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THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

District 88 celebrates its Business Partners

Representatives from the Village of Addison are recognized during the March 18 District 88 Board of Education meeting. During the meeting, the village was named as a Business Partner for being a member of the district's Heritage Spanish Career Fluency program. Pictured are (from left) director of community relations Don Weiss, Police Chief Roy Selvik, director of community development Mike Crandall, Mayor Rich Veenstra, Deputy Mayor Tom Hundley, police officer Michael Vitello, director of finance Colleen Witt, police officer Omar Brucal and Village manager Joe Maranowicz. Story and another photo inside.

DuPage County receives private donation for solar panels

The DuPage County Board recently celebrated a \$50,000 donation from a Glen Ellyn couple which will contribute to a solar project on the county campus.

Ann Boisclair and Jeff Jens presented a check to County Board Chair Deborah Conroy and Environmental Committee Chair Sheila Rutledge at a recent County Board meeting.

"We are fortunate to have two very generous environmentalists in DuPage County who are putting their energy and resources toward preserving and improving the health of our planet," said Conroy.

The county installed a 164-kilowatt solar panel system on the roof of the 421 Administration Building.

This system will lead to a reduction of more than 100 metric tons of carbon dioxide, which is enough to power nearly 30 homes annually.

"We congratulate DuPage County on this impressive achievement that will provide many years of fossil-free energy."

— Ann Boisclair
and Jeff Jens

for helping make this project a reality."

Boisclair and Jens have supported 18 solar projects across the country, including a project at the Willowbrook Wildlife Center.

"We congratulate DuPage County on this impressive achievement that will provide many years of fossil-free energy," said Boisclair and Jens.

"The county is providing much-needed leadership in the battle to contain global warming. This project benefits all the people of DuPage County. We would love to see more projects like this everywhere."

"We hope this project will inspire others to pursue renewable, clean energy projects in the future," said Environmental Committee Chair Sheila Rutledge.

"We are grateful to Ann and Jeff

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State of the Symphony 'melodic and harmonious'

Strategic Plan forecasts bright future; Silver Measure to be awarded

By Dee Longfellow

FOR THE ELMHURST INDEPENDENT

Since we've heard the State of the City, the State of the University and the State of the Chamber of Commerce, it's time to hear about the State of the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra.

The Independent caught up with ESO executive director Gregory Hughes recently to see what new developments may be on the horizon for the rest of the season.

The best news Hughes shared that attendance numbers have been record-setting.

"Our ticket sales are way up," he said. "We had a record-setting November. It was the second highest [number of tickets sold] since Covid and the fourth highest in ten years."

The ESO recently changed from open seating to assigned seats in sanctuary of the Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church (ECRC), where the Symphony performs.

Asked why the switch and what are the advantages, Hughes had this to say: "Most people — especially subscribers — find they like preferential seating, they can choose their own preferred side to sit on, the left or the right."

"Assigned seating also encourages people to subscribe early to get their



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

This is the Silver Measure Award given by the Elmhurst Symphony Association to outstanding, long-term volunteers for their contributions. At the upcoming La Mer concert on Saturday, May 4, the award will be presented to Gall Vandon, Ken Bohl and Carl Amrhein.

preference. So far, it has proven to be a very good system."

Donors offer matching funds

Funding for the Symphony remains strong, according to Hughes, thanks in

part to a special program some of the donors arranged.

"In the fall, some of our donors came together and offered a 'matching gift challenge,'" he said. "If we were able to raise at least \$25,000 before Jan. 30, 2024, that amount would be matched, increasing the total to \$50,000."

"I'm proud to say, we reached the \$25,000 goal in December, well ahead of schedule."

In January, the ESO Board adopted the Strategic Plan, a 36-page document projecting and forecasting the next six to ten years.

Hughes said in the past, the ESO has often operated with a budget deficit.

"We've tightened our belts and sought new revenue sources," he said. "We're trying to attract people who are skeptical about going [to the Symphony]."

He said they were trying to offer "something for everyone," and may be planning concerts in the future that appeal to young people, even considering youth subscriptions.

Upcoming concert includes special honors

The Symphony's next concert will be Saturday, May 4 at 7 p.m., when the Elmhurst Symphony Association pres-

ents La Mer at the Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church (ECRC) on Brush Hill Rd. in Elmhurst.

Audiences are invited to attend a pre-concert lecture by assistant conductor Eli Chen beginning at 5:45 p.m. in the Upper Gathering Area of ECRC.

The concert will include two pieces by Claude Debussy, as well as the *Cello Concert No. 1 in A minor* by Camille Saint-Saens, when cellist Alexander Hersh joins Dr. Stephen Alltop and the ESO.

ESO Silver Measure awards

At the May 4 concert, the Elmhurst Symphony Association (ESA) will also present three of its four Silver Measure Awards to Board member and treasurer Carl Amrhein, and long-time musicians Ken Bohl and Gall Vandon. At a previous concert, past Board president David J. Novotny was honored. The Silver Measure Award is the ESA's highest recognition, created to recognize outstanding volunteer service to the ESO. (See separate story about the recipients elsewhere in this issue.)

For more information about the Elmhurst Symphony or for tickets to the upcoming concert, visit elmhurstsymphony.org.

District 88 welcomes new Business Partner

During its March 18 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education named members of the district's Heritage Spanish Career Fluency program as Business Partners. It joins a list of other businesses and organizations including the Village of Addison, the Addison Park District, the Addison Public Library, SWD Inc. and College of DuPage.

The Business Partner award recognizes businesses and organizations for their support in building futures for District 88 students and helping to accomplish the district's mission and vision.

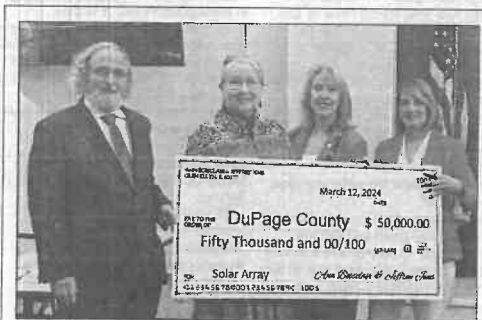
The Heritage Spanish Career Flu-

ency program helps students develop their skills in professional settings and introduces them to various career paths, while enhancing their biliteracy. This is accomplished through a job-shadow component, where students visit the locations mentioned above once a week during second semester of the school year. The students rotate through the work sites, so the companies welcome a new group about every three weeks. The goal of this course is to encourage students to use their Spanish as much as possible, so they can learn about different fields and how to use their Spanish professionally to give them a competitive edge.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Rick Delawder, SWD Inc. president (right), and Erin Strickland, SWD Inc. director of human resources (left), are recognized during the March 18 District 88 Board of Education meeting, where they were named as a Business Partner as a member of Heritage Spanish Career Fluency program.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

DuPage County receives private donation for solar panels

From left: Jeff Jens, Ann Bolsclair, DuPage County Environmental Committee Chair Shella Rutledge and County Board Chair Deborah Conroy. See story on page 1.

New Fischer Farm programs highlight BPD summer schedule

As the summer season approaches, the Bensenville Park District has announced a lineup of programs at Fischer Farm. From animal-themed adventures to hands-on activities, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Shear Sheep

Join in a unique experience as farm staff and professional sheep shearer Lisa Carpenter of Kline Creek Farm demonstrate the process of shearing sheep in preparation for summer. Participants will have the chance to get up close and personal with the farm's woolly residents and even make sheep-themed crafts using the freshly shorn wool.

Animal Stuffed

Embrace that inner artist and join farm staff in creating personalized animal stuffedies. Learn the art of designing and sewing these cuddly toys while exploring personal creativity.

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Montini standouts run at Illinois Top Times meet

Above: Sophomores Sydney Gertsen and Ashlynn Lindt of Montini Catholic High School's girls track and field team competed at the recent Illinois Top Times indoor meet at Illinois Wesleyan University's Shirk Center in Bloomington. The Top Times meet, which takes place at the end of the indoor track and field season, is regarded as the state's premiere high school indoor competition. Gertsen and Lindt participated in the meet's Class 2A level on March 23. Gertsen (No. 790 - right) completed the 1,600-meter run in a 12th-place time of 5 minutes, 18.35 seconds. She set a new program record with that time. Lindt (No. 791) finished the 3,200-meter run in an eighth-place time of 11 minutes, 32.96 seconds. Lindt, who is a Lombard resident, achieved a personal-best time in the 3,200-meter run with that performance. Montini's girls track and field team will compete in this Saturday's outdoor meet at Willowbrook High School.



KODIAK CREATIVE PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Glenbard East graduate excels at Illinois Wesleyan

Lauren Huber, a 2021 Glenbard East graduate, recently completed her junior season with Illinois Wesleyan University's women's basketball team. Huber led the Titans to an overall record of 23-6 during their 2023-24 season. Illinois Wesleyan posted a 14-2 record during the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) regular season. The Titans shared the conference title with Carroll University, which also went 14-2 in conference play. Carroll defeated Illinois Wesleyan 88-78 in the championship game of the conference tournament on Feb. 24. Huber (No. 5) provided team-high totals of 22 points and nine rebounds in that contest, which took place on Illinois Wesleyan's home court in Bloomington. The Titans won a first-round game in the NCAA Division III Tournament on March 1 at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. Illinois Wesleyan's season then ended with a 62-59 loss to Wartburg College in a second-round contest on Wartburg's home court on March 2. Huber scored a team-high 21 points and grabbed a team-leading 14 rebounds in her team's second-round loss to Wartburg. Huber, who played in 24 of the team's 29 games, supplied team-high figures of 15.6 points and 8.1 rebounds per game. For the third straight season, she was a First Team All-CCIW selection. She also earned 2024 Division III All-America honorable mention recognition from the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. Huber is a biology major at Illinois Wesleyan. She's also a trained and licensed emergency medical technician. Huber became the Glenbard East girls basketball program's all-time leading scorer during her 2021 senior season, which was shortened due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Glenbard East senior Catey Carney became the Rams' all-time leading scorer during the recently concluded 2023-24 season.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Standout performer

During its March 18 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education recognized several Addison Trail and Willowbrook students for their state-level achievements during the winter season of the current 2023-24 school year. The honored students included junior Naomi Campbell of the Willowbrook girls gymnastics team, who advanced to the individual finals in two events at the IHSA state meet in February. Campbell delivered a pair of top-10 performances at the state meet, which took place at Palatine High School. A few minutes after earning a 10th-place finish in the finals of the balance beam, Campbell tied for fifth place in the finals of floor exercises. With that performance, Campbell became the first member of the Willowbrook girls gymnastics program to earn a top-five finish at the IHSA state meet in 29 years. One photo (above) shows Campbell (center) at the March 18 board meeting with Willowbrook head coach Andy Isaacson (right) and assistant coach B.J. Macias (left). Other photos show Campbell at the recent state meet.



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