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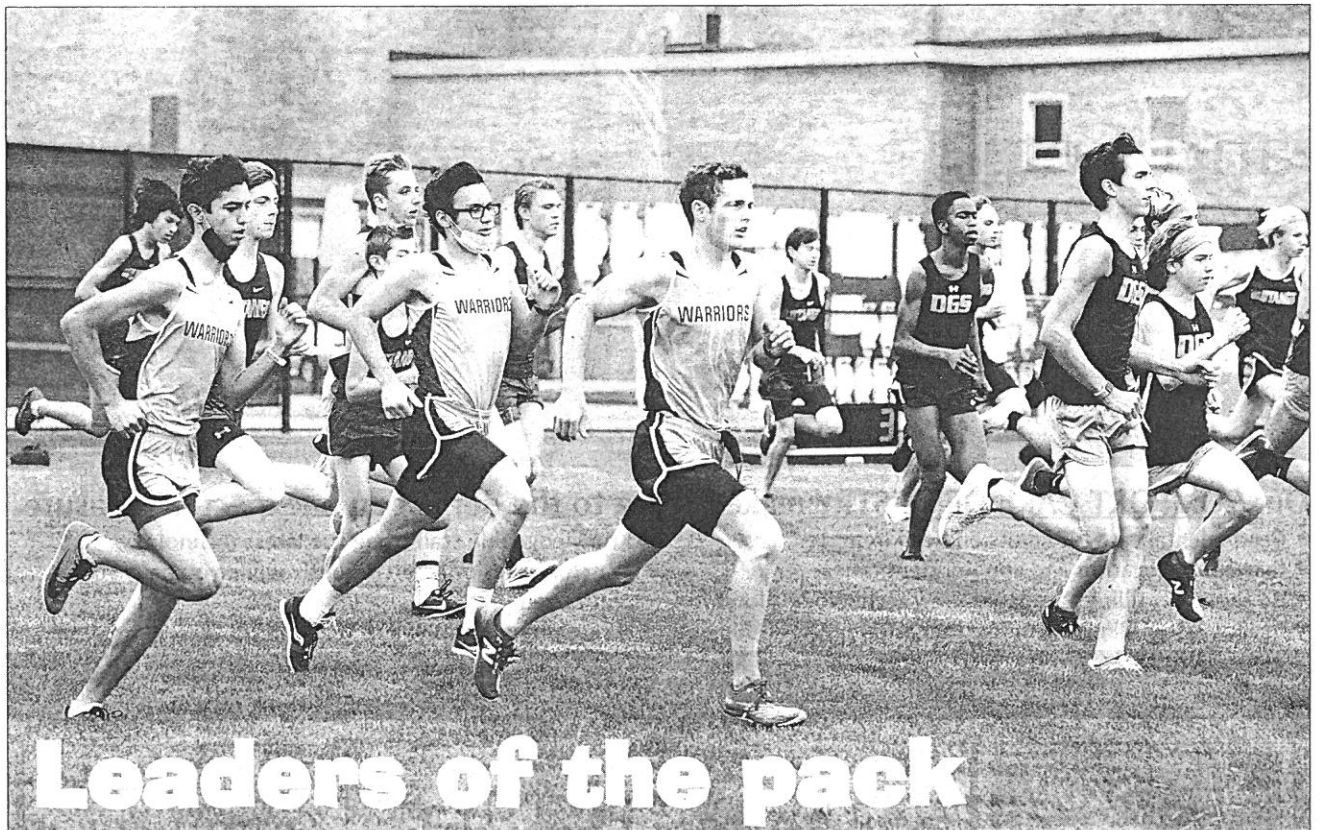
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THURSDAY, OCT. 1, 2020



Leaders of the pack

CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

Willowbrook's boys and girls cross country teams competed against West Suburban Gold Conference rival Downers Grove South on Saturday morning. The boys and girls races both took place on a 3-mile course on the Downers Grove South campus. The photo shows (left to right) the Willowbrook trio of junior Damian Ro-

cha, senior Nick Leo and senior Tyler King during the opening moments of the boys race. King ran to a first-place finish. He completed the race in a winning time of 16 minutes, 30 seconds. See story and more photos in Sports.

INSIDE:

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Speak Out policies during election season

We at the *Villa Park Review* realize the importance of the 2020 election at the local, state and federal levels. There are strong feelings for, and against, candidates on both sides, and as always, we welcome and encourage readers—no matter their political leanings—to call in, or email, your opinions anonymously.

Just to let readers know our protocol with regard to *Speak Out*, four editors at the *Villa Park Review* carefully review all *Speak Out* calls before they are allowed to be published. We will continue to take this same approach during the upcoming election season.

With that in mind, if our editors reach a consensus that a particular call is a personal attack on a specific candidate—a call that mentions the candidate by name with little or no basis in facts—then we will not publish that call.

We thank you for your understanding, and thank you for read-

ing the *Villa Park Review*.

I had to call in because I saw something in the news about the lieutenant governor, Juliana Stratton, warning that everyone, regardless of income, may see a tax increase of at least 20 percent if the fair tax amendment is defeated. I'd like to see voters call her bluff. The solution to everything for these arrogant politicians is always to raise our taxes. I never hear them talk about spending less, or reforming these runaway pensions. Bye.

I just read the Sept. 24 *Speak Out*. I have to correct a person who probably knowingly stated Fox News confirming that Trump said veterans suck and are losers. That is not the truth. He had 19 people with him that day. All of them said he did not say that; even John Bolton, who hates him. It was written by a magazine that's going under, and they had anonymous people they quoted. They won't say who. President Trump is the best president for all our military, past and in the future. Thank you.

muen. So if you raise taxes by 2 percent, the store is going to raise prices 3 percent. If you raise minimum wage by 3 to 4 percent guess what? Everybody's going to raise the price of food and everything else by 4 to 5 percent. Then there's the tollways. Remember when they told you that once the tollways are paid for, we are done paying for them? Tollways were paid off over 50 years ago, roughly. So I don't care which way you vote. The United States government, the state of Illinois and the City of Chicago have to learn to live within their limits, just like you and me.

Trump yes, Biden no.

This call is in reference to an article, "Man accused of beating dog with a belt" dated Sept. 10. My reaction is this: The judge should require public service and anger management counseling with documented paperwork as follow up on the suspect's attendance for both. If not, jail time with a hefty financial fine.

This is Villa Park. OK, America, here we are, more than six months into a pandemic that killed more than 200,000 Americans, with a president who has lied to us from the very beginning and who continues to downplay the deadly virus. Who also insists his administration has done everything right as the U.S. leads the world in virus cases while he attempts to win reelection by pitting Americans of different races against

sake and the sake of your children, vote this monster out of office in November so we can return our county and the world to a safe and sane place in history. Thank you.

I read a story where Governor Billionaire said Illinois has the lowest positivity rate of COVID-19 among the neighboring states at 3.5 percent. What he doesn't tell you is that Illinois has the highest unemployment rate among all the neighboring states at 11 percent. Kentucky is 7.6 percent, Missouri 7 percent, Indiana 6.4 percent Wisconsin 6.2 percent and Iowa 6 percent. But keep patting yourself on the back, JB.

In order to stretch out the COVID-19 crisis, it seems like the government and their allies in the media have tried to turn the focus on cases. They point to totals of 1,800 or 2,000 positive cases a day. Have you noticed what they don't emphasize? They don't mention much about the cases in particular—who has them, how many were asymptomatic, how many were hospitalized, etc. The truth is, deaths and hospitalizations related to COVID-19 are way down in DuPage County. But if Team Panic mentioned that, it wouldn't be as easy to keep the crisis going.

OK, so Trump is crude and rude, which make anything he does seem bad. Perhaps his best selling points to consider for the coming election should be what he will not likely do, as compared to Biden. Trump will

and monuments to be destroyed. He will not allow Communist China to economically take over and own our country. He will not allow Iran to develop nuclear weapons, which they would surely use.

You really have to scratch your head when recognizing the difference between Blue States and Red States. How many riots, looting and shootings have there been in Red States compared to Blue States? There is no debate over this; just do your research. I am tired of living in fear; we need to vote out the Democrats. It will continue to get worse. You cannot blame Trump for this.

I survived six years in the U.S. military during the Vietnam conflict. Does that make me a "winner"? No; nobody wins, but those who serve, especially those who return wounded or in boxes are not losers or suckers. Since there are four sources who heard Trump say this, and since he refused to go to the French cemetery, even though every other dignitary made it, I believe he not only said these things but that he means every word, His loyalty to Russia is so obvious.

Will public schools ever return to in-person classes? Flu season is coming up. The flu is more of a threat to children than COVID-19. The school districts will always be able to point to something as a risk that should prevent them from returning to regular classes.

• Mirza (Continued from page 4)

vitae (Willowbrook's social studies honor society). She is also an inductee of the Math, English and World Language honor societies.

Beyond the classroom, Mirza contributes to a variety of events, clubs and activities at Willowbrook. She's a member of the Muslim Student Association, Student Board of Communication, Student Council, Mock Trial, Science Olympiad and the Youth Equity Stewardship (YES!) series—a program focused on preparing students to recognize and learn from the diversity around them to promote and support an inclusive and accepting environment.

Mirza also serves as a New Beginnings leader to assist and mentor freshmen as they transition to high school. She has been a member of Willowbrook's girls bowling and badminton teams, and she volunteers to help with school events such as Open House, Curriculum Showcase, parent-teacher conferences, Eighth-grade Step-Up Days and Eighth-grade Parent Nights.

Outside of Willowbrook, Mirza helps at the York Township Food Pantry.

Mirza plans to apply to Northwestern University, the University of Michigan and the University of Chicago. She intends to study medicine and pursue a career as an orthopedic surgeon.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook High School senior Hiba Mirza is her school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of September. Mirza was honored during the District 88 Board of Education's virtual meeting on Sept. 21. A Villa Park resident, Mirza is an academic standout in Willowbrook's Class of 2021. She is active in several extracurricular clubs and activities at the school. She also volunteers her time at the York Township Food Pantry. Mirza plans to study medicine and pursue a career as an orthopedic surgeon.

Recent Willowbrook graduate serves in U.S. Air Force

Villa Park resident graduated from Willowbrook in 2019

Joseph Byrne of Villa Park, who graduated from Willowbrook High School in 2019, is currently serving in the United States Air Force.

Airman First Class Byrne was recently recognized in the Vance Air Force Base "Airman in the Spotlight" newsletter. Vance Air Force Base is located in Enid, Oklahoma. According to the article in the newsletter, Byrne has secured one of three ratings to become a rated air traffic controller.

"Always striving for excellence in all he does, Airman Byrne is ready for any challenge set forth on him," noted the article in the base's newsletter.

Byrne joined the Air Force right after graduating from Willowbrook last year. In the next four years, he plans to reach the rank of staff sergeant, go on an overseas deployment, earn a degree in aerospace physiology and work as an air traffic controller for the Federal Aviation Administration.

"I joined the military to honestly grow up," stated Byrne. "I now have a really good job, I know how to properly manage finances, and I can also further my education through college for free."

While at Willowbrook, Byrne was a four-year member of the boys basketball program. He said the Willowbrook staff taught him social skills he still uses every day. "I would like to thank all of the teachers at Willowbrook for guiding me to become the man I am today," said Byrne. "I can positively say I would not be where I am without the constant support and knowledge I received there."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Joseph Byrne of Villa Park is serving in the United States Air Force. Airman First Class Byrne, who graduated from Willowbrook High School in 2019, joined the Air Force right after graduating from High School. He is now stationed at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma. The base recently recognized Byrne in its "Airman in the Spotlight" newsletter. Byrne's plans include earning a degree in aerospace physiology and working for the Federal Aviation Administration as an air traffic controller. Byrne was a four-year member of Willowbrook's boys basketball program.

SPORTS

OCT. 1, 2020 • 14

Warriors run against deep Downers Grove South lineups

Willowbrook's Tyler King wins boys race

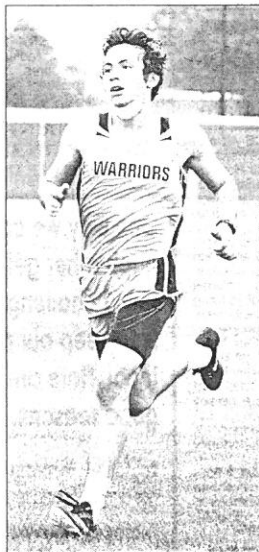
Willowbrook's boys and girls cross country teams competed against Downers Grove South in Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference dual meets. The boys and girls both ran on a 3-mile course on the Downers Grove South campus.

Willowbrook senior Tyler King ran to an individual victory in the boys race. King finished the race in a first-place time of 16 minutes, 30 seconds. He finished six seconds ahead of Downers Grove South sophomore Carter Smott (16:36), who earned second-place honors.

Downers Grove South prevailed 20-43 in the team score of the boys meet.

The Mustangs occupied 10 of the top 11 places in the boys race, with 10 Downers Grove South runners following King across the finish line. Senior Nick Leo (17:20) posted a 12th-place showing for Willowbrook. Sophomore Charlie Hayes (18:25) finished 24th for the Warriors, while sophomore Kevin Diedrich (18:28) placed 25th. Sophomore Garrett Williams (18:53), who placed 29th, was the fifth Warrior across the finish line. Senior Thomas Florey (18:54) of the Warriors placed 30th, while junior Damian Rocha (19:30) placed 34th. Senior Jake Murray (19:37; 36th), sophomore Sean Kling (19:40; 39th) and senior Mike Stout (21:04; 52nd) rounded out the Warriors' varsity lineup in the boys race.

Downers Grove South posted the top 11 individual finishes in the girls race. The Mustangs earned a 15-50 victory in the team scoring. Senior Melissa Martinez provided Willowbrook's best finish with her 12th-place time of 20:43. Junior Lily Weder (21:03) delivered a 17th-place finish for the Warriors. Junior Madeline Barrington (22:54) finished 28th, while sophomore Amelia Barrington (23:03) claimed 29th. Sophomore Abby Kusmierz (23:16) landed in 30th place.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Racing the Mustangs

Senior Tyler King (above left) of the Willowbrook boys cross country team ran to a victory in Saturday morning's dual meet at Downers Grove South. King finished the 3-mile race in a first-place time of 16 minutes, 30 seconds. Senior Nick Leo (left) of the Warriors is pictured during his 12th-place finish. One more photo (above) from Saturday's race shows the Warriors' trio of (left to right) sophomores Charlie Hayes, Garrett Williams and Kevin Diedrich. Hayes posted the Warriors' third-best time in the race. Diedrich provided the team's fourth-best finish, while Williams delivered Willowbrook's fifth-fastest time.

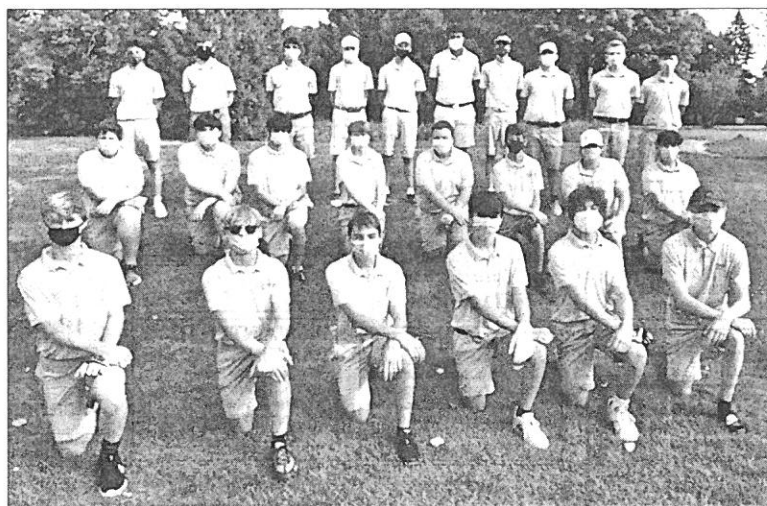
Warriors wrap up regular season with loss to DG North

The Willowbrook boys golf team completed its regular season by playing Downers Grove North in Saturday's dual meet at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club's Course No. 3 in Lemont. The Trojans earned a 303-344 victory over Willowbrook. The Warriors' overall season record dropped to 3-6 following the loss.

Willowbrook sophomore Brett Vandergrift turned in his team's best round of the meet by firing an 18-

hole score of 82 on the par-72 course. Senior Nick Cipriano contributed an 86 for the Warriors, while senior Andrew Rugg carded an 87. Senior John Donovan posted an 89 to complete the team's scoring lineup.

The Warriors will compete in this Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet at Cog Hill's Course No. 2. Willowbrook will play in an IHSA regional at Glendale Lakes Golf Club on Oct. 6.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Fenton boys golf boasts great season

Fenton's boys golf team is 3-1 in conference play heading into the last week of the regular season. Coach Rick Johnson especially praised the great leadership of seniors Patrick Block, Sigi Garza, Joe Puzzo, and Ryan Wilson.

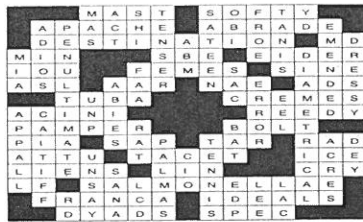


CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Running Warriors

Senior Melissa Martinez (center) and junior Lily Weder (far right) of the Willowbrook girls cross country team are pictured during the start of Saturday morning's dual meet against Downers Grove South. Martinez posted Willowbrook's fastest finish of the meet by finishing the 3-mile race in a 12th-place time of 20 minutes, 43 seconds. Weder turned in the Warriors' next-best finish with her 17th-place time of 21 minutes, 3 seconds.

Answers



PUZZLE 1

7	3	8	5	1	6	4	2	9
4	1	2	7	3	9	6	8	5
5	6	9	2	8	4	1	3	7
9	2	1	6	7	3	8	5	4
6	7	4	8	9	5	3	1	2
8	5	3	4	2	1	9	7	6
1	8	5	9	4	2	7	6	3
3	4	6	1	5	7	2	9	8
2	9	7	3	6	8	5	4	1

PUZZLE 2

9	1	4	2	8	7	5	3	6
5	6	8	3	1	9	4	7	2
2	7	3	5	4	6	9	1	8
3	5	1	9	6	4	8	2	7
6	2	9	8	7	5	1	4	3
8	4	7	1	3	2	6	5	9
4	3	6	7	5	8	2	9	1
1	9	5	6	2	3	7	8	4
7	8	2	4	9	1	3	6	5

State-regulated utilities extend shutoff moratorium to winter 2021

By Raymon Troncoso
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Several state-regulated utilities have voluntarily extended a moratorium on disconnections into next year after requests from the Illinois Commerce Commission.

In a Sept. 22 news release, the ICC announced that Nicor Gas and Liberty Utilities have agreed to halt shutoffs due to missed or late payments for all residential customers until March 31, 2021.

Ameren Illinois, Aqua Illinois, Illinois American Water, Common-

wealth Edison, Peoples Gas/North Shore Gas and Utility Services of Illinois have agreed to delay disconnections to the same date for residential customers who qualify for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, and those financially impacted by COVID-19.

MidAmerican has extended its moratorium on shutoffs for LIHEAP-qualified residential customers until March 31, 2021 as well, and is considering other options, according to ICC.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE/LEGAL NOTICE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The members of the York Township Board of Trustees having stated that a special town meeting of electors is necessary for the interest of York Township in order to make all necessary orders for the sale/lease of vacant Township real property located at the Northeast Quarter of York Road and Interstate 88, DuPage County, Illinois and 2) the extension of an existing lease with the York Center Park District for real property owned by the Township and currently leased to the York Center Park District by the Township. The object of the special meeting is authorized by the Illinois Township Code at 60 ILCS 1/30-50(a) and (d).

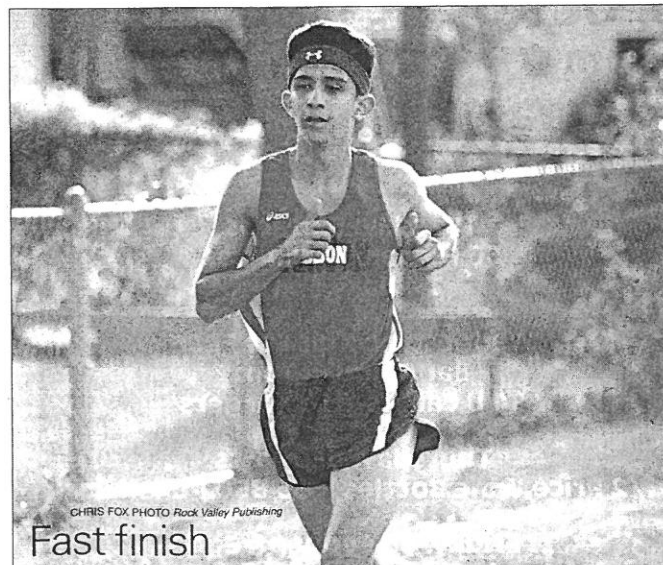
Therefore, **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** to the legal voters, residents of the TOWNSHIP OF YORK in the County of DuPage, State of Illinois, that a Special Town Meeting of said Township will take place on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at the hour of 7:00 p.m. at York Township Hall, 1502 S. Meyers Road, Lombard, Illinois, for the transaction of certain business of said town; and after a Moderator has been elected, will proceed to decide on such measures

as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and specifically to consider and decide the following:

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP OF YORK OCTOBER 13, 2020 AT 7:00 PM AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Welcome and Introduction by Daniel J. Kordik, Town Clerk
4. Call for Nomination of Moderator
 - a. Closing of Nominations
 - b. Election of Moderator
 - c. Oath of Moderator
5. Public Comment
6. Authorize Sale/Lease of vacant York Road Property
7. Extension of York Center Park District Lease
8. Adjournment

PUBLISHED BY:
DANIEL J. KORDIK
YORK TOWNSHIP CLERK
(Published in the Addison Independent,
Bensenville Independent, Villa Park
Review & the Lombardian Oct 1, 2020)
382303



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

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Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 11am-3pm



Early Voting has begun at DuPage Fairgrounds

More sites to open throughout County in October

On Wednesday, Sept. 23, it was announced that DuPage County voters who wish to vote early are now able to cast their ballots for the Nov. 3rd General Election at the DuPage County Fairgrounds.

Early Voting at the Fairgrounds will be by paper ballot only. Beginning on Monday, Oct. 19, 18 additional Early Voting sites offering touchscreen voting will be available throughout DuPage County.

This is the first time Early Voting is being offered at the Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road in Wheaton,

just off County Farm Road, east of the county's Government Administration buildings. The Fairgrounds replaces the County Administration Building Early Voting site in order to accommodate more voters, while adhering to coronavirus prevention measures.

"I appreciate the continued support of the DuPage County Fairgrounds to help my office ensure that voters have a safe place to vote while practicing social distancing," County Clerk Jean Kaczmarek said.

In addition to social distancing,

there will be personal protection supplies including hand sanitizer for voters and poll workers alike.

Hours for Early Voting at the Fairgrounds are:

Weekdays: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. from Sept. 24 - Oct. 16;
Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. from Sept. 26 - Oct. 17;
Weekdays: 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

from Oct. 19 - Nov. 2; and, Weekends: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. from Oct. 24 - Nov. 1.

Voters can find a complete guide to all Early Voting locations and dates, as well as information on voting by mail, at the Clerk's website.

For more information, visit dupageco.org/election/ or follow on Facebook or Twitter.

Addison Trail names September recipient of 88's Best recognition

Huda Siddiqui has been named as Addison Trail's September recipient of 88's Best recognition for her outstanding academic accomplishments. Siddiqui, a senior, was recognized during the Sept. 21 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

During her four years at Addison Trail, Siddiqui has taken 10 honors courses and 16 Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses, earning an A grade in each class. Siddiqui is at the top of her class and is an AP Scholar with Distinction.

"Siddiqui has been a member of Science Club for all her years at Addison Trail, and it was in this setting that I first met her," said Carolyn Erwin, AT science teacher and Science Club co-sponsor. "Last year, she took AP Biology and was an absolute rock star. This young scholar embodies all the attributes of an avid learner: curiosity, self-motivation, leadership and empathy for others. She has an incredibly bright future and truly is one of 88's Best."

Not only is Siddiqui a full-time student at Addison Trail, but she also has attended Islamic School since fifth grade and is part of the Islamic Scholar program, where she has ranked No. 1 in her class for six years. She studies Islamic history and the Quran extensively, and she can read, speak and write in Classical Arabic, Urdu and Persian.

While she doesn't consider herself gifted, Siddiqui emphasizes her dedication to her religion and the value of education. She also recognizes the struggles her parents have experienced with immigrating to the U.S. to give her and her siblings a better life, and she aims every day to make them proud.

Siddiqui has been an integral part of Addison Trail's Youth Equity Stewardship (YES!) series, a program focused on preparing students to recognize and learn from the diversity around them. She is a leader in providing insight into how to



SUBMITTED PHOTO: Rock Valley Publishing

Addison Trail senior Huda Siddiqui, senior AT's September recipient of 88's Best award.

make the school a safer and more welcoming environment for all. Siddiqui's appreciation for minority students inspired an idea to expand the school's celebrations of diversity to include an Islamic Awareness Week to recognize the Muslim culture and to educate her fellow students. Siddiqui also has participated in the Muslim Student Association, Key Club, National Honor Society, Student Council, UNICEF, Science Club, Psychology Club, Blazer Ambassadors and the girls track, tennis and badminton teams.

Siddiqui's leadership connects directly to one of her most notable accomplishments - becoming a Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America (LEDA) Scholar. (visit: ledascholars.org)

While the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic prohibited Siddiqui from visiting Princeton this past summer, she was still able to participate in a seven-week summer program online, where she gained confidence about her future. Through that program, one of her assignments was to create a community impact project for her school. Siddiqui's passion for mental health, particularly in the Muslim community, led her to create "Grateful Guidance," a project dedicated to providing more resources and empowering students to improve their mental health. Her project seeks to reduce the stigma that surrounds mental health and emphasize the importance of self-care and mental health education. Her plan

Addison Park District hosts Fall Park Pride Day

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and after deep concerns for the safety of our supporters, the Addison Park District has decided to change this year's Fall Park Pride event.

The Park District offered thanks to the many families, school clubs, scout troops and friends of the parks for helping to make the parks a great place to enjoy nature. Last year, there was record-breaking participation in the Park Pride events, where participants had loads of fun and made great memories.

Clean your own neighborhood park

Some community members have said they would love to help keep our parks clean and beautiful independent of a formal event. By collecting litter in their neighborhoods and nearby areas, residents are helping to make Addison a better place to live and work. At this time, getting out into the parks for a bit of exercise, overall wellness and fun with your family might include helping spruce up your local neighborhood park.

If your family or small group would like to help clean up a park on your own, the Addison Park District would like to support all individual group efforts. While trying to honor as many requests as possible, the Park District will provide you with large waste bags, disposable gloves, tee shirts, face masks and bottled water.

Kits available, prizes to be awarded

Although the Park District Team cannot be with you, its spirit is! In the spirit of fun and thanks, teams are asked to further participate by:

- Joining a contest to win one of several \$50 Amazon gift cards.
- Prior registration with your park location, clean up date, time and team names are required to become eligible to be in the contest. One card per team maximum.
- Also, the pre-registration will allow for your clean-up kit to be ready for pick up with bags, gloves, bottled water, masks, and tee shirts. Registered teams can pick up their Park Pride Clean-Up Kit at Centennial Recreation Center during normal business hours. Just visit the front desk.
- How to be eligible for the contest? Take pictures of your park clean-up efforts, showing the community all the fun, you had that day and post your pictures to the Addison Park District Facebook page.
- Contest runs now through Sunday, Nov. 15.
- How to register: Register by calling the Addison Park District at 630-233-7275 extension 3, the Centennial Recreation Center/ Club Fitness Center. Please have this information ready when you call: your park location, clean up date, time, and team member names and one key contact person's email for sharing winner information.
- How will know if my team wins? Winners will be announced Monday, Nov. 16. Watch for the winning park on Facebook.

Addison Bank and Trust, Wintrust plan virtual webinars

Wintrust and Fig Factor Media Publishing are presenting a six-part fall/winter virtual series called "Conectando (Connecting) With Our Community," which will be held at several Wintrust branch locations.

Main presentation themes will include cultivating the power of

your dreams. The Wintrust Schaumburg Charter and its Addison Bank and Trust branch location will have a Facebook Live presentation called "Taking Off On Your Dreams" on Thursday, Oct. 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Several authors from Fig Factor Media Publishing's popular "To-

thor Elizabeth Colón will emcee the Oct. 8 event. In addition to the presentation, there will be segments on Wintrust's Money Smart Checking program and how people can better their FICO scores.

To learn more, click on this link: bit.ly/TakeOffOnYourDreams

People can tune into the event via

Montini Catholic announces fall information events for prospective students

Montini Catholic High School has announced several opportunities for prospective families to visit the campus, either virtually or in person, and gather information to help with their high school decisions. This year, the Lasallian preparatory school is offering virtual information nights specific to athletics and activities in addition to a general information session. They are also presenting the same opportunities for families who prefer to be on campus at three Open House events.

Activities Information Night – Wednesday, Nov. 4 – 6:30-8 p.m.

MCHS in-person events

Open House #1 – Tuesday, Oct. 6 – 3-8 p.m.

Ladies Athletics Information Night – Wednesday, Oct. 14 – 3:30-8 p.m.

Mens Athletics Information Night – Thursday, v 22 – 3:30-8 p.m.

Open House #2 – Sunday, Oct. 25 – 1-6 p.m.

Open House #3 – Sunday, Nov. 15 – 1-6 p.m.

“We are also available to give personal tours for families who prefer this,” said admissions representative Jennifer Kavanagh. “Anyone interested may call me directly at 630-627-6930, extension 182.”

Montini Catholic also offers academic scholarships to incoming freshmen taking their placement

exam, held on Dec. 5, 2020. Students can earn up to \$10,000 toward their high school education. Scholarships (ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500) are

based on a student’s national ranking of the placement exam and are renewable for four years. Other scholarship opportunities can be explored

at montini.org. For more information call 630-627-6930 or email: admissions@montini.org.



Pictured here are Montini Catholic High School students all smiles as school begins. They are (from left): freshman Rory O'Connor, a St. Mary of Gostyn in Westmont graduate, junior Ruby Dawson, a St. Pius X graduate from Villa Park, and senior Patrick O'Connor, also a graduate of St. Mary of Gostyn. Montini open house information sessions are being held both virtually and in person over the next few months.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

MCHS virtual events

Virtual Athletics Information Night – Wednesday, Oct. 7 – 6:30-8 p.m.

•88's Best

(Continued from page 4)

note environment and how to help students develop their own set of resources and personal spaces to stay mentally healthy.

“Siddiqui’s brilliance in the area of social awareness wows you from the moment you meet her,” said Guidance Counselor Sofia Daly. “I was able to see Siddiqui present a data-based research proposal through LEDA about mental health at Addison Trail, and I had to believe she was a fellow colleague and not an actual student – her work in promoting awareness of mental health needs and her strive to connect her peers to counseling resources was college-level social work! With all of the rigor in her coursework that Siddiqui engages in, it is inspiring to see

a student equally carry herself in the area of leadership.”

Siddiqui’s passion for mental health started in one of her favorite classes, AP Psychology. She wants to become a psychiatrist and plans to begin a premed program, as well as minor in economics. She also plans to incorporate her other interests – she would like to focus her efforts to the Muslim community, dig deeper into the neuroscience involved in mental health and learn Arabic to connect more with her family.

Siddiqui is applying to many colleges and universities throughout the U.S., and her top four are Northwestern University, Yale University, Washington University and Georgetown University.

Teens at risk for suicide during the pandemic

Most teenagers have experienced some degree of stress during this pandemic — whether it’s missing friends, or more serious stressors like a parent losing a job, someone getting sick or an unstable home life.

Such stressors can make teens more vulnerable to depression, anxiety and other mental health issues. Pre-COVID-19, suicide was already a leading cause of death among teenagers in the U.S. Mental health experts are concerned that suicide rates will increase during the pandemic.

While more data is needed, in a June survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, young adults reported having worse mental health outcomes, increased substance use and elevated suicidal ideation.

“Suicide does not discriminate, and anyone can be at risk,” said Victoria Freier, MSN, RN-BC. “Some factors that increase risk include a current mental health disorder or substance use disorder, for the teen or a parent; family history of suicide, violence, including physical or sexual abuse; bullying and having firearms in the home.”

The risk increases during a crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic, when teens may be more likely to experience feelings of social and emotional isolation. Suicidal thoughts or actions are a sign of extreme distress and should not be ignored. Many of the warning signs of suicide are also symptoms of depression:

- Any changes in eating or sleeping habits
- Isolating, emotional or social

- Lack of interest in usual activities
- Acting out behaviors, running away
- Anger, rage, agitation
- Alcohol and drug use, other risky activities
- Neglecting their personal appearance
- Obsession with death and dying
- Lack of response to praise

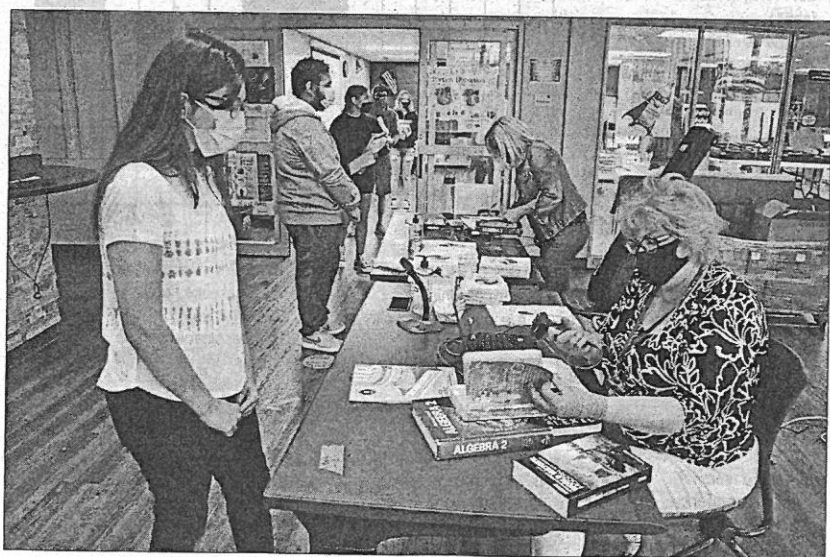
Parents know their kids better than anyone else. If anything seems off, don’t wait. Seek help immediately.

One predictor of how well teens do after a large-scale event, like a pandemic, is how well their parents are doing. It’s okay for a teen to see her parents stressed or worried. Everyone is. What’s important is for teens to see their parents cope with it in healthy ways.

“With many feeling isolated during this pandemic, teens need to be encouraged to reach out and connect to others,” said Freier. “If a teen tells you they are thinking of suicide do not leave them alone. Get help, call an adult.”

Here are some steps parents can take to protect their teen:

1. Restrict access to dangerous or potentially life-threatening items in the home (e.g., firearms, knives, harmful substances).
2. Closely supervise teens with a history of suicide attempts or self-injuries.
3. Limit time spent alone to prevent opportunities to engage in self-harm.
4. Set limits on screen time and monitor teens’ phone calls, texts and



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Fenton bookstore open limited hours

Students maintain social distancing and wear masks as they visit the Fenton bookstore, which is now open from 7-10 a.m. Students who have the occasional need to pick up a book or other materials can go to Door #1 and ring the bell. Security will let you into the foyer. take your student ID