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VOL. 21 • NO. 4

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THURSDAY, JAN. 11, 2024

17th annual 'Shape of Addison' Town Hall to be held Jan. 25

The 17th annual "Shape of Addison" Town Hall Meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 25 at the Board Room of the Addison Village Hall, 1 Friendship Plaza, from 7 to 9 p.m.

The program is presented by Itasca Bank & Trust Company, and open to all members of the community.

Speakers from seven Addison taxing bodies participating in the program, as of press time, will be: Rich Veenstra, mayor, Village of Addison; Dave Williams, Board of Education president, Addison School District 4; Daniel Olson, Board of Education Vice President, DuPage High School District 88; Mike Capizzano, Board of Commissioners president, Addison Park District; Christopher Pudelek, Board of Trustees president, Addison Public Library; Joe Saverino, Board of Trustees secretary, Addison Fire Protection District; and Dennis Reboletti, supervisor, Addison Township.

All speakers will give brief reports from their agencies.

Following the presentations there will be an audience question and answer session moderated by Jack Mensching, Chairman of the Board of Itasca Bank & Trust Company and the sponsor of the event.

The audience may submit questions to any of the agency officials, up until 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 25.

Viewers watching the program live on Addison Community Television (Comcast channel 6 or AT&T channel 99), online via AddisonAdvantage.org or YouTube/VillageAddison, may call 630-693-7975 or e-mail ShapeofAddison@Addison-il.org to submit a question.



ARCHIVE PHOTO Addison Independent
(from left) School District 88, Board vice president Dan Olson and superintendent Dr. Jean Barbanente share a conversation with Addison mayor Rich Veenstra at last year's Shape of Addison town hall meeting. This year's event will be the 17th annual meeting, scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Addison Village Hall.

New Year, new laws: Giannoulas-initiated laws take effect

Initiatives call for safe driving, expanded voter registration, preventing book bans

According to a release issued by Illinois Secretary of State office, several new laws initiated by Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas took effect as of Jan. 1. The initiatives were passed in 2023 by the Illinois General Assembly before being signed into law.

"I wish all Illinoisans a safe,

healthy and happy New Year," Giannoulas said. "The laws going into effect [Jan. 1] will make our roads safer, increase voter access and protect our libraries and librarians. But this is just the beginning. My office has big plans for 2024 as we continue to strive to deliver the best possible results for all Illinoisans."

In an effort to combat distracted driving, House Bill 2431 makes it illegal to Zoom, watch or stream videos, or access social media sites while driving. This legislation will ensure drivers keep their eyes and attention on the road, making Illinois roadways safer for all Illinois motorists.

It is now easier for young Illinoisans to guarantee that they are eligible to vote when they turn 18. Under Senate Bill 2123, teens obtaining their driver's license or state ID card may register to vote at an Illinois Driver and Motor Vehicle (DMV) facility.

This legislation increases voter participation and access, ensuring that young people have a voice on the issues that have a direct and tangible impact on their lives, especially student loan debt, the economy and education.

In order to qualify for grant funding in 2024, Illinois libraries are now required to adhere to the American Library Association's (ALA) Library Bill of Rights or issue a statement prohibiting the practice of banning books or resources. This first-in-the-nation legislation guards against censorship, protects librarians and preserves the purpose of education: teaching children to think for themselves.

Individuals seeking abortion care and undocumented immigrants will feel more at ease while traveling on Illinois roads knowing that the use of automatic license plate readers (ALPRs) is now regulated in the state. House Bill 3326 prohibits the use of data collected with ALPRs to track innocent people or criminalize lawful behavior. While ALPRs can be a valuable tool for law enforcement, this regulation will prevent abuse,

harassment and unlawful surveillance.

Illinois drivers can now feel free to hang an air freshener, COVID-19 mask or rosary from their vehicle's rearview mirror without the worry of getting pulled over. House Bill 2389 makes it illegal for police to stop motorists for the presence of hanging items, decreasing unnecessary encounters over minor infractions, which can lead to discriminatory practices and violent confrontations between police and motorists.

Libraries, the cornerstones of Illinois communities, will now have an easier time making digital resources available to residents across the state, regardless of where they live. Senate Bill 2419 authorizes the Secretary of State's office to negotiate with e-book and audiobook publishers to acquire digital rights to these materials at lower prices.

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CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Preparing for the sectional

Members of Willowbrook High School's dance team are pictured during their performance at halftime of Friday's boys basketball game in Villa Park. The dance team is preparing to compete at the IHSA competitive dance sectional at Joliet West High School on Jan. 20. The Warriors will attempt to earn a berth at the IHSA state meet during their sectional performance. The state meet takes place Jan. 26-27 at Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington.

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Broncos extend winning streak to six games

Montini's streak hits six with Saturday's 44-41 home win over Lisle

The Montini Catholic boys basketball team ran its winning streak to six games by reeling off three victories in a four-day span last week.

The Broncos began the week with a 42-34 victory over Chicago's Dunbar Vocational Career Academy in a Jan. 3 game at Lane Tech College Prep High School in Chicago. One day later, Montini earned a 42-32 victory over St. Edward in Elgin. The Broncos' successful week continued with Saturday's 44-41 win over Lisle in Lombard.

Montini improved its overall season record to 8-10 with Saturday's win.

The Broncos began their winning streak by winning their final three games at the IC Catholic Prep/West-

mont Christmas Classic. Montini opened the holiday tournament with a loss to Chicago's Christ the King Jesuit Preparatory School on Dec. 26. The Broncos concluded the event with wins over Reavis, Westmont and IC Catholic Prep. Montini edged the Knights 55-53 in a double-overtime battle on Dec. 30.

Seniors Nick Lombardi and Maddox Shepherd scored 14 points each for the Broncos in last week's victory over Dunbar. The game was part of a shootout between teams from the Chicago Catholic League and the Chicago Public League.

Shepherd scored a team-leading 15 points in Montini's win at St. Edward on Jan. 4. Senior Danny Petersen added seven points for the

Broncos, while junior Drew Church provided six points.

Montini took an early 8-0 lead in Saturday's game against Lisle. The visiting Lions closed the opening quarter with a 6-0 run to cut the Broncos' lead to 15-11 after eight minutes of play. Lisle outscored Montini 13-6 in the second quarter to take a 24-21 halftime lead.

Lisle led Montini 31-26 in the middle of the third quarter. The Broncos closed the quarter with a 5-0 run that evened the score at 31-31 with eight minutes to play. Shepherd's driving basket cut the Lions' lead to 31-28. Church drained a 3-point shot to tie the battle at 31-31 with 2:33 left in the quarter. Neither team scored for the rest of the period.

The Broncos scored the first seven points of the fourth quarter to take a 38-31 lead. Lisle then sank a pair of 3-point attempts to cut Montini's lead to 38-37.

Petersen scored an inside basket to give the Broncos a 40-37 lead with 1:51 to play. Church provided an assist on Petersen's field goal.

Montini junior Jack Barrett made one free throw with 58.6 seconds on the clock. Petersen made one free throw with 30.1 seconds remaining to push the Broncos' lead to 42-39.

Shepherd provided a steal with about 20 seconds left in the game. He made one free throw with 11.8 seconds to play to boost Montini's lead to 43-39. Lisle scored a basket with about four seconds on the clock and called a timeout with 3.3 seconds

remaining.

Barrett made one free throw with six-tenths of a second on the clock. Lisle then missed a desperation shot from well behind the half-court line.

Petersen scored a team-leading 13 points in Saturday's victory. Shepherd scored 11 points, while senior Tyler Pavlik supplied nine points. Church contributed three points with his 3-point basket in the third quarter. Four Broncos—Lombardi, Barrett, junior Max Bell and junior Jake Maquet—scored two points each. Barrett, Bell and Maquet scored their points during the fourth quarter.

Montini's schedule this week includes games against Mount Carmel, Romeoville and St. Laurence. The Broncos will face St. Laurence this Friday in Lombard.

Broncos move to 13-4 following win over Evanston

Matulevicius scores 24 points in Montini's seventh straight win; Kerstein provides 22 points

The Montini Catholic girls basketball team raised its overall season record to 13-4 following Saturday's 68-59 win over Evanston in a Grow the Game Showcase contest at Hinsdale Central High School. The Broncos extended their winning streak to seven games with their victory over the Wildcats.

The Grow the Game Showcase featured several games at multiple sites last week. Saturday morning's contest between Montini and Evanston was the first of seven games played that day at Hinsdale Central.

The Broncos and Evanston were tied at 12-12 after one quarter. The Wildcats led Montini 25-21 late in the second quarter, but the Broncos closed the period with a 7-0 run to take a 28-25 halftime lead. Junior Peyton Farrell scored a basket to begin Montini's 7-0 run.

Senior Victoria Matulevicius delivered a basket for the Broncos that evened the score at 25-25. Junior Nikki Kerstein of Montini closed the first half by stealing the ball, driving down the court and pulling up to connect on a 3-point shot that gave the Broncos their 28-25 halftime lead.

Montini and Evanston were deadlocked at 45-45 at the end of the third quarter. Matulevicius scored 13 of the Broncos' 17 third-quarter points.

Montini opened the fourth quarter with a 6-0 run to take a 51-45 lead. Senior Alyssa Epps scored the Broncos' first basket of the fourth quarter.

Junior Shea Carver provided a rebound and basket to push Montini's lead to 49-45. Kerstein scored to complete the 6-0 run.

Matulevicius added two field goals to help the Broncos boost their lead to 55-47.

Epps drained a corner 3-point shot to boost Montini's lead to 58-48 with five minutes to play.

The Broncos didn't score for almost three minutes after Epps delivered her 3-point shot. Kerstein ended

the scoring drought with a driving basket that gave the Broncos a 60-51 lead with about 2:15 to play. Kerstein added another basket to raise her team's lead to 62-53. Matulevicius made a pair of free throws with 29.1 seconds remaining to extend Montini's lead to 64-57. Kerstein added four free throws—two with 23.5 seconds on the clock and a pair with 14.2 seconds to play.

Matulevicius scored a team-leading 24 points for Montini in Saturday's victory. She also provided six rebounds, five assists and four steals. After scoring 13 points in the third

quarter, Matulevicius delivered six points in the fourth quarter.

Kerstein, who contributed 10 points in the fourth quarter of Saturday's victory, provided 22 points, five rebounds and five assists in the game. Epps and Carver supplied seven and six points, respectively. Farrell and senior Riley White scored four points each, while junior Natalie Gartlan added one point with a second-quarter free throw.

Montini's schedule this week includes home games against Saint Ignace, Providence Catholic and Lake Zurich.



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Montini Catholic's girls basketball team raised its overall season record to 13-4 with Saturday's 68-59 victory over Evanston in a Grow the Game Showcase contest at Hinsdale Central. The Grow the Game Showcase included 29 games at five different area schools. Senior Victoria Matulevicius (No. 5 - above) scored a team-high 24 points for Montini in Saturday's game. She scored 13 points in the third quarter and added six points in the fourth quarter. The Broncos extended their winning streak to seven games with their win over Evanston. Montini's schedule this week includes home games against Saint Ignace, Providence Catholic and Lake Zurich.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Winning Warriors

Willowbrook's girls basketball team raised its West Suburban Gold Conference record to 5-2 with last week's victories over Leyden and Proviso East. The Warriors posted a 52-46 win at Leyden

on Friday. Willowbrook began the second half of its 12-game conference schedule with Saturday's 46-41 victory over Proviso East in Villa Park. Senior Elle Bruschuk (No. 33 - right) provided 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Warriors during Friday's victory. She contributed 14 points and 13 rebounds in Saturday's win over the Pirates. Bruschuk, who is pictured at the free-throw line on Saturday, made three free throws in the last 15 seconds of the game. Willowbrook junior Ayaanl Gusman (No. 10 - above) scored 12 points in Friday's win over the Eagles. Gusman made four 3-point shots and piled up a team-leading 16 points in Saturday's win. She is pictured while launching and making a 3-point shot that broke a 36-36 tie with the Pirates early in the fourth quarter. See story on page 16.



Warriors fall to 6-9 overall after suffering a pair of losses

Powell scores 22 points against Leyden and erupts for 29 points in loss to Hoffman Estates

The Willowbrook boys basketball team fell to 1-3 in West Suburban Gold Conference action following Friday's 76-63 loss to Leyden in Villa Park.

The Warriors' overall season record slipped to 6-9 after Saturday's 70-62 loss to Hoffman Estates at the WSC/MSL (Mid-Suburban League) Challenge at Addison Trail High School.

Willowbrook scored eight 2-point field goals during the first quarter of Friday's conference home game against Leyden. Somehow, the scoreboard showed the Warriors with a 19-16 lead at the end of the first quarter, even though they scored only 16 points during the period. Leyden appeared to make three 3-point shots and score a total of 17 points in the first quarter.

According to the scoreboard, Leyden led the Warriors 38-36 at halftime.

The actual score appeared to

be 39-33, in favor of Leyden. The Eagles led Willowbrook 55-39 at the end of the third quarter, but the scoreboard showed Leyden with a 54-42 lead. The Eagles appeared to beat the Warriors 77-60, but the final score on the scoreboard was 76-63.

Sophomore Otis Powell scored 22 points for the Warriors in Friday's loss to Leyden. Powell scored 14 points during the game's fourth quarter.

He delivered a three-point play with 2:41 remaining in the game to account for his team's final points of the night.

Senior Andrew Ciesinski provided 14 points for Willowbrook in Friday's game against the Eagles. Senior Noah Boyd supplied nine points.

Senior Kenyon Rhodes added six points. Sophomore Jaylen Griffin and junior Filip Palutkiewicz contributed five and four points, respectively.

The Warriors trailed Hoffman Estates 16-15 after one quarter of Saturday's game. Griffin made three shots from 3-point range during the second quarter of the contest, which was tied 33-33 at halftime. Hoffman Estates held a 51-50 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Powell poured in 29 points for Willowbrook during Saturday's game. Griffin supplied 14 points. Rhodes scored eight points, while Palutkiewicz contributed seven points. Ciesinski added four points.

The Warriors' schedule this week includes a non-conference game against Lockport, along with this Friday's conference battle at Proviso East. Willowbrook will play four games at Wheaton Warrenville South's upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Tournament. The Warriors will play two games at the event this Saturday. They will finish the tournament with two more games on Monday, Jan. 15.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors notch a pair of conference wins

Bruschuk scores 20 points in Willowbrook's victory over Leyden;

Gusman delivers 16 points in win over Proviso East

The Willowbrook girls basketball team improved to 9-11 overall and 5-2 in West Suburban Gold Conference play after posting a pair of conference wins in successive days.

The Warriors picked up a 52-46 conference victory at Leyden on Friday. One day later, Willowbrook beat Proviso East 46-41 in a conference battle in Villa Park.

The Warriors, who closed the first half of their conference schedule with Friday's game against Leyden, led the Eagles 19-15 at the end of the first quarter. Willowbrook outscored the Eagles 16-2 in the second quarter to take a 35-17 halftime lead. The Warriors' lead stood at 47-31 at the end of the third quarter.

Senior Elle Bruschuk piled up 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Warriors in Friday's victory at Leyden. Bruschuk made seven of 11 attempts from the free-throw line.

Junior Ayaani Gusman scored 12 points for Willowbrook in Friday's win. Senior Lillian Vish supplied nine points and six rebounds for the Warriors. Juniors Loralai McIntyre and Kendall Medinger contributed four and three points, respectively. Senior Tia Kelly and junior Kristin Woods added two points each.

Proviso East led the Warriors 9-7 after one quarter of Saturday's game in Villa Park. Willowbrook led the Pirates 23-21 at halftime. Proviso East held a 36-35 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Saturday's game was a rematch of a Dec. 5 matchup in Maywood. The Warriors beat the Pirates 53-42 in the teams' first conference meeting of the season.

Vish made one free throw to tie the score at 36-36 with 6:56 left in the game. Gusman drained a

3-point shot to give the Warriors a 39-36 lead with 6:38 to play.

Neither team scored for the next three minutes. Proviso East scored to trim Willowbrook's lead to 39-38 with 3:26 remaining. About one minute later, Proviso East launched and missed a 3-point shot. Gusman grabbed the rebound, drove down

the court and passed the ball to Medinger, who delivered a layup that gave the Warriors a 41-38 lead with 2:19 to play.

The Pirates made one free throw to reduce Willowbrook's lead to 41-39 with 45 seconds on the clock. Moments later, Bruschuk fired a pass to McIntyre, who scored an inside basket to extend the Warriors' lead to 43-39 with 20 seconds to play.

Bruschuk made one free throw with 14.7 seconds remaining. She then sank two free throws with 3.2 seconds left in the game.

Gusman made four shots from 3-point territory and scored a team-high 16 points in Saturday's victory. Bruschuk provided 14 points and 13 rebounds. Medinger supplied five points, while McIntyre contributed four points. Vish scored three points. Seniors Seyna Fall and Kalina Henry provided two points each.

The Warriors' schedule this week includes a non-conference home game against Conant, along with this Saturday's conference battle at Addison Trail.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The photo above from Saturday's game shows Willowbrook junior Kendall Medinger scoring a fourth-quarter basket that gave the Warriors a 41-38 lead.

Willowbrook's boys basketball team faced Leyden in Friday West Suburban Gold Conference game in Villa Park. The visiting Eagles defeated the Warriors 76-63. Willowbrook's conference record fell to 1-3 with the loss. Sophomore Otis Powell (No. 2 - above left) scored a team-leading 22 points for the Warriors in Friday's game. Powell supplied 14 of those points during the fourth quarter. Senior Kenyon Rhodes (No. 1 - above right), who is also pictured during Friday's game, contributed six points for Willowbrook. Powell erupted for 29 points in Saturday's 70-62 loss to Hoffman Estates in game played at Addison Trail High School. Sophomore Jaylen Griffin scored 14 points for the Warriors in Saturday's non-conference loss, which moved the team's overall season record to 6-9. Rhodes provided eight points in Willowbrook's loss to Hoffman Estates.

R Y J H D S V W C H S I G G U L E H
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Answers

PUZZLE 1

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

PUZZLE 2

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

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VOL. 21 • NO. 4

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THURSDAY, JAN. 11, 2024



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

Outstanding Warriors

Twelve Willowbrook High School students were recently recognized as Outstanding Students for the second quarter of the 2023-24 school year. The students were honored during last month's breakfast at the school. Principal Dan Krause and Assistant Principal Jamie Gourley welcomed the students and their families to the event. Staff members who nominated the students for the awards in the school's various departments also attended the breakfast. To be chosen for the award, students must demonstrate extraordinary achievement and outstanding effort. Additionally, students must exhibit a commendable attitude and the ability to overcome obstacles while

maintaining a continuous exemplary performance. Willowbrook's Outstanding Students for the second quarter (pictured left to right) are: (front row) sophomore Eden Camarillo (world languages), sophomore Jalme Johnson (Warrior Resource Center), junior Mia Bauman (English), senior Valeri Rebollo Paniagua (literacy) and sophomore Emily Hanson (art); (back row) sophomore Nicholas Hackett (social studies), freshman Bryce Raffin (physical education), senior Alexander Perry (math), senior Lucia DiTerlizzi (music), junior Thomas Radomski (science), senior Demetri Vourlos (learning services) and senior Joseph Weaver (career and technical education).

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Judge grants state's motion to deny pretrial release for Indiana woman charged with fleeing from police at a high rate of speed

State's motion to detain co-defendant pretrial denied

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Oak Brook Chief of Police Brian Strockis announced that Judge Susan Alvarado granted the state's motion to deny pre-trial release for an Indiana woman accused of fleeing from police and denied the state's motion to detain pretrial a Chicago man who allegedly stole more than \$350 worth of merchandise from the Oak Brook Nike store.



Tikelsha Na'keyta Coleman

Tikelsha Na'keyta Coleman, 29, of Decatur, Indiana, and Daevondre Powell, 25, both appeared in First Appearance Court. Coleman is charged with one count of aggravated fleeing and eluding (Class 4 felony) and Powell is charged with one count of burglary (Class 2 felony), and one count of retail theft (Class 3 felony).

On Saturday, Jan. 6, at approximately 12:30 p.m., officers with the Oak Brook Police Department responded to a call of a retail theft that

had just occurred at the Nike store on 22nd Street.

Following an investigation into the matter, it is alleged that an individual, later identified as Powell, entered the store and selected three pairs of Air Jordan shoes with an approximate value of \$389.

It is alleged that after selecting the shoes, Powell exited the store without paying and entered a car driven by Coleman, who then fled the scene eastbound on 22nd Street.

An Oak Brook police officer who observed the vehicle activated his emergency lights and sirens and initiated pursuit. It is alleged that instead of pulling over, Coleman sped away reaching speeds of approximately 81 mph in a 45-mph zone. It is further alleged that Coleman disobeyed a red light at 22nd Street and Route 83. It is alleged that the pursuit ended on 17th Street in Maywood when Coleman rear-ended a pickup truck.

Coleman was taken into custody at this time.



Daevondre Powell

Powell was taken into custody following a brief foot pursuit.

"With the holiday shopping season now behind us, I want to assure DuPage County residents and businesses that law enforcement's efforts in protecting our County will not diminish," Berlin said. "Regardless of the time of year, if you steal in DuPage County you will be apprehended, charged and prosecuted. What I find particularly disturbing in this case is the allegation that Ms. Coleman attempted to flee the scene at a high rate of speed at one of the busiest intersections in the county in the middle of a Saturday afternoon while the roads were slick with snow. Thankfully, no innocent motorists or pedestrians were injured or killed."

"This arrest is another great example of pro-active policing leading to significant arrests," Strockis said. "Again, the use of effective tactics, technology and teamwork with our partner agencies led to taking these individuals into custody."

The next court appearance for both defendants is scheduled for Jan. 29, for arraignment in front of Judge Michael Reidy.

ComEd reminds residents to beware of scams

Editor's note: ComEd provided the following news release to the Village of Villa Park.

ComEd cares about your safety. We regularly receive reports of individuals posing as ComEd employees. We want to help you be better informed and avoid being the victim of

an energy scam or disconnect-related fraud. Be aware, be prepared!

These imposters may contact you and falsely claim that your electric service will be disconnected unless payment is made. They may instruct you to buy a prepaid credit card and call back to a different phone number

with the personal identification number (PIN) or other personal information. They also use a tactic called "spoofing" to manipulate the Caller ID displayed phone number so that it appears as a ComEd number.

Tips to help you identify energy scams

ComEd will never call or come to your home or business to:

- Threaten to disconnect service
- Sell you electricity
- Ask for direct payment or accept payment through a bogus website, or via a QR Code, with a prepaid cash card, or through a third-party payment app like Cash App, Zelle, Venmo, QuickPay, or cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin. ComEd never collects payments at kiosks that issue prepaid cash cards or cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin.

- Ask for personal information such as a Social Security Number, Tax ID or bank information; we also will not ask for your ComEd account number unless you contact us first to enroll in a program or service.
- Ask to see your energy bill

How you can recognize a ComEd employee

A ComEd field employee may knock on your door if we are unable to access equipment, like our meter or pedestal transformer. You can identify a ComEd employee by:

- Uniform—all ComEd field employees wear a uniform with the blue ComEd logo, including a shirt and safety vest
- ID—employees will be wearing a ComEd ID badge with the logo and employee's first name
- Vehicles—all ComEd vehicles are white with a ComEd logo. ComEd underwent a logo change in 2022, so you may continue to see the red ComEd logo on uniforms, badges and vehicles until it is phased out.

BEWARE! Scammers also may be wearing ComEd clothing and a fake ComEd ID badge. To confirm that someone is really a ComEd employee, simply call 800-EDISON1 (800-334-7661) before engaging with the person. A true ComEd employee is happy to wait while the call is made.

We also ask customers to be wary about sharing the following information:

- ComEd account number
- Passwords to your accounts
- Information on your last payment
- Social Security number
- A copy of your energy bill

Watch out for multiple scams

Different types of scams can occur at any time:

- Telephone and text or smishing scams—smishing is a cyber attack that targets individuals through SMS (Short Message Service) or text messages; the scammer is reluctant to answer questions about the business or the offer or might request that you "confirm your personal information"
- Doorstep criminal scams/in person—examples of this can be switching a customer's account/stealing personal information, or walking a homeowner into the backyard while an accomplice enters the home to steal valuables
- Website/email or phishing scams—these scams will take you to a bogus website and involve a request of payment with gift cards, cryptocurrency or banking apps, or a QR code

Businesses—please be aware of cyber-security threats

Carefully review messages originating from outside your organization's network.

Check the name of the sender and

See SCAMS, Page 8



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook teacher honored

Willowbrook High School English teacher Tara Murphy received the school's Outstanding Teacher award during last month's celebratory breakfast at the school. The same breakfast honored the 12 Willowbrook students who were recognized as Outstanding Students for the second quarter of the current 2023-24 school year. The Brook Catering Co., which is comprised of Willowbrook culinary students, prepared the breakfast. Willowbrook Junior Tamara Alodwan (left) presented the Outstanding Teacher award to Murphy (right) at the event. To earn the award, a staff member must treat teaching as a passion, create a positive learning environment, use a variety of strategies to engage students, be willing to offer extra support, provide prompt and effective feedback to students and relate to and understand students' viewpoints and perspectives.

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Administration:
Chris Fox
News Coordinator

Debra Hamilton
Advertising Director

Pete Cruger
Publisher

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Brenda Garcia
Kate McCarty

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