

D88 bids farewell to retiring CFO

During its June 26 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education along with the administration recognized D88 Chief Financial Officer Ed Hoster for 10 years of dedicated service to the district. He was presented with a personalized glass sculpture created by former Willowbrook art department head Bob Fritz. Hoster joined the District 88 family in May 2013 and retired on June 30.

Hoster's impact was palpable from the beginning, and he quickly established himself as a tireless and meticulous steward of the district's resources. Hoster makes financial decisions through a lens of equity,

keeping the needs of students at the forefront, while also prioritizing a high level of customer service to the district's stakeholders.

Hoster earned his Bachelor of Science degree in finance from Illinois State University and his master's degree in school business management from Northern Illinois University.

His passion for public education and his dedication to being fair and responsible to taxpayers - as well



Ed Hoster

as to the district's students, staff and families - is always apparent. He is laser focused on ensuring all decisions made are student-centered and in the best interest of the pupils.

Highlights from Hoster's time with District 88 include:

- highly transparent fiscal management;
- steadfast commitment to providing food for our students throughout the COVID-19 pandemic;
- upgrades to the district's food-service quality;
- implementing "check your check" day sessions;
- helping to make sure students

had internet access throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring each child had a Chromebook;

- many facility updates, including the security vestibule at Willowbrook; the concession stand at Willowbrook; the tennis courts at Willowbrook; air-conditioning in the CTE wings at Addison Trail and Willowbrook; developing a new culinary arts space at Addison Trail; expanding and renovating the Transition Program space at the District 88 Office; adding more handicap and visitor parking at Addison Trail; and upgrading the auditoriums at Addison Trail and Willowbrook;

• helping the district maintain a financial rating of A+ from Moody's and the highest level of Recognition for the financial rating from the Illinois State Board of Education.

Hoster was named as a 2021 recipient of the Illinois Association of School Business (ASBO) Monarch Award, one of the highest honors the organization bestows upon its members.

In retirement, Hoster plans to do more traveling and find a new balance.

District 88 is grateful for his tremendous passion and contributions and wishes him all the best in the future.

District 88 honors retiring regional superintendent

Ruscitti was first woman to hold position since the office's inception in 1854

During its June 26 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education and administration recognized and thanked the retiring Dr. Darlene J. Ruscitti, regional superintendent of schools for DuPage County, for her years of service and commitment to public education. She was presented with a personalized glass sculpture. Dr. Ruscitti has served as regional superintendent for 20 years and was the first woman to be elected to that position since the

inception of the DuPage Regional Office of Education in 1854.

Dr. Ruscitti's awards and rec-



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing
Dr. Darlene J. Ruscitti

ognitions include the Leonardo da Vinci Award from the Illinois Order of the Sons of Italy in America, the Impresa Award from the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans Women's Division, Educator of the Year from the DuPage Mental Illness Association, the Lamp of Learning Award, Outstanding Woman Education Leader of the Year for She has always been an advocate and friend of District 88, often seen mingling with new District 88 staff members during the back-to-school community breakfast, attending the annual District 88 crosstown football game and joining the district during meetings with local Realtors, community groups and more. Ruscitti was a leader and supporter during the COVID-19 pandemic, has offered

critical guidance with countywide equity work and has provided educators with resources and professional development to benefit students.

Ruscitti has helped build positive futures for countless students

through her contributions to public education and always puts the needs of students first. The positional impact her efforts have made on the schools and communities of DuPage County will last for years to come.

EGC 'Afternoon in the Garden' Walk, boutique coming Sunday

The 27th Elmhurst Garden Club (EGC) "An Afternoon in the Garden" Garden Walk and Boutique Faire featuring six glorious private gardens and one special birthday celebration public garden will be held Sunday, July 9 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tickets will be sold online only at the web site: elmhurstgardenclub.org.

From now until midnight on July 8, tickets will be \$18 per person. After that date, tickets will be \$23 each.

The featured public garden this year is the Wilder Park Conservatory, which will hold its 100th Birthday Celebration with refreshments at 10 a.m. at the Conservatory. The Boutique Faire in Wilder Park, featuring a garden plants sale, accessories, horticultural experts, and more is free and open to the public.

Proceeds from the EGC Walk will fund scholarships awarded to college/university students majoring in Horticulture, Environmental Studies, and other related sciences. Since 1996 more than \$210,000 in EGC Scholarship Funds have been awarded to deserving students. Further information available at elmhurstgardenclub.org.

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District 4 announces new Chief School Business Official

The Addison School District 4 Board of Education has announced its approval of an agreement with a new Chief School Business Official (CSBO) for Addison School District 4 effective July 1.



Melissa Morgese for Addison School District 4 effective July 1.

After considering all applicants, the Board of Education introduces Melissa Morgese as the new CSBO.

A total of 15 applicants applied for the position, with a multiple-interview process beginning in mid-May. Final interview applicants met with the district's directors of Business and Employee Services and Building and Grounds, as well as the District Leadership Team.

While all applicants demonstrated the skillset and background to be successful, one applicant rose above the rest as the best choice, according to the district.

Morgese has worked extensively in the field of finance, accounting

and school business management for her entire career.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Accounting/Organizational Leadership and Business Administration as well as a master's degree in School Business Management, she began her education career as the head accountant in Elmwood Park District 401.

She held this position for over 10 years before transitioning to Wheeling School District #21 as its director of business services.

She held this position for over three years and was responsible for

all financial planning and budgeting, as well as accounting and finance systems.

In addition to her areas of responsibility at Wheeling, she holds the distinction of being director of the Illinois Association of School Business Officials.

When asked about their thoughts regarding Morgese and the work she has done throughout her career, her references described her as, "someone that is super friendly and a joy to work with," as well as "the hardest worker you will ever meet."

School Board recognizes AT students' achievements

The following Addison Trail students were honored at the District 88 School Board meeting on June 26 for state-level and national-level achievements from the spring season of the 2022-23 school year.

Giovanni Long, Lukas Trippi and Billy Stathopoulos were named All-State All Academic for baseball.

At SkillsUSA, Christian Canino took 2nd place in full-service auto, Sage Kopecky placed 3rd in full-service auto, Kevin Guardado was 5th place auto service technology and Jake Santini took 5th place in technical drafting.

The following students were earned honors as attendees of the BPA national conference. Ravi Patel placed 5th in the nation in Fundamental Spreadsheet Application; Anna Siezin was 3rd in state in computer modeling; and, Ruth Castillo, took 4th in the state in legal office procedures.

Three students were recognized at the DECA National Conference. Zachary Morris took 2nd in state in sports and entertainment marketing operations and research; Peter Callas and Alexander Addison both placed 10th in the state for financial services.

Congratulations to all the students who earned these state and national achievements.

ATHS preps for Blue and White Community Night

Addison Trail is getting ready for the annual Blue and White Community Night to showcase AT's sports teams, performing arts, clubs and more. It will take place on Friday, Aug. 18 at the Addison Trail football stadium. Doors open at 6 p.m., activities begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, concessions will be available for purchase.

Guests are invited to show their support by dressing in ATHS t-shirts and other gear to represent your sport, club or activity. For more information, call 630-530-3989.

Rock 'N Wheels hosts 'Motown Night' Thursday

The Village of Addison continues its 12th season of Rock 'N Wheels every Thursday through the summer, from 6 to 10 p.m. on the Village Green. Rock 'N Wheels includes live music, food and beverages from Addison restaurants, attractions available for children, and more.

On Thursday, July 6, Rock 'N Wheels presents Motown Night with *Ollie Bolds' Soul Review* performing at 6:30 p.m., followed by *Motor City* at 8.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase from Addison's very own: Tacos Paebla, Barbara's Polish Deli, Flavbr Frenzy, Lou Malnati's, and Nuova Italia.

Additionally, the Addison Historical Museum will host an open house from 6 - 8 p.m., right across Army Trail Blvd. The Craft & Vintage Fair will also be going on in front of the museum buildings.

The Addison Township Foundation & Food Pantry is collecting nonperishable donations at every Rock 'N Wheels event.

The following is a list of accepted donations: cereal, oatmeal, any canned food, canned fruits, and canned vegetables, any type of pasta, white rice, brown rice, sugar, coffee, tea, olive oil, canola oil, vegetable oil, any type of dried fruit, baking products, flour, peanut butter, jelly, instant mashed potatoes, crackers, ramen noodles, macaroni & cheese, SPAM, any seasoning packets (tacos, chili, fajita), meal packet helpers, salt, pepper, nuts, granola bars, hygiene products, diapers (size 3,4,5), baby soap, baby shampoo, baby lotion, baby wipes, Depends underwear for men (small and medium), Depends underwear for women (small and medium), laundry detergent, dish soap, paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, nappies, Clorox wipes, Zip-Loc baggies, Band-Aids.

Bring your donations to the blue Village of Addison tent at any Rock 'N Wheels event through the rest of the summer.

Parking is available at Friendship Plaza, as well as at Indian Trail High School, located at 222 N John F Kennedy Dr. For more details and the complete season schedule, visit IHappensInAddison.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Taking the Rock 'N Wheels stage on Thursday, July 6 is Ollie Bolds, who will appear with his group Ollie Bolds' Soul Review on the Addison Green behind Village Hall. Bolds' music begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed at 8 p.m. by the evening's headliner Motor City.

Coming Sunday: Elmhurst History Museum's free Bike Bonanza

Summer is the perfect time to celebrate everyone's favorite mode of warm-weather transportation: the bicycle. The Elmhurst History Museum invites the public to join in a free special event filled with family-friendly games, performances and activities designed to celebrate the history of bicycles and the joy of riding bikes on a warm summer day.

The Bike Bonanza takes place on Sunday, July 9 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Elmhurst History Museum, 120 E. Park Ave. in downtown Elmhurst. This free all-ages event features performances, games, crafts, and special guests all revolving around the bicycle theme. Free parking is available on site and on nearby streets as well as in local city parking garages. More information can be found at elmhursthistory.org.

The Bike Bonanza is presented in connection with the Elmhurst History Museum's latest exhibit, "The Bicycle: Two Wheels to Adventure," which is open now through Sunday, Sept. 17. The exhibit shares the story of the "human-powered carriage" through examples of iconic bicycles, artifacts, interactive displays, and timeless photographs.

Bike Bonanza activities

Guests at the Bike Bonanza on July 9 will witness a BMX bike performance by Matt Wilhelm, three-time X Games medalist, two-time U.S. National Champion, Guinness World record-holder, and semi-finalist on *America's Got Talent* (2:30 p.m.). Live music will be performed by Elmhurst School of Rock (1:15 p.m.), and vintage high-wheeler bicycles will be demonstrated by The Wheelmen, a national non-profit organization dedicated to keeping the heritage of American cycling alive and encouraging cycling as part of modern living.

In addition, kids can enjoy games, face painting, craft activities, and test skills at a big wheels bike rodeo. Participants will also meet officers from Elmhurst Police Department's Summer Mobile Patrol, as well as representatives from Elmhurst Bicycle Club, Ride Illinois, and DuPage Cycling with an array of cool bikes on display. Snow cones will be available for purchase from Kona Ice.

Make plans to celebrate summer and the two-wheeled "freedom machine" known as the bicycle by taking part in the Bike Bonanza at the Elmhurst History Museum. For the latest information, please visit www.elmhursthistory.org or call 630-833-1457.

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CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park Review



Independence Day in Villa Park

Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 held its annual Fourth of July Parade last week. The parade, which began at 10 a.m., took place in warm and sunny conditions. The honor guard from Naval Station Great Lakes led off the parade. The honor guard is shown (top left) while proceeding west on Central Boulevard near Harvard Avenue. Other parade participants included Willowbrook High School's marching band (left), along with Villa Park Village President Nick Cuzzone (above), who, like many other parade participants, distributed candy to young spectators.

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Mariners conclude regular season with a meet at Roselle

Villa Park's Phoebe Aldana wins three individual races and swims on two winning relay teams in the 11-12 girls level

STAFF REPORT
The Villa Park Mariners completed their 2023 regular season with Saturday's meet against the Roselle Racers in Roselle. The Racers defeated Villa Park 344-293 in the meet's overall scoring.

Some Mariners will finish the season by competing in this Saturday's DuPage Swim and Dive Conference Red and Blue Division 'B' Meet in Carol Stream.

Other Villa Park swimmers will conclude the season by participating in the Red Division 'A' Meet in Bartlett on July 22.

The Mariners will compete against Bartlett, Butterfield and Roselle at next week's Red Division 'A' Meet. In addition to the Red Division teams, this Saturday's meet in Carol Stream will include the conference's four Blue Division teams—Carol Stream, Glendale Heights, Hanover Park and Wood Dale/Addison.

Villa Park's Phoebe Aldana won three individual titles during Saturday's meet against Roselle. Swimming in the 11-12 girls level, she won the 100-yard freestyle, which she finished in 1 minute, 6.95 seconds, the 50-yard butterfly (35.59 seconds) and the 50-yard breaststroke (39.30).

The Mariners who earned two individual victories on Saturday included Kennedy Grobe, who won the 25-yard freestyle (22.22) and the 25-yard backstroke (25.11) in the 8-and-under girls division. Villa Park's Elin Stempel also swam to a pair of individual wins in Roselle. She won the 100-yard individual medley (1:26.39) and the 100-yard freestyle (1:17.01) in the 9-10 girls level.

Ary Carrola of the Manners posted first-place finishes in the 9-10 girls division's 50-yard butterfly (42.73) and 50-yard backstroke (40.64) on Saturday.

Villa Park's Caleb Vaughn swam to two wins in Roselle with first-place efforts in the 9-10 boys level's 100-yard individual medley (1:52.36) and 50-yard backstroke (48.48).

Naomi Aldana of the Mariners also won two individual titles on Saturday. She secured her wins in the 100-yard individual medley (1:11.92) and the 50-yard butterfly (30.79) in the 13-14 girls division.

Villa Park's other individual champions during Saturday's meet in Roselle included:

8-and-under girls: Leighton Stempel (50-yard freestyle; 43.63), Penelope Kuhl (25-yard butterfly; 31.12) and Maddie Lynch (25-yard breaststroke; 30.28);

8-and-under boys: Kyle King (25-yard breaststroke; 31.96);

9-10 girls: Lydia Aldana (50-yard breaststroke; 46.68);

9-10 boys: Liam Grobe (100-yard freestyle; 1:48.01);

11-12 girls: Brooke Turner (100-yard individual medley; 1:29.81);

11-12 boys: Ryan Mueller (50-yard backstroke; 50.73);

13-14 boys: Ian Mueller (50-yard breaststroke; 37.61);

15-18 girls: Annabelle Thompson (50-yard backstroke; 36.67);

15-18 boys: Alexander Dean (100-yard individual medley; 1:12.67) and Simon Luedtke (50-yard breaststroke; 35.24).

Villa Park's winning relay teams in Roselle included the 8-and-under girls foursome of Kennedy Grobe, Maddie Lynch, Leighton Stempel and Penelope Kuhl. The four Mariners won the 100-yard medley relay (1:35.42) and the 100-yard freestyle relay (1:26.66).

The Mariners' 8-and-under boys foursome of Logan Turner, Kyle King, Connor Kaminski and Brycen Newell also won a pair of relay events on Saturday. The Villa Park

swimmers won the 100-yard medley relay (3:01.47) and the 100-yard freestyle relay (2:38.28).

Villa Park's 11-12 girls foursome of Sophia Maffia, Brooke Turner, Phoebe Aldana and Belle Knudtson won the 200-yard medley relay (2:42.33) and the 200-yard freestyle relay (2:20.83) on Saturday.

The Mariners' other winning relay teams in Roselle included:

9-10 girls: Ary Carrola, Lydia Aldana, Elin Stempel and Ruth Aldana (200-yard medley relay; 2:45.52); Ariana Knudtson, Ruth Aldana, Lydia Aldana and Ary Carrola (200-yard freestyle relay; 2:53.44);

9-10 boys: Cillian Connolly, Caleb Vaughn, Kyle VanKoughnet and Liam Grobe (200-yard freestyle relay; 3:05.24);

15-18 girls: Tia Kelly, Tabitha Smaczny, Allison Smaczny and Annabelle Thompson (200-yard freestyle relay; 2:12.60).



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Dance team to hold camp this month

The participants in Villa Park's 2023 Fourth of July Parade included Willowbrook High School's varsity dance team. The team's members are pictured near the end of parade route. The dance team will hold a five-day camp for kids (ages 4-13) during the week of July 24-28. Campers will meet daily at Willowbrook High School from 9 to 11 a.m. The camp will conclude with a showcase for family and friends at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 28. To sign up for the camp, visit <https://dupage88.revtrak.net/rw-wbhs-athletics>. Click on "Poms Youth" on the left side of the page.

The Queen of Hearts is still hiding in VFW Post 2801's Queen of Hearts contest

Winner's share is over \$16,500, before taxes; next drawing takes place this Friday

The winner's share of Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801's current Queen of Hearts contest stands at over \$16,500—before taxes. That amount is certain to rise before the next ticket drawing, which will be held at 8 p.m. this Friday, July 14. The drawing will take place at the post, which is located at 39 E. St. Charles Road.

A five-pack of tickets in the Queen of Hearts drawing costs \$5. Contestants do not need to be present at the Friday-night drawing. Tickets are on sale at the post throughout the week, up until a few minutes before the ticket drawing.

The contest features a board of 54 spaces that represent a full deck of cards, including two jokers. Each card on the board is numbered and concealed. The ticket drum is cleared after each week's drawing.

Each Friday, the contest tickets that were sold during the week are spun in the rotating drum, and one ticket is selected. That ticket includes a number representing one of the spaces in which the card has not yet been revealed. If the card on that space contains the Queen of Hearts, the owner of the selected ticket claims the winner's share.

The Queen of Hearts is still hiding behind one of 12 covered spaces remaining on the contest board. She cannot hide much longer.

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Brenda Garcia
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Bond set for Addison man charged with leading police on high-speed chase

Chase began on Ardmore Avenue in Villa Park



Nikko De Pasquale

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Villa Park Chief of Police Michael Rivas announced last week that bond had been set for an Addison man accused of leading police on a high-speed chase.

Nikko De Pasquale, 29, appeared at a bond hearing on July 7, where Judge George Ford set bond at \$75,000 with 10 percent to apply. De Pasquale is charged with two counts of aggravated fleeing and eluding a police officer (Class 4 felony) and multiple petty traffic offenses. De Pasquale is currently on parole for unauthorized use of a weapon by a felon (Class 2 felony) and escape (Class 3 felony) charges.

On July 6, at approximately 11:57 p.m., officers with the Villa Park Police Department observed a red 2002 Pontiac Coupe traveling northbound on Ardmore Avenue disobey a stop sign at a high rate of speed at Jackson Street.

Officers activated their emergency lights and sirens and attempted to initiate a traffic stop. It is alleged however that instead of pulling over, De Pasquale made a U-turn and accelerated away from the officers.

It is alleged that De Pasquale reached speeds of more than 89 mph in a 25-mph zone. It is further alleged that after officers successfully deployed a mobile stop stick, which deflated the rear passenger tire, De Pasquale continued to lead officers on a pursuit onto eastbound I-290. It is alleged that De Pasquale continued

on the expressway when a second mobile stop stick was used to deflate the front passenger tire. It is further alleged that De Pasquale exited I-290 at the North Avenue exit in Elmhurst, drove into Northlake, made another U-turn and re-entered I-290 westbound. After entering the expressway, the vehicle came to a stop near York Street, at which time officers took De Pasquale into custody.

"Unfortunately, we have yet to see a significant decrease in the number of cases involving defendants fleeing from police," Berlin said. "This type of conduct is extremely dangerous and puts not only the driver at risk, but also puts the police officers involved and the public in harm's way. Again, I urge all motorists, if you see flashing lights behind you, pull over. I thank the Villa Park Police Department for their efforts on this case."

"The law enforcement community and citizens in DuPage County will not tolerate the dangerous allegations committed by the defendant," Rivas said. "When an offender drives away from the police at a high rate of speed there is a complete disregard for the lives of those around them. The Villa Park Police Department is committed to going after, and arresting, all who jeopardize the safety and welfare of this community and surrounding communities. We are all in this together to maintain a safe way of life for all. We would like to thank the brave actions of our officers, as well as the actions of the Elmhurst Police Department, and Addison Police Department for their assistance."

De Pasquale's next court appearance is scheduled for July 31, for arraignment in front of Judge Daniel Guerin.

Willowbrook's dance team to hold camp for kids next week

Five-day camp is for children ages 4-13

The Willowbrook High School dance team will hold a five-day camp for kids (ages 4-13) during the week of July 24-28.

Campers will meet daily at Willowbrook High School from 9 to 11 a.m.

The camp will conclude with a showcase for family and friends at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 28. To sign up for the camp, visit <https://dupage88.revttrak.net/rw-wbhs-athletics>. Click on "Poms Youth" on the left side of the page.

Glenbard East, Willowbrook students receive Mary Wheeler Scholarship

Irena Urbain and Jenna Boynton, 2023 graduates of Glenbard East and Willowbrook high schools, respectively, were two of six recipients of the Mary Wheeler Scholarship.

Each scholarship winner is awarded \$3,200 by the West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571, of the American Federation of Teachers.

Winners exhibited the highest academic standards and involvement in school and community service.

Mary Wheeler was a teacher at Proviso High School from 1924 to 1965. She was a highly respected educator who was actively involved in the American Federation of Teachers and the Illinois Federation of Teachers as an AFT vice president and an IFET president. She founded the Proviso Council of Teachers during the 1938-39 school year and helped in the formation of several councils in the western suburbs.

Bond set at \$2 million for Wood Dale man accused of intentionally striking off-duty Cook County Sheriff's Deputy with his car

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Itasca Director of Police Robert O'Connor have announced that bond has been set for a Wood Dale man accused of intentionally striking an off-duty Cook County Sheriff's Deputy with his car.



Eliaz Lopez

Eliaz Lopez, 18, appeared at a bond hearing where Judge Mia McPherson set bond at \$2 million with 10 percent to apply. Lopez is charged with one count of attempted murder of a police officer (Class X felony), two counts of aggravated battery to a police officer (Class 2 felony), one count of leaving the scene of an accident involving personal injury (Class 2 felony) and two counts of aggravated battery (Class 3 felony).

On July 12 at approximately 12:41 a.m., an Itasca police officer responded to a call of a person being struck by a vehicle in the 300 block of N. Elm St. Following an investigation into the matter, it is alleged that the victim, an off duty, Cook County deputy sheriff in full uniform, had just parked his patrol vehicle on Elm Street when he heard a loud Dodge Challenger approximately 60 yards away.

It is alleged that the deputy shined his flashlight in the vehicle's direction at which time the Challenger revved its engine and drove directly at the deputy, striking him and causing him to go on the hood of the car. It is further alleged that while the deputy was on the hood of the Challenger, the Challenger accelerated.

It is alleged that after approximately three seconds, the deputy jumped off the Challenger at which time the vehicle fled the scene. The victim was transported to a local hospital where he received medical treatment and was released later that day. Through the course of their investigation, authorities identified Lopez as a suspect in the case. He was taken into custody on July 12 from his residence in Wood Dale.

"The allegations that Mr. Lopez intentionally drove his vehicle directly at a uniformed deputy, striking him with his vehicle, and continued to accelerate with the deputy on the hood of the vehicle are outrageous," Berlin said. "The type of blatant attack on law enforcement alleged in this case will be vigorously prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. We are all thankful that the deputy involved in this incident was not seriously injured."

"The perseverance and attention to details by Itasca Detectives Serio and Langlo were paramount in securing the charges brought forth by the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office," O'Connor said.

Lopez's next court appearance is scheduled Aug. 11 for arraignment in front of Judge McPherson.

College news

• Shanti Lindberg of Villa Park was one of over 7,300 students who graduated from Oregon State University in June. She earned a bachelor of arts, Summa Cum Laude, Spanish; and a bachelor of science,

Summa Cum Laude, Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences.

• Magdalene Houseman of Villa Park was named to the Winona State University dean's list for the 2023 spring semester.

Lombard Brew Fest to be held Saturday

The Lombard Junior Women's Club will host the Lombard Brew Fest this Saturday, July 22, from 1-4 p.m.

The event, formerly known as the Lombard Ale Fest, will take place on Parkside Avenue between Lilacia Park and the Metra station. The fest plans to feature a wide variety of special beers, ciders, and hard seltzers from the Chicagoland area, as well as around the Midwest. Many of the breweries participating are located within a 10-mile radius of Lombard.

Each ticket includes 20 three-ounce samples and a souvenir tasting glass. A VIP ticket is available which includes one hour of early access to the festival.

In addition to delicious brews from around the area, attendees will enjoy live music from AD3 Acoustic Trio.

Based in Chicago, this trio of rotating guitarists and percussionists on cajon perform live music ranging from rock to R&B to country. The entertainment is sponsored by Kelly Stetler | Compass Realty. Food trucks will also be on hand to serve up food throughout the afternoon. Saucy Kat, Rosemary & Jeans, Go Doggy Run, and Taco Grill & Salsa Bar will be serving a variety of cuisines to hungry guests.

A selection of yard games will be available in the picnic area for those hoping to stay active while indulging. This event would not be possible without the support from sponsors, including BARREL Sponsors JT's Porch & Eatery, Elevate Sign Group, Noon Whistle Brewing, Kelly Stetler | Compass Realty, and Waste Management. A full list of sponsors can be found on its website.

IHSA releases the state's 2023 high school football schedules

Willowbrook begins its upcoming season with a non-conference road game at Notre Dame College Prep on Aug. 25

STAFF REPORT

The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) recently released the football schedules for the 2023 high school football season in Illinois.

Practices may begin on Monday, Aug. 7. Games can begin as soon as Thursday, Aug. 24.

Most high school football teams in the area will kick off the regular season with contests on the evening

of Friday, Aug. 25.

Willowbrook will open its nine-game regular season with a non-conference battle at Notre Dame College Prep in Niles on Aug. 25. The Warriors will play their 2023 home opener one week later, when they will face Glenbard North in a non-conference clash on Sept. 1.

Willowbrook will begin its West Suburban Gold Conference season

with a Sept. 8 game at District 88 rival Addison Trail. The Warriors will then travel to Downers Grove South to face the Mustangs in a conference matchup on Sept. 15.

Downers Grove South won the 2022 West Suburban Gold Conference title with a perfect 6-0 record in conference action. Willowbrook finished second in the conference standings with a 5-1 record.

The Warriors' 2023 season will continue with a home game against conference rival Hinsdale South on Sept. 22. Willowbrook will travel to Maywood to face Proviso East in a conference game on the afternoon of Saturday, Sept. 30. The Warriors will then face Oak Park/River Forest—of the West Suburban Silver Conference—in Villa Park on Oct. 6.

Willowbrook will finish its reg-

ular season with a conference game at Morton on Oct. 13, followed by a conference home game against Leyden on Oct. 20.

The Warriors finished the 2022 season with an overall record of 5-5. After going 5-4 during the regular season, the Warriors opened the IHSA post-season with a 35-14 loss at Wheaton North in a Class 7A playoff contest.

Montini Catholic remembers a special member of its family

Jim Kavanaugh filled many roles at Montini, including serving as the school's first head football coach, wrestling coach and athletic director

STAFF REPORT

The Montini Catholic High School community is mourning the death of the Lasallian college preparatory high school's founding member and first head football and wrestling coach, Jim Kavanaugh. Coach Kavanaugh passed away on Saturday, July 1.

Kavanaugh was a resident of Villa Park before moving to Plainfield, then Lake Geneva. His funeral Mass was held at St. Alexander Catholic Church in Villa Park on July 6.

When Montini Catholic opened its doors in the fall of 1966, Kavanaugh quickly became known as "Mr. Everything." Named as the school's first football coach, Jim wore many other hats as well, serving as a physical education teacher, guidance counselor, teacher, head of buildings and grounds and athletic director.

Tasked primarily with building the entire Bronco athletic program from scratch, Coach Kavanaugh hit the ground running and was instrumental in getting football, cheerleading, boys basketball, wrestling and baseball off the ground.

Coach Kavanaugh guided Montini's first football team to a 4-4-1 overall record during its inaugural 1966 season. Playing at the junior varsity level under Kavanaugh's

leadership, the Broncos posted a 6-2-2 record the following season before embarking in varsity competition beginning in the fall of 1968. It took just one game for Kavanaugh and his Broncos to earn their first varsity victory, defeating Lemont 21-14 in the season opener.

In total, during his 13 years of leadership, Kavanaugh led the Broncos to a 61-51-6 record, including nine winning seasons. The 1974 Broncos captured the school's first ever conference championship in football, winning the West Suburban Catholic Conference crown. The 1974 team finished its season with a 7-2 record.

Kavanaugh was also very proud to have coached many All-Conference athletes throughout his time as a football coach at Montini.

Kavanaugh made a long-term impact on Montini Catholic's history when naming John L. Duffy Memorial Stadium after an impressive young Bronco player. John Duffy (a member of the Class of 1970) had been diagnosed with leukemia prior to his becoming a Bronco. When his physical limitations put him at risk on the field, it was Kavanaugh who made the decision to allow the young man to continue his dream of being a football team member by appointing him as Montini's first athletic

manager.

Upon Duffy's death, Kavanaugh requested that the new stadium be named in Duffy's honor. Kavanaugh and the entire faculty wanted the stadium named in honor of Duffy as an example for future generations of Broncos who would follow in regards to Duffy's commitment and loyalty to his team. (The official dedication and naming of the stadium took place on October 26, 1968.)

Kavanaugh started the Montini wrestling program in the winter of 1966-67 with the Broncos fielding a squad of 18 freshman wrestlers. Despite only coaching for one season, Kavanaugh helped lay the foundation for what is today one of the most successful high school wrestling programs in Illinois.

Following his tenure as head football coach, Kavanaugh continued to serve Montini's school community as the athletic director through

1996, before retiring as the director of guidance and boys golf coach in 2000. He returned frequently to Montini to participate in activities and to celebrate the school's many milestone events, including the 50th anniversary celebration in 2016.

"I met Jim in late July 1974 for a teaching and coaching interview at Montini Catholic," said Kavanaugh's football coaching successor, Chris Andriano. "Kav asked me one question. Tell me about yourself. After maybe 10 minutes, he shook my hand and told me I had the job. He then gave me a post hole digger and told me to dig two holes 23 feet apart on the practice field! Five years later, he stepped down as head football coach, and picked me to replace him. He became my biggest advocate, supporter, and mentor. I will never forget everything he did for me and my career. I could always go to Kav with anything and he was

always there for me. A very special man. I will miss him dearly. Next to my family, he was the biggest influence in my life."

"Jim Kavanaugh was literally one of the building blocks of Montini Catholic High School," added Mike Bukovsky, a 1983 Montini graduate and the school's current head football coach. "Throughout his many years of service to our Montini community, Jim took on many other roles as well, and was always a tireless worker no matter what job he did. Jim will always be remembered as the 'Father of Montini football,' and laid the groundwork for the future success of this program." In addition to being a founding member of Montini Catholic, Kavanaugh was the father of several Bronco alumni: Ken '79, Chris '80, Matt '82, Maureen '88, Coleen '89 and the late Kathleen Kavanaugh. He was the father-in-law of Cathleen (Jeinek) Kavanaugh '80.



Jim Kavanaugh, a former Villa Park resident who was a longtime coach and teacher at Montini Catholic High School in Lombard, passed away on July 1. Kavanaugh was a founding member of the high school, which opened in 1966. In addition to being the school's first head football coach and its first wrestling coach, Kavanaugh served in many other capacities and became known as "Mr. Everything" at Montini. He retired as the school's director of guidance and boys golf coach in 2000. One photo, from Montini's 50th anniversary celebration in 2016, shows (left - left to right) Kavanaugh receiving an award from Principal Maryann O'Neill. Another photo shows (above - left to right) the three men who have served as Montini's head football coach—Chris Andriano, Kavanaugh and Mike Bukovsky. Andriano succeeded Kavanaugh and guided the program for 38 seasons, from 1979 to 2016. Bukovsky, who graduated from Montini in 1983, has been the Broncos' head football coach since Andriano retired shortly after the end of the 2016 season.

