

Villa Park REVIEW

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VOL. 19 • NO. 10

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THURSDAY, FEB. 23, 2023



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

A night of cheer

Willowbrook High School honored several members of its Class of 2023 before the Warriors' recent boys basketball game against Addison Trail. In addition to recognizing the seniors on the school's boys basketball team, the Warriors honored the seniors on the cheerleading and dance teams. The members of Willowbrook's varsity cheerleading team are pictured after the game against the Blazers.

The team's three seniors—Grace Roscoe, Kelly Lara and Jaylynn MacIntyre—are pictured (left to right) in the front row. Pictured (left to right) in the back row are: sophomore Shan'ya Lawson, junior Brenda Martinez, junior Camryn Jerome, junior Ivana Stevanovic, junior Mason MacDonald, sophomore Cassie Yepez, sophomore Ava Venegas and junior Samantha Arroyo.

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Warriors and Blazers battle at IHSA girls bowling state meet

Neither team advances to Saturday's team finals; Porro and Melone qualify for the individual finals

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls bowling team competed in the IHSA state meet, which began on Friday at the Cherry Bowl in Rockford. The Warriors did not qualify for Saturday's team finals.

Junior Jacquelyn Porro of Willowbrook advanced to Saturday's individual finals at the state meet. Porro, who bowled a total of 12 games at the event in Rockford, finished 36th

in the meet's individual standings.

Willowbrook was one of 24 teams to qualify for the state meet. The top 12 teams from Friday's action advanced to Saturday's team finals. The Warriors, who last qualified for the state meet in 2019, landed in 24th place at the end of Friday's play.

Porro rolled a six-game total of 1,155 on Friday. She advanced to Saturday's individual finals by plac-

ing among the top 30 bowlers from Friday's play who weren't members of a team that qualified for the team finals.

After opening the state meet with a 182 in her first game on Friday, Porro bowled her best game of the day—a 234—in her second game. She rolled a 187 in her third game, and finished the day with games of 166, 206 and 181 for her six-game total of 1,155.

Senior Brianna Smalling delivered a six-game total of 1,036 for the Warriors in Friday's play. The left-handed Smalling fired her best game of the day with a 211 in her fourth game.

Willowbrook junior Olivia Williams supplied a six-game total of 982 on Friday. Williams turned in her best game of the day in her fourth game, when she rolled a 205.

Freshmen Roux Farquhar bowled a six-game total of 745 for the Warriors on Friday. Freshman Eli Gibson delivered a six-game score of 673 for Willowbrook in the first day of play in Rockford.

Competing as an individual on Saturday, Porro began the day with a 223 in her first game. She added scores of 203 and 195 in her next two games. Porro finished the state meet with scores of 183, 169 and 209 in her final three games. After rolling a six-game total of 1,155 on Friday, she posted a six-game score of 1,182 on Saturday. Porro delivered a 12-game total of 2,337 (an average game score of 194.75) at the state meet to earn her 36th-place finish.

Porro also advanced to the individual finals of last year's state meet. As a sophomore, she finished 47th in the individual standings of the 2022 state meet.

In addition to helping the Warriors to this year's state meet, Porro, Smalling and Williams were named to the West Suburban Conference's 2022-23 All-Conference Team. The players with the top 18 averages in conference action earned All-Conference recognition. Porro finished at the top of that list by posting an average score of 202 in this season's conference meets.

Addison Trail

Addison Trail fell short of advancing to Saturday's team finals. The Blazers posted a 15th-place finish in Friday's play with their total of 5,224. Carterville, which moved on to Saturday's finals with its 12th-place total of 5,276 on Friday.

Senior Hannah Melone of Addison Trail advanced to Saturday's individ-

ual finals. Melone led the Blazers in Friday's play with her six-game total of 1,176. Melone rolled a 12-game score of 2,312 in Rockford to finish 40th in the individual standings.

Melone opened Friday's play in Rockford with a 168 in her first game. She rolled a 171 in her second game and a 212 in her third game. After posting a 167 in her fourth game of the day, Melone finished Friday's action with her two best games of the day—a 222 in her fifth game and a 236 in her sixth game.

Melone opened Saturday's action with a 155 in her first game. She delivered a 234 in her second game and a 220 in her third game. Melone completed the state meet with games of 168, 178 and 181. After bowling a six-game series of 1,176 on Friday, she rolled a 1,136 on Saturday for her 12-game total of 2,312. Melone turned in an average game score of 192.67 during her 40th-place individual finish at the state meet.

Senior Kylie Fiermuga bowled a six-game total of 1,089 for the Blazers during Friday's play in Rockford. Fiermuga rolled her best game of the day—a 204—in her third game. Sophomore Val Pizzoferrato provided a six-game total of 1,069 for Addison Trail on Friday. Pizzoferrato bowled her best game of the day with a 214 in her sixth and final game.

Sophomore Amelia Leslie fired a six-game score of 919 for the Blazers on Friday. Sophomore Grace Cannizzo shot a five-game total of 812 for Addison Trail. Sophomore Angie Ayala competed in one game for the Blazers on Friday. She delivered a score of 159.

Addison Trail and Willowbrook both qualified for the state meet by finishing among the top four teams at the 12-team Hinsdale Central Sectional, which took place at Suburbanite Bowl in Westmont on Feb. 11. Willowbrook finished second in the sectional's team standings, while Addison Trail earned third-place honors. The top four teams from each of the IHSA's six girls bowling sectionals qualified for the state meet's team competition.

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Arts Council presents Bensenville Short Film Festival

The Bensenville Arts Council is presenting their second Bensenville Short Film Festival on Thursday, March 2 at 7 p.m. at the Bensenville Theatre, 9 S. Center Street.

Eighteen films were chosen by the Arts Council from 48 submissions that were received from all over the world from Asia to Europe, as well as films from Bensenville and the Chicago area. The films, none longer than 12 minutes, offer a wide variety of subjects, from heartwarming reflections of real life, to observations of the struggles in the modern world, to abstract art created with digital technology.

Admission is \$10. Tickets can be purchased in advance at bensenvillearts.com/filmfestival or on the

night of the festival. All fans of film and the arts are urged to attend this celebration of film and the art of film-making.

The mission of the Bensenville Arts Council, an intergovernmental agency, is to provide a variety of arts experiences to residents of all ages which will enhance the quality of life for all participants. The board of directors is comprised of representatives from Bensenville governmental bodies, which provide funding for the council including the Bensenville community public library, the Village of Bensenville, Bensenville School District 2, and Fenton High School District 100, as well as members representing the voice of the community.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

IHSA state bowling meet

Willowbrook's girls bowling team competed at the IHSA state meet on Friday in Rockford. The Warriors, who made their first team appearance at the state meet since 2019, did not advance to Saturday's team finals. Pictured above, left to right are: freshman Roux Farquhar, junior Jacquelyn Porro, freshman Eli Gibson, senior Brianna Smalling and junior Olivia Williams. Porro advanced to Saturday's individual finals. She finished 36th in the state meet's individual standings. Porro, Smalling and Williams were named to the West Suburban Conference's 2022-23 All-Conference Team. The 18 bowlers with the top averages in conference play earned All-Conference recognition. Porro had the conference's best individual average—202 per game—during the season.

Four Cook County men charged with attempted murder in Addison shooting

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert B. Berlin and Addison Director of Police Timothy Hayden announced that four Cook County men have each been charged with two counts of attempted murder (Class X felony) following a Feb. 16 shooting in Addison.

Brandon Pichardo, 23, of Bridgeview; Damian Gonzales, 24, of Chicago; Imbiel Martinez, 19 of Chicago; and Efrain Garcia, 27, of Chicago, all appeared at a bond hearing where Judge Brian Jacobs set bond at \$2 million with 10 percent to apply for all four men.

In addition to the attempted murder charge, all four defendants are charged with two counts of aggravated battery with a firearm (Class X felony).

On Feb. 16 at approximately 12:42 p.m., Addison Police Department officers responded to a call of "shots fired" on the 500 block of S. Wisconsin. Upon their arrival, officers found two gun-shot victims in a Jeep SUV parked in the driveway of a residence. Both victims, who were seated in the front driver's and passenger's seats, were shot multiple times. Officers immediately rendered first aid to the victims who were then transported to a local hospital for medical attention. An investigation into the matter alleges that the victims were seated in the Jeep when the four men arrived in a Nissan Altima.

It is alleged Gonzalez, Pichardo and Garcia exited the Nissan and approached the vehicle in which the victims were seated. It is further alleged that Gonzalez, who was in the front passenger seat of the vehicle, shot at the victims, striking one of the victims two times and the other 11 times. It is

alleged that following the shooting, all four defendants fled the scene. An investigation into the shooting led by the Addison Police Department led to the four men as suspects in the case. Pichardo, Gonzales and Martinez were taken into custody on Feb. 16. Garcia was taken into custody on Feb. 17.

"The allegations that these men ambushed a parked vehicle and, in a frightening display of violence, opened fire in the middle of the afternoon in a residential neighborhood are outrageous," Berlin said. "This alleged complete disregard and disdain for public safety and the rule of law will not stand in DuPage County. Through the truly outstanding work of the Addison Police Department, however, the men suspected in this violent attack have been apprehended, charged and will face an aggressive prosecution. Public safety remains a top priority of not only my office, but of law enforcement throughout the County. The victims' injuries are very serious and we are all concerned for their well-being. I thank the Hinsdale, Elmhurst and Villa Park Police Departments for their collaborative efforts and assistance in this case."

"The successful arrest of the suspects in this case is due in large part to the significant contributions from both the Elmhurst, Villa Park and Hinsdale Police Departments," Hayden said. "Law enforcement is charged with safeguarding the well-being of our residents and the message from the Addison Police Department to anyone who would consider harming our community is simple, if you commit a crime in Addison, you will be arrested and charged accordingly."

The next court appearance for all four defendants is scheduled March 20 for arraignment in front of Judge Brian Telandier.

Worship Services Directory



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Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.
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Warriors win their regular-season finale

Willowbrook hosts an IHSA regional this week

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook boys basketball team wrapped up its regular season by playing a pair of home games last week.

The Warriors completed their West Suburban Gold Conference season with a 70-64 loss to Hinsdale South on Feb. 14. Two days later, Willowbrook closed its regular season with a 70-62 non-conference win over Plainfield Central.

The Warriors finished their regular season with an overall record of 11-19 and a conference mark of 4-8.

Willowbrook will open the IHSA Class 4A post-season on its home court in Villa Park. The Warriors, who are hosting a regional, squared off against Metea Valley in a regional semifinal contest on Feb. 22. The winner of that game will face either Lake Park or Wheaton North in this Friday's regional final.

Willowbrook led Hinsdale South 14-13 after one quarter of last week's conference game. The Warriors trailed the Hornets 31-29 at halftime. Willowbrook owned a 49-46 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Senior Isaac Sobieszczyk provided 26 points and nine rebounds for the Warriors in last week's loss to Hinsdale South. Senior Noah Campbell added 17 points. Senior Luke Davis supplied 12 points. Junior Andrew Ciesinski contributed six points and nine rebounds. Senior Joey Tumilty had six assists, six steals and five rebounds.

The Warriors led Plainfield Central 21-18 after one quarter of last week's regular-season finale. Plainfield Central held a 35-30 halftime lead. The Warriors trailed the Wildcats 44-41 in the third quarter.

Campbell then sank a 3-point shot to tie the score at 44-44. Willowbrook piled on 10 more unanswered points to close out the quarter and take a 54-44 lead with eight minutes to play.

The Warriors expanded their lead in the fourth quarter to build a 68-49 lead. Plainfield Central narrowed the margin in the game's closing moments.

Campbell scored a team-leading

21 points for the Warriors in their victory over the Wildcats. He made a pair of 3-point shots and connected on seven of eight free-throw attempts. Sobieszczyk compiled 18 points and nine rebounds. Tumilty,

who made three shots from 3-point range, added 15 points. Senior Jaylin Brown contributed six points and four rebounds. Ciesinski delivered four points, five rebounds and two blocked shots.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's boys basketball team finished its regular season with last week's 70-62 non-conference win over Plainfield Central in Villa Park. The Warriors completed their regular season with an overall record of 11-19. Senior Noah Campbell (No. 25 - left) scored a team-high 21 points in Willowbrook's victory over Plainfield Central on Feb. 16. Senior Isaac Sobieszczyk (No. 15 - above left) provided 18 points and nine rebounds. Senior Joey Tumilty (No. 1 - above right) sank three shots from 3-point range and supplied 15 points. The Warriors, who are hosting an IHSA Class 4A regional, opened the post-season with this week's home contest against Metea Valley. The winner of that game will face either Lake Park or Wheaton North in this Friday's regional final in Villa Park.

Villa Park's Troop 199 holds annual spaghetti dinner this Sunday

Tickets are available at the door and online

Boy Scout Troop 199 of Villa Park and its BSA Scout (girls) Troop are holding their annual spaghetti dinner this Sunday, Feb. 26.

Troop 199's biggest and most popular fundraiser of the year will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at St. Alexander Hall, 300 S. Cornell Ave., Villa Park.

The event features an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner. Guests can dine in or drive through/carry out. The dinner includes spaghetti with meat sauce or marinara (gluten-free

available upon request), Italian sausage, Italian breadsticks, a side salad and a dessert. Beverages include coffee, tea, iced tea, lemonade and water.

Tickets are available through the troop or at the door. Tickets are \$13 for adults and \$7 for children ages 5 to 12. Admission is free for children under the age of 5.

Back by popular demand, toasted ravioli with marinara will be available for \$5. A family pack, which costs \$50, includes five adult meals

and desserts, along with one order of ravioli.

Cash, checks, PayPal and Zelle will be accepted. Proceeds from the dinner will be used to repair troop equipment and provide funds for awards and need-based camp scholarships.

Those who can't come to the event but want to support it can consider donating tickets.

To purchase tickets, or to donate to Troop 199, visit villapark-troop199.com.

VFW Post 2801 starts its Friday Fish Fry dinners this week

Dinners will take place each Friday during Lent, from this Friday through April 7

Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 will hold its Friday Fish Fry dinners each Friday during Lent. The post's fish fry din-

ners will begin this Friday, Feb. 24, and continue through Friday, April 7. Each dinner will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. at the post, which is locat-

ed at 39 E. St. Charles Road in Villa Park. Admission is \$15 per person.

Please come out to help support our veterans.

Warriors lose post-season opener

Team closes the season with a 14-17 record

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls basketball team's season ended with last week's 51-42 loss to Wheaton North at the IHSA Class 4A St. Charles North Regional.

The Warriors completed their season with a record of 14-17.

Willowbrook held a 12-6 lead over the Falcons after one quarter of the two teams' regional semifinal in St. Charles on Feb. 14. The Warriors trailed Wheaton North 22-21 at halftime. Willowbrook held a 35-33 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Senior Nina Nytko scored a team-leading 11 points for the Warriors in their season-ending loss to the Falcons. Nytko made three shots from 3-point range.

Senior Sara Stout scored 10 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for Willowbrook in the regional semifinal. Junior Elle Bruschuk supplied seven points and 12 rebounds for the Warriors. Willowbrook seniors Yazmin Setaram and Rimona Kari contributed seven and five points, respectively.

Wheaton North's season ended with a 60-27 loss to St. Charles North in the regional final on Feb. 16. St. Charles North opened the post-season with a 79-20 win over Addison Trail in a regional semifinal on Feb. 14.

Police Reports

Area police departments recently reported the following arrests and citations. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a conviction, and that suspects are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Persons charged with domestic battery are not named in order to protect the privacy of victims. Juveniles age 17 or younger are not named.

Addison

Editor's note: There were no reports submitted by the Addison Police Department last week.

Villa Park Feb. 11

A complainant in the 2000 block of Ovaltine reported at 12:57 p.m. that an unknown suspect slashed tires of a vehicle parked in the parking lot.

Officers at a business in the 500 block of E. St. Charles located a broken window on the west side of the building.

A complainant in the 200 block of E. Kenilworth reported at 8:07 p.m. that they were being harassed by a subject.

Feb. 10

A complainant at a business in the 200 block of W. Roosevelt reported at 10:30 p.m. that an unknown suspect used an unknown object to break a window in the rear of the building.

Feb. 9

Shawn L. Oria, 58 of Chicago, was charged with DUI and transportation or possession of open alcohol by a driver in the 900 block of S. Route 83 at 7:31 p.m.

Feb. 8

Lauren M. Petty, 37, of Addison, was served with a violation of an order of protection notice in the 500 block of W. Division at 6:41 p.m.

A 31-year-old woman from Black Creek, Wis., was charged with two counts of domestic battery, while a 31-year-old Elmhurst man also was charged with two counts

of domestic battery at a hotel in the 1-100 block of W. Roosevelt at 2 a.m. The same woman also was arrested on an in-jurisdiction warrant.

Feb. 7

Luis H. Hernandez-Macias, 30, of Villa Park, was charged with criminal damage to property in the 1100 block of Ovaltine at 1:36 a.m.

Colin J. Ceas, 33, of Elmhurst, was charged with battery—making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature, for an alleged incident that occurred at a restaurant/bar in the 300 block of E. Kenilworth on Jan. 1. Ceas was arrested on the above date.

Feb. 6

Burglary to a vehicle was reported in the 1600 block of S. Michigan at 12:39 p.m. A complainant reported unknown suspect used a screwdriver to break a rear passenger window on a vehicle that was parked in a lot. The suspect removed a BAUD device from the vehicle.

A complainant in the 1-100 block of N. Ardmore reported unknown suspect damaged the laundry room door.

A complainant in the 300 block of E. St. Charles reported at 8:57 p.m. that unknown suspect used an unknown object to smash the rear window of the vehicle parked in a parking lot.

Feb. 5

Robert J. Braband, 50, of Villa Park, was charged with violation of an order of protection in the 1000 block of S. Myrtle at 5:04 p.m.

A complainant at a restaurant in the 300 block of E. St. Charles reported multiple juvenile subjects damaged a table and removed a wet floor sign. The sign was given back and the subjects were issued no trespass notices.

Fraud, identity theft

According to information provided last week by the Villa Park Police Department, police reported one incident of a resident being a

victim of fraud or identity theft.

Bensenville

The Bensenville Police Department recently reported the following arrests and citations. Persons who are charged with domestic battery are not named in order to protect the victim's privacy. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a conviction, and that suspects are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Juveniles age 17-or-younger are not named.

Feb. 15, 12:27 p.m. in the 100 block of Judson Street, a complainant reported a known suspect stole credit cards and made purchases with them. This case is under investigation. BEPC2300147

Feb. 15, 1:29 p.m. in the 300 block of E. Green St., Connie Trujillo, 33, of Chicago, was arrested on a failure to appear warrant out of DuPage County. BEPC2300148

Feb. 15, 1:56 p.m. in the 600 block of Supreme Drive, a complainant reported 82 vendor checks

that were picked up by USPS at the beginning of February were attempted to be cashed fraudulently. This case is under investigation. BEPC2300149

Feb. 14, 12:52 a.m. in the 200 block of N. Pine St., David E. Alcaraz, 21, was arrested on a failure to appear warrant out of DuPage County. BEPC2300143

Feb. 13, 12:10 p.m. in the 700 block of Thomas Drive, a complainant reported a stolen license plate by an unknown suspect. This case is under investigation. BEPC2300142

Feb. 11, 12:26 a.m. near S. York and E. Jefferson, Nathaniel Alicea, 26, of Joliet, was arrested for unlawful use of weapon in a vehicle and possession of alcohol by passenger. BEPC2300138

Feb. 11, 1:48 p.m. in the 100 block of S. Barron St., a complainant reported a domestic battery by a known suspect. This case is under investigation. BEPC2300139

Feb. 10, 6:03 p.m. in the 900 block of Route 83, a complainant

reported two catalytic converters stolen under his car. This case is under investigation. BEPC2300135

Feb. 10, 7:37 p.m. in the 400 block of May Street, a complainant reported being harassed by phone and media threats from a known suspect. This case is under investigation. BEPC2300136

Feb. 10, 9:53 p.m. in the 1000 block of W. Irving Park Road, Jose Lopez-Gomez, 38, of Addison, was arrested for DUI. BEPC2300137

Feb. 10 in the 1000 block of W. Irving Park Road, a juvenile was arrested for burglary. BEPC2300133

Feb. 9, 8:10 p.m. in the 1000 block of N. Route 83, Brandon R. Murphy, 37, of Chicago, was arrested for theft. BEPC2300131

Feb. 9, 10:05 p.m. near Wolf and Plainfield roads, Indian Head Park police, a Bensenville police detective and a Bensenville tac officer apprehended three suspects who fled a stolen vehicle while on I-294 and Plainfield Road. All matters were turned over to the Burr Ridge Police Department. BEPC2300132

Chicago Immigrant Orchestra brings a vibrant world music experience

When it comes to creating vibrant concert experiences with an international flair, the Chicago Immigrant Orchestra is second to none for evoking sounds that span the globe and come together in interesting and harmonious ways.

This special blend of world music will be on display when the Elmhurst History Museum proudly presents the Chicago Immigrant Orchestra in concert on Sunday, March 26 at 2 p.m. in Hammerschmidt Memorial Chapel on the campus of Elmhurst University.

Tickets are \$15 each and \$10 for those younger than 18, and are available online at elmhursthistory.org (in the Programs section) or on Eventbrite at tinyurl.com/3cw6xsr.

Please note that seating in Hammerschmidt Memorial Chapel is open and seats are not reserved. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Free parking is available in the Elmhurst University parking lots and in nearby City of Elmhurst garages.

About the CIO

The Chicago Immigrant Orchestra was first established in 1999 by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events as part of the first annual Chicago World Music Festival.

Today, the Chicago Immigrant Orchestra has evolved to a 20-piece ensemble that consists of members of the Chicago immigrant community, representing musical traditions from all over the world. The orchestra explores the relationships and differences among these traditions, creating a cohesive tapestry of cultures.

In this fresh approach under the direction of virtuoso guitarist and composer Fareed Haque and multi-instrumentalist Wanees Zarour, Chicago Immigrant Orchestra musicians — from the Far East to Western Europe, Africa and the Americas — are thoroughly involved in the evolution of the musical concepts presented. From a Mongolian throat singer and horsehair fiddle player to a West African percussionist and

more, numerous diverse musical styles from across the globe will be showcased in this eclectic concert.

Elmhurst History Museum's related exhibit

The Chicago Immigrant Orchestra concert is presented in connection with the Elmhurst History Museum's current exhibit, "In Pursuit of Happiness: Immigrants in Our Communities," which continues its run through Sunday, May 14. The museum is located at 120 E. Park Ave. in downtown Elmhurst (within walking distance of Elmhurst University). The exhibit examines the personal stories and experiences of area immigrants and their descendants as told through first-person accounts, photographs, treasured objects, video and more. Admission is free and more information can be found at elmhursthistory.org.

Don't miss this special opportunity to catch the amazing Chicago Immigrant Orchestra in concert. For more information, please visit www.elmhursthistory.org or call 630-833-1457.

Registration now open for Relay for Life District 88 youth event

At District 88, giving back and helping others is a cornerstone of pride.

One of the district's main fundraising events is the Relay For Life of District 88 Youth, which is part of Willowbrook's Brook Olympics (a weeklong series of events and challenges created to enhance tradition and class spirit and pride at the school). Those events — along with "Go Pink" efforts in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month — raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

This year's Relay For Life event will take place on March 4 at Willowbrook, and all District 88 students and community members are invited to attend. It will feature a variety of activities and games, and there also will be a luncheon to remember those who have lost their battle with cancer. Community members who raise at least \$15 are invited to participate from 6 to 11 p.m. District 88 students who raise at least \$115 can stay for the lock-in from 11 p.m. on

March 4 to 6 a.m. on March 5. They also will receive a T-shirt and vouchers and will be entered into a raffle to win prizes.

To register for the Relay For Life of District 88 Youth, go to www.relayforlife.org/d88il. Donations can be made at that link as well, and proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.

For questions or more information, contact Relay For Life adviser Ed Sullivan at esullivan@dupage88.net or 630-782-3019.



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Another caller was right saying that with a budget surplus the Democrats would create new ways to spend our money. I am all for preschool education, especially for low-income families who cannot afford to pay, but spending \$100 million to expand and build facilities, \$70 million for daycare and \$20 million toward provider compensation is over the top. Oh, and \$130 million for the Childcare Workforce Compensation Contract to supplement workers' income. The last sentence of the Illinois Constitution, Article 10, Section 1, states: "The State has the primary responsibility for financing the system of public education." School boards and legislators need to address this and shift responsibility back to the state because the majority of my local property taxes have always gone toward schools, and now I would have to pay more for preschools? Double dipping? How about add preschools to the districts as a less costly measure? As a senior, my exemptions are a blip on the radar. The property taxes are squeezing

me out of my home. So spend all those millions of taxpayer dollars on education, but then give us a bigger break on local property taxes.

The economy is strong. Inflation is transitory. The border is secure. So is mail-in voting. Crime is not a serious problem. China flew a spy balloon across our country, but it was not a big deal. You won't get COVID if you take the vaccine. Wearing masks will help prevent the spread of COVID. So will 6 feet of social distancing. The COVID vaccine is safe, with no risks or side effects. Men can get pregnant. Trump colluded with Russia to win the 2016 election. Hunter Biden's laptop is Russian disinformation. The evacuation from Afghanistan was a success. We still need to be in a COVID emergency. Defunding the police is a smart idea. Biden speaks clearly and effectively. On and on. There's been so much nonsense in the last few years. Wake up, America!

Did the Kansas City Chiefs really beat the Philadelphia Eagles in the Super Bowl? It looks like the game ended on Feb. 12, with Kansas City winning 38-35, but maybe the Eagles will receive some points by mail in the next couple of weeks.

Hi folks. It's OK if you leave your Christmas lights up, but you need to unplug them.

Years ago, there was a TV series called "The Invisible Man." The Democrats have brought back the sequel, called "The Invisible President."

Are more people noticing that leftists want to define any opinions they don't like as "hate" speech? Leftists are all for tolerance as long as you agree with them.

Oh please, oh please, say it ain't so. Gov. Pritzker is strutting around like a peacock, hoping to get noticed for a possible presidential nomination. His speeches sound more like they are talking to the entire country, not specifically to us as Illinois residents. I resent that.

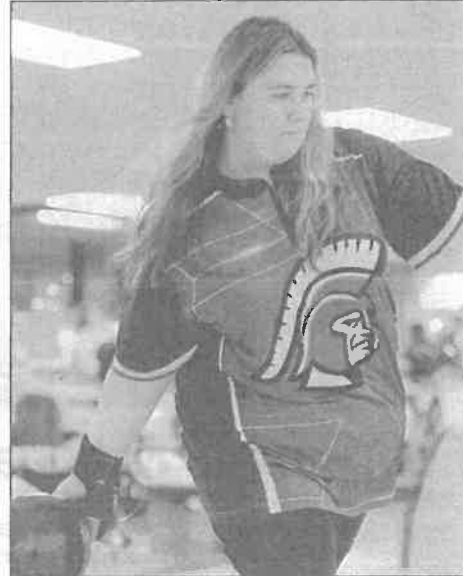
Hey, how about that Super Bowl? Pretty darn good for a change. Well, except for that halftime show. My goodness, that was obscene. I thought this was supposed to be a family friendly event. Good night.

Hi, the immigrants, they're staying in hotels and housing and they are getting a lot of things for free such as food stamps and Biden wants to give them Social Security. They are using our tax dollars for their freebies. But Social Security is American citizens' money. It's

not immigrants' money. Am I missing something or is Biden on some kind of meds? Thanks. Bye.

OK, liberals, Democrats and/or other supporters of Vice President Kamala Harris. Why have none of you spoken up to defend her leaving out the word "life" from the Declaration of Independence in her speech that did include the right to "liberty and the pursuit of happiness"? Come on, I challenge you to defend or explain her narrative.

I read a story online about how Pritzker called the critics of his st budget, quote, "carnival barkers." Interesting. Pritzker is the chief carnival barker for what is the largest bud in state history, and for saying t the state of this state is stronger t it has been in decades. Oh, please, used \$3 billion in federal COVID re funding to pay off COVID-related d in the state. Wait until that federal re funding dries up. Then we'll see h much carnival barking he does in future when he's running budget d cits again.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Porro competes at state

Jacquelyn Porro of Willowbrook advanced to Saturday's individual bowling finals. She finished 36th in the state meet's individual standings.

Blair-Sherlock responds to governor's State of the State, emphasizes need to support issues facing families

Editor's note: This was provided by the office of State Rep. Diane Blair-Sherlock.

State Rep. Diane Blair-Sherlock, D-Villa Park, issued the following statement after Gov. J.B. Pritzker's annual State of the State and budget address:

"I look forward to reviewing the governor's budget proposal as we work to develop a responsible budget that understands the concerns facing families throughout our community.

"While I am encouraged that our state has better credit ratings, eliminated a lot of bad debt and has paid even more into the pensions than mandated, there is still a lot of work still ahead. We must continue to take a balanced financial approach that enables us to better invest in education, public safety and critical services that residents depend on - including health care, senior programs,

and economic efforts that support small businesses.

"Our budget should reflect values as a state, and as other parts of the country take aim at reproductive freedoms it's important that we include support for reproductive health access.

"Investment in early childhood and education will result in continuing benefits to our state by developing a competitive workforce that attracts and sustains economic development. We must be cognizant that not every investment will produce instant results and that we must plan for the long-term well-being of our state.

"Today marks the beginning of a budget process, and I look forward to engaging with local residents and stakeholders on crafting a final plan that helps our area families with challenges they face every day."

Viewpoint

Under my father's fedora

What do you see?

Having just returned from Wickenburg, Arizona, there's an interesting story to share about the piece of sculpture that is pictured here. My life-long friend Paul Hughes and his beautiful wife Vivian find pieces of burlwood as they drive here and there in and around the desert. Back home in her studio, Vivian shapes and forms the burlwood into interesting and unusual sculptures - and procures a pretty price for them.

Her sculptures inspire *pareidolia*, which is defined as "the tendency to perceive a specific, often meaningful image in a random or ambiguous visual pattern," (like seeing Jesus in your toast) or, is "the perception of a recognizable image or pattern where none exists or is intended." As an example, you might look at an electrical wall socket for a three-pronged cord and see a face - the two matching slits look like eyes while the third hole looks like a smiling mouth.

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By
DEE
LONGFELLOW
Editor

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Vivian showed this sculpture, known as Cool Dude, to someone who is the age of 30-something, who saw Michael Jackson performing *Thriller*.

A person in their 40s claimed to see Carmen Sandiego.

The Baby Boomers tend to see R. Crumb's *Keep On Truckin'* cartoon figure from the 1960s.

Vivian's grandmother, who would be post-World War II age, saw Sammy Davis, Jr.

What do YOU see?
To learn more, go to youtube.com and search *pareidolia*. Amazing, clever, funny and even cute examples are provided.

The Bears fan rides alone...

The flight to Arizona included a

two-hour layover in Kansas City. No big deal, right? Oh, wait! There was a certain big football game going on that weekend in Phoenix and guess what was all over the airport? A bunch of hooting and hollering Kansas City Chiefs fans who were joining the flight into Sky Harbor Airport to see the Super Bowl. While they were cheering and shouting in the airport, they were told in no uncertain terms that there would be NONE of that behavior on board the flight. Gratefully, they obliged.

Every seat was occupied - with Chiefs fans, a few Eagles fans and one lone Bears fan in the last row in back. In conversation with a man across the aisle, I confessed my loyalty to the Bears, but my true allegiance lies with the TCU Horned Frogs who went to the Fiesta Bowl this year and trounced Michigan to win! (Too bad they lost the subsequent championship game.)

I'm a lifelong fan because my mother went to TCU. College was the happiest time of her life. I believe my first words were Riff Ram!

See **FEDORA**, Page 14

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VOL. 20 • NO. 10

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THURSDAY, FEB. 23, 2023

Former Bensenville resident gets 19 years for hijacking car at knife point with two children in the back

Incident occurred in Villa Park in 2021

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin has announced that the first of two men accused of hijacking a woman's car at knife point from a Villa Park parking lot while her two children were in the back seat has been sentenced to 19 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Luis Gomez-Garcia, 30, formerly of Bensenville, entered a plea of guilty to one count of aggravated kidnapping (Class X felony) in front of Judge Michael Reidy, who handed down the sentence. On Oct. 10, 2021, Gomez-Garcia and his co-defendant, Christopher Krieg, 34, formerly of Carol Stream, each appeared in bond court where bond was denied for both men. They have both remained in custody at the DuPage County Jail since that time.

The case against Krieg is still pending with a next court date of March 10 in front of Judge Reidy.

On Oct. 8, 2021, officers with the Villa Park Police Department responded to a call of an aggravated carjacking that just occurred in the parking lot of a shopping mall located

See HIJACKING, Page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

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Addison Trail High School varsity bowlers compete at state

The varsity girls bowling team competed in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) State Tournament for the first time since 2005. That event took place on Feb. 17 and 18 at The Cherry Bowl in Rockford. The team members are (pictured from left): senior Hannah Melone, senior Kylie Flermuga, sophomore Valentina Pizzoferrato, sophomore Grace Cannizzo, sophomore Angelina Ayala and sophomore Amelia Leslie. The team is coached by Rob Schader. These student-athletes were honored by their peers and Addison Trail staff during a parade through the hallways of the school behind the Addison Trail Drum Line.

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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

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News Department:
Independent@rvpublishing.com
Classified Department:
Classifieds@rvpublishing.com

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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:

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Postmaster: Please send address changes to:

THE INDEPENDENT
240 N. West Avenue,
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 11am-3pm



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The final destination

The Addison Trail varsity girls bowling team, seen here at sectionals, shows off where they went next — the state competition. After their first-place win at Regionals, the girls were fired up enough to take third place at sectionals, which qualified them for the State competition in Rockford. Pictured are (from left): Kylie Fiermuga, Grace Cannizzo, Valentina Pizzoferrato, Hannah Melone, Amelia Leslie, Angelina Ayala.



Addison Trail bowlers take first at regionals

On Thursday, Feb. 16, Addison Trail gave a big send-off to state for the girls varsity bowling team, pictured here after taking first place and winning the regional title. Pictured are (from left): Valentina Pizzoferrato, Grace Cannizzo, Hannah Melone, Angelina Ayala, Kylie Fiermuga, Coach Rob Schader and Amelia Leslie. The girls went on to sectionals at Suburbanite Bowl in Westmont on Saturday, Feb. 11, where the team took third place, qualifying for the state competition. State games were played at The Cherry Bowl in Rockford on Feb. 17.

•Hijacking

(Continued from front page)

at 270 W. North Avenue in Villa Park.

The investigation found that at approximately 4:48 p.m., the victim and her children, ages 10 and five, exited the mall and entered her vehicle. It is alleged that approximately one minute later, as the victim sat in the driver's seat with the window down, Gomez-Garcia approached the vehicle, put a knife with a 3½-inch blade to the woman's throat and told the victim to move over to the front passenger seat.

It is alleged that as the victim moved over, Krieg entered the rear passenger area of the vehicle with the victim's children. It is further alleged that Gomez-Garcia ordered the victim to give him her property, which she did including her iPhone 11, Apple Watch and wallet.

It is alleged that Gomez-Garcia told the victim to drive to her house, but the victim drove to a different location where she and her children were released from the vehicle. It is further alleged that Gomez-Garcia told the victim not to contact the police and that he held the knife in his right hand the entire time.

It is further alleged that Gomez-Garcia and Krieg then fled in the victim's vehicle. An investigation conducted by the Villa Park police with assistance from the Chicago Police Department led authorities to the 2900 block of W. Harrison in Chicago.

At approximately 7:21 p.m., officers with the Chicago Police Department located the victim's vehicle at that address and allegedly found Krieg in the stolen vehicle and Gomez-Garcia approximately ten feet away. Both men, who were armed with a knife, were taken into custody at this time.

Gomez-Garcia will be required to serve 85 percent of his sentence before being eligible for parole.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

An Addison Trail student tries his hand at welding a copper pipe, while other students look on. It was just one of the opportunities shown during a field trip to Abt Electronics Inc., one of the School To Work classes which offer real-world experiences by visiting local businesses.

Students gain career exploration experience at Abt

On Tuesday, Jan. 31, 10 Addison Trail students participated in a field trip to Abt Electronics Inc. in Glenview for a career-exploration experience.

Those students are enrolled in Addison Trail's School to Work and Pre-occupational classes (taught by teacher Stacey Puccini), which provides pupils with real-world experiences through visiting local businesses and meeting with career professionals.

During their visit to the showroom, students toured a variety of departments, including car cus-

tomization, HVAC, custom kitchen, home theatre, woodshop and more. They also learned about the following apprenticeship programs offered at Abt:

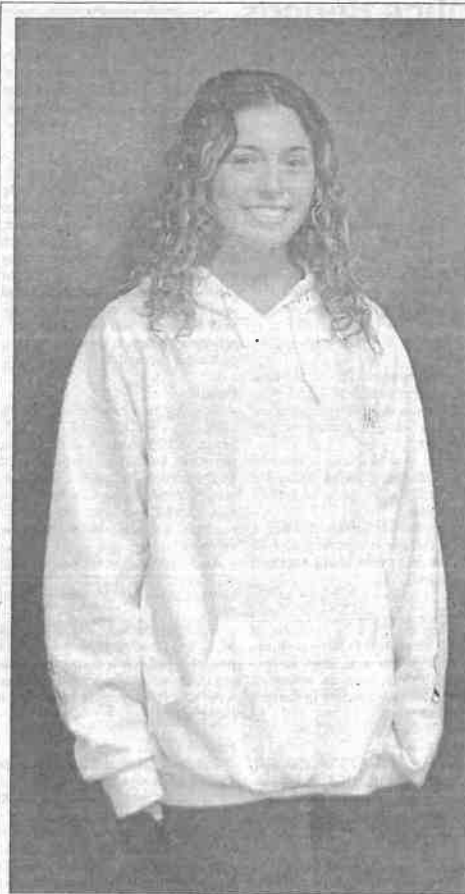
- **Master Installer** in the areas of electrician, plumber, HVAC installer, HVAC technician, mattress/fitness/gaming expert, refrigerator technician and dishwasher technician. To participate, apprentices must be at least 18 years old and have a high school diploma.

- **Car Audio Install** is available to individuals who are at least 17 years old with a valid driver's li-

cense. Interested candidates must have a passion for cars and be able to work 20 hours a week after school and on weekends.

District 88 is committed to providing multiple and flexible pathways for students to ensure they are college and career ready and continues to partner with colleges/universities and local businesses to expand these opportunities. District 88 invites companies to collaborate with the district and support students.

See details at www.dupage88.net/BusinessPartnerships.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Gymnast Mucciante competes at state

Senior Maddie Mucciante was scheduled to compete in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Girls Gymnastics state meet on Feb. 17 and 18 at Palatine High School. Mucciante competed on floor. She was among the student-athletes who were honored by their peers and Addison Trail staff during a parade, as they marched through the hallways of the school behind the Addison Trail Drum Line. (Results were not available at press time.)

Coming events

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

Saturday, Feb. 25 Bilingual stories and crafts

From 2-2:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, enjoy stories and crafts and learn some new words in Spanish. No registration required.

Monday, Feb. 27 Artemis: Returning to the moon

From 7-8 p.m. at the Large Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library, in the next few years, NASA will land the first woman and first

person of color on the moon, exploring more of the lunar surface than ever before. Astro educator Michelle Nichols will discuss the future plans and technologies that will get us back to the moon for the first time since 1972.

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.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 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

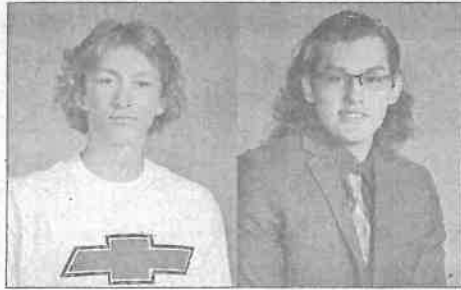
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Heroes story time

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

Addison Trail students take Top Tech Challenge

Four Addison Trail students (clockwise from upper left): Michael Sampey, Abraham Garcia, Bryan Villa and Brandon Mejia recently competed in Universal Technical Institute (UTI)'s High School Top Tech Challenge on Feb. 9 at the UTI Lisle campus and involved hands-on and written automotive testing on vehicle parts, brakes, diagnostics and electrical systems. Junior Sampey and senior Garcia finished in 5th place and each earned a \$1,000 scholarship to UTI. Juniors Mejia and Villa placed in the top 15.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

'Tlusty Czwartek' at Fenton

That's Polish for "Fat Thursday" and on Feb. 16, the Fenton Polish Klub shared their heritage by selling paczki to classmates and staff. Everything was delicious!

Bond set for Cook County woman charged with leading police on 120 mph high-speed chase

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Villa Park Chief of Police Michael Rivas have announced that bond has been set for a Schaumburg woman accused of leading police on a high-speed chase following a call of a domestic dispute. Victoria Nee, 32, appeared at a bond hearing this morning where Judge Michael Reidy set bond at \$25,000 with 10 percent to apply.

Nee is charged with one count of aggravated fleeing and eluding a police officer (Class 4 felony) and one count of possession of a fictitious ID card (Class 4 felony).

On Feb. 12 at approximately 11:26 p.m., officers with the Villa Park Police Department were dispatched to InTown Suites, located in the 300 block of E. Roosevelt Road, for a call of a domestic dispute in a van in the parking lot.

Upon their arrival, officers located the van and approached it on foot where they discovered a woman, later identified as Nee, seated in the driver's seat and an unidentified male in the passenger's seat.

It is alleged that when officers tapped on the window, Nee put the van in drive and fled the scene at which time the officers returned to their squad car and followed the van. It is alleged that Nee continued fleeing from the officers and ultimately reached speeds of approximately 120 mph on eastbound I-290. It is alleged that near the 5900 block of S. Mayfield in Chicago, the van became disabled at which time Nee and the man fled the van on foot but were apprehended by authorities. It is alleged that when authorities searched the van, they found numerous credit cards and other forms of identification belonging to other people in Nee's possession.

"In recent months we have seen an alarming increase of cases involving defendants fleeing from police," Berlin said. "This type conduct is extremely dangerous and puts not only the driver at risk, but also puts the police officers involved and general public at great risk. Thankfully, no innocent motorists or bystanders were injured or worse as a result of

Ms. Nee's alleged behavior. I thank the Villa Park Police Department for their efforts on this case. I also thank the Oak Brook, Hinsdale and Chicago police departments and the Illinois State police for their assistance."

"The Villa Police officers made great decision to pursue the subject based on the information known them at the time," Rivas said. "A call came out as a domestic and the subject took off on the officers. The officers were not sure if it was anyone held against their will was a kidnapping situation. The alleged offender led the officers on a high speed odyssey through several jurisdictions. We would like to thank numerous police departments who aided in the capture of the subject including: Oak Brook, Hinsdale, Chicago Police and Illinois State Police. We would also like to thank DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and his office for their invaluable assistance in this case."

Nee's next court appearance scheduled March 20 for arraignment in front of Judge Reidy.

Viewpoint

Under my father's fedora

What do you see?

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DEE LONGFELLOW
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The Bears fan rides alone...

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See FEDORA, Page 1