

Standout cheerleader receives scholarship

Kathleen Doyle of Willowbrook High School's Class of 2020 received the Taylor Family Scholarship during the Willowbrook Athletic Booster Club's recent senior athletic banquet, which was held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic. A Villa Park resident, Doyle was a member of Willowbrook's cheerleading program for four years. She spent three seasons on the varsity team. Doyle was also a member of the National English Honor Society, the National Math Honor Society, the World Language Honor Society, the Blue Crew and the Yoga Club. Doyle served as a junior coach for the Villa Park Warriors during her four years at Willowbrook. In that capacity, she was responsible for creating a competition routine, selecting music and teaching the routine to a squad of grade-school cheerleaders. Doyle will attend DePaul University, where she will major in elementary education. She will also continue her cheerleading career at DePaul; she tried out for and earned a spot on the Blue Demons' team.



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Scholarship recipient

Mike Hay is one of the members of Willowbrook High School's Class of 2020 who received scholarships during the Willowbrook Athletic Booster Club's recent senior athletic banquet. This year's banquet was held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hay, who is a Villa Park resident, received a \$500 Villa Park Warriors Youth Football and Cheer Scholarship. Hay played multiple sports, including football, baseball, basketball and volleyball, during his time at Willowbrook. He will continue his academic and athletic pursuits at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, where he will be a member of the Trolls' men's volleyball team.

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Recently I was made to wait outside of a small Villa Park business because the owner wished to restrict the number of persons inside due to COVID-19 concerns. I respect and endorse this decision and did not mind waiting in the least in the bright May sunshine. However, I was let into the store by an employee with no facial mask. If small business cares about their customers, they will show it by having employees wear facial masks like most of the customers. In the future, I plan to avoid small businesses that do not share the health concerns of the general public.

To all those self-righteous covid-

ots who don't think a mask wearing applies to them. So, you're worried about your rights, huh? Like, say, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness? I doubt it's a coincidence that life is listed first. Kind of hard to be happy if you're dead. With COVID-19, it's literally a case of your rights ending where my nose begins. How do you justify coughing, sneezing and spreading germs in public without a mask on while it is, quite literally, threatening not only the health of those around you, but their lives and the lives of those they live with? How do they deserve that? You may as well sucker punch the people you walk by or stab them

in the back. Despite the fact there are very, very, very few people that would do that, I truly doubt you fall into that group. Quit trying to prove to everybody you do. Oh, that includes you kids hanging out in the parking lot next to Dairy Queen. Party one week, kill somebody the next.

In the May 21 Speak Out, someone complained about work on a house starting at 8 a.m. on a Sunday, and that "the only chance we get to sleep in is Sunday morning." I sympathize and agree that being considerate is important, but it might be that person's only chance to do the work. In the winter it was snow blowing at 6 a.m.—that person has to shovel out to go to work? Now, it's complaining about the noises from lawn mowing (goodness knows how the complaints will increase after all this rain), garbage trucks, sewer trucks, construction and so forth. This is spring and summer; it's a fact of life that people mow lawns, work on homes, etc. You'd be the ones complaining if they didn't take care of their property. Now that Cruise Nights in Lombard is canceled, at least we won't be hearing from people who complain every year about the car noises, music and exhaust one night a week—sounds of peo-

ple out having a good time. Next up? Noise complaints about kids playing in their own yards. But then you'd complain if you saw them in a park.

The hypocrisy of the left and #Me-too is on full display. Sean Casten and his cronies were very eager to destroy a Supreme Court judge's reputation, but it is perfectly acceptable to look the other way for Joe Biden. The media goes along with their little darlings and destroys anyone and anything that does not fit their agenda. Time for Sean to go.

How do you solve a problem like Illinois? Illinois will not survive the death grip the governor has on the residents. There are four regions for reopening. The nine-county north-east region will be stuck closed because of Chicago. DuPage County has more residents than several states, yet they can't make their own decision on reopening? The economy cannot sustain this. It is hard to believe that the Illinois governor and the Illinois speaker of the house didn't sign off on the Illinois senate president asking the federal government for \$40 billion plus, to bailout 50 years of reckless spending in Illinois. Does the governor want Illinois to go bankrupt to force the federal government to give Illinois money? That what it seems like.

What is going to be left of Chicago after Lori Lightfoot gets done? She's going to turn this great city into a ghost town. I wouldn't be surprised if buildings like the Willis Tower and the Hancock Center become museums.

Why is it, every time I see some politician talking about the COVID-19 situation getting better, while at the same time new records

are set for new cases and deaths, I think about the town's mayor in Jaws? He was obviously wrong. He even died in Jaws 2. Too bad the Jaws series didn't die then as well! Remember Jaws 17: Bob the Guppy Becomes a Telemarketer?

Gov. Pritzker says to all Illinoisans, "Stay at home," yet his family travels between Illinois, Florida and Wisconsin. Mayor Lori Lightfoot says stay at home yet she gets a haircut or haircuts because she's all about hygiene, she says. They both see Illinoisans out of jobs, Illinoisans have lost businesses, Illinoisans cannot pay bills, but they're continuing on with their agenda. Some of the big box stores are still open and next election, please remember to vote these so-called leaders out of office. Thank you.

Do you ever have trouble charging your cell phone? Sometimes it just doesn't charge? Take a needle and carefully clean out the port on the phone—I can't believe what I got out of there. I saw this on the internet!

Maybe it's just me, but I think the term hero is being overused these days. Doctors, nurses and first-responder, they're heroes, but the way the media throws this term around, everyone who's working at an essential business is a hero. C'mon.

I keep hearing we're all in this together. Are we? I don't see Pritzker or Lightfoot or a lot of politicians making many sacrifices, if any. It seems to me Pritzker and Lightfoot have been on quite a power trip, dictating their executive orders to the rest of us, and shaming or threatening us if we don't fall into line. And Trump is the one who's a dictator?

Recent Willowbrook grads discuss adapting to e-learning, missing out on senior events

By Lily Morgan
FOR THE VILLA PARK REVIEW

After Gov. JB Pritzker announced his decision April 17 to close Illinois schools for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers and students—especially high school seniors—had to adjust on the fly.

During the final stretch of their high school careers, seniors had to adapt to a new system of remote learning, and consequently also missed out on important events that closed out this important chapter of their lives.

Lombard resident and recent Willowbrook Class of 2020 graduate Stacy Caeiro feels that seniors missed out on opportunities they've worked years for.

"We put in four years of hard work in order to graduate, so the fact it's (all) cancelled is pretty upsetting," she said, no doubt echoing the sentiments of most seniors.

Missing out on landmark events like prom, end-of-the-year awards ceremonies and their graduation ceremony, put a damper on everyone's spirits.

Although the turn of events was bittersweet, it was also necessary, said Willowbrook graduate and Villa Park resident Letisha Sepulveda.

"I understand why this all had to happen," says Sepulveda. "It's important for everyone to stay inside, including us, but it's still disappointing."

Indeed, it was difficult for students to adapt to the changes the governor's stay-at-home order had forced upon them. However, schools such as Willowbrook quickly adapted to the e-learning process and continued to educate students through the end of the year, with exams, classroom meetings, and even AP testing online.

"I'm glad they offered the e-learning opportunity; it's good for people who find structure in school work," said Caeiro, who went on to mention that she enjoyed other elements of e-learning such as the teacher-led video chats, online exams, and the policy that a student's grades can't drop lower than they were before the stay-at-home orders officially started.

The benefits of the e-learning programs were

abundant, but had its drawbacks—especially for students who learn differently, according to Sepulveda.

"I dislike the workload. I don't have the motivation to get it done," says Sepulveda. "Teachers have been kind, but it's a lot for kids like me who are visual learners and really need to be in a classroom to get things done."

Students handled the e-learning situation differently, and for some, it packed on additional stress in an already difficult time.

"Usually we'd be able to take a break and get away from everything, but we couldn't, and it made it really hard to handle a full day's workload," explained Caeiro, when asked about the disadvantages of the system, and how she had to adapt to the change.

Before the stay-at-home order, students would be able to balance the pressures of school work by taking a break—going out with friends or doing something else to take their minds off it. But confined to their own houses, students had no choice but to adapt to the e-learning environment.

Despite having to adapt to e-learning, and the disappointment of not being able to attend traditional senior events, when asked if they agreed with the governor's decision to close schools for the rest of the year, both Caeiro and Sepulveda believe it was a decision made for the greater good—everyone's health.

"People aren't taking this seriously enough," says Sepulveda. "We clearly couldn't have gone back (to school) on account of people acting like nothing was happening."

"There are downfalls of the situation we're in," says Caeiro. "It's sad we can't socialize and attend big events, but in the face of it, social distancing is keeping us all safe."

"By social distancing we are protecting our relatives, friends, and community members who are at risk. Safety is really important, and if we open up everything too quickly there's the potential for the virus to spread again and make more people sick."

Telehealth expansion package passes Illinois House, heads to Senate

Bills extend telehealth executive order, ease application process for some public insurance

By Ben Orner
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A pair of health care bills expanding telehealth resources during the COVID-19 pandemic passed the Illinois House of Representatives on Saturday—with one passing the Senate and the other not being taken up as lawmakers wrapped up their emergency special session.

Senate Bills 671 and 1864 cleared the House unanimously on Saturday evening, 112-0 and 115-0, respectively. SB 1864 then passed the Senate, 50-3, with a trio of Republicans in dissent. SB 671 did not come up for a Senate vote before lawmakers adjourned.

The initiatives respond to health care needs brought on by the COVID-19 crisis, chiefly the increased need for affordable and accessible telehealth services as social distancing guidelines and other restrictions have kept people in their homes.

SB 671 extends an executive order issued in March by Gov. JB Pritzker requiring public and private insur-

ers to cover in-network telehealth services as if they had happened in a doctor's office. That order also restricts the fees that insurers can charge for telehealth.

The bill extends the order's provisions until the end of the year.

In floor debate Saturday afternoon, Rep. Mary Flowers, D-Chicago, argued SB 671 should include language giving a patient the option to be seen in person, such as in an emergency room, if he or she feels it is medically necessary.

House sponsor Rep. Deb Conroy, D-Villa Park, said that in Phase 3 of Illinois' reopening plan—expected to take effect Friday—many doctor's offices are likely to reopen to in-person care.

An earlier version of SB 1864 had similar language until lawmakers removed it Saturday evening that would have required health insurers to cover the costs of all in-network telehealth services during the pandemic. Those services would also have been exempt in most cases from cost-sharing measures like copayments or deductibles.

That provision was opposed by insurance and anti-abortion interests. Additional language also removed

SPORTS

MAY 28, 2020 •



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Award winners

The members of Willowbrook's Class of 2020 to receive senior athletic awards from the school's booster club included Alessio Battaglia (left) and Jullanna Paulsen (right). Battaglia and Paulsen were this year's two recipients of the John Hamann Memorial Scholarship. Hamann was Willowbrook's boys basketball coach from 1972-85. He coached the Warriors' boys golf team from 1970 to 2004. Paulsen was a member of the Warriors' girls golf and soccer teams. She plans to attend Concordia University Chicago, where she will major in sports management and continue her soccer career. Battaglia, who played football and baseball for Willowbrook, also received the Susan Jurkonis Memorial Scholarship, as well as the Villa Park Warriors Youth Football and Cheer Scholarship. The Susan Jurkonis Scholarship is named after 1994 Willowbrook graduate Susan Jurkonis, who passed away at age 22 after battling a brain tumor. The scholarship in her name, which was established in 1999, recognizes student-athletes for their leadership, commitment, positive attitude, academic dedication, competitive focus, respect for everyone and strong inner drive. Battaglia and three other Willowbrook seniors—Emy Hayes, Gianna Irion and Sam Tumilty—received the Susan Jurkonis Memorial Scholarship this year.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Seniors honored

The Willowbrook High School Athletic Booster Club wasn't able to hold its traditional senior athletic banquet this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The booster club conducted its 61st annual senior athletic banquet virtually. This year's celebration was released online last week. Shortly before the tual ceremony, Willowbrook athletic director Brandon Murphy and other Warrior supporters visited homes of the honored senior athletes to present this year's senior athletic scholarships and award Willowbrook's honored student-athletes from its Class of 2020 included Sam Tumilty (left) and Shan Knudtson (right). Tumilty, a standout in football, basketball and baseball, received the booster club's Most Outstanding Male Athlete Award. Knudtson, who has excelled as the softball program's star shortstop since her sophomore season, was recognized with the booster club's Most Outstanding female Athlete Award. To be considered for the two awards, students needed to hold an academic rank within the top third of their class. Tumilty and Knudtson are both residents of Villa Park. Tumilty attend Augustana College, where he will play football and baseball. Knudtson will attend Indiana University in Bloomington.

Crossword Puzzle Answers

A	S	K	S		T	A	P			M	E	W
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P	R	O				D	E	N		P	S	S



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Special senior

The Willowbrook seniors recognized during last week's virtual booster club senior athletic banquet included Payton Ceh, who is pictured with Willowbrook Athletic Booster Club President Ed Dowling. Ceh, a four-year varsity starter on the girls volleyball team, was one of six seniors to receive an Athletic Booster Club Scholarship of \$1,000. Ceh also received the Helen Carpenter Most Valuable Female Athlete Award. That award, which is named after Willowbrook's first booster club president, has been presented annually since 1960. Ceh, who played the libero position for the Warriors' girls volleyball team, was a captain for three seasons. She was named the program's Most Valuable Player after three of her four varsity seasons. Ceh is the Warriors' all-time leader in digs (1,256) and aces (184). She will continue her academic and athletic pursuits at Elmhurst College.

Young Women in Public Affairs Scholarship awarded to Willowbrook graduate

Kelsey Fitzgerald was awarded a Young Woman in Public Affairs Scholarship from the Zonta Club of Oak Brook.

Fitzgerald is a 2020 graduate from Willowbrook High School. She shared her plans by saying, "I am interested in global and international studies as well as political science and journalism. ... My future goal is to be either a diplomat for the United Nations or an international journalist."

Kelsey is in the top 10 percent of her graduating class and plans to study international and global studies at Loyola University in the fall. She was involved in many extracurricular activities including captain of her soccer team and co-captain of the varsity swim team.

Upon joining Civitas at Willowbrook High School, she worked to raise funds for UNICEF. As an ac-



Kelsey Fitzgerald

tive community volunteer, Kelsey has volunteered for One Small Voice 5K Run, supported local area

food drives, packed food for Feed My Starving Children, and joined the fight against Leukemia by participating annually in St. Baldrick's events to help fund childhood cancer research.

The goals of the Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Award Program is to encourage more young women to participate in public affairs by recognizing a young woman's commitment to the volunteer sector, evidence of volunteer leadership achievements and a dedication to the advancement of the status of

women.

Fitzgerald received an award of \$1,000 from the Zonta Club of Oak Brook. Her application has been forwarded to Zonta International District 6 (comprised of 22 clubs in Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana) for the next YWPA section of a higher level.

The Zonta Club of Oak Brook is part of Zonta International which has 29,000 members in 63 countries. Zonta International was founded in 1919 and is headquartered in Oak Brook. It is a global organization of

executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy.

More information about Zonta International can be found at www.zonta.org. The Zonta Club of Oak Brook was founded in 2011 and meets on the third Tuesday of each month.

Information about club membership and activities can be found on the club Facebook page and website: <http://zontadistrict6.org/oakbrook/>.

School districts will continue to provide free meals to students this summer

Five days' worth of food to be provided each Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon at two Villa Park schools; the next distribution is June 9

District 88 is continuing its ongoing partnership with District 45, Salt Creek School District 48, Addison School District 4, Arbor Management, Chartwells and Cottage Hill Operating Company to provide meals to students this summer. The same organizations provided meals to students for the last two months, while school buildings were closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The food service program pro-

vides meals free of charge to all residents up to the age of 18. Five days worth of food will be provided each Tuesday through August.

The next distribution of five days' worth of food will be provided from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, June 9. The area distribution sites include two Villa Park schools: Willowbrook High School, 1250 S. Ardmore Ave.; and Jefferson Middle School, 255 W. Vermont St.



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Students receive art scholarships

The District 88 Board of Education recently named six students—three from Addison Trail School and three from Willowbrook High School—as recipients of the District 88 Art Scholarship for the 2019-20 school year. The board named the recipients during its May 11 meeting, which was virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The three recipients from Willowbrook are seniors Malzie Bay (above left), Jessica Franco (above center) and Lizzie McBride (above right). Their artwork will be displayed in the District 88 Boardroom during the 2020-21 school year. The district established scholarships to recognize outstanding art students at Addison Trail and Willowbrook.

Mendoza unequivocal: No raises for lawmakers

Legislative back-and-forth shows complexity of state lawmaker pay law

By Jerry Nowicki
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The complexities of Illinois' legislative pay laws were on display again this week as the state's comptroller insisted in a video message that there will be no raises for lawmakers this year.

Comptroller Susana Mendoza, a Democrat and the state's chief fiscal officer, emphatically said in a one-minute YouTube video there would be "zero" raises for lawmakers despite claims to the contrary.

"By law, there is a (cost of living adjustment) in the budget every year," Mendoza said in the video. "But this year, the General Assembly voted to make the COLA zero, and I'm glad because it's the right thing to do, especially in the 'COVID-19 crisis that has really hit our state budget hard.'"

Mendoza should know, she said in the video, because she writes the checks in Illinois, and money not appropriated by the General Assembly cannot be spent. Sen. Andy Manar, D-Bunker Hill, said the same on the Senate floor, noting lawmakers intentionally appropriated zero dollars for raises this year.

Republicans, however, issued news releases and spoke on the floor May 23 claiming the budget included the automatic raises. The state GOP asserted on Twitter that one lawsuit from a "safe, entrenched legislator" could force the payment of the raises which

the comptroller has unequivocally denied she will pay.

While Mendoza made clear there will be no raises this year, the exchanges highlighted the fact that an ongoing legal challenge leaves much uncertain in terms of whether legislators can halt their own pay raises legally.

At the crux of the issue is a section in the state Constitution and an Illinois law dating back to 1990 which provides for automatic COLA increases of roughly 2 percent to 3 percent every year unless lawmakers act to stop them. In fiscal Year 2009 and thereafter, lawmakers routinely did just that by including language in a budget implementation bill prohibiting the COLAs.

Lawmakers did not include that language in a budget approved last May, which allowed for a roughly 2.4 percent raise to lawmaker base pay for the first time since 2008, bringing it to \$69,464 annually, not including stipends for legislative leaders and committee chairs and spokespersons.

This year, according to Mendoza and Manar, lawmakers went back to denying themselves a raise by specifically appropriating no money to pay for it. That approach is different than in years past, when lawmakers passed language prohibiting cost of living adjustments. The new approach was in large part a response to an ongoing lawsuit which deemed the previous

method unconstitutional.

"We wanted to say in a very clear voice that we do not want the COLAs funded," Manar said in a phone call. "There's multiple places in a state budget where a COLA could be funded. And we took care of all of those things. And the final piece of that was putting a zero next to it, which is, I think, crystal clear what its intention is."

The lawsuit in question was filed against Mendoza by former Senators James Clayborne and Michael Noland, both Democrats, who claim it was unconstitutional for lawmakers to deny themselves pay in each of those years because the state's Constitution states "A member shall receive a salary and allowances as provided by law, but changes in the salary of a member shall not take effect during the term for which he has been elected."

According to a 2019 "Preface to Lawmaking" publication of the state's Legislative Research Unit, legislator pay was set by law until 1984, when the Compensation Review Act was enacted providing that a Compensation Review Board would make salary recommendations that would take effect automatically unless both houses of the General Assembly disapproved of them within 30 days.

The Board's 1990 recommendation provided for salaries to be adjusted for inflation each year thereafter, using the federal government's Employment

Cost Index. While the Compensation Review Board was abolished in 2009, it was established that the 1990 plan—including automatic COLAs—would continue to be law going forward.

But because the COLA freezes since 2009 took place mid-term for most lawmakers, they violate the Constitution, according to Noland and Clayborne, and the former lawmakers claim they are due back pay for the raises they were denied.

"Contrary to statements that have been made in the press, the comptroller cannot—and in fact is obligated to—make these payments regardless of whether the General Assembly has specifically appropriated money for this purpose," Michael Scotti III, the attorney for the former lawmakers, wrote in a letter to the comptroller last year.

A Cook County judge ruled in their favor last year, but the state has appealed the decision and neither lawmaker has received back pay. That case is likely to be appealed and challenged for years to come, according to the comptroller's office.

"I'm not going to predict what a court says," Manar said. "... But we're not going to cede our authority as appropriators to an unnamed judge in a case that hasn't even been filed."

After last year's raise went through, one first-term Republican senator filed a bill which he believes will abolish automatic COLAs without running

afoul of the constitution.

Sen. Craig Wilcox, R-McHenry, said the latest exchange on lawmaker pay causes a rush of bipartisan support for a bill he has had sitting in the state's Assignments Committee since February.

His Senate Bill 3607 would cost of living adjustments starting in 2023—the year after each of the state lawmakers is scheduled to stand for reelection.

"The date is important, he said, because it will be an action implemented after all lawmakers start a new term," Wilcox said he pursued the measure rather than taking part in the political of the COLA conversation.

"The point is this kind of negotiating the reason for Dems and Republicans fighting about words," he said in a phone call. "It fixes the issue constitutionally going forward."

Sen. Suzy Glowiak-Hilton, D-Eastern Springs, is a co-sponsor on the measure. She said she was given assurances by budgeters that there would be no raises in the budget, which is why she supported it. She also said she hoped Wilcox's measure or something like it would pass when lawmakers turn for fall veto session in November or later.

"Our budgeters were very clear that," she said. "And that's why I didn't appropriate anything to the COLAs on the line item."