north woods where he developed a love of the outdoors, fishing, hunting, and camping. When Russ moved to Chicago, his love of nature was evident in the hours he spent outside gardening and reading about plants and wildlife. In his spare time, Russ also enjoyed listening to country music and country western dancing and was an avid supporter of our 2nd Amendment rights and gun safety. He was that rare football fan of the Green Bay Packers and the Chicago Bears, cherishing both his Wisconsin and Illinois roots.

A visitation was held on Monday, Dec. 19, from 2:00-7:00 PM at Brust Funeral Home, 305 S. Princeton Ave., Villa Park, IL. The Interment followed in the Spring at Phelps Cemetery in Phelps, Wisconsin.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Russell to your favorite charity or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.StJude.org.

Info www.brustfuneralhome.com or 888-629-0094.

Warrior Project spreads holiday cheer

On Friday, Dec. 9, students and faculty members from Willowbrook High School delivered presents and gift cards to York Township Hall as part of the school's Warrior Project. This year, the Warrior Project adopted 10 families with a total of 27 children through York Township. The township's "Adopt a Family for Christmas" gift program spreads cheer to local families each holiday season. Local individuals, companies and organizations—such as Willowbrook's annual Warrior Project—provide assistance with the gift program. "I want to thank the Warrior Project for their ongoing support," said York Township Supervisor John W. Valle. "Year after year, the students and faculty of Willowbrook High School support our efforts to make the holidays brighter for our residents."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors drop three home games in four days

Fourth-quarter struggles doom Willowbrook in conference loss to Downers Grove South

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook boys basketball team suffered three straight home losses last week. The Warriors finished the week with an overall season record of 1-8.

Willowbrook's week began with a 59-38 non-conference loss to Lake Park on Dec. 14. The Warriors then lost 59-48 to Downers Grove South in Friday's West Suburban Gold

Conference game.

Willowbrook completed the week with Saturday afternoon's 62-39 non-conference loss to Libertyville.

Lake Park led the Warriors 19-5 through one quarter of last week's matchup in Villa Park. The Lancers' lead stood at 37-18 at halftime. Lake Park's lead grew to 49-25 by the end of the third quarter.

Senior Luke Davis scored a team-

high 16 points for Willowbrook in the loss to the Lancers. Senior Isaac Sobieszczyk added nine points. Senior Tyler Royal and junior Andrew Ciesinski scored five points each.

The Warriors led Downers Grove South 14-10 after one quarter of Friday's conference game. The Mustangs held a 27-26 halftime lead. Willowbrook owned a 40-37 lead at the end of the third quarter. The Warriors' lead evaporated in the fourth

quarter. Multiple Willowbrook turnovers led to easy baskets for Downers Grove South in the game's closing minutes.

The Warriors' conference record dropped to 0-2 following their loss to the Mustangs.

Senior Noah Campbell scored a team-high 14 points for the Warriors in Friday's loss. Ciesinski scored 12 points. Junior Kenyon Rhodes contributed eight points, all of which

came during a quick burst in the second quarter. Rhodes made three field goals, including a pair of shots from 3-point range.

Rhodes scored 10 points in Saturday's loss to Libertyville. Sobieszczyk provided eight points and 12 rebounds.

The Warriors will play four games at Hinsdale Central's holiday tournament, which begins this Friday and ends on Dec. 28.

Warriors move to 3-2 in conference action

Willowbrook picks up its third straight West Suburban Gold Conference win by beating Downers Grove South

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls basketball team won two of three games last week. The Warriors finished the week with an overall record of 5-7.

Willowbrook opened the week with a 46-41 non-conference home win over Maine West on Dec. 13. The Warriors improved their West Suburban Gold Conference record to 3-2 with Friday's 49-41 victory at Downers Grove South. Willowbrook completed the week with Saturday's 63-25 non-conference home loss to Nazareth Academy.

Junior Elle Bruschuk amassed 18 points and eight rebounds for the Warriors in last week's win over Maine West. Senior Yazmin Setaram contributed 11 points, while senior Nina Nytko supplied eight points. Senior Sara Stout had two points and nine rebounds.

The Warriors trailed Maine West 13-6 after one quarter. Willowbrook rallied to take a 20-18 lead by halftime. The Warriors held a 32-28 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Stout delivered 14 points and 13 rebounds in Friday's conference win at Downers Grove South. Nytko added 11 points, while Bruschuk scored 10 points and made 13 rebounds.

Willowbrook began its conference season with a pair of overtime road losses. The Warriors lost 60-53 in overtime at Hinsdale South on Nov. 29. On Dec. 3, Willowbrook lost 46-44 in overtime at Addison Trail. The Warriors bounced back from those losses to post conference wins over Proviso East, Morton and Downers Grove South.

Nazareth Academy raced to an 18-5 lead over Willowbrook through one quarter of Saturday's non-conference contest in Villa Park. The Roadrunners' lead stood at 31-14 at halftime. Nazareth outscored the Warriors 28-6 in the third quarter to build a 59-20 lead.

Bruschuk and Stout scored six points each in Saturday's game. Setaram provided five points.

Willowbrook will play a non-conference game at Fenwick this week. The Warriors will play four games at next week's holiday tournament at Wheaton North.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls basketball team won two of three games last week to improve its overall season record to 5-7. The Warriors opened the week with a 46-41 non-conference home victory over Maine West on Dec. 13. Willowbrook earned a 49-41 West Suburban Gold Conference win at Downers Grove South on Friday. The Warriors moved their conference record to 3-2 with that victory. Willowbrook completed the week with Saturday evening's 63-25 non-conference loss to Nazareth Academy in Villa Park. One photo from Saturday's game shows senior Nina Nytko (No. 21). Nytko scored 11 points in Friday's win at Downers Grove South. Senior Sara Stout of the Warriors provided 14 points and 13 rebounds in the conference victory over the Mustangs.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's boys basketball team fell to 1-8 after losing three home games last week. One of those losses was Friday's 59-48 West Suburban Gold Conference setback against Downers Grove South. The Warriors, who fell to 0-2 in conference play with Friday's loss, led the visiting Mustangs 40-37 at the end of the third quarter. One photo from the game shows junior Andrew Ciesinski (No. 30 - above), who scored 12 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Another photo shows junior Kenyon Rhodes (No. 10 - right), who scored all eight of his points during a short stretch in the second quarter.



District 88 board honors standout fall achievements

During its Dec. 12 board meeting, the District 88 Board of Education recognized several Willowbrook and Addison Trail students for their state-level achievements during the recent fall season. The honored students included Willowbrook sophomore Audrey Morgan, who competed in two events at the IHSA girls state swimming and diving meet in November. Morgan, who is a member of the Willowbrook/Addison Trail girls co-op swim team, is pictured (left) at the recent board meeting with the team's head coach—Jen Burns (right). Morgan earned her state-meet berths by winning two individual titles at the Elk Grove Sectional on Nov. 5. She delivered first-place sectional finishes in the 200-yard freestyle and the 500-yard freestyle.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing



I'm guessing some residents will react to the Dec. 8 shooting in Lombard by saying that guns are the problem, and that we should all get rid of our weapons. Here's another wild guess: the now-deceased shooter probably wasn't in legal possession of his weapon. Can we also expect to hear this take (?): The suspects wouldn't have robbed the store if the store had declared itself a gun-free zone. Yes, put a piece of

paper on your window that shows a red slash over a picture of a gun, and you'll be safe!

How can anyone seriously consider voting for Trump after he publicly stated he wants to get rid of our Constitution? As I have written here before, prior to being elected, he publicly stated that he wanted to be "king." He's still working on that goal.

Accepting and relying on free stuff makes you dependent on the government, and the government becomes your master. Not much difference than communism, I say.

So Joe Biden and the Democrats have opened our nation's borders because they think it will help the Democratic Party. Never mind the effect on Americans, especially those without a college degree, whose real wages have been stagnating the last 30 years because of massive legal and illegal immigration. And never mind all of the Americans who have overdosed because of the drugs crossing the borders. Over 100,000 overdosed last year, the highest amount ever. Two-thirds were due to fentanyl. How much of that fentanyl comes across the border each year? A lot! Outrageous!

There's way too much crime in our area. Some people turn a blind eye to it, or claim that crime isn't a big problem. But it is, and it's unacceptable.

I hope the Lombard officer who was shot fully recovers from his injuries.

There is now clear evidence that Democrats colluded with Twitter to suppress speech that Democrats didn't like. Where are all of the leftists who claim to love the First Amendment? They seem pretty quiet right now. You have to believe Democrats were also sending out orders to their comrades at Facebook, Instagram, Google, YouTube, CNN, ABC, CBS, NBC and so on.

I hope everyone is thinking about at least being a little prepared for a major emergency. Please have a case of water for every person in your home, food for several days, candles and batteries for flashlights. A generator is great, too, if you can afford it, and have room to use it outside your home. Recent attacks have shown how vulnerable our power supply is. Don't depend on our government to be able to help everyone in these situations.

It should be obvious to everyone by now that the federal government is not taking control of our southern border. The administration doesn't want to discriminate legal immigrants and illegal immigrants: C drugs and sickness are getting worse because of their lack of action. They're going to give them free food, not to mention who is providing them with a roof over their head. In the meantime, many veterans have to rely on charitable support. The veterans are ones who have given us freedom and lifestyle in the Get involved for the future. Our deserve it. Thank you.

Just wanted to make a big shout out to our law enforcement officers, particularly in DuPage County the great job in protecting our and its people. Great job appreciating the bad guys so we good can live our lives in relative peace! heartfelt "thank you" to you all. Merry Christmas and peace!



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

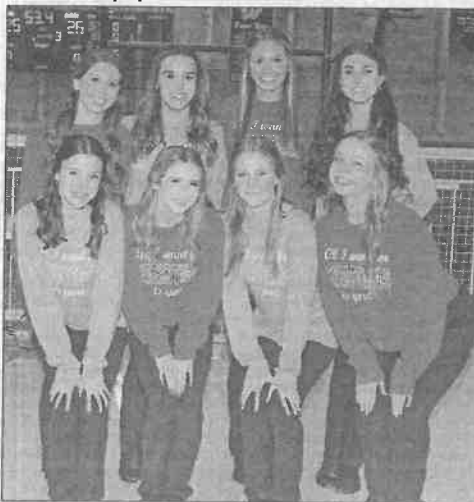
Villa Park resident earns third place in Montini Christmas card design contest

Freshman Roberto Williamson of Villa Park placed third in this year's Montini Catholic High School Spiritual Christmas Card Design Contest with her submission (above). Freshman Margaret Palkoner was selected as this year's winner of the Lasallian school's contest with her original digital submission. Senior Thira Minauskas' submission won second place. "We were so happy to have numerous entries to choose from this year and are always impressed with the beautiful artwork from our talented students," said Montini Catholic President Jim Segredo. "Congratulations to Margaret, Thira and Roberto and all of our students who took the time to share their artistic gifts with us this year—it's always so difficult to choose just one winner."



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publ

Holiday performance



Willowbrook High School dance team continued an annual tradition by performing a special holiday routine during halftime of a boys basketball home game. Several years, the school's dance team has delivered a Christmas performance to Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You." Above: The 2022-23 team provided an energetic performance during the annual routine during halftime of Friday's game against Down Grove South. Pictured (left) left right after the routine are: (front row) freshman Cecilia Oddo, sophomore Kelly Kramme, sophomore Gianna Glampaoli and junior K Gamble; (back row) senior Glar Wiegell, freshman Ava Jovanovic, junior Tabitha Bernardi and freshman Maddy McElfin. Not pictured: junior Lena Wachholz. Willowbrook finished ninth in the 2A division of the 2022 IHSA competitive dance state meet. This year's team will qualify for the 2023 state meet when it competes in a sectional at Geneva High School on Jan. 21.

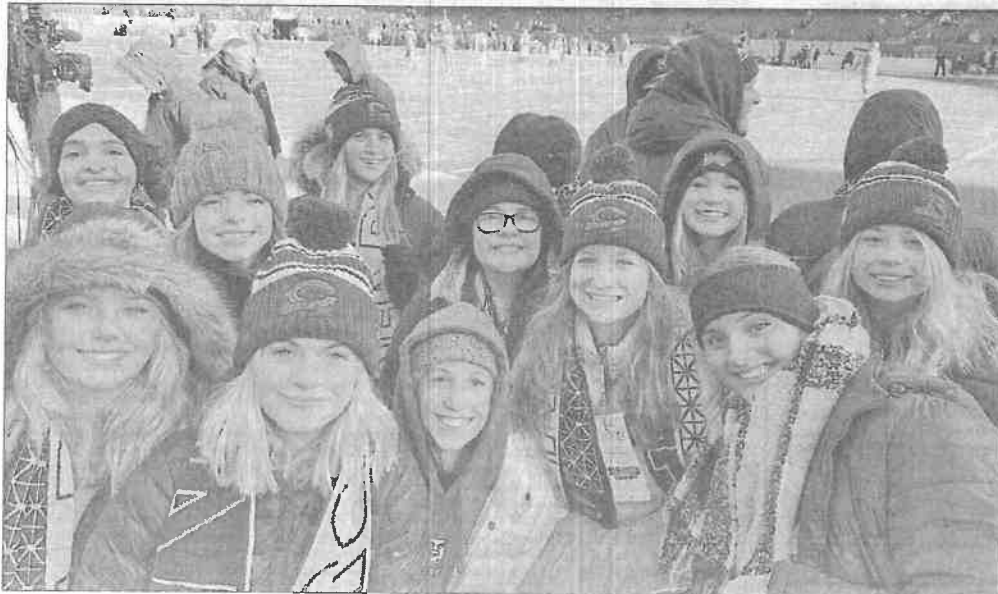


SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors honored at Soldier Field

Willowbrook High School's girls flag football team was recognized during halftime of the Chicago Bears' Dec. 18 game against the Philadelphia Eagles at Soldier Field. The Warriors were honored for their memorable 2022 season, which included multiple championship performances. On Oct. 29, Willowbrook won the inaugural Chicago Bears Girls Flag Football State Championship. The Warriors beat Chicago's

Taft High School 20-0 in the championship contest, which took place at the Bears' facility at Halas Hall in Lake Forest. Willowbrook improved its overall season record to 9-0 with its win over Taft. Earlier that day, the Warriors defeated Chicago's Kenwood Academy High School 18-14 in a semifinal battle at Halas Hall. Willowbrook earned a berth in the state semifinals in Lake Forest by winning the West Suburban Conference title at the conference tournament at Oak Park/River Forest High School on Oct. 22. Willowbrook beat Proviso East 32-0 in the conference tournament's championship game. On Nov. 13, Willowbrook won five straight games to capture the title at the NFL FLAG Regional Tournament in Canton, Ohio. Winning the regional championship gave the Warriors a berth in the Girls Division of the upcoming NFL FLAG Championships, which will take place in Henderson, Nevada—near Las Vegas—from Feb. 3-5, 2023. The NFL's Pro Bowl Games, which will also feature flag football competition, will take place in Las Vegas that same weekend.





For all you residents of Lombard and Villa Park, before you call and complain in Speak Out about the streets and plowing: the villages have priority routines and I am sure they are on the websites. Just as in times of summer storms, please be patient and give these guys and gals a break who work hard to take care of us. Thank you and Happy New Year.

A caller in the Dec. 8 Speak Out criticized the New Illinois movement by denigrating Downstate Illinois. The caller compared downstate Illinois to West Virginia with their high poverty and dependency rates. However, downstate Illinois resembles Iowa much more than it does West Virginia, and Iowa has a lower poverty rate than most states, including Illinois. Also, Iowa is less dependent on the federal government than 32 other states. The fact is, most rural red states are doing well; West Virginia is more of an exception to the rule.

We will be hearing a lot about the 14th Amendment soon. It stops any person from holding any political office if they have incited a revolt or insurrection against our country. So, Trump is nearly out of our lives. Even major Republicans want him out of the picture. Maybe we can then start to unite our country and have respectful discussions with each other.

The father of the shooter in Highland Park is now being charged—finally! Three years ago, he signed for his minor son to get a gun permit, even though this kid had threatened to kill his entire family. He knew his son was dangerous. This is great progress to make people stop and think before anyone signs for a gun permit for a minor, or anyone else.

The mainstream media continues to provide the average person what they want them to think. If you have not been following the release of Twitter files you are part of the problem. Departments of the U.S. government have colluded with media companies to tailor information that is distributed to you. You may say you don't pay attention to Twitter but if something is widely popular on Twitter it usually makes mainstream media. Unless, of course, they don't want you paying attention to it. Wake up people; you are, and have been, manipulated by a biased press. This is not theory; it is now fact.

I heard a report that Illinois may require gun owners to pay "taxes" on their firearms. I know someone who

is a gun collector—doesn't hunt and occasionally goes target shooting at a bona fide gun range—and will pay a hefty price for being a collector. It is a money grab, I understand wanting to know who owns guns in Illinois, but I have to state the obvious: How are such "tracking" laws going to reduce gun violence? People who own guns illegally, have no FOID card, with no intention of registering a firearm in any manner, aren't going to give a hoot about such laws. Their sole purpose in having those guns is to use deadly force. No amount of laws is going to stop the intent to kill or harm. Unfortunately, even harsher sentences are reactive rather than proactive so lives will still be lost. Most criminals don't think they will get caught.

Just thought I'd share the following information with those of you who elected JB Pritzker and the Democrat super majority legislature. The population of Illinois lost 104,437 people between July 2021 and July 2022 (source: U.S. Census Bureau). That's the equivalent of losing the combined populations of Lombard, Villa Park and Addison. The state also had six major companies either move their headquarters, or relocate employees out of Illinois in 2022. Those are Boeing, Caterpillar, Citadel, Tyson Foods, FTX and Highland Ventures. Do any of you who continue to vote for Democrats over ask yourselves why Illinois keeps losing population and businesses? I didn't think so. If you think generating revenue from cannabis sales, green energy, casinos, and abortion on demand will turn Illinois around economically, think again.

I can't help but notice that another car wash is going up at Route 53 and North Avenue. I'm just wondering why in this part of DuPage County that new construction is either a storage center or gas station or car wash? And why isn't there more of a demand for quality of improvement of our society? Why are all the restaurants closing and all the car washes opening? How many times can people wash their car? Is it that people in this area are so addicted to washing their cars that there has to be this oversaturation?

As a person who comes from a military and patriotic family, I wonder how many of the illegal immigrants are willing to fight for America when they wouldn't fight for freedom in their own countries? The question is: are they looking for freedom or freedoms?



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Connor Nolan receives 88's Best honor for December

Willowbrook High School senior Connor Nolan was named his school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of December. Nolan was honored during the District 88 Board of Education's Dec. 12 meeting. He is pictured (left) at the meeting with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause. The 88's Best honor recognizes students for their achievements in and out of the classroom. Nolan is an academic standout in Willowbrook's Class of 2023. When he graduates, he will have completed 12 Advanced Placement (AP) courses. He's an inductee of the National Honor Society, as well as the English Honor Society, the Math Honor Society, the World Language Honor Society and Willowbrook's social studies honor society—Civitas. Nolan is an Illinois State Scholar, and he's been named to Willowbrook's Distinction Honor Roll each semester of his high school career. He's also part of the school's Scholastic Bowl and Econ Challenge teams, and he's a member of Willowbrook's Students for H.O.P.E. (Helping Organize Procurement Education). Nolan is a key player on the school's boys tennis team. He was named to the West Suburban Gold Conference's All-Conference Team during his sophomore and junior seasons. He will be a team captain during his senior season in the spring of 2023. Nolan is pictured on the court during his junior season earlier this year. After he graduates from Willowbrook, Nolan plans to study cognitive science and/or computer science. He has already been accepted to DePaul University. He's awaiting acceptance to his top choice of schools—the University of Michigan.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook girls tennis coach honored

Willowbrook High School girls tennis coach Eddie De La Cruz was recently named the Illinois High School Tennis Coaches Association (IHSTCA) 2A Girls Tennis Regional Coach of the Year. A teacher at Willowbrook, De La Cruz has coached the school girls team for four years. I been the head coach of Willowbrook boys tennis team for years. "When I took over program, many players were the beginner level," De La Cruz said. "We have coached from ground up and have truly built tennis program where athletes are now playing at the college level. It just shows our growth." Willowbrook Athletic Director Brandon Murphy said De La Cruz was a major advocate and contributor to the renovation of Willowbrook's tennis courts, which has allowed the school to host several new tournaments. La Cruz said he's most proud of the relationships he has cultivated. He stays in touch with former athletes, works to create special experiences and memories for current players helped develop tennis class for adults in the community. "He does a fantastic job supporting his athletes both in and out of the tennis seasons," said Murphy of De La Cruz. "His passion for tennis is contagious. Willowbrook is one of the most diverse high schools in Illinois, and he's a master at creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all of his athletes. Since joining the Willowbrook community, he has continuously increased the number of athletes in our girls and boys tennis programs."

FREE
TAKE ONE

Addison INDEPENDENT

Group Fitness FREE WEEK Jan. 9-14

New Year
NEW YOU!
Start 2023 right!

Try all of our fitness classes! **FREE!**

WOOD fitness center

WoodStFitness.com | 1000 W. Wood St., Bensenville (630) 766-7015

VOL. 20 • NO. 3

WWW.THEINDEPENDENTNEWSPAPERS.COM

THURSDAY, JAN. 5, 2023

Illinois Supreme Court grants motion to suspend Safe-T-Act

Responds to plea from DuPage, Kane state's attorneys on pending litigation

By Dee Longfellow
FOR THE INDEPENDENT

On Saturday, Dec. 31, the Illinois Supreme Court granted an Emergency Motion for Supervisory Order to suspend implementation of the Safe-T-Act pending resolution of current litigation. This is in response to a motion regarding the decision submitted by DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Kane County State's Attorney Jamie Mosser.

According to information received from the DuPage County State's Attorney's office, the motion sought "an order sufficient to

maintain consistent pretrial procedures" to not only clarify the implementation of the Safe-T-Act, but also to maintain an orderly administration of justice.

Not surprisingly, Berlin and Mosser were pleased with the Illinois Supreme Court's decision.

"Had the Safe-T-Act gone into effect on Jan. 1, 2023, while litigation is pending, the administration of justice in Illinois would have been uneven, thus harming all the citizens of the State," said Berlin and Mosser in a released statement. "Additionally, DuPage and Kane Counties would have

faced additional challenges as multiple municipalities are in multiple counties, some of which were bound by the pending litigation and others that were not.

"We are very pleased with the Illinois Supreme Court's decision. The equal administration of justice is paramount to the successful and fair administration of our criminal justice system. Today's decision will ensure that those accused of a crime in Illinois will receive equal and fair treatment throughout the State."

On Friday, Dec. 30 prior to the Illinois Supreme Court's decision, Berlin and

Mosser had set forth the following statement:

"On Oct. 3, 2022, DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin, a Republican, and Kane County State's Attorney Jamie Mosser, a Democrat, accepted an invitation from Illinois Senate President Don Harmon's Deputy Chief of Staff to serve on a group of stakeholders that included only three State's Attorneys to remedy what we and many others viewed as glaring deficiencies in the new Safe-T-Act legislation as written and passed by the General Assembly.

See SAFE-T-Act, Page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

INSIDE:

Police Reports..... 6 Puzzles..... 11
Viewpoint..... 10 Classifieds..... 13

Food for thought

Recently, students in Addison Trail English teacher Katie Inzinga's Creative Writing class participated in a special assignment called "Food for Thought: Writing a Recipe." For the project, students shared a recipe, as well as a story that accompanies the dish. Items included side dishes, entrées and desserts and represented a variety of cultures.

WILLIAM PARKER, 601-81-3100
101 W. HIGHWAY RD.

DISTRICT 88
94285-9609/2023 C011
SAY

PRINTED AT
THE INDEPENDENT
NEWSPAPERS
LTD.

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



2023/01



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Three Addison Trail students have been selected to participate in the 2023 Illinois High School Theatre Festival (IHSTF) All-State production of "Shrek The Musical." Pictured are (clockwise from top left): sophomore Keegan Sampey, AT Theatre tech assistant Alex Holod, junior Angela Anello and senior Megan Sowa. Holod is a 2009 graduate of ATHS.

• Safe-T-Act

(Continued from front page)

"We are very proud of our work and the improvements advanced by this group, which were passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor on Dec. 6. In our opinion, these amendments go a long way in rectifying many, but not all, of the anticipated problems if the law was allowed to go into effect as written.

"Recent legal filings and court rulings however, have put the implementation of the Safe-T-Act into question, specifically, confusion statewide regarding the legal impact of 21st Circuit Court Judge Thomas Cunningham's ruling on all 102 counties in Illinois. This afternoon, our offices filed an Emergency Motion for Supervisory Order with the Illinois Supreme Court seeking clarification regarding implementation of the Act, which will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2023.

"Specifically, the Motion asks the Supreme Court to 'exercise its supervisory authority to enter an order sufficient to maintain consistent pretrial procedures because without such an order, defendants in different jurisdictions will be subject to different treatment upon arrest and throughout pretrial proceedings, creating an equal protection problem for citizens across the State.'

"As State's Attorneys for Illinois' second and fifth largest counties, our top priority is to protect the public. We have no personal or political

"We are very pleased with the Illinois Supreme Court's decision. The equal administration of justice is paramount to the successful and fair administration of our criminal justice system. Today's decision will ensure that those accused of a crime in Illinois will receive equal and fair treatment throughout the State."

DuPage County State's

Attorney Bob Berlin

Kane County State's

Attorney Jamie Mosser

agenda regarding the Safe-T-Act and remain committed to serving the residents of DuPage and Kane Counties under legislation passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor."

Addison Trail takes 'Shrek' to state competition

On Tuesday, Dec. 20, Addison Trail hosted a send-off celebration for three students who have been selected to participate in the 2023 Illinois High School Theatre Festival (IHSTF) All-State production of "Shrek The Musical."

The IHSTF All-State cast, crew and pit orchestra are comprised of top student performers, technicians and musicians from throughout Illinois. Addison Trail junior Angela Anello is part of the cast and will perform as the dragon. Sophomore Keegan Sampey is part of the crew (sound), and senior Megan Sowa is the stage manager. Addison Trail Theatre Tech Assistant Alex Holod, who graduated from Addison Trail in 2009, is the special effects designer for the production.

Performances will take place from Jan. 12-14 at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The event is for participants of the IHSTF and is not open to the public.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Addison VFW Post thanks Walmart

The Addison VFW Post 7446 would like to thank Jarred Evann, manager of the Addison Walmart store, who generously helped raise funds and donations for the VFW's children's Christmas party at the Post. Thanks to him, more than 60 children received a Christmas present. (The woman in the photo was unidentified.)



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Addison Trail cheer squad takes first again

On Dec. 18, members of the Addison Trail Cheerleading Team participated in another Illinois Cheerleading Coaches Association (ICCA) competition of the 2022-23 season, this time at Wilmington High School. Just like Dec. 11, the team took first place and won a second bid to the ICCA Championships in Springfield on Jan. 21 and 22.

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, Jan. 6 Movement stations

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. No registration required.

Monday, Jan. 16 Website design with a stellar marketing focus

From 6:30-8 p.m. on Zoom via the Addison Public Library, in this presentation, you'll learn why WordPress, the world's most popular web-building platform, is the best choice for showcasing your business online and see a step-by-step website startup demonstration.

Tuesday, Jan. 17 • iPad and iPhone basics

From 6-7 p.m. at the Adult Pro-

gram Room of the Addison Public Library, have a new iPad or iPhone or are looking to get one? Join us to learn all the basic functions and get the most out of your device! We will discuss how to get connected, common apps, and how to use your device safely. Part of our Technology Made Simple series; learn more and sign up at <https://www.addisonlibrary.org/Tech-Simple>.

• Winter evening story time

From 6:30-7 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, join us for an evening of stories and crafts all about winter. All ages welcome. No registration required.

Thursday, Jan. 19 • Monthly meditation at the Library

From 10-11 a.m. at the Large Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library, join friends old and new in-person to discover the life-changing effects of meditation. No experience required.

• Life through the lens of Kodak

From 7-8 p.m. on Zoom via the

Addison Public Library, in 1895, Eastman Kodak was producing 90 percent of all the film in the world. Join us as we meet Kodak founder George Eastman, who will share stories of experiences in his hometown of Rochester, N.Y. and across the country that shaped his life and photography as we know it. You'll also see photos with demonstrations of several distinctive Kodak cameras from 1896-1936, including the famous Brownie camera. Co-sponsored by Addison Historical Society.

Friday, Jan. 20 Free time Fridays

From 11 a.m.-noon at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library, Join us for crafts, games, light refreshments, conversation, and fun with friends old and new. We'll do something different each time we meet and it will always be a fun treat.

Saturday, Jan. 21 Chinese New Year story time with the Language Labs

From 2-2:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, learn about the origins of Chinese New Year, share sto-

ries, and make a traditional Chinese New Year craft.

Ongoing events 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.ilinoisearlylearning.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 reading circle

Starting at 11 a.m. Tuesdays at the Adult Program Room of the Addison

Public Library, build your vocabulary and reading skills in a small group setting.

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.