

# Report of overturned canoe in Salt Creek prompts rescue efforts

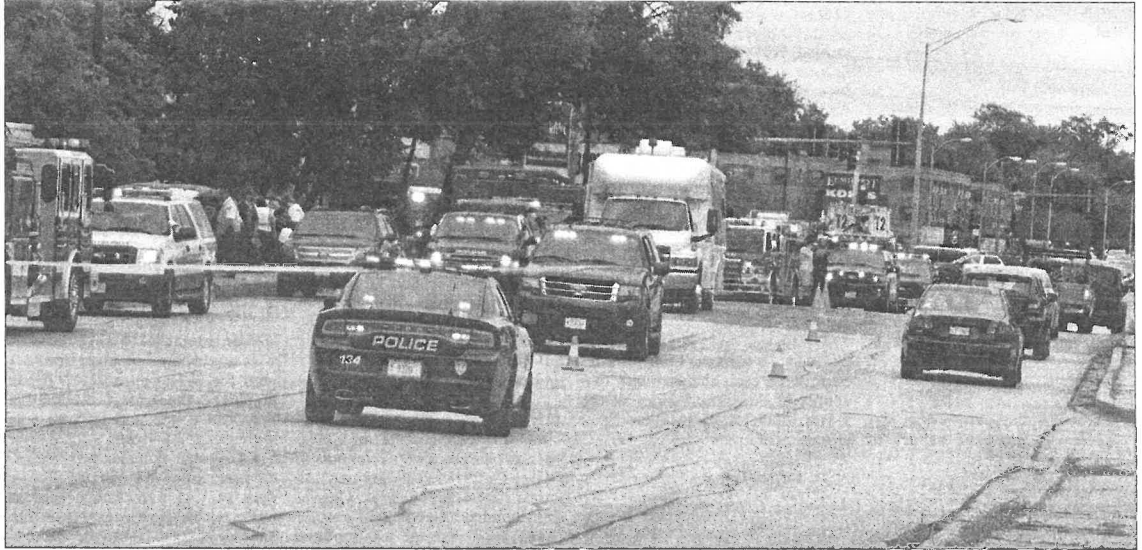
## Owner of canoe found safe

By Dee Longfellow  
FOR THE INDEPENDENT

On Monday, July 24, at about 11 a.m., the Independent learned there was a large group of fire, police and other rescue vehicles gathered near the bridge over Salt Creek on St. Charles Road, just west of Route 83. Fire trucks, police cars and water rescue units from the communities of not only Elmhurst and Villa Park, but also Addison, Lombard and other nearby towns required the closing of the east-bound lanes of St. Charles Road between Monterrey and Route 83.

While officials and workers were tight-lipped, the City of Elmhurst issued a release saying an overturned canoe had been found floating in the creek. One life cushion as recovered from the scene before rescue officials were heard to say divers would be coming in to check the waters to see if there were any victims.

A few hours later, the City issued another release saying the owner of the canoe had been found safe and that the search had been called off.



DEE LONGFELLOW PHOTO Addison Independent

The area around the bridge over Salt Creek on St. Charles just west of Route 83 was jammed with rescue vehicles from Elmhurst, Villa Park and other surrounding communities who came to assist with efforts after an overturned canoe was discovered in Salt Creek on the morning of Monday, July 24.

## NEDSRA has a 'PAWsitve' experience at Addison Library

Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Association (NEDSRA)'s summer campers and counselors visited Addison Public Library on Tuesday, July 25 for an extra special experience. Through a partnership between the library and the PAWsitve Therapy Troupe, campers were able to read with a registered therapy dog named Anela.

NEDSRA campers have taken field trips to the library nearly weekly throughout the summer to enjoy stories, songs, and activities. The collaboration aims to help the children become better acquainted with the building and staff to make the library setting more comfortable. The Library staff has taken webinars and trainings focused on inclusivity and programming for children with autism, and have actively been involved in the Special Needs and Inclusive Library Services networking group.

The library's Children's Specialists have worked closely with NEDSRA for guidance on what processes and materials will best accommodate their students. As a result of the collaboration, the library has introduced manipulatives, sensory bins, and sensory tours to assist and aid patrons with coping skills.

Sensory Tours are scheduled on select Saturday mornings when children and their families can explore the library in a way that best fits them. During the tour, Children's Specialist Mr. Omar, introduces the children to different staff members, highlights different noises that are often heard in the building, and explores all the materials. The next tour will take place on Saturday, August 5 at 9:15 a.m. Registered patrons receive a detailed account of the tour and the opportunity for any additional accommodations needed.

For more information, call 630-458-3334 or visit [addisonlibrary.org](http://addisonlibrary.org).

## Addison Trail alumnus publishes children's book Ozee praises AT teachers especially Laschinski

Author and Addison Trail alumnus Aaron Ozee (class of 2014) recently released his new children's book, "Regulus," which was published on June 24 through several forms of media. "Regulus" tells the story of three tiny mice, who represent innocence and youth, as they cross paths with the titular character, Regulus, who represents the more troubling moments in life.

"Regulus" was released through Lulu and Smashwords in print and e-book format. Ozee will next bring the book to Ingram Book Group LLC for a global distribution deal that will allow the public to buy "Regulus" through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Half Price Books, Alibris, Books-A-Million, AbeBooks, Google Play and other booksellers.

Ozee is the bestselling author of "My Darling Child Shiloh," a children's book that tells of a relationship between a boy named Shiloh and his mother, who share an unbreakable bond. For "My Darling Child Shiloh" and "Regulus," Ozee partnered with stop-motion artist Martyna Koleniec to develop an animated film adaptation of the books to display his work in a more consumable medium.

Beginning to write story when he was just 5 years old, Ozee published his first book, "Celestial Inferno: Poems of Another Realm," at age 15 while attending Addison Trail. Ozee now speaks at schools, bookstores and national events to share his success as an entrepreneur and an author.

"It has been some time since I last walked the halls of Addison Trail, but I will never forget the individuals who aided my cause to become not only the author, but the man I am today," he said. "The knowledge each of my educators gave me, in some way or another, helped further my understanding of my field in both writing and business."

"Even though many of my educators contributed to my early development equally, there is one who stands out, as he was not only a mentor to me, but a father figure as well. He helped me through so much when I was at Addison Trail and was there whenever I needed him, always finding ways to improve my situation at school to prepare me for what waited beyond. Jeff Laschinski, you are responsible for making my dreams, in their

early stages, come true and for having my back when no one else would – and for that, I am sincerely grateful."

For more information about Ozee and his publications, follow him on Facebook (@AaronOzee), Twitter (@AaronOzee) and at [www.AaronOzee.com](http://www.AaronOzee.com). To buy Ozee's new book, "Regulus," go to [www.lulu.com/aaronozee](http://www.lulu.com/aaronozee).



Pictured is author and Addison Trail alumnus Aaron Ozee (class of 2014), whose new children's book, "Regulus," was recently published.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Addison Independent

Pictured is the cover of Ozee's new children's book, "Regulus."

## SPORTS

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## Fenton wrestler Butts competes at Greco-Roman nationals

**Beecroft named Elmhurst American Legion team MVP**By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

Fenton wrestler Dylan Butts was part of the Team Illinois contingent that competed at the recent prestigious Greco-Roman junior nationals tournament in Fargo, N.D.

Butts, wrestling at 182 pounds, lost his first match to a wrestler from Minnesota by an 8-6 score. He then won his first consolation round match by a 12-8 score over a wrestler from Oregon. Butts lost 4-2 to an Alabama wrestler in his second consolation round match.

Team Illinois won the national title in Greco-Roman.

**Beecroft named Legion MVP**

The Elmhurst American Legion Post 187 baseball team recently announced its postseason awards.

Individual award winners were honored during the team's banquet in late July at the Post 187 American Legion hall in Elmhurst.

Fenton's Tim Beecroft was named the Muddogs' most valuable player. Beecroft hit .400 with a .538 on-base percentage and a .500 slugging percentage. He scored five runs, had one double, one triple, one home run, six RBI and three stolen bases.

Beecroft also earned the team's top offensive player award.

IC Catholic Prep's Austin Reed was named the team's pitcher of the year. Reed went 2-1 with a 2.37 ERA. He allowed 11 hits and five earned runs in 31 innings. He struck out 35, while walking nine.

York's Mike Bernal was named the



SUBMITTED PHOTO The Independent

The Elmhurst American Legion Post 187 baseball team held its awards banquet in late July. Fenton's Tim Beecroft was named the team MVP and top offensive player. IC Catholic Prep's Austin Reed was named its top pitcher. York's Mike Bernal was named the Muddogs' top defensive player and York's Tamaine Durr was the winner of the team hustle award.

team's top defensive player. He had a fielding percentage of .977. He made only two errors in 88 total chances and was involved in the turning of two double plays.

York's Tamaine Durr was the winner of the team hustle award. He stole six bases.

Post 187 finished second in the 11th district tournament and advanced to the 2nd division tournament this sea-

son.

Muddogs' coach Mike Biondo also announced the formation of a junior Legion team in Elmhurst next season.

In order to play for the newly created 17U Muddogs team for the 2018 summer season, a player must be 17 years of age or younger before December 2018. No players younger than 15 years old are allowed to play.

The cost to play is \$800. That fee in-

cludes covering expenses such as team insurance, field use, equipment, umpires, full-button camo jersey, pants, belt, a flex-fit hat and playing in four sanctioned American Legion baseball tournaments. One tournament will be held in Nashville where hotel and travel will be paid for.

Payments can be made in full or can be paid in monthly increments starting Jan. 3. The initial deposit is \$300. Con-

tact coach Biondo at 630-270-7749 or at lineshot20@gmail.com for fundraising options that would go toward the registration fee.

Biondo said tryouts for the 17U team will be held in late August. Players interested in trying out for the 17U team must complete a tryout form prior to the tryout. To obtain that, contact him at muddogslegionbaseball@gmail.com.

## Addison Trail's Juarez earns Greco-Roman wrestling All-American status

**Sophomore-to-be places seventh at nationals after tough exit from freestyle tournament**By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

Addison Trail sophomore-to-be Guillermo Juarez earned himself a large measure of personal redemption recently.

After being disqualified for failing to make weight during the freestyle nationals tournament in Fargo, N.D., Juarez didn't close up shop.

He went on to earn All-American honors during the Greco-Roman portion of nationals by finishing seventh in the 94-pound division.

"It feels very good to bring that

back to my hometown," he said. "All the work and all the days of sweating and killing my body is all worth it."

But it was far from smooth sailing in Fargo in the beginning.

"I didn't make weight," Juarez said. "I felt real bad knowing that I let down all the people back home and all my coaches who have been there for me. Having to let people know I didn't make weight the second day of freestyle was a bummer."

Juarez said he ended up being 0.6 pounds over the limit during that second weight in.

"I had qualified for nationals a couple months ago and I weighed 96 pounds," he said. "This summer I've been lifting weights and I got bigger. I didn't realize I had gotten this big. Once I weighed myself I was at 104 pounds. I realized I had to get down to 94 for nationals. I was able to get

back down to weight for freestyle. There are two weigh-ins. It was pretty hard."

Juarez said he has received a mountain of support from Addison-based Headlock Wrestling head coach Sam Geraci, Addison Trail head coach Rob Serio, as well as former Addison Trail female wrestler Veronica Carlson, who was coaching in the girls' division at nationals but lent a key hand in Juarez's road to All-American status.

"All my coaches have helped me out. I have to give all of them credit," said Juarez. "Sam is always there giving me ideas about moves. Coach Serio at Addison Trail always has a plan. He helps me out with everything in my matches and outside wrestling as well. Veronica was there and helped me out. She helped me cut weight. I had three hours to cut two pounds and she helped me

with that with exercising. When you have coaches you can trust it makes you walk onto the mat and feel better about everything and feel confident about winning matches."

Geraci added: "He came all the way back and got seventh place and earned All-American honors. That's pretty good."

Juarez said getting to weight in the Greco-Roman division was tougher.

"I'm not going to lie it was harder," he said. "It's not hard to do it, but it's tougher when your body is tired. I kept on exercising but I kept thinking to myself I want to go to bed. But that freestyle weigh-in put me in the mindset that I don't want to disappoint anybody anymore. I believed it and I made it through the first weigh-in for Greco and the second day I made it as well. I had the right mindset. I wanted to take something home. I didn't want to

come back home with nothing."

Juarez said his gut-wrench move, in particular, helped him out in Fargo. "My guts were feeling good so I kept working on them," he said. "That's where you already have somebody on the mat and you try and turn them to get more points. That move helped get me multiple points."

Juarez is filled with anticipation for the upcoming Addison Trail wrestling season.

"This gives me a lot of confidence," he said. "I'm hoping my teammates will have a lot of confidence as well. You have to think about your teammates as well. I came into this as a nobody and came out with some pretty good results. I have a lot of confidence going into this season. I'm going to try my hardest to go downstate this year and see what I can do down there."



# Willowbrook's Jessen wins Greco-Roman national wrestling title

By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

Willowbrook senior-to-be Jack Jessen was on a mission recently.

Jessen, a standout three-time state qualifying wrestler for the Warriors, had just placed second at the freestyle nationals held in Fargo, N.D.

He still had the Greco-Roman nationals to go in Fargo. "Oh yeah, the second-place really fueled me," Jessen said. "It motivated me to leave it all out there in Greco."

And leave it all out there he did. Jessen, after taking fourth in both disciplines last summer in Fargo, won the Greco-Roman national title with a perfect 4-0 mark.

"I was focused on going out there

and putting on a show," he said. "I had been training so hard for that tournament. I trusted all my training and let it go on the mat."

In the Greco-Roman finale, Jessen, out of the Izzy Style Wrestling Club, defeated fellow Illinois wrestler Cameron Caffey (Carbondale Wrestling Club) via pinfall in only 32 seconds to secure the national title.

"I had wrestled him earlier at Greco state and lost in a close match," said Jessen, who has verbally committed to continue his wrestling career at Northwestern University in Evanston. "It meant everything to beat him at nationals in that tournament and on that stage. It was amazing. I had trained with him a little

with Team Illinois. Beating an Illinois kid in the finals always is good."

Jessen said he didn't mess around in the final. "I went out there with the mindset that I was going to dictate and not let him dictate moves or position," he said. "I made my mind up I was going to be in position and be in total control of the match the whole time."

Jessen, a Class 3A state runner-up last season for Willowbrook, lost to Iowa wrestler and Purdue recruit Max Lyon in the freestyle 182 final.

"He beat me by seven points," Jessen noted. "I was up 3-0 at the beginning of the match and he got a good shot off and got four points off it and kept the lead the rest of the match."

Overall, Jessen was pleased with how things unfolded in Fargo.

"I love that tournament," he said. "It's my favorite tournament of the whole season. Every match there you could win or lose because every kid is so good. Winning that tournament is a big accomplishment and that's why it is so special for me."

Before he gets to his senior season at Willowbrook, Jessen has business to tend to on the football field. Jessen was a huge contributor as a junior running back last year to a Willowbrook team that made a deep run in the state playoffs.

The Warriors reached the Class 7A quarterfinals.

"We just got back from team camp

at Lake Forest College," said Jessen late last week. "I'm really looking forward to the football season. Last year definitely puts a lot of motivation on the team, the players coming back, the young players and the school. The energy around school is very good and all the players are pushing themselves in the weight room and on the field."

Jessen admits he also can't wait for the high-school wrestling season to get started. And he has one major individual goal in particular on his mind.

"The state championship," he said. Jessen is 153-8 in his career at Willowbrook and has three top-3 state medals to his credit.

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