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THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023

Bond set at \$250,000 for Lombard man accused of aggravated DUI

Suspect allegedly drove car into a Villa Park home

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert B. Berlin and Villa Park Chief of Police Michael Rivas have announced that a Lombard man has been charged with aggravated DUI for allegedly driving his car into a Villa Park home Feb. 19.

Thomas Whitlock, 38, appeared at a bond hearing in front of Judge Ann Celine O'Hallaren Walsh who set bail at \$250,000 with 10 percent to apply. In all, Whitlock is charged with one count of aggravated DUI/third violation-BAC.16 or more (Class 2 felony), one count of aggravated DUI/license suspended or revoked (Class 4 felony), three counts of aggravated fleeing and eluding a police officer (Class 4 felony) and 14 counts of misdemeanor and petty driving offenses.

On Feb. 19 at approximately 8:39 p.m., a Villa Park police officer was dispatched to the Jewel grocery store for a call of a Chevrolet Silverado that was allegedly speeding. It is alleged that the officer attempted to stop the truck, later determined to be driven by Whitlock, but the truck fled.

It is alleged that the officer activated his emergency lights and pursued Whitlock, who at times reached speeds of 69 mph in a 25-mph zone. It is further alleged that the pursuit continued to Maple Street in Lombard where Whitlock lost control of the truck and crashed into a residence on the 900 block of E. Maple St.

It is alleged that after the crash, Whitlock attempted to flee on foot but was taken into custody at this time. When searching the vehicle, authorities found an open 750 ml bottle of Tito's vodka on the front passenger's seat. Whitlock was transported to a local hospital for medical attention. It is alleged that Whitlock's B.A.C was .232.

“The alleged actions of Mr. Whitlock have left us aghast as to why he would even contemplate operating a motor vehicle in the alcoholic state he was allegedly reported to be in.”

— DuPage County State's Attorney Robert B. Berlin

ported to a local hospital for medical attention. It is alleged that Whitlock's B.A.C was .232.

“It is alleged that following an evening of drinking, Thomas Whitlock made the unwise decision to not only get behind the wheel of a truck, but to also lead police on a high-speed chase through a residential neighborhood, ultimately crashing his truck into a residence,” Berlin said. “This type of dangerous behavior that puts public safety at risk will not be tolerated in DuPage County and will be met with the full force of the law. What I find particularly infuriating is that alcohol-related crashes, such as is alleged in this case, are 100 percent avoidable. Thankfully, no one in the home or on the streets, was injured or worse. I thank the Villa Park Police Department for their work on this case. I also thank the Lombard Police Department for their efforts on this case.”

“The alleged actions of Mr. Whitlock have left us aghast as to why he would even contemplate operating a

motor vehicle in the alcoholic state he was allegedly reported to be in”, Rivas said. “His alleged decision to speed, and attempt to evade, placed everyone in his path in danger.”

“The Villa Park Police Department will vigorously and aggressively go after all who are not fit to operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. We urge everyone to obey, and stop, for the emergency lights and sirens of all emergency vehicles. My sincere thanks to the officers of Villa Park

and Lombard for taking the subject into custody. We are pleased no one was hurt in this incident.”

Whitlock's next court appearance is scheduled March 22, for arraignment in front of Judge O'Hallaren Walsh.

AT Key Club makes 'Blessing Bags' for Homeless

On Wednesday, Feb. 15, members of the Addison Trail Key Club assembled Blessing Bags for the Homeless. The service project was coordinated by sophomores Katelyn Ford, Key Club secretary (left), Andrea Martinez-Gorostieta, Key Club editor, and Jackelyn Macedo Hernandez (not pictured). The effort resulted in more than 100 packages filled with basic necessities, toiletries, food and more, donated by Addison Trail staff members and Naborowski Orthodontics in Addison. The bags were shared with individuals in need. Extras were to DuPage PADS.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Addison Independent

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'Young Hearts for Life' comes to Addison Trail

If you stopped by Addison Trail on Thursday, Feb. 23, you might have noticed the field house was filled with cardiac screening machines, doctors, nurses and volunteers.

Addison Trail participated in the Young Hearts for Life® (YH4L) Cardiac Screening Program on that day.

"District 88's No. 1 priority is the safety and well-being of its students," said AT principal Jack Andrews. "This event provided students with free electrocardiograms to identify individuals at risk for heart conditions that can cause sudden cardiac death (SCD)."

A total of 910 students were screened at the event, thanks to the following:

- D88 staff members who helped organize students and get the building ready;

- The staff and volunteers at Young Hearts for Life;

- More than 75 community volunteers, who attended a training session and assisted us for four to nine hours on the day of the event;

- And of course, Edward-Elmhurst Health, who sponsored the program.

"We know this event made a positive difference in the lives of our students, and we truly appreciate everyone who made these screenings possible," said Andrews. "Thank you for your continued support of Addison Trail!"

For more information about Young Hearts for Life, go to YH4L.org.



Above are those who spearheaded the Young Hearts for Life screening program at Addison Trail on Thursday, Feb. 23. Pictured are (from left) YH4L program director Denise Arenz, AHS principal Jack Andrews, Dr. Joseph Marek and Rob Schader, AT co-curricular coordinator, student diversity and inclusion coordinator and department head for physical education, health and driver education.



ADDISON TRAIL SENIOR EMILLA JARZABEK GETS SCREENED DURING THE SCHOOL'S YOUNG HEARTS FOR LIFE CARDIAC SCREENING EVENT.



ADDISON TRAIL SENIOR ALEXANDER INGRAM GETS SCREENED DURING THE SCHOOL'S YOUNG HEARTS FOR LIFE CARDIAC SCREENING EVENT.

District 88 recognizes Public Schools Week

From Feb. 27 to March 3, District 88 celebrated Public Schools Week to highlight and provide support for local public schools and to discuss the importance of public education.

This year, Public Schools Week (#PSW23) is part of a larger campaign -- #HerefortheKids, which brings together families, educators and community members to shine a light on local public schools and share the stories of the positive things happening in classrooms and school buildings nationwide.

The effort provided the following list of "How You Can Be 'HerefortheKids'":

- Get involved at your local school
- Serve on a school or district committee
- Volunteer to tutor
- Volunteer at your local library
- Encourage local businesses to develop internship and apprenticeship programs for students
- Thank your child's teacher and principal as well as others who are influential in their lives such as coaches, music or drama directors, etc.

For more information, go to publicschoolproud.org.

Women's Club of Addison to host Bunco Fundraiser March 10

The Women's Club of Addison will be hosting a Bunco Fundraiser on Friday, March 10, at the VFW Hall, 446 W. Lake St., Addison.

The \$25 entry fee includes bunco, light appetizers and a door prize entry.

The doors open at 6 p.m. For information or tickets, contact the

Women's Club of Addison at: Friday, March 10, 6pm, at the VFW Hall, 446 West Lake St. in Addison. \$25 entrance fee includes bunco, light appetizers, and door prize entry.

For tickets or information, email: Womensclubofaddison@gmail.com or visit: www.womensclubofaddison.com



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Some laughs for charity

The Bull Valley Golf Club in Woodstock was in great spirits Feb. 11 as The Hooved Animal Humane Society (HAHS) came together to raise awareness and money for the awesome charity. In the center of the event was former WGN Morning News cast member and current podcast host Matt Kissane. "It was a thrill to know I was able to make these wonderful people laugh!" Besides the laughs there were even a few tearful moments watching the video showing the animals who were saved due to the organizations hard work and diligence. "It was a very emotional night, but in the end the folks were able to spread the word about HAHS and raise some money." Kissane will be performing June 3 at The Lyric Theater in Blue Island. Kissane has lent his talents to many charity organizations in the past including several shows for Saint Jude's Children's Hospital. For more information on HAHS, visit their website <https://hahs.org>.

Scholarships available to D88 students from Americans of Italian Descent of DuPage

Deadline to apply is April 4

The Americans of Italian Descent of DuPage County will award \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors of Addison Trail, Lake Park or Willowbrook High Schools. Eligible students must be graduating seniors of Addison Trail, Lake Park or Willowbrook high schools, must be of Italian heritage, must have a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4-point grading scale, and must be accepted to a two-year or four-year

college. Applications must be submitted by April 4, 2023 according to their school's guidance or college and career center's procedures.

Scholarship recipients will be announced the week of April 24.

Questions and further information

can be obtained through the following email: AID.ScholarApp@gmail.com.

This release was received from Anthony Amato, Scholarship Chair, Americans of Italian Descent of DuPage County.

County Clerk announces early voting at Fairgrounds

DuPage County voters can cast their paper ballots in the 2023 Consolidated Election now that the county's early voting location are open at the DuPage County Fairgrounds (Building 5), 2015 Manchester Road in Wheaton, just off County Farm Road, east of the county's Government Administration buildings.

DuPage County now features 100 percent paper ballots on new voting equipment for both Early Voting and Election Day. Beginning on Monday, March 20, early voting will expand to 20 locations throughout DuPage County.

Hours for early voting at the Fairgrounds are:

- Weekdays: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (now through March 17)
- Saturdays: 9 a.m.-noon (now through March 18)
- Weekdays: 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. (March 20-April 3)
- Weekends: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (March 25-April 2)

"Mayors, city councils, and school boards are among the important local offices on the ballot in the consolidated election," Kaczmarek said. "I encourage voters to take advantage of the opportunity to have a say in how their own communities are governed."

Voters can find a complete guide to all Early Voting locations and dates, as well as information about voting by mail, on the Clerk's Election website.

"All the information you will need on the ways to vote in the Consolidated Election can be found at www.dupagecounty.gov/election," Kaczmarek said. "We also encourage everyone to follow us on Twitter ([Twitter.com/DuPageCoClerk](https://twitter.com/DuPageCoClerk)), Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/dupagecountyclerk/>), and Facebook ([Facebook.com/DuPage-County-Clerk](https://www.facebook.com/DuPage-County-Clerk/)) to stay up to date on the latest election news."

District 88 students invited to COD's BIG IDEA Pitch Contest

Share business ideas, win cash prizes

Students of District 88 have been invited to participate in the BIG IDEA Pitch Contest, co-produced by College of DuPage (COD) and Innovation DuPage (ID). Through this event, Addison Trail and Willowbrook students are invited to share their business ideas with a panel of expert judges.

Students who have ideas for innovative products and services that solve real problems to satisfy the needs of growing markets are encouraged to participate. Successful applicants will introduce scalable concepts that can be accelerated by connecting with key mentorship and business resources.

Finalists will pitch live to a panel of judges and a livestreamed audience on Wednesday, May 10 at COD and also will receive a six-month membership to Innovation DuPage. The top three contestants will receive a cash prize as well (1st place is \$5,000, 2nd place is \$4,000 and 3rd place is \$3,000).

To apply, complete the written portion and submit a video by Friday, March 31. For more information, and to apply, go to innovationdupage.org/bigidea.

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22 Pink Noise DJ	48 Flavor Frenzy Ice Cream Ice Cream & More	78 Penny's Bistro Video Gaming	130 Appliances4Less Now Open
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TCD honors outstanding AT students

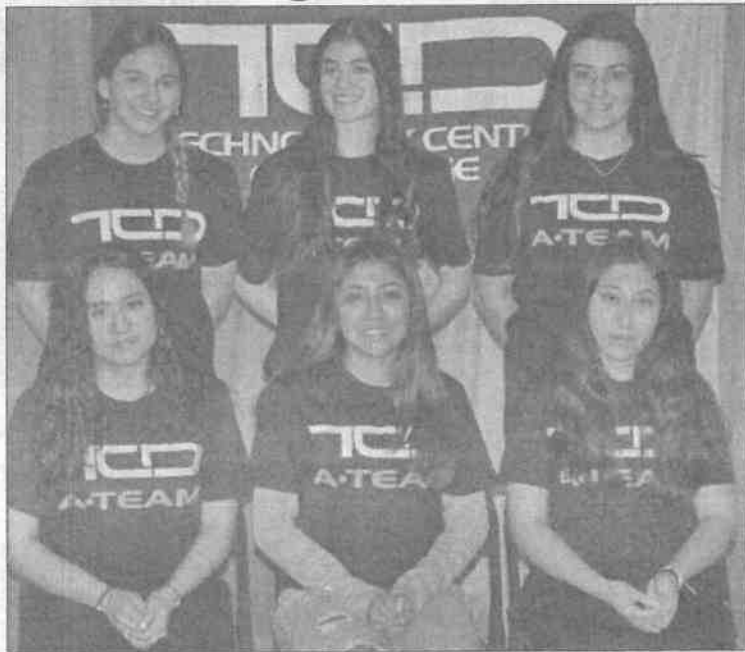
Twenty Addison Trail students were recently named to the Technology Center of DuPage (TCD) "A-Team" for the first semester of the 2022-23 school year.

TCD offers DuPage County-area high school juniors and seniors 20 Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs as part of their high school curriculum. To earn a place on the A-Team, students must receive an "A" grade in their respective TCD program electives. This recognition represents excellence in occupational skills and applied academics.

Addison Trail honorees include Domenica D'Ugo, cosmetology, Maria Escobar, emergency medical technician, Daniela Guida, nursing assistant training program, Brianna Matthews, criminal justice, Maddie Muccianti, cosmetology, Daniela Robledo Guadarrama, criminal justice, Giselle Salazar, cosmetology,

Tadeusz Tchop, automotive technology, Kelly Canchola, cosmetology, Kerri Carr, nursing assistant training program, Leonardo Diaz Gomez, cosmetology, Alexander Martinez-Olea, criminal justice, Jennifer Nava, nursing assistant training program, Denisse Nazario, cosmetology, William Ocampo, criminal justice, Diya Patel, criminal justice, David Rodriguez Corona, criminal justice, Anna Silezin, criminal justice, Daniel Urquide, HVAC & refrigeration / residential wiring, Osvaldo Villegas, criminal justice. (All are seniors except Anna Silezin, who is a junior.)

A ceremony took place on Friday, Feb. 17 at TCD to honor and recognize the students for their accomplishments. Honorees each received a T-shirt and a certificate. For more information about TCD, go to tcdupage.org.



These students were named to TCD's A-Team, awarded to those who display excellence in occupational skills and applied academics.



A ceremony took place on Friday, Feb. 17 at Technology Center DuPage to recognize the AT students who were named to TCD's A-Team. Honorees received a T-shirt and a certificate.

'Equitable restrooms' bill advances in House

Bill calls for setting standards for multi-occupant, all-gender facilities

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A bill that would allow restaurants, hotels and other public places to designate "all-gender multiple-occupancy" restrooms passed out of a House committee Feb. 22, sending it to the full House for consideration.

House Bill 1286, sponsored by Rep. Katie Stuart, D-Edwardsville, is similar to one that passed through the House in 2021 but died in the Senate.

"So it just creates the opportunity for places, businesses, universities, you name it, to create a multi-stall gender-neutral restroom, if they so choose," Stuart said during the hearing. "And it lays out requirements for what is in that facility."

In 2019, the General Assembly passed the Equitable Restrooms Act, which identified all single-occupancy restrooms in public places as gender-neutral and designated them for use by no more than one person at a time, or for family or assisted use. But there is currently no law in Illinois authorizing multi-occupancy restrooms to be gender-neutral.

The text of the bill states its purpose is "to promote the privacy, safety, and gender inclusivity of all Illinois residents and visitors," and that the measure should be "liberally construed" to carry out its purpose.

It would require that such restrooms be clearly marked at their entrance with "inclusive signage" that does not indicate any specific gender. It would also require that

each toilet stall be separated by dividers and a functioning lock mechanism on the door.

Urinals, if present, also would have to be separated by partitions.

The bill also provides that any multi-occupancy restroom could be converted to an all-gender restroom. But if another multi-occupancy restroom that is designated for a specific gender is located adjacent to or near the all-gender restroom, both would have to be designated as all-gender facilities.

Additionally, the bill would set out more specific standards for multi-occupant all-gender facilities that are part of a newly constructed building or one resulting from major renovations of a building.

The bill would require the Illinois Department of Public Health to adopt administrative rules to implement the new standards.

Rep. Charlie Meier, R-Okawville, said the bill's requirements could impose significant costs on the owners of large arenas where plumbing fixtures are already in place.

But Stuart said those facilities would be under no obligation to convert their existing restrooms to all-gender facilities. She said the bill would only allow them to do so if they choose.

The bill passed out of the House Human Services Committee on a party-line vote of 6-3. It now goes back to the full House where it could come up at any time for final vote.

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Warriors deliver an upset before bowing out of the playoffs

Willowbrook beats Metea Valley in a regional semifinal; Lake Park defeats Warriors in a regional final

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook boys basketball team's season ended with Friday's 66-45 loss to Lake Park in an IHSA Class 4A regional final in Villa Park.

The Warriors finished their season with an overall record of 12-20.

Willowbrook advanced to Friday's regional final with an exciting 66-64 overtime victory over Metea Valley in a regional semifinal contest on Feb. 22. The Warriors were the No. 13 seed in the Bartlett Sectional, while Metea Valley was the No. 4 seed.

Lake Park, the sectional's No. 5 seed, advanced to this week's Bartlett Sectional with its win over the Warriors at the Willowbrook Regional in Villa Park. Lake Park, which moved its record to 22-10 with its victory in the regional final, faced Benet Academy—the sectional's No. 1 seed—in one of this week's sectional semifinals in Bartlett.

Playing on their home court in their post-season opener, the Warriors built a 17-13 lead after one quarter of last week's game against Metea Valley. Willowbrook owned a 36-30 halftime lead. The Mustangs outscored the Warriors 17-6 in the third quarter to take a 47-42 lead. Willowbrook outscored Metea Valley 15-10 in the fourth quarter to tie the score at 57-57 and force a 4-minute overtime period.

Senior Noah Campbell scored a team-leading 23 points for Willowbrook in last week's win over the Mustangs. Campbell, who missed a long 3-point try at the end of the fourth quarter, scored six of the Warriors' nine overtime points by sinking two field goals and making a pair of free throws.

Senior Isaac Sobieszczyk added 20 points and nine rebounds for the Warriors in their post-season victory. Senior Luke Davis provided 14 points, seven of which came during the fourth quarter. Willowbrook junior Andrew Ciesinski scored three of his five points during the overtime period of last week's game against Metea Valley.

Campbell made a jump shot to tie the score at 62-62 with a little less

than one minute left in the overtime period. The Warriors took a 64-62 lead when Ciesinski grabbed an offensive rebound and made a layup with 35.3 seconds to play. Ciesinski, who was fouled on the play, missed the ensuing free throw.

Metea Valley made a pair of free throws to tie the score at 64-64 with 8.8 seconds left in the overtime period.

The Mustangs fouled Campbell in the back court with 5.6 seconds on the clock. Campbell went to the free-throw line and sank a pair of shots to give the Warriors a 66-64 lead.

After a couple of timeouts, the Mustangs inbounded the ball. A Metea Valley player drove the length of the court and attempted and missed an inside shot at the buzzer. The Warriors then gathered at midcourt to celebrate their upset victory.

Metea Valley finished its season with a 21-10 record.

The Warriors couldn't keep pace with Lake Park in Friday's regional final. The Lancers held a 16-5 lead at the end of the first quarter. Lake Park's lead expanded to 31-16 by halftime. Willowbrook cut the Lancers' lead to eight points late in the third quarter, but Lake Park rebuilt its lead to 44-31 by the end of the third quarter.

The Lancers unleashed an 8-0 run at the start of the fourth quarter to push their lead to 52-31. Lake Park junior Dennasio LaGioia made a pair of 3-point shots during that run. LaGioia made eight of 10 shots from 3-point range and scored 32 points during Friday's game.

"We ran into a buzz saw tonight," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins after Friday's season-ending loss. "They [the Lancers] caught fire. It was hard to overcome. Every time we tried to go on a run, they answered with a three."

Campbell, who made three shots from 3-point territory during the regional final, scored a team-leading 21 points for the Warriors. Sobieszczyk contributed 12 points, while Davis and Ciesinski supplied eight and four points, respectively.



CHHS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's boys basketball team opened the IHSA Class 4A post-season with a 66-64 overtime victory over Metea Valley in Villa Park on Feb. 22. The Warriors, who hosted a regional last week, were the No. 13 seed in the Bartlett Sectional. Metea Valley was the sectional's No. 4 seed. One photo from Willowbrook's victory over the Mustangs shows senior Noah Campbell (No. 25), who scored 23 points for the Warriors. Campbell made a pair of free throws with 5.6 seconds left in the overtime period to give Willowbrook a 66-64 lead. The Mustangs then missed a last-second shot that would have sent the game to a second overtime. Senior Luke Davis (No. 5) provided 14 points for the Warriors. He is pictured while driving for a basket that tied the score at 55-55 late in the fourth quarter. One more photo shows junior Andrew Ciesinski (No. 30), who scored three of his five points during the overtime period. Ciesinski's rebound and basket gave the Warriors a 64-62 lead with 35.3 seconds left in the game. Willowbrook's season ended with a 66-45 loss to Lake Park—the Bartlett Sectional's No. 5 seed—in Friday's regional final.

