

DuPage School Districts Offer Free Mental Health Care to Students

CARES Clinics Open to Serve Students and Families

Luann Doman, Local Official

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CARES Clinics offer students up to eight free sessions with a licensed mental health professional. Insurance is not required, and there are little-to-no wait times for appointments. (Shutterstock)

The DuPage Regional Office of Education is pleased to announce the opening of ten CARES Clinics, which provide no-cost, confidential mental health care to students and their families enrolled in participating DuPage school districts. The sessions will take place at off-campus locations after school and on weekends.

CARE is an acronym for Community, Advocacy, Resilience, Engagement, and Support—which are guiding principles of the program. To offset the program costs, the school districts will utilize grant funds they were awarded last year from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

DuPage Regional Superintendent Amber Quirk says the CARE Clinics are an amazing opportunity for families – one she hopes they will take advantage of. “We know many of our students have been struggling since the pandemic,” said Quirk. “The usual process of getting an appointment with a mental healthcare provider can seem insurmountable for families who are low-income, uninsured or under-insured – especially if English is not their first language. The appeal of this program is that because costs are covered by a grant, no insurance is no problem—plus there’s little-to-no wait time for appointments,” explains Quirk.

The challenge of getting mental health care isn’t limited to DuPage County. According to the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, a large majority of Americans (76 percent) believe mental health is just as important as physical health, but limited provider options, long wait times, cost, and poor insurance

coverage are common barriers. In fact, one in four Americans reported having to choose between getting mental health treatment and paying for daily necessities.

However, Quirk is optimistic about this program reaching underserved populations in DuPage County. “A stipulation of the grant money is that equity is promoted and incorporated into the program, so my team at the DuPage Regional Office of Education is facilitating professional development and regular training on health equity for the schools involved,” Quirk said. In addition, school districts have pinpointed the most common non-English languages within their boundaries and have distributed marketing materials in those languages.

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A company called [ReferralGPS](#) is playing a pivotal role in connecting families to the right clinician. Amit Thaker, the founder and CEO, says they have created easy-to-use websites and contracted with 245 clinicians in DuPage County—many of whom are bilingual—to facilitate the care of DuPage students and their families.

“We’re empowering communities to prioritize and nurture their mental wellbeing by streamlining the process of getting mental healthcare,” says Thaker. “To start the process of getting an appointment, parents simply go to the website corresponding to their child’s school district, answer a few questions, and a ReferralGPS representative will arrange an appointment with a clinician.”

To ensure confidentiality, Thaker says clinicians’ offices will not be on school property. “Our goal is to match families with a clinician near the school—or one that works via telehealth if that is more convenient,” explained Thaker.

Quirk has high hopes for the CARE Clinics and the effect they will have on DuPage students. “Indian Prairie School District 204 piloted this program last year, and the results were better than we could have imagined. The clinicians partnering with the schools, as well as ReferralGPS, excel at coming alongside families to provide the necessary tools to navigate challenging situations,” said Quirk.

According to ReferralGPS, the licensed counselors and therapists at the CARES Clinics will compassionately address a wide spectrum of issues including anxiety, depression, trauma, addiction, grief, peer relationships, family dynamics, behavioral issues, anger management, coping skills, mood disorders, and more.

“Our goal,” says Quirk, “is to transform the landscape of mental health care accessibility so our students and their families can get the right help at the right time so they can succeed both in school and in their personal lives.”

Below are the participating school districts and the websites where enrolled families can start the process of getting mental health treatment.

- Bloomingdale School District 13: <https://referralgps.com/13care...>
- Downers Grove Community High School District 99: <https://referralgps.com/99care...>
- DuPage High School District 88 (Addison & Villa Park): <https://referralgps.com/88care...>
- Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205: <https://referralgps.com/205car...>
- Fenton Community High School District 100 (Bensenville): <https://referralgps.com/fenton...>
- Glenbard Township High School District 87 (Glen Ellyn): <https://referralgps.com/87care...>
- Indian Prairie School District 204 (Aurora): <https://referralgps.com/ipsdca...>
- Marquardt School District 15 (Glendale Heights): <https://referralgps.com/15care...>
- Salt Creek School District 48 (Villa Park): <https://referralgps.com/48care...>
- Villa Park School District 45: <https://referralgps.com/45care...>

<https://patch.com/illinois/wheaton/dupage-school-districts-offer-free-mental-health-care-students>

Addison Trail Business Education teacher honored by CTE

On Thursday, Feb. 29, Addison Trail Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher Stacey Puccini was named as one of the regional CTE Instructors of the Year for Business Education.

Puccini was selected by District 88, in partnership with College of DuPage (COD) and DuPage Area Occupational Education System (DAOES). She was honored and recognized for demonstrating innovation, passion and advocacy for CTE. "Puccini's ability to connect with students, understand their unique needs and foster a sense of belonging is truly commendable," said Jennifer Kowalski, AT CTE Department Head. "Not only has Puccini provided students with career-exploration experiences outside of the classroom, she brings the world into the classroom by inviting distinguished guest speakers. Through these interactions, students gain insights into different careers, learn about industry trends and are inspired by successful professionals. Puccini has successfully bridged the gap between education and the professional world and has provided students with a comprehensive understanding of their chosen paths. Even with doing all of that, Puccini also has found the time to incorporate more dual-credit classes into our program."



Pictured is Addison Trail Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher Stacey Puccini (center), who was named as one of the regional CTE Instructors of the Year for Business Education on Feb. 29. She is pictured with Addison Trail CTE Department Head Jennifer Kowalski (left) and District 88 Superintendent Dr. Jean Barbanente.

Addison Trail Guidance Department hosts annual Evening College Fair

On March 6, the Addison Trail Guidance Department hosted its annual Evening College Fair. The event

was open to all District 88 families and community members, including students/families from surrounding

high schools.

Participants were able to speak with representatives from more

than 60 colleges/universities located throughout the U.S., ask questions and learn more about each campus, including the admissions process and requirements.

The purpose of the event was to help students plan for their next steps after high school and find success in their post-secondary education.

Addison District 4 online kindergarten registration for fall 2024 now under way

Online kindergarten registration in Addison District 4 for children who will be five years old before Sept. 1, 2024, and live within the boundaries of the district is now open.

• If you have a child entering kindergarten in the fall of 2024 and you're interested in learning more about the dual language program, there will be a parental informational meeting about the program from 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, at the Door-19 Board Room at Indian Trail Junior High, 222 North J.F. Kennedy Drive.

• In addition, a kindergarten carnival will be held from 4-8 p.m. Thursday, May 16, at Indian Trail.

For more information on the above programs, and kindergarten registration, visit: www.asd4.org/registration.



ADDISON TRAIL JUNIOR YESICA ALVAREZ, SOPHOMORE DANIELA HERNANDEZ AND JUNIOR VALENTINA URIBE GONZALEZ SPEAK WITH KATE ROMANAGGI FROM WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY DURING ADDISON TRAIL'S EVENING COLLEGE FAIR ON MARCH 6.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

District 88 thanks staff members for their response during incident at Willowbrook

The District 88 Board of Education recently recognized and thanked three buildings and grounds staff members for their response to extinguish a fire that started in a dryer at Willowbrook High School during the school day on Feb. 16. Pictured left to right at the board's Feb. 26 meeting are Issa Daou, Victor Noyola and Keith Ryan. "Their quick response helped ensure the safety and well-being of everyone on campus and minimized damage to the building," related a statement issued by the district. The Villa Park Fire Department responded to the high school at 12:52 p.m. on Feb. 16. Firefighters responded to an activated fire alarm and encountered smoke coming from a doorway on the west side of the building. The staff members met the firefighters and told them they used several fire extinguishers to put out a fire in a commercial clothes dryer. Firefighters then used several ventilation fans to evacuate the smoke from the area. "The board and administration are incredibly grateful to Ryan, Daou and Noyola—as well as the Villa Park, Lombard, York Center and Elmhurst fire departments—who assisted with the situation," the district's statement added. "We were able to evacuate the building quickly, and there were no injuries," stated District 88 Superintendent Jean Barbanente while recognizing the three staff members during the Feb. 26 board meeting. Barbanente noted that the three staff members' actions helped to contain the fire to just the dryer. "On behalf of the administration, on behalf of the board, thank you for the incredible response," she said. Moments later, District 88 Board President Donna Craft Cain presented certificates of appreciation to Ryan, Daou and Noyola. Ryan noted that he and his fellow staff members recently received refresher training on using fire extinguishers during an in-service day. On March 1, Villa Park Fire Chief Steve Stapleton and Villa Park Deputy Fire Chief Brandon Mitsuka visited Willowbrook to recognize Ryan, Daou and Noyola. Stapleton gave the three men certificates of appreciation from the fire department.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

INSIDE:

Opinion.....4 Police.....8
Speak Out.....5 Sports.....16-17

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D'Onofrio named 88's Best for February

Willowbrook High School senior Antoinette D'Onofrio was recently named her school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of February. D'Onofrio, who is a Villa Park resident, was recognized during the District 88 Board of Education's Feb. 26 meeting. She is pictured (right) at that meeting with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause (left). The 88's Best award recognizes students at Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools for their achievements in and out of the classroom. D'Onofrio is an academic standout in Willowbrook's Class of 2024. She is an Inductee of the National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society, the World Language Honor Society, the Math Honor Society, the Science Honor Society and Willowbrook's social studies honor society—Civitas. D'Onofrio is an Illinois State Scholar, and she's been named to Willowbrook's Distinction Honor Roll each semester of her time in high school. D'Onofrio is a member of the school's student council. She's also a leader in the New Beginnings program, which assists freshmen with the transition into high school. D'Onofrio is an officer in the Best Buddies program, which promotes inclusivity for students with physical and/or intellectual disabilities. Additionally, she formed her own club at Willowbrook—VIDA—for students with a shared passion for Spanish language and culture. That club has more than 85 members. D'Onofrio volunteers at Elmhurst Hospital, and she is a lifeguard for the Oak Brook Park District. D'Onofrio will attend the University of Iowa. She plans to pursue a career as a physician assistant.

Giannoulas makes 130-plus languages available on website

Language translations make programs and services more accessible

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas is now offering over 130 languages on the office's website to help ensure that Illinoisans whose primary language is not English can access critical information and resources in their preferred language.

"Language should never serve as a barrier to attaining equal access to essential government services," Giannoulas said.

"Since Day One, I've been focused on modernizing the office and by utilizing technology, we've made our website fully available to those

who understand one of more than 130 of the world's languages."

A list of all the languages available can be viewed here at www.ilsos.gov/news/2024/march/240307d1-at-tach.pdf.

Users can choose any available language to perform any task offered on the website, including renewing a driver's license or obtaining a vehicle sticker.

Powered by Google Translate, the website enhancements are one part of Giannoulas' multi-pronged approach to modernizing the office and will ensure accessibility to the

increased number of services offered under Giannoulas' Skip-the-Line and Do-it-Online programs.

Beginning in September of last year, the office's Skip-the-Line program launched appointment scheduling to shorten lines and wait times at the state's busiest DMVs and implemented "Senior-Only" walk-in facilities for older Illinoisans who may encounter difficulty while attempting to schedule an appointment.

The Do-it-Online program built on the success of the Skip-the-Line program, making more services readily accessible online.

VFW Post 2801 to hold Friday Fish Fry dinners during Lent

Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 is holding its Friday Fish Fry dinners each Friday during Lent.

The dinners will run from 5 to 8 p.m. at the post, which is located at 39 E. St. Charles Road. The post is open to the public.

The first of this year's dinners at the post took place on Feb. 16. The dinners will continue each Friday through March 29.

Each dinner includes fries or a baked potato, as well as cole slaw, coffee and dessert. Children 3 and under eat for free.

The post's menu includes beer-battered lake perch, beer-battered walleye, shrimp (eight pieces), a fish and shrimp combo, hot dogs, grilled cheese sandwiches and macaroni and cheese.

Willowbrook's Music Booster Club to hold Trivia Night on April 6

Deadline to register is April 1

The Willowbrook High School Music Booster Club will hold its 10th annual Trivia Night on Saturday, April 6. The event will begin at 6 p.m. at the school.

The deadline to register is Monday, April 1.

Willowbrook students, parents, guardians, alumni, staff, community members and friends are invited to participate. Teams of eight to 10 players are recommended. All players must be at least 13 years old or currently in eighth grade. Food and drinks are allowed, but alcohol is prohibited.

The entry fee is \$100 per team. For teams of 10 to 15 players, the entry fee is \$150. Proceeds will go toward scholarships, grants and other music department needs.

Trivia Night will feature raffles and prizes, including a prize for the team with the best theme. Teams are encouraged to be creative, decorate their table and dress in costumes.

Send an email to info@wbmusicboosters.org for more information.

DuPage County, Morton Arboretum partnering on tree planting initiative

The DuPage County Division of Transportation (DuDOT) will remove invasive species from a portion of the Illinois Prairie Path this spring and replace them with oak trees.

The county recently received an Oak Ecosystems grant from Morton Arboretum and Nicor Gas to fund a pilot project designed to grow new native plants and trees on the path in the area northwest of the intersection of Diversey Parkway and Wiant Road.

"We are pleased to be a part of this effort to reforest the Prairie Path with native species, including a new generation of majestic oak trees. We are grateful to our partners with the Morton Arboretum and Nicor Gas for their help to enhance our landscape for decades," said Mary FitzGerald Ozog, Chair of the county's Transportation Committee.

The first stage is to remove invasive species, including European buckthorn and Japanese Honeysuckle, which degrade environmental health, reduce trail user visibility, and encroach on clear zones where trail users can safely step off the path. Roughly two acres of wooded, invasive trees will be cut

flush to the ground and removed from along the Prairie Path. The cut stumps will be treated with an herbicide application to kill the plants.

"Invasive trees and shrubs represent a staggering 45 percent of Chicago-region trees," said Melissa Custic, Morton Arboretum's Chicago Region Trees Initiative interim director and operations manager. "Woody invasive plants such as buckthorn wreak havoc on our oak and other native ecosystems. Collaborative work like this to manage invasive species is extremely important for the health of our regional forest and native habitats."

DuDOT staff are trained by certified arborists to prune native tree species in accordance with vegetation management best practices, as well as invasive species removal techniques. No healthy trees will be removed, and no removals will take place on private property. The second stage of the project will involve tree planting. The county has selected three different species of oak trees to be planted in this area. Removal of invasive species is expected to begin in March and planting will begin in April or May.

Police Reports

The Villa Park Police Department recently reported the following arrests and citations.

Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a conviction, and that suspects are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Persons charged with domestic battery are not named in order to protect the privacy of victims.

Juveniles age 17 or younger are not named.

March 4

Police said Christian E. Cazarez, 22 (residence not given), surrendered at the Villa Park Police Department on a warrant out of Will County. He was processed and transported to the DuPage County Jail.

A complainant in the 200 block of N. 3rd reported at 7:27 p.m. that several subjects threw items at his vehicle, causing damage to the front passenger-side door and the rear driver-side door.

March 3

Jennifer Sandoval, 24, of Elgin, was charged with DUI, stopping,

parking or standing on a roadway and no insurance near North and Ardmore at 3:38 a.m.

A victim at a restaurant in the 600 block of W. North reported at 1:03 a.m. that an unknown suspect battered her while she was working.

March 2

A victim at a saloon in the 300 block of E. Kenilworth was battered while at the bar. The incident was reported at 2:52 a.m.

A subject in the 1-100 block of E. North reported their vehicle was keyed while it was parked unattended.

A suspect at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83 removed alcohol from a display shelf and left the store without paying full retail value for the items. Security personnel stopped the suspect, who then dropped the alcohol and fled on foot.

March 1

A complainant in the 1400 block of S. Monterey reported they are receiving harassing telephone calls.

Feb. 29

Michael Savoia, 48, of Elmhurst, was charged with criminal damage to property in the 1500 block of S. Monterey at 12:20 p.m.

A juvenile brought a folding knife to a school in the 300 block of W. Jackson and showed it to a friend during the school day. No threat was made. That evening, there was a report at 7:57 p.m. of students fighting at a dance at the same school.

A complainant in the 200 block of E. Division advised of receiving harassing telephone calls.

Feb. 28

Police said Jasmine N. Lomeli, 30, of Villa Park, was arrested and transported to DuPage County Jail for an in-jurisdiction warrant out of DuPage County in the 200 block of N. 3rd at 1:49 a.m.

Identity theft, fraud, forgery

According to information provided by the Villa Park Police Department, police reported two incidents of identity theft or fraud.

Sports

Girls flag football to debut as an IHSA sport in the fall of 2024

Willowbrook will join over 100 other schools to compete in the inaugural state series

The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) recently announced that girls flag football is now a sanctioned sport in the state.

According to the IHSA, girls flag football will be the latest sport to debut an IHSA state series, and the association will conduct its inaugural post-season in the sport later this year, with an IHSA state champion being crowned in the fall of 2024.

The inaugural IHSA girls flag football state finals will take place on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 18-19, 2024.

"The addition of girls flag football furthers the IHSA mission of creating participation opportunities for high school students in Illinois," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. "The sport has experienced significant growth in a short amount of time, and our member schools are excited to see it become an IHSA sport."

Willowbrook High School formed its girls flag football program two years ago. The Warriors delivered successful campaigns in each of their first two seasons.

The Chicago Public League and the Chicago Bears joined together to host state championship events at the Bears' Halas Hall facility in 2022 and 2023. The Warriors won the 2022 state title. They defeated Chicago's Taft High School 20-0 in the championship game in October 2022 to complete their inaugural season with a perfect 9-0 record.

Willowbrook's 2023 team advanced to the semifinals of the state event at Halas Hall in Lake Forest. After losing in the semifinal round, the Warriors defeated Guilford High School of Rockford to win the event's third-place trophy.

The IHSA Board of Directors approved the girls flag football state series during their regularly scheduled meeting on Feb. 5. The IHSA will offer a state series in 40 total sports and activities during the 2024-25 school year.

The IHSA related that it has commitments from over 100 schools to participate in the inaugural girls flag football state series in 2024, while nearly 40 other schools have expressed that they anticipate fielding a team in 2025.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Rock Valley Public

Willowbrook High School senior Emma Anderlik was recently named a recipient of the Chicago Bears Girls Flag Football Changemaker Scholarship. Anderlik, who is a Lombard resident, was recognized during last month's National Football Foundation Awards ceremony at the Bears' Halas Hall in Lake Forest. This is the first year the award has been presented. Anderlik was one of three recipients of a scholarship. The catalyst for the award was the Bears' 2023 Inspire Change Changemaker Award II was given to Juliana Zavala for her partnership with the Bears on girls flag football. Zavala, the senior manager of elementary sports for Chicago Public Schools, was awarded \$10,000 to give to a cause of her choice. Together with the Bears, she decided to create the Changemaker Scholarship. The Bears added another \$5,000, so three student-athletes could be named. Zavala and Gustavo Silva, who is a manager of youth and high school football for the Bears, selected three young ladies based on their experiences and background working with girls flag football since it started in the state in 2021. One photo shows Anderlik (No. 1) in action during the Warriors' 2023 season. The Chicago Public League and the Chicago Bears hosted state championship events in girls flag football in 2022 and 2023. Anderlik led the Warriors to the 2022 state title. She helped Willowbrook to the third-place trophy in the 2023 state event at Halas Hall. In February, the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) announced that girls flag football is now a sanctioned sport in the state. The inaugural IHSA state series in girls flag football will take place in the fall of 2024.



Warriors finish fourth at the Bud Swanson Invite McBride earns a victory in the high jump

The Willowbrook girls track and field team earned a fourth-place finish in Friday's Bud Swanson Invitational at Glenbard North High School in Carol Stream.

Naperville North won the title in the eight-team indoor invite with its first-place total of 129 points. Glenbard North placed second with 97 points, while St. Charles North claimed third with 90 points.

Willowbrook posted a fourth-place total of 89 points. Addison Trail landed in fifth place with 48 points.

Senior Mia McBride delivered a first-place performance for the Warriors in the high jump. McBride cleared 4 feet, 11¾ inches in her best

jump of the invite. She also placed second in the pole vault, clearing 8 feet in her best attempt.

McBride turned in a fifth-place effort in the triple jump. She covered 31 feet, 2¾ inches in her best jump of the day.

McBride also turned in a ninth-place time of 10.51 seconds in the 55-meter hurdles.

Willowbrook freshman McKenzie Edison ran to a pair of second-place finishes in Friday's meet. Edison sprinted to one of those second-place finishes in the 55-meter dash, which she completed in 7.57 seconds. She also placed second in the 200-meter dash, which she finished in 27.66 seconds.

Junior Olivia Gwaltney of the Warriors finished just behind Edison in 55-meter dash. Gwaltney completed the race in a third-place time of 7 seconds.

Willowbrook sophomore Angela Popoca finished second in 3,200-meter run at Friday's invite. Glenbard North. Popoca finished the race in 13 minutes, 4.19 seconds.

Junior Holly Harris provided Warriors with a third-place finish in the 800-meter run, which she completed in 2 minutes, 38.03 seconds. Junior Molly Brown of Willowbrook finished seventh in the same event, which

See **WARRIORS** Page

Warriors take second at Raptor Last Chance Invite

Weder wins high jump; Royal prevails in triple jump; Skibbie races to victory in 1,600-meter run.

Willowbrook's boys track and field team finished second in the standings of Saturday's Raptor Last Chance Invite at Rich Township High School in Richton Park.

Lincoln-Way West won the title at the nine-team indoor invite with its score of 166 points. Willowbrook compiled a second-place total of 147 points. Thornton Township High School placed third with 94 points.

The Warriors' individual champions in Saturday's invite included junior Jake Skibbie, who raced to a victory in the 1,600-meter run. Skibbie finished the race in a winning time of 4 minutes, 50.84 seconds. He edged his teammate—senior Declan Abercrombie—who produced a second-place time of 4 minutes, 53.08 seconds.

Senior Evan Weder of Willowbrook delivered a first-place effort in the high jump at Saturday's invite. Weder

cleared 6 feet and ¾ of an inch in his best jump of the day. Sophomore Otis Powell of the Warriors finished third in the high jump. Powell cleared 5 feet, 9 inches at the invite.

Willowbrook junior Jaden Royal sailed to a first-place finish in the triple jump on Saturday. Royal traveled 42 feet, 1 inch on his best jump of the invite. Powell landed in second place in the triple jump. His finest jump of the day covered 40 feet, 11¼ inches.

The Warriors won a pair of relay races at Saturday's meet. Willowbrook's foursome of Weder, senior Liam Moran, senior Samuel McNeilly and junior Matt Orlowski won the 4 x 400-meter relay in a winning time of 3 minutes, 38.64 seconds.

McNeilly teamed with Skibbie, junior Kasen Blain and sophomore Evan Haworth to win the 4 x 800-meter relay in a first-place time of 8 minutes,

35.78 seconds.

Blain contributed a third-place finishing time of 2 minutes, 6.93 seconds in the 800-meter run. Senior Alex Perry of Willowbrook turned in an eighth-place time of 2 minutes, 26.63 seconds in the same event.

Junior Adriano Quintero and sophomore Miteku Branch provided the Warriors with top-five finishes in the 3,200-meter run. Quintero completed the race in a third-place time of 10 minutes, 33.37 seconds. Branch delivered a fourth-place time of 10 minutes, 43.8 seconds.

Weder posted a second-place time of 54.64 seconds in the 400-meter run. Freshman Jorge Rosales of the Warriors finished fourth in the 400-meter run, which he completed in 55.53 seconds.

Willowbrook sophomore Hayden Roscoe completed the 60-meter hur-

dles in a seventh-place time of 10.12 seconds. Sophomore Lukas Sanchez of the Warriors finished the race in a ninth-place time of 11.12 seconds.

The Warriors' 4 x 200-meter relay team of Powell, senior Joe Hanson, junior Jordan Pate and junior Jaylin Miller raced to a second-place finish. The foursome completed the race in 1 minute, 36.08 seconds.

Two Warriors—junior Liam McBride and sophomore Anthony Leo—finished third and fourth, respectively,

• Warriors (Continued from page 16)

covered in 2:47.07.

Junior Elena Bullivant of the Warriors finished seventh in the 400-meter run, which she completed in 1 minute, 7.23 seconds. Freshman Grace Mamolella of Willowbrook finished the 1,600-meter run in a 10th-place time of 6 minutes, 19.18 seconds.

The Warriors' 4 x 400-meter relay team of Bullivant, Harris, junior Camryn Dooley and junior Malin Meeker ran to a second-place finish. The four juniors completed the relay in 4 minutes, 41.68 seconds.

Harris, Brown and Mamolella joined junior Amelie Ojeda to post a third-place time of 11 minutes, 1.44 seconds in the 4 x 800-meter relay.

Junior Mckenzie Alandy, Dooley, Edison and freshman Janell Adams teamed up to earn a third-place finish in the 4 x 160-meter relay. The foursome completed the relay in 1 minute, 28.95 seconds.

Alandy teamed with Dooley, Meeker and senior Iman Elcock to finish the 4 x 240-meter relay in a fifth-place time of 2 minutes, 33.01 seconds.

Junior Emily Hogan of the Warriors placed fourth in the shot put at Friday's invitational. Her best effort of the day covered 31 feet, 7¼ inches. Junior Iryae' Watts of Willowbrook finished sixth in the shot put. Her best throw of the invite carried 30 feet, 5 inches.

Alandy finished fourth in the long jump. She sailed 15 feet and ¼ of an inch in her best jump of the invite. Elcock, who covered 14 feet, 10¼ inches in her best jump of the day, posted a sixth-place finish.

Junior Grace Capps of the Warriors finished sixth in the high jump and seventh in the triple jump. She cleared 4 feet in her best effort of the day in the high jump. Her best attempt in the triple jump covered 29 feet, 6¼ inches.

Greaves sprints to a victory in the 55-meter hurdles

Addison Trail senior Brooke Greaves ran to a victory in the 55-meter hurdles, which she completed in a first-place time of 8.58 seconds. Senior Natalie Lupa of the Blazers finished fifth in the race with her time of 9.67 seconds.

Greaves and Lupa teamed up with senior Jackie Tecuanhuehue and freshman Dasia Birmingham to win the 4 x 160-meter relay. The foursome completed the race in 1 minute, 27.16 seconds.

Birmingham joined senior Aniyah Walker, sophomore Leyla Mahmud-

ovich and junior Sandra Olascoaga to post a third-place time of 4 minutes, 43.89 seconds in the 4 x 400-meter relay.

Olascoaga teamed with junior Katelyn Ford, freshman Danielle Marcinkowski and sophomore Zuzanna Kwasiński to deliver a fourth-place time of 11 minutes, 7.41 seconds in the 4 x 800-meter relay.

Kwasiński ran to a third-place finish in the 1,600-meter run, which she completed in 5 minutes, 51.45 seconds.

Senior Monserrat Abarca of the Blazers earned a fourth-place finish in the 3,200-meter run, which she completed in 14 minutes, 9.03 seconds.

Ford posted a fifth-place time of 2 minutes, 39.68 seconds in the 800-meter run.

The Warriors and Blazers will both compete in this week's West Suburban Gold Conference Indoor Meet at Morton High School's west campus.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE
CERTIFICATE NO. 79355 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on FEBRUARY 20, 2024, wherein the business firm of JENNIFER COLLANDER FINE ART, 918 MARYKNOLL CIR., GLEN ELYN, IL 60137 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address(es), is/are as follows:
Jennifer Collander, 918 Maryknoll Cir., Glen Elyn, IL 60137.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 20TH day of FEBRUARY, A.D. 2024.

Jean Kaczmarek
DuPage County Clerk
(Published in The Lombardian
Feb. 29, March 7 & 14, 2024)
451548

NOTICE
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INSIDE:

Opinion.....4 Police8
Speak out.....5 Sports.....14, 15, 18

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Getting wet to help Special Olympics Illinois athletes

Administrators and staff members from Willowbrook High School joined members of the Villa Park Police Department to take part in Saturday afternoon's 2024 Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Illinois. Participants in the event took a brief plunge in an outdoor pond at the Oak Brook Bath and Tennis Club. The plungers caught a break from Mother Nature on Saturday, when temperatures reached the mid-50s. The Polar Plunge is a fundraiser for Special Olympics Illinois athletes. The team that included members of the Villa Park Police Department and Willowbrook/District 88 staff raised over \$2,500. Pictured left to right before taking the plunge on Saturday are: Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause, Villa Park Police Officer Kordell Kitching, Willowbrook School Resource Officer Ernie Perez, Villa Park Police Detective D.J. Giammarino, Willowbrook dean of students Malcolm Ross, Willowbrook special education teacher Niklas Zimmermann and Willowbrook assistant to student services Yesenia Ocana.



Jane Charmelo

out & about

Village of Lombard offers drug take-back program Police department drop-box open weekdays, weekends

The Lombard Police Department had participated in the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Take Back Day, when residents could safely dispose of unneeded medications, and according to Kim Tuttle, an evidence custodian with the Lombard Police Department, residents last year were asking the village to provide more opportunities to drop off medications.

"It used to be annually," she explained of the DEA event. "The drug take-back day was always a success." "Residents were asking to have it available more," she narrated, adding that Lombard's program began in 2023, and has replaced the village's participation in the annual DEA take-back event.

Deputy Police Chief Joe Grace echoed that residents were asking for a drug disposal container to be available at the police station, so "I thought I would look into it."

"I looked into the [ongoing] programs that other departments had,"

he recalled.

Grace found that other municipalities were providing drug take-back containers, and also, he realized that on the day of the annual DEA Take Back Day, it was a busy one for Tuttle.

"That was her project for the day," he added with a chuckle.

Grace related that he found out offering a drug take-back program would not cost the police department any money, as it is being paid for by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

He said that once the police department administration was on board, "We became active relatively quickly."

Items accepted include prescription (including controlled substances) and over-the-counter medications; medication samples; pet medications; medicated ointments, lotions, creams and oils; liquid medication in leak-proof containers; and inhalers in a sealed container or bag.

Not accepted are needles/sharps, syringes with needles, thermometers, IV bags, bloody or infectious waste, personal care products, vitamins and supplements, homeopathic remedies, aerosol cans, batteries, empty medical devices and containers, illicit drugs and hydrogen peroxide.

Tuttle said the drugs are shipped to North Carolina-based Inmar Intelligence. There is a strict protocol to collect the items for shipment, such as requiring two individuals to open up the container to retrieve the drugs.

Grace also mentioned that there are strict chain-of-custody guidelines, as well as shipping the items in "tamper-evident sealing." Additionally, there is nothing that identifies what is in the boxes.

Since November of last year, there were "just over 100 pounds that we've collected," Tuttle said.

According to the village, "Drug disposal boxes provide safe collection and disposal of drugs as another means of minimizing the cycle of

prescription drug abuse and addiction."

"Additionally, the proper disposal of prescription medications is environmentally friendly as it prevents medications from entering the water supply by tossing them in the trash or flushing them down the toilet," a village description explains.

"It's quite a hit. People were thankful. Having it in there, it surprised me!" Tuttle summed up.

Grace also noted: "There is a lot of stuff that comes in," adding of the program, "It just seemed like the right thing to do."

The drop-off box is available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on weekends from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lombard Police Department, 235 E. Wilson, Lombard.

For more information, visit <https://www.villageoflombard.org/539/Prescription-Drug-Drop-Box>, which has a link to a sharps/needles disposal page, as well as a link to request a free, pre-paid, pre-addressed mail-back package.

prevents poisoning of children and pets; deters misuse; avoids health problems by accidentally taking the wrong medication, or too much, or is outdated; and it keeps medications from entering streams and rivers after being poured down a drain or flushed down a toilet.

"Water treatment plants are generally not equipped to routinely remove medicines," according to the EPA, so drugs "may flow downstream to serve as sources for community drinking water supplies."

The EPA recommends taking medications to a drug take-back program, but if that is not feasible, mix drugs with "undesirable substances" such as used coffee grounds or cat litter, then put that in a disposable container with a lid, such as an empty margarine tub or sealable bag before placing it in the trash.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also recommends following the doctor's or pharmacist's instructions for disposing of medications, and agrees that a drug take-back program is "the best disposal option."

On its website, [fda.gov](https://www.fda.gov), you can follow links to find out which drugs are on the "flush list."

Disposing of drugs properly is important

The EPA says proper disposal of expired or unwanted medication



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors kick off their season

Willowbrook's girls soccer team began its season by winning one of three home matches that were all part of Reavis High School's 32-team Windy City Ram Classic. The Warriors opened the event with a 2-0 loss to Lemont in Villa Park on March 12. Lemont scored both of its goals in the second half. On March 14, Willowbrook defeated Oak Forest 1-0. Freshman Lilili Macias of the Warriors broke a scoreless tie when she scored an unassisted goal with a little less than five minutes left in the second half. In their third match of the tournament, the Warriors suffered a 3-1 loss to Mother McAuley on Saturday. Macias scored an unassisted first-half goal to give the Warriors a 1-0 lead. Mother McAuley netted three goals during the second half. Macias (No. 4 - above left) is pictured during Saturday's match. Junior Emily Barth (No. 6 - above middle) and senior Grace Soltys (No. 3 - above right) of the Warriors are also pictured in action on Saturday. Willowbrook will open its West Suburban Gold Conference season with a home match against Morton on April 2.



VILLAGE OF LOMBARD PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The Village of Lombard has a drug "take-back" container located on the municipal campus inside the police station. The program started last year after residents asked the village to provide a permanent container, instead of just participating once a year in a Drug Enforcement Administration-backed (DEA) drug take-back day.

Coming events

Wine Down Thursday with Lombard Chamber March 28

Join us for a special Wine Down on Thursday, March 28, from 4-6 p.m. at the Lombard Historical Society, 23 W. Maple St. While we will still be enjoying casual conversation and networking, we will also be hearing from Alison Costanzo, executive director of the Lombard Historical Society, about upcoming exhibits and events at the society. There is no cost, and we will offer some refreshments and light appetizers. You may even want to bring your own choice

of drink, if you so desire. We look forward to seeing you there. Visit lombardchamber.com to register.

U of I Extension offers Gardeners Corner newsletter

The University of Illinois Extension offers the *Gardeners Corner*, a quarterly newsletter with a variety of topics, at extension.illinois.edu/newsletters/gardeners-corner.

Egg Hunt, brunch at Cantigny March 24

Easter Egg Hunt - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hundreds of plastic eggs are scattered in the park for this colorful rain or shine tradition. The format is "open house" with eggs replenished throughout the day. Participants can redeem five eggs for a prize (one per child). Egg hunters should bring a bag or basket. This is a free activity. Outdoor concessions will be available, including hearty hot sandwiches and a Bloody Mary and Mimosa bar for adults. Visit Cantigny.org for details on Brunch Buffet at Le Jardin, Photos with Mr. and Mrs. Bunny, Children's Craft, and "Hop" movie. Parking is \$5 per car.

•Warriors

(Continued from page 10)

Willowbrook juniors Isabella Santillan and Rosemary Kling finished seventh and eighth, respectively, in the 3,200-meter run. Santillan completed the race in 14 minutes, 22.69 seconds, edging Kling, who posted a time of 14:22.91.

Junior Emily Hogan of the Warriors finished second in the shot put. Her best attempt of the meet covered 33 feet, 5/4 inches. Willowbrook

junior Iryae' Watts secured a third-place finish in the shot put. Her best throw of the meet traveled 32 feet, 3 3/4 inches.

McBride provided the Warriors with fourth-place finishes in the pole vault and the triple jump. She cleared 8 feet, 6 inches in the pole vault at the conference meet. McBride sailed 32 feet, 11 inches in her best effort of the meet in the triple jump.

Dooley finished second in the long jump. She covered 16 feet, 1 3/4 inches in her best attempt of the conference meet. Alandy, who traveled 15 feet and 1/4 of an inch during her finest attempt, posted a seventh-place finish in the long jump.

Capps contributed an eighth-place finish in the triple jump. Her best attempt of the meet covered 29 feet, 7 inches.



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HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Holy Thursday, March 28:
Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7 PM
Night Prayer, 11:45 PM

Good Friday, March 29
Celebration of the Passion, 3 PM
Stations of the Cross, 7 PM

Holy Saturday, March 30
Easter Food Blessing, Noon
Easter Vigil, 7:15 PM

Easter Sunday, March 31
Masses at: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 AM

Confessions:
Saturday: 3-3:45 PM
Sunday: 5-5:45 PM

Adoration:
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7:00 PM Good Friday
Evening Service, March 29

Easter Service & Children's
Easter Party, March 31
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Good Friday Tenebrae
7:00pm, March 29
Easter Festival 10:15am, March 31

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Sunday Worship at 10:15 am

Sunday School & Bible Study 9am

Wednesday Service at 7pm

Ladies Bible Fellowship Mondays at
6:30pm

Saturday, March 23 Game Night at 4pm

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Warriors play to a draw in 2024 season opene

Willowbrook moves to 1-0-1 after beating Bartlett

The Willowbrook baseball team began its 2024 season with a 1-1 tie against Glenbard East in a March 12 contest in Villa Park. One day later, the Warriors defeated Bartlett 8-2 in a game played at Lee Pfund Stadium at Legion Field in Carol Stream.

Willowbrook scored in the bottom of the fourth inning to take a 1-0 lead over the Rams in last week's battle, which was played in warm conditions in front of a large audience. Senior Aiden Baerenklau tripled but was later thrown out at home while trying to score on a groundball by sophomore Jory Crocker. Junior Sam Marrese singled to drive in Crocker.

Senior Dylan Jenkins pitched five scoreless innings for Willowbrook in

the season opener against Glenbard East. He recorded seven strikeouts while giving up three hits. He didn't issue any walks.

Senior Owen Riesen of the Warriors pitched a scoreless sixth inning against the Rams. Senior Ryan Knebel pitched the seventh inning



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS/Rock Valley Publishing
Willowbrook's baseball team began its 2024 season with last week's home game against Glenbard East. The game ended in a 1-1 tie after seven innings. Junior Sam Marrese (No. 3 - left) drove in the Warriors' only run of the game with a single in the bottom of the fourth inning. Glenbard East tied the score at 1-1 in the top of the seventh inning. Senior Owen Riesen (No. 23 - above) of the Warriors is pictured while firing a pitch in the top of the sixth inning of the March 12 contest. Umpires declared the game over due to darkness at the end of the seventh inning. One day after facing Glenbard East, Willowbrook defeated Bartlett 8-2 in a game played in Carol Stream.

and struck out three Glenbard East batters.

The Rams scored the tying run with two outs in the top of the seventh inning. A throw from the catcher to first base, in an attempt to pick off a runner, went into right field, allowing a runner to score from second base.

After Willowbrook failed to score in the bottom of the seventh inning, the game was called due to darkness.

Baerenklau went 1-for-4 and drove in two runs in the Warriors'

8-2 win over Bartlett on March 13. Junior Martin Anfinson also went 1-for-4 with two runs batted in. Junior Ryan Bannon went 2-for-3 and scored one run.

Sophomore Bobby Biggs pitched two and two-third innings for the Warriors in the March 13 contest against Bartlett. He struck out five batters and allowed two hits and four walks. Biggs didn't give up any earned runs.

Sophomore Noah Edison pitched three and one-third innings in relief

and earned the win for Willow. He recorded three strikeouts allowing one hit and two walks didn't give up any earned runs.

Crocker pitched a scoreless ninth inning for the Warrior struck out two Bartlett batters.

Willowbrook's schedule this includes games at Montini Ca and Glenbard South.

The Warriors will head south week to spend their spring break in Tennessee, where they will play triple games.

Warriors post a second-place finish at their indoor conference mee

The Willowbrook boys track and field team finished second in last week's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet, which took place at Proviso West High School on March 14.

Downers Grove South won the championship at the seven-team indoor meet with its total of 167 points. Willowbrook compiled 126 points in its second-place performance. Morton landed in third place with 104 points. Hinsdale South claimed fourth with 66 points. Addison Trail posted a fifth-place total of 34.5 points.

Senior Evan Weder of the Warriors won the first-place medal in the high jump at the indoor conference meet. Willowbrook sophomore Otis Powell finished second in the high jump. Weder and Powell both cleared 6 feet, 2 3/4 inches during the meet.

Junior Jordan Pate provided Willowbrook with a victory in the long jump at last week's conference meet. Pate covered 21 feet, 2 inches in his best jump of the meet. Senior Noah

Boyd of the Warriors finished fourth in the long jump. He traveled 20 feet, 1 3/4 inches in his best attempt of the competition.

Willowbrook junior Jaden Royal delivered a first-place effort in the triple jump at the conference meet. Royal traveled 43 feet, 4 inches in his finest attempt of the meet. Powell placed third in the triple jump. He covered 41 feet, 10 inches in his best jump of the competition.

The Warriors won a pair of relay events at the conference meet. The foursome of senior Liam Moran, junior Matt Orlowski, Weder and senior Samuel McNeilly completed the 4 x 400-meter relay in a winning time of 3 minutes, 40.3 seconds.

Willowbrook's foursome of junior Kasen Blain, sophomore Evan Haworth, junior Jake Skibbie and McNeilly won the 4 x 800-meter relay. The four Warriors finished the race in a first-place time of 8 minutes, 26.32 seconds.

Powell joined senior Joe Hanson, Pate and junior Jaylin Miller to post a second-place time of 1 minute, 37.01 seconds in the 4 x 200-meter relay.

Miller finished second in the meet's 200-meter run, which he completed in 23.67 seconds. Hanson finished the same race in a sixth-place time of 24.39 seconds.

Miller and Hanson finished third and fourth, respectively, in the 55-meter dash. Miller delivered a finishing time of 6.76 seconds. Hanson completed the race in 6.83 seconds.

McNeilly raced to a second-place finish in the 600-meter run, which he completed in 1 minute, 27.88 seconds.

Blain posted a fourth-time of 1 minute, 30.37 second the same event.

Weder (55.1 seconds) and ran (55.35 seconds) placed fifth sixth, respectively, in the 400-meter run.

Haworth finished fifth in 800-meter run (2:06.74). Senior Perry turned in a 10th-place time of 2:27.22 in the same race.

Willowbrook junior Ad Quintero completed the 3,200-meter run in a sixth-place time of 11 minutes, 37.03 seconds. Sophomore Angel Perez of the Warriors posted a seventh-place time of 11 minutes, 31.64 seconds in the same event.

Senior Luca Parato and sophomore Hayden Roscoe finished eighth and ninth, respectively, in 55-meter low hurdles. Parato completed the race in 8.26 seconds. Roscoe posted a finishing time of 8.26 seconds.

Parato finished the 55-meter hurdles in an eighth-place time of 8.82 seconds. Roscoe turned in a ninth-place time of 9.16 seconds.

Junior Jake Koterba of Willowbrook finished second in the shot at the conference meet. His best throw of the event covered 45 feet, 4 inches.

Junior Anthony Porter of the Warriors turned in a fifth-place finish in the shot put. His best attempt of the day covered 40 feet.

Willowbrook juniors Liam Bride and Robin Mulbraski finished fifth and sixth, respectively, in the pole vault at last week's indoor conference meet. McBride cleared 7 feet, 6 inches.

McBride cleared 7 feet, 6 inches.

Answers

PUZZLE 1

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

PUZZLE 2

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

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HOE	ULSTER
ERA	NATHAN
EG	GIN
LASSON	ITERATE
HAPPENS	AD NIGH
ABO	SABIS
PEES	STEW
SLOPE	PO
EARTHEN	SHAMAN
SULTANA	TIRANA
LIME	ITO
PEDALS	KEN
CRANED	ADS

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Today!

•Rams (Continued from page 15)

Junior Stevyn Fox of Glenbard East finished seventh in the high jump. He cleared 5 feet, 3 inches during the meet.

Senior Garin Ohanian and junior Max Salek finished fourth and fifth, respectively, in the pole vault for the Rams. Ohanian cleared 8 feet, 11 3/4 inches during the meet, while Salek cleared 8 feet, 6 inches.

Junior Myles Pascasio of Glenbard East ran to a third-place finish in the 55-meter hurdles race, which he completed in 8.87 seconds. Senior James Kunstmann of the Rams finished the 55-meter hurdles in a seventh-place time of 9.61 seconds.

Hernandez earned a fifth-place finish in the 400-meter run, which he completed in 56.48 seconds. Jakobie Marshall of the Rams finished the 400-meter run in an eighth-place time of 59.74 seconds.

Contreras finished the 800-meter run in a seventh-place time of 2 minutes, 15.33 seconds.

Senior Chris Hallerud and junior Miles DePhillips finished eighth and ninth, respectively, in the 3,200-meter run.

Hallerud completed the race in 15.37 seconds. DePhillips posted a finishing time of 11 minutes, 22.27 seconds.