

Back from knee injury, Nazareth senior Ella O'Neill takes the lead

By BOB NARANG

Shaw Local News Network correspondent

Nazareth senior midfielder Ella O'Neill left Tuesday's victory over St. Laurence with a few extra bags.

O'Neill, a captain, had a few ice bags taped over her body to help her recuperate from a long game.

But O'Neill was all smiles, despite the ice, because she was back contributing for the Roadrunners.

O'Neill missed the majority of her junior season because of a knee injury.

"I played in about seven games last season, but I came back for the post-season, which was good," O'Neill said. "It definitely feels good to be back on the field this year. I got a lot stronger in the offseason and built back my stamina. I've had a few bumps and bruises this year, but nothing ice can't handle."

O'Neill, who has scored four goals to go with seven assists this season, said the Roadrunners (5-6, 2-1 East Suburban Catholic Conference) are motivated to make a run in the playoffs because they host a Class 2A sectional this spring.

"We're trying to win a sectional championship," she said. "We're hosting sectionals, so we want to win it. This is what our team has been working for since November, putting in effort day in and day out and pushing ourselves."

The Roadrunners took a positive step toward that direction by winning two of their last three games.

"This win was a big deal for us because we had been on not such a good streak lately because we played some really tough competition in the first half of the season," O'Neill said after Tuesday's home win. "This is a good thing to maybe start a good run for our team going into the playoffs."

O'Neill said the team has a strong group of leaders motivated to become better soccer players.

"We have such strong leadership, on and off the field, and such a great relationship between all the girls, it doesn't matter who takes the captain band but everyone does look to you to be a good example," she said. "I think anyone on this team can be a captain."

Nazareth coach Roberto Cianci said O'Neill's disposition and work ethic make her a logical choice to be a captain.

"Ella has really taken on the lead as a senior this year," Cianci said. "She's done everything. I'm really happy with Ella's growth. It started in the offseason with her, when she came to me to ask what she can do. She was hurt last year, but came back fit and helped us win a regional."

Nazareth junior forward Olivia Austin continues to make a big impact. She leads the team with 10 goals to go with six assists on the season, despite splitting her time playing AAU basketball. Austin, who played a central role in Nazareth placing second in state volleyball and capturing a state basketball championship this school year, is looking for the rare distinction of participating in three state championships in the same calendar season.

"The team runs through Olivia Austin," Cianci said. "We're sharing her with basketball in the spring. She's definitely a difference-maker. We struggle offensively a little bit when she is not here."

Lemont hitting a nice stride

Since losing back-to-back games to Lincoln-Way East and Lockport, both via a shutout, Lemont has been on a roll. Lemont won four in a row before settling for a scoreless draw against Lincoln-Way West on Saturday. Lemont defeated Oak Forest 4-0 on Tuesday to get back on the winning track.

Lemont (8-4-1, 6-0 South Suburban) has a solid 50-15 goal differential, helped by allowing just one goal in their last six games.

Lemont junior defender Casey Kittridge said the backline is playing at a high level heading toward the end of the regular season.

"The key for the backline building on the momentum for the rest of the season is to continue to communicate and stay organized in the back, while also learning from our mistakes from prior games to continue to improve," she said.

Senior midfielder Paige Bingen said the team is showing the ability to be a team to watch in the Class 2A playoffs. Lemont lost to 2A runner-up Benet in a sectional championship game last season.

"Our team has an abundant amount of potential," Bingen said. "We're working harder each day to get better. We're a young team and each of us are settling into our roles nicely. Every game we keep improving more and more. We need to keep a good mentality, have high intensity the entire game and play fast and then we will be able to reach our potential."

Ella O'Neill

Suburban Life

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

KAYLEIGH DENNISON

Willowbrook, senior, softball

Why Dennison was selected: Dennison was 6-for-15 on the week with three home runs, including a grand slam, a double, 10 RBIs and five runs. On the season she is hitting .510 with 25 hits, four doubles, three triples, six home runs, 24 RBIs and 21 runs. She was selected the Athlete of the Week in an online vote.

Here is Dennison's interview with Sports Editor Joshua Welge.

Welge: It looks like you've been on fire with the bat lately. What's been your approach and how are you feeling at the plate?

Dennison: My approach to the plate has been having the mindset of trusting myself and just make solid contact. I have been feeling super confident and I know that's a major part of my success lately.

Welge: How would you assess your season as a whole? Have you matched or exceeded expectations?

Dennison: So far I have exceeded my expectations! I came into this season knowing I wanted to have my best year yet, and I knew I needed to be the most confident in myself in order to make that happen. My teammates have played a huge role in my confidence because they are constantly so supportive and lift me up all the time.

Welge: You have six homers this year. Any stand out?

Dennison: My grand slam was definitely the standout homer so far! I remember watching the ball off my bat fly in center field and thinking there's no

way I just did that. It was an amazing feeling I'll never forget because it was my first-ever grand slam.

Welge: How did you get started in softball and when did you start?

Dennison: I got started in softball when I thought it would be fun to try just because my brother played baseball. I started playing in second grade when I was 8 and quickly fell in love with it.

Welge: Have you played any other sports?

Dennison: I've played a bunch of sports throughout my life such as volleyball, basketball, track, cross country, cheerleading, poms, flag football and even ice skating, but softball was obviously my favorite.

Welge: What's your plans after high school? Do they involve softball? What do you plan to study?

Dennison: I have not 100% decided on a school yet, but I plan to go to college and study business/finance. Although I'm not committed to play for a college now, I definitely want to keep playing softball and will either play club or try to walk on because I love the sport too much to stop playing it.

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Greeting the 'Author in the House'

Willowbrook principal Dr. Daniel Krause (left) and social studies teacher Matt Clapper (right) welcome Arshay Cooper as this year's District 88 "Author in the House." Cooper is a rower, an author and the protagonist in an upcoming film. He has been honored for his contributions to the sport of rowing and has become an advocate for accessibility at all income levels.

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D88's annual 'Author in the House' welcomes Ashay Cooper

Accomplished rower, activist for accessibility at every income level

On Tuesday, April 18, District 88 hosted its annual "Author in the House" program. This year's event took place at Willowbrook and featured Arshay Cooper, who is a rower, an IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award-winning author, the protagonist of the critically-acclaimed film "A Most Beautiful Thing," a Golden Oar recipient for his contributions to the sport of rowing, a motivational speaker and an activist — particularly around issues of accessibility for low-income families.

Cooper joined the country's first all-black high school rowing team in 1997 at Manley Career Academy High School in Chicago and later became captain of the group. Cooper's award-winning memoir that chronicles his high school rowing career, "A Most Beautiful Thing," was recently adapted into a film, which can be viewed on Amazon Prime, Peacock and Xfinity Comcast. Cooper is deeply passionate about motivating individuals and organizations to be the best version of themselves and has spoken at top corporations, universities and not-for-profits.

During his visit with District 88, Cooper — along with his high school rowing teammates Alvin Ross, Preston Grandberry and Malcolm Hawkins — presented to District 88 students and staff about being positive agents of change in their communities.

They were introduced by Willowbrook seniors Sarah Ball, Acer Esparza, Jane Goodhart and Donovan Kincaid, who shared how Cooper's story has influenced their lives. Joining them on stage was Mike Wallin, with the Chicago Rowing Foundation. The team members also hosted breakout sessions, where they answered questions and participated in small-group conversations with students enrolled in U.S. History, Equity and Justice in America and Hidden Voices, as well as members of the Willowbrook Black Organiza-



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook special education teacher Mary Doro (left) and social studies teacher Vic Wisner (far right) greet with this year's District 88 Author in the House Arshay Cooper and his teammates, Alvin Ross, Preston Grandberry and Malcolm Hawkins. Doro and Wisner have incorporated Cooper's story into their classroom curriculum for several years and have continued to communicate with him and his teammates.

tion for Student Success (BOSS).

Cooper's story joins class curriculum.

Willowbrook social studies teacher Vic Wisner and special education teacher Mary Doro have incorporated Cooper's story into their classroom curriculum for several years and have continued to communicate with him and his teammates. Through their connection, as well as the work of the Library Media Center, the Willowbrook Social Studies Department and the administration, the district was able to coordinate having Cooper and the rowing team as this year's "Author in the House."

Strikes suspended at three universities

By Andrew Adams
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Faculty at Governors State University ended a strike last week after being on the picket line for five days.

Governors State was one of three Illinois universities which saw a faculty strike and the last to see their strike end.

Union members at Chicago State University ended their 10-day strike on April 16 and those at Eastern Illinois University ended their six-day strike April 13.

"This contract is a step towards strengthening our university and the support we can give our students, and it will contribute to attracting high-quality educators and retaining the excellent faculty and staff we have," GSU union president Mike Hart said in a statement.

The university's administration shared the optimistic tone in a sepa-

rate statement.

Governors State President Cheryl F. Green said the tentative contract is "an agreement that recognizes the valuable contributions of the faculty and academic support professionals to the University while at the same time recognizing the University's fiscal realities."

Faculty returned to classes at Governors State on April 18.

CSU's strike was the longest at 10 days. Union members at CSU also held a "sit-in" protest in which representatives of the union sat inside the offices of CSU President Zaldwaynaka Scott. A video released by the union showed a university police officer requesting them to leave.

Faculty at University of Illinois Chicago went on strike for six days in January before the two sides reached an agreement. The union ratified the contract in early February.

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Barbanente announces grants for bilingual education for teachers

District 88 superintendent hopes to expand college-level course offerings

STAFF REPORT

District 88 superintendent Jean Barbanente, Ed.D., recently released a statement about the district's commitment to making sure students are college ready, career ready, culturally ready and future ready by providing rigorous, yet flexible and individualized programming to meet the needs of the student population.

"It is our focus to have each student working toward a viable college and career integrated pathway, including access to college coursework and real-life career opportunities in the field of his/her choice," Barbanente said in the statement published in the District 88 newsletter. "We also are proud to have a diverse school community—about 50 languages and more than 30 countries are represented, and almost half of the nearly 4,000 students at District 88 speak a language other than English."



Jean Barbanente Ed.D.

In order to expand college-level course offerings and to meet the diverse needs of the students, Barbanente said the District 88 Board of Education, administration and the teachers union are working to establish incentives to encourage teachers to pursue additional credentials.

"We are so blessed here in District 88 to have highly dedicated staff members who go above and beyond to support our students and our families each and every day, including the pursuit of additional degrees and licensure to enhance their credentials," she said. "While some of our District 88 teachers already hold the credentials to teach dual-credit courses, at this time, an additional 18 staff members are pursuing the required graduate coursework to teach dual-credit. This involves earning a qualified master's degree, or any master's degree with 18 graduate credit hours of coursework in the desired content area. Dual-credit courses provide students with an opportunity to earn college credit while in high school."

"In District 88, students save an

average of \$1 million in college tuition each year by taking AP exams and dual-credit classes."

Barbanente added that while many District 88 staff already hold English Learner (EL) endorsements, at this time 39 staff members are pursuing those endorsements, which requires completing 18 semester hours of credit, with coursework in a variety of areas related to bilingual education and English as a Second Language (ESL).

"The majority of District 88 students speak a second language, and we are so pleased our staff continues to learn new ways to help students tap this incredible asset they bring to their learning in order to foster their academic achievement," she said.

Barbanente also announced that District 88 has received an "Elevating Educators: Bilingual Education Grant" from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

"We have been awarded \$8,247 to assist with the bilingual educator pipeline," she said.

The initiative provides funding (from federal pandemic relief funds)

for school districts that have EL students and have a need to increase the number of qualified staff able to support those learners; or support staff who have an educator license with stipulations endorsed for Transitional Bilingual Education with getting their professional educator license.

According to the ISBE, "The number of EL students enrolled in Illinois schools has increased steadily during the past 12 years, but the number of teachers qualified to teach these students has not kept pace. The Elevating Educators: Bilingual Education Grants will support up to an estimated 780 teachers in 219 school districts throughout the state in getting trained and licensed to teach the state's growing number of ELs."

"We continue to seek funding sources to expand these efforts, and during the 2023-24 school year, we will pursue more grants to bring these rich learning opportunities to our staff, which benefits our students," Barbanente said. "We truly appreciate our staff members continuing to go above and beyond for our students to help build futures for each and every child."



AL STASCH PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Movie scene filmed in Villa Park

A movie crew recorded a scene in Villa Park on Friday, April 21. The crew shot the scene at Mickey's, 105 W. St. Charles Road. The scene, which was recorded at night, was set at the outdoor tables in front of the restaurant. The independent film, which features actor Danny Trejo, has the working title of "American Underdog." The film is scheduled to be released in January 2024.



Warriors win three straight games against the Eagles

Willowbrook outscores Leyden 28-1 in a conference series

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook baseball team improved its West Suburban Gold Conference record to 6-3 after sweeping last week's three-game conference series against Leyden. The Warriors finished their week with Saturday's 4-3 non-conference victory over Hinsdale Central in Villa Park.

The Warriors' overall season record stood at 11-6 following Saturday's win.

Willowbrook opened last week's series against Leyden with a 10-1 home win on April 18. One day later, the Warriors cruised to a 13-0 road victory over the Eagles. Willowbrook returned to Leyden on April 20 and completed the series sweep with a 5-0 win.

Senior Colin Slivka went 2-for-3 and drove in one run for the Warriors in the series opener against Leyden. Slivka scored a pair of runs for Willowbrook, which scored five runs in the fourth inning to take an 8-1 lead.

Senior Alex Chaltin of the Warriors went 2-for-4 with an RBI and scored two runs in the series opener. Senior Isaac Sobieszcyk went 1-for-3 and drove in three runs.

Willowbrook junior Gabe Ness pitched the first five innings of last week's series opener in Villa Park. Ness allowed two hits and no earned

runs. He gave up five walks and recorded eight strikeouts.

Junior Dylan Jenkins pitched the final two innings for the Warriors in their April 18 win over the Eagles. Jenkins didn't allow any runs. He gave up one hit and one walk while striking out two batters.

Willowbrook held a 4-0 lead over the Eagles in the second game of last week's conference series. The Warriors scored four runs in the top of the sixth inning to take an 8-0 lead.

They added five more runs in the top of the seventh inning.

Chaltin went 3-for-3 with two doubles and two RBIs in the Warriors' April 19 win at Leyden. He scored two runs. Sobieszcyk went 2-for-4 with a pair of RBIs; he scored three runs. Senior Eddie Munson went 2-for-5 with three RBIs. Senior James Degnan went 2-for-3 with an RBI and scored three runs.

Willowbrook senior Aidan Pieniazek pitched two innings in his team's 13-0 win on April 19. Pieniazek allowed no runs, one hit and two walks. He struck out a pair of batters.

Slivka pitched the final five innings of Willowbrook's 13-0 victory at Leyden. He allowed no runs, three hits and one walk while recording nine strikeouts.

Chaltin, Jenkins and junior Owen

Riesen handled the Warriors' pitching duties in the team's 5-0 shutout win at Leyden in last week's series finale. Chaltin struck out six batters and gave up one hit and no walks in two innings. Jenkins didn't allow any hits or walks in three innings. He struck out three batters. Riesen gave up one hit and no walks in two innings. He piled up four strikeouts. Slivka went 2-for-2 and scored two runs in the series finale against the Eagles. Munson went 2-for-4 and drove in one run.

The Warriors trailed Hinsdale Central 3-1 going into the bottom of the seventh inning of Saturday's non-conference game. Willowbrook scored three runs in the inning to pull out a victory. The game ended with Degnan being hit by a pitch with the bases loaded and two outs.

Moments earlier, junior Ryan Knebel of the Warriors singled to drive in a run that tied the score at 3-3.

Senior Anthony Mazurek pitched all seven innings of Saturday's game for the Warriors. He allowed two earned runs, four hits and no walks. He struck out six batters.

The Warriors' schedule this week includes a three-game conference series against Addison Trail, along with Saturday's non-conference game at York.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's baseball team swept a three-game West Suburban Gold Conference series against Leyden last week. The Warriors defeated the Eagles 10-1 in the series opener in Villa Park on April 18. Junior Dylan Jenkins of the Warriors is pictured while firing a pitch during the contest. Jenkins pitched two scoreless innings in relief. Junior Gabe Ness started the game on the mound and pitched five innings for the Warriors. Willowbrook completed the sweep with two shutout victories at Leyden over the next two days. The Warriors finished their week with Saturday's 4-3 non-conference home win over Hinsdale Central. Willowbrook improved its overall season record to 11-6 with Saturday's victory.

Warriors lose their conference opener

Dennison connects for three homers during the week

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook softball team opened its West Suburban Gold Conference season with last week's 6-1 loss to Downers Grove South in Villa Park.

The Warriors fell to 0-2 in conference play following Friday's 9-8 loss at Leyden.

Willowbrook completed its week with Saturday's non-conference doubleheader against Naperville Central in Villa Park. The visiting Redhaws defeated the Warriors 15-2 in the opening game. Willowbrook earned an 11-8 victory in the second game.

The Warriors' overall season record stood at 10-5 at the end of Saturday's action.

Downers Grove South scored three runs in the top of the third inning to take a 3-0 lead over the Warriors in the teams' conference battle on April 18. The Mustangs, who connected for three home runs in the game, added one run in the fourth inning and two runs in the seventh inning.

Willowbrook scored its only run of the game in the bottom of the fifth inning, when sophomore Isabel Bates singled and eventually scored on a groundout by junior Lindsey Rugg.

The Warriors trailed Leyden 6-2 through four innings of Friday's conference game. Willowbrook scored two runs in the top of the fifth inning. The Eagles scored one run in the bot-

tom of the fifth inning. The Warriors then scored four runs in the top of the sixth inning to take an 8-7 lead.

Senior Kayleigh Dennison went 2-for-4 with a home run and drove in four runs for Willowbrook in Friday's loss. Dennison belted a grand slam in the top of the fifth inning to give Willowbrook its 8-7 lead.

Leyden won the game with a two-run home run with one out in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Junior Karman Rowe went 3-for-4 and drove in one run for the Warriors in Friday's loss. Senior Emily Pearson went 2-for-2 with one RBI.

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Warriors take fourth at the Raider Invitational

STAFF REPORT

Willowbrook's boys track and field team competed at Friday's Raider Invitational at Glenbard South High School in Glen Ellyn. The Warriors placed fourth in the team results of the eight-team invitational. Glenbard South won the team title with its score of 135.5. Belvidere North claimed second with 125 team points. Glenbard East posted a total of 117 to edge Willowbrook in the battle for third place. The Warriors completed the invite with a total of 116 team points.

Senior Bernardo Albarran of Willowbrook earned a victory in the invite's shot put. Albarran's best throw of the day traveled 44 feet, 7¾ inches. Sophomore Jake Koterba of the Warriors finished third in the shot put. His

best throw of the competition sailed 42 feet, 5 inches.

Willowbrook sophomore Jaden Royal finished second in the triple jump at Friday's invite at Glenbard South. His best jump of the day covered 41 feet, 4 inches.

Koterba provided the Warriors with a third-place finish in the discus throw. His best throw of the invite traveled 119 feet, 8¼ inches. Sophomore Eddie Devens of Willowbrook finished fourth in the discus throw. His best effort on Friday covered 114 feet, 2 inches.

Juniors Lucas Bohm and Luca Parato of Willowbrook finished second and third, respectively, in the 300-meter hurdles. Bohm completed the race in a second-place time of 43.48 sec-

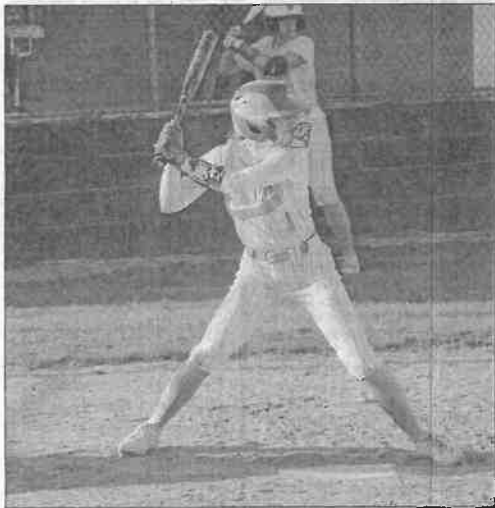
onds. Parato placed third with his time of 43.55 seconds.

Bohm ran to a fifth-place finish in the 110-meter hurdles of Friday's invite. He completed that race in 19.0 seconds.

Willowbrook senior Noah Campbell raced to top-five finishes in three individual events. Campbell placed third in the 200-meter run with his time of 23.98 seconds. He added a fourth-place finish in the 100-meter dash, which he completed in 11.56 seconds. Campbell also placed fourth in the 400-meter run, which he finished in 53.86 seconds.

Sophomore Jaylin Miller of Willowbrook placed fourth in the 200-meter hurdles.

See INVITATIONAL, Page 12



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Senior Kayleigh Dennison of the Willowbrook softball team is pictured during last week's West Suburban Gold Conference opener against Downers Grove South. The Mustangs defeated the Warriors 6-1 in the April 18 contest in Villa Park. Willowbrook suffered a 9-8 conference loss at Leyden on Friday. Dennison went 2-for-4 and drove in four runs in Friday's loss. She belted a grand slam in the top of the sixth inning to give the Warriors an 8-7 lead. Leyden won the game on a two-run home run in the bottom of the seventh inning. Willowbrook lost the first game of Saturday's non-conference doubleheader against Naperville Central. The Warriors bounced back from the 15-2 loss to the Redhaws to earn an 11-8 win in the second game. Dennison went 3-for-3 with a pair of homers and drove in six runs during Saturday's second game. Willowbrook held an overall season record of 10-5 at the end of Saturday's doubleheader. The Warriors' schedule this week includes conference games against Addison Trail and Hinsdale South.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Trivia Night at Willowbrook

More than 200 people participated in Willowbrook High School's annual Trivia Night. The April 15 event at the school was a fundraiser for the Willowbrook Music Booster Club. Proceeds will go toward student scholarships, grants and events that support the music department. Willowbrook math teacher Ed Sullivan emceed the Trivia Night competition and kept the audience entertained during an evening of information and facts. A total of 21 teams competed in the event, which also included more than 50 raffle baskets and a Pick-A-Prize game.

Teams dressed up and decorated their tables with a variety of themes. The photo, taken by Willowbrook parent Jennifer Seelbach, shows "The Rubik's Cube" team who won the award for the team with the best theme. Pictured left to right are (front row) Pam Leigh, Wendy Biggs, Jen Adamczyk and Lizzie Roscoe; (back row) Karen DeToro, Sandy Rennie, Scott Rennie, Frank Adamczyk, Matt Mockl and Craig Roscoe. The highest-scoring team at the Trivia Night event was "The Long Black Socks."

DuPAGE DESTINATIONS

Your Dining & Entertainment Guide to the Western Suburbs

•Events

(Continued from page 8)

Thursday, May 5
Cinco de Mayo color crawl,
West Chicago

Presented by the West Chicago Park District, 201 W. National St., starting at 6 p.m., celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a fun walk or run through Reed-Keppler Park. We'll shower you along the 2-mile route with vibrant color made from safe, food-grade, biodegradable cornstarch. By the time you cross the finish line, you'll be a brilliant color palette of hues. Price: \$25. For more information, visit: <https://webtrac.west-chicago.org/wbwcsc/webtrac.wsc>.

tion, visit: <https://wheatonparkdistrict.com/>.

Food Truck Festival, Naperville
From 11 a.m.-7 p.m. presented by Brew Avenue Events at the Naperville Settlement outdoor history museum, 523 S. Webster St., the Naperville Food Truck Festival is returning. Featuring over 25 of the area's best food trucks, live entertainment, Cinco de Mayo beer garden, and a vendor village featuring a face-painter, mega bubble machine, balloon artist, and a kid's tattooist. This is a family-friendly event with food and entertainment for everyone. A portion of the proceeds from the festival will benefit the Naperville Community Center and their mission to empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to work in, contribute to, and enrich their community. Prices: \$5 general admission; \$15 early eater. For more information, visit: www.facet.com/events/543906354461876.

Saturday, May 6
Country in the Park, Downers Grove

Starting at noon and presented by the Downers Grove Park District, 831 Maple Ave., spend a spring day at Country in the Park—part of the annual Downers Grove Founders Day celebration sponsored by The Grove Foundation. Families will visit with farm animals, play 1850s pioneer-era games and more. This event is free. For more information, visit: www.dgpc.org/calendar/events/country-in-the-park-7134029865.

Saturday, May 13
Cosley Conservation Day, Wheaton

From 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Cosley Zoo, 1356 N. Gary Ave., enjoy a day with local conservation organizations, participating in activities, visiting with the animals. Admission is free. For more information, visit: <https://cosleyzoo.org/>.

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Villa Parkians: don't you think it's great all these insurance commercials with the cute animals and the cute people and how wonderful they are, and they want to be your friend? Until you've got to make a claim. Ha ha. Bye.

Have you noticed how Biden likes to take credit when there's a drop in gas prices? What happens when prices go up? I just paid \$4.29 a gallon. Is he going to take credit for the current price of gas? Nope. We can count on Biden blaming everyone but himself, even though he says he wants to end fossil fuels. It's amusing to hear Biden and his team deflect the blame when gas prices are high.

Do you recall how windows were boarded up at several businesses before the 2020 election? The business owners were bracing for potential violence after the election. They weren't bracing for violence

from Republicans. They were preparing for violence from Democrat-supporting leftists. It reminded me of mafia intimidation. "Nice place you've got here. It would be a shame if something happened." That seemed like a pretty significant story, but the coverage evaporated after Democrats got their way. If Democrats don't get their way in 2024, will we have to brace for this again?

Biden and the Democrats need mail-in voting in 2024. There's no way a majority of American voters will go in person to the polls to support four more years of Biden. A huge chunk of Democrats don't even want him to run. What are the Democrats in power going to cook up next year? Another pandemic? Bird flu? Who knows what nonsense they will come up with to push mail-in voting/ballot harvesting.

Didn't leftists, especially those on college campuses, used to claim to be tolerant of different viewpoints? I remember leftists at least pretending to welcome a free exchange of ideas and expression. Not anymore. If someone they don't like visits a college campus, what do they often do? They threaten or try to intimidate the speaker. They also try to cause disruptions to prevent the speaker from appearing. Leftists are only tolerant if you agree with them.

The city of Chicago fought for years to prevent Walmart from opening stores within the city. Now that Walmart is closing four of its stores in the city, some people are upset. Is it any surprise that Walmart is closing these stores? Crime is rampant in the city, and

businesses like Walmart aren't charities. It will be sad, but also a little amusing, to hear people complain that there aren't stores in their area. Chicago is circling the drain.

I read in last week's Speak Out that our frequent right-wing propaganda spreader has decided to boycott Bud Light. If this is true, then you might need to do some research to avoid accidentally drinking "queer" beer. The parent company of Bud Light is AB INBEV. They have over 500 brands that represent about one third of the total beer sales in the world. I suggest a better alternative. Try the local breweries right here in our towns: More and Lunar in Villa Park, Afterthought and Noon Whistle in Lombard. Be careful though, you might become woke!

When was the last time you played catch with the kids in the backyard?

The younger generation needs to acquire habits and skills away from their cell phones to appreciate life around them in real life and in time. As the saying goes: get out and smell the roses.

My feelings about whether someone wants to transition from woman to a man, or vice-versa, as such: if someone is of consent age, they can do what they want. Just don't use taxpayer dollars to pay for their surgical procedure. Also, if gender identity or gender ideology are being introduced in schools to preschool and young children, that needs to stop. Let kids be kids.

Villa Park Library to hold Volunteer Fair on April 29

The Villa Park Public Library will hold a Volunteer Fair from 1 to 4 p.m. this Saturday, April 29. The fair will give residents an opportunity to meet with representatives from various organizations and learn more about volunteer options in the area.

While all ages are welcome to attend, an adult should accompany children under 12.

The library is located at 305 S. Ardmore Ave.

The first 100 people (ages 15 and older) who visit each vendor table will

receive a voucher for a free Kid Spoonburger from Spoon Burger—an on-site food truck at the volunteer fair.

For more information about participating organizations at the volunteer fair, visit the library's website www.vppil.info.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Montini students and teachers work with Habitat for Humanity

Five students and two teachers from Lombard's Montini Catholic High School traveled to Kentucky during the school's spring break (March 27-31) to team up with Habitat for Humanity to help provide affordable housing for those in need. The Montini contingent traveled to Elizabethtown, Kentucky, to work with the Hardin County Habitat for Humanity. Pictured left to right just before making the trip to Kentucky on March 26 are: teacher Denis Block (who is also Montini's Lasallian Youth Group moderator), teacher Barry Briggs, junior Zander Montgomery, junior David Hernandez, senior Howard Hall, sophomore Henry Dawson and junior Blake Holtquist. Dawson is a Villa Park resident.

•Warriors (Continued from page 5)

Naperville Central scored eight runs in the top of the fourth inning to take an 11-2 lead over the Warriors in the first game of Saturday's doubleheader. The Redhawks added four runs in the top of the fifth inning. They held Willowbrook scoreless in the bottom of the fifth inning to close out the victory.

Dennison went 3-for-3 with a pair of home runs and a double in Saturday's second game. She drove in six runs to lead the Warriors to the 11-8 win.

Dennison smashed a three-run homer in the bottom of the second inning to give Willowbrook a 5-0 lead. She drilled a two-run homer in the bottom of the fifth inning to push the Warriors' lead to 11-8.

Willowbrook held a 9-2 lead at the end of the third inning. Following a scoreless fourth inning, Naperville Central scored six runs in the top of the fifth inning to trim the Warriors' lead to 9-8.

Bates pitched all seven innings for Willowbrook in Saturday's second game. She allowed 11 hits and four earned runs. She didn't issue any walks, and she recorded three strikeouts.

Willowbrook's schedule this week includes conference games against Addison Trail and Hinsdale South, along with this Saturday's non-conference contest against Downers Grove North.

•Invitational (Continued from page 5)

ter run, which he completed in 24.16 seconds. Senior Kevin Diederich of the Warriors turned in a fifth-place finishing time of 10 minutes, 6.11 seconds in the 3,200-meter run.

Willowbrook's 4 x 100-meter relay team of junior Joe Hanson, Parato, freshman Maximilian Wilkison and Miller earned a second-place finish. The four Warriors completed the race in 44.64 seconds.

The Warriors' 4 x 400-meter relay team also earned a second-place finish at Friday's invite. The foursome of Campbell, junior Sam McNeilly, freshman Evan Haworth and junior

Liam Moran completed the race in 3 minutes, 42.08 seconds.

Willowbrook's quartet of sophomore Jordan Pate, Royal, senior Seth Lenhart and junior Arthur Palicki turned in a fourth-place time of 1 minute, 39.03 seconds in the 4 x 200-meter relay.

The Warriors' foursome of senior Henry Sloan, Haworth, McNeilly and sophomore Kasen Blain contributed a fourth-place time of 8 minutes, 48.22 seconds in the 4 x 800-meter relay.

The Warriors will host their own Willowbrook Invitational this Friday.

Willowbrook defeats Addison Trail

Warriors complete a sweep of their four conference opponents

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook boys gymnastics team defeated Addison Trail 131.2 to 105 in last week's dual meet in Villa Park.

Competing in their final home meet of the season, the Warriors completed a sweep of their four West Suburban Gold Conference opponents this year. Willowbrook opened its conference season with a victory over Hinsdale South on March 16. The Warriors edged Leyden 126.2 to 125 in an April 6 dual meet in Villa Park. The Warriors moved to 3-0 in conference meets with their victory at Downers Grove South on April 13. Willowbrook will compete against its four conference rivals in tonight's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet at Downers Grove South.

Sophomore Daniel Javier of the Warriors won five individual events and claimed the all-around title during his team's April 19 meet against Addison Trail. Javier won first-place honors in floor exercises with his score of 9.2. He also delivered first-place performances on the still rings (7.5), the vault (9.1), the parallel bars (7.2) and the horizontal bar (7.8).

Javier, who turned in a third-place score of 6.2 on the pommel horse, finished the meet with a winning all-around total of 47.0.

Senior Matthew Casey of Willowbrook won the title on the pommel horse with his first-place score of 7.5. Addison Trail's Alex Hernandez placed second on the pommel horse with his score of 6.3.

In addition to winning the title on the pommel horse, Casey finished fourth on the still rings (6.7). He tied for fourth on the parallel bars (6.2) and the horizontal bar (5.6).

Along with placing second on the pommel horse, Hernandez claimed second on the parallel bars (6.6) and tied for fourth on the horizontal bar (5.6). Hernandez finished third in the all-around competition with his score of 37.7.

Willowbrook freshman Jae Newman finished second in the all-around standings with his total of 43.3. Newman placed second in floor exercises (8.6), the vault (8.1) and the horizontal bar (7.5).

He added third-place finishes on the still rings (7.0) and the parallel bars (6.3). He placed fifth on the pommel horse (5.8).

Willowbrook sophomore Sam Gordon placed second on the still rings (7.2). Gordon finished third in floor exercises (7.8) and on the vault (6.6). He landed in fifth in the all-around standings with his total of 36.1.

Junior Peter Catania of Willowbrook delivered a fourth-place score of 7.7 in floor exercises.

Addison Trail's Ugur Korkmaz placed fourth in the meet's all-around standings with his total of 37.4. Korkmaz finished third on the horizontal bar (5.9).

He claimed fourth on the pommel horse (5.9) and tied for fourth on the parallel bars (6.2).



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's boys gymnastics team defeated Addison Trail 131.2 to 105.0 in last week's dual meet in Villa Park. The April 19 victory over the Blazers gave the Warriors a perfect 4-0 record in this season's dual meets against West Suburban Gold Conference opponents. Sophomore Daniel Javier (top right) of Willowbrook won individual titles in five events during the meet against Addison Trail. He is pictured during his first-place performance on the parallel bars. Javier won the all-around title in last week's meet with his score of 47.0. Willowbrook freshman Jae Newman (above) finished second in the all-around standings with his total of 43.3. Newman is pictured during his routine on the horizontal bar, which earned a second-place score of 7.5.

Answers

PUZZLE 1										PUZZLE 2										CROSSWORD											
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G	K	L	S	T	E	P	B	T	O	F	O	B	H	P	D																



LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE

CERTIFICATE NO. 79053 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on APRIL 11, 2023 wherein the business firm of THE SCOZZY SOLUTION, 15206 RADFORD LANE, VILLA PARK, IL 60181 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address(es), is/are as follows:

Scott Socha, 15206 Radford Lane, Villa Park, IL 60181.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 11TH day of APRIL, A.D. 2023.

Jean Kaczmarek
DuPage County Clerk
(Published in the Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent & Villa Park Review April 20, 27 & May 4, 2023)
436080

If you have further questions pertaining to this meeting and/or are interested in attending, please complete the survey via this link: <https://forms.gle/CNBwccqXWChky8dA> (Published in the Elmhurst Independent, Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent & Villa Park Review April 27 & May 4, 2023)
436592

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF DUPAGE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

IN RE THE ESTATE OF
EDWARD JOHN EFTING
DECEASED

2023PR000249
CASE NUMBER

PUBLICATION NOTICE AND/OR
CLAIMS NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of EDWARD JOHN EFTING whose address was 1651 W LAKE ST APT #225 ADDISON IL 60101. Letters of Office were issued on April 13, 2023 to Melissa G. Wilson, 5277 Wilshire Park Dr Hudson OH 44236, independent Administrator whose attorney is Vincent C. Argento.

NOTICE TO HEIRS AND LEGATEES

The estate Will be administered without Court Supervision, unless under section 28-4 of the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person may terminate independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Circuit Court Clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of CANDICE ADAMS, Circuit Court Clerk, 505 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton, Illinois, or with the representative or both on or before October 30, 2023 any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Court Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney, if any, within 10 days after it has been filed with the Circuit Court Clerk.

Vincent C. Argento
DuPage Attorney Number: 5355
Attorney for Estate
PO Box 5243
Elgin IL 60121-5243
847-628-8301
Email: service@argentalaw.com

(Published in the Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent & Villa Park Review April 27, May 4 & 11, 2023)
436454

Legal Notice

On Monday, May 8, 2023, a virtual meeting conducted by DuPage High School District 88 will take place via Zoom at 6:30 pm. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the District's plan for providing special education services to students with identified disabilities who attend parentally placed private/parochial schools and home schools located within the District's boundaries for the 2023-2024 school year.

If you are a parent/guardian of a home-schooled student who has been or may be identified with a disability and you reside within the boundaries of DuPage High School District 88, you are encouraged to attend.

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VOL. 20 • NO. 19

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THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023

Suspects in custody after high speed chase leads to accidents

Vehicle fleeing police allegedly side-swipes school bus, car, before crashing; five children found inside

On Friday, April 14 at approximately 2:55 p.m., a beige GMC Acadia SUV entered Elmhurst traveling northbound on Illinois Route 83 and turning eastbound onto St. Charles Road. The vehicle was being pursued by Oak Brook and Villa Park Police Department vehicles for an incident that reportedly originated in Oak Brook.

As the GMC traveled eastbound through the intersection of St. Charles and Berkley Ave., the vehicle side-swiped a school bus in front of York High School. The school bus was only occupied by the bus driver and there were no students on board, hence no injuries were reported at this scene.

The GMC then reportedly traveled eastbound through the intersection of St. Charles and Spring Road, side-swiping a passenger vehicle. Again, no injuries resulted at this scene.

The GMC continued

See ACCIDENTS, Page 4.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

INSIDE:

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A harsh lesson in prom night safety

Don't worry, the student on this gurney is not injured – she is taking part in Operation Prom, helping demonstrate, along with the Addison Fire District, what can happen on prom night if students are not careful driving or if they choose to use drugs or alcohol. The bleachers were filled with prom-goers, looking on and facing what could become a harsh reality. More photos inside.

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

'Operation Prom' brings reality to students

The bleachers at the Addison Trail football field were filled with students who attended 'Operation Prom,' a program done with the help of the Addison Fire Protection District, which demonstrates what really happens when tragedy strikes a prom night driver and the passengers if students do not drive safely or use drugs or alcohol. Volunteers from the school took part in portraying the injured.



Helping with Operation Prom

Pictured (at left) are all the AT students, staff and firefighters from the Addison Fire Protection District, who took part in Operation Prom to demonstrate to students the reality of what can happen if they are not careful on prom night.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Elmhurst University at the Fair

The Addison Trail Guidance Department held its annual Evening College Fair on Thursday, April 20, bringing students from Addison Trail, Fenton, Glenbard East, Glenbard West, IC Catholic Prep, Lake Park, Montini Catholic, Willowbrook and York. Participants were able to speak with representatives from 70 colleges/universities located throughout the U.S. Here, a student speaks to a person representing Elmhurst University.



Checking it out

At the College Fair held on Thursday, April 20, a student looks at some brochures about Greenville University. It was one of 70 colleges and universities represented at the Fair hosted annually by the Addison Trail High School Guidance Department.

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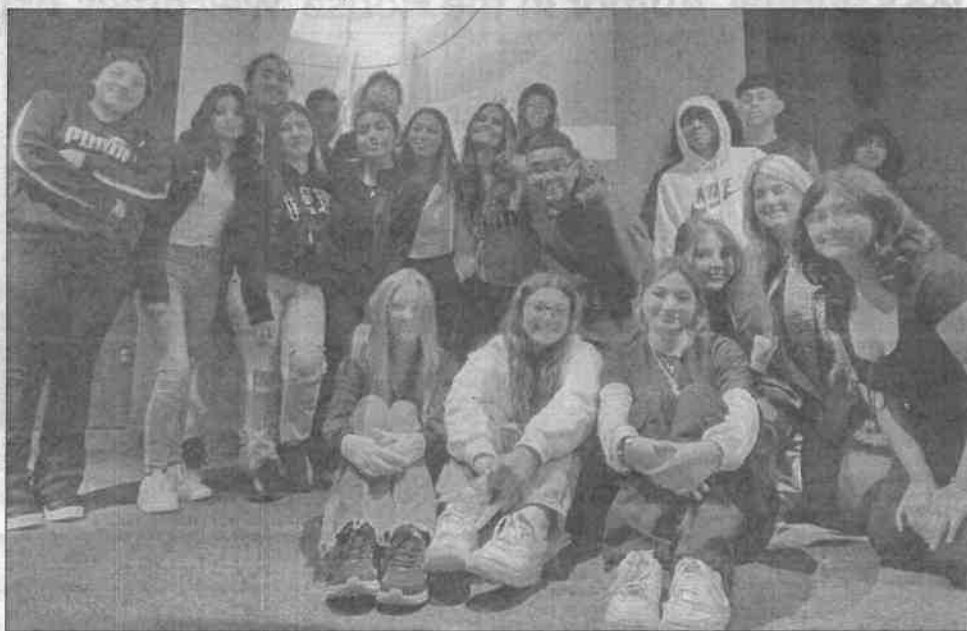
THE INDEPENDENT
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Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 11am-3pm



22/201



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

At the Holocaust Museum

On April 17, 19 Addison Trail students enrolled in Bridge English 10 classes took a field trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie. Accompanied by staff members Annette Severino and Jessica Murphy, the students took a tour, participating in several interactive exhibits as a culminating activity to reading the memoir "Night" by Elie Wiesel. The students also listened to museum docent Candy King share the story of her family and their struggles coming to America as Jews during World War II.

D88 joins other high schools for 'Night of Noise'

On Friday, April 14, more than 100 students from Willowbrook, Addison Trail, Hinsdale Central, Fenton, Leyden and York high schools participated in a Night of Noise at Willowbrook.

The evening was a culminating event to gather together and "Break the Silence" after participating in the GLSEN Day of Silence, a "national student-led demonstration where

LGBTQ+ students and allies take a vow of silence to protest the harmful effects of harassment and discrimination of LGBTQ+ people in schools." During the Night of Noise, partic-

ipants enjoyed games, food, music, celebration and camaraderie. The goal is to "bring attention to ways schools and communities can become more inclusive."

•Accidents (Continued from front page)

traveling eastbound on St. Charles Road and struck the rear of a passenger vehicle near Argyle Avenue. At that time, both vehicles came to a rest on the parkway and police officers immediately took an adult male and an adult female into custody from the GMC.

As this incident occurred in close proximity to York High School, the school was briefly placed on lockdown for the security of the building and the safety of the students until the scene was secured.

The Elmhurst Fire Department responded to the scene, where several vehicle occupants had minor injuries, resulting from the final traffic crash scene at St. Charles and Argyle. Elmhurst Paramedics and several mutual aid agency ambulances transported ten patients to three area hospitals for treatment.

The GMC was occupied by two adult males, one adult female, and five children. The vehicle struck by the GMC at St. Charles and Argyle was occupied by two adults.

St. Charles Road was closed be-

tween Spring Road and York Road until approximately 4:15 p.m. while Elmhurst police officers and evidence technicians conducted traffic crash investigations. Elmhurst police units did not initiate this vehicle pursuit, however they did respond to the three incident scenes.

On Monday, April 17, DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Oak Brook Chief of Police Brian Strockis announced that bond had been set for the three individuals in the vehicle, who stand accused of stealing merchandise from the Oak Brook T.J. Maxx store, located in the Shops of Oak Brook.

Charges filed

Those charged include Russell Miller, 24, of the 9000 block of S. Brandon Avenue, Chicago; Zhane Ball, 28, of Iowa City, Iowa; and Xavier Miller, 28, of the 8300 block of S. Baker, Chicago. Bond was set at \$350,000 for Russell Miller; \$200,000 for Ball and \$150,000 for Xavier Miller. All three defendants are charged with one count of felony

burglary (Class 2), one count of felony retail theft (Class 3), two counts of aggravated fleeing and eluding a police officer (Class 4 felony) and five counts of misdemeanor endangering the health or life of a child.

According to the State's Attorney's report, on April 14, at approximately 2:48 p.m., officers with the Oak Brook Police Department allegedly observed a GMC Acadia, driven by Russell Miller, parked in the aisle of a parking lot at the Shops at Oak Brook. It is alleged that a short time later, the officers observed two individuals, later identified as Xavier Miller and Ball, exit the T.J. Maxx store, place some items in the Acadia, and then enter the vehicle which quickly fled from the parking lot headed eastbound on 22nd Street. It is alleged that as officers followed, the Acadia made a sudden U-turn and drove through a red light at which time the officers activated their emergency lights and sirens to initiate a traffic stop. It is alleged that the Acadia initially stopped for officers, but as officers approached

the vehicle on foot, the Acadia fled. It is further alleged that the Acadia led officers on a high-speed pursuit reaching speeds in excess of 75 mph in a 45-mph zone. It is further alleged that the pursuit continued near York High School as students were being released for the day and that Miller sideswiped a school bus, lost control and crashed into another car. All three defendants were taken into custody at this time.

At the scene of the crash, officers learned that there were five children in the Acadia ranging in age from two months to ten years. Following an investigation, it is further alleged that Xavier Miller and Ball entered the T.J. Maxx store, selected shoes, socks and handbags totaling approximately \$1,702 and left the store without paying for the items.

The next court appearance for all three defendants is scheduled for Monday, May 8, for arraignment.

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