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Willowbrook sophomore Jaden Royal advanced to the finals of the triple jump at the IHSA Class 3A boys track and field state meet, which concluded on Saturday, May 27, at Eastern Illinois University. Royal sailed 43 feet, 9 3/4 inches in his best attempt of the meet. He earned a 12th-place finish in the finals. Royal was one of 34 athletes who participated in the triple jump during the preliminary round of the Class 3A state meet. Only 12 of those competitors moved on to the finals.

Royal places 12th at the state meet

*Willowbrook sophomore lands in
12th place after advancing to the
finals of the triple jump*

Sophomore Jaden Royal of the Willowbrook boys track and field team advanced to the finals of the triple jump at the IHSA Class 3A state meet, which ended on Saturday, May 27, at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. Royal earned a 12th-place finish in the event. His best jump of the state meet covered 43 feet, 9 3/4 inches.

The top 12 finishers from the preliminaries advanced to the finals of the triple jump. A total of 34 athletes competed in the preliminaries of the triple jump at the Class 3A state

meet. Willowbrook's 4 x 100-meter relay team of senior Michael Wangler, sophomore Jaylin Miller, senior Joey Tumilty and senior Noah Campbell also competed at the state meet. The four Warriors finished the race in 43.33 seconds during the state meet's preliminary heats and did not advance to the finals.

The top nine 4 x 100-meter relay teams from the preliminaries qualified for the finals. Willowbrook's foursome posted the 25th-best time in the event during the preliminaries.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

All-Conference Bronco

Sophomore Naomi Gonzalez (No. 7) of Montini Catholic High School's girls soccer team was recently named to the Girls Catholic Athletic Conference (GCAC) All-Conference Team for the 2023 spring season. Gonzalez, who is a Villa Park resident, helped the Broncos to regional and sectional titles in the IHSA Class 1A state tournament. Montini's season ended with a 2-1 overtime loss to Rock Island's Alleman Catholic High School in a super-sectional match at Benedictine University in Lisle on May 23. The Broncos completed their season with an overall record of 9-5-4. Alleman Catholic advanced to the Class 1A state semifinals with its victory over the Broncos. The Pioneers won their semifinal contest before losing 1-0 in overtime to Normal's University High School in the Class 1A state final on May 27. As a freshman, Gonzalez was a member of the Montini team that won the third-place trophy in the 2022 IHSA Class 1A state tournament.

Villa Park resident celebrates 90th birthday

On Friday, May 26, York Township Supervisor John W. Valle (left) surprised Villa Park resident Lee Burton (right) with a birthday cake to celebrate his milestone 90th birthday. Burton is a regular at the York Township Senior Center and calls bingo every day for the lunch crowd. Per Burton's request, the cake was cut and shared with everyone as dessert after lunch. "We wish Lee a happy and healthy birthday," said Valle. "He is a longtime regular here at the York Township Senior Center and we wanted to show him how much we care. We are extremely grateful to have him help us out by calling bingo before lunch every day."



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In the May 25 Speak Out, a reader stated that if you take out the voting results from California, then Trump received more votes than Clinton in 2016. If this tactic sounds familiar, it's exactly what Don the Con and his cronies tried to do after the 2020 election. Throw out the results from Arizona, Nevada, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Trump pleaded with the Republican Secretary of State of Georgia to "find me 11,780 votes." He's a grifter and a fraud. Our country can do better without him.

So I see 11 people were killed and 53 shot in Chicago over the Memorial Day weekend. I remember how there were nationwide protests after George Floyd was killed, and don't get me wrong. I think the protests were justified. But I have to ask: Where is the outrage and the protests over the carnage that took place in Chicago over the Memorial Day weekend, and takes place just about every weekend in Chicago throughout the year? Do the lives of these victims matter, too?

It's easy for Chicago and other cities to declare themselves "sanctuary" cities when migrants are flooding Texas. When a relatively small number of migrants show up in these so-called sanctuary cities, guess what? It's a crisis. Migrants sleeping in police stations, schools, etc. The fact is illegal migration is a massive strain on our country. Biden should be impeached for dereliction of duty.

All the calls to Speak Out regarding politics will not likely change hearts and minds. I am a fiscal conservative, but somewhat of a social liberal, and that is like oil and water. I am in favor of helping people who are down and out because I have been there, but then there is the dilemma of how to pay for such programs. I think governments, from local to federal, first need to undertake a serious "audit" and eliminate duplicate services and programs, although in that case, people in charge of them won't be happy to lose their power. Bottom line: we need to use the energy calling Speak Out to vote with our feet at the ballot box to effect any kind of change.

We don't need more gun control laws. We need better, stricter enforcement. And as for shooters being mentally ill and that we need more access to mental health resources, I and others have said that if the person doesn't recognize a problem or

won't seek help, that is a moot argument. Yet, I think insurance companies and medical professionals need to give the same weight to mental health as with physical health. One can get a number of physical therapy visits, for instance, but mental health therapy has stricter limits on what will be covered, if at all. That needs to change; being proactive versus reactive will be more economical in the long run. I also think schools need to get tougher on bullying, and as early as preschool. That may prevent some of the future violence among young people. But the bottom line is people need to take responsibility for their actions.

While our country is distracted with chasing red herrings and fake news, cooking with gas stoves, making a big deal about global warming, the Chinese government is making big strides in becoming more powerful. They are cementing relations with Russia and many other countries. The more you rely on an adversary, the more they can control you. Let's stop fighting in Washington with left and right; we are Americans first. Politics comes second.

Elder abuse is on the rise, as we are able to live longer. It is becoming more obvious when we see our president of the United States being pushed to remain on the job when he should be allowed to coast through and enjoy his golden years. This is America, and common sense should prevail.

It was brought to my attention on the news that as part of the new Illinois budget, lawmakers pay would increase by 5.5 percent. I remember in January, lawmakers also got a pay increase, so I went back and looked up the details. Sure enough, Illinois House members approved by a 63-35 vote to give themselves a nearly 16 percent raise from \$73,345 to \$85,000. Add another 5.5 percent to that, so now they're up to \$89,675. I love how these lawmakers smile and say they're fighting for you and me. Then they get a 21.5 percent raise over the next six months on the backs of you and me. When is the last time you got anything close to a 5.5 percent raise in one year, let alone a 20 percent raise? I know who the representatives and senators in my district are. If any of them are running for reelection in 2024, they will not get my vote solely because of this. I hope other voters follow suit. This is ridiculous!



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District 88 thanks outgoing members of Willowbrook's CAC

The District 88 Board of education joined the district's administration to thank four individuals for their years of service on the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) at Willowbrook High School. Pictured left to right at the board's May 22 meeting are Bill Degnan, John Foley, Karen Lease and Linda Chuk, who are all retiring from the Willowbrook CAC. The District 88 board and administration thanked them for their time, passion and commitment. Degnan and Foley served on the Willowbrook CAC for 14 and 13 years, respectively. Lease spent eight years on the council, while Chuk served on the council for five years. CAC members are parents/guardians and community members who are appointed and volunteer their time to support District 88's mission and vision. They discuss and help to research current issues prevalent in high schools and communities and serve as liaisons between District 88 stakeholders and administrators/board members. They help shape policies and procedures and share community feedback, questions and suggestions.

Bond set at \$100,000 for man charged with leading police on 150 mph high-speed chase

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Illinois State Police Troop 15 Captain Linda Mandat have announced that bond has been set for an Oswego man accused of leading police on a high-speed chase. Verman Schaefer, 27, appeared at a bond hearing, where Judge Margaret O'Connell set bond at \$100,000 with 10 percent to apply.

Schaefer is charged with one count of aggravated fleeing and eluding a police officer (Class 4 felony) and multiple misdemeanor and petty traffic offenses.

On May 22, at approximately 12:19 p.m., while performing speed enforcement measures in the area of I-88 and I-355, an Illinois State Trooper allegedly observed a motorcycle, later determined to be driven by Schaefer, traveling at a high rate of speed at the Washington Street exit on westbound I-88.

The officer activated his oscillating lights and attempted to initiate a traffic stop.

"The allegations that Mr. Schaefer fled from the police at nearly 80 miles-an-hour above the posted speed limit are outrageous. This type of behavior is extremely dangerous and puts the entire motoring public and the officers involved at great risk."

— Robert Berlin, DuPage County State's Attorney

It is alleged that the motorcycle was traveling at 100 mph at this time. It is further alleged that instead of pulling over upon noticing the officer's oscillating lights, Schaefer

immediately accelerated, reaching speeds of approximately 135 mph while weaving in and out of traffic.

The trooper on the ground did not pursue the motorcycle. Illinois State Police Air Ops monitored the motorcycle, which allegedly reached speeds of approximately 150 mph on westbound I-88. It is alleged that after approximately 27 minutes, Schaefer exited the expressway and parked on Rainn Drive in Naperville, where he was taken into custody without incident.

It is further alleged that Schaefer did not have a valid driver's license.

"The allegations that Mr. Schaefer fled from the police at nearly 80 miles-an-hour above the posted speed limit are outrageous," Berlin said. "This type of behavior is extremely dangerous and puts the entire motoring public and the officers involved at great risk."

Schaefer's next court appearance is scheduled for June 20 for arraignment in front of Judge O'Connell.