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THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023



SUBMITTED PHOTO The Independent

## Sharing a laugh

A cashier gets a big laugh with a customer at the District 88 Transition Program's Perks & Possibilities Café on Wednesday, May 10 at a meet and greet end-of-year celebration. The Transition Program helps individuals ages 18-21 with a variety of abilities learn life skills, obtain job training and transition to a life of independence. Located inside the Addison Public Library, the Café opened in 2010 and is the result of collaboration among local intergovernmental agencies, businesses and donors.

## Student accused of bringing gun to Glenbard South High schooler charged with four felony counts

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick have announced that a male Glenbard South High School student has been accused of bringing a gun to school.

The student appeared at a bond hearing where Judge Joshua Dieden set bond at \$500,000 with 10 percent to apply. He is charged with two counts of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon in public—school (Class 3 felony), two counts of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon (Class 4 felony).

On Wednesday, May 10, the dean of the high school received information that on Monday, May 8 at approximately 3:15 p.m., a student had allegedly threatened other students with a firearm while in the school parking lot.

Upon receiving this information, school authorities and law enforcement

met the student in the parking lot of the school at his car. It is alleged that inside the car authorities found an unloaded .44 caliber firearm. The student was taken into custody at this time by the School Resource Officer. An investigation into the matter continues.

"School safety remains a top priority of my office," Berlin said. "Schools are central to our communities and incidents such as alleged in this case, can have a chilling effect on not only the students and staff at the school, but all of us. We must all work together to ensure our schools remain a safe place where teachers can teach and students can learn without fear for

their personal safety."

"I am very grateful this situation was diffused in a peaceful and professional manner," Mendrick said. "We are all thankful that our deputies were not called upon to make a split-second decision that could spell the difference between an uneventful situation and a tragedy."

The student's next court appearance was scheduled for Wednesday, May 17 for bond review in front of Judge Mia McPherson. His arraignment is scheduled for June 5.

Members of the public are reminded that this report contains only charges and the suspect is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

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# Warriors claim second at conference meet

## Addison Trail's Lupa takes first in hurdles races

### TAFF REPORT

Willowbrook's boys track and field team finished second in the team standings of last week's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet. The Warriors, who hosted the May 11 meet at Villa Park, earned a total of 126.5 points in their second-place finish in the seven-team event. Downers Grove South won the meet's team title with its total of 191 points.

Willowbrook sophomore Jaden Royal won the title in the triple jump at the conference meet. Royal covered 43 feet, 1 1/4 inches in his best effort of the meet. Junior Evan Weder of the Warriors placed third in the triple jump. Weder traveled 40 feet in his best jump of the meet.

Sophomore Jordan Pate provided the Warriors with a second-place finish in the long jump at the conference meet. Pate sailed 20 feet, 2 1/4 inches in his best jump of the day.

Weder and Willowbrook freshman Ottis Powell finished second and third, respectively, in the high jump at the conference meet. Both Warriors cleared 5 feet, 11 1/4 inches during the competition.

Sophomore Jake Koterba of the Warriors placed third in the discus throw and fifth in the shot put. Koterba's best effort in the discus throw at the conference meet covered 117 feet, 11 1/4 inches. His best throw of the meet in the shot put traveled 44 feet, 3 inches.

Senior Bernardo Albarran of Willowbrook finished fourth in the shot put. His best throw of the day covered 44 feet, 5 1/2 inches.

Sophomore Jaylin Miller of the Warriors ran to a third-place finish in the 200-meter run (23.20 seconds). Miller delivered a fourth-place time of 11.49 seconds in the 100-meter dash.

Willowbrook senior Mike Wangler finished fifth in both the 100-meter dash (11.67 seconds) and the 200-meter run (23.93 seconds).

Junior Liam Moran of the Warriors turned in a third-place time of 52.38 seconds in the 400-meter run. Senior Elijah Smith of Willowbrook contributed a fifth-place time of 53.11 seconds in the same event.

Junior Sam McNeilly of Willowbrook finished fourth in the 800-meter run (2 minutes, 7.30 seconds). McNeilly finished just ahead of his teammate—senior Henry Sloan—who

posted a fifth-place time of 2 minutes, 7.66 seconds.

Senior Kevin Diederich of the Warriors ran to a third-place finish in the 3,200-meter run (9 minutes, 55.83 seconds). Diederich earned fifth-place honors in the 1,600-meter run, which he completed in 4 minutes, 46.44 seconds.

Willowbrook juniors Luca Parato and Lucas Bohm placed second and third, respectively, in the 300-meter hurdles. Parato completed the race in 42.01 seconds, crossing the finish line just before Bohm, who turned in a time of 42.36 seconds.

Junior Cody Wenkus of the Warriors con-

See MEET, Page 6

## Public Health Emergency declaration ends: What it means for DuPage County

The federal and state governments have ended Public Health Emergency (PHE) declarations that have been in place since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The end of the PHE demonstrates that the county is a much better place in our response as it was three years ago with many more tools available to protect the community including testing, vaccines, and treatments.

The end of the PHE does not mean the virus is no longer a threat. COVID-19 remains a leading cause of death in the United States.

The COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented public health and societal challenges lasting more than two years and causing nearly 300,000

COVID-19 cases and 2,027 deaths in DuPage County since 2020.

Being up to date with COVID-19 vaccines continues to be one of the most important ways to help protect you from severe illness, hospitalization, and death. The most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show people ages 18 years and older and vaccinated with an updated booster had a six times lower risk of dying from COVID-19 compared to people who were not vaccinated.

Over the past three years, the DuPage County Health Department and partners throughout the county led the largest vaccination program in history and helped nearly 80 percent (734,674)

of DuPage County residents complete their primary COVID-19 vaccination series.

"DuPage County continues to be a leader with one of the highest COVID-19 vaccination rates in the state," said Karen Ayala, executive director, DuPage County Health Department. "I offer heartfelt thanks to all DCHD staff, healthcare partners, community members, and residents for their tireless efforts and ongoing commitment to the well-being of all DuPage County residents."

### What does the end of the PHE mean?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),

"Most tools, like vaccines, treatments, and testing, will remain available. But, some tools, like certain data sources and reporting, will change."

• **Vaccines:** The U.S. government is currently distributing free COVID-19 vaccines for all adults and children regardless of insurance coverage.

• **Testing:** Insurance providers will no longer be required to waive costs or provide free COVID-19 tests. The CDC's no cost COVID-19 testing locator can help people find current community and pharmacy partners participating in the Increasing Community Access to Testing (ICATT) program.

• **Treatments:** Medication to prevent severe COVID-19, such as Pax-

lovid, will remain available for free while supplies last. After that, the price will be determined by the medication manufacturer and your health insurance coverage. COVID-19 treatments may then require a copay.

The DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) currently provides:

• Free COVID-19 vaccinations, boosters, and in-home vaccinations.

• Test kits and high-quality masks for select organizations to distribute to vulnerable and high-risk populations.

• Information and education about COVID threats and prevention on our website and social media channels.

For more information, visit [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19).

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Your Hometown Newspaper  
240 N. West Avenue  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Main Phone 630.834-8244  
Fax 630.834-0900

The Independent is  
published every Thursday by  
Rock Valley Publishing, LLC,  
240 N. West Avenue,  
Elmhurst, IL 60126.

**Display Advertising:**  
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**Classified Advertising:**  
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areas for \$15.95 yearly. Out-of-area  
mail subscriptions are \$29.95 yearly.  
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240 N. West Avenue,  
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**Office Hours:**  
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## Students take field trip to District Council Training Center

On Wednesday, May 3, 10 Addison Trail students participated in a career-exploration field trip to the District Council Training Center in Addison.

Those students are enrolled in Addison Trail Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher Jeff Angle's Building Trades 2 course or Addison Trail's School to Work class taught by teacher Stacey Puccini, which provides pupils with real-world experiences through visiting local businesses and meeting with career

professionals.

The Training Center works with craftworkers in the brick, marble, plaster, pointing cleaning and caulking, tile, and terrazzo trades. It is affiliated with the Bricklayer International Union and the International Masonry Institute.

During their visit, students met with director/administrator John Flynn and apprentice coordinator Stan Kulaski, who spoke about what it takes to be successful in the industry and programs offered including

bricklayer, marble finisher, plasterer, pointer/cleaner/caulker, terrazzo finisher, tile finisher and tile layer.

They also learned about the apprenticeship programs, where individuals who are 18 and older can get paid while they receive on-the-job training.

District 88 is committed to providing multiple and flexible pathways for students to ensure they are college and career ready and continues to partner with colleges/universities and local businesses to

expand these opportunities for students. District 88 invites companies to collaborate with the district and support students.

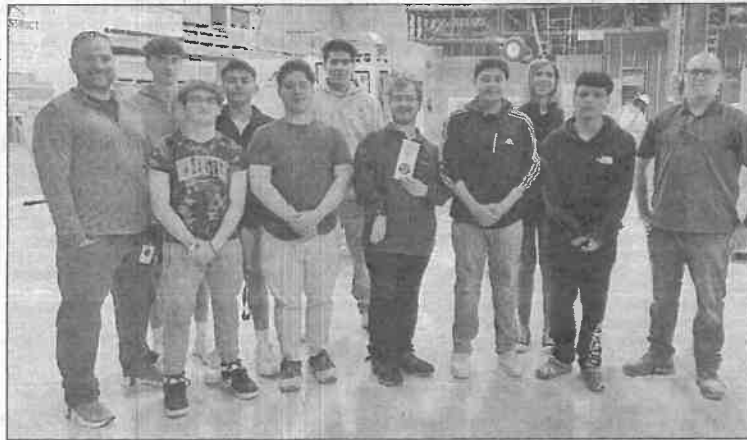
### Addison District 4 second graders learn about their community

Second grade classes from each of Addison's seven elementary schools recently visited Friendship Plaza and Historical Museum Campus to learn more about their community. Their first stop was the Historical Museum where they saw photographs, documents and artifacts that belonged to the people who first settled this area and discovered what life was like in Addison more than 100 years ago.

Following their tour of the museum's three historic buildings led by museum coordinator Susan English with the assistance of volunteer tour guides Lauretta Schneider, Thomas Power, John Navrocki and Teirsa Reyes, the students crossed the street to visit Addison Village Hall and meet with Mayor Rich Veenstra. The students found out what a mayor does and got the opportunity to ask him questions about his job and the Village.

Their full day visit ended with a trip to the Addison Public Library to learn about its extensive community resources and to engage in a hands-on craft activity.

See COMMUNITY, Page 12



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

These students, enrolled in Addison Trail's Building Trades 2 course or the School to Work class, took a career-exploration field trip to the District Council Training Center in Addison. District 88 partners with local businesses to offer opportunities for students to learn about careers hands-on.



At the District Council Training Center, an Addison Trail student works with a craftsman who shows him the fine art of bricklaying.

This Addison Trail student applies material to a brick wall, while a craftsman looks on at the District Council Training Center, where members of the Building Trades 2 course or the School to Work class took a field trip.

## Woman charged with leading police on high-speed chase in middle of the day

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Oak Brook Chief of Police Brian Strockis announced that bond has been set for a Chicago woman accused of leading police on a high-speed chase.



Jenail White

Jenail White, 34, appeared at a bond hearing where Judge Susan Alvarado set bond at \$50,000 with 10 percent to apply. White is charged with one count of aggravated fleeing and eluding a police officer (Class 4 felony) and multiple

misdemeanor and petty traffic offenses.

On Saturday, May 6 at approximately 2:31 p.m., an Oak Brook police officer observed a Nissan Rogue, allegedly driven by White, traveling eastbound on 22nd Street near Route 83 with a paper license plate.

The officer ran the plate and it registered to a different vehicle at which time the officer activated his emergency lights and sirens. It is alleged that instead of pulling over, White turned northbound on Route 83 and in heavy traffic fled from the officer traveling more than 70 mph on the shoulder of the road. It is further alleged that White then turned eastbound on Roosevelt Road,

where she reached speeds of approximately 94 mph, and then drove eastbound on I-290 where she again drove at approximately 94 mph on the shoulder of the road in stopped traffic.

It is alleged that White exited I-290 at the Cicero Avenue exit where she sideswiped a vehicle and crashed into a fence. It is further alleged that after crashing the Nissan, White exited the vehicle and attempted to flee on foot but was taken into custody at this time.

"It is alleged that in a complete and utter disregard for public safety and the rule of law, Ms. White drove her car on the shoulder of the road, in stopped traffic, at speeds in excess of 90 mph," Berlin said.

"In DuPage County we will not stand idly by while those who think the law does not apply to them terrorize our streets. We are incredibly lucky no one was hurt as a result of Ms. White's alleged actions."

"Police pursuits are dangerous but it's also dangerous to allow offenders to have no consequences for their actions," Strockis said. "We attempt to utilize technology and tactics to stop fleeing suspects and I'm thankful that no one was hurt. I'd like to thank our officers for remaining vigilant and pro-active in keeping our community safe."

White's next court appearance is scheduled June 5 for arraignment in front of Judge Michael Reidy.

## Addison Center for the Arts presents 'At Home and Abroad' exhibition Features select works from Bruce Peterson Legacy Collection

The Addison Center for the Arts (ACA) invites art enthusiasts to join them at the gallery located at 213 N. Lombard Road on Saturday, May 20 at 5 p.m. for the public reception of "At Home and Abroad: Select Works from the Bruce Peterson Legacy Collection." This exhibition is currently on display and will remain through Saturday, July 1.

The ACA proudly showcases a remarkable collection of artworks from the late artist Bruce Peterson, featuring captivating scenes of Illinois neighborhoods as well as picturesque vistas from his global travels. Each piece in this collection reveals

Peterson's masterful hand and keen artistic vision, transporting viewers on a visual journey that evokes feelings of relaxation and nostalgia.

An accomplished award-winning artist, Peterson honed his skills at the renowned Art Institute of Chicago and graduated from the University of Illinois.

Recognized for his proficiency in watercolor, acrylic, and oil painting, Peterson adeptly expressed his artistic talent through realistic representations, abstract compositions, and expressionistic designs.

In addition to his artistic pursuits, Peterson enjoyed a successful career

as an advertising photographer. In 1975, he established his own photography art studio, collaborating with prestigious corporate clients. He was an active member of various local art organizations, including the Elmhurst Artists' Guild, the Addison Art Guild, and the DuPage Art League. Furthermore, he served as a respected art instructor at the College of DuPage and several other art studios.

His contributions were acknowledged through his membership as a signature member of the Transparent Watercolor Society of America.

"At Home and Abroad" showcases evocative representational scenes of Midwestern life and glimpses from Peterson's captivating worldwide expeditions.

This exhibition presents an exceptional opportunity to acquire the

artwork of a cherished and accomplished local artist.

All proceeds from the sale of these works will benefit the Addison Center for the Arts, supporting their ongoing commitment to promoting and nurturing artistic endeavors within the community.

For more information, visit [addisoncenterforthearts.org](http://addisoncenterforthearts.org) or call 630-458-4500.

## Residents invited to join Park District in Wood Dale Memorial Day Parade

The Bensenville Park District is proud to announce its participation in the Wood Dale Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29. The parade will begin at 11 a.m. and will travel down Addison Road, ending on Irving Park Road at Wood Dale Road.

The park district will have a float in the parade and will be distributing information on the district's upcoming summer programs and events as well as candy.

"We're excited to participate in the

Wood Dale Memorial Day Parade and showcase the Bensenville Park District's offerings for the upcoming summer season," says Bensenville Park District Special Services Manager Phyllis Schmidt. "The Wood Dale Memorial Day Parade is a beloved community tradition that honors the nation's fallen soldiers, and we look forward to saluting their service and sacrifice."

Those interested in marching with the park district should download a

participation form at [BvilleParks.org/MemorialDay](http://BvilleParks.org/MemorialDay). Participants should meet at 10 a.m. at the staging area on Elizabeth Drive between Addison and Wood Dale Road.

The parade is free and open to the public to attend. Parade step-off time is 11 a.m. and should conclude by 12:30 p.m. Those with questions or needing special accommodations should contact Schmidt via email at [pschmidt@bvilleparks.org](mailto:pschmidt@bvilleparks.org) or phone 630-238-4921 by Friday, May 26.

## Obituaries

### Christine Pfaff, 57

Christine Lilian Kramp Pfaff, 57, of Elmhurst, passed away May 9, 2023 at the age of 57, at Northwestern Hospital, following a five-year "recovery journey" with pancreatic cancer. She was born Sept. 5, 1965 in Oak Lawn and grew up in South Holland, the daughter of the late William and the late Nancy Kramp.

Christine received her B.A., Master's and Doctorate in Education. She began her career in education with several teaching positions before becoming assistant principal at Indian Trail Junior High School in Addison. She was principal of Stone Elementary School in Addison, before becoming principal of Prairie Elementary School in Buffalo Grove for the last 13 years.

Christine was larger than life itself. She was always up for trying something new, and inspired others to do the same. She loved traveling, scuba diving, biking, dancing, golfing... the list goes on. But above all, Christine loved and cherished her family. She enjoyed watching her children and grandchildren grow and be involved in their many endeavors - you name it, she was there if she could be. She was loved and will be deeply missed.

Beloved wife of 26 years to Rick Pfaff; loving mother of Kirsten,

Erin (Ben) Fagerlind, Stephen (Julianne Almeida) and Claire; cherished grandma of Casey, Carter and Olivia, Charley and Dom, and Reagan, Reese, and Rocky; loved sister of Kurt (Denise) Kramp and George (Kristin) Kramp; dear aunt of Alex, Tori (Eric), Elena and Elliot; and further survived by her extended "Elmhurst family" and friends.

A visitation will be held from 3 to 8 p.m. on Friday, May 19 at Epiphany Lutheran Church, 314 West Vallette St., and from 9 a.m. until the time of the Funeral Service at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 20 at Epiphany Lutheran Church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be written to Project Purple at [donate.projectpurple.org/Christine2023](http://donate.projectpurple.org/Christine2023). Arrangements in care of Elmhurst Community Funeral Home - The Ahlgrim Chapel. For information, 630-834-3515.

### Mary Carol Schweitzer, 82

Mary Carol Schweitzer, of Addison, passed away on April 23, 2023 at the age of 82. Beloved wife of Arnold. Loving mother of Jeff. Dear sister of Jon. Fond aunt of several nieces and nephews. Mrs. Schweitzer enjoyed gardening, nature, and decorative painting. Fan of all Chicago sports teams during playoff season. Mrs. Schweitzer loved brightly-colored clothes, especially her yellow jacket. Services and Interment were private. Arrangements provided by Pedersen Ryberg Funeral Home, 435 N. York Street, Elmhurst. Info: [pedersenryberg.com](http://pedersenryberg.com).



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Little Blazers graduate

On Thursday, May 11, parents/guardians and Addison Trail students and staff members gathered to celebrate the graduation of students in the school's Little Blazers Preschool program. The preschoolers wore graduation caps and gowns and received a certificate for their hard work. After the ceremony, they enjoyed treats with their parents/guardians and the Addison Trail students who taught them during second semester. The 10 children spent two mornings a week with Addison Trail students who gave lessons in math, science, art, music, language arts and large/small muscle.



# VILLA PARK REVIEW

Your Hometown Newspaper  
240 N. West Avenue  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Main Phone 630.834-8244  
Fax 630.834-0900

The Villa Park Review is published every Thursday by Rock Valley Publishing, LLC, 240 N. West Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126.

**Display Advertising:**  
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**Classified Advertising:**  
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## Subscriptions:

The Villa Park Review is mailed to the 60181 zip code areas for \$45.00 yearly. Out-of-area mail subscriptions are \$50.00 yearly. For home delivery information call 630.834-8244.

## Reprints:

Content appearing in the Villa Park Review may not be reprinted without permission of the publisher or editor. Requests should be directed to independent@rvpublishing.com or 630.834-8244.

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# Cullerton registers as a lobbyist after being released from prison

## Former state senator now chief public affairs officer for a public relations and government affairs firm in Itasca

### STAFF REPORT

Sentenced last June in federal court in Chicago to a year-and-a-day in prison for fraudulently receiving salary and benefits from a labor union, former Democratic State Sen. Tom Cullerton was released from a federal prison April 14, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. All told, Cullerton, of Villa Park, who began serving his sentence Aug. 31, 2022, spent around 7 1/2 months in prison.

Eleven days after his release, state records show that Cullerton registered as a lobbyist with Strategia Consulting, a public relations and government affairs firm based in Itasca.

Strategia Consulting's website (<https://www.teamstrategia.com>) lists



Tom Cullerton

Cullerton as its chief public affairs officer and says in his biography that he possesses "over 20 years of incredibly successful government service at all levels. Tom's keen knowledge and experience of the legislative process are critical to all of Strategia's clients' needs."

According to state records, Strategia's list of state government clients include the City of Oakbrook Terrace, the Village of Itasca, Americans for Fair Energy Prices, Shotspotter—a company that provides gunshot detection software currently being used by the Chicago Police Department—and Justice Grown, a medicinal cannabis cultivation company.

In a recent interview with WBEZ-FM Chicago, Lissa Druss, founder and chief executive of Strategia Consulting, said, "People make mistakes. Tom is taking this opportunity to pay back his restitution, but more impor-

tantly, our firm is getting involved in a (prisoner) reentry program, and Tom will be volunteering some of his time to help returning citizens."

"Tom is a good person. He was a talented and successful legislator. He's been a longtime friend. He's a friend to many."

According to a U.S. Attorney's Office Northern District of Illinois press release, Cullerton, 53, was hired in 2013 by Teamsters Joint Council 25 as a purported union organizer and remained on the payroll until February 2016. In addition to receiving a salary, monthly car and telephone allowances, and bonuses, Teamsters Joint Council 25 funded Cullerton's participation in Teamsters Local Union 734's health and pension funds, which enabled Cullerton to receive health and welfare benefits.

Cullerton admitted in a plea agreement that he did little to no work as an

organizer during the time he was on the union payroll. When his supervisors requested that he perform his job duties, Cullerton routinely ignored them.

Cullerton fraudulently obtained from Joint Council 25 and its members approximately \$169,488 in salary, bonuses, and other benefits, approximately \$57,662 in health and pension contributions, and approximately \$21,678 in reimbursed medical claims.

Cullerton admitted that he used the embezzled money to pay personal expenses, such as his mortgage, utilities, and groceries.

A former Villa Park village president and trustee, Cullerton resigned from the Illinois Senate in February, 2022, and pleaded guilty to a federal embezzlement charge in March, 2022.

Cullerton spent nine years in the state Senate. He was first elected to the Senate in 2012, and re-elected in 2016 and 2018.

## Bond set at \$50,000 for Chicago woman charged with leading police on high-speed chase in the middle of the day

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Oak Brook Chief of Police Brian Strockis announced that bond has been set for a Chicago woman accused of leading police on a high-speed chase.

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White's next court appearance is scheduled June 5 for arraignment in front of Judge Michael Reidy.



Jenail White



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Outdoor concert

Willowbrook High School's music department held a "Jazz on the Lawn" concert last week on the north lawn outside of the school. Pictured (left to right) while performing during the concert are: Junior Lauren Maher, senior Sarah Kosanda, sophomore Gillian Falco, senior Samantha Tantilla and senior Amelia Tortorici.

## Barrington qualifies for the state meet

### Willowbrook senior delivers a second-place finish in the high jump at Rolling Meadows Sectional

Senior Amelia Barrington of the Willowbrook girls track and field team will compete in this week's IHSA Class 3A state meet at Eastern Illinois University.

Barrington earned a berth in the state meet with her second-place finish in the high jump at last week's Rolling Meadows Sectional.

The top two finishers in each sectional event automatically qualified for the state meet. Other athletes earned state-meet berths by reaching state-qualifying standards at the sectional.

Barrington cleared 5 feet, 3 3/4

inches in her best jump at the May 10 sectional. A total of six high jumpers at the Rolling Meadows Sectional qualified for the state meet. The sectional champion cleared 5 feet, 5 3/4 inches. Four sectional competitors who cleared 5 feet, 1 3/4 inches met the standard to qualify for the state meet.

Willowbrook finished in a three-way tie for 10th place in the team standings of the 15-team sectional. York won the sectional title with its total of 124 points. Lake Park placed second with 82 points. Willowbrook, Glenbard East and Elk Grove tied for 10th with 18 points each.

# Javier delivers a sixth-place finish at state meet

*Willowbrook sophomore gymnast takes sixth after advancing to the finals on the vault*

## STAFF REPORT

Three members of Willowbrook High School's boys gymnastics team competed in the IHSA state meet, which took place Friday and Saturday at Hoffman Estates High School.

Sophomore Daniel Javier of the Warriors advanced to Saturday's finals of the vault. Javier earned a tie for sixth place in the finals. His performance on the vault on Saturday received a score of 9.1.

The top 10 finishers in each event, including ties, from Friday's preliminaries advanced to Saturday's finals. A total of 12 gymnasts advanced to

the finals in the vault event.

Javier's performance on the vault during Friday's preliminaries received a score of 9.05, which was the eighth-best score of the day in that event.

Javier competed in three other events—floor exercises, still rings and the horizontal bar—at the state meet. He did not advance to the finals in those events.

He earned a score of 7.9 in floor exercises on Friday. He received a score of 6.8 on the still rings during the preliminaries. His performance on the horizontal bar on Friday

earned a score of 7.65.

Willowbrook freshman Jae Newman competed in floor exercises and on the horizontal bar at the state meet. He did not advance to the finals in either event. Newman's routine on floor exercises during Friday's preliminaries earned a score of 8.55. His performance on the horizontal bar received a score of 7.5.

Sophomore Sam Gordon of the Warriors competed on the parallel bars at the state meet. He earned a score of 6.85 in Friday's preliminaries and did not advance to Saturday's finals.



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Three members of Willowbrook's boys gymnastics team competed at the IHSA state meet, which took place on Friday and Saturday at Hoffman Estates High School. Pictured left to right are the Warriors' three state qualifiers—sophomore Sam Gordon, freshman Jae Newman and sophomore Daniel Javier. One of the Warriors—Javier—advanced to Saturday's finals in the vault and tied for sixth place. Javier's performance on the vault during the finals received a score of 9.1. In addition to competing on the vault at the state meet, Javier participated in three other events—floor exercises, still rings and the horizontal bar. Gordon competed on the parallel bars at the state meet, while Newman performed in floor exercises and on the horizontal bar.

## Warriors compete at state badminton meet

Three members of Willowbrook High School's badminton team played at the IHSA state meet, which took place on Friday and Saturday at DeKalb High School.

The state meet featured 64 singles players and 64 doubles teams. Junior Lillian Caron of the Warriors played in the singles competition at the state meet. Caron won her first match, prevailing in a

three-game battle. After losing the opening game, she rallied for a 15-21, 22-20, 21-19 victory.

Caron suffered a 21-11, 21-10 loss in the second round. She then earned a 21-17, 21-10 win in the consolation round of the double-elimination event. Caron finished the tournament with a three-game loss in her next match. She won the first game, but her oppo-

nent fought back to earn a 15-21, 21-18, 21-15 win.

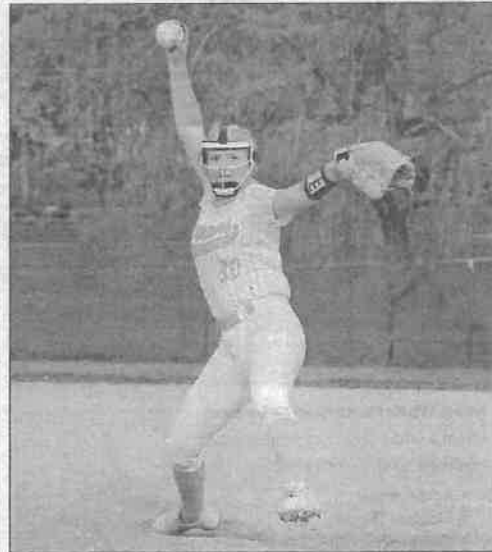
Willowbrook's doubles team of senior Adreana Vega and sophomore Abigail Schnittker also played at the state tournament. The duo of Warriors suffered a 21-9, 21-16 loss in the first round. Their tournament ended with a 21-14, 21-17 loss in the first round of the consolation draw.

## Warriors sweep the Hornets

Willowbrook's baseball team completed a sweep of its West Suburban Gold Conference series against Hinsdale South with a 5-2 victory on May 11 in Villa Park. The Warriors opened the series with a 13-1 win over the Hornets at Hinsdale South on May 9. One day later, Willowbrook beat the Hornets 7-0 in Villa Park. Willowbrook senior Alex Chaffin (No. 5) is pictured while firing a pitch during the series finale on May 11. Chaffin fired a completed game to help the Warriors complete the series sweep. He allowed one earned run, three hits and one walk over seven innings. Chaffin recorded nine strikeouts. Willowbrook senior James Degnan went 2-for-3 and drove in one run during his team's 5-2 win over the Hornets. Sophomore Sam Marrese went 2-for-2, while junior Alden Baerenklau went 1-for-3 with an RBI. Senior Eddie Munson also went 1-for-3 with one run batted in. Seniors Aldan Plenzek and Colin Silvka combined to deliver a shutout pitching performance in the Warriors' 7-0 win over the Hornets on May 10. Plenzek struck out nine batters in six innings. Silvka pitched the seventh inning and struck out two batters. Willowbrook improved to 18-8 overall and 12-3 in conference play with its series sweep of Hinsdale South. The Warriors fell to 18-9 overall following Saturday's 10-0 non-conference loss at Downers Grove North. Willowbrook will finish its conference season with this week's three-game series against Proviso East. The Warriors are locked in second place in the conference standings. Downers Grove South, which completed its West Suburban Gold schedule last week, won the conference title with a 17-1 record.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing



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## A winning effort

Sophomore Isabel Bates (No. 30) of the Willowbrook softball team pitched a complete-game shutout during last week's 3-0 West Suburban Gold Conference home win over Leyden. Bates allowed two hits and no walks in seven innings to lead the Warriors to the victory on May 11. She struck out six batters. Willowbrook senior Kayleigh Denison went 2-for-3 and drove in one run in the victory. Willowbrook moved to 13-11 overall and 3-6 in conference play with the win. The Warriors will finish their regular season this week. Willowbrook will open IHSA Class 4A post-season competition with a May 24 game against Lyons Township at the Riverside-Brookfield Regional.



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The other day on my way to work, driving along North Avenue in Villa Park, a guy on a "crotch rocket" motorcycle decided he didn't want to stay in his lane, or any lane for that matter, because traffic was unusually heavy and slow for that time of the morning. He passed vehicles in between the lanes—zig-zagging in between and around the vehicles. What kind of idiot does this, without regard to his safety or that of other motorists? This takes the phrase "start seeing motorcycles" to a whole new level. The definition of reckless, dangerous behavior.

This is Villa Park calling. To all of you Democrats, I wouldn't even call them that anymore. There is nothing that the current administration has done that is successful. Period. If you just look the southern border alone, and the repercussions that we'll feel through this, it is disgusting that people would actually turn a blind eye to the destruction of America.

Some of the people who say the border is secure are the same people who say voting by mail is secure.

I noticed on Thursday (referring to Thursday, May 11) that the COVID-19 emergency has ended. I think I'll celebrate by wearing a mask and driving alone in my car!

It's a shame that our leaders and politicians are not held accountable for lies and selective memory. The other side of the coin is if they got soap in their mouths like the days of old, we would have a soap shortage. We can't even rely on the many news outlets for the truth these days.

I still think the Biden administration plays a role in gas prices; prices rose a day after his inauguration. I saw it myself and I don't think that is a coincidence since they had been steady and/or falling. But I agree with the caller who bought way cheaper gas in southern states that Illinois is also to blame. I was in several different states myself recently and paid as much as a dollar per gallon less than when I crossed the border back into Illinois. Even a recent trip to Wisconsin saw a minimum of 50 cents cheaper. So, I ask our legislators, why is this so? Please break it down and justify it for us, where these differences come from. And I believe the gas

tax is due to go up again in July. We need and deserve answers and relief. If this many states can have lower prices, we can, too.

Democrats in Washington think going green means that money grows on trees and we need to spend more. If we're concerned about it, it would be wise to plant trees for the future to shade Mother Earth. It takes 20 to 30 years to grow a tree. Think about it.

I give CNN credit for having Donald Trump appear on a town hall meeting. It boosted their sagging ratings, and it takes the focus off of how Joe Biden is ruining this country.

Hey, last week's caller forgot to include one important taxing district. And that's your school district. If you want to cut out some money to solve some issues, take a look at how much you're paying in taxes for that. Maybe we could get them to cut back.

Hello, calling Speak Out. Our border is in a crisis, yet we have a representative trying to pass a law to get water fountains to refill plastic bottles? Which is more important? And also, how about Tom Cullerton? He was sentenced to over a year in federal prison last summer but was released early on April 14. And after that, he registered as a state government lobbyist. That's great. A felon can get out and go right back to work. Isn't that wonderful? Anyway, you take care and I hope we can survive this. Bye.

A May 7 article in the Competitive Enterprise Institute says: "Congress appropriated \$4.6 trillion for pandemic response and recovery in six COVID-19 relief laws enacted between March 2020 and March 2021. More than two years later, \$444 billion of the total remains unspent. More than \$114 billion hasn't even been "obligated," or committed to pay for goods and services ordered or received. Of this amount, \$90.5 billion remains available for obligation and \$23.7 billion has expired, meaning that it can't be used to incur new obligations." Republicans are willing to raise the debt ceiling if there are spending cuts made, so what about all this money? Or is it just going to be seen as a "slush" fund for anything the Democrats want to spend it on? Tax and spend is their mantra.

## District 88 celebrates Staff Appreciation Week

From May 7 to 13, District 88 celebrated Staff Appreciation Week, a time to reflect on all the things staff members do for each and every student every day.

On Friday, May 5, the annual Staff Recognition Dinner was held, where 56 members of the District 88 family were recognized for giving more than 935 combined years of service to the school district. It was also a chance to honor nine members who will retire at the end of this school year and — combined — have given more than 160 years of

service to District 88.

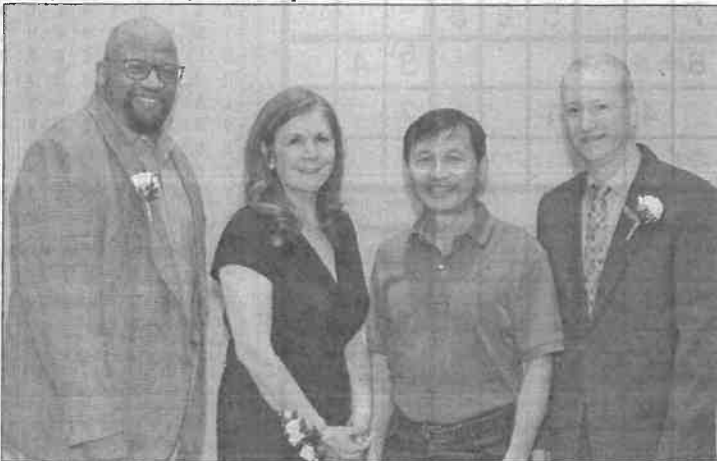
The program cover for the dinner was designed by Addison Trail senior Eva De La Rosa.

To celebrate Staff Appreciation Week, Addison Trail had an ice cream truck, which included cupcakes donated by Walmart. Addison Trail Theatre, Music and Athletics booster clubs and the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) provided a grab-and-go breakfast. The Addison Trail Student Council provided each staff member with a plant and a coupon for salon service at Tech-

nology Center of DuPage (TC) and coordinated an "Escape Room" challenge.

At Willowbrook, the Willowbrook Parent Organization (WPO) provided a continental breakfast, a Staff Appreciation luncheon, doughnuts, as well as a raffle prize. The Willowbrook Athletic Booster Club provided a lunch and the Student Council provided snacks.

In addition, the villages of Addison, Lombard and Villa Park provided proclamations to recognize and honor the event.



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Pictured are four of the District 88 staff members who will retire at the end of the 2022-23 school year. They include (from left) Willowbrook social studies teacher Terry Harrell, Addison Trail Administrative Assistant Caryn Scimeca, Willowbrook buildings and grounds staff member Guangming "Kenny" Ya and District 88 Chief Financial Officer Ed Hoster. They were recognized during the District 88 Staff Recognition Dinner on May 5. Not pictured are Addison Trail retirees Coleen Brechin, Patricia Hochhelm, Stephen Holland and Kathleen McColaugh and Willowbrook retiree Kathi Smith.



## WBHS art scholars honored

Willowbrook sophomore Nina Young (left) and freshman Norah Luedtke (right) pose with their award that was selected as recipients of the District 88 Art Scholarship. The winners were recognized during the May 8 District 88 Board of Education meeting.