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THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023

Barbanente announces grants for bilingual education for teachers

D88 superintendent hopes to expand college-level course offerings

By Dee Longfellow
FOR THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT

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



Dr. Jean Barbanente, Ed.D.

"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."

In order to expand college-level course offerings and to meet the diverse needs of the students, Barbanente said the D88 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 fam-

ilies 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 (advanced placement) 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 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."

(See related article, *ISBE: Illinois leads nation in AP exam performance*, elsewhere in this issue.)



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

Orchesis Show coming soon

This year's Orchesis Show, "Divine Movement," will take place on Friday and Saturday, April 28 and 29 in the Addison Trail High School auditorium and will feature 21 dance numbers in various styles. Pictured are eight of the 2022-23 Orchesis Team officers. Story and another photo inside.

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Addison Trail High School appoints new head of athletics

Humberto Ayala spells out goals for future of athletics



For as long as he can remember, Humberto Ayala has enjoyed helping others as a servant leader. As a first-generation American, Ayala learned the value of hard work and giving back from his mother. And he's ready to share those qualities with Addison Trail.

During its April 10 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education approved the administration's recommendation to name Ayala as the school's new athletic director, effective July 1. Ayala will succeed Matt Thompson, who has served as athletic director for 19 years and will move to the position of assistant athletic director/Dean. Addison Trail is extremely grateful for Thompson's leadership and contributions, as well as his assistance during this transition.

"We look forward to welcoming

Ayala to the District 88 family," said Jack Andrews, Addison Trail principal. "The skills and experiences he brings to the table will be a tremendous asset to ensure the Blazer Pride at Addison Trail continues for years to come."

Ayala has been the Athletic Director at Leman Middle School in West Chicago since 2011 and has coached soccer, volleyball, wrestling, football and track and field. He also was a health and physical education teacher, with experience in teaching English Learner (EL) students. Ayala has a bachelor's degree in physical education, a master's degree in teaching with certification and a master's degree in coaching and athletic administration.

He is a member of the Illinois Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents, the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, the Illinois Athletic Directors Association and the Illinois Elementary School Association.

"Mr. Thompson has created an

excellent athletic environment, and I plan to keep his work going and add my expertise, skills and bilingual abilities to further remove barriers and reach more students and families to showcase our facilities and the talents of our students," Ayala said. "I'm looking forward to continuing a well-established department and the school's strong athletic history and getting to know the staff, students and families. I'm very excited for this opportunity, and I can't wait to get to work."

Ayala said his goals include:

- 1. Increase student involvement: "My focus is to provide more opportunities for high school students and children in the community to be engaged," Ayala said. "Athletics expand your horizons and teach life lessons. When students are involved, more adults are part of their journey to help them succeed and reach their goals."

- 2. Increase parent/guardian involvement: "We all want our children to succeed, and I want to help

parents with that process to navigate the education system and high school athletics," Ayala said.

"I want them to know the school isn't just where their student attends – they belong in our learning community as well."

- 3. Get acclimated: Become familiar with the school learning community and a new, larger athletic conference.

- 4. Increase the number of athletic events hosted at Addison Trail: "I enjoy hosting events – whether at home or at work. It's a great opportunity to showcase our strengths and what we have at Addison Trail."

"When I met and spoke with students in Addison, there was an immediate comfort level," Ayala said. "I can see myself in these kids, and I know Addison Trail is a perfect fit for my family and me. Becoming a high school Athletic Director is a dream job."

Ayala lives in Wheaton with his wife, Lindy, and their two sons – Nico, 14, and Nate, 10.

Multilingual Week celebrates student diversity

District 88 is proud to have a diverse school community, with about 50 languages and more than 30 countries represented. More than half of the nearly 2,000 students at Addison Trail speak a language other than English.

To recognize and celebrate that diversity, Addison Trail hosted a Multilingual Week from April 3-6 with a goal to show students that being multilingual is an asset and has many benefits. Some of the programs and activities were:

"Move for Multilingualism"

On Monday, April 3, staff and students were invited to walk in the school's field house in support of multilingualism. The event featured music, conversation and a banner for everyone to sign.

"Cafe con Chisme" ("Coffee with Gossip")

On Tuesday, April 4, students from the school's World Language and English Learner (EL) departments came together to get to know one another and chitchat in multiple languages.

Movie Day

On Wednesday, April 5, students and staff had the opportunity to view international films in the school's Black Box/Studio Theatre.

A Multilingual Student Summit

On Thursday, April 6, about 120 English Learner (EL) students from Addison Trail, Willowbrook, Fenton Community High School and York High School – who represent 12 native languages – attended the group's first Multilingual Student Summit. During the Summit, participants were able to network and engage in meaningful sessions and presentations that discussed identity, career pathways, college planning and relationships. The keynote speaker was Marilyn Rodriguez, bilingual psychotherapist at Latinx Talk Therapy. The event was hosted by the Bensenville Park District, and music was provided by Almafuerte to end the day.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Above: Addison Trail students participate in a "Cafe con Chisme" ("Coffee with Gossip") event on Tuesday, April 4. During the event, students from the school's World Language Department and English Learner (EL) Department came together to get to know one another and chitchat in various languages.

Right: These two friends who are students in the World Language/EL Depts., take part in "Cafe con Chisme" or "Coffee with Gossip," just one of the events during Multilingual Week. Students came together to get acquainted and to chat in multiple languages.



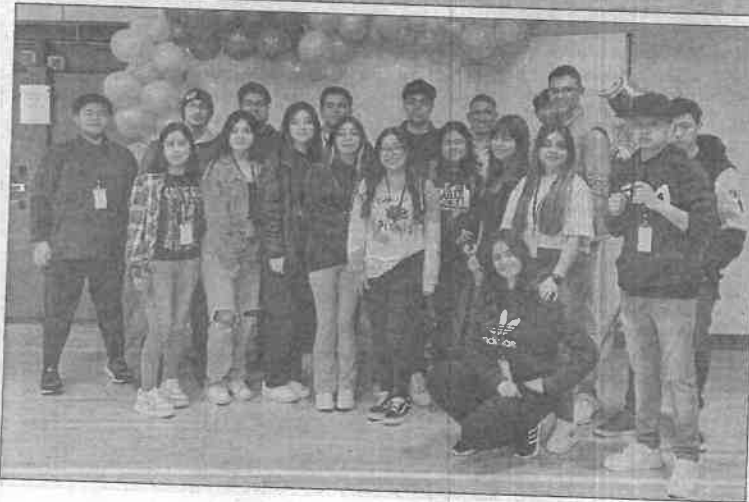
At the EL Multilingual Student Summit

On Thursday, April 6, about 120 English Learner (EL) students from Addison Trail, Willowbrook, Fenton and York High Schools – who represent 12 native languages – attended the inaugural Multilingual Student Summit, spearheaded by Addison Trail, and hosted by the Bensenville Park District.

During the event, participants were able to network and engage in meaningful sessions and presentations about topics like identity, career pathways, college planning and relationships. The keynote speaker was Marilyn Rodriguez, bilingual psychotherapist at Latinx Talk Therapy. Music at the end of the day was provided by Almafuerte.



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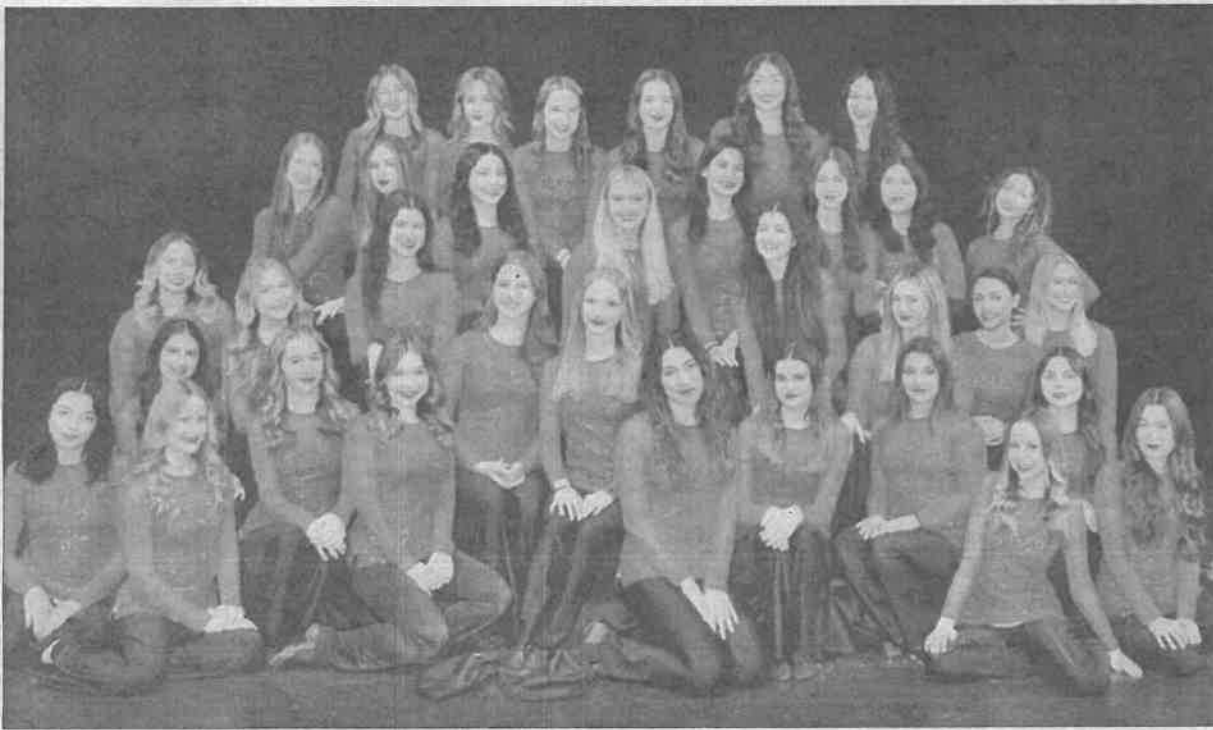
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This year's Orchesis Show performance, "Divine Movement," will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 28 and 29 in the Addison Trail High School auditorium. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

Orchesis to perform 'Divine Movement'

On Friday and Saturday, April 28 and 29, Addison Trail will present its annual Orchesis Show in the Addison Trail auditorium.

This year's theme is "Divine Movement," and will feature 21 dance numbers showcasing an array of styles such as hip-hop, jazz, lyrical, modern/contemporary and ballet, performed by 35 dancers, 35 escorts and three hosts.

Every aspect of the show – from the choreography, to the costumes, to the set design to lighting – is being operated and

handled by students.

Highlights of this year's show include:

- A number choreographed by Addison Trail alumna Riley O'Donnell (class of 2017), who is a former Orchesis Team president.

- Popular, well-known music "that will have people dancing in their seats."

- A number in which the escorts will perform along with the Orchesis Team members.

Officers of the AT Orchesis include: co-presidents, seniors Ava Colella, Miabella

DiGrazia and Aiste Siupienius; secretary, junior Gianna Palazzolo; treasurer, senior Domenica D'Ugo; publicity, juniors Niccola Barges and Nicolette Franczak; wardrobe, junior Abigail Proske and senior Ayleen Vazquez; historian, junior Angela (Ella) Anello.

"We want the audience to feel our excitement and the bond we all have together," the Orchesis officers said. "We are all very passionate about dance, and our goal is to convey that through our presence on stage and maybe inspire some students to

join Orchesis."

Curtain times for the performance are 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. In addition, there will be a 2 p.m. matinee performance on Saturday. Tickets, available at the door, are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and children ages 3 to 12 (children younger than 3 are free); \$3 for senior citizens; and free for D88 students with an ID and senior citizens with a District 88 Senior Gold Card. Family activity passes will not be accepted for this event. For more information, visit dupage88.net.

The Preserve at Oak Meadows earns accolades

Golfers can find a top-notch experience and PGA-recognized staff at local golf preserve and clubhouse.

Most recently, the PGA of America recognized The Preserve's golf services supervisor and PGA head golf professional Jamie Nieto with its Deacon Palmer Award, which honors a PGA professional who displays outstanding integrity, character, and leadership in the effort to overcome a major obstacle in their life. Nieto is one of 13 award recipients for 2023.

On his 20th birthday in 2003, Nieto sustained life-threatening burns to more than half of his body. Four

years of intense treatment combined with his never-give-up attitude resulted in him not only playing golf again but also eventually earning his PGA membership in 2012. He continues to volunteer his time counseling other burn patients and sharing his story and relating it back to the game of golf.

As Nieto continues his PGA-recognized work at The Preserve, the facility itself continues to earn its own awards. The Preserve's clubhouse, which opened its doors at the end of the 2021 season, was recognized this past fall in *Golf Inc. Magazine's* 2022 Best New Clubhouse competition in the new

public clubhouse category.

Four clubhouses were honored in this international competition, and the new building in Addison joined winning entries from North Carolina, Greece and Scotland. The building's design is a reinterpretation of the midcentury modern style that features angled roofs, the blending of indoor and outdoor spaces, and large expanses of windows that feature views of the course, which won Golf Inc. Magazine's worldwide "Renovation of the Year" award for public golf courses in 2018.

The clubhouse restaurant, the Greenway Tap, continues to gain a reputation with local foodies. Chef

Mike Riley is a graduate of both Culinary Institute of America and Roosevelt University Chicago, and his menu includes featured entrees, salads, healthy inspirations, and seasonal cuisine.

Recently, the online restaurant-reservation service OpenTable awarded the Greenway Tap its Diner's Choice award for top-rated restaurants in the West Suburbs and Chicago/Illinois. OpenTable reviewers have consistently given the restaurant high marks, placing it on "top 10" lists for best American cuisine, outdoor dining, and scenic views as well as its value, service, and ambience.

"We're excited to see that the restaurant is much more than a grab-and-go dining option but really offers an experience in and of itself and is attracting not only a fair share of regulars but also many first timers who have heard about it outside of golf from other happy patrons," said Ed Stevenson, executive advisor for the Forest Preserve District and head of golf operations.

For information, call 630-933-7200 or visit dupageforest.org, where you can also link to the district's e-newsletter, blog, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok pages.

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CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

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Above the net

Willowbrook's boys volleyball team battled Lyons Township in Friday's non-conference contest in Villa Park. The Lions beat the Warriors 25-16, 25-19. One photo from the second game of the match shows Willowbrook senior Patrick Dasbach (No. 15) at the net. The Warriors' overall season record fell to 1-10 following Friday's loss. Willowbrook suffered a pair of narrow three-game losses earlier in the week. The Warriors dropped a three-game decision at Leyden in a West Suburban Gold Conference match on April 11. One day later, Willowbrook narrowly lost a non-conference match at Bolingbrook. The Raiders edged the Warriors 25-18, 20-25, 26-24. For more about the Warriors, see page 5.

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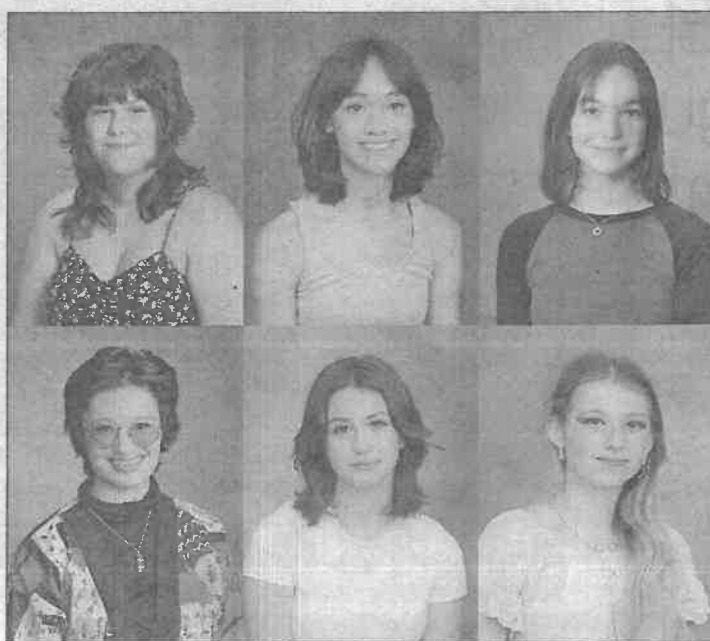
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Willowbrook art students to take part in upcoming exhibition

On Sunday, April 23, six Willowbrook students will participate in the 2023 Illinois High School Art Exhibition (IHSAE) at Bridgeport Art Center in Chicago. The IHSAE Main Event is hosted by Art Connected and brings together top student artists from 100 Illinois high schools to compete and celebrate the power of art in their lives. These students are selected across eight categories or from submitted scholarship portfolios. The Willowbrook students who will compete in the exhibition are (left to right, top row) senior Kelly Franco, sophomore Nina Young and senior Brianna Smalling; (left to right, bottom row) senior Oona Webster, sophomore Natalie McKenna and sophomore Meridian Sutton. So far, they have earned a combined \$80,000 in tuition scholarships.

Villa Park man charged with attempting to sell cannabis cartridges to juveniles

*Defendant was allegedly in possession of a loaded
weapon at the time of his arrest*

STAFF REPORT

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Villa Park Chief of Police Michael Rivas announced on Friday, April 14, that charges have been filed against a Villa Park man for allegedly trying to sell illegal cannabis products to a group of juveniles at a Villa Park McDonald's.

Ryan Setaram, 24, of the 200 block of S. Highland, appeared at a bond hearing on Friday, where Judge Brian Telander set bond at \$500,000 with 10 percent to apply. Setaram is charged with one count of armed violence (Class X felony) and one count of unlawful possession of a controlled substance (Class 1 felony).

On April 11, at approximately



Ryan Setaram

4:05 p.m., officers with the Villa Park Police Department responded to the McDonald's restaurant located at 350 E. St. Charles Road for a report of a man allegedly trying to sell cannabis cartridges to a group of young boys. Upon their arrival, officers found Setaram at the McDonald's allegedly in possession of cannabis cartridges, 16.2 grams of cannabis, Xanax pills, more than fifteen grams of cocaine and a loaded firearm. Setaram was taken into custody at this time.

"Keeping our neighborhoods safe and drug-free is a community effort and I commend the young men involved for their assistance in this case," Berlin said.

"Thanks to them, authorities were able to remove illegal narcotics and an illegal gun from our streets. I thank the Villa Park Police Department for their work in taking the defendant into custody."

"Illegal cannabis and illicit drugs

can destroy any community as well as our youth," Rivas said. "We applaud all who get involved and help our police department rid Villa Park of the scourge of substance abuse. We would like to thank the Villa Park officers for their quick response, and handling, of this potentially serious situation."

"It should also be highlighted that the alleged suspect was in possession of a fully loaded firearm at the time of the incident. The officers on scene were able to calmly remove the weapon and contraband without any further escalation. We would like to also thank DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin for his unwavering support in helping to keep our streets safe from illegal drugs and violence."

Setaram's next court appearance is scheduled for May 12, for arraignment in front of Judge Ann Celine O'Hallaren Walsh.

Graue Mill now open to visitors

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County's Graue Mill and Museum at 3800 York Road in Oak Brook within the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve is now open for the 2023 season.

The popular destination for school field trips and family adventures will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays through Sunday, Nov. 19. It will be closed Mondays through Wednesdays.

Programs on milling, spinning and weaving will highlight the effect mills had on the area's culture.

Each Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m., historical interpreters will offer demonstrations on topics related to 1850s and '60s life, including spinning, weaving, wool dyeing, mill mechanics and corn grinding.

"We're thrilled to be able to open the doors for the season and continue to offer the level of high-quality historical interpretation that generations have come to expect at the mill and museum," said Anamari Dorgan, director of Community Engagement for the Forest Preserve District.

After their visit, visitors can enjoy a 0.6 mile walk along Salt Creek to the Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center, which is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The surrounding preserve is open daily from one hour after sunrise until one hour after sunset.

Admission to the Graue Mill and Museum and the Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center is free. Call 630-850-8112 for more information.

Graue Mill and Museum is the only operating waterwheel gristmill in the Chicago area and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is also the only gristmill recognized as an Illinois Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for representing an important technology and era in the history of America.

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. on 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-die Spoonburger from Spoon Burger—the on-site food truck at the volunteer fair.

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

Warriors reel off four wins to move to 9-2

Ruchala hits a walk-off homer to close out Willowbrook's victory over Plainfield South

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook softball team won four straight games last week to improve its overall season record to 9-2.

The Warriors begin their West Suburban Gold Conference season with this week's scheduled games against Downers Grove South, Morton and Leyden. The Warriors will finish the week with this Saturday's non-conference doubleheader against Naperville Central in Villa Park.

Willowbrook opened last week's schedule with a dramatic 5-3 home win over Plainfield South on April 10. Sophomore Sonia Ruchala of the Warriors ended the game by smashing a two-run, walk-off home run in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Ruchala stepped to the plate with two outs and the game tied at 3-3 in the bottom of the seventh inning. She hit the game-winning homer over the left-field fence. Senior Katelyn Cox, who was on second base, scored on Ruchala's two-run blast.

Plainfield South scored three runs in the top of the second inning to take a 3-0 lead. The Warriors scored three runs in the bottom of the fourth inning to even the score at 3-3.

Sophomore Isabel Bates went 2-for-3 and drove in one run for the Warriors during last week's win over Plainfield South.

Willowbrook junior Karman Rowe pitched a complete game and earned a victory in the April 10 contest. Rowe allowed five hits and didn't give up any earned runs. She issued two walks and recorded seven strikeouts.

One day after beating Plainfield South, the Warriors routed Proviso West 17-0 in a four-inning game in Hillside. Willowbrook scored three runs in the first inning and added five



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's softball team won four straight games last week to improve its overall season record to 9-2. The Warriors began the week with an exciting 5-3 home win over Plainfield South on April 10. Sophomore Sonia Ruchala stepped to the plate with the score tied at 3-3 in the bottom of the seventh inning and launched a two-run home run over the left-field fence to end the game. One day later, the Warriors posted a 17-0 win at Proviso West. Willowbrook beat Lyons Township 11-1 in Villa Park on April 12. Ruchala (No. 51) is pictured (above left) during last week's win over the Lions. Another photo from that game shows Willowbrook sophomore Isabel Bates (above middle) playing in the field at third base. One more photo shows Willowbrook senior Zaida Serrano (No. 14 - above right) smiling as she rounds the bases after hitting a home run against the Lions. The Warriors completed the week with Saturday's 14-0 win at Argo. Willowbrook will open its West Suburban Gold Conference season with this week's games against Downers Grove South, Morton and Leyden. The Warriors will close the week with this Saturday's non-conference doubleheader against Naperville Central in Villa Park.

two runs.

Bates pitched all four innings in Willowbrook's April 11 win at Proviso West. She gave up two hits and one walk. She struck out six batters.

The Warriors earned their third win of last week when they posted an 11-1 home victory over Lyons Township on April 12. Willowbrook closed out its triumph with three runs in the bot-

tom of the sixth inning.

Dennison went 2-for-3 with a home run in the Warriors' win over the Lions. She drove in two runs and scored two runs.

Senior Zaida Serrano went 2-for-4 with a home run and three RBIs in Willowbrook's six-inning win over Lyons Township on April 12. Ruchala went 2-for-3 with an RBI. Junior

Lindsey Rugg also went 2-for-3 with an RBI.

Rowe fired a complete-game victory against the Lions. She gave up five hits and one earned run in six innings. She piled up 10 strikeouts.

Willowbrook completed its week with a 14-0 five-inning win at Argo on Saturday. The Warriors scored eight runs in the top of the first inning.

Dennison went 3-for-4 with a double and a triple. She drove in two runs and scored twice. Rowe went 2-for-4 with three runs batted in. Bates also went 2-for-4 with three RBIs.

Rowe pitched all four innings in Saturday's win. She recorded seven strikeouts and didn't issue any walks. She allowed four hits in the shutout victory.

Warriors place third at Ken Scorza Invite

Javier claims seventh in the competitive invite's all-around standings

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook boys gymnastics team finished third in the team standings of Saturday's six-team Ken Scorza Invite at York High School in Elmhurst.

Stevenson won the invite's team title with its score of 151.1. York placed second with its total of 139.25. Willowbrook delivered a third-place score of 132.05. Glenbard East (122.7), Mundelein (97.5) and Rolling Meadows (80.4) finished fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively.

Sophomore Daniel Javier of the Warriors earned seventh in the all-around standings of Saturday's competition with his total of 45.85. Javier finished fifth on the vault (8.95) and sixth in floor exercises (9.0). He posted seventh-place finishes on the horizontal bar (7.5) and still rings (8.0). Javier placed eighth on the parallel bars (7.4) and tied for 13th on the pommel horse (5.0).

Freshman Jae Newman of Willowbrook landed in 10th place in the invite's all-around standings. Newman's all-around total of 44.1 included his score of 9.2 in floor exercises, which secured a tie for second in that event. Newman tied for eighth in both the still rings (7.9) and the horizontal bar (7.0). He placed ninth on the parallel bars (6.9), 10th on the vault (8.3) and 15th on the pommel horse (4.8).

Sophomore Sam Gordon of the Warriors finished 13th in the all-around standings of Saturday's invite. Gordon's all-around total of 37.0 included a ninth-place score of 5.8 on the pommel horse and a 10th-place score of 7.8 on the still rings.

Willowbrook's other contributors to the third-place finish in the team standings of Saturday's invite included junior Peter Cahania, who

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CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors vs. Lions

Willowbrook's boys volleyball team faced Lyons Township in Friday's non-conference match in Villa Park. The visiting Lions defeated the Warriors 25-16, 25-19. Willowbrook's overall season record fell to 1-10 with Friday's loss. One photo from the match shows senior Jake Vandergriff (No. 6 - above left). Another photo shows (above right - left to right) freshman Jonnie Gosmire and junior Jason Hasler. The Warriors suffered narrow three-game losses at Leyden and Bolingbrook earlier in the week. Leyden defeated Willowbrook 26-24, 23-25, 25-17 on April 11. The Warriors' West Suburban Gold Conference record dropped to 0-2 following last week's loss at Leyden. Bolingbrook edged Willowbrook 25-18, 20-25, 26-24 in a non-conference match on April 12. The Warriors' schedule this week includes today's non-conference home match against York. Willowbrook will play at an invitational at Downers Grove South this Friday and Saturday.



Hey, I noticed Biden signed a bill ending the COVID national emergency. But I'm sure we'll still see people driving and wearing masks when there's no one else in the car.

Someone called and said Ronald Reagan joined the Republican Party because of Nancy Davis and her family, and that calling our current administration communist is 'ignorant.' I just read a book about Reagan, and he was a Democrat, but as head of the Screen Actors Guild, discovered that a lot of the actors were communists, and that is a big reason he turned to the Republican Party. And he was quoted as saying that he didn't leave the Democratic Party; the party left him. I, too, made that choice for the same reason. I was tired of the Democrats feeling like they can give others the shirt off my back, without regard to how that will affect my own wardrobe.

Hello, everyone. The voting is over here in town, and we are cluttered with campaign signs everywhere; here's an idea of how to get rid of them. They make wonderful garage sale signs. Just put a paper over the front; advertise your garage sale. They're not going to bend in the wind. Beautiful. So think about it.

Swimming star Riley Gaines barricaded herself in a classroom allegedly at San Francisco State University because of her viewpoints that transgender people should not be allowed to compete in sports with women. What have we come to? She barricaded herself because she was attacked, with apparently the blessing of the faculty at this liberal university. If roles were reversed, there'd be people screaming for retribution. But no, she was hit and punched; there should be arrests made. It's called battery. I was a police officer so I know. It's about as ridiculous as other conservatives who go to campuses, get shouted down and coerced out of there. The liberals push their doctrine. And part two, the gun attacks and assaults on innocent children are sickening, and bring me to tears as a military and former police officer and as a decent human being. However, taking guns out of the hands of my daughter and my wife is not

going to do anything. A hardened criminal is not going to listen to the laws. How dare you, Sean Casten, talk about taking guns out of the hands of my loved ones who want to protect themselves. Look elsewhere for your solutions, liberals.

There is a lot of misinformation and hysterical claims regarding climate change. It is hysterics without a workable plan. Why the hysterics? Who's making what profits from the hysterics?

Boycotting products has been a tactic of the left for years. I'm glad to see that boycotts work both ways. I've read that Anheuser-Busch has lost a few billion dollars in revenue since partnering with transgender woman Dylan Mulvaney to promote Bud Light. Good! I certainly won't buy Bud Light, even if it's on sale.

I looked through a report from the nonpartisan American Legislative Exchange Council called "Rich States, Poor States." In the report, Illinois ranked 46th overall in the country, down one spot from last year. Illinois is ranked 42nd in property tax burden, 44th in corporate income tax rate; and 49th for debt service as a share of tax revenue. Don't lose hope, my fellow Illinoisans. I'm sure we will move up the rankings once those revenues start pouring in from gambling, cannabis sales and those who travel here from out of state to get abortions.

I don't agree with how the Manhattan district attorney is going after Donald Trump, but I'm also disappointed that Trump is surging in the polls among Republican voters because of the indictment. Trump would get 40 percent of the vote in the general election, and that's probably about it. Nothing will unite and fire up the left more than to have Trump be the nominee in 2024. It's bad enough to have Biden as the president. What if Biden doesn't run for a second term? Then Kamala Harris, Gavin Newsom, JB Pritzker or some other leftist more radical than Biden could be the nominee. God help us if any of them becomes president. I hope the Republicans nominate someone else.

Warriors win two of three against Morton

Ness fires a shutout in series opener

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook baseball team won two of three games in last week's West Suburban Gold Conference series against Morton. The Warriors finished their week by posting an 8-2 victory in Saturday's non-conference game at Proviso West.

Willowbrook completed the week with an overall record of 7-6 and a conference mark of 3-3.

The Warriors opened their series against Morton with a 6-0 road victory on April 10. One day later, the Mustangs edged Willowbrook 2-1 in Villa Park. The Warriors earned an 8-2 win at Morton in the April 12 series finale.

Willowbrook junior Gabe Ness fired a complete-game victory in last week's series opener against the Mustangs. Ness allowed only one hit and didn't issue any walks in seven innings on the mound. He struck out seven batters in his shutout win.

Junior Vince Aiello went 2-for-2 and drove in two runs for the Warriors in their series opener against Morton. Junior Aiden Baerenklau went 2-for-3 with one RBI.

Willowbrook senior Aidan Pieniazek fired six strong innings in his team's 2-1 loss to Morton on April 11 in Villa Park. Pieniazek allowed one earned run, five hits and one walk. He struck out seven batters.

Junior Dylan Jenkins relieved Pieniazek and pitched a scoreless seventh inning. He didn't allow any hits and struck out one batter.

The Warriors trailed Morton 2-0 going into the bottom of the seventh inning. Junior Ryan Knebel reached base after being hit by a pitch. Pieniazek hit a one-out triple to drive in Knebel and cut the Mustangs' lead to 2-1.

Morton picked up a key strikeout for the second out. Senior Eddie Munson then lined out to end the game.

Senior Colin Slivka delivered a complete-game performance in the Warriors' April 12 win over Morton in the series finale. Slivka allowed six hits, no earned runs and no walks over seven innings. He recorded eight strikeouts.

Knebel went 2-for-3 with two runs batted in during the Warriors' victory in their third game of the series against Morton.

Munson went 2-for-4 with an RBI. Senior Isaac Sobieszczyk went 2-for-4 and scored two runs. Sophomore Vinny Ippolito went 1-for-4, with two RBIs.

Willowbrook senior Alex Chaltin went 2-for-3 with a home run and two runs batted in during Saturday's win at Proviso West. Chaltin hit a two-run home run in the top of the fourth inning.

Munson and sophomore Sam Marrese contributed two hits each to help the Warriors to Saturday's win.

Munson pitched the first two in-

nings of Saturday's contest. He didn't allow any runs or hits and struck out three batters. Senior Anthony Mazurek pitched the next four innings. He gave up three hits and one earned run while striking out four batters. Baerenklau took the mound for the seventh inning. He worked a score-

less inning; he issued one walk didn't allow any hits. He recorded one strikeout.

The Warriors' schedule this week includes a three-game conference series against Leyden, along with Saturday's non-conference home game against Hinsdale Central.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Public

Senior Aidan Pieniazek (No. 20) of the Willowbrook baseball team is pictured while firing a pitch during the Warriors' conference home game against Morton on April 11. The visiting Mustangs defeat Willowbrook 2-1 in Villa Park. Pieniazek pitched six innings in the game and allowed one earned run, five hits and one walk. He recorded seven strikeouts. Pieniazek hit a triple during the bottom of the seventh inning to drive in Willowbrook's only run of the game. The Warriors won the other two games of last week's conference series against Morton. Willowbrook earned a 6-0 victory in the series opener at Morton on April 10. The Warriors beat the Mustangs 8-2 in the series finale at Morton on April 12.

•Warriors (Continued from page 5)

finished eighth on the vault (8.6). Senior D'Angelo Mahone placed 10th on the pommel horse (5.6). Senior Matthew Casey finished 12th on both the pommel horse (5.1) and the parallel bars (6.2).

Two days before competing at Saturday's invite in Elmhurst, the Warriors defeated Downers Grove South 132.8 to 107.3 in a dual meet between West Suburban Gold Conference rivals.

Javier won the all-around title in the April 13 meet in Downers Grove with his total of 47.1. He turned in first-place performances in floor exercises (9.3), the vault (9.0) and on the still rings (8.0). Javier finished second on the pommel horse (6.5),

parallel bars (6.7) and the horizontal bar (7.6).

Newman finished second in the all-around standings of last week's meet in Downers Grove with his total of 45.1. Newman won the title the horizontal bar (8.2). He finished second on the vault (8.1) and tied for second in floor exercises (8.9).

Gordon won the title on the parallel bars (6.8) in last week's meet against Downers Grove South. He finished second on the still rings (7.3) and placed fourth in the meet all-around standings with his total 40.3.

The Warriors' schedule this week includes a home meet against Addison Trail.