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SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

Kermes Latino Fest dancers

This is one of the dance groups that entertained guests at Addison Trel's Kermes Latino Food Fest. The event raised about \$3,000 for student scholarships. Story and more photos inside.

Man gets 22 years for hijacking car from Lombard McDonald's drive-thru at gunpoint

Elmhurst police assist in pursuit

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin has announced that a Broadview man who participat-

ed in hijacking a man's car from a Lombard McDonald's drive-thru has been sentenced to 22 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). Dallas Dabney, 28, appeared in court where he entered a plea

of guilty to one count of aggravated vehicular hijacking with a firearm, a Class X felony. Judge Brian Telander handed down the sentence.



On April 24, 2020, Dabney appeared in bond court where bond was set at \$250,000 with 10 percent to apply. On March 18, 2021, Dabney posted the necessary 10 percent, or \$25,000, and was released from custody. On Friday, Jan. 27, Dabney's bond was exonerated and he was returned to the custody of the DuPage County Jail, where he has since remained.

The case against Dabney's co-def-

endant, Antonio Protho, 22, of Chicago, is ongoing. Protho's next court appearance is scheduled June 15 for a status hearing in front of Judge Telander.

On April 23, 2020, at approximately 2:46 a.m., the victim of the carjacking was waiting in line at the McDonald's restaurant drive-thru, located at 300 E. Roosevelt Road, Lombard, when Dabney and Protho, allegedly armed and wearing ski masks, approached the man's vehicle, pointed a gun at him and ordered him out of the car.

The victim exited his car at which time it is alleged that Dabney and Protho entered the car, with Protho driving, and fled the scene. After locating the vehicle, officers with the Lombard Police Department activated their emergency lights and

sirens and briefly pursued the stolen vehicle on Roosevelt Road but called off the pursuit out of safety concerns when speeds allegedly reached approximately 100 mph. A short time later, after observing the allegedly hijacked vehicle on Roosevelt Road, officers with the Elmhurst Police Department activated their emergency lights and sirens and reengaged the pursuit. Officers then observed the hijacked vehicle lose control on the I-290 entrance ramp and crash.

Dabney was taken into custody a few minutes later while Protho was taken into custody approximately one hour later when he was found hiding near a restaurant on Roosevelt Road. Two guns, both Ruger 9mm, were found in the hijacked vehicle.

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Phillip's Flowers celebrates 100 years

Family business success attributed to customer care, loyal employees, getting along

By Dee Longfellow
FOR THE INDEPENDENT

What can you say about a family that has operated a successful business continuously through World War I, the Great Depression, World War II and, of course, the coronavirus pandemic? How did they do it for 100 years?

"With seven family members spanning three generations, the key

to success is that we all get along!" Baxter Phillip told the Independent recently in an exclusive interview. "We all like each other, which I suppose is rare, but we all have different strengths and we each work at what we're good at and what we enjoy and that's what makes it work."

Family history dates back to Baxter's grandfather James A. Phillip, whose parents came to America from

Europe. James had been a gardener in Austria, where he fell in love with flowers. When James was in 5th grade, his father passed away so his mother pulled him out of school to help with the family business.

"Those were the days when they had to deliver flowers at night on the streetcar," Baxter said. "One of the customers was the Lyric Opera of Chicago."

When the first World War came along, James discovered he had a real knack for flowers so in 1923, he opened the first Phillip's flower shop in Cicero by the Western Electric Hawthorne Plant, which was close to Al Capone's neighborhood.

"We delivered to Capone's, but they had to knock on the door and then wait outside to be paid. People came outside and took the flowers, there was no going inside at Capone's!"

At that time, James met a pretty bookkeeper and they got married. Then he built a bigger shop with a few small apartments on top, where the family lived.

"Our business has been a labor of love," Baxter said. "A love of family and flowers and it's still that way today."

They were the classic post-Depression family with three kids. James Jr. was the oldest and, in 1952, he opened a second Phillip's shop in LaGrange Park. His sister Lee Phillip went to Northwestern University and

broke into television. She had the opportunity to interview people like Arthur Godfrey, John F. Kennedy and other big personalities of the day. Lee worked on TV programs like the soap operas, "The Young and the Restless," "The Bold and the Beautiful," and "As the World Turns."

In 1961, a third Phillip's shop was opened in the Oak Brook mall. At that time, it was only the second tenant in the brand-new shopping center, the first being Jewel-Osco.

Asked how the business has changed over the years, Baxter noted that there were no computers in 1923!

"We didn't really use computers in the '60s or the '70s, I believe it was into the '80s before we started using computers. Today, of course, we can't imagine life without them."

Business philosophy

"We're actually in the people business," Baxter said. "We believe that if you first treat your customers well, then everything else falls into place. The secret is, we have 150 fantastic employees who make it all look good."

He added that even though they purchase flowers from around the world, including Holland, South America and the Philippines, they still operate like a small business.

Along comes COVID-19

When the pandemic hit, Phillip's

closed several stores, but remained in business designing floral arrangements.

"Because life goes on," Baxter said. "Our employees came through for us and we had curbside service for Mother's Day and Valentine's Day, all the main 'flower' holidays during the pandemic, and Christmas - December is typically our busiest month."

How does a business bring flowers from all over the world?

"When we were a very small company, we used to offer seasonal flowers only, but today most of our flowers come from Columbia and Ecuador. They are grown up in the mountains where there is plenty of sun, but the air is cool - that's what flowers need. It's like spring and summer all year round up in those mountains."

Baxter said the flowers are harvested in South America, then shipped to Florida. From there, they are transported by trucks in which the air is controlled to maintain about 75% humidity which what the flowers need.

"In transit, they are kept at a temperature that 'puts them to sleep,'" he said. "When they arrive, they are revived and designed into arrangements."

See PHILLIP'S, Page 10

Barrington ties for 11th in the high jump at the state meet

Willowbrook senior clears 5 feet, 3 inches during the preliminaries in Charleston; AT sophomore competes in 100 hurdles prelims

Senior Amelia Barrington of the Willowbrook girls track and field team advanced to the finals of the high jump at the IHSA Class 3A state meet, which concluded on Saturday at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

Barrington qualified for the finals after clearing 5 feet, 3 inches during Friday's preliminaries. Barrington was one of 15 athletes to advance to Saturday's Class 3A finals of the high jump.

Barrington finished in a tie for 11th place in Saturday's finals. She cleared

5 feet, 1 inch during the finals.

Addison Trail sophomore Brooke Greaves competed in the 100-meter hurdles at the state meet. Greaves finished the race in 15.49 seconds during Friday's preliminaries and did not advance to Saturday's finals.

AT sophomore qualifies for IHSA boys state meet

Addison Trail sophomore Daniel Lupa claimed a berth in this week's IHSA Class 3A state meet with his second-place finish in the 300-meter hurdles at the Wheaton Warrenville South Sectional.

Lupa posted a second-place time of 40.97 seconds. Addison Trail (12 points) finished in 14th place at last week's IHSA Class 3A sectional at Wheaton Warrenville South High School.

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Cullerton registers as a lobbyist after being released from prison

Former state senator now chief public affairs officer for PR, 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.



Tom Cullerton

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

lists 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 importantly, 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 su-

perisors 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.

Get to know Addison Trail's graduation speakers

Seniors Lea Staller and Daisy Puebla entered Addison Trail's annual graduation-speech competition and were selected as this year's winners by a panel of judges.

They addressed nearly 500 of their classmates as the student graduation speakers at Addison Trail's 57th commencement ceremony.

About Lea Staller

Title of your speech: "Embrace Change, and Be Kind"

Summary of your speech: "The theme of my speech is to be open to change, take advantage of everything available to you, be kind and make a positive difference."

Lessons/advise you hope to share with your peers through your speech: "Your friends and views will change throughout your life, and that's okay. But no matter what changes, what should remain consistent is your focus on enjoying life and being kind."

What does it mean to you to be a speaker during the commencement ceremony and to represent the class of 2023? "I was excited and surprised to learn I would be one of the speakers. It means a lot and is a nice finale to four years of hard work and being at the top of my class."

Involvement at Addison Trail:

- President of Choir Board
- Member of Shades of Blue (vocal jazz ensemble)
- Sergeant of Arms for Tri-M (Modern Music Masters) Honor Society
- Thespian
- Member of National Honor Society (NHS)
- Member of the Principal and Superintendent leadership teams

How Addison Trail has supported you:

"Addison Trail offers a tremendous variety of clubs and academic courses that have helped me advance — especially in math. The school



SUBMITTED PHOTO/Rock Valley Publishing

On May 21, Addison Trail seniors Lea Staller (left) and Daisy Puebla addressed nearly 500 of their classmates as the student graduation speakers during Addison Trail's 57th commencement ceremony. Staller and Puebla entered the school's annual graduation-speech competition and were selected as this year's winners by a panel of judges. For those who are unable to attend Addison Trail's commencement ceremony in person on May 21, the graduation will be streamed live at 3 p.m. (CST) online at dupage88.net/atgrad.

also has a welcoming, community feel."

Your future plans: "I plan to attend Cornell University, where I will pursue a major in mechanical and aerospace engineering and a minor in performing arts."

About Daisy Puebla

Title of your speech: "Everything You Need

Is Inside of You Already?"

Summary of your speech: "My speech has a funny, lighthearted tone. I talk about how it's OK to be scared about the future, but what you should focus on is finding your identity and being secure that you have everything you need to succeed."

What does it mean to you to be a speaker during the commencement ceremony and to represent the class of 2023? "I teared up — I was so excited and happy. My parents emigrated from Mexico to the U.S., and I'm the first in my family to go to college. They don't know I was selected as one of the student speakers for graduation, so my speech is going to be a surprise for them."

Involvement at Addison Trail: "I'm involved in 12 extracurricular activities." They include:

- Member of National Honor Society (NHS)
- Member of Student Council
- President of Lettermen Club
- President of Art Club
- Student leader with Pay It Forward (an event to welcome incoming freshmen to Addison Trail)
- Member of Key Club
- Member of Tri-M (Modern Music Masters) Honor Society
- Member of LADIES (which provides support and ongoing motivational clinics to see that members gain confidence in themselves and realize their true potential)

How Addison Trail has supported you: "I've met so many teachers and students who have been incredibly welcoming and have helped me feel more comfortable and confident in myself."

Your future plans: "I plan to attend Elmhurst University, where I will pursue a major in political science or economics."

Addison Trail celebrates Kermes Latino food festival

On Saturday, May 13, about 300 people enjoyed traditional Latino dishes, live entertainment, raffles and other family-friendly activities when Addison Trail hosted its annual *Kermes* Latino food festival. Guests also saw performances by the school's Mariachi Club, International Dance and Energy Rush, as well as a local *folklorico* dance group.

The event was coordinated by:

- Addison Trail Interact Club sponsors Claire Sychta and Becca Vogt, AT social worker Jorge de Leon and AT administrative assistant Esther Delgado;

- Members of Interact Club; National Honor Society (NHS); Key Club; LADIES, which provides support and ongoing motivational clinics to see that members gain confidence in themselves and realize their true potential; and *Puentes*, which means "Bridges" in Spanish. This group trains students in advanced English Learner (EL) classes or recently exited EL students to provide guidance and social-emotional assistance to new EL students.

- Members of *Padres Latinos en Acción*, Addison Trail's group for Spanish-speaking parents/guardians.

The event raised about \$3,000, which will be used to support student scholarships.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

This is one of the dance groups that entertained guests at Addison Trail's Kermes Latino Food Fest. The event raised about \$3,000 for student scholarships!



These members of Addison Trail's Interact Club helped put on the Kermes Latino Food Festival event that took place on Saturday, May 13.

Historical Museum to expand hours starting June 1

The Addison Historical Museum is expanding its regular visitation hours effective Thursday, June 1. The museum will be open for touring Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on the second Saturday of the month from 12 to 4 p.m.

In addition, the museum will be open every Thursday evening from June 1-August 31, weather permitting, as part of the Village of Addison's Rock 'N Wheels event. From 6-8 p.m., there will be a Craft and Vintage fair on the museum grounds, a historical demonstration/ portrayal featured on select dates, and the buildings will be open for tours.

The June schedule for presentations at the museum is: June 1-North Suburban

Carvers
June 8-Invasion Home Front-WW2

June 15-Quilting
June 22- Past Illinois Settlers
June 29-Rockford Peaches.

The museum will also be open for Twilight Tuesday evenings from 5-7 p.m. before the Free Concerts at the Gazebo sponsored by the Addison Center for the Arts on July 11 and Aug. 8.

Regular and event admission to the museum is free. For more information visit addisonadvantage.org/visitors/history/2/index.php or call 630-628-1433.

Addison Memorial Day events will take place on May 29

The following Village of Addison Memorial Day events will take place on Monday, May 29.

The Addison Knights of Columbus will kick off the events with a free pancake breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. at Indian Trail Junior High School, 222 N. Kennedy Dr. Donations to the Knights of Columbus will be gratefully accepted.

The Addison Historical Museum, 135 W. Army Trail Rd., will be open for tours from 9-11 a.m. Exhibits of military artifacts from

the Civil War through Desert Storm and the history of Addison V.F.W. Post 7446 will be on display.

A 1.5 mile community march to St. Paul Cemetery on Mill Rd. will depart at 9:30 from Indian Trail led by the Madinah Slimers Veterans Unit. Bus transportation is available.

The Addison V.F.W. Auxiliary gravesite flag postings at St. Paul Cemetery will begin at 9:45 a.m., followed by a 10 a.m. ceremony officiated by Rev. Kevin Peterson of St. Paul

Lutheran Church.

The V.F.W. Memorial Day Ceremony begins at 11 a.m. at the Village Green, 1 Friendship Plaza east of Village Hall, or in the Village Hall Rotunda in the event of inclement weather. Music at the ceremony will be performed by the Indian Trail Jr. H.S. Band and Addison resident Joe Kalish.

A free hot dog lunch follows at 12 noon at the V.F.W. Post Hall, 446 West Lake Street.

For more information, visit ItHappensInAddison.com.

Addison gears up for 5th annual Medinah Shriners Parade

Applications sought for parade entries; Lynchs to be grand marshals

The 5th annual Addison-Medinah Shriners Parade returns on Sunday, Aug. 27.

This year's theme is "Addison Means Business" and celebrates the local businesses and industry in the Village.

Former Village Trustee William Lynch and his wife Adele will be the honorary grand marshals of the parade.

The parade is open to any not-for-profit, taxing body, community and youth group and business that is Addison based or conducts its business or service in Addison.

Parade units may consist of walking groups, bicycles, motorcycles, cars, trucks, buses, floats or combinations of the aforementioned.

All units are encouraged to decorate their unit festively and display the parade theme.

Units are required to submit a completed parade application in-

cluding the signed rules and waiver form and return it to the Village by Friday, Aug. 11.

Applications are available at the front desk of Village Hall, on the website at addisonadvantage.org or through the Parade Coordinator Susan English at the Addison Historical Museum, 630-628-1433 or museum@addison-il.org.

An After Party following the parade is planned for the Village Green from 4:30-8 p.m. "Our So Called Band" will start off the party with alternative hits from the 90's followed by Rick Lindy and the Jukebox Legends and their Rockabilly sound.

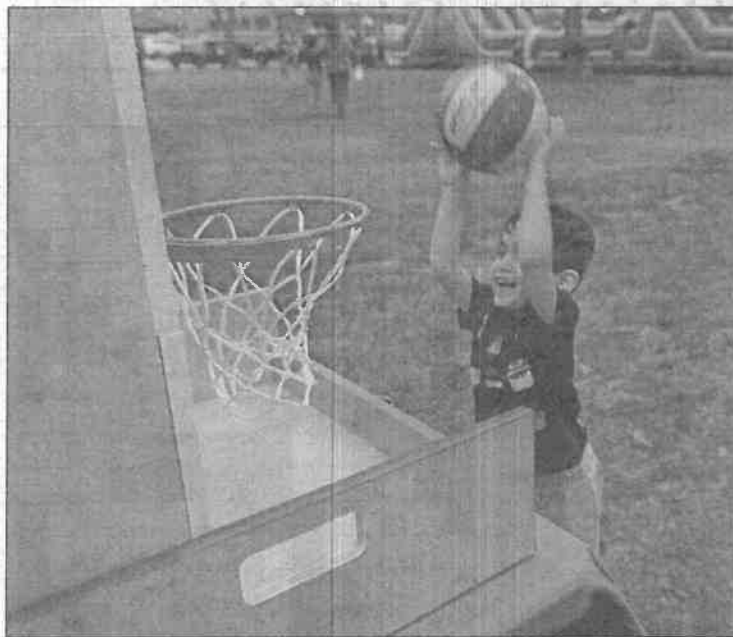
Stay for the party after the parade to enjoy the music, food and drinks, provided by local Addison restaurants.

Browse the information booths of local businesses and community organizations.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

In a previous year, the Addison Trail High School Blazette cheerleaders carried a banner to lead off Addison-Medinah parade. Businesses, clubs, not-for-profits, youth and community groups are urged sign up for this year's event on Sunday, Aug. 27.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

A slam dunk

This young fellow takes a turn trying to dunk a basketball to win a prize at the games made available by the Bensenville Park District.



Eye on the prize

This young man seems quite delighted with this pair of sunglasses he received at the Cars & Clothes event on Friday, May 19.

Answers

PUZZLE 1

6	3	4	8	2	7	1	5	9
7	5	2	1	9	4	3	6	8
9	1	8	3	5	6	4	7	2
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8	2	1	6	7	5	9	4	3
3	7	6	9	4	1	2	8	5
5	4	9	2	8	3	6	1	7

PUZZLE 2

7	5	3	2	6	4	9	1	8
6	2	8	3	9	1	5	7	4
4	9	1	7	8	5	6	3	2
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CROSSWORD

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ACROSS
 1. ARNAD EDET
 2. BALLTOTT MEIN
 3. TIARA OINER
 4. THZ GRAB
 5. STOA ASH
 6. HUNDRER PA
 7. SASSESALLPIFIELD
 8. ABERROBEN
 9. GDE PARAA
 10. RALLO QUES
 11. ROBE PREUD
 12. DRAB PHARIBEE
 13. AMOV SENATORA
 14. DAS INSTEER

DOWN
 1. ARNAD EDET
 2. BALLTOTT MEIN
 3. TIARA OINER
 4. THZ GRAB
 5. STOA ASH
 6. HUNDRER PA
 7. SASSESALLPIFIELD
 8. ABERROBEN
 9. GDE PARAA
 10. RALLO QUES
 11. ROBE PREUD
 12. DRAB PHARIBEE
 13. AMOV SENATORA
 14. DAS INSTEER