

Cicero man charged with leading police on high-speed chase in stolen motor vehicle in Oak Brook

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Oak Brook Chief of Police Brian Strockis announced that the Court has denied the state's motion to detain pre-trial a Cicero man accused of leading police on a high-speed chase in a stolen motor vehicle.



Javier Barajas

Javier Barajas, 22, appeared at First Appearance Court and is charged with one count of aggravated unlawful possession of a stolen motor vehicle (Class 1 felony) and one count of aggravated fleeing and eluding (Class 4 felony).

On May 22 at approximately 10:19 p.m., Oak Brook police officers received notice from a Department of Homeland Security helicopter regarding a suspected stolen vehicle traveling through Oak Brook. Officers began following the vehicle, a 2021 Camaro ZL1 valued at more than \$60,000, as it traveled through Oak Brook. Officers continued to follow the Camaro,

allegedly driven by Barajas, ultimately to Army Trail Road where Barajas allegedly entered I-290 eastbound.

A trooper with the Illinois State Police joined Oak Brook officers and activated their emergency lights, at which time Barajas allegedly fled. It is alleged that at I-290 near St. Charles Road, the Oak Brook police officer activated his emergency lights and sirens at which time Barajas fled from the officer reaching speeds in excess of 100 mph in a 45-mph construction zone.

It is alleged that officers followed Barajas to 17th Street in Maywood, where Barajas exited the vehicle and fled on foot. He was taken into custody a short time later on 15th Avenue.

"Law enforcement in DuPage County is committed to not having a repeat of the epidemic of fleeing and eluding that we saw last year," Berlin said. "It is very simple, if you hear sirens and see flashing lights behind you, pull over. I can't be more clear: anyone who attempts to flee from police will be caught. We will use every tool available to us, including the use of a helicopter

and assistance from neighboring agencies, as in this case, to apprehend those who think they can outrun the police. Thankfully, no innocent motorists were injured or killed as a result of Mr. Barajas' alleged actions. I commend the Oak Brook Police Department for not only their work on this case, but also for their ongoing efforts in keeping our roadways safe. I thank the Illinois State Police for their assistance as well as the Department of Homeland Security for air support."

"This is yet another example of the great work by our officers keeping Oak Brook safe and collaborating with federal, state and local law enforcement partners to lock up criminals that have not yet recognized that we police in a proactive manner in Oak Brook and DuPage County," Strockis said. "I'd like to thank all of the agencies that assisted us in this incident and we will remain vigilant in keeping this community safe."

Barajas' next court appearance is scheduled June 17 for arraignment in front of Judge Michael Reidy.

Rankey named 88's Best for April

Willowbrook High School senior Kristina Rankey was recently named her school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of April. Rankey, who is a Villa Park resident, was honored during the District 88 Board of Education's April 22 meeting. She is pictured (right) at that meeting with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause (left). The 88's Best award recognizes



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students at Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools for their achievements in and out of the classroom. While speaking about Rankey during the recent board meeting, Krause read comments from several of her teachers. Those teachers described Rankey as hard-working, studious, charismatic, friendly and kind. Rankey is a standout in Willowbrook's Class of 2024. She held an academic rank within the top five percent of the class. She is an Advanced Placement Scholar and an Illinois State Scholar. She was named to Willowbrook's Distinction Honor Roll each semester of her time in high school. Rankey is a member of multiple honor societies, including the National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society, the Math Honor Society, the Science National Honor Society, the International Theatrical Honor Society, the Tri-M Honor Society and Willowbrook's social studies honor society—Civitas. Rankey was involved in numerous activities at Willowbrook. She was a four-year member of the school orchestra. She also contributed to the school's yearbook, theater department, speech team and environmental club. Krause noted during the recent board meeting that Rankey would attend either Nova Southeastern University or the University of California, Santa Barbara. She plans to study marine biology.



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Local comedian to be in upcoming film 'SNL 1975'

Villa Park resident and Lombard native Matt Kissane related he was chosen to play Matt Foley, the Motivational Speaker, a character made famous by the late Chris Farley, in an upcoming film called "SNL 1975," about the first season of "Saturday Night Live." "I got the part as a fluke online. They were looking for several lookalikes to be in the film, like Hans and Franz, Wayne's World, the Church Lady, Blues Brothers, etc.," Kissane recounted. "The actual production took place in and around the Atlanta area," he continued, adding that the film will most likely be released in 2025, for the show's 50th anniversary. "I had a great time and am so grateful to the entire cast and crew! It was an unbelievable experience, especially being personally directed by "Ghostbusters: Afterlife" director Jason Reitman," Kissane shared.

Illinoisians can now get documents notarized without leaving home

Illinois residents will no longer have to notarize documents in person under a new Electronic-Notary system administered by Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias' office.

Electronic Notarization, or "E-Notary," will radically change the way people and use notary services, Giannoulias predicted. Without leaving the home or office, an individual or business can have their documents notarized and signed electronically within minutes.

"In keeping with our ongoing effort to modernize the Secretary of State's office, E-Notary serves as a game-changer for Illinoisians by now

providing a convenient way to notarize documents without leaving their home or office," Giannoulias said. "Enabling commissioned notaries to work virtually makes the process faster and more secure for individuals and businesses alike."

E-Notary allows both the customer and notary to sign with an electronic signature, and to electronically attach both the notarial certificate and notary seal to a document. In 2021, the Illinois General Assembly passed legislation to allow the Secretary of State to implement electronic notarization.

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CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Pub

Warriors lose regional final to Lake Park

Willowbrook's baseball team finished its 2024 season with Saturday's 4-1 loss to Lake Park in an IHSA Class 4A regional final in Villa Park. The Warriors completed their season with an overall record of 24-11-2. Willowbrook opened post-season action with a 3-1 over West Chicago in a regional semifinal on May 23. The Warriors took an early 1-0 lead Saturday's regional final when they scored a run in the second inning. Lake Park evened the score at 1-1 in the fourth inning. The Lancers then scored three runs in the fifth in One photo from Saturday's contest on the Warriors' home field shows Willowbrook se Owen Riesen (above left), who pitched two scoreless Innings in relief. One more p from Saturday shows sophomore Jake Bonino (above right) of the Warriors batting d the seventh inning. Bonino made a diving catch in right field to end the sixth inning.



Downtown

PLAN

VISIONING WORKSHOP

JUNE 12TH 6:30 P.M. ELMHURST UNIVERSITY FRICK CENTER

Elmhurst University – Dining Hall at the Frick Center, 190 S. Prospect Avenue
The purpose of the event is to allow stakeholders, citizens, and community leaders to share their thoughts before plans and recommendations are drafted. Participants will work together to develop their vision for the future of the community. The event will conclude with general agreement regarding long-term role and character of Downtown Elmhurst and the projects and improvements that will be desirable in the future. Additional information can be found at www.elmhurst.org/downtownplanupdate.
Stay tuned for a couple pop-up events in the community this summer.

Sports

Rams, Warriors and Broncos suffer losses in regional finals

Willowbrook and Montini drop regional finals on their home fields

The Glenbard East, Willowbrook and Montini Catholic baseball teams ended their seasons with Saturday's losses in separate IHSA regional finals.

The Rams, Warriors and Broncos advanced to regional finals by opening the post-season with exciting regional semifinal wins on May 23.

Glenbard East began the IHSA Class 4A post-season with a 2-0 eight-inning victory over Addison Trail at the Addison Trail Regional. The Rams and Blazers played seven scoreless innings in their May 23 playoff battle. Glenbard East scored two runs in the top of the eighth inning to take a 2-0 lead.

Senior Trevor Rehnstrom pitched an eight-inning shutout for the Rams in last week's playoff game against Addison Trail. Rehnstrom allowed four hits and one walk in his shutout performance on the mound. He recorded 13 strikeouts.

With the game tied at 0-0, Glenbard East senior Brett Vercryusse singled to lead off the top of the eighth inning. Junior Devin Kraft then executed a bunt and beat the throw to first base for a single. Senior Chris Ludwig walked to load the bases with no outs. The next batter struck out. Sophomore Josh Ziemer then stepped to the plate. Moments later, Vercryusse scored on a wild pitch. Ziemer then hit a sacrifice fly that drove in Kraft from third base.

Rehnstrom allowed a single to start the bottom of the eighth inning. A short time later, Rehnstrom threw to Ludwig to pick off the base runner at first base. Rehnstrom retired the next two batters on groundouts to end the game.

St. Charles North defeated Glenbard East 10-0 in five innings in Saturday's regional final in Addison. The North Stars scored five runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to end the game.

Glenbard East completed its 2024 season with an overall record of 19-



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Public

Glenbard East's baseball team began the IHSA Class 4A post-season with a 2-0 eight-inning win over Addison Trail in a semifinal game at the Addison Trail Regional on May 23. The Rams' season ended with Saturday's 10-0 loss to St. Charles North in the regional final in Addison. Glenbard East senior Trevor Rehnstrom (No. 22 - above left) pitched a complete-game shutout to lead his team to last week's 1-0 win over the Blazers. Rehnstrom allowed four hits and one walk in eight innings. He piled up 13 strikeouts against Addison Trail. The Rams and the Blazers were locked in a scoreless tie at the end of the seventh inning. The Rams scored the game's only two runs in the top of the eighth inning. Senior Brett Vercryusse singled to lead off the inning and eventually scored on a wild pitch to give Glenbard East a 1-0 lead. Vercryusse (No. 10 - above right) is pictured as he dives safely into home plate. Junior Devin Kraft, who reached base on a bunt single, scored the Rams' second run of the inning. St. Charles North scored five runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to end Saturday's regional final. Glenbard East finished its season with a record of 19-13-2.

13-2. The North Stars advanced to this week's sectional, which will be played on their home field. St. Charles North is the No. 1 seed in the sectional. Glenbard East was the sectional's No. 9 seed.

Warriors lose a regional final against Lake Park

Willowbrook, the No. 6 seed in the St. Charles North Sectional, hosted a regional in Villa Park. The Warriors began the post-season with a 3-1 win over West Chicago on May 23.

Sophomore Jory Crocker pitched a complete game for the Warriors

in last week's win over West Chicago. The Wildcats, who were the St. Charles North Sectional's No. 10 seed, scored the game's first run in the top of the third inning to take a 1-0 lead. Willowbrook then scored three runs in the bottom of the third inning.

Crocker allowed five hits and did not issue any walks in his seven-inning effort against the Wildcats. He struck out 12 batters.

West Chicago allowed four straight walks in the bottom of the third inning. A bases-loaded walk to Willowbrook junior Vincent Ippolito brought in the Warriors' first run

of the inning. Willowbrook scored its next run of the inning on a West Chicago error. A groundout by senior Aiden Baerenklau drove in the Warriors' third run of the inning.

Willowbrook faced Lake Park—the sectional's No. 2 seed—in Saturday's regional final. The Warriors played the game on their home field, but Lake Park was the home team in the game due to its better seed.

Willowbrook scored one run in the top of the second inning to take a 1-0 lead. The Lancers scored one run in the fourth inning to even the score at 1-1. Lake Park scored three runs in the fifth inning to take a 4-1

lead. The Lancers went on to defeat the Warriors 4-1 to win the regional title and advance to this week's Charles North Sectional.

Senior Dylan Jenkins pitched first four innings of Saturday's game for the Warriors. He allowed 11 hits, two earned runs and one walk while striking out three batters. Senior Owen Riesen relieved Jenkins during the fifth inning. Riesen retired all six batters he faced.

Baerenklau scored the Warriors' only run in Saturday's game. He doubled to lead off the top of the sec-

See FINALS, Page 1

Weder jumps to a third-place finish at Class 3A state meet

Standout Warrior clears 6 feet, 7 inches in the final

Senior Evan Weder of Willowbrook's boys track and field team delivered a third-place finish in the high jump at the IHSA Class 3A state meet, which took place Friday and Saturday at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

Weder was one of 15 jumpers to clear 6 feet, 4 inches during the preliminary round at the state meet. All 15 of those jumpers advanced to the Class 3A final.

Weder cleared 6 feet 7 inches to place third in Saturday's final. He earned All-State recognition for his

third-place performance.

West Aurora junior Kewon Marshall won first-place honors, while junior Voldy Makabu of Champaign's Centennial High School finished second. Marshall and Makabu both cleared 6 feet, 8 1/4 inches during Saturday's final.

Two other Willowbrook athletes—juniors Jaylin Miller and Jaden Royal—competed at the state meet. Royal participated in the triple jump at the state meet. He traveled 42 feet, 6 inches in his best effort of the preliminary round to place 32nd in the Class 3A standings. The top 12 competitors from the preliminary round advanced to the final.

Miller ran the 100-meter dash at the state meet. He finished the race in 11.24 seconds in the preliminary round, placing 57th among that event's Class 3A competitors at the state meet. The nine fastest runners from the preliminary heats of the 100-meter dash advanced to the final.

Four Rams run at the Class 3A state meet

Glenbard East's 4 x 200-meter relay foursome of junior Amonte Cook, sophomore Michael Orive, senior Joey Rosenthal and junior Josh Roimicher posted a finishing time of 1 minute, 29.99 seconds in the preliminary round of the state meet. The

four Rams placed 26th among all of the Class 3A relay teams that competed in that event in Charleston. The top nine relay teams from the preliminary heats advanced to the final.

Roimicher ran the 100-meter dash at the state meet. He finished his preliminary-round race in 11.16 seconds, placing 51st among all of the Class 3A participants in that event. The nine fastest runners from the preliminary heats advanced to the final of the 100-meter dash.

A pair of Broncos compete at the Class 2A state meet in Charleston

Two members of the Montini

Catholic boys track and field team participated in the Class 2A state meet in Charleston.

Junior Nolan Ferris of the Broncos ran the 3,200-meter final at the state meet. He finished the race of approximately 2 miles in a 2 place time of 10 minutes, 1.17 seconds.

Senior Collin Angelakos competed in the shot put at the Class 2A state meet.

The top 12 athletes from the state meet's preliminary round advanced to the final. Angela delivered a throw that traveled 6 feet, 9 3/4 inches to place 38th in the preliminary round.

Warriors complete season with a loss to Benet Academy

Redwings connect for three homers during their 10-3 win in a regional final

The Willowbrook softball team's 2024 season ended with Saturday's 10-3 loss to Benet Academy in an IHSA Class 4A regional final at Hinsdale Central High School.

The Warriors finished their season with a 21-11 record.

Benet Academy advanced to this week's sectional at Marist High School in Chicago. Benet is the sectional's No. 2 seed. Willowbrook was the sectional's No. 7 seed.

The Warriors opened the post-season with a 4-3 win over Oak Lawn Community High School in a regional semifinal on May 22.

Oak Lawn scored two runs in the fourth inning to take a 2-0 lead over Willowbrook. The Warriors scored three runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to take a 3-2 lead. Oak Lawn evened the score at 3-3 when it scored one run in the top of the seventh inning. The Warriors then scored the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Senior Lindsey Rugg went 3-for-4 and drove in one run for Willowbrook in last week's regional semifinal. Sophomore Delaney Smrz went 2-for-4. Sophomore Marli Smrz went 1-for-1 and drove in one run.

Rugg doubled to lead off the bottom of the seventh inning. Junior Isabel Bates, who was intentionally walked later in the inning, scored the winning run on an Oak Lawn error.

Senior Karman Rowe pitched a complete game for the Warriors in their victory in the regional semifinal. Rowe recorded 10 strikeouts in the circle. She allowed eight hits, two earned runs and three walks.

Benet, which drilled three home runs in Saturday's regional final, scored four runs in the game's first inning. The Redwings piled on five more runs in the bottom of the second inning to take a 9-0 lead. Benet launched a two-run homer in the first inning. A three-run homer in the second inning pushed the Redwings' lead to 7-0. A solo homer in the fourth inning accounted for the game's final run.

Willowbrook scored all three of its runs in the top of the third inning. Rugg doubled to drive in senior Isabella Dugo. Rowe's triple drove in Rugg. A single by Marli Smrz drove in Rowe.

Rams struggle in a regional semifinal against South Elgin

Glenbard East opened the post-season with a 14-0 loss to South Elgin in last week's IHSA Class 4A regional semifinal at Lake Park High School in Roselle.

The Rams finished their season with an overall record of 19-8.

South Elgin scored two runs in the first inning of the regional semifinal, which lasted for five innings. The Storm added one run in the second inning and exploded for 11 runs in the third inning. South Elgin cranked a pair of home runs in the game—a two-run homer in the first inning and a three-run homer in the third inning.

Lake Park defeated South Elgin 2-1 in nine innings in Friday's regional final. The Lancers advanced to this week's sectional at Conant High School in Hoffman Estates.

Broncos pound Trinity in a regional semifinal before losing a regional final to Fenwick

Montini completed its season with Friday's 3-0 loss to Fenwick in an IHSA Class 3A regional final at Triton College in River Grove.

The Broncos finished their season with a 12-22 record. Fenwick advanced to this week's Glenbard South Sectional. Earlier this week, Fenwick faced St. Francis in a sectional semifinal. The winner of that game will play Elmwood Park or Glenbard South in this Saturday's sectional final.

Fenwick is the sectional's No. 3 seed. Montini was the sectional's No. 6 seed. Elmwood Park is the No. 1 seed. St. Francis is the No. 2 seed, while Glenbard South is the No. 4 seed.

Montini opened the post-season with a 12-2 win over Trinity in a regional semifinal at the Trinity Regional at Triton College.

The Broncos bashed 19 hits in last week's five-inning win over Trinity. Three Montini players drilled home runs in the contest. Junior Katherine Filkowski and freshman Cedona Barrett hit back-to-back solo homers to lead off the bottom of the fourth inning. Montini freshman Bridget Ryan hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the fifth inning to end the game.

Barrett went 4-4 and drove in one run in the regional semifinal. Ryan went 3-for-3 with three RBIs. Senior Kassandra Gutierrez went 3-for-4 and drove in two runs. Filkowski went 2-for-4 with one RBI. Freshman Aubry Raffan went 1-for-2 and drove in two runs.

Junior Ariana Macias pitched a complete game for Montini in the regional semifinal. Macias recorded eight strikeouts in five innings in the circle. She allowed four hits and two walks and didn't give up any earned runs. At the plate, Macias went 2-for-4 and drove in one run.

After connecting for 19 hits in the regional semifinal against Trinity, the Broncos managed just one hit—a seventh-inning single by Ryan—in Friday's regional final against Fenwick.

The Friars' pitcher piled up 16 strikeouts and allowed six walks during the game.

Macias allowed three runs, eight hits and two walks. She struck out two Fenwick batters. The Friars scored two runs in the first inning and added one more run in the fifth inning.



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• Finals (Continued from page 14)

inning and later scored on a Lake Park error.

Willowbrook finished its season with an overall record of 24-11-2.

After coming from behind to beat Timothy Christian, Montini falls to Wheaton Academy

Montini Catholic hosted an IHSA Class 3A regional in Lombard last week. The Broncos rallied to beat Timothy Christian 4-3 in nine innings in a regional semifinal on May 23. Montini's season ended with a 5-1 loss to Wheaton Academy in Saturday's regional final.

The Broncos concluded their season with an overall record of 23-13-1. Wheaton Academy advanced to this week's Class 3A sectional at Sycamore High School.

Timothy Christian scored three runs in the top of the first inning of last week's regional semifinal against Montini. The Broncos held the Trojans scoreless for the next eight innings.

Montini scored one run in the fourth inning and sent the game into extra innings by scoring two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Junior Drew Church of the Broncos delivered the game-winning hit against Timothy Christian. Church's two-out single in the bottom of the ninth inning drove in senior Quint Boyer to end the game.

Montini senior Jack Calcagno settled down after allowing three runs in

the first inning of the regional semifinal. In six innings on the mound, Calcagno allowed two hits and one walk. He recorded 11 strikeouts.

Senior Cash Campbell relieved Calcagno on the mound and threw two scoreless innings for the Broncos. Church then pitched a scoreless ninth inning.

Montini senior Dominic Catalano hit a single during the bottom of the seventh inning. Timothy Christian committed two errors during that inning. One of those errors allowed Catalano to cross the plate and even the score at 3-3.

Wheaton Academy scored two runs in the first inning of Saturday's regional final on the Broncos' home field.

The Warriors scored those two runs on a two-run home run. Montini, which played the game as the road team (the Warriors were the better seed in the Sycamore Sectional), scored in the top of the fifth inning to cut Wheaton Academy's lead to 2-1. Boyer drove in Montini's lone run of Saturday's game with a sacrifice fly.

The Warriors then scored three runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to take a 5-1 lead. Wheaton Academy connected for five hits during that inning.

Sophomore Blake Heyer pitched five innings for the Broncos during Saturday's regional final. Heyer allowed seven hits. He issued three walks and recorded seven strikeouts.

Weder finishes third in high jump

Willowbrook senior Evan Weder won the third-place medal in the high jump at the IHSA Class 3A boys track and field state meet, which ended on Saturday at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. Weder and 14 other athletes cleared 6 feet, 4 inches during the preliminary round at the state meet. Those 15 jumpers advanced to the final. Weder cleared 6 feet, 7 inches during Saturday's final to earn his third-place finish. Weder received All-State recognition for his stand-out performance at the state meet.

Willowbrook loses regional final against Benet Academy

The Willowbrook softball team closed out its season with Saturday's 10-3 loss to Benet Academy in an IHSA Class 4A regional final at Hinsdale Central High School. The Warriors ended their season with an overall record of 21-11. Willowbrook advanced to the regional final with its 4-3 win over Oak Lawn Community High School in a regional semifinal in Hinsdale on May 22. One photo from Saturday's regional final shows Willowbrook senior catcher Isabella Dugo (above) waiting for a throw to arrive at home plate. Another photo from Saturday shows senior Lindsey Rugg (No. 40 - right) of the Warriors scoring a run in the third inning. She scored on Rugg's double. Senior Karman Rowe tripled to drive in Rugg. Rowe then scored on a single by sophomore Marli Smrz.

