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Bi-partisan group calls for Auditor General to step down amid investigations

Senator: taxpayers have seen enough scandal, need government they can trust

By Dee Longfellow
For The Independent

On Thursday, June 2, a bipartisan group of more than 20 legislators, including State Representative Grant Wehrli (R-Naperville) and Senator Dan McConchie (R-Hawthorn Woods), is urging Illinois Auditor General Frank Mautino to take an unpaid leave of absence while numerous investigations persist into irregular campaign

expenditures and reporting procedures dating back to his time in the Illinois House of Representatives.

The legislators stressed that Mautino cannot effectively do his job while under a lingering cloud of suspicion.

"I joined my colleagues today in demanding answers from Auditor General Frank Mautino on his highly irregular campaign account spending," said McConchie. "For months we have formally asked him to provide answers, but he has yet to do so. Republican efforts to call on Frank Mautino to step aside have now turned into a bipartisan one. He cannot effectively do his job while

he's defending himself against these charges."

According to a press release, a group of 12 legislators from the Illinois House sent an initial request for answers to Auditor General Mautino on February 1, asking for a reply within ten days. On Feb. 9, Mautino advised the group that he needed more time to respond to their concerns, so the deadline was extended to Feb 25. Mautino replied that he had retained a legal firm to assist him and would be working "...during the next few weeks in order to respond to your letter."

In May, legislators sent yet another request to Mautino who said at that time that the issued

was expected to be resolved by the State Board of Elections. Since that time, however, the matter has reportedly grown into a federal investigation.

"The Auditor General is charged with being the taxpayers' watchdog against fraud and waste, and Frank Mautino can't possibly fulfill those duties while he's under numerous investigations," Wehrli said. "Illinois taxpayers have seen enough scandal. They need government they can trust. For the integrity of the office of Auditor General, we are demanding Frank Mautino's immediate assurance that he will step aside until the investigations are concluded."

On June 2, a growing group of 21 legislators from both the House and Senate demanded in writing that Auditor General Mautino take an unpaid leave of absence until the federal and state investigations into his past financial conduct are concluded.

Lombard Driver Services Facility is temporarily closed

LOMBARD — State Sen. Chris Nybo (R-Elmhurst) and State Rep. Peter Breen (R-Lombard) have advised local area residents that the Lombard Driver Services Facility in the Eastgate Shopping Center is temporarily closed due to issues with heating and air conditioning systems in the building. The facility at 837 S. Westmore-Meyers Road will be closed until repairs are com-

pleted. The closure is expected to last a week, or possibly longer, according to officials at the Illinois Secretary of State's Office. Until that time, residents are asked to please visit another nearby location.

For all driver and vehicle services, residents can visit the Naperville site at 931 W. 75th St., Suite 161, or the Chicago West site at 5301 W. Lexington Ave., Chicago.

If residents need driver services and stickers only, they can visit the Des Plaines site at 1470 Lee St., the Melrose Park site at 1903 N. Mannheim Road, or the Schaumburg site at 1227 E. Golf Road.

TVDL applicants with appointments at the Lombard facility should bring their confirmation numbers and all necessary documents to any of the facilities listed above on their scheduled date and time.

Residents can check cyberdriveillinois.com to see if the Lombard Driver Services Facility has been reopened, or call 630-629-8305.

District 88 offers meal service to students over summer

ADDISON-VILLA PARK — According to a release received from School District 88, District 88 will be provide free meals to children during the summer as part of its Seamless Summer Option (SSO) for food service. With summer just around the corner, it's time to think about keeping students eating healthy while school is out.

This summer, meals will be served from 9:20 to 9:50 a.m. Monday through Friday from June 13 to July 15 (excluding July 4) at Addison Trail High School, 213 N. Lombard Road in Addison, and Willowbrook High School, 1250 S. Ardmore Ave. in Villa Park. Participants should enter through Door # 1 at both schools.

Each year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture partners with local organizations like District 88 to provide free meals to children when school is out for the summer. The program is available for children through age 18. For more information about the SSO, call 630-530-3972.



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SPORTS

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Willowbrook baseball team has thrilling end to season

Warriors involved in two one-run playoff games

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

You can't say the Willowbrook baseball team didn't give its fans their money's worth in the playoffs.

The Warriors played a pair of one-run games in recent Class 4A regional action. Willowbrook defeated Wheaton St. Francis 15-8 in nine innings after a furious comeback and then lost by a run to Lake Park in nine innings in the regional title game.

"They were awesome games," said Willowbrook coach Vic Wisner. "We had the huge comeback against St. Francis. It was great. The first six innings went by crazy fast. We were only an hour into it. It was 0-0 in the bottom of the sixth and then they scored seven runs."

Wisner said normally in a situation like that he would think about what he was going to say after the game to the team regarding the season it had.

"We came back so fast that I didn't even have a chance to think about that," he said. "We scored seven runs with one out

"Our younger kids had great years. We're fortunate to have very good coaches here. We have some more pitching depth coming up and with Curtis Hudson as our pitching coach, it's going to be neat to watch that pitching depth develop."

— Willowbrook coach
Vic Wisner

and then the game was tied. It was boom, boom, boom."

Willowbrook, which scored eight runs in the ninth inning against St. Francis, played a total of 12 one-run games this season, including seven extra-inning affairs.

"We were used to it," said Wisner. "We had been in tough ballgames before. We didn't give up."

Willowbrook had the bases loaded with no outs in the first inning against Lake Park and scored one run.

"That game was a toughie," said Wisner. "If we could have put up a crooked number in that

first inning, maybe the game is different."

Willowbrook, which received a solid pitching performance from Matt Pizur, was down 3-1 heading into the bottom of the seventh. But the Warriors roared back again and tied it with a pair of doubles.

Willowbrook was 2-10 in one-run games this season and the team's last three one-run contests all went extra innings.

"We had really good pitching this season," said Wisner. "Because of that every game we played we were in. If we could have just manufactured a few more runs here and there, we would have gone in a better direction in those games. Matt Pizur was 5-2 for us and we barely scored a run a game for him. We've been such a good team the last few years that we were seeing everybody's best pitcher. We weren't going to sneak up on anybody this year."

The Warriors finished with an 18-17 overall mark. "I'm extremely happy with what we did this season," said Wisner. "I'm especially happy with the last few weeks. We were 6-14 at one point in the season and finished the season going 12-3. That's pretty good. At 6-14 for a high-school kid it would have been easy to

hang your head. These guys had short memories. They were convinced the next day was going to turn around. They always were saying, 'Coach, it will turn around.' That's a great trait to carry on as adults. They learned from adversity and never got down on themselves."

Cam Zunkel, Matt Garbacz, Pizur and Kyle Martyniuk were all named to the all-West Suburban Conference Gold Division team.

All eight Willowbrook seniors also earned all-conference academic honors (3.0 grade-point average and above). In addition to Zunkel, Garbacz, Pizur and Martyniuk, Ronnie Reitz, TJ Geritano, Danny Olson and Mark Molitor earned all-academic citations.

Pizur finished the year with a 1.30 ERA. Garbacz had a 1.70 ERA and Zunkel finished with a 2.20 ERA. Martyniuk led the team in hitting at .318, while Geritano was at .302 and had a .450 on-base percentage.

"TJ was always on base," said Wisner.

Kyle Ferguson led the team with 32 RBI. "That's a pretty good year," said Wisner.

Willowbrook also enjoyed great success at the lower levels this season. The freshman

team, under the direction of Willowbrook graduate Tom Fosnot, won the WSC Gold title with a 17-1 record and finished with a 25-3 overall mark. Fosnot was assisted by fellow Willowbrook alums Andy Wilhoit and Brian Hampton.

Willowbrook's sophomore team, under the direction of head coach Brandon Collings (Willowbrook graduate), tied for the conference title. Collings was assisted by Willowbrook alum Max Aiello.

Wisner was assisted at the varsity level by Willowbrook graduate Curtis Hudson (pitching coach) and 11-year veteran Matt Scott (the lone non-Willowbrook graduate on the staff).

"There were three freshmen on the sophomore team and they still did what they did," said Wisner. "Our younger kids had great years. We're fortunate to have very good coaches here. We have some more pitching depth coming up and with Curtis Hudson as our pitching coach, it's going to be neat to watch that pitching depth develop. We had a pitching staff as good as anybody's in DuPage County this year."

Wisner noted this was the first time in 10 years Willowbrook had a freshman player on the varsity (Trevor Jalosynski).

Addison Trail baseball team makes big strides

Blazers improve metrics in numerous categories

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The numbers don't lie. The Addison Trail baseball team enjoyed an improved 2016 season. The Blazers finished with 14 wins and went 9-9 in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division.

"We had one more win than last year, but our biggest improvements came with hitting and pitching," said Addison Trail coach Mike Kennedy. "We raised our batting average 20 points from last

year and our ERA dropped half a run. And we scored 20 more runs. Those are some of the big improvements we had."

Six Addison Trail players hit .300 or higher this season. "That's pretty good," said Kennedy. "We had some real good improvement with hitting."

Kennedy said the table has been set for even more future success. "We definitely left some wins out there that we should have had," he said. "But we're a young team and I think the future looks real good. I think what we did this season has a lot to do with our guys putting the work in during the off-season. Guys

came into the season much stronger than they have been in the past. They were having better at-bats and making better pitch selections during those at-bats. A lot of that came from the work they did in the off-season. Putting that work in off the field and in the weight room helped."

Nick Villasenor had another strong season on the mound. "Nick had a sub-2.00 ERA again, which is awesome," said Kennedy. "He's coming back for his third year, which is going to be really exciting. We had two other pitchers log significant innings and both are coming back."

Joining Villasenor on the mound will be sophomore

Trevor Fulmer and junior Bobby Daniels.

"I'm excited about what is coming up," said Kennedy. "We definitely had a much improved pitching staff. Our ERA dropped and we had a better all-around approach to the game."

Angelo Feola led the Blazers in batting average, while Robert Baughman was second. "Both of them were right around .375," said Kennedy. "Robert Baughman hit .470 in conference, which is awesome."

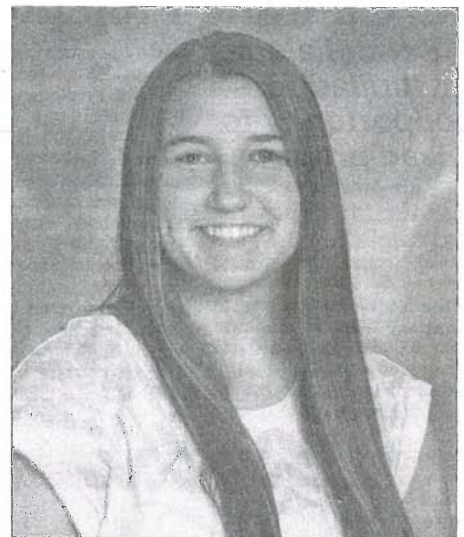
Feola, Baughman and Villasenor earned all-WSC Gold honors. Ricky Perez (.353 batting average as a junior) and Cosme Garcia (.350) also

were key contributors.

Addison Trail graduates Garcia, Baughman and Feola.

"Other guys will step up next year," said Kennedy. "We will be ready for next year. Our sophomore team had a successful season even though their two best players were with us. This group set the bar high for what expectations are in terms of commitment on and off the field and getting themselves ready to play, especially in the West Suburban Conference. They did a great job representing what we want an Addison Trail baseball athlete to be."

Addison Trail started its summer baseball schedule earlier this week.



Submitted photos

Three Willowbrook alumni earn Chicago Fire Soccer Club all-state honors

Three alumni of the Willowbrook girls soccer team have earned all-state honors from the Chicago Fire Soccer Club. They are from the class of 2016. Bridget Garner (pictured, left) has been named to the Chicago Fire Soccer Club's All-State All-Academic 1st Team. Garner was selected for her accomplishments in soccer and in the classroom. Alyssa Spada (center) has been named to the Chicago Fire Soccer Club's All-State All-Academic 2nd Team, and Samantha Wozniak (pictured, right) has been selected as an All-State All-Academic Special Mention member.

CALENDAR

Continued from page 16

Kids can sign up for all Travel Kids trips or just the ones they want. Fee: \$33 per trip, which include visits to Lincoln Park Zoo, Haunted Trails, Sea Lion Aquatic Center and Classic Cinemas York Theatre. For a full list of Travel Kids trips call 630-834-8970 or visit vprd.org.

• Mini Adventure Camps for ages 3-5

Villa Park Parks and Recreation is offering a program for kids ages 3-5 to keep them busy this summer. Mini Adventure Camps are available as a Monday/Wednesday/Friday or Tuesday/Thursday option. The two camps can be combined as a full week if needed. Weekly themes will create a fun-filled camp atmosphere to keep kids active. Campers must bring a non-perishable lunch each day. Drop off is at the Iowa Community Center at 9 a.m. and pick-up will be at 1 p.m. at the entrance of Jefferson Pool, 341 N. Harvard. Info: call 630-834-8970 or visit vprd.org.

• Gymnastics program

Parks and Recreation has

announced a new gymnastics program that is a partnership with Tumbling Times Gymnastics, 400 Rohrlwing Road. A wide variety of gymnastics classes are available for all ages and age levels. Info: visit vprd.org or call 630-834-8970.

• Yoga for babies and toddlers at the Library

The Villa Park Public Library is hosting fun and simple monthly yoga sessions for parents and young children from 10-10:45 a.m. July 13, and Aug. 3. These sessions are for babies and toddlers ages 6-30 months old, accompanied by an adult. There is a maximum of two children per adult. All participants must bring their own mats and sign a waiver at each session. Registration is required. Info: visit the library's website at vpl.info or call 630-834-1164.

• Library partnering with Museum of Science and Industry

Once a week on Mondays from June 18 to Aug. 8 (except July 4), The Villa Park Public Library will partner with

Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry to offer fun, weekly programs for kids. Science Minors: MSI Kids Club is a club for students in grades 3-5. It meets from 3:30-5 p.m. Kids will participate in hands-on science activities that build curiosity and encourage teamwork. Registration is required. Info: visit the library's website at vpl.info or call 630-834-1164.

• Dog obedience classes

Sign up now for K-9 Good Manners dog obedience classes offered by Villa Park Recreation. Registration is ongoing; register your pet when you think training is needed. Your pup will participate in seven classes regardless of when you enroll. The fee for these K-9 classes is \$95. Classes are held Wednesday evenings at the Community Recreation Building, 320 E. Wildwood. Info: call 630-834-8525.

• Sign up for Pickleball for Seniors

Villa Park Parks and Recreation is offering Pickleball for Seniors at the Iowa Community

Center from 1-2 p.m. Wednesdays July 6, and June 13-Aug. 17. Pickleball is a game that combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping pong. Two levels of beginner classes are available for seniors who want to play this easy-to-learn game. Fee for the 6-week programs is \$78. Info: visit vprd.org or call 630-834-8970.

• VFW Friday Night Fish Fry

From 5:30-8 p.m. every Friday evening, the Villa Park VFW Post #2801, 39 E. St. Charles Road, holds its Fish Fry. Menu available for purchase includes fried shrimp, fish/shrimp combos, beef/sausage sandwiches, combos and hot dogs.

• Widows or idowers meeting

Widows or Widowers (W.O.W.) of the Western Suburbs meets on the third Thursday of each month starting at 6:30 p.m. Held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 537 S. York Road, Elmhurst. Admission: \$5. Info: (630) 620-4060 or

www.cfsites.org.

• TOPS meetings held on Friday mornings

Remember TOPS? Take Off Pounds Sensibly is still here helping and supporting people to lose weight. Meetings are held on Friday mornings at Grace Lutheran Church 950 S. York Road, Bensenville. Weigh in 9:30 a.m., and meet from 10-11 a.m. Info: email Millie at johnreiter@sbcglobal.net

Villa Park Summerfest coming June 17-18

VILLA PARK — The Village has announced that Villa Park Summerfest 2016 will take place on June 17 and 18 in downtown Villa Park by the gazebo. This is the 11th Summerfest since it was re-started in 2006 after a period of time without it. Attendees will enjoy local bands, tasty food, kids attractions, business vendors, an arts and crafts fair and the Friday Night Car Show. More details forthcoming.

We want to print your news! Is your church hosting a special event? Community Calendar listings are free! Send details to independent@rvpublishing.com