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## Link students hit the links

Above: On Wednesday, March 13, Addison Trail students in Link 1 and 2 Pre-Occupational Skills/Vocational Skills classes traveled to Itasca Country Club for a vocational outing. During their visit, students toured the grounds and learned about career opportunities in the field. Staff members at the country club discussed the responsibilities, requirements and expectations involved with various positions, including taking care of the grounds, the pool, the golf course, the snack shop, the restaurant and the tennis and pickleball courts. The group had the opportunity to roll silverware, fold towels for golf carts, receive brief lessons from a pro golfer and putt on the practice green. The Link program provides tiered life skills and functional-academic instruction to provide students with skills necessary for independent living and competitive employment in the postsecondary environment.



Students benefit from vocational training/support integrated into their school day, as well as community outings to develop and practice independent living and self-determination skills in a real-world environment. Left: AT Link students get a quick lesson from a pro at the putting green at Itasca Country Club where they recently held a vocational skills outing.



T ALUMNAE A. AGUILERA-B. CASUCCI PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Time to 'Volley for NAMI'

On Friday, April 19, the Addison Trail boys volleyball team will host its annual "Volley for NAMI," pictured here at last year's event. All Addison Trail students, staff, parents, guardians, alumni and friends are invited to attend. There will be concessions, cotton candy, raffle baskets and more. The games will feature a faculty match at 4:30 p.m. and an alumni match at 5:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit NAMI DuPage, an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), whose mission it is to provide support, advocacy and education to improve the quality of life of individuals with mental illnesses and their families. Info: namidupage.org.

## •Suspect

(Continued from front page) investigation, authorities learned that Perez-Estrada and Franco were at the apartment together and got into a verbal altercation at approximately 10 p.m., the previous evening. It is alleged that the argument turned physical resulting in Perez-Estrada stabbing Franco dozens of times about her head, neck, body and hands, nearly decapitating her head. She was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Authorities also learned that Perez-Estrada had been residing in Mexico and illegally arrived in the United States approximately two weeks ago.

He was charged by the U.S. government with alien inadmissibility and given a future court date. The couple have two minor children, both of whom were present at the time of the alleged murder.

"First and foremost, I offer my sincerest condolences to Maricela's surviving family and friends on their loss and wish them strength as they continue their lives without the love and support provided by Maricela," Berlin said. "The extremely violent end to a young mother's life is something that should touch us all. Domestic violence continues to be a scourge on society, claiming more than ten million victims a year in some form or fashion. In this case, the sad reality is, Maricela's life has been reduced to a statistic of domestic violence due to the alleged actions of her husband, Baltazar Perez-Estrada. This brutal, senseless act of violence alleged against Mr. Perez-Estrada will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Perez-Estrada's next court appearance is scheduled Wednesday, April 25 for arraignment in front of Judge Mia McPherson.

## THE INDEPENDENT

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## Berlin recognized as 2024 Champion for Kids

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin (middle) was recognized by the organization Fight Crime: Invest in Kids as one of six recipients nationwide of its 2024 Champion for Kids Award. The award was presented to Berlin at a recent ceremony in Springfield.

## Dive into savings at the Water Park & Splash Pad 'Bville Bundle' now available at DGLC

The Bensenville Park District has launched the "Bville Bundle," an exclusive offer designed to make a splash this summer at the Bensenville Water Park & Splash Pad. The bundle is now available for purchase at the Deer Grove Leisure Center, 1000 W. Wood St.

The Bville Bundle offers incredible value for those living within the Bensenville Park District boundaries, providing 10 daily admissions to the Water Park and Splash Pad for just \$99. Whether it's a weekday escape or a weekend retreat, youth or adult, this bundle is the passport to discounted aquatic adventure all summer long.

Bville Bundle patrons can enjoy savings from normal admission rates,

which can quickly add up:

**Weekdays**  
(Monday-Thursday, Noon-5 p.m.): Youth (3-17) \$10, Adult (18+) \$13

**Weekends**  
(Friday-Sunday, Noon-5 p.m.): Youth (3-17) \$13, Adult (18+) \$16

**Twilight**  
General Admission: \$6 (5-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday), \$7 (5-7 p.m. Friday-Sunday)

The Bensenville Water Park and Splash Pad is open from noon to 7 p.m. daily, from May 27 through August 11. Don't miss out on special events and activities throughout the season.

Season passes are also available. For more information, visit [BvilleParks.org/WaterPark](http://BvilleParks.org/WaterPark).

## Park District launches swim team for summer 2024

The Bensenville Park District introduces the Bensenville Swim Team in summer 2024, aimed at nurturing young swimmers aged 5-16. This initiative focuses on skill development, sportsmanship and fostering a life-long passion for swimming.

Led by an experienced coaching staff, the Bensenville Swim Team offers personalized guidance to help swimmers unlock their potential and build confidence in the water. Through friendly competitions and swim meets, participants can enhance their skills while fostering camaraderie with teammates who share

their passion.

Swimmers of all levels, from beginners to advanced, are welcome to join the Bensenville Swim Team. The program caters to diverse skill sets and emphasizes individual improvement within a supportive team environment.

To register, visit the Deer Grove Leisure Center, 1000 W. Wood St., 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. Birth certificates are required at the time of registration, and the enrollment fee is \$450 per person.

## D88 community invited to Crosstown Showdown

District 88 invites all stakeholders to attend the District 88 Crosstown Showdown between the Addison Trail Blazers and the Willowbrook Warriors, which will feature the girls and boys track & field teams from both schools.

The teams will face off at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16 at Willowbrook. Just before the event begins, there will be an introduction of local community leaders, dignitaries, service group members, first responders and more, who support the schools of District 88 and make a positive difference in our communities.

Addison Trail and Willowbrook students, parents/guardians, alumni, staff, community members and friends are welcome to enjoy an evening of friendship and fun.

## Glowiak Hilton to host shred and recycling event in Hinsdale

Constituents are invited to join Redeemer Lutheran Church and State Senator Suzy Glowiak Hilton for a shred event on April 13 where they can properly recycle household items and dispose of confidential documents.

"It's vital that we prioritize the proper disposal of confidential documents and household items to protect our privacy and environment," said Glowiak Hilton (D-Western Springs). "Join me on April 13 for our shred event, where we'll provide the re-

## District 88 to host Work-Based Learning luncheon

On Thursday, April 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., School District 88 is hosting a Work-Based Learning Experiences Luncheon at the District 88 office, 2 Friendship Plaza, Addison. All local area businesses and organizations are invited to attend and learn more about how you can partner with the district and provide college and career pathways for D88 students.

"At District 88, we are committed to providing multiple and flexible pathways for students to ensure they are college and career ready—and we need your support and partnership to help our students succeed," said Dr. Jean Barbanente, superintendent of School District 88. "We continue to work with colleges, universities and local businesses/organizations to enhance these options and meet our students' diverse and individual needs. We know these pathways are critical to help with the labor shortage and to connect students to hands-on,

immersive experiences, as well as certifications, credentials and scholarships. One of our top priorities is to remove barriers for all students to help them access employment and build positive futures. The focus is to connect them with viable short-term and long-term career options and work-based learning that can provide a supported pathway through their college pursuits."

During the luncheon, information will be shared about how you can support:

- Work-based learning
- Job shadowing for bilingual students
- Individuals with a variety of abilities
- Advertising
- And more

To attend the luncheon, please register by Monday, April 15. To reserve your seat, visit [dupage88.net/Work-Based-Luncheon2024](http://dupage88.net/Work-Based-Luncheon2024).

## HUD and VA award more than \$330,000 to help homeless veterans find permanent housing

In an effort to help homeless veterans and their families find permanent housing, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) awarded \$14 million in HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers to 66 Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) across the country for more than 1,400 vouchers. DuPage Housing Authority was awarded \$331,517.

"HUD is committed to ending veteran homelessness once and for all," said Secretary Marcia L. Fudge. "These HUD-VASH voucher awards help us to reach that goal. We will continue to work with our local Veterans Affairs Medical Center partners at public housing agencies across the country so we can get Veterans and their families off the streets and into affordable housing."

"One veteran experiencing homelessness will always be one too many—and we will do everything in our power to ensure that Veterans get the safe, stable housing they deserve," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "HUD-VASH has been one of the most effective tools in our toolkit, empowering VA and HUD to provide more housing and wrap-around services to more homeless and at-risk Veterans than ever before. Together, we will not rest until Veteran homelessness is a thing of the past."

This collaboration between HUD

and the VA to provide housing assistance combined with comprehensive support services shows our unified commitment to honor our obligation to the men and women of the U.S. Military Services," said Great Lakes Regional Administrator Diane M. Shelley. "Together we strive to provide a beacon of hope, ensuring that those who served our nation find not only a home, but a pathway to a brighter, more secure future."

The HUD-VASH program provides housing and an array of supportive services to Veterans experiencing homelessness by combining rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Through this program, HUD and the VA aim to end homelessness by assisting Veterans and their families in obtaining permanent and sustainable housing with access to high-quality health care and supportive services. Their goal is to ensure that homelessness is prevented whenever possible.

Currently, there are over 110,000 HUD-VASH vouchers being administered by over 700 PHAs. Since 2008, HUD has issued new HUD-VASH vouchers every year. Additionally, over 81,000 of those total vouchers are actively under lease by HUD-VASH Veterans, with many additional Veterans having received vouchers and currently in search of housing to lease.

sources needed for safe and confidential disposal of unwanted materials."

Glowiak Hilton is partnering with Redeemer Lutheran Church, SCARCE, Union Church of Hinsdale and Unitarian Church of Hinsdale to provide residents with these services. The free event will be held Saturday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to noon, or until the shred truck is full at the Redeemer Lutheran Church located at 139 E. First St. in Hinsdale.

The event will have shredding ser-

vices for confidential documents, as well as recycling for books, bicycles, walkers, canes, hearing aids, school supplies and more.

Glowiak Hilton hosts shred events multiple times throughout the year to provide an opportunity for residents to dispose of unneeded items in a safe and discreet way.

People with questions or concerns can contact Glowiak Hilton's office at 630-785-3177 or by visiting her website.

## Rams edge the Warriors in Villa Park

*Johnson scores a second-half goal in Glenbard East's 1-0 victory*

The Glenbard East and Willowbrook girls soccer teams squared off in last week's battle in Villa Park. The Rams scored a goal early in the second half and prevailed 1-0 in the contest, which took place in chilly and occasionally wet conditions.

The less-than-ideal weather led to a time change in the April 4 contest, which was moved up from an evening to an afternoon start.

Glenbard East senior Ciara Johnson broke a scoreless tie when she scored off a crossing pass from senior Maya Reinheimer less than five minutes into the second half. Johnson's goal gave the Rams their 1-0 advantage with 35:28 left in the match.

Glenbard East kept the ball on Willowbrook's end during most of the match to limit the Warriors' of-

fensive opportunities.

"Our defense was very solid," said Willowbrook coach Pete Montgomery after the battle with the Rams. Montgomery noted the efforts of senior Lexi Rattin and junior Halle Ahrens. He also praised the performance of the Warriors' goalkeeper—junior Payton Brose.

The Rams improved their overall season record to 1-1-1 with their win over Willowbrook. Glenbard East moved to 1-1-2 after opening play in Plainfield North's tournament by battling Dundee-Crown to a 1-1 tie on Saturday in a match at Plainfield Central. Reinheimer gave Glenbard East a 1-0 lead when she scored with about 20 minutes left in the match. Freshman Jessica Gilleran assisted Reinheimer's goal. Dundee-Crown evened the score when it netted a

goal about three minutes after Reinheimer scored.

The Rams are continuing to compete in Plainfield North's tournament this week.

Willowbrook's overall season record fell to 1-4 following its loss to

Glenbard East. The Warriors moved to 1-4-1 when they played Rolling Meadows to a 0-0 tie in Saturday's match at Niles West's tournament.

Willowbrook is playing more matches in the Niles West tournament this week.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing  
Glenbard East defeated Willowbrook 1-0 in last week's girls soccer match in Villa Park. Senior Ciara Johnson (No. 7 - top right) scored the Rams' goal early in the second half of the April 4 battle. Senior Maya Reinheimer assisted Johnson's goal. Willowbrook junior Halle Ahrens (No. 22) and Reinheimer (No. 3) are pictured (above) during the match. Another photo (left) shows Willowbrook senior Grace Soltys (No. 3) and Glenbard East junior Cleo Glenzinski. One more photo shows Willowbrook junior goalkeeper Payton Brose (No. 1 - right) making a free kick.

## Rams take fourth in their own Springfest tournament

*After opening the event with three victories, Rams suffer narrow losses to St. Francis and Lake Park*

The Glenbard East boys volleyball team completed a busy week by finishing fourth in its own 16-team Springfest tournament, which took place on Saturday.

The Rams opened Saturday's event by winning three straight matches in pool play to advance to the semifinal round. Glenbard East beat Andrew, West Aurora and Romeoville in pool play.

St. Francis defeated Glenbard East 35-37, 25-19, 25-17 in a semifinal battle. Lake Park edged the Rams 26-24, 22-25, 26-24 in the third-place match.

Glenbard West defeated St. Francis 25-21, 25-13 in the champion-

ship match of Saturday's event.

Glenbard East's overall season record stood at 8-4 at the end of the Springfest tournament.

Two Rams—seniors Jack Junior and Aidan Weltin—were named to the Springfest All-Tournament Team.

Glenbard East opened its Upstate Eight Conference season with last week's 25-17, 25-16 victory over Larkin in Elgin. Junior handed out 12 assists in the Rams' win over the Royals on April 2. Senior Payton Stieve made 11 digs for Glenbard East. Junior Nick Sommes and



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing  
Glenbard East's boys volleyball team finished fourth in its own 16-team Springfest tournament, which took place on Saturday. The Rams opened the tournament with three straight wins in pool play to advance to the semifinal round in the championship bracket. The Rams lost a three-game semifinal battle to St. Francis. Lake Park edged Glenbard East in three games in the third-place match. Two Rams—seniors Jack Junior (No. 2 - above left) and Aidan Weltin (No. 11 - above right)—were named to the event's All-Tournament Team. Glenbard East's overall season record stood at 8-4 at the end of Saturday's tournament.

See RAMS, Page 23



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Broncos prevail

The Montini Catholic girls soccer team defeated Lisle 1-0 on Saturday morning in Lombard. The Broncos improved their overall season record to 4-3 with their home victory over the visiting Lions. Montini sophomore Ava Lombardi scored the only goal of the match late in the first half. Junior goalkeeper Natalie Gartlan made 10 saves for the Broncos during her shutout performance against Lisle. One photo (top right) from the final minute of Saturday's match shows (left to right) Gartlan and Montini junior Naomi Gonzalez (No. 7) defending a corner kick by the Lions. Another photo (right) from Saturday's match shows junior Annalee DeFeo (No. 4) of the Broncos. Four days before beating Lisle, Montini posted a 7-0 home win over Trinity. DeFeo scored two goals in the April 2 victory. Junior Liliana Cruz also scored two goals for the Broncos, who built a 6-0 lead by halftime. Gonzalez, junior Avery Lucatorto and sophomore Cadence Bratcher scored one goal each for Montini. Gartlan made five saves. The Broncos' season continues with this week's home matches against Rosary and York.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Winning Warriors

Willowbrook's boys gymnastics team defeated the Downers Grove co-op team 135.4 to 122.1 during last week's meet in Villa Park. Junior Daniel Javier of the Warriors posted first-place finishes in four events and earned the April 4 meet's all-around title with his total score of 49.7. Javier delivered winning scores on the still rings (8.6), vault (9.5), parallel bars (8.3) and horizontal bar (7.4). He is pictured (above left) during his first-place performance on the still rings. Willowbrook sophomore Jae Newman earned first-place scores in the meet's other two events. Newman secured his victories in floor exercises (9.0) and on the pommel horse (7.5). He is pictured (above right) during his winning routine on the pommel horse. Senior Isaac Smith of the Warriors finished third in the meet's all-around standings with his total of 43.9. Smith placed second on the vault (8.1). He finished third on the pommel horse (7.0), still rings (7.5) and parallel bars (7.3). Willowbrook junior Jacob Seremak contributed fourth-place finishes on the still rings (7.3) and the parallel bars (7.2).

## Montini's offense shows some firepower in a win over Mother McAuley

Barrett and Macias hit back-to-back homers for the Broncos

The Montini Catholic softball team opened its Girls Catholic Athletic Conference (GCAC) season with Saturday's 11-1 victory at Mother McAuley. The Broncos raised their overall season record to 5-6 with Saturday's five-inning win.

Montini scored five runs in the top of the first inning to take an early 5-0 lead over the Mighty Macs. Freshman Aubrey Raffin singled to drive in the Broncos' first two runs of the inning. The next batter—freshman Cedona Barrett—launched a two-run home run over the fence in right field to push Montini's lead to 4-0. The following batter—junior Ariana Macias—bashed a solo homer to left-center field to extend the team's lead to 5-0.

Montini delivered another five-run outburst in the top of the fifth inning. The Broncos scored all five of those

See MONTINI Page 23

## •Montini (Continued from page 22)

runs after there were two outs. Junior Katherine Filkowski started the rally with a double. Senior Erin Grimsley then doubled to drive in Filkowski. Senior Kassandra Gutierrez reached on an error that allowed Grimsley to score. Raffan then reached on another Mother McAuley error.

Barrett kept the inning going with a single that drove in Gutierrez. Macias then singled to drive in Raffan. A single by freshman Bridget Ryan drove in Barrett.

Macias pitched a five-inning complete game to earn the win in the circle on Saturday. She allowed four hits and recorded one strikeout.

Barrett's home run at Mother McAuley marked her second long ball of the season. Macias connected for her first homer of the season with her blast in the first inning of Saturday's game.

Barrett drove in four runs in the Broncos' win over the Mighty Macs. Barrett, Filkowski, Macias and Raffan delivered three hits each in

the victory.

Two days before facing Mother McAuley, Montini defeated St. Edward 14-0 in a five-inning indoor game played at the Rosemont Dome. Filkowski went 4-for-4 with an inside-the-park homer in the April 4 win. She scored three runs. Both of Filkowski's home runs this season have been inside-the-park efforts.

Barrett drove in four runs in last week's win over St. Edward. Montini junior Sierra Urban went 3-for-3 and scored two runs during the contest.

Macias pitched all five innings for the Broncos in last week's win in Rosemont. She piled up seven strikeouts.

One day after beating St. Edward, Montini suffered a 12-2 five inning loss to Taft High School in Chicago.

The Broncos are scheduled to play seven games this week. Montini will play three of those games in this Saturday's event at Woodstock North High School.

## •Rams (Continued from page 21)

freshman Gloire Emena provided six and five kills, respectively.

The Rams beat Naperville North 25-16, 25-22 in a non-conference match in Naperville on April 4. Weltin pounded 10 kills and served five aces in Glenbard East's win over the Huskies. Junior Max Mc-

Dermott piled up 14 assists for the Rams, while Junior contributed nine assists. Senior Danny Overlin supplied five kills.

Glenbard East's schedule this week includes a conference match against South Elgin and a non-conference battle against St. Francis.

## •Garland (Continued from page 5)

tive behavior therapy and providing stipends.

"I want to celebrate the life that our profession restores to people and places that have been historically oppressed and marginalized," Bocanegra said.

He praised frontline workers such as outreach staff who connect people to community violence intervention programs as the "muscle" of community violence intervention. These workers often don't have formal degrees in social work or behavioral therapy, but life experience with gun violence that is crucial to engaging participants, Bocanegra said.

He didn't mention it in his speech, but a study published last fall by the University of Chicago Crime Lab found outreach workers were able to reduce the expected number of shooting victims and associated arrests.

"For one subgroup—men referred by outreach workers—the declines in arrests and victimizations for shootings and homicides clearly pass standard statistical significance thresholds," the study, titled "Predicting and Preventing Gun Violence," reads.

The study makes a point to stop short of naming READI a difference maker in overall violent crime for the city, stating, "We cannot conclude with certainty that the version of READI evaluated here decreased serious violence."

However, there is "evidence that READI reduced arrests for shootings and homicides, with the estimated effect being just beyond traditional statistical significance cutoffs."

Assistant Attorney General Amy Solomon doubled down on the need for community-driven initiatives.

**“The report finds that the flood of illegal guns into our communities is increasingly driven by individuals who sell guns without a license and who do not conduct background checks.”**

—Merrick Garland,  
U.S. Attorney General

"Our goal here is to make sure that federal support is reaching the communities that are too often overlooked and underfunded—the same communities where violence takes the heaviest toll," she said. "It's about reaching the organizations that reflect those communities, are designed to serve them, are located within them and are closest to the problems that we seek to solve."

Garland also announced the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives will soon be publishing its third volume of the National Firearms Commerce and Trafficking Assessment, which Garland called "the most comprehensive look at America's crime gun data in over two decades."

"The report finds that the flood of illegal guns into our communities is increasingly driven by individuals who sell guns without a license and who do not conduct background checks," Garland said.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Speedy freshman

Freshman McKenzie Edison of the Willowbrook girls track and field team is pictured while sprinting to a victory in the 400-meter run during Saturday's Willowbrook Girls Invitational in Villa Park. Edison completed the race in a first-place time of 1 minute, 2.67 seconds. She finished more than 1.3 seconds ahead of the runner-up in the race. The Warriors placed third in the team standings of Saturday's competition, which included 13 teams. Hersey won the team title with 123 points. Willowbrook amassed 88.5 points in its third-place finish. Edison placed sixth in the 200-meter run at Saturday's invitational. She finished that race in 27.19 seconds. Willowbrook's 4 x 400-meter relay quartet of juniors Elena Bullivant, Camryn Dooley, Grace Capps and Holly Harris delivered a third-place finish by completing the race in 4 minutes, 31.17 seconds. Dooley and Capps joined junior Mickenzie Alandy and senior Tia Kelly to finish third in the 4 x 200-meter relay. The four Warriors completed the race in 1 minute, 55.1 seconds. Alandy, Dooley and Edison joined junior Olivia Gwaltney to post a third-place time of 50.61 seconds in the 4 x 100-meter relay. Willowbrook juniors Morgan Turner and Emily Hogan finished third and fourth, respectively, in the discus throw at Saturday's invite. Turner's best throw of the day traveled 90 feet, 2 inches. Hogan's best effort of the invite covered 84 feet, 3 inches. Junior Iryae Watts provided the Warriors with a fifth-place finish in the shot put. Her best effort of the day covered 31 feet, 11 1/4 inches. Senior Mia McBride of Willowbrook finished in a tie for fourth in the high jump. She cleared 4 feet, 9 3/4 inches during the invite.

## Answers

### PUZZLE 1

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

### PUZZLE 2

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

### CROSSWORD

CYPRUS	DAISES
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ELI	PAH
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AAAT	TARLED
LEENS	
HOAMED	KEEV
APES	DAM
FLIO	NABAN
AREA	
FACIS	RIIP
INDAI	
IN	CAPARISON
LD	
CARITAS	HEWAMES
RELICS	SWAMIS

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**EARTH DAY**  
**E-recycling & Shred Event**  
 8:30-10:30 a.m. | Saturday, April 20 | Water Park parking lot, 3100 W. Wood St.  
**Volunteer Cleanup - Free T-shirt**  
 8:30-10:30 a.m. | Saturday, April 20 | Varble Park, 1000 W. Wood St.  
**Free! Family Celebration**  
 10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Saturday, April 20 | Fischer Farm, 16W680 Old Grand Ave.  
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 GRAND SUBARU  
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 EarthDay



## Resourceful Willowbrook student wins special culinary contest

Willowbrook High School students who are enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher Amy Nowak's Culinary Arts 3-Catering class recently competed in a Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE) culinary challenge called "Cooks and Camo." Sergeant First Class Matthew Oliva, a senior recruitment manager with the Illinois Army National Guard, and Specialist Gabriel Crook shared a variety of MREs with the students. Those students then had to plan an entrée and a dessert

using the MRE they received, while buying less than \$5 worth of additional ingredients. Oliva and Crook evaluated the students' dishes and judged the entries on creativity/skill level, taste, presentation, planning, time management and safety/sanitation. Sophomore Korvyn Nieves won the contest. Nieves, who is a Villa Park resident, is pictured (center) with Oliva (left) and Crook (right).

SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

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# Raymond Gajardo receives 88's Best award for March

## Exceptional Willowbrook student is a Villa Park resident

Willowbrook High School senior Raymond Gajardo was recently named his school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of March. Gajardo, who is a resident of Villa Park, was recognized during the District 88 Board of Education's March 18 meeting.

The 88's Best award recognizes students at Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools for their achievements in and out of the classroom.

Willowbrook Principal Dan

Krause read comments from some of Gajardo's teachers during the recent board meeting. Those teachers described Gajardo as knowledgeable, caring, considerate, humble, kind and thoughtful.

Gajardo is one of the top academic achievers in Willowbrook's Class of 2024. When he graduates in May, he will have completed eight Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

Gajardo has been named to Willowbrook's Distinction Honor Roll each semester of his high school career.

He is an Illinois State Scholar, and a member of numerous honor societies, including the National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society, the National Math Honor Society, Thespians, the National Science Honor Society, Tri-M (Willowbrook's music honor society) and Civitas (the school's social studies honor society).

Gajardo is the president of Willowbrook's anime club. He's the vice president of the school's HOLA

(Hispanic Organization of Leaders in Action) club.

Gajardo has been a standout performer in Willowbrook's music and theater departments. He's a member of the school's choir and orchestra, and he's been involved in all 12 of Willowbrook's theatrical productions in the last four years.

Earlier this year, Gajardo was named an All-State Musician by the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA). To earn that honor, he had to be recognized among the top eight voices in his section (bass 1) of the District 9 level.

Gajardo has received the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy, which is a recognition given to high school students who have demonstrated a high level of proficiency in English and another language. Gajardo, who noted during the recent board meeting that he is a Chilean-American, is fluent in English and Spanish.

Gajardo has not yet decided what college or university he will attend. He plans to study biology.



Willowbrook High School senior Raymond Gajardo was recently named his school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of March. Gajardo, who is a Villa Park resident, was honored during the District 88 Board of Education's March 18 meeting. He 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.

# 'A Cup of Hope' raises over \$205,000 for hunger relief

Northern Illinois Food Bank and its Executive Women's Council have announced that the ninth annual "A Cup of Hope" fundraiser, presented by Cultivate Power, raised over \$205,000 to enhance hunger relief initiatives and help to provide nutritious food so families across Northern Illinois can thrive.

The "Springtime in Paris" themed afternoon tea was held on March 3 at the Abbington Distinctive Banquets in Glen Ellyn. Attendees enjoyed tea, desserts, a silent auction, raffle and entertainment while learning about

Northern Illinois Food Bank's mission.

Emmy award-winning journalist Judy Hsu of ABC7 News, returned as emcee. Speakers included Julie Yurko, president and CEO of Northern Illinois Food Bank, Courtney Dutter and Noel Leatherbury, Executive Women's Council co-chairs, and Rachel Oleksiak, A Cup of Hope co-chair. Featured entertainer, Jenny Riddle, performed in character as Jackie Kennedy Onassis and brought to life a behind-the-scenes look at Jackie's relationship with her mother,

Janet Bouvier, and sister, Lee Radziwill.

The Executive Women's Council of Northern Illinois Food Bank is made up of a group of 30 women working and living in Northern Illinois dedicated to solving hunger.

The Executive Women's Council of Northern Illinois Food Bank is a network of compassionate and dedicated women whose mission is to work in partnership with the Food Bank by donating time, food, and funds through an annual fundraising event and other initiatives so that ev-

eryone in Northern Illinois can have the food and resources they need to thrive.

To learn more or to join the Executive Women's Council, contact Anne

Moore at [amoore@northernillfoodbank.org](mailto:amoore@northernillfoodbank.org). To donate, volunteer or get groceries, visit: [SolveHungerToday.org](http://SolveHungerToday.org) and follow Northern Illinois Food Bank on Facebook.



Emmy award-winning journalist Judy Hsu, of ABC7 News, returned as emcee at Northern Illinois Food Bank's A Cup of Hope signature fundraiser held on March 3.

## 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.

### April 2

A complainant in the 400 block of W. Division reported that a suspect was sending threatening text messages.

### April 1

A 21-year-old Gary, Indiana man was charged with two counts of domestic battery at a hotel in the 1-100 block of W. Roosevelt at 12:53 a.m.

A complainant in the 500 block of W. Division reported at 4:52 p.m. that an unknown suspect damaged their unsecured vehicle in an attempted theft.

A complainant at a pharmacy in the 1-100 block of W. Roosevelt reported they were the victim of a theft.

A complainant in the 500 block of N. Ardmore reported that a subject is harassing them via text.

### March 31

Michelle Estrada, 29, of Cicero, was charged with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon (loaded), No FCCA or FOID card, driving while license suspended, improper lighting, operating a vehicle while registration was suspended for no insurance and no insurance in the 600 block of W. North at 2:16 a.m.

A complainant in the 500 block of W. Division reported at 9:47 a.m. that an unknown suspect damaged their vehicle in an attempted theft.

### March 29

A complainant at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83 reported that a subject battered them.

A complainant in the 1100 block of N. Princeton reported that a suspect battered them. The complainant was transported to an area hospital.

### March 28

Police said Tracie Clark, 35, of Chicago, was arrested on an original complaint and warrant and transported to the DuPage County Jail on the above date for an incident that occurred July 19, 2023.

Rosemarie L. Stubbs, 61, of Villa Park, was charged with DUI near Addison and Washington at 11:43 a.m.

A complainant in the 700 block of W. North reported at 8 p.m. that an unknown suspect shattered a window of their vehicle in an attempted theft.

### March 27

Danijel Krizanac, 36, of Villa Park, was charged with violation of an order of protection in the 400 block of N. Yale at 8:40 p.m.

A complainant in the 500 block of N. Yale reported at 1:18 a.m. that a suspect battered them.

A complainant at a restaurant in the 600 block of W. North reported they were the victim of a theft.

A complainant in the 200 block of W. North reported their vehicle was stolen.

### Identity theft, fraud, forgery

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

### Fleeing, eluding

According to information provided last week by the Villa Park Police Department, police reported one incident of fleeing and eluding during which the driver of a vehicle fled the scene after being stopped for a traffic stop by police.

## Elmhurst Area AAUW branch offers grants to local women

### Deadline to apply is April 15

As a direct result of its successful used book sale, the Elmhurst Area AAUW branch is offering two grants of \$3,500 each to local women who need financial assistance to continue their education at the undergraduate or graduate level.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Being a resident of Elmhurst, Addison, Bensenville, Berkeley, Northlake, Oak Brook, Oakbrook Terrace or Villa Park
- Being age 25 or older

• Having completed at least 12 credit hours at an accredited community or undergraduate college or university

Full-time and part-time students are eligible for the grants. Prior scholarship winners are not eligible.

The application deadline is April 15, 2024.

For an application or more information, call 630-207-4851 or visit [aauwelmhurst.org](http://aauwelmhurst.org).