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# Villa Park REVIEW

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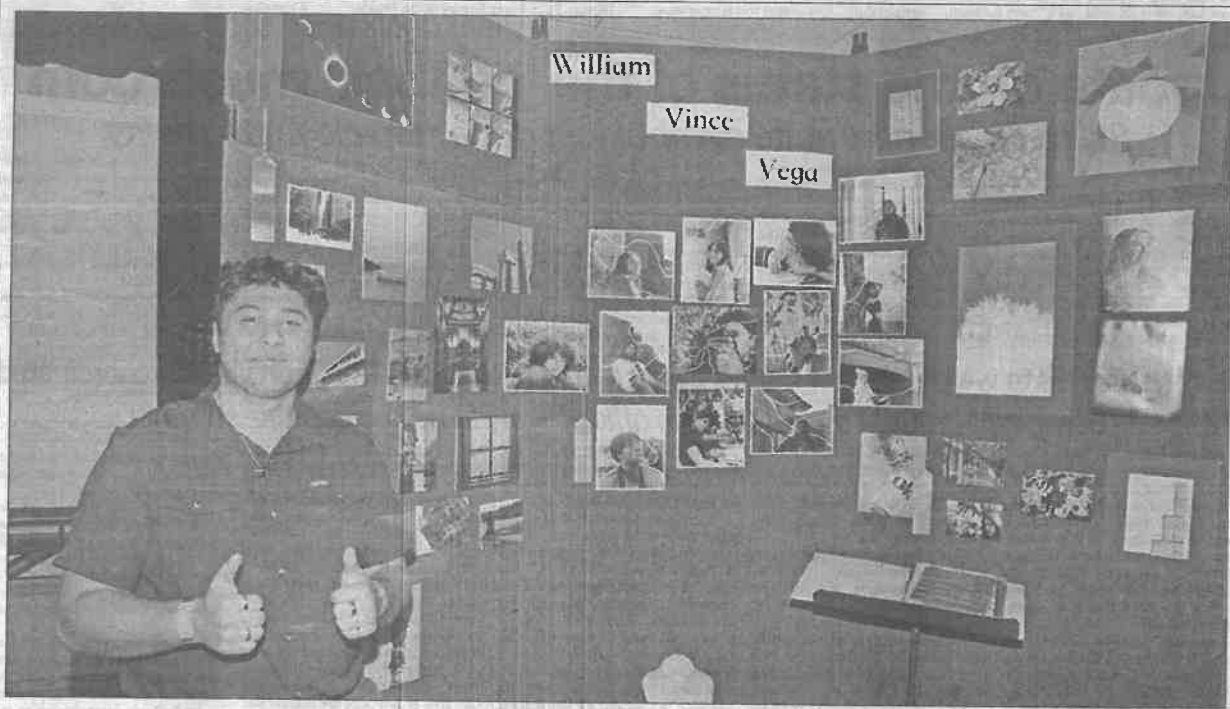
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THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

## An outstanding artist

From April 30 to May 2, the artistic talents of Willowbrook High School students were on display during the school's annual Student Art Show/Spring Art Exhibition. More than 300 pieces of student artwork were featured, with categories showcased including: drawing, painting, mixed media, photography, digital art, sculpture/jewelry, ceramics/pottery, graphic design, cartooning and animation. The students who were recognized during the event's May 1 reception included senior William Vince Vega, who was honored as the Willowbrook Art Department's Outstanding Senior of

the Year for the current 2023-24 school year. Vega is pictured at the reception with several pieces of his artwork, including (upper left) his photography of the April 8 solar eclipse. Vega and his mother traveled to Indianapolis to be in the eclipse's path of totality—the area where a full eclipse can be viewed and experienced. His piece of eclipse photos received a first-place ribbon at last week's event. A Villa Park resident, Vega will attend the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, where he will study architecture.

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# Pre-trial release denied for Crest Hill man accused of murder in Woodridge

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Woodridge Acting Chief of Police Tom Stefanson announced last week that Judge Joshua Dieden granted the state's motion to deny pre-trial release for a Crest Hill man accused of murdering Ed Lewis in Woodridge last month. **Geyon Anderson** Lewis in Woodridge last month. **Geyon Anderson**



shot Lewis multiple times. It is further alleged that after shooting Lewis, Anderson fled the scene in a black Nissan sedan.

At approximately 5:30 a.m. the next morning, officers with the MERIT Task Force, the Woodridge Police Department and the Romeoville Police Department executed a search warrant at Anderson's home, where they recovered multiple firearms including two 9mm 3D printed "ghost guns," one of which was loaded. Anderson was taken into custody at that time.

A DNA analysis conducted by the Illinois State Police Crime Laboratory on the spent shell casings recovered at the scene stated that "this analysis provides Very Strong Support for the proposition that Geyon Anderson is a contributor to the DNA profile."

"First and foremost, I offer my sincere condolences to Ed's family and friends and wish them strength as they navigate their lives with just the memory of Ed to see them through," Berlin stated. "I thank the Woodridge Police Department for their work in identifying the defendant in this case. When a horrible crime occurs, as in this case, we are all very fortunate to have the DuPage Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigative Team, or MERIT, at our disposal. The experience and expertise of MERIT members is second to none. Their efforts in this case are as an

outstanding example of their dedication to public safety in DuPage County. I thank DuPage MERIT Major Crimes, DuPage MERIT SWAT, DuPage MERIT Forensic Investigations, the Romeoville Police Department, the Illinois State Police Crime Laboratory, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Cook County Sheriff's Office for their assistance and collaborative efforts that allowed us to file charges against Mr. Anderson. I also thank Assistant State's Attorneys Louisa Nuckolls and Anthony Raimondi, for their work in securing charges against this defendant."

"The men and women of the Woodridge Police Department offer our condolences to the family and friends of Ed Lewis on their loss," Stefanson said. This is yet another example of a young life lost to senseless gun violence. I acknowledge the dedicated hard work of Woodridge Detectives and Tactical Officers as well as the Investigative Aide. I also acknowledge and thank members of MERIT Major Crimes, Forensic Investigations and Digital Forensics as well as State's Attorney Bob Berlin and his team for their work in bringing the man allegedly responsible for this murder to justice."

Anderson's next court appearance is scheduled for May 21, for arraignment in front of Judge Mia McPherson.

On April 23, at approximately 8:40 p.m., Woodridge police officers responded to a call in the area of the 2000 block of Country Club Drive regarding a male who had been shot. Upon their arrival, officers found the victim, later identified as Ed Lewis, lying on the ground, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Lewis was immediately transported to a local hospital, where he was pronounced deceased.

Authorities recovered three 9mm shell casings at the scene. Through the course of their investigation, which included speaking with multiple witnesses and reviewing surveillance video, authorities identified Anderson as a suspect.

It is alleged that Anderson and Lewis were together on Country Club Drive when Anderson



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Award-winning artist

The Willowbrook High School students who were recognized during last week's reception for the school's annual Student Art Show/Spring Art Exhibition included junior Nina Young, who received the Best of Show award for her 3-D effect painting. Young, who is a resident of Villa Park, is pictured with her unique piece at the May 1 reception for the art show/exhibition, which included more than 300 pieces. Those who attended the reception were able to look at Young's award-winning piece through colored glasses. If they then looked at the painting with only one eye open, they would see certain images in the painting, but not others. If they kept the glasses on and looked at the painting with only their other eye open, their view of the painting would change.

## Villa Park Police department announces distracted driving enforcement results during April

The Villa Park Police Department announced last week that it issued 71 citations for hands-free law violations and one arrest for a driver's license violation, 28 citations for other traffic violations and one citation for a child safety seat violation during April's Distracted Driving Awareness Month enforcement campaign.

"Driver distraction is a persistent issue in Villa Park that often has life-altering consequences," said Villa Park Police Sgt. James Cibak. "Issuing a citation is a proven way to get motorists to pay attention or pay the price. Distracted Driving Awareness Month may be over, but we will continue our efforts to stop motorists from engaging in this deadly behavior."

The Villa Park Police Department joined forces with the Illinois State Police, local law enforcement and highway safety partners for this enforcement effort.

The Illinois distracted driving campaign was funded with federal traffic safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

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E-mail: Advertising Department: adst@rvpublishing.com  
News Department: CFox@rvpublishing.com  
Classified Department: Classifieds@rvpublishing.com

#### Administration:

Chris Fox  
News Coordinator

Debra Hamilton  
Advertising Director

Pete Cruger  
Publisher

#### Advertising:

Brenda Garcia  
Kate McCarty

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CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Off to the prom

Willowbrook High School held its 2024 prom on Saturday evening at the Chicago Sports Museum. More than 520 students boarded buses at Willowbrook to head to the prom. One photo, taken shortly before the students departed for Chicago, shows (left to right) juniors T.J. Radomski, Nicholas Williams and Daniel Javler. Another photo shows (left to right) seniors Elisa Chivilo and Elle Bruschuk.

## Cantigny Spring Fest May 18: Offers garden-inspired activities, shopping, and live music

Cantigny plans a spring celebration with a full day of activities for all ages on Saturday, May 18. Tickets for Spring Fest are on sale now at [Cantigny.org](http://Cantigny.org).

Event hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$12, and free for ages 15 and under. Parking is \$5 per car.

Spring Fest attractions include:  
• McCormick House Marketplace: The newly renovated historic home will host local artisans offering jewelry, pottery, artworks and more.

Treat yourself to a craft coffee and pastry bar on the South Porch, overlooking the McCormick Allée.

• Greenhouse tours: A special "backstage VIP pass" (\$50) entitles the holder to a guided tour of the Cantigny greenhouse, drink ticket, and 25 Cantigny tulip bulbs to take home. The pass covers festival admission, too.

• Live Music in South Grove Beer Garden: Enjoy the Gleason Irish Trio in Cantigny's new-for-2024 beer

garden in the South Grove. Have a cold brew (try the Cantigny Kolsch from 93 Octane Brewery!) or visit the Mimosa and Bloody Mary bar. A delicious French-themed menu will be available along with traditional lunch favorites. Cantigny's new Café inside the Visitors Center offers even more choices, including gourmet coffees, salads, and ice cream.

• Terrarium Bar: Craft your own botanical masterpiece at a station hosted by Lecter's Garden. This is

a specialty experience requiring advance registration. The price of \$40 includes festival admission. Terrarium Bar hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• Bulb Sale: This popular annual event is now part of Spring Fest! Take home 25 Cantigny tulip bulbs for \$10, while supplies last.

• Family Fun Walk and Gaome Scavenger Hunt: Take a stroll through the gardens and see what

you may find! Lawn games, a fun inflatable, plant crafts and live animals from The Grove will also keep the kids happy.

Cantigny is open every day except Tuesday and offers free admission on Wednesdays for those registering in advance.

Hours, parking fees, and a full calendar of upcoming events are posted at [Cantigny.org](http://Cantigny.org).

## Village of Villa Park seeks input on naming new recreation center

### Online survey is open through Sunday

The Village of Villa Park is asking residents for their input in choosing a name for the village's new recreation center, which is currently under construction and scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

"Our goal is to find a name that captures the spirit and essence of our community," noted a statement released by the village last week.

"Your input is crucial in determining the identity of the recreation center, so please take a moment to share your suggestions and thoughts on what the recreation center should be named. Let's shape the future together!"

The online survey to seek input on naming the new recreation center will be open until the end of the day this Sunday, May 12. To participate in the survey, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VPRCname>.

The survey asks residents to select one name for the recreation center. There are six choices—Villa Park Recreation Center, Lions Park Recreation Center, Villa Park Recreation Center at Lions Park, The Greenway Recreational Center at Lions Park, Garden Village Family Fitness Center at Lions Park and Norma Berger Taylor Recreation Center. Residents can also specify another name.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing



## Willowbrook shuts out Morton

Willowbrook's softball team improved to 13-9 overall and 4-2 in the West Suburban Gold Conference following last week's 3-0 home win over Morton in Villa Park. Sophomore Allie Coppersmith gave the Warriors a 1-0 lead in the May 1 contest when she bashed a solo home run to center field in the bottom of the third inning. Coppersmith is pictured (above) as she touches third base after her homer—her third of the season—and prepares to high-five Willowbrook head coach Nick Hildreth. The Warriors added one more run later in the third inning, when senior Karman Rowe singled and eventually scored on a single by junior Isabel Bates. Willowbrook sophomore Delaney Smrz bashed a solo home run to center field in the bottom of the sixth inning to push her team's lead to 3-0. It was Smrz' first homer of the season. Rowe, who is pictured (right) while firing a pitch during the game, delivered a complete-game shutout in the circle. She allowed three hits and no walks while piling up 15 strikeouts in seven innings. Two days before beating Morton, Willowbrook suffered an 8-5 loss to Downers Grove South in a conference battle in Villa Park. The visiting Mustangs held an 8-2 lead at the end of the fourth inning. Coppersmith hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the sixth inning to cut Downers Grove South's lead to 8-4. Sophomore Marli Smrz—Delaney's twin sister—hit two solo homers in the contest. She hit her first home run of the day in the third inning and added another solo blast in the seventh inning. Rowe, who struck out 15 batters in the May 1 game against Morton, also recorded 15 strikeouts in the April 29 clash against Downers Grove South. Willowbrook's schedule this week includes conference games against Addison Trail, Leyden and Hinsdale South, along with a non-conference game at Montini.

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## •Election (Continued from page 2)

"We're denying people the truth. This is why your streets aren't safe..." Bailey said in a June 29, 2022 interview on Profit's show, hours before that backroom meeting. "We've got the message—it's true. We've just got to get it out."

Profit denied the radio appearance counted as coordination, pointing to the fact that crime was a hot topic throughout the 2022 election cycle and that he had other candidates for office and public officials on his show.

Democrats' passage of the SAFE-T Act, which included certain police reforms and made Illinois the first state to fully abandon its cash bail system, became a unifying theme for Republicans to knock Democrats after its passage in early 2021 and through its full implementation last year.

Profit's PAC also used footage taken from the Bailey campaign's YouTube channel, something that Hardin's lawyers also argued was only done to coordinate giving material to friendly PACs.

"That is explainable for no purpose other than a desire to help independent groups make ads," Fox said.

Under Illinois election law, "independent expenditure committees"

like Profit's PAC are barred from making expenditures "in connection, consultation, or concert with or at the request or suggestion of" public officials or candidates for office.

But Bailey's lawyer said that the actual meaning of this prohibition is not clear.

"This would have been far more appropriate for the board to take up as a rule-making process and make a pronouncement so that PACs and candidates can govern their affairs more clearly based on a clearly delineated set of rules going forward rather than adjudicating somebody for violating rules before we determine what they are," Jeffrey Meyer said April 29.

In January, a previous hearing officer from the state board of elections noted that it was "rather difficult to determine" what constitutes coordination under the law, given that neither state law nor administrative rules provide further guidance on the subject.

### ISBE: Lack of case law

There is also a lack of case law, according to Illinois State Board of Elections spokesperson Matt Diet-

rich, who said that this is the first complaint in Illinois to allege coordination between an independent expenditure committee and a candidate.

Lawyers for Hardin as well as Profit and Bailey are expected to file additional legal briefs in the coming weeks. The Illinois State Board of Elections will decide the case this summer.

Profit has also faced criticisms as a rule-making process and make a complaint over his publishing as use of a network of free "newsletters" and corresponding websites support conservative political candidates.

In 2018, Profit sued the Board of Elections and then-Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan in federal court in an unsuccessful attempt to ease restrictions on what activities could be coordinated between political groups and candidates.

In 2020, Profit shuttered his first independent expenditure PAC called Liberty Principles PAC, with \$39,000 unaccounted for, according to state finance records.

Uihlein had also donated heavily to that PAC, which Profit founded in 2012, to support conservative candidates.

# Brandt and Flanagan head to state meet for the third straight year

Rams' standout duo wins sectional doubles title; tandem enters state doubles meet with a record of 45-2

The Glenbard East badminton team will send one doubles duo and one singles player to this week's IHSA state meet at DeKalb High School.

The Rams' decorated doubles tandem of seniors Ellie Brandt and Claire Flanagan will play in the state meet for the third straight year. Glenbard East senior Emily Puth will compete in the singles tournament at the state meet, which takes place this Friday and Saturday.

The state meet features 64 singles players and 64 doubles teams.

The Brandt-Flanagan duo and Puth earned trips to the state meet with their performances at the Naperville North Sectional on May 2. Brandt and Flanagan won three straight matches to win the doubles title at the sectional. Puth delivered a second-place finish in singles play at last week's sectional. She won her first two matches of the event before losing to Naperville North freshman Kelly Hu in the singles final.

The top four singles players and the top four doubles teams at each of the state's 16 sectionals qualified for the state meet.

Brandt and Flanagan did not lose a game during their three victories at the Naperville North Sectional. The

duo enters the state meet with a season record of 45-2.

Brandt and Flanagan also won a sectional doubles title at Naperville North last season. The two Rams proceeded to win their first three matches in the doubles portion of the 2023 state meet. The duo then lost in the quarterfinal round of the double-elimination state event. Brandt and Flanagan won one match in the consolation round before ending last year's state meet with a loss.

### Three Warriors qualify for state meet

Willowbrook's badminton team will send one singles player and one doubles team to this week's IHSA state meet. Those three Warriors earned their trips to this week's state meet in DeKalb with their top-four finishes in last week's Hinsdale Central Sectional.

Senior Lillian Caron of Willowbrook qualified for the state meet's singles competition by placing third in singles play at the May 2 sectional in Hinsdale. The Warriors' doubles duo of senior Jasmine Langston and junior Abigail Schmitz secured a state-meet berth with a third-place showing in the sectional's doubles action.

# Broncos beat the Spartans

The Montini Catholic baseball team defeated St. Francis 3-1 on Saturday on the Spartans' home field in Wheaton. Montini improved its overall season record to 18-8-1 with Saturday's victory. Sophomore Blake Heyer (No. 12) of the Broncos pitched a complete game to lead his team to its win over the Spartans. Heyer allowed three hits and two walks while recording four strikeouts in seven innings on the mound. Montini scored one run in the top of the first inning to take an early 1-0 lead. St. Francis picked up one run in the bottom of the fourth inning to even the score at 1-1. The Broncos broke the tie with two runs in the top of the seventh inning. Senior Cash Campbell grounded into a fielder's choice to drive in the run that gave Montini a 2-1 lead. Senior Anthony Manganello scored the Broncos' third run of the day on a balk. Senior Quinn Boyer drove in Montini's first run of the game with a first-inning double. The Broncos began last week's action with an 8-3 loss at Fenwick on April 29. One day later, Montini defeated Leo 12-2 in a five-inning game in Lombard. The Broncos earned a 10-0 win at Leo on May 2. Campbell went 3-for-3 and drove in two runs in last week's home win over Leo. Senior Dominic Catalano went 2-for-3 with an RBI in the same game. Montini junior Max Bell went 2-for-4 and drove in four runs in last week's five-inning triumph over Leo in Chicago. The Broncos are scheduled to play four games this week, including this Saturday's home contest against St. Patrick.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

# Warriors earn a home victory

Willowbrook's girls soccer team secured its first West Suburban Gold Conference victory of the season when it defeated Proviso East 2-1 in Villa Park on April 30. Junior Camryn Warnke (No. 19 - above left) scored a first-half goal to give the Warriors a 1-0 lead. Junior Liz Tretina (No. 13 - above middle) provided an assist on Warnke's goal. Senior Emma Anderlik (No. 16 - above right) scored a second-half goal to extend Willowbrook's lead to 2-0. The visiting Pirates scored their only goal of the match later in the second half. Willowbrook improved to

2-8-2 overall and 1-3 in conference play following its win over Proviso East. The Warriors dropped to 2-9-2 overall and 1-4 in conference action after losing a 3-1 decision at Leyden on May 2. Willowbrook completed its regular season with this week's conference match against Addison Trail, along with a non-conference battle against Providence Catholic. The Warriors will open the IHSA Class 3A post-season by facing DeKalb in this Saturday's regional quarterfinal in Villa Park.

# Villa Park REVIEW

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VOL. 21 • NO. 22 WWW.THEINDEPENDENTNEWSPAPERS.COM THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024

## Willowbrook's Class of 2024 turns the page to a new chapter

Commencement takes place this Sunday

Willowbrook High School's Class of 2024 will celebrate its commencement this Sunday, May 19, in the school's main gymnasium.

Two members of the school's graduating class—Natalia Garcia-Avila and Sean O'Brochta—will speak during Sunday afternoon's event. Garcia-Avila is the president of Willowbrook's Class of 2024. O'Brochta was chosen to speak because of his superlative academic rank.

Garcia-Avila and O'Brochta are Villa Park residents.

Last week, both speakers shared the titles of their speeches at the commencement service. O'Brochta's speech is titled "Just Have Fun." Garcia-Avila's speech is titled "Survival Guide: What You Need to Know."

"I focus on how this is the end of a chapter, but more importantly, it's the beginning of a new chapter," said O'Brochta, who added that he won't fill his speech with recommendations to his fellow graduates. His main tip to them happens to be the title of his speech—"Just Have Fun."

"I try to avoid the advice in usual graduation speeches," he said. "I don't feel qualified to give advice like that."

O'Brochta mentioned that he was honored to be chosen to speak during the commencement service.

"I was very excited to be asked," he said. "It means a lot. We have a very impressive class. It's a distinct honor."

Detailing the highlights of her speech, Garcia-Avila referred to some of the advice she's frequently received from her mother.

"The major theme of the speech would be to knock on the door of opportunity," Garcia-Avila said. She not-



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

Willowbrook High School's Class of 2024 will hold its commencement ceremony this Sunday, May 19, in the school's main gymnasium. The two class members who will speak during the service are (left to right) Sean O'Brochta and Natalia Garcia-Avila, who are both Villa Park residents. Garcia-Avila is the president of Willowbrook's Class of 2024. O'Brochta was chosen to speak because of his outstanding academic rank. Garcia-Avila will attend the University of Notre Dame. O'Brochta will attend Northwestern University.

ed that every morning that she left for school, she would hear her mother say, "You should knock on the door of opportunity."

O'Brochta has been a mainstay on the stage in Willowbrook's theatrical and musical productions. He's been a cast member in all of the school's theatrical presentations during the last four

years. As a freshman, he and his fellow cast mates gave those performances on Zoom. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Willowbrook students endured remote learning for nearly all of the 2020-21 school year—O'Brochta's freshman year.

"I have so many profound memories and have made so many friends through music and theater," O'Brochta said.

For the last three years, Garcia-Avila has been the president of Willowbrook's HOLA (Hispanic Organization of Leaders in Action) Club. When she began as president, there were only about 20 students in the club. After learning that approximately 25 percent of Willowbrook's students are Hispanic, she led the effort to build the club to its current membership of about 270 students.

Garcia-Avila is also a member of Willowbrook's girls soccer team. O'Brochta and Garcia-Avila are both

members of the District 88 Superintendent Student Advisory Committee. That committee, which includes 10 Willowbrook students and 10 Addison Trail students, meets with District 88 Superintendent Jean Barbanente every two months to discuss a range of issues at their respective schools.

Additionally, O'Brochta and Garcia-Avila have both been involved in District 88's annual Relay for Life event, which raises money for the American Cancer Society.

Before attending Willowbrook, O'Brochta attended St. Pius X School in Lombard.

Later this year, he will attend Northwestern University, where he will study neuroscience.

"I'm looking forward to exploring a lot of different courses," said O'Brochta, who is unsure of his career path. "I'm going to broaden my horizons before I narrow it down to something that I want to pursue after college," he

added.

Garcia-Avila, who attended Jackson Middle School before attending Willowbrook, is headed to the University of Notre Dame, where she will double-major in political science and Latino studies on a pre-law track. She plans to become a lawyer.

"If it wasn't for Willowbrook, I probably would not consider even going to college," said Garcia-Avila. In addition to helping her believe in herself, the school's teachers and staff provided her with guidance to assist her in continuing her education.

"I don't just represent my class; I also represent the Hispanic community," said Garcia-Avila in describing the honor of speaking at Sunday's commencement service. She added that she's specifically hoping to represent Hispanic girls when she delivers her speech.

"Just seeing somebody like me up there can inspire," she said.

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# Pre-trial release denied for Chicago man charged with robbing Bensenville gas station at knifepoint

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Bensenville Chief of Police Dan Schulze have announced that Judge Leah Bendik granted the state's motion to deny pre-trial release for a Chicago man accused of robbing a Bensenville gas station at knifepoint.



**Willie Weaver**

Willie Weaver, 47, appeared in First Appearance Court and is charged with one count of armed robbery, a Class X felony.

At approximately 10:50 p.m. May

3, Weaver allegedly followed a clerk who was working at the Casey's Gas Station, located in the 1200 block of E. Devon Ave., into the store as the clerk returned from disposing boxes outside.

It is alleged that once inside the store, the clerk unlocked the door to an employee only section of the store. It is alleged that after the clerk unlocked the door, Weaver prevented the clerk from closing and locking the door behind him. It is alleged that Weaver then pointed a knife, which had a blade of approximately three inches, at the clerk, who was retreating with his hands up and then forced him to open a cash register.

It is further alleged that after a brief

struggle, during which Weaver lunged at the clerk with the knife, Weaver took \$129 from the register and then fled the scene in a black Nissan. An investigation into the matter led to Weaver as a suspect.

On May 9 at approximately 4:20 p.m., detectives conducted a traffic stop on the black Nissan, allegedly driven by Weaver, near Elmhurst Road and Touhy Avenue. Weaver was arrested and taken into custody at that time.

"It is alleged that Mr. Weaver threatened at knifepoint a man who was just trying to make an honest living," Berlin said. "In DuPage County we have zero tolerance for the type of armed violence as alleged in this case and

we are all thankful that the clerk was not injured. I commend the Bensenville Police Department for their outstanding work in the identification and apprehension of the defendant in this case. Thanks to their efforts, Mr. Weaver now finds himself facing the possibility of between six to 30 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections."

"I am extremely proud of the efforts put forth by our Bensenville police officers whose work the past few days led to the arrest of the defendant in this case," Schulze said.

Weaver's next court appearance is scheduled June 3 for arraignment in front of Judge Mia McPherson.

## Villa Park officers will be on the roof at Dunkin' this Friday to support Special Olympics

This Friday, May 17, the Villa Park Police Department will join other agencies throughout the state to support the Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics by standing atop Dunkin' rooftops.

Between 5 a.m. and noon on Friday, members of the Villa Park Police Department will accept donations at the Dunkin' located at 298 W. North Ave., Villa Park.

Special Olympics Illinois provides year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic sports for local children and adults with special needs by giving them opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience achievement while building friendship with other Special Olympics athletes and their communities.

## Village holds its Spring Sweep on Saturday

*Drive-through event is free to Villa Park residents, except for fees for paint recycling*

Villa Park's F.U.N. (Focus on Unifying Neighbors) Commission is joining the Villa Park Environmental Concerns Commission to hold the 2024 Villa Park Spring Sweep recycling and shredding drop-off event from 9 a.m. to noon this Saturday, May 18.

The drive-through Spring Sweep will take place along Home Avenue, near Villa Park Village Hall. Traffic will enter from Harvard Avenue, heading north, and exit onto Ardmore Avenue.

Participants will recycle from the safety of their vehicles by driving to each station. Volunteers will collect and remove items from vehicles for disposal. Attendees are asked to remain in their vehicles at all times. If possible, residents should pack items in easy-to-carry boxes clearly labeled with what items are inside.

The event is free to Villa Park residents, but a fee will apply for



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Chamber holds installation event

The Villa Park Chamber of Commerce held its annual Installation event last week at Crazy Pour, 105 E. North Ave. Those who were installed as members of the chamber's board of directors during the May 8 event were: (front row, left to right) Agnes Banaszewski, Director; Jackie Rossi, Executive Director; Alex Saucedo, President; Katy Atkinson, Director; Rae Rupp Srch, Vice President; Dan Brink, Secretary; Deborah Cain, Director; and Jeff Stulgin, Director; (back row, left to right) Len Loverher, Director; and Kyle Schnettler, Director.

## DuPage Water Commission purchases property in Northbrook

The DuPage Water Commission (DWC) announced last week that it has closed on the purchase of a 127-acre parcel in Northbrook, known formerly as the Green Acres Golf Club.

According to the commission, its acquisition of the site is "a critical step for the DuPage Water Commission to enable the possible advancement of a new regional Lake Michigan source water project."

While the commission did not disclose how much it paid for the land in Northbrook, multiple reports stated the purchase price at approximately \$80 million.

"This location is uniquely suited for our project, including ideal proximity to Lake Michigan, electric transmission facilities, and railroad and highway corridors," said James Zay, Chairman of the DuPage Water Commission. "When we became aware that the property was available, we moved quickly to secure the site for the benefit of DuPage County residents and the larger suburban region."

In a release issued by the DWC last week, Zay stated that "large develop-

ment sites in the suburban region are becoming increasingly rare as the location of data centers and distribution centers exert pressure on the market."

In its release, the DWC stated that it has been evaluating alternatives [to the City of Chicago] to "provide improved access to Lake Michigan water for suburban and northeastern Illinois residents for several years."

The commission's office and facility is located at 600 E. Butterfield Road, Elmhurst.

The commission's website notes that its water comes from Lake Michigan, and that it purchases that water from the Chicago Water Department. Chicago's Jardine Water Purification Plant treats the water that the commission purchases. That plant, according to the commission, is the largest potable water filtration plant in the world, with a capacity of 1.4 billion gallons per day.

The commission buys water from the City of Chicago and sells it to dozens of communities in DuPage County, including Lombard and Villa Park.

In 1984, the commission signed a

40-year agreement to buy water from the City of Chicago for redistribution in DuPage County. The commission went into full operation in May 1992.

In February of this year, the commission announced it signed a 17-year contract to extend its current water distribution agreement with the City of Chicago. The commission signed that new 17-year contract about one month before the expiration of its original 40-year agreement with the City of Chicago.

"The economics now present an opportunity for a new regional system to be constructed which will position suburban communities in northeastern Illinois to manage water resources in a way which provides improved governance and ensures rate stability for future generations of Lake Michigan water consumers," said DWC general manager Paul May.

The commission related in its recent release that it has "already engaged prospective partners, including other regional water wholesalers and suburban municipalities, and it continues to seek partners in the project."

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### Advertising:

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### A good week for the Broncos

The Montini Catholic baseball team won three of four games last week to raise its overall season record to 21-9-1. After opening the week with a 7-5 loss to St. Francis on May 6, the Broncos defeated Riverside-Brookfield 2-0 in Lombard on May 8. Montini ended its week with two more home victories—a 7-3 win over Harvest Christian Academy on Friday and an 8-3 triumph over St. Patrick on Saturday. In last week's game against Riverside-Brookfield, senior Cash Campbell gave the Broncos a 1-0 lead when he singled to drive in a run in the third inning. Montini senior Anthony Manganello raised the lead to 2-0 when he drilled a solo home run to right field in the fifth inning. Manganello is pictured (top left) while rounding the bases after his homer. He is also pictured (No. 33 - above) while celebrating with several of his teammates after he crossed home plate. Senior Jack Calcagno pitched six and two-third innings for the Broncos in their win over Riverside-Brookfield. Calcagno, who is pictured (left) while making a pitch during the contest, allowed four hits and four walks while recording 11 strikeouts. Junior Drew Church relieved Calcagno with the bases loaded and two outs in the top of the seventh inning. Church struck out the first batter he faced to end the game. Junior Max Bell and Campbell both homered in last week's loss to St. Francis in Lombard. Bell hit a bases-loaded homer in the sixth inning. His grand slam cut the Spartans' lead to 7-5. Campbell added a solo homer in the seventh inning. Campbell hit another solo homer in Friday's game against Harvest Christian Academy. Manganello and senior Quinn Boyer homered for Montini in Saturday's win. Boyer bashed a two-run homer in the bottom of the first inning to cut St. Patrick's lead to 3-2. Manganello launched a three-run homer in the bottom of the second inning to give the Broncos a 5-3 lead. Montini will finish its regular season this week. The Broncos will begin the IHSA Class 3A post-season by hosting a regional next week. Montini will face Timothy Christian in a regional semifinal on May 23. The winner of that game will face Wheaton Academy or Fenton in the regional final on May 25.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing



### Warriors earn a playoff victory

Willowbrook's girls soccer team opened IHSA Class 3A post-season action with Saturday's 1-0 win over DeKalb in a regional quarterfinal in Villa Park. Freshman Lilli Macias (No. 4 - right) of the Warriors scored the only goal of the match on a free kick with 3:04 left in the second half. Macias' kick caromed off of a DeKalb player before rolling into the net. Junior goalkeeper Payton Brose delivered a shutout performance for Willowbrook, which improved its overall season record to 3-10-3 and advanced to this week's regional semifinal against Charles North at the Batavia Regional. The Warriors, who are pictured above after Saturday's win over DeKalb, completed their regular season by playing Providence Catholic to a 1-1 tie in Villa Park on May 9. Senior Grace Soltys (No. 3, pictured top right during Saturday's game) scored Willowbrook's lone goal in that contest; her first-half goal evened the score at 1-1.

# Warriors place fifth in their own tournament

The Willowbrook boys volleyball team won three of five matches and earned a fifth-place finish in its own 12-team tournament, which took place on Friday and Saturday. The Warriors opened the event with Friday's 27-25, 25-16 loss to Glenbard North. Willowbrook then beat Larkin 25-8, 25-17 on Friday to finish second in its three-team pool. The Warriors opened Saturday's action with a 25-21, 25-11 loss to Plainfield East. In its next match, Willowbrook defeated Joliet Catholic 25-13, 25-15. The Warriors completed the event with a 27-25, 25-22 victory over Highland Park in the fifth-place match. Two photos from Saturday's match against Highland Park show Willowbrook seniors Carter Ferguson (No. 9 - near right) and Andrew Ciesinski (No. 11 - far right) Willowbrook's overall season record at the end of the tournament stood at 12-20. Plainfield East beat Glenbard North 25-16, 25-11 in Saturday's championship match at the Warriors' tournament. Earlier in the week, Willowbrook edged Addison Trail 27-25, 21-25, 25-17 in a West Suburban Gold Conference battle in Villa Park. Ciesinski bashed 20 kills in the Warriors' May 7 win over the Blazers. Ferguson provided 20 assists and seven kills. Senior Jason Hasler supplied 12 kills for Willowbrook. Sophomore Marty Pelesinas contributed 14 assists. The Warriors finished their regular season with this week's conference match against Proviso East. Willowbrook will open IHSAA post-season play by facing Plainfield South in a quarterfinal match at the Oswego East Regional on May 20.



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## Answers

### PUZZLE 1

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

### PUZZLE 2

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

### CROSSWORD

ERA	SLINE	OCTAD
DAM	EULER	CHEDO
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MERGES	CREWS	
ALIAS	SMARTNESS	
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MEN	RAWNIDE	PRE
AR	STEIN	NARSIS
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