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VOL. 20 • NO. 21

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THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023



SUBMITTED PHOTO: Bensenville Independent

Environmentally-friendly group

Students in AP Environmental Science classes with Stephanie Downen and Jeff Baeder visited Indiana Dunes National Park on Monday, April 24 to learn about interesting ecosystems and the importance of conservation.

Man accused of three incidents of loitering at York High School

Registered offender already on probation for possession of child pornography

On Wednesday, May 3, DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Elmhurst Chief of Police Michael McLean announced that a Villa Park man who is currently on probation for possession of child pornography stands accused of loitering within 500 feet of York Community High School on at least three occasions.

Yusef Husain, 36, of the 800 block S. Summit Ave., appeared before Judge Joshua Dieden who set bond at \$250,000, in accordance with a previously issued arrest warrant, although State had asked for a bond of \$1 million. Husain is charged with one count of Unlawful for Child Sex Offender to Loiter Within 500 Feet of School Property (Class 4 Felony).



Yusef Husain

Recently, the Elmhurst Police Department received numerous reports of occasions of young girls being watched and followed by a man while leaving school for the day. Through the course of their investigation into these reports, the Elmhurst Police Department was able to identify Husain as a suspect. It is alleged that on at least three occasions between April 12 and April 28, between 3:45 p.m. and 3:55 p.m., Hussain was within 500 feet of the school for approximately ten to 20 minutes on each occasion. On Monday, May 1, Judge Dieden issued an arrest warrant for Husain. Husain was taken into custody on Tuesday, May 2, while allegedly driving around York High School neighborhoods while students were waiting at their bus stops.

"As a registered child sex predator, Mr. Husain is prohibited from loitering within 500 feet of a school," Berlin said. "This sex offender registration requirement is not optional."

Husain's next court appearance is scheduled for Monday, May 22, for arraignment in front of Judge Daniel Guerin.

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

A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the government's burden to prove his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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AT creative writing students share original stories

Read their own books to local grade school kids who picked the winners

On Thursday, April 27, students in Addison Trail English teacher Katie Inzinga's Creative Writing class visited Wesley, Stone and Lake Park elementary schools, where they read their original children's stories to pupils in kindergarten through fifth grade.

To create their stories, the Addison Trail students analyzed published works and dis-

cussed characterization, conflict and plot development. They then drafted, revised and edited their own books.

Some students incorporated Spanish words, and others wrote their story in English and Spanish.

The class voted on their favorites in four categories and the winners received a certifi-

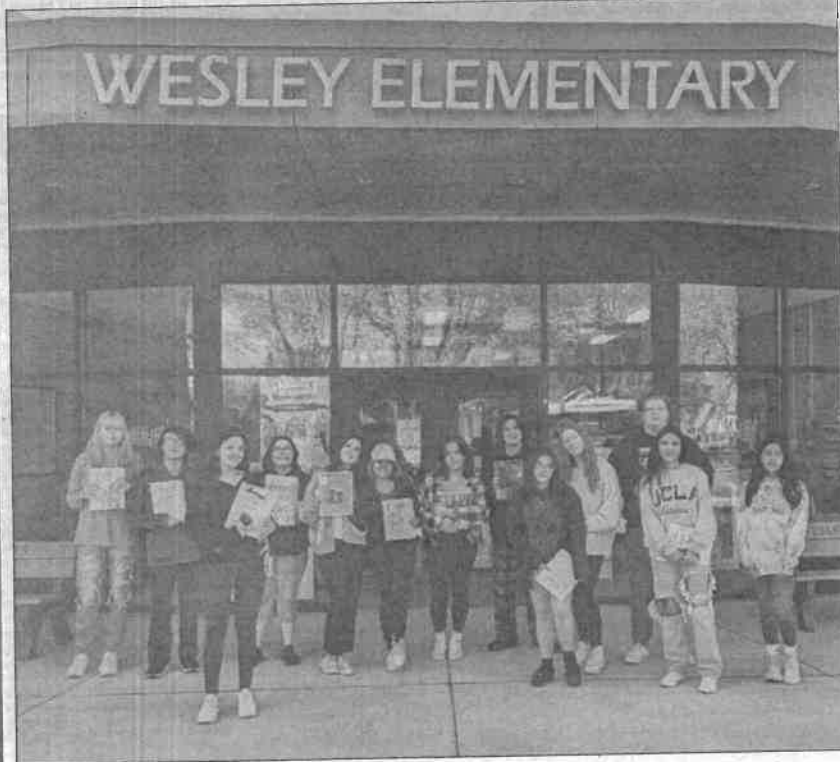
cate and a gold seal award sticker to put on their book's cover. The winners were:

Best Theme was awarded to junior Ashley Barraza for her book, "The Colorful Tree." The Best Characters award was presented to junior Abigail Zimmerman for "The Big Lion and the Little Bear." For Best Illustrations, the class voted for sophomore Alex-

andra Mondragon's choice, "Shep's Great Space Adventure." The Reader's Choice award went to sophomore Raina Ashrafi for "Super Jupie and Knuckles Solve the Case of the Missing Snacks." Ms. Inzinga's 4-year-old daughter, Shelby, also voted for her favorite: senior Juliana Barresi's book, "New Force Adventures."



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing



VILLA PARK REVIEW

Your Hometown Newspaper
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Bond set for convicted child sex offender accused of loitering near York High School

Suspect from Villa Park

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Elmhurst Chief of Police Michael McLean announced that a Villa Park man who is currently on probation for possession of child pornography is accused of loitering within 500 feet of York Community High School on at least three occasions.

Yusef Husain, 36, appeared at a bond hearing in front of Judge Joshua Dieden who set bond at \$250,000 with 10 percent to apply in accordance with a previously issued arrest warrant.

The state had asked for a bond of \$1 million with 10 percent to apply. Husain is charged with one count of unlawful for child sex offender to loiter within 500 feet of school property (Class 4 felony).

Recently, the Elmhurst Police Department received numerous reports of occasions of young girls being watched and followed by a man while leaving school for the day. Through the course of their investigation into these reports, the Elmhurst Police Department was able to identify Husain



Yusef Husain

as a suspect.

It is alleged that on at least three occasions between April 12 and April 28 between 3:45 p.m. and 3:55 p.m., Husain was within 500 feet of the school for approximately 10 to 20 minutes on each occasion.

On May 1, DuPage County Judge Joshua Dieden issued a \$250,000 with 10 percent to apply arrest warrant for Husain. Husain was taken into custody May 2 while allegedly driving around York Community High School neighborhoods while students were waiting at their bus stops.

"As a registered child sex predator, Mr. Husain is prohibited from loitering within five hundred feet of a school," Berlin said. "This sex of-

fender registration requirement is not optional. It is alleged that on several occasions, Mr. Husain violated this order and will now face not only today's new charges, but will also now face a petition from my office to revoke his probation."

"There is no responsibility more important to the Elmhurst Police Department than protecting the children of our community," McClean said. "I wish to thank the detectives who conducted surveillance operations of this sex offender during the course of the investigation and those who took him into custody."

Husain's next court appearance is scheduled for May 22 for arraignment in front of Judge Daniel Guerin.

Obituary

THADEUS E. PORTER, 57

Thadeus E. Porter, age 57, of Villa Park, formerly of Brandywine, passed away May 4, 2023 at Edward Hospital.

Thad was the beloved husband of Kelley Porter nee Kling. They met at work and were married just a few days shy of 25 years.

Thad was the loving dad of Stephanie (Tim) Scudero of DeKalb, Thadeus J. "T.J." Porter (fiancé Valerie Fierste) of Lombard, Nicholas Porter of Villa Park, and Steven Taylor of Largo, Fla.; Proud future grandfather of Sasha; Beloved son of the late Elmer T. Porter and Florence Porter nee Schultz; fond brother of Laura Hodina, Flo (the late Lester) Czerwinski, Mary (Richard) Juarez, and the late Bruce "Oss" (Victoria) Porter; dear uncle to his nephew, Tony, who he loved dearly; cherished by many other relatives.

Thad was an outdoorsman and especially enjoyed camping with his family and friends.

Thad loved to attend NASCAR races.

He really enjoyed the simple things in his life, like opening a Budweiser and sitting in his garage. It was no secret that Thad loved Halloween.

For 20 years, he looked forward to building a huge and amazing display of Halloween decorations at his home.

His display was well known by members of the community, and he even won an award from the Village of Villa Park.

Thad loved animals, especially his dogs.

A visitation was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, from 3-8 p.m. Funeral Service was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 10 a.m., both at Brust Funeral Home, 305 S. Princeton, Villa Park, Illinois 60181.

In lieu of flowers, please give memorials to VFW, Post 2801, 39 E. St. Charles Rd., Villa Park, IL 60181 or Magnificent Mutt's Rescue, 755 N. Wolf Road., Hillside, IL 60162.

Info www.brustfuneralhome.com or 630-629-0094.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Molly Brennan receives 88's Best honor for April

Willowbrook High School senior Molly Brennan was named her school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of April. Brennan, who is a Villa Park resident, was honored during the District 88 Board of Education's April 24 meeting. She is pictured (right) at the meeting with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause (left). The 88's Best award recognizes students for their achievements in and out of the classroom. Brennan is an academic standout in Willowbrook's Class of 2023. When she graduates later this month, she will have completed 14 Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses. Brennan is an AP Scholar with Distinction and an Illinois State Scholar. She's been named to the Distinction Honor Roll each semester of her time at Willowbrook. She's a member of the National English Honor Society, the Math Honor Society, the World Language Honor Society, the Modern Music Masters (Tri-M) Honor Society and Willowbrook's social studies honor society—Civitas. Brennan served as captain of Willowbrook's girls tennis and girls soccer teams. She was also the head of the construction crew for the school's theater department, and she was a member of Willowbrook's Scholastics Bowl and Econ Challenge teams. Brennan is a leader in Willowbrook's New Beginnings program, which assists freshmen with the transition to high school. She will attend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign later this year. She intends to study economics, along with computer science. Brennan eventually plans to attend law school.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook students qualify for national event

Two Willowbrook High School students—senior Henry Jarrett (left) and junior Joseph Weaver (right)—have qualified to compete in the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. The event will take place in Georgia from June 19-23. Jarrett will compete in Automotive Service Technology. Weaver will compete in Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair. Both students qualified for the national conference after winning first-place honors in their respective categories at the SkillsUSA Illinois State Leadership and Skills Conference. SkillsUSA is a nonprofit national education association that serves students preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations.

Bluejay Tank winner's idea hits all the right notes

Students from Lombard, Addison place second in University competition

An idea for "singing" clothing earned Elmhurst University sophomore Venezia Munoz a prize of \$1,500 and first place in the Spring 2023 Bluejay Tank Pitch Competition.

Munoz mixed fashion with technology for her streetwear clothing line, Vivid Existence, which features freelance artists' designs inspired by song lyrics. The tech part is a Spotify code that plays the corresponding song on a person's phone when scanned.

Munoz was one of seven student entrepreneurs who pitched five business ideas during the event in mid-April. A total of \$3,000 in prize money was up for grabs.

University juniors Miftha Syed, of Lombard, and Aaliya Khaja, of Addison, placed second and won \$1,000. Their pitch, Instapark, is an app for colleges and universities that uses geolocation to help drivers find open parking spots on campus and solves the "universal" problem of having to circle parking lots.

MBA student Muhammad Rafiul "Rafi" Islam Zareef, of Chicago, earned the \$500 third-place award. He pitched Storyboard Inc., a writing application that streamlines the

creative process by keeping research, outlines and storylines in one place. The app organizes and connects writers' ideas using timeline tools, plot strings and idea binders.

Contestants were judged using four criteria: 1) the judges' first impressions of each presentation and how well the proposal's solution met the need; 2) pitch content; 3) pitch delivery; and, 4) each contestant's ability to confidently, competently answer judges' questions.

"We were thrilled with the high energy and great business ideas from the mix of undergraduate and graduate students this semester, and the entrepreneur judges were really blown away by the quality of the pitches," said Patrick Yanahan '94, MBA '10, Elmhurst University's entrepreneur in residence. "The program keeps getting bigger every year, and it's nice to share the best talent from our student base with the private business sector."

The Bluejay Tank Pitch Competition is offered by the Elmhurst University B-celerator, a resource for students interested in launching a new business or innovating within an existing one. The competition also is supported by the PNC Foundation.



Winners of the Elmhurst University Spring 2023 Bluejay Tank Pitch Competition include (from left): Venezia Munoz, Aaliya Khaja, Miftha Syed and Muhammad Rafiul "Rafi" Islam Zareef.

Business briefs

County partners adopt public school mutual aid response agreement

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin, DuPage Regional Office of Education Superintendent Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, Head of the School Safety Task Force John Heiderscheidt and representatives from school districts as well as special education and other cooperatives across the County, announced last week the adoption of a new county-wide agreement that will expedite and facilitate the development and implementation of programs designed to provide mutual

aid in crises in DuPage County school districts and cooperatives which exceed the capacity of an individual school district or cooperative to respond effectively on its own.

Park Place Health & Wellness Center receives Gold Seal of Approval

Park Place Health & Wellness Center in Elmhurst was recently granted re-accreditation as a Nursing Care Center from The Joint Commission, earning the prestigious Gold Seal of Approval, as well as a special certification in Post-Acute Care. The Gold Seal is a symbol of quality

that reflects a health care organization's commitment to providing safe and quality patient care. For more information, visit ParkPlaceElmhurst.com.

Hospital ranks 'A' from Leapfrog

The Leapfrog Group has awarded Elmhurst Hospital with an A in its Spring 2023 Hospital Safety Grades. It's the 23rd consecutive time Elmhurst Hospital has earned an A, making it one of only 20 hospitals in the country and three in Illinois to be awarded an A in every Hospital Safety Grade cycle since 2012.

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Warriors earn berths in this week's state meet

Caron will compete in singles action; tandem of Vega and Schnittker will battle in doubles play

STAFF REPORT

Willowbrook's badminton team will send one singles player and one doubles team to this week's IHSA state meet in DeKalb.

The Warriors competed in last week's IHSA sectional at Naperville Central High School. Willowbrook finished third in the team standings of the sectional, which included six schools. Naperville Central won the sectional title with 13 points. Downers Grove North claimed second with

12 points, while the Warriors landed in third place with 10 points.

Each school's sectional lineup included two singles players and two doubles teams. The top four finishers in singles and doubles from each of the state's 16 sectionals advanced to the state meet, which begins Friday, May 12, at DeKalb High School.

Junior Lillian Caron of Willowbrook earned a berth in the state meet's singles competition by finishing fourth in last week's sectional.

The Warriors' duo of senior Adreana Vega and sophomore Abigail Schnittker also secured a state-meet berth by placing fourth in the sectional's doubles competition.

Willowbrook's sectional lineup at Naperville Central also included senior Emma Foley, who competed in the singles draw, and the tandem of senior Alexandra King and junior Jasmine Langston, who battled in doubles action.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Loew enters the IABC Hall of Fame

Former Willowbrook High School badminton coach Al Loew will be inducted into the Illinois Association of Badminton Coaches (IABC) Hall of Fame this week. Loew coached Willowbrook's badminton program from 1980 to 2004. He guided the program to the IHSA state championship in 1998. One year later, the Warriors won a share of the state title, finishing in a first-place tie with Hinsdale South. Willowbrook won the second-place trophy at the IHSA state meet in 1986, 1996 and 1997. In addition to coaching at Willowbrook, Loew spent nearly 30 years as a teacher at the school before retiring from teaching in the 1980s. Eastman Tiu, who is Willowbrook's current badminton coach, nominated Loew for the IABC Hall of Fame. "He established a successful and winning program that carries on today," said Tiu of Loew. "He is a Warrior in every sense of the word and truly deserves this honor." Loew and the other IABC Class of 2023 Hall of Fame inductees will be recognized during today's ceremony at DeKalb High School—the site of this year's IHSA state badminton meet. On Friday, May 12, Loew will serve as a grand marshal for the parade during the opening ceremony of the state meet.



Three members of Willowbrook's badminton team are competing in this week's IHSA state meet in DeKalb. Junior Lillian Caron (above right) will participate in the singles competition at the state meet. The duo of (above left - left to right) sophomore Abigail Schnittker and senior Adreana Vega will play in the event's doubles competition. The three Warriors earned their state-meet berths with their fourth-place finishes in last week's sectional at Naperville Central High School. This week's state meet, which will be held at DeKalb High School, will include 64 singles players and 64 doubles teams.



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors battle against strong competition at DuPage County Boys Meet

STAFF REPORT

Willowbrook's boys track and field team competed against 14 other teams in Friday's DuPage County Boys Meet at Glenbard North High School. The Warriors posted a 10th-place finish in the meet's team standings with their total of 38 points.

Nequa Valley won the meet's team title with its score of 125 points. Metea Valley claimed second with 76 points.

Junior Luca Parato of the Warriors ran to a third-place finish in the 300-meter hurdles at Friday's meet. Parato completed the race in 42.19 seconds. Junior Lucas Bohm of Willowbrook finished the same event in a fifth-place time of 42.6 seconds.

Willowbrook senior Kevin Diehrich raced to a fifth-place finish in the meet's 3,200-meter run, which

he completed in 10 minutes, 8.48 seconds. Sophomore Adriano Quintero provided the Warriors with a 10th-place finish in the 3,200-meter run, which he negotiated in 10:28.61.

Junior Liam Moran of Willowbrook delivered a seventh-place time of 52.81 seconds in the 400-meter run.

Junior Cody Wenkus of the Warriors posted a ninth-place finish in the 110-meter hurdles, which he completed in 17.35 seconds.

Willowbrook sophomore Jaden Royal delivered a second-place finish in the triple jump at Friday's meet. Royal covered 43 feet, 11½ inches in his best jump of the day.

Sophomore Jordan Pate of the Warriors placed fifth in the long jump. He traveled 21 feet, ¼ of an inch in his best effort of the meet.

Junior Noah Boyd of Willowbrook added a 10th-place finish in the long jump. Boyd's best jump of the meet covered 19 feet, 11¾ inches.

Sophomore Jake Koterba of Willowbrook placed seventh in the shot put during Friday's meet at Glenbard North. Koterba's best effort of the day in that event covered 45 feet, 8¾ inches.

Koterba added a 10th-place finish in the discus throw. His best throw of the meet in that event sailed 118 feet, 11¼ inches.

Willowbrook senior Bernardo Albarra placed 10th in the shot put and 11th in the discus throw. His best effort of the meet in the shot put covered 43 feet, 6¾ inches. His longest throw of the day in the discus throw traveled 117 feet, 5¾ inches.

Willowbrook's 4 x 200-meter relay team of Pate, Wenkus, sopho-

more Jaylin Miller and junior Jadin Harris posted a fourth-place time of 1 minute, 33.21 seconds at Friday's meet.

The Warriors' 4 x 100-meter relay foursome of Parato, Moran, Miller and Harris delivered a seventh-place time of 43.82 seconds.

The Willowbrook foursome of Moran, senior Isaiah Smith, senior Elijah Smith and junior Evan Weder raced to an eighth-place time of 3 minutes, 36.41 seconds in the 4 x 400-meter relay.

Seniors Henry Sloan, Garrett Williams and Charlie Hayes joined sophomore Kasen Blain to run to produce a ninth-place time of 8 minutes, 44.01 seconds in the 4 x 800-meter relay.

The Warriors are hosting this week's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet.

Gymnast Daniel Javier advances to the IHSA state meet

Sophomore Daniel Javier of the Willowbrook boys gymnastics team will compete in this week's IHSA state meet at Hoffman Estates High School. Javier earned a berth in the state meet when he tied for third place in the vault during last week's IHSA sectional at Hersey High School in Arlington Heights.

The top five finishers in each sectional event

automatically qualified for the state meet, which takes place this Friday and Saturday.

In addition to including the gymnasts who earned top-five finishes at last week's sectional competitions, the state meet will include at-large advancers.

Those at-large advancers were announced earlier this week.

Javier earned a score of 8.8 for his sectional effort on the vault.

Hersey won the team title at last week's sectional in its home gym with its score of 151.55. Fremd (144.2) finished second, while Hinsdale Central (133.6) placed third. Willowbrook earned a fourth-place finish in the eight-team event with its score of 126.75.

Warriors take second, Addison Trail fourth at conference meet

Gwaltney, Barrington and Turner win individual titles for Willowbrook

STAFF REPORT

Willowbrook's girls track and field team finished second in the team standings of last week's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet, which took place at Leyden's west campus on May 4. Downers Grove South won the title at the seven-team event with its score of 156.5 points. Willowbrook placed second with its total of 128 points. Hinsdale South landed in third place with 116 points.

Willowbrook sophomore Olivia Gwaltney delivered a victory in the 400-meter run at the conference meet. Gwaltney finished the race in a winning time of 1 minute, 2.6 seconds. Senior Molly Morris finished third in the 400-meter run, which she completed in 1:02.31.

Gwaltney added a fourth-place finish in the 200-meter run (27.14 seconds). Morris completed the 200-meter run in a fifth-place time of 27.54 seconds.

Senior Amelia Barrington of the Warriors won claimed the championship in the high jump at the conference meet. Barrington cleared 5 feet, 3 inches in her best effort at the meet. Willowbrook senior Sara Stout earned third-place honors in the high jump. Stout cleared 4 feet, 11 inches during last week's meet.

Barrington posted a second-place finish in the long jump; she traveled 16 feet, 8 inches in her best attempt of the meet. Morris finished fifth in the long jump; her best jump of the competition covered 15 feet, 11 3/4 inches.

Willowbrook's Morgan Turner won the conference meet's title in the discus throw. Turner, who is a sophomore, delivered a throw of 107 feet, 1 inch in her finest effort of the day. Sophomore Emily Hogan of the Warriors finished second to Turner in the discus throw. Hogan's best throw of the conference meet traveled 94 feet, 9 3/4 inches.

Sophomore Iryae Watts provided Willowbrook with a second-place finish in the shot put. Her best throw of the conference meet traveled 33 feet, 3 3/4 inches. Hogan placed third in the shot put; her best effort of the meet in that event covered 30 feet, 2 1/4 inches.

Sophomore Malin Meeker of Willowbrook claimed fourth in the triple jump at the conference meet. Meeker sailed 32 feet, 4 1/2 inches in her finest effort of the day. Senior Judith Roelle of the Warriors landed in sixth place in the triple jump. She covered 28 feet, 10 1/4 inches in her best jump of the competition.

Willowbrook junior Mia McBride finished fifth in the pole vault at the conference meet. She cleared 7 feet during last week's meet. Sophomore Kendall Medinger of the Warriors, who cleared 6 feet, placed seventh.

Sophomore Amelie Ojeda of Willowbrook posted a pair of third-place finishes at the conference meet. Ojeda completed the 800-meter run in a third-place time of 2 minutes, 26.78 seconds. She turned in a third-place time of 5 minutes, 30.6 seconds in the 1,600-meter run.

Sophomore Naomi Campbell of the Warriors ran to a fourth-place finish in the 100-meter hurdles. Campbell completed the race in 17.94 seconds. Willowbrook's other athletes who posted top-five finishes in individual events at the conference meet included senior Brianna Alandy, who took fifth in the 100-meter run (13.3 seconds); sophomore Molly Brown, who placed fifth in the 800-meter run (2:37.69) and freshman Mariangela Popoca, who earned fifth-place honors in the 3,200-meter run (13:48.1).

Willowbrook's 4 x 100-meter relay team of Brianna Alandy, sophomore Mckenzie Alandy, Gwaltney and Morris sprinted to a second-place time of 50.86 seconds.

Brianna and Mckenzie Alandy joined Campbell and Roelle to deliver a fourth-place time of 1:56.30 in the 4 x 200-meter relay.

Meeker, Roelle and McBride teamed with senior Olivia Brach to earn a fourth-place finish in the 4 x 400-meter relay (4:42.50).

Brown and Meeker joined senior Abby Kusmierz and freshman Allyson Stefani to finish fourth in the 4 x 800-meter relay (10:59.66).

Addison Trail

Addison Trail posted a fourth-place team total of 45 points at the conference meet. Junior Brooke Greaves of the Blazers won the championship in the 100-meter hurdles, which she finished in a first-place time of 15.89 seconds.

Addison Trail junior Natalie Lupa delivered a third-place time of 48.27 seconds in the 300-meter hurdles at the conference meet. Greaves ran to a fifth-place finish in the 300-meter hurdles, which she completed in 50.75 seconds.

Senior Letitia Hoda of the Blazers ran to a second-place finish in the 3,200-meter run, which she finished in 12 minutes, 15.50 seconds. Hoda added a fifth-place time of 5 minutes, 48.50 seconds in the 1,600-meter run.

Addison Trail seniors Clarita Gaytan and Julia Rusiecki finished third and fourth, respectively, in the discus throw at the conference meet. Gaytan's best throw of the meet traveled 84 feet, 11 1/4 inches. Rusiecki's longest throw of the day covered 83 feet, 8 1/4 inches.

Earlier this week, the Warriors and Blazers competed in the IHSA Class 3A sectional at Rolling Meadows High School. The competitors at the 16-team sectional tried to earn berths in the upcoming IHSA Class 3A state meet, which takes place next week at Eastern Illinois University.



SUBMITTED PHOTO: Rock Valley Publishing

At 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 13 at the Elmhurst History Museum's Cultural Crossroads event, watch an amazing display of skill by the multi-age martial artists from the Illinois Shaolin Kung Fu Academy, a group that has performed at the United Center and other venues across Chicagoland.

EHM closes 'Pursuit of Happiness' exhibit with Cultural Crossroads Celebration

Free special event takes place Saturday

The Elmhurst History Museum's latest exhibit, "In Pursuit of Happiness: Immigrants in Our Communities," will soon be closing after a six-month run. The museum is presenting a special event on the exhibit's final weekend to celebrate the many ways immigrants contribute to the colorful fabric of Chicago area communities.

The public is invited to the Cultural Crossroads Celebration on Saturday, May 13 from 1-5 p.m. inside the museum and outdoors under a tent where there will be an array of performances, presentations, and interactions with special guests.

Scheduled activities

Throughout the "In Pursuit of Happiness" exhibit's months of exhibition, the museum has partnered with many collaborators to share stories of immigration. The Cultural Crossroads Celebration will showcase many of these exhibit partners, including Immigrant Solidarity DuPage and Xilin Association, and offer many family-friendly activities including:

- Mariachi Monarca DuPage will perform at 2 p.m.

- Watch an amazing display of skill at 3 p.m. by the multi-age martial artists from the Illinois Shaolin Kung Fu Academy.

- Students from York High School's International Club will share presentations about different cultures.

- Free craft activities for kids, available while supplies last, will include make-your-own guitars and maracas, as well as paper crafts such as origami cranes, butterflies, and flowers.

- Play games with international origins and spin the World Trivia Wheel to test your global knowledge.

- View the "In Pursuit of Happiness" exhibit inside the museum in the first-floor gallery.

About the exhibit

The Cultural Crossroads Celebration is presented as the final event related to the Elmhurst History Museum's exhibit, "In Pursuit of Happiness: Immigrants in Our Communities," which closes on May 14. The exhibit shares the personal stories and experiences of area immigrants and their descendants as told through first-person accounts, photographs, treasured objects, video and more. Admission is free.

Don't miss this last chance to explore the "In Pursuit of Happiness: Immigrants in Our Communities" exhibit and celebrate the diversity of local communities through the Cultural Crossroads celebration. For the latest information, please visit www.elmhursthistory.org or call 630-833-1457.

The Elmhurst History Museum is located at 120 E. Park Ave. in downtown Elmhurst. Free parking is available on site and at nearby parking garages. More information can be found at www.elmhursthistory.org.

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Happy Lilac Season
We are looking forward to all of the festivities!

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