

Cullerton 'outraged' at veto of voter registration sharing

Gov. Bruce Rauner on July 17 vetoed Senate Bill 2273 which would prohibit the Illinois State Board of Elections from sharing any voter information with the controversial Crosscheck system or any other interstate voter registration program other than the mandated Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

State Sen. Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park) said he's outraged that the governor supports storing sensitive voter registration information unnecessarily on insecure servers.

"Elections empower residents to take an active role in the democratic process. Illinois' citizens should be able to register to vote without fear that their personal information may be susceptible to hackers," Cullerton said.

Illinois currently participates in two multistate voter registration sharing programs: Crosscheck and ERIC.

State elections officials say the ERIC system provides more reliable information and greater security for personal information than Crosscheck.

Crosscheck is managed by Kansas' Secretary of State Kris Kobach, and according to researchers at Harvard and Stanford, the program compares data that is insufficient to pro-

duce dependable results. Researchers found Crosscheck was 99 percent more likely to purge legitimate voters from the rolls as opposed to illegitimate ones.

The system is also a security risk, as it uses minimal IT security and its operators have reportedly demonstrated a disregard for basic cybersecurity protocol, leading to the personal information of Illinois voters vulnerable to hacking, tampering and manipulation.

The data is stored on a standard server in Arkansas, which the state admits is insecure.

Illinois' election board's 2016 election hacking was referenced in the indictment of 12 Russian hackers which resulted in the theft of the information of approximately 500,000 voters.

State Board of Elections officials testified during legislative hearings that hackers took voters' names, addresses, birth dates and, in some cases, their driver's license numbers and the last four digits of their Social Security numbers.

"Gov. Rauner needs to learn from the lessons of the past. It's his duty to ensure Illinois' residents have faith in our state's electoral process," Cullerton said. "Once again, Gov. Rauner is not willing to consider commonsense solutions to protect Illinois' citizens."



STEVE SPODEN PHOTO Villa Park Review

New home for Tri-Town YMCA

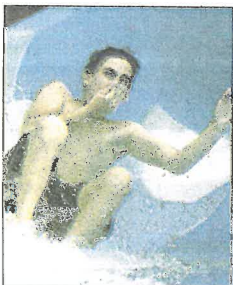
Thanks to Lombard's Calvary Episcopal Church and its rector, the Rev. Maureen O'Connor, Tri-Town YMCA has a new home. The Y staff moved during the week of June 25 into its new home in the church, located across the street from the Helen M. Plum Memorial Library, at 105 W. Maple St. The Y's former home was in Lombard's Manor Hill School. Pictured in front of the church are Y staff members (left to right) Tansy Moy, program director; Joellen Beranek, receptionist; Lynn Contel, operations manager; Deb Allen, CEO and executive director; and Phyllis Schuler, accounting manager. Not pictured is Holly Zielinski, development and community relations manager. To learn more about Tri-Town YMCA, which serves Lombard, Villa Park and Oakbrook Terrace, call 630-629-9622 or visit tritownymca.org.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park Review

Christmas in July

Villa Park's Jefferson Pool held one of its patron appreciation days last week. The theme of the July 24 event was "Christmas Eve in July." Staff placed Christmas decorations around the pool deck. The photo at right shows one of the pool's training dummies, which was dressed up as Santa Claus for the day. Coach Josh and DJ Superman played music, including a few Christmas selections, and provided entertainment for the patrons. The pool will hold two more appreciation days this season—one on Saturday, Aug. 11—and another on the final day of the season—Labor Day—Monday, Sept. 3.



Villa Park briefs

Police department holds National Night Out event on Aug. 7

The Villa Park Police Department invites residents to attend the annual National Night Out event, which will take place from 5:30 to 8 p.m. outside of the Iowa Community Center, located at 338 N. Iowa Ave. The free event will feature food and drinks, as well as activities and games for children. Villa Park is one of thousands of communities around the nation to participate in National Night Out, which is marking its 35th annual event this year. National Night Out is designed to heighten crime- and drug-prevention awareness and to strengthen neighborhood spirit and partnerships between police and the communities they serve.

Movies in the Park on Aug. 6 and Aug. 13

The Villa Park Public Library and Villa Park Parks and Recreation will present their free Movies in the Park events on at 8 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 6, and Monday, Aug. 13, at Cortesi Veterans Memorial Park, 318 E. Kenilworth Ave. "Moana" will be presented on Aug. 6. "Toy Story" is the Aug. 13 movie. Concessions will be available for purchase. An adult must accompany children under 12. The movies will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

Sidewalk chalk party on Aug. 12

The Villa Park Community Pride Commission will hold its annual sidewalk chalk party from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 12. The free event takes place in front of Villa Park Village Hall, 20 S. Ardmore Ave. Residents of all ages are invited to decorate the sidewalk with art that shows what they love about Villa Park. Hot dogs and other refreshments will be provided.

Thursday concerts

at Cortesi Park in August

The Village of Villa Park recently announced a series of concerts at Cortesi Veterans Memorial Park each Thursday in August. Residents are invited to bring their lawn chairs, blankets and appetites. Each concert begins at 6:30 p.m. at the park, which is located at 318 E. Kenilworth Ave. Food will be available for purchase at the Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 2801 concession stand, which will open at 6 p.m. on the night of each concert. Tonight's concert will feature the music of Los Tequileros. Flat Cats will perform on Aug. 9, while Mason Rivers will headline the Aug. 16 concert. Rosie and the Rivets will perform on Aug. 23. Mr. Myers will appear at the Aug. 30 concert.

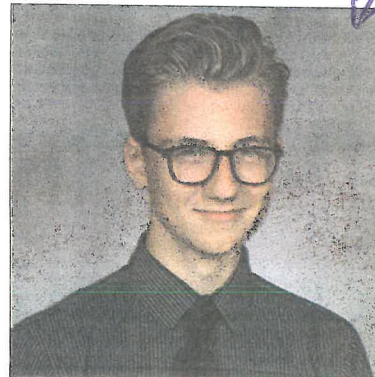
Willowbrook invites residents to Silver and Blue Community Night on Aug. 17

Willowbrook High School invites area residents to celebrate the beginning of the 2018-19 school year by attending the Silver and Blue Community Night event on

Friday, Aug. 17. The football stadium gate will open at 6 p.m. The evening will feature a showcase of the school's athletic teams and extracurricular activities. For more information, contact District 88 Community Relations Director Dani Brink at 630-530-3989, or at dbrink@dup-age88.net.

Big Rigs and Kids at Cortesi Park on Aug. 18

The Village of Villa Park will hold its annual Big Rigs and Kids event from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Aug. 18, at Cortesi Veterans Memorial Park, 318 E. Kenilworth Ave. Children will be able to see and touch a variety of vehicles, including vehicles from the village's police, fire and public works departments. The Big Rigs and Kids event will coincide with the August Super Sensational Saturday Morning event at the park. Ken Schultz—"The Flying Fool"—uses audience participation to include children in his performance.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

Willowbrook student earns top ACT score

Maxwell Polanek, who will soon begin his senior year at Willowbrook High School, recently earned the highest possible composite score of 36 on the ACT. The ACT is a standardized exam used for college admissions. The ACT consists of tests in English, math, reading and science. According to information provided by District 88, on average, only approximately one-tenth of one percent of students who take the ACT earn the top score of 36. In 2017, only 2,760 out of more than 2 million students who took the ACT earned a composite score of 36. A student's composite score is the average of the four test scores.

SPORTS

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Addison Trail football team stays busy during summer

Blazers enjoy team camp at UW-Whitewater among other activities

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Veteran Addison Trail football coach Paul Parpet Jr. did some tinkering with the team's summer schedule.

And the results were 100 percent positive.

"We had a modified summer schedule," said Parpet Jr. "Due to a lot of different reasons we went to four weeks and four days each week. We cut it back a week and we were

still as productive. It wasn't the usual five weeks and four days. It was refreshing for the kids. Hopefully they will have a little more energy and won't be burned out and we can start on the right foot (during regular practice, which started this week)."

The Blazers still packed plenty of activities into their summer session. Addison Trail competed in the West Suburban Conference passing tournament on July 12 and went to Lake Park High School for a 7-on-7 event.

"We didn't lose a whole lot with the schedule," said Parpet Jr. "We ended up losing a total of four camp days. It was refreshing for the kids."

Parpet Jr. also took the team up to UW-Whitewater for a three-day

team camp. "We were able to get up there at the beginning of July," he said. "It's very valuable to us as a team as far as camaraderie and getting away to somewhere different. It's always a plus."

Overall, Parpet Jr. liked what he saw. "We had a good summer and a very productive summer," he said. "I really like our senior class. I think our senior class has a lot of young men who want to be successful. You can tell by the work ethic and their leadership level. Those are things that are important to have for our football team."

Parpet Jr. also likes the overall demeanor with the club. "They are fun," he said. "It's a good vibe at practice. It's definitely different when you have a bunch of young men who want to be successful and are a close-knit group of kids. They make it fun and enjoyable. When you can't complain how hard the kids work, that makes it that much more easier as a coach. This is a close group of seniors. When we've had a group of seniors that are close and have the good camaraderie and

the good relationships, we've been successful. This is something I've been really excited about."

That senior leadership is headed by three-year varsity players Jake Zaborowski, JT Daniels and Dennis Ionikov. Zaborowski and Daniels are offensive linemen (Zaborowski is a tackle and Daniels a guard), while Ionikov is a wide receiver and defensive back.

"They have been with us since they were sophomores," said Parpet Jr. "These are the guys who have to be leaders, especially the offensive line guys. They are the most important part of the game and we have two three-year starters there who are going to help us out tremendously."

Parpet Jr. stressed the word "change" during the offseason.

"The big thing for us during the off-season is after three 4-5 records in a row that were pretty disappointing for us, the tone was change," he said. "From the time we started our off-season program to summer camp we preached change and how we go about our business. We did some changes with our workouts and how

we do things in the summer and we made some progress in all aspects of the game from an offensive standpoint of change and it was good to install that with a returning quarterback who played in four games last year (Nick Daudelin). It's easier to do that with someone who has a little bit of experience. We moved around what we do on defense. We've had a lot of change. The kids did a really great job of gravitating to it. It's different learning and it's different teaching."

And Parpet Jr. is looking forward to what 2018 has in store.

"We learned a lot of new things for our football program, which are very crucial," he said. "We had three years of 4-5, which is disappointing. We answered a lot of questions in the summer and we know there still are questions to answer. We are moving in the right direction. A lot of accolades have to go to our seniors. They bought in to this from Day 1 and they ran with it. Because of them, the transition has been very smooth both on offense and defense. It's because of all of them."

Willowbrook graduate Schmidt reflects on successful season at NIU

Softball standout hit .348 and earned all-conference accolades

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Several weeks ago, the Independent brought readers up to date on the progress of former Willowbrook softball standout Sam Schmidt along with several other alums.

Schmidt recently took some time to chat with the Independent and reflected on her successful junior season at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.

"I was really happy," she said. "The team played really well and I had a good year."

Schmidt hit .348 in 164 at-bats (with a team-high 57 hits) after hitting .202 in 119 at-bats as a sophomore. This year, she finished with five home runs and 28 RBI en route to earning all-MAC second-team honors.

What led to the big change?

"I didn't try to think about it too much," she said. "I just went out and tried to play. It seemed to work better. Before, I put a lot of pressure on myself and tried to put up the numbers I put up in high school. I thought about everything too much. I talked to my teammates and coaches and realized numbers aren't the most important thing. I went out and played hard and focused on playing well and not worry about if the numbers were there."

Offensively, Schmidt said she didn't change that much. "I had the same approach, but I think I took a step back to the basics and practiced what I know is my swing. I didn't do anybody else's swing," she said.

Schmidt said a highlight for her

this season was her performance against Eastern Michigan where she hit .556 with two home runs and seven RBI in the series (earning MAC West player of the week honors).

"I had a lot of fun playing Eastern Michigan," she said. "That was probably my favorite. I did really well that weekend."

Schmidt said her journey in women's college softball has been an eye-opener. "People hit the ball harder and the ball moves around a little more," she said. "I've had so much fun here. It's been a good experience."

Schmidt is a marketing and psychology major at NIU. "I'm not sure yet what I'm going to do," she said. "Probably something related to the marketing side with digital marketing. NIU has been great. I really like it and they have a really good business program. I'm fortunate to be at a school like this. I've made some really good friends here."

She admits the balance between academics and athletics at an NCAA Division I school takes some work.

"It's definitely a struggle from the time-management end," she said. "It took about a year to figure that all out. I started putting out a schedule for the week to see how things will be and that has helped me out a lot. This is definitely a lot more than high school."

Schmidt is hopeful her successful junior season will translate into even more success in her final season next spring.

"It's definitely given me more confidence," she said. "I know next year will be my last year and I am going to go out there and play as well as I can. Hopefully this is a positive indication as far as how next year will look."

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