

Addison Trail to present spring play, 'Barefoot in the Park'

Finding common ground with a significant other and blending different personalities/lifestyles in a relationship can be challenging. Addison Trail Theatre will bring this all-too-familiar human experience to life when the school performs its spring play, "Barefoot in the Park" by Neil Simon.

Performances will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, Friday, April 5 and Saturday, April 6. There will also be a 2 p.m. show on Satur-

day. It will be viewed in the Black Box/Studio Theatre inside Addison Trail High School.

The saying of "opposites attract" has never been truer than in Simon's beloved comedy.

Theatre Director Anna McSweeney said she directed the show in high school as a senior project and is thrilled to bring it to the stage at Addison Trail.

"It's one of my favorite comedies about relationships, and I thought it

would be a fun show to round out our season," she said. "I want the audience to laugh, reflect and have a good time!"

She added the play will be performed in the school's Black Box/Studio Theatre and will feature some unique technical aspects, including a two-story set!

Senior Jack DiDomenic plays Paul Bratter, junior Raina Ashrafi will perform as Corie Bratter and junior Amelia Leslie will be Corie's mother, Mrs. Ethel Banks. The performers said there are several themes and messages at the core of the story.

"It's about the importance of compromise, not jumping to conclusions and being open to stepping outside of your comfort zone," they said. "We're a small cast of six, which has allowed us to become close and very natural together on stage."

Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children (ages 5 to 17), children younger than 5 are free. It is also free for those with a District 88 student ID or Senior Gold Card. Tickets can be ordered at arttheatre.hodus.com/index.php. Tickets will also be available at the door 30 minutes prior to the performance.

AT holds annual PE Week

Faculty/staff team wins most competitions

From March 11 to 15, Addison Trail hosted its annual Physical Education (PE) Week, where students

and staff participate in wellness-related activities and contests to encourage a healthy lifestyle and to enhance school spirit. On Wednesday, March 13, the "PE Week Coffee" tradition continued, an event for staff members to enjoy light refreshments and conversation with their coworkers. Students had the opportunity to play bags and Ping-Pong throughout the day.

On Thursday, there was a blood drive for Vitalant, dedicated in honor of student supervisor Fran Terracciano, who was diagnosed with cancer earlier this school year. Each class -- freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors -- and a faculty/staff team participated in a "rock, paper, scissors" contest to compete for the school trophy.

As the culmination of PE Week, on Friday the annual Superstars Assembly was held, where classes go head-to-head in a variety of competitions. Below are the results:

- 1st place: Faculty/staff
- 2nd place: Juniors
- 3rd place: Seniors
- 4th place: Freshmen
- 5th place: Sophomores

Throughout the week, Addison Trail's National Honor Society and Key Club raised money for District 88 Relay For Life. Donations made helped each class in its quest to win the school trophy, and the school will give \$1,000 to Relay For Life.

This year's Relay For Life of District 88 Youth event, which raises funds for the American Cancer Society, will take place on Saturday, April 27. To register, visit dupage88.net/site/page/16121



This young person does a great imitation of "Air Jordan," appearing to be weightless in mid-air, going up for a dunk. It was all part of PE Week, when all classes take on the faculty and staff in contests -- including rock-paper-scissors!



There's a lot of rushing around in this competition at the annual Superstars Assembly, the culmination of a very busy and active PE Week, held the week of March 11-15.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

(From left) Addison Trail junior Raina Ashrafi plays Corie Bratter, junior Amelia Leslie is Corie's mother, Mrs. Ethel Banks and senior Jack DiDomenic plays Paul Bratter as they rehearse a scene from Addison Trail's upcoming spring play, "Barefoot in the Park." Performances will take place on April 4, 5 and 6.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

DiDomenic named '88's Best'

Pictured here with Addison Trail principal Jack Andrews is Jack DiDomenic, who has been named as Addison Trail's March recipient of 88's Best recognition for his outstanding work in the performing arts and electives. DiDomenic, a senior, was recognized during the March 18 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

THE INDEPENDENT
Your Neighborhood Newspaper
240 N. West Avenue
Elmhurst, IL 60120

Main Phone 630.834-8244
Fax 630.834-8900

The Independent is published every Thursday by Rock Valley Publishing, LLC, 240 N. West Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60120.

Display Advertising:
630.834-8355
Classified Advertising:
630.834-8244
News:
630.834-8244
General Information:
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Classified Department:
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Subscriptions:

The Independent is mailed to the 60101, 60106 and 60181 zip code areas for \$45 yearly. Out-of-area mail subscriptions are \$50 yearly. For home delivery information call 630.834-8244.

Reprints:

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Postmaster: Please send address changes to:

THE INDEPENDENT
240 N. West Avenue,
Elmhurst, IL 60120

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 11am-3pm



Police Reports

Addison

The Addison Police Department recently reported the following arrests and citations. Persons who are charged with domestic battery are charged with domestic battery in order to protect the victim's privacy. 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. Juveniles age 17-or-younger are not named.

March 19

Valma Garcia, 24, of Addison, was charged with two counts of DUI, improper lane usage and no insurance near Lake and Neva at 12:38 a.m.

A 22-year-old Addison man was charged with two counts of domestic battery in the 100 block of W. Michael at 9:53 p.m.

March 16

A 27-year-old Des Plaines man was charged with two counts of domestic battery, criminal damage to property and criminal trespass to a residence at 11 a.m.

March 15

Dionicio M. Cifuentes, 45, of Addison, was charged with two counts of DUI, speeding and improper lane usage near Grace and Fullerton at 1:08 a.m.

Alfonzo Rodriguez Escuarta, 31, of Hanover Park, was charged with possession of a controlled substance, possession of cannabis, transportation or carrying alcoholic liquor by a driver and driving while license suspended in the 200 block of W. Michael at 11:31 p.m.

A 33-year-old Addison man was charged with two counts of domestic

battery in the 600 block of N. Lincoln at 10:16 p.m.

March 14

Yaque Cooper, 20, of Bensenville, was charged with theft under \$300 at 3:10 p.m.

Belter Franco Lopez, 40, of Addison, was charged with obstructing identification, disregarding a stop sign, improper turn and driving while license revoked near Addison and Wrightwood at 1:30 a.m.

Alfonzo Rodriguez Escuarta, 31, of Hanover Park, was charged with possession of a controlled substance, possession of cannabis, transportation or carrying alcoholic liquor by a driver and driving while license suspended in the 200 block of W. Michael at 11:31 p.m.

Bensenville

The Bensenville Police Department recently reported the following arrests and citations. Persons who are charged with domestic battery are not named in order to protect the victim's privacy. 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. Juveniles age

17-or-younger are not named.

March 20, 9:09 a.m. in the 1100 block of David Drive, a complainant reported that the gas tank cover to his vehicle was ripped off by an unknown suspect. This case is under investigation. BEPC2400207

March 20, 5:49 p.m. in the 1100 block of S. York Road, a complainant reported an unknown suspect filled a shopping cart and left the store before a security guard stopped them. All items were returned, and the suspect fled on foot northbound. This incident is under investigation. BEPC2400211

March 20, 6:05 p.m. in the 200 block of George Street, a complainant reported a domestic situation with a known suspect. This incident is under investigation. BEP24003322

March 18, 10:48 p.m. near York Road and Grand Avenue, police said Gregory Mandrake, 40, of Streamwood, was stopped for traffic, then taken into custody for two Cook County warrants. He was transported to the station for processing, then transported to the DuPage County Jail. BEPC2400204

March 17, 2:28 p.m. in the 200 block of E. George, officers responded to a disturbance. Mauricio Munoz, 29, of Bensenville, was cited for disorderly conduct. He was transported to the station for processing, issued citations,

and a court date. BEPC2400200

March 16, 7 a.m. in the 1000 block of York Road, a complainant reports the window broken out, and the column peeled on vehicle. The incident is under investigation. BEPC2400198

March 16, 8:32 p.m. near York Road and Grand Avenue, officers responded to a vehicle crash. Joe Sykes, 38, of Streamwood, was taken into custody for DUI. He was transported to the station for processing, issued citations, a court date, and released. BEPC2400199

March 15, 3:52 p.m. in the 200 block of Addison Street, a complainant reports paying for some construction work on their porch. After paying, the contractor never returned. The incident is under investigation. BEPC2400197

March 14, 12:01 p.m. in the 600 block of Redmond Court, a complainant reported that known suspects used their American Airlines AA flyer miles account. This incident is under investigation. BEP24003090

March 14, 6:33 p.m. in the 100 block of E. Red Oak St., Alicea A. Habsa, 28, of Sauk Village, was arrested for reckless discharge of a firearm and other traffic violations. BEPC2400195

March 14, 10:29 p.m. in the 600 block of N. Route 83, a complainant reported being battered by a known suspect. This case is under investigation. BEPC2400196

Man gets 60 years for home invasions in Lombard, Wheaton

Convictions include attempts of murder, child pornography

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin has announced that one of two men charged with breaking into homes in Lombard and Wheaton and shooting a homeowner in August 2020 has been sentenced to 60 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.



Malik Pitts

Malik Pitts, 25, formerly of Broadview, appeared at his sentencing hearing in front of Judge Margaret O'Connell, who handed down the sentence. On July 31, 2023, Pitts entered a blind plea of guilty to one count of attempted murder (Class X felony), one count of home invasion (Class X felony) and one count of attempted child pornography (Class 2 felony).

Judge O'Connell imposed a sentence of 35 years for attempted murder, a consecutive sentence of 25 years for home invasion and a concurrent 12-year sentence for attempted child pornography. In all, Pitts will be required to serve 41½ years before being eligible for parole. The case against Pitt's co-defendant Isaiah Johnson, 24, of Blue Island, continues with Johnson due back in court on Friday, March 29 for a sentencing hearing.

On Aug. 23, 2020, at approximately 5:04 a.m. Wheaton Police officers responded to 1710 E. Evergreen St. for a home invasion. Residents reported that they heard noises coming from outside. The homeowners exited the back door leaving the door unlocked.

Once outside, the residents encountered Pitts and Johnson at which time, Johnson pointed a silver handgun at them as Pitts entered the residence through the back door. Shortly after Pitts entered the residence, Johnson directed the victims to walk towards the rear of the residence with the gun.

Once inside, Pitts entered a bedroom where two young girls and their grandmother were sleeping. Pitts then attempted to pull down the blanket and shorts and underwear of one of the girls. At this time the grandmother woke up and began speaking to Pitts

at which time, he struck her left cheek, ear and neck. The girls' father entered the room and fought with Pitts. The men then fled the scene in a stolen vehicle.

At approximately 5:22 a.m. the same morning, the Lombard Police Department responded to a call at 433 S. Highland Ave. for a home invasion and shooting that just occurred. In this case, the male homeowner was awoken by Pitts and Johnson in his living room with Johnson pointing a gun at him asking "where's the money?"

Pitts then went to the upstairs bedroom where the mother and her daughter were sleeping in the same bed. Pitts ordered them to the main floor of the residence and then ordered the daughter to go to the basement and ordered her to remove her clothing.

When the girl refused and fled, a physical struggle ensued between the father and Pitts. The struggle went into the backyard of the residence, leaving Johnson with a gun behind them.

During the struggle, Johnson fired multiple gunshots, one striking the father in the chest and one into the family car. The gunshot that hit the father, went through him and ultimately struck Pitts as well.

Johnson and Pitts then fled the scene in the same stolen vehicle driven by a third co-defendant, Keytori Jackson. Jackson has been sentenced to 14 years for her role in the matter.

"In the early morning hours, Mr. Pitts and Mr. Johnson violated the sanctity of their victims' home in the worst imaginable way possible," Berlin said. "We all deserve to feel safe and secure in our homes and the shockingly violent behavior shown by these two men demonstrates their complete disregard for our laws and for human life. Their actions have shattered that sense of safety. Judge O'Connell's 60-year sentence sends a crystal clear message to would-be criminals that in DuPage County we have zero tolerance for the type of violent crime exhibited in this case."

Fugitive arrested in Addison

On March 18, members of the Addison Investigations Section, along with Elmhurst detectives, identified a vehicle known to be driven by Maria Vlasceanu and a male companion.

The subjects were known to commit locker burglaries and unlawful use of credit cards throughout the United States.

According to the Addison Police Department, surveillance was established by the Elmhurst Police, Addison Police and Oak Brook Police detectives, as Vlasceanu had several active warrants with extradition out of the following locations:

- San Mateo, California: burglary
- Virginia: burglary and unlawful use of credit card
- Florida: burglary and larceny
- Pennsylvania: forgery and burglary
- Lake County, Illinois: larceny
- Northbrook: burglary and unlawful use of credit card
- Missouri: A pending nationwide warrant

A traffic stop was initiated by detectives with the assistance of several night shift officers, and Vlasceanu was taken into custody and transported to DuPage County Jail to await extradition to California.

The Addison Police Department thanked the Elmhurst Police Department and the Oak Brook Police Department for their assistance in the investigation and in the apprehension of Vlasceanu.

D88 hosts breakfast for Latino families

'La Familia Primero' teaches parents about their child's development

On Saturday, March 16, about 40 Latino parents/guardians and students from Addison Trail and Willowbrook attended a "Desayuno Motivacional" (Motivational Breakfast), which was organized by Dr. Ferney Ramirez, a respected psychologist and coordinator of bilingual parent-education programs.

During the event, the organization La Familia Primero (Families First) presented an educational program to help families understand the integral formation of their children and the optimal development of Latino families.

Two families shared their stories of success – the Rivas family, whose son received a scholarship at Stanford University, and the Marquez family, whose son received a full scholarship and is finishing his medical career at Harvard University.

The presenters discussed how these accomplishments are a result of the support and motivation the children received from their families to stay focused on their education. Participants also were asked to put their phones away for the morning, to encourage participation.

District 88 is proud to have a diverse school community – the district has 51 languages and more than 30 countries represented among its families, and almost half of the nearly 4,000 students at District 88 speak a language other than English at home. District 88's core values include ensuring all students, staff and community members feel safe, valued, respected and welcome. The "Desayuno Motivacional" and programming offered by the district for Spanish-speaking parents/guardians is one way to accomplish that goal.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

"Desayuno Motivacional" or Motivational Breakfast, was held on Saturday, March 16 for Latino families from Addison Trail and Willowbrook to help understand the integral formation of their children and the optimal development of their families.

Sports

Rams start their season with a win over the Warriors

Weltin's 15 kills and Junior's 27 assists highlight Glenbard East's triumph over Willowbrook

Glenbard East's boys volleyball team opened its 2024 season with a 25-13, 25-18 victory over Willowbrook on March 19 in Lombard.

Senior Aidan Weltin bashed 15 kills and made nine digs in the Rams' victory over the visiting Warriors. Senior Danny Overlin supplied six kills and five blocks. Junior Nick Som-

met provided six kills.

Glenbard East senior Jack Junior piled up 27 assists in his team's win over Willowbrook. Senior Payton Stieve contributed 16 digs. Freshman Gloire Emena and junior Cooper Wooldridge made 11 and six digs, respectively. Senior Brayden Smith delivered four blocks.

The Rams played at the Barrington/Vernon Hills Invite on Friday and Saturday. Glenbard East won two of four matches and earned a seventh-place finish in the 12-team tournament.

The Rams opened the invite with a 25-16, 25-18 win over Plainfield Central on Friday. Later on Friday, Glenbard

East lost a three-game battle to Vernon Hills. The Rams won the opening game, but Vernon Hills won the next two games to earn a 21-25, 25-19, 25-22 victory.

Glenbard East lost 25-17, 26-24 to Glenbrook North on Saturday. The Rams then ended the event with a 20-25, 25-19, 25-18 win over Warren.

Weltin, who was named to the event's all-tournament team, made 55 kills during the Rams' four matches at the invite. Junior Max McDermott compiled 48 assists during the tournament, while Junior handed out 41 assists.

The Rams will open their

Upstate Eight Conference schedule with a match at Larkin on April 2. Glenbard East will play a non-conference match at Naperville North on April 4.

The Rams will conduct their 16-team Springfest event on Saturday, April 6.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Glenbard East boys volleyball team kicked off its season with last week's 25-13, 25-18 home win over Willowbrook. Senior Aidan Weltin (No. 11) of the Rams drilled 15 kills and provided nine digs during the March 19 contest in Lombard. Senior Jack Junior (No. 2) handed out 27 assists for Glenbard East. One more photo from the match shows senior Danny Overlin (No. 18), who contributed six kills and five blocks for the Rams. Glenbard East moved its record to 3-2 by winning two of four matches and placing seventh in the 12-team Barrington/Vernon Hills invite, which took place on Friday and Saturday. Weltin, who bashed 55 kills during the invite, was named to the event's all-tournament team.

Rams post victories over Glenbard West and West Aurora

Glenbard East opens its Upstate Eight Conference season next week

The Glenbard East baseball team won two of three games last week to move its overall season record to 3-2-1.

The Rams began the week with a 9-5 win over Glenbard West on March 19 in Glen Ellyn. One day later, Glenbard East suffered a 3-0 loss at York. Playing their third game in three days, the Rams beat West Aurora 15-9 in a five-inning game in Aurora.

Senior Brett Vercruyse went 2-for-4 and scored two runs for the Rams in last week's win over Glenbard West. Senior Grant Bruen also went 2-for-4 with two runs scored. Junior Horacio Solis went 1-for-5 with two runs batted in. Junior Aiden Towey and sophomore Lucas Calderin drove in one run each for the Rams.

Glenbard East and Glen-

bard West committed four errors each in last week's contest.

Senior Trevor Rehnstrom pitched three innings for the Rams in the March 19 game, against the Hilltoppers. He allowed four hits and two unearned runs. Rehnstrom struck out two batters and allowed two walks.

Senior Chris Ludwig relieved Rehnstrom and pitched two scoreless innings. He recorded two strikeouts while allowing two hits and three walks.

Calderin pitched a scoreless seventh inning for the Rams to close out the team's win over Glenbard West. He didn't allow any hits and struck out one batter.

Junior Konrad Toth and Solis handled Glenbard East's pitching duties in last week's

3-0 loss at York. Toth allowed two hits and one run in four innings. He recorded two strikeouts. Solis allowed two hits and two runs in two innings. He had one strikeout.

Vercruyse went 2-for-4 and drove in three runs during last week's victory at West Aurora. Junior Connor Peckham went 3-for-3 with one run batted in. Solis went 2-for-4 with one RBI.

Calderin and junior Devin Kraft provided two RBIs each for the Rams, who scored eight runs in the top of the fourth inning.

The Rams are playing several games in Tennessee during their spring break this week. Glenbard East will open its Upstate Eight Conference season with next week's pair of games against Glenbard South.

Rams beat the Red Devils

CHRIS FOX PHOTO
Rock Valley Publishing



Glenbard East's softball team improved to 3-2 following last week's 7-4 six-inning win over Hinsdale Central in Lombard. The Rams scored four runs in the bottom of the second inning to take an early 4-0 lead in the March 19 game. Glenbard East freshman Ally Amrhein (pictured) belted a two-run home run in the bottom of the third inning to extend the lead to 6-0. Amrhein and junior Melissa Saldana drove in two runs each for the Rams. Senior Maddie Howell, senior Sophia Oplia and freshman Althea Fitzgerald provided one RBI each for Glenbard East. Freshman Claire Bolda pitched a complete game

for the Rams. She allowed seven hits, four runs and three walks while recording eight strikeouts. Bolda retired the side in order in the top of the sixth inning. The game was then called due to darkness. Glenbard East's schedule next week includes games against Willowbrook, Rolling Meadows and Glenbard North, along with the team's Upstate Eight Conference opener at East Aurora.

Broncos beat Lisle before playing Willowbrook to a tie

Montini ends its week with a loss; Broncos are competing in Florida during their spring break

The Montini Catholic baseball team picked up a win, a tie and a loss in three games last week. The Broncos finished the week with an overall season record of 3-1-1.

Montini began the week with a 10-0 five-inning win at Lisle on March 19. One day later, the Broncos played Willowbrook to an 8-8 tie in a six-inning contest in Lombard. Montini suffered its first loss of the season on March 21, when it dropped a 4-0 decision in a home game against Lincoln-Way East.

Senior Cash Campbell and freshman Johnny Louise hit home runs for Montini during last week's win over Lisle. Campbell hit a solo homer in the top of the third inning. Louise launched a two-run homer later in the same inning.

Senior Anthony Spidale pitched a five-inning complete game for the Broncos last week in Lisle. Spidale allowed four hits and didn't issue any walks against the Lions. He recorded five strikeouts.

Montini and Willowbrook played a back-and-forth contest in last week's matchup, which took place in extremely cold weather in Lombard and lasted until sundown. The visiting Warriors scored four runs in the top of the fifth inning to take a 6-3 lead. The Broncos scored four runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to grab a 7-6 advantage. Willowbrook then scored two runs in the top of the



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Montini Catholic's baseball team went 1-1-1 in three games last week. After beating Lisle 10-0 on March 19, the Broncos battled Willowbrook to an 8-8 tie in a six-inning game in Lombard. One photo from Montini's game against the Warriors shows Junior Max Bell preparing to touch third base as he scored a run for the Broncos in the bottom of the fifth inning. Moments earlier, Bell delivered a two-run double. One more photo from the same game shows Montini senior Jaylen Howerly firing a pitch. The Broncos completed the week with a 4-0 home loss to Lincoln-Way East on March 21. The Broncos traveled to Florida to play several games in the Tampa area this week.

lead to 6-5. Freshman Julio Ayala delivered a two-run single later in the inning to give Montini a 7-6 lead.

Lincoln-Way East had only one hit in last week's game in Lombard. Montini pitchers gave up six walks

during the game. The Broncos, who managed four hits over seven innings, committed four errors in the loss.

The Broncos traveled to Florida this week to play multiple games in

the Tampa area during their spring break. Montini's schedule next week includes games at New Trier and Mount Carmel, along with a home game against Wheaton Academy on April 6.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

A good start for the Warriors

Freshman Liz Pettinger of the Willowbrook softball team is pictured while throwing to first base during last week's game against Yorkville Christian in Villa Park. The Warriors beat the visiting Mustangs 10-0 in the March 20 contest, which ended after five innings. Willowbrook improved to 2-0 with the win. One day earlier, the Warriors opened their season with a 17-0 five-inning win over Eisenhower in Blue Island. Junior Isabel Bates pitched no-hitters for Willowbrook in both of last week's victories. Pettinger, who plays second base for the Warriors, went 1-for-2 and scored four runs in the March 19 win over Eisenhower. She went

1-for-3 and scored one run in her team's victory over Yorkville Christian. The Warriors continued their season by playing a few games this week in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Willowbrook is scheduled to play five games next week. Those games include an April 2 battle at Glenbard East and a doubleheader at Glenbard West on April 6.

Broncos defeat York to claim their first win of the season

Raffin bashes a solo homer; Gutierrez and Barrett provide two RBIs each

The Montini Catholic softball team earned its first win of the 2024 season last week, when it beat York 6-5 in Elmhurst.

The Broncos improved to 1-2 following their March 21 victory over York.

The Dukes scored three runs in the bottom of the first inning to take an early 3-0 lead over Montini.

Freshman Aubrey Raffin of the Broncos homered in the top of the second inning to cut York's lead to 3-1. Montini added another run in the second inning to trim the Dukes' lead to 3-2.

The Broncos evened the score at 3-3 in the top of the third inning. York took a 4-3 lead in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Montini senior Kassandra Gutierrez tripled in the top of the fifth inning. Moments later, the Dukes intentionally walked Raffin. Freshman Cedona Barrett then hit a two-run double to give the Broncos a 5-4 lead.

Gutierrez delivered a run-scoring single in the top of the seventh inning to push Montini's lead to 6-4.

York picked up one run in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Gutierrez went 2-for-4 and

drove in two runs. Barrett also went 2-for-4 with two runs batted in.

Junior Ariana Macias pitched all seven innings for the Broncos to earn the win against York. Macias allowed 11 hits and two earned runs. She recorded four strikeouts and didn't allow any walks.

Montini opened its season with a 15-9 loss at Plainfield South on March 16. The Broncos dropped to 0-2 following their 16-6 loss at Aurora Central Catholic on March 19.

"We're a young team," said Amy Bukovsky, Montini's first-year head coach. "We're going to go through some growing pains, but we're going to find our way by the end of the year."

Bukovsky is a 2016 Montini graduate. She was a four-year member of Montini's varsity softball program. She captained the Broncos' 2016 team, which won the IHSA Class 3A state title to capture the first state championship in program history.

The Broncos are spending their spring break in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, where they are playing several games this week. Montini's schedule next week includes games against Providence Catholic, St. Edward, Taft and Mother McAuley.

A busy week for the Warriors



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's badminton team played a pair of triangular home meets last week. On March 18, the Warriors faced Maine South and Lake Park in Villa Park. Willowbrook defeated Maine South 5-3 and tied Lake Park 4-4. Each meet featured four singles matches and four doubles contests. The Warriors' winners against Maine South included senior Lillian Caron (No. 1 singles), sophomore Malsie Thompson (No. 2 singles) and sophomore Shannon Freer (No. 3 singles). Willowbrook's No. 1 doubles team of senior Jasmine Langston and junior Abby Schnittker also posted a victory against Maine South, as did the Warriors' No. 2 doubles duo of junior Hannah Daly and sophomore Sophia Gustafson. Caron, Thompson and Freer earned singles wins against Lake Park. The doubles tandem of Langston and Schnittker also

secured a victory against the Lancers. After beating Addison Trail 15-0 on March 20, Willowbrook played a home triangular meet against Metea Valley and Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA) on March 21. Metea Valley defeated the Warriors 7-1, with Freer earning her team's lone victory in the No. 3 singles match. The Warriors defeated IMSA 6-2. Thompson, Freer and senior Seyna Fall (No. 4) earned Willowbrook's singles victories against IMSA. Langston and Schnittker delivered a win at No. 1 doubles. Juniors Jill Mei and Sophia Merchant provided the Warriors with a win at No. 3 doubles. Seniors Ashe Fajardo and Amoret Molina earned a victory at No. 4 doubles. Caron (above left) and Freer (above right) are pictured during Willowbrook's March 21 home meet.

Happy Easter

Historic Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church of Elmhurst

Please join us for worship this
Holy Week as we celebrate
The Passion and Resurrection of
Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Holy Thursday, March 28 Divine Service at 7:00 pm

Good Friday, March 29

Joint Tre Ore Service at Noon

(To be held at Zion Lutheran Church in Bensenville,
865 S. Church Road)

Good Friday, Tenebrae Vespers at 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday, March 30 Easter Vigil at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, March 31 Divine Service at 10:00 am

Fully handicapped-accessible

123 E. St. Charles Road, Elmhurst, IL 60126 630-834-1411

www.RedeemerCMS.com

<https://www.youtube.com/user/RedeemerCMS.com>

CROWN OF GLORY

HOLY WEEK MAR 24-31 GRACE BIBLE CHURCH ELMHURST

Palm Sun - 10:15am

Thurs Communion - 6:30pm

Good Fri Contemplation - 6:30pm

Sat 800th Vigil - 6:30pm

Easter Sun - 9:11am

Kids Egg Hunt - 10:30am



First United Methodist Church of Elmhurst

All Are Welcome

232 South York Street

(Corner of York & Church)

(630) 834-2440 www.umcelmhurst.org

Easter Fest ~ March 31, 2024

9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 am Easter Brunch and

Scavenger Egg Hunt, Games,

Crafts, and Cookie Decorating

Worship service also on Facebook: [first.united.methodist.church.of.elmhurst](https://www.facebook.com/first.united.methodist.church.of.elmhurst)



Fitness
Fame

ABOVE: On Sunday, March 10, Tamilce Webb, 2008 National Fitness Hall of Fame inductee, best known as "Ms. Buns of Steel," was presented the NFHF's Lifetime Achievement Award by 2024 personal trainer Danny Torgl. The annual event was held at the Medinah Shriners Banquet Hall.

RIGHT: Here with 2012 NFHF inductee Coach "Rudy" Ruettiger is former Chicago Bear Tom Thayer, who became the inaugural recipient of the National Fitness Hall of Fame's Inspiration Award. This new award was created to recognize actors, athletes or government officials who help motivate Americans to "Get Fit & Stay Healthy."



National Fitness
Hall of Fame

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing



Addison Trail High School hosts leadership conference

On Tuesday, Feb. 27, Addison Trail's Student Council hosted more than 130 participants from eight schools for the Northeastern District (NED) Conference, which is part of the Illinois Association of Student Councils (IASC). The event, called Nedfilx, was a leadership convention planned by Student Convention Chair and AT Junior Jackelyn Macedo Hernandez, with the help of area representative and AT Junior Anjali Acosta. Pictured are all the students who came together to make it all work, including AT student success coordinator VaLarie Humphrey (fourth from left), who served as the guest speaker.

•Fitness

(Continued from front page)

friends of "The Iron Guru" back in the "Golden Years" of bodybuilding and they gave a heart-warming speech on Vince's behalf.

• **Tom Thayer** was presented by 2012 NFHF inductee Coach "Rudy" Ruettiger to receive the new "Inspiration Award." This award recognizes actors, athletes or government officials who help motivate Americans to "Get Fit & Stay Healthy." The ex-Chicago Bear football superstar was humble in his acceptance of this special award and the crowd was extremely excited to meet the Superbowl Superstar!

• **Tamilce Webb**, 2008 NFHF inductee and best known as "Ms. Buns of Steel," was presented the NFHF's Lifetime Achievement Award by 2024 personal trainer Danny Torgl. Tamilce is a crowd favorite with her bubbling personality and stunning beauty and is always gracious thanking her family, friends and "The Hall" for this industry top recognition.

"After a three-year hiatus, mainly due to COVID, it was most important to the members of Hall of Fame to gather and recognize, in person, all of these terrific people and continue our mission of helping all Americans to 'Get Fit & Stay Healthy,'" said Figarelli in conclusion. To learn more about the National Fitness Hall of Fame or become a member visit nationalfitnesshalloffame.com.

**THE
INDEPENDENT**
Your Hometown Newspaper
740 N. West Avenue
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Main Phone 630.834-8244
Fax 630.834-0900

The Independent is published every Thursday by Rock Valley Publishing, LLC, 240 N. West Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126.

Display Advertising:

630.834-8355

Classified Advertising:

630.834-8244

News:

630.834-8244

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Subscriptions:

The Independent is mailed to the 60101, 60106 and 60181 zip code areas for \$45 yearly. Out-of-area mail subscriptions are \$60 yearly. For home delivery information call 630.834-8244.

Reprints:

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Requests should be directed to Independent@rvpublishing.com or 630.834-8244.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to:

THE INDEPENDENT
240 N. West Avenue,
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 11am-3pm

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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 Grage 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.

Grage 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.

Grage 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.

Grage 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.

Grage 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 Lilli 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, 3/4 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, 1/4 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: 3-4:45 PM
Sunday: 5-5:45 PM

Adoration:
Our Lady Mother of the
Eucharist Chapel 24/7

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You are invited to be a part of our
Holy Week observance and Celebration

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10:00 AM

7:00 PM Good Friday
Evening Service, March 29

Easter Service & Children's
Easter Party, March 31
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Good Friday Tenebrae

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Easter Festival 10:15am, March 31

+++++

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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SaintTimothy.org

4E25E1

Sports

Broncos start their season with two home wins

Catalano hits leadoff homers against Glenbard South and Payton; Boyer drills a grand slam in Saturday's victory over the Grizzlies

The Montini Catholic baseball team opened its 2024 season with a pair of home victories. The Broncos began their season with a decisive 10-0 five-inning win over Glenbard South on March 13. Montini improved to 2-0 following Saturday afternoon's 9-5 win over Chicago's Walter Payton College Preparatory High School.

Montini seniors Quinn Boyer, Cash Campbell and Dominic Catalano hit home runs during the team's season opener against Glenbard South. Catalano hit a solo homer to right field to lead off the bottom of the first inning. Boyer added a solo homer later in the first inning. Campbell delivered a three-run homer in the bottom of the second inning to raise the Broncos' lead to 5-0.

Boyer went 3-for-3 in Montini's win over the visiting Raiders. Freshman Johnny Louise went 2-for-2 with three runs batted in. Louise hit a bases-loaded double in the bottom of the third inning to drive in three runs and push his team's lead to 8-0. Junior Max Bell went 2-for-3 for the Broncos.

Senior Jack Calcagno pitched three hitless innings for the Broncos in their win over Glenbard South. He recorded five strikeouts and allowed two walks. Senior Jaylen Howery pitched two hitless innings in relief for the Broncos to finish off a no-hitter. He struck out three batters and didn't issue any walks.

Payton College Prep hit a pair of



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Montini Catholic's baseball team started its season with a pair of home victories. The Broncos opened their 2024 campaign with a 10-0 five-inning win over Glenbard South on March 13. Montini improved to 2-0 with Saturday's 9-5 triumph over Walter Payton College Preparatory High School. Senior Dor Catalano of the Broncos hit a home run to lead off the first inning in each of his team's first two games. Catalano is pictured (left) while rounding the bases after senior Quinn Boyer homered with the base loaded in the bottom of the fourth inning of Saturday's contest. Boyer's grand slam gave the Broncos 6-5 lead. Another photo (above) shows Boyer (No. 15) being greeted by his teammates after that home Boyer hit his first home run of the year in Montini's season opener against Glenbard South.

home runs over the left-field fence in Saturday's blustery conditions. The visiting Grizzlies hit a three-run homer in the top of the third inning to take a 3-2 lead. A two-run homer in the top of the fourth inning pushed Payton's lead to 5-2.

Boyer stepped to the plate with the

bases loaded and no outs in the bottom of the fourth inning and launched a grand slam homer over the right-field wall to give Montini a 6-5 lead.

Boyer added a run-scoring single in the fifth inning.

Boyer went 3-for-5 and drove in five runs in Saturday's victory. For the second straight game, Catalano

homered to lead off the bottom of the first inning.

Montini junior Zachary Baka pitched one and one-third innings in relief and earned the win on Saturday. Catalano replaced Baka on the mound and pitched two scoreless innings. Junior Drew Church pitched the seventh inning for Montini.

Church struck out the side in order to end the game.

The Broncos are scheduled to play four games this week, including home contest against Willowbrook on March 20. The team will spend its spring break in Florida next week. Montini will play multiple games in Tampa.

Glenbard East Rams battle to a tie against Willowbrook

Glenbard East beats Addison Trail to pick up its first win of 2024

The Glenbard East baseball team kicked off its season with a 1-1 tie at Willowbrook on March 12.

Two days later, the Rams defeated Addison Trail 11-1 in a six-inning game played at Lee Pfund Stadium at Legion Field in Carol Stream. Glenbard East fell to 1-1-1 following Saturday's 13-2 home loss to Schaumburg.

The Rams trailed Willowbrook 1-0 going into the top of the seventh inning. Infield singles by junior Connor Peckham and senior Grant Bruen gave Glenbard East two base runners. With two outs, the Warriors' catcher fired to first base after a pitch in an attempt to pick off Bruen. The throw went into right field, and Peckham raced home from second base to score the tying run.

Glenbard East held the Warriors scoreless in the bottom of the seventh inning. The umpires then ended the game because of darkness.

Senior Trevor Rehnstrom pitched four strong innings for the Rams in their season opener. He piled up six strikeouts while allowing two hits and no walks. He gave up one unearned run.

Senior Chris Ludwig relieved Rehnstrom and pitched two scoreless

innings. He didn't allow any hits and issued one walk while striking out two batters.

Junior Brian Kud pitched a scoreless seventh inning for the Rams. He struck out two batters. He issued one walk and did not allow any hits.

Peckham went 3-for-4 and drove in two runs in Glenbard East's win over Addison Trail on March 14. Bruen went 2-for-3 with two runs batted in. Junior Aiden Towey went 2-for-3 with a triple and drove in one run. Ludwig went 1-for-3, drove in one run and scored three runs. Senior Brett Vercruyse went 1-for-4 with

two RBIs.

Junior Konrad Toth pitched five scoreless innings for the Rams in their win over the Blazers. He allowed three hits and one walk while striking out seven batters.

Schaumburg scored 10 runs in the top of the first inning of Saturday's contest, which lasted five innings.

Glenbard East's schedule this week includes games against Glenbard West, York, West Aurora and Wheaton Academy. The Rams will spend their spring break in Tennessee, where they will play several games next week.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Glenbard East's baseball team started its season by playing Willowbrook to a 1-1 tie in Villa Park on March 12. The Rams evened the score at 1-1 when junior Connor Peckham scored on a Willowbrook throwing error with two outs in the top of the seventh inning. Peckham is pictured (left) while heading toward home plate to score the tying run as Glenbard East head coach Clayton George looks on. Another photo from the game shows Glenbard East senior Chris Ludwig (No. 1 - above) firing a pitch in the bottom of the sixth inning. Two days after facing the Warriors, Glenbard East defeated Addison Trail 11-1. The Rams dropped to 1-1-1 following Saturday's 13-2 loss to Schaumburg in Lombard.

