

Villa Park REVIEW

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THURSDAY, NOV. 26, 2020

*A special food
distribution*



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

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District 88 recently extended the hours of service and the number of meals provided through its community food-service program. Each week, seven days' worth of free meals are available to all residents up to the age of 18. The meals—seven breakfasts, seven lunches and milk—are distributed on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The distributions take place at both District 88 schools—Willowbrook High School and Addison Trail High School. The food distributions at Willowbrook take place near Door 6—the entrance by the main gymnasium. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, meals were not provided on Wednesday, Nov. 25. On Wednesday, Nov. 18, families had the option to request 14 days' worth of free meals per child. The photo from the Nov. 18 distribution at Willowbrook shows (left to right) Maria Dalesio and Sue Raya, who both work in the Willowbrook kitchen for Chartwells—District 88's food-service provider. According to Sarah Warren—Chartwells' food-service director at District 88—more than 15,500 meals were distributed at the district's two schools on Nov. 18. Nearly 8,200 of those meals were handed out at Willowbrook. The meals provide food to students while the district's school buildings are closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. See Page 4 for additional photos.

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Village of Villa Park announces new police chief

Incoming chief has over 30 years of experience, mostly with the Homewood Police Department

The Village of Villa Park announced last week that Denise McGrath will be the new chief of the Villa Park Police Department. McGrath will begin her duties on Monday, Dec. 21.

According to a release issued by the village, McGrath's professional experience includes over 30 years of experience, primarily with the Homewood Police Department, where she began working as a

tele-communicator and patrol officer. While in Homewood, she served as a field training coordinator and a detective sergeant: She was promoted to Deputy Police Chief in 2012.

"Ms. McGrath has been involved with all aspects of police work, including but not limited to, community relations, major crimes, the Asset-Forfeiture Program with the Department of Homeland Security and formulation of the police department's annual budget," noted last week's statement from the Village of Villa Park. "She has a strong background in internal and external investigations, and developed a training program to enhance officer expertise in use of force, de-escalation, implic-

it bias, scenario-based training and other topics."

The village's release also stated that McGrath is the recipient of the Demonstrated Leader Award and the Cook County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Award of Merit.

"She is committed to maintaining a vibrant and cohesive community where law enforcement is viewed in a positive light," the village noted at the conclusion of its statement.

McGrath will replace Michael Lay, who has served as the chief of the Villa Park Police Department since 2017. Lay, who has been with the department for nearly 30 years, announced in August that he would retire in January 2021.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS, Rock Valley Publishing

District 88 provides free meals for children

District 88 is committed to providing food service to students while school buildings are closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The district is partnering with its food-service provider—Chartwells—and Cottage Hill Operating Company to offer free meals to all residents up to the age of 18. Each Wednesday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days' worth of meals (seven breakfasts, seven lunches and milk) per student are distributed at Willowbrook High School and Addison Trail High School. There was no distribution on Wednesday, Nov. 25, because of the Thanksgiving holiday. The service of Wednesday, Nov. 18, offered a double distribution, with families having the option of requesting 14 days' worth of meals. Photos from the Nov. 18 distribution at Willowbrook show Barbara Klein (above), who works in the Willowbrook kitchen for Chartwells. Klein is pictured near several bags filled with milk cartons. Another photo from Nov. 18 shows Sarah Warren—Chartwells' food-service director at District 88. She is pictured below near bags of fresh apples. Last week's distributions at District 88 schools also included carrots, waffle fries, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, individually wrapped frozen pizzas and fresh bananas. According to Warren, the Nov. 18 distributions at both District 88 schools provided 15,540 meals—7,364 at Addison Trail and 8,176 at Willowbrook. The district's community food-service distribution will resume next Wednesday, Dec. 2.



Villa Park VFW Post to offer seminar for new gun owners Dec. 3

Non-refundable cost of \$50 per person includes range time, ammunition and use of Post 2801 guns

Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2801 will hold a seminar for new gun owners on Thursday, Dec. 3. The seminar will take place from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the post, which is located at 39 E. St. Charles Road.

The seminar costs \$50 per person, payable in advance by cash or check. There are no refunds.

Reservations are required. Call 630-834-8191 to make a reservation.

No firearm owner's identification card or experience is necessary. Range time, ammunition and use of Post 2801 guns will be provided.

The seminar will include an audio-visual presentation and guidance from certified firearms instructors.

Obituary

James Henry Thoma, 93

James Henry Thoma, of Port St. Lucie, Fla., and formerly of Villa Park, passed away on Nov. 9, 2020, at the age of 93. Loving father of Jim of Port St. Lucie, FL and daughter, Kathy (James Stittsworth) of St. Johns, FL. Cherished Papa of Shannon and Shaun Stittsworth; step grandfather of Jessica (John Michael) Dowell, Toni Stittsworth and Melissa Michurski; dear brother-in-law of Joan Staven and Harryett King; cherished uncle to many. Preceded in death by his beloved wife, Ramona; parents, Joseph and Margaret; brothers Robert, Richard, Thomas and Donald; sister, Elizabeth; parents-in-law Harriet and David King; brothers-in-law James King, Richard King and Duane Staven; and sisters-in-law Eleanor Thoma, Ida Mary Thoma, Maryrose Thoma and Barbara Thoma. Member of Holy Family Catholic Church, PSL.

Jim was born in Milwaukee to Joseph and Margaret and grew up in Oak Park. He attended St. Edmund Grade School and graduated from Oak Park and River Forest High School in 1945. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1950 with a degree in business administration. Jim was employed as a sales representative for Ohio Medical Products for 36 years and was inducted into the Products Sales Achievement Hall of Fame in 1980. He met his wife Ramona King at the UW. They were married in 1953 and had two children, Kathy and Jim. They lived in Elmhurst for two years and in Villa Park for 54 years. Jim was very active in Villa

Park Youth Baseball and was a member of the Villa Park Lion's Club, where he was Lion of the Year in 1992 and president in 2002-03.

The family enjoyed summer vacations with family friends at Hahn's Roost Resort in Hayward, Wis., where he finally caught his prized "keeper" musky in 1971. Jim excelled at baseball in his youth and in bowling and golf as an adult. He loved Dixieland jazz music and played the trombone in the Mad Monks of Melody for more than 20 years. One of the highlights of his musical career was playing with the Chicago Cubs Dixieland Band at Wrigley Field several times.

Jim's wife, Mona, passed away in 2011 after 58 years of marriage. He moved to Florida and lived with his son, Jim. He was much loved by his family and friends and will be greatly missed.

A Funeral Mass was held at Holy Family Catholic Church, Port St. Lucie, Fla., on Nov. 21, 2020. Mass was live-streamed on Facebook; attendees can search for Aycock Funeral Home Floresta and LIKE the page. It will be available for viewing afterwards.

He will be interred at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Ill., at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (www.stjude.org) would be appreciated. Arrangements by Aycock Funeral Home, Port Saint Lucie, Fla. Please visit their website at dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/port-st-lucie-fl/james-thoma-9898673, where family and friends are encouraged to share memories of Jim.

Sports

Several Willowbrook senior student-athletes achieve All-Academic status for fall athletics

Willowbrook High School recently announced its student-athletes who earned All-Academic honors during the 2020 fall season.

The West Suburban Gold Conference's All-Academic Team is comprised of seniors. Willowbrook's seniors who were named to the All-Academic Team during the 2020 fall season include:

Boys cross country

Thomas Florey, Tyler King, Nick Leo and Mike Stout

Girls cross country

Daylee Braden, Melissa Martinez, Madeeha Sahar and Samantha Williams

Boys golf

Jake Cieslak, Nick Cipriano, John Donovan and Andrew Rugg

Girls golf

Maddie Hayes, Peyton Mitrick, Kayla Rauc-Lease and Annika Schramek

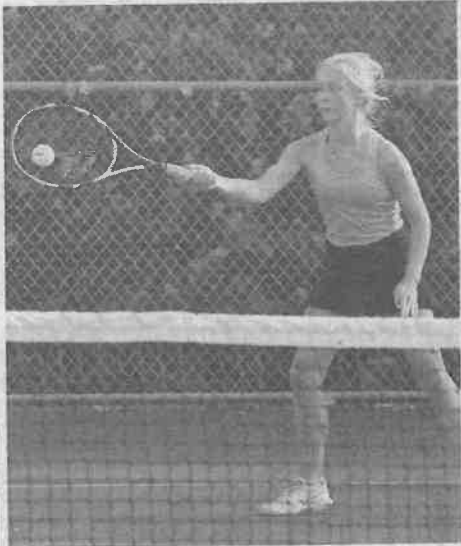
Girls swimming and diving

Caitlin Brennan, Cara Burns, Alex Cisneros, Hiba Siddiqui and Deanna Tate

Girls tennis

Ruksar Ahmed, Saamiya Ali, Aissietou Fall, Grace Jones, Elizabeth Martynenko, Jamie Schrader, Jenna Schrader, Allison Smith, Samantha Solis, Grace Tumilty and Victoria Zlatkova.

Willowbrook competed in six sports during the recently concluded fall season. Three other sports that are normally held in the fall—football, girls volleyball and boys soccer—were moved to the spring season of the 2020-21 school year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Willowbrook senior student-athletes who earned All-Academic honors during the 2020 fall season included Nick Cipriano (far left, boys golf), Grace Jones (left, girls tennis) and Peyton Mitrick (above, girls golf).

COVID-19 Tier 3 mitigations pause all IHSA winter sports and activities

Winter athletic seasons were scheduled to begin last week

STAFF REPORT

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker's Nov. 17 announcement that the state would enter Tier 3 COVID-19 mitigations as of Friday, Nov. 20, has paused all Illinois High School Association (IHSA) winter sports seasons. Those seasons were supposed to begin on Nov. 16, and run through Feb. 13, 2021.

"The IHSA recognizes that today's announcement [Nov. 17] by Gov. Pritzker will temporarily pause the IHSA winter sports season," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson in a Nov. 17 statement. "We remain optimistic that these new mitigations, coupled with the emergence of a vaccine, will aid in creating participation opportunities in the new year for IHSA student-athletes in winter, spring and summer sports."

District 88, which includes Willowbrook High School, announced earlier this month that Willowbrook intended to run its winter seasons in five sports—boys swimming and diving, cheerleading, dance, girls bowling and girls gymnastics. The district stated in its Nov. 13 newsletter that the start of all of those seasons were on hold.

In late October, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced it had elevated basketball from a medium-risk sport to a high-risk sport. Following that announcement, the IHSA stated it would allow for those sports to be conducted in the winter. A vast majority of IHSA schools, however, stated they would not start their basketball seasons on Nov. 16. Multiple school districts in the area stated that their attorneys

and insurance carriers advised to adhere to guidelines set by the IDPH.

Also in late October, the IHSA announced that another sport traditionally conducted during the winter—wrestling—would be moved from the winter to the newly created summer season. The summer season is scheduled to take place from May 3 to June 26, 2021.

Anderson noted in his Nov. 17 statement that the IHSA Board of Directors would meet on Nov. 19. The board held a special virtual meeting on that date. Following the meeting, the board stated that it issued guidance to pause all IHSA winter sports and activities by Nov. 20.

"All IHSA sports and activities will cease by Nov. 20, for what we hope is a short-term pause," said Anderson after the board meeting of Nov. 19. "Given the rising COVID-19 cases in our state and region, we support the Governor's mitigations and believe it is imperative for everyone in the state to do their part in following them so we can return to high school sports participation as soon as possible."

Anderson added that the IHSA Board of Directors would revisit the status of winter sports during an update discussion on Dec. 2, and, if necessary, at the regularly scheduled board meeting of Dec. 14.

"Taking into account the current state mitigations, the board believes that early to mid-December will be the most reasonable target to review the status of winter IHSA sports and activities," Anderson added. "The board is sensitive to the scheduling difficulties these delays create for

athletic directors and coaches. However, our experiences this summer and fall lead us to believe that setting arbitrary start dates hinders the process even more."

The IHSA Board of Directors issued additional guidance following their Nov. 19 meeting. That guidance included the declaration that, given Pritzker's new mitigations, Nov. 16 would not be recognized as the start date of the winter season.

"A new start date will be established for each sport once winter sports can be conducted again," noted the board's Nov. 19 statement.

Additionally, conditioning and weight training before and after school will be paused. All indoor open gyms are also paused, and cannot be conducted. Outdoor workouts may be conducted in any sport in groups of 10 or less with masks and social distancing. Coaches are counted toward the total of 10 in a group. The use of sport-specific equipment is allowable with proper sanitizing practices.

The IHSA guidance from Nov. 19 also noted that one-on-one skill work between a coach and a student-athlete is permitted for winter sports only, but is limited to one coach and one student-athlete per facility. All practices and competitions for IHSA activities, such as debate, Scholastic Bowl and drama and group interpretation, may only be conducted virtually. Finally, all sports organizations, school and non-school, have been directed to abide by Pritzker's mitigations. IHSA coaches cannot organize non-school participation in any fashion.



Speak Out will resume next week

If you have a comment, question, suggestion, etc., you can call SPEAK OUT any time of the day or night. Call SPEAK OUT but do not leave your name or identify yourself in any way. If your comment or question concerns a particular town, please start your comment with "Lombard - I would like to know," or "Villa Park - whose job is it to." SPEAK OUT is a community service of the LOMBARDIAN/VILLA PARK REVIEW newspapers. When at all possible, we try to contact public officials to obtain the answers to questions that concern them, and residents are also encouraged to contact public officials with their inquiries. Due to space limitations, it may not be possible to print all calls. Calls are limited to one minute. Emails are limited to 200 words. We reserve the right to edit calls for length, clarity and subject matter. Please remember: SPEAK OUT callers are expressing their opinion as they see it and may not be factual. For verification purposes, cite your sources when quoting individuals or statistics.

AT student-athletes show Blazer Pride during unprecedented fall sports season

By Matt Thompson
ADDITION TRAIL ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

The following appeared in the weekly newsletter from DuPage High School District 88 regarding Addison Trail:

The Blazers continued to improve all season long this fall and demonstrated what being a student-athlete at Addison Trail is all about. They left their mark on the school and the community as they competed with pride.

I personally want to thank all of the coaches and athletes for diligent following the health and mitigation protocols set forth by the Illinois High School Association (IHS) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The Blazers were able to safely, effectively and successfully complete the fall season. Thanks again to all of the programs for leaving a legacy of excellence for future seasons to follow.

Below is a recap with highlights:

Boys golf

The Boys Golf Team had a great bounce back from last year. With only one senior, Peter Markopoulos, the boys tied for third place in Conference. Freshman Zachary Morris, sophomore Frank Barges and sophomore Jack Bolsinger earned All-Conference honors, and Morris advanced to Sectionals. The future of AT Boys Golf looks bright.

Girls golf

With only one returning varsity player from last season, the Girls Golf Team might not have won against a Conference opponent, but the girls had a lot of wins in other aspects. The team welcomed many new players this season, and underclassmen served as veterans to help rebuild the program. The team as a whole was competitive, respectful and ultimately had fun playing this season. The girls were excited to improve their game

in each and every practice and match. The Girls Golf Team continues to welcome new players and will practice in the off-season to stay competitive and be ready to have some wins next year.

Boys cross-country

The Boys Cross-County Team finished in sixth place at Regionals (the team's best finish in a long time and second-lowest point total), and senior Dylan Moran and junior Alexander Martinez qualified for Sectionals. This year was one of the largest teams, with 30 members, including a strong group of freshmen. Everyone worked really hard to adapt to the COVID-19 rules and regulations to make the meets and practices successful. The seniors will be hard to replace, with most of the

nine being four-year runners, who have shown tremendous dedication to the program and each other and produced the team's first State qualifier in almost 40 years.

Girls cross-country

The Girls Cross-Country team had a strong – and more importantly safe – 2020 season. Practices and meets were different, but the team adapted extremely well. The team won its dual meets against Leyden and Proviso East and had a tight loss with Wilmette this season. Senior Viviana Sanfilippo was again the team's lead runner and won five of the six varsity dual meets. The girls placed fifth in Conference this year, with junior Madelyn Ford becoming a two-time All-Conference runner and Sanfilippo becoming the first four-time varsity All-Conference runner in Addison Trail history. The Regionals team included Sanfilippo, Ford, sophomores Ximena Juarez Martinez and Esmeralda Bucio and freshmen Natalie Lupa, Zabrina Garza and Giselle Hernandez. The final outstanding performance of the season again went to the team's MVP, Sanfilippo, who ran a qualifying time to make her the first four-time Sectionals qualifier in school history. Although the IHS State competition didn't take place this year because of COVID-19, Sanfilippo's performance would have again qualified her as an individual. Sanfilippo, senior Mia Johnson and senior Jina Patel also earned All-Academic recognition.

Girls tennis

The Girls Tennis Team finished 6-6 on the season, placing fourth in the season and end-of-the-year tournament. The highlight of the year was Conference, where three of the seven positions on the team beat a player they had lost to twice during the season. Sophomore Mia Dravilas, senior Justine Bugante, senior Emily Stevenson and junior Alicia Lloveras earned All-Conference honors. The five seniors on the varsity team also earned All-Academic recognition.

Thank you, Blazers, for a remarkable fall season. We look forward to the successes the winter, spring and summer seasons will bring.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF REAL PROPERTY OF YORK TOWNSHIP, DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Notice is hereby given that York Township, DuPage County, Illinois, will accept sealed bids for the sale of certain real property that is 2.04 acres in size (88,862 square feet) and located at the NEQ of York Road and Interstate 88 in DuPage County, Illinois (hereinafter the "Property"). The Property contains a roadway that will be vacated prior to closing. The PIN number for the Property is 06-24-100-011. An appraisal of the Property has been obtained by the Township and is on file and available for inspection at the offices of the York Township Clerk at 1502 S. Meyers Road, Lombard, Illinois during regular business hours. Sealed bids for purchase of the Property shall be accepted by the Township until 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at the Township offices located at 1502 S. Meyers Road, Lombard, Illinois. The sealed bids will be opened at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 23 at 1502 S. Meyers Road, Lombard, and publicly read aloud. The terms and conditions for the Sale can be obtained at the York Township office from Supervisor John Valle.

York Township, DuPage County, Illinois
/s/ Daniel J. Kordik
Daniel J. Kordik
Township Clerk
(Published in the Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent, Villa Park Review, Elmhurst Independent & Lombardian Nov. 19, 2020)

385424

NOTICE OF CAUCUS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO 60 ILCS 1/45-10 THAT

THE YORK TOWNSHIP REPUBLICAN PARTY CAUCUS WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M., (WITH THE DOORS OPENING AT 6:00 P.M.) AT THE ELMHURST AMERICAN LEGION T.H.B. POST 187 310 W. BUTTERFIELD ROAD, ELMHURST IL 60126 in the Normandy Room and Lunch Cafe Room

FOR THE PURPOSE OF NOMINATING CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING TOWNSHIP OFFICES IN THE APRIL 6, 2021 CONSOLIDATED ELECTION: SUPERVISOR, TOWN CLERK, ASSESSOR, HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER, 4 TRUSTEES PUBLISHED BY: DANIEL J. KORDIK TOWN CLERK YORK TOWNSHIP DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS (Published in The Elmhurst Independent, Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent, Villa Park Review & Lombardian Nov. 19, 2020)

385186

NOTICE OF CAUCUS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO 60 ILCS 1/45-10 THAT

THE YORK TOWNSHIP DEMOCRATIC PARTY CAUCUS WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020 AT 7:30 P.M., AT CORTESI VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK 320 E. KENILWORTH AVENUE, VILLA PARK, IL 60181

FOR THE PURPOSE OF NOMINATING CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING TOWNSHIP OFFICES IN THE APRIL 6, 2021 CONSOLIDATED ELECTION: SUPERVISOR, TOWN CLERK, ASSESSOR, HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER, 4 TRUSTEES PUBLISHED BY: DANIEL J. KORDIK TOWN CLERK YORK TOWNSHIP DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS (Published in The Elmhurst Independent, Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent, Villa Park Review & Lombardian Nov. 19, 2020)

385187

Music at Bethel to stream concert

Presents virtual 'We Need A Little Christmas'

Elmhurst's Bethel United Church of Christ will present "We Need A Little Christmas," a live stream musical extravaganza on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. as part of the church's Music at Bethel Concert Series. The family-friendly concert will feature enduring Christmas favorites sure to warm hearts and lift spirits—as only music can.

Favorite artists from past Music at Bethel seasons will join forces to bring some Christmas cheer into your homes.

Performers will include Elmhurst favorite Jenny Riddle, jazz pianist and vocalist Elizabeth Doyle, soprano Felicia Filip Burkovskiy, vocalist Evan Tyrone Martin, pianist Jeffrey Panko and Guitarra Azul founder and lead guitarist Steve Edwards.

There will be something for everyone—from popular Christmas favorites such as "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "A Christmas Song;" "Silent Night" performed on the guitar; a jazzy vocal rendition of "Santa Baby;" to a piano arrangement of selections from *The Nutcracker Suite*.

The concert will be live streamed to Bethel's YouTube channel from the PianoForte Showroom in downtown Chicago.

This concert can be accessed through the church's YouTube Channel at "Bethel UCC Elmhurst," or by going to the church's website at bethel-ucc.org for more information.

Bethel United Church of Christ is located at 315 East St. Charles Road in Elmhurst.



Elizabeth Doyle



Jenny Riddle



Steve Edwards

Symphony's Stanger Young Artist auditions application deadline Dec. 30

The Dr. Robert Stanger Young Artist Concerto Audition for the 2021-22 season will be conducted by the Elmhurst Symphony Association in cooperation with the Elmhurst Kiwanis Club on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021, at Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church, 149 W. Brush Hill Rd. The yearly Stanger Audition provides an opportunity for outstanding high school orchestral instrumentalists and pianists to grow as musicians, gain recognition for their efforts preparing for the Audition, and compete for the opportunity to perform

a concerto movement with the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra. The winner of this event will appear as a soloist with the ESO during its 2021-22 subscription season and will also receive a monetary award of \$400. Three runners-up receive monetary awards and are invited

to perform for local community groups. Applications for the Stanger Audition must be postmarked by December 30, 2020; the application fee is \$40. Each entrant will be given 10 minutes to perform a selection, and performances will be evaluated by three judges who will provide written comments and suggestions. Application forms can be downloaded from the ESO website at elmhurstsymphony.org and click on Education. For further information please contact the ESO office at (630) 941-0202.



Shivshankar Prasad

Answers

PUZZLE 1

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

PUZZLE 2

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



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Willowbrook's winter sports seasons on hold

Seasons in five sports were supposed to start on Nov. 16, but are on hold because of the pandemic; boys and girls basketball, deemed as high-risk sports by the IDPH, likely won't take place this winter

STAFF REPORT

District 88 provided an update about winter sports at its two schools—Willowbrook High School and Addison Trail High School—in its newsletter of Nov. 13.

The winter seasons in multiple sports were scheduled to begin on Monday, Nov. 16, but the COVID-19 pandemic has put those seasons on hold.

According to District 88, Willowbrook and Addison Trail plan to run their winter seasons in five sports—boys swimming and diving, cheerleading, dance, girls bowling and girls gymnastics. The start dates for those seasons, however, are to be determined.

"Based on the county's current

status, we are going to continue analyzing the data to determine the best time frame," noted the update in District 88's recent newsletter. "We understand the value and importance of athletics for students' physical and mental well-being, and we will work with our coaches to ensure we stay connected with and support our pupils."

Last month, the Illinois High School Association (IHSA), which oversees high school sports in the state, announced that wrestling would be moved from the winter to the newly created summer season.

Regarding the traditional winter sports of boys and girls basketball, the IHSA announced in late October that it would allow for those sports

to be conducted during the winter. Just before the IHSA issued that announcement, however, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced it had elevated basketball from a medium-risk sport to a high risk sport.

According to the IHSA, only 34 schools out of 546 respondents stated they would start their basketball seasons on Nov. 16.

Several area school districts, including Glenbard District 87 and Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205, have stated their schools will not play boys and girls basketball this winter. Those two districts have stated that their attorneys and insurance carriers have advised to adhere to the guidelines set by the IDPH.

Fire department's new ambulance arrives

Based at Station 81 on Ardmore Avenue, the emergency vehicle could be placed in service this week

STAFF REPORT

The Villa Park Fire Department recently took delivery of a new 2020 Ford F-550 ambulance. The new vehicle, which will be based at Station 81 at 1440 S. Ardmore Ave., could be placed into service as soon as this week.

Earlier this year, the Villa Park Village Board approved the purchase of the ambulance and power cot at a total cost of about \$314,000. The village will pay for the vehicle with five annual payments of nearly \$63,000 between 2021 and 2025.

The fire department's fleet includes three ambulances—two front-line vehicles at one reserve vehicle. Villa Park Fire Chief Ron Rakosnik noted that the department is now operating on a cycle of buying a new ambulance every three years. According to that cycle, each ambulance is in service for nine years—six in front-line service and three years as a reserve vehicle.

The village's current reserve ambulance—a 2009 Ford E-450, has had numerous mechanical issues and has exceeded its service life. The village will trade in that vehicle.

While the new ambulance is based at Station 81, the Villa Park Fire Department's other front-line ambulance—a 2016 Ford E-450—is based at Station 82 at 102 W. Plymouth St. The vehicle that had been the front-line vehicle at Station 81 is a 2014 Ford F-450. That vehicle will become the department's reserve ambulance.

Rakosnik noted that the addition of the new ambulance now gives the department a fleet of three vehicles with power-loading cot systems. The outgoing 2009 ambulance



CHRIS FOX PHOTO/Rock Valley Publishing

The Villa Park Fire Department recently took delivery of a new Ford F-550 ambulance. The ambulance will be based at Station 81 at 1440 S. Ardmore Ave. The vehicle requires inspection and approval from the state, but could be placed into service this week. The fire department operates a fleet of three ambulances—two front-line vehicles and one reserve vehicle. Under the department's current operating schedule, each vehicle provides nine years of service—six years on the front line and three years in reserve. The village's other front-line ambulance is a 2016 Ford E-450 that's based at Station 82 at 102 W. Plymouth St. The new ambulance and power cot have a total cost of about \$314,000. The village will pay for the vehicle with five annual installments of nearly \$63,000 each year from 2021 to 2025.

lance was not equipped with such a system.

The chief stated that the 2014 vehicle that's becoming the department's reserve ambulance is scheduled to undergo a re-chassis in 2023. Rakosnik said the department has not placed a new chassis on an ambulance before, but doing so could extend the life of the vehicle.

The plan for 2023 calls for the village to remove the patient compartment box from the 2014 model and place it onto a new chassis.

"It's worth a try," Rakosnik said of the plan to re-chassis the reserve ambulance in 2023. "The [compartment] boxes are aluminum. They don't get damaged or rusted. They don't wear out. We're going to try it and see if it works. If it works it could save the village a substantial amount of money."

Rakosnik noted that while the village's ambulances are operating on a nine-year cycle, its fleet of three fire engines is on a 21-year cycle—14 years of front-line service and seven years in reserve.

So, Trump is collecting money to run in 2024 and has told close advisers he is considering running for president again in four years. That means he knows he lost this election because you cannot run for three terms. Back off doubters, it's over!

After saying Donald Trump is responsible for all COVID-19 deaths in the United States, Joe Biden now wants to make nice, put away the harsh rhetoric, and have everybody come together and sing kumbaya. Hogwash. A lot of Democrats in Congress skipped Trump's inauguration in 2017. I hope more than a few Republicans skip Biden's inauguration if he is certified to be the next president.

It seems our governor is hypocritical in wanting to raise taxes on the rich, but he sure didn't want to have to pay his high property taxes, so he removed the toilets from his mansion.

Just a heads up for people worried about COVID-19 who will jump on any product to kill the virus. A certain national brand is advertising its laundry sanitizer, saying it kills 99.9 percent of bacteria. Then it goes on to say it kills COVID-19. COVID-19 is a virus, so be cautious and read product labels, especially since some products say they kill "germs." Look and see which germs those are!

There are multiple reports of problems with mail-in voting. Ballots lost, ballots arriving late, etc. Who could have guessed? The United States Postal Service might be incompetent and/or corrupt. Does that shock you? Have you ever had problems with the post office?

It's obvious why Democrats were pushing in for mail-in voting. Our country's election system now resembles Venezuela. Congratulations, Democrats.

P.T. Barnum was famously quoted as saying there's a sucker born every minute. The proof of this is the percentage in Illinois that voted for Biden/Harris. And I thought the Kardashians made me sick. Guess I shouldn't be surprised that Costa Howard survived to continue her role as a Madigan Minion. I once quit a good job because management was too stupid to work for. Good thing I'm planning to leave this state. You all are too stupid to live among, though there are a few, very few, exceptions. The RMS Illinois has struck the iceberg. Call the Carpathia! (blug, blug)

Things change quickly. Four years

ago, there was no call for unity from the Democrats; now they like that idea. Four years ago, there was fraud and interference in our election; now that could not be possible. Now the media declares the winner of the election, not the legally recorded vote tally. It used to be the voters decided the outcome of an election; now the vote counters determine the winner. In 2000, it was okay for Gore to take the election results to court; now you shouldn't do that. Some investigations of a politician's family are okay; some are not. A political rally for a president is not safe and spreads the virus. A rally for the president-elect is okay now. You can congregate in groups of thousands to celebrate an election, but don't go to a sporting event. Let's hope there is a vaccine soon and that there is unity in the country. And in four years, I hope people aren't saying "told you so" after rising debt and taxes. We have seen what Democrats did in Illinois. God bless America.

To the recent (Speak Out) query about Mr. Pence looking silly. Yes, silly. Just like the high schooler worrying about his/her pimples while the rest worry about theirs. Time to grow up.

When I voted on Election Day, two election workers verified my signature. Did that happen elsewhere? Apparently not. Why not?

Don Lemon views himself as an objective journalist. Is that why I saw him get all choked up with emotion when he found out Biden was projected to win the presidency? He's a commentator, not an objective journalist. CNN is a joke.

In the Speak Out section of Nov. 5, someone doubted that the COVID-19 death count is inflated because deaths of various causes like drug overdoses and suicides have been included. They most certainly have been included. Look through the Cook County Medical Examiner's register. There are many, many deaths in which COVID-19 is listed as a secondary cause. Here are some of the primary causes of those deaths: stroke, pneumonia, diabetes, Alzheimer's, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, lung cancer, end-stage renal disease, dementia, fall-related injury, alcoholic cirrhosis, drug overdose and suicide. Most of these "COVID-19 deaths" are elderly victims. They didn't die from COVID-19, but they may have been infected with COVID-19. But they are counted in the COVID-19 death total for multiple reasons, including media hysteria.

Sports

All winter high school sports put on ice

IHSA pushes pause button, will provide early December update

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

After initially running contradictory to Illinois Department of Public Health mitigations related to the deteriorating COVID-19 pandemic situation in the state, the Illinois High School Association announced last week that all winter sports have been put on hold.

"To maintain compliance with the most recent mitigations issued by Governor Pritzker that take effect Nov. 20 (last Friday), the IHSA board issued guidance to pause all winter sports and activities by Nov. 20," the IHSA said in a prepared statement.

"All IHSA sports and activities will cease by Nov. 20 for what we hope is a short-term pause," IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson said in that same statement. "Given the rising COVID-19 cases in our state and region, we support the governor's mitigations and believe it is imperative for everyone in the state to do their part in following them so that we can return to high school sports participation as soon as possible."

The IHSA's statement is an about-face from its previous stance where it green-lit boys and girls basketball for a Nov. 16 practice start date, with all personnel wearing masks (in practices and games), despite IDPH downgrading the sport of basketball to the high-risk category, meaning only non-contact-practices (with parental permission) and trainings were allowed. Representatives of the governor's office and IDPH spurned the IHSA's invitation to attend last week's board meeting.

All the schools in the Independent's Addison, Bensenville, Elmhurst and Villa Park coverage areas followed the IDPH guidelines and did not start basketball on Nov. 16.

The halting of winter sports covers boys and girls basketball, boys swimming, girls gymnastics, boys and girls bowling and competitive cheerleading and dance. Wrestling, originally on the state's high-risk list back in the summer, already had been 86'ed as a winter sport and was moved into the temporary summer season calendar.

As previously reported in the Independent, Addison Trail, Willowbrook and Fenton high schools had no plans to start any winter sports last Monday, the first allowable day of winter practices under the IHSA's COVID-19-adjusted calendar.

York Athletic Director Rob Wagner told the Independent last week that all winter sports with the exception of boys and girls basketball practiced Monday and Tuesday of last week and then were halted.

Timothy Christian, which offers only boys and girls basketball in the winter, did not start those practices on Monday, instead waiting for the outcome of the IHSA board meeting. Timothy is the only high school in the Independent's coverage area with students still learning live in the building. Timothy encompasses a three-school campus (preschool through 12th grade) off Butterfield Road on the south side of Elmhurst and has been utilizing in-person learning since the start of the school year in August (with parents also having a remote learning option for their children).

IC Catholic Prep High School Athletic Director Michael Fahey noted the school pivoted from a hybrid learning model Friday, Nov. 13 and is in full remote learning mode until Nov. 30. Because of that switch, Fahey explained boys bowling and competitive dance were not able to engage in any practice or activity. "We put it on hold prior to the IHSA doing so," he said.

Fahey also provided an update on the school's stance regarding boys and girls basketball after hearing from the Diocese of Joliet.

"The Diocese of Joliet officially said no to a season that would go against state guidance," he said.

The IHSA Board of Directors will revisit the status of winter sports at its update discussion on Dec. 2, and again at its regularly scheduled meeting on Dec. 14, if necessary.

"Taking into account the current state mitigations, the board believes that early to mid-December will be the most reasonable target to review the status of winter IHSA sports and activities," Anderson said. "The board is sensitive

to the scheduling difficulties these delays create for athletic directors and coaches. However, our experiences this summer and fall lead us to believe that setting arbitrary start dates hinders the process even more. We realize it may seem redundant, but we have to preach patience as we await more data and direction from the state. Despite the obstacles this unprecedented school year has presented, the board's vision to provide participation opportunities in all IHSA sports has not wavered."

The IHSA board in its statement was steadfast in its desire to remind all athletes and athletic programs that adhering to the mitigations is vital to the hopes of safely playing high school sports in the state as soon as possible. Anderson alluded to non-school sports teams in his statement, seemingly referring to the likes of travel and club teams.

"I believe there is a misconception that IHSA and non-school athletic programs have an adversarial relationship," Anderson said. "In my time at the IHSA, I have not found that to be the case at all. More so, I think there is a mutual respect for the opportunities that each provide for athletes. IHSA schools have been exemplary in adhering to state regulations throughout the pandemic, and we are calling upon non-school programs to hold themselves to that same standard. As school and non-school sports temporarily cease in Illinois and throughout the Midwest, it is a great reminder that putting the health and safety of our fellow citizens at the forefront in the short-term will allow all levels of athletics in the long-term."

The IHSA announcement comes as virus numbers continue to hover in non-positive airspace,

particularly in the number of people per day expiring from COVID-19 and the number of individuals requiring hospitalization and ICU residency because of the virus.

Yet, despite the state's increased mitigations, it appears numerous Elmhurst retail establishments and restaurants are turning a blind eye to the situation. This past weekend, the Independent observed numerous Elmhurst retailers packed with shoppers in defiance of new lower retail capacity limits, as well as multiple restaurants and bars, particularly in the corridor from the Metra station train tracks-north downtown on York Road, offering indoor sit-down dining and bar service, again brazenly flouting the state's increased mitigations aimed at slowing the virus' spread.

The IHSA also revealed the Nov. 16 date will no longer be recognized as the start of the winter season, regardless of whether teams conducted official tryouts or practices last week. A new start date will later be established once those sports can be conducted again.

The IHSA also said conditioning and weight training before and after school are paused, as are open gyms. Outdoor workouts may be conducted in any sport in groups of 10 or less with masks and social distancing with coaching being counted in that number.

And per Tier 3 state mitigations, one-on-one skill work between a coach and student-athlete is permitted for winter sports only with school approval, but is limited to one coach and one student-athlete per facility.

The IHSA also stressed that coaches of IHSA-sanctioned schools cannot organize non-school participation in any fashion.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Dasbach signs to play at Winona State

Willowbrook senior Stephanie Dasbach signed a letter of intent earlier this month to continue her academic and basketball careers at Winona State University in Winona, Minnesota. Dasbach led the Willowbrook girls basketball team to a 15-14 record during the 2019-20 season. The Warriors posted a West Suburban Gold Conference record of 9-3, placing second to Proviso East in the conference standings. Dasbach, who was named to the West Suburban Gold Conference's all-conference team, delivered double-double outputs in 22 of 29 games during her junior season. She poured in 17 points and grabbed 18 rebounds in the Warriors' final game of the season—an overtime loss to Batavia at the IHSA Class 4A Batavia Regional. Winona State is a member of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC)—an NCAA Division II conference including schools in Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. Like Willowbrook, Winona State's athletic teams are known as the Warriors.



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CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTOS Rock Valley Publ

One year ago

It's been one year since the Willowbrook football team made its charge to the semifinals of the IHSA Class 7A playoffs. The Warriors went 8-1 during the 2019 regular season and captured their third straight West Suburban Gold Conference championship. (Willowbrook posted 6-0 conference records during the 2017, 2018 and 2019 seasons). The Warriors then earned playoff victories over Moline, Yorkville and Lake Zurich to advance to the Class 7A semifinals. On Nov. 23, 2019, about four months before the COVID-19 pandemic led all Illinois K-12 schools to close their buildings to in-person instruction, Willowbrook faced Mount Carmel in a semifinal battle in Villa Park. The

visiting Caravan defeated the Warriors 27-6 to earn a berth in the Class 7A state championship game. Mount Carmel went on to defeat Nazareth Academy 37-13 to win state title and complete a perfect 14-0 season. The photos from last year's semifinal game in front of a capacity crowd at Willowbrook's stadium show the pre-COVID scene that existed before the arrival of social distancing practices and mandatory mask-wearing. The pandemic led the IHSA to move the football season for the 2021 school year from the fall to the spring season. The spring football season is tentatively scheduled to take place from Feb. 15 to May 1, 2021.

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Addison Trail names November recipient of 88's Best recognition

Kathan Parikh has been named as Addison Trail's November recipient of 88's Best recognition for his highly improved performance. Parikh, a senior, was recognized during the Nov. 16 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

Parikh immigrated to the United States from Gujarat, India, when he was in eighth grade. A rough start made him question his desire to find success, but a trip back to India, to his culture, and to the people who care about him helped him reset and return to the U.S. with a desire to reach his goals and help others. Parikh started at Addison Trail as a freshman in the ESL program.

Parikh pushed himself, so he could transition from the ESL program and take the challenging honors and Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses he desired. Parikh has earned A's in every class and on every semester exam — his growth from ESL student to AP star is evident, as is the hard work he has put in to reach his goals.

"I am so proud of Parikh and all his accomplishments, and I am confident he will continue to excel at the university level," said Guidance Counselor

Jessica Connolly. "Always striving to do his best, he maintains A's in all academic subjects. He handles the stress of his full load with ease and always with a smile on his face. Kathan Parikh He will be missed when he leaves Addison Trail"



Kathan Parikh

English teacher Cara Kluczyk agreed.

"Parikh has been an absolute pleasure to have in class," she said. "He always works diligently and thoughtfully on his assignments, checking in with me throughout to make sure he is meeting the requirements (and beyond). I have only had him as a virtual student, but I can only imagine the light he brings into a real-life classroom, as he shines so brightly even through Zoom. There is no doubt he is deserving of this recognition."

One of Parikh's favorite things about Addison Trail is how the teachers care deeply about their instruction and their interactions with students. He is genuinely grateful for the care they've provided and the opportuni-

ties he has had because of their dedication. He credits math teacher Julie Rana for encouraging him to take honors and AP courses and for helping him realize his potential, even though he didn't see it at the time.

Parikh also gives much credit and thanks to his parents. They struggled, so he could have a better life and a better education, and he knows how hard they work to make that happen. Parikh also is grateful for the network of friends he has made while at Addison Trail. He said they have pushed him and supported him and given him a safe space to not only grow academically, but also as a person of high character.

"Parikh is one of the hardest-working kids I have had in my 22 years of teaching," said Colleen Kane, math teacher. "His dedication to his studies is so impressive. Parikh started his freshman year in Sheltered Pre-Algebra and was enrolled in my Algebra Geometry Honors class as a sophomore. This was a huge jump, and he made it look easy. It was truly a pleasure to have him in class. Outside

of academics, he is so very mature, responsible and kind. I wish I could have been his math teacher every year."

During his time at Addison Trail, Parikh has been a member of the Boys Tennis Team (a sport he had never played), Key Club, National Honor Society, Student Council, Environmental Club, International Club and Science Club. He also has been invited to participate in Math Team this year and is excited about the prospect of honing his math skills in competition.

Before participating in clubs and sports at Addison Trail, Parikh struggled to find a sense of belonging. After suffering through some bullying as a younger student and lacking confidence, Parikh found a great group of friends, coaches and sponsors who welcomed him with open arms. He credits those individuals for helping him change his thinking, and he's now determined to make sure other students never feel the way he did. Parikh also finds great peace and comfort in his religion. He attends the

Hindu temple and said his faith has helped him find the anchor to serve his community in a way that it has served him.

It is no surprise Parikh intends to study his favorite subject, math, in college. His top choices are University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Michigan, Pennsylvania State University and Illinois Institute of Technology. He will focus on computer science and eventually would like to work for a big tech company like Google, where he will begin his vision of creating artificial intelligence that focuses not on replacing humans, but more on emotions — giving people more resources to be creative and interactive with others through technology. His mission is to serve his community and make life better for people, especially those at a disadvantage.

"My experience has motivated me to create an app or software, so I can stop people from thinking negatively and instead affect them positively and change their thinking to focus more on their goals," Parikh said.

Students invited to audition for variety show, winter musical

Addison Trail might be in a remote environment because of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, but that isn't stopping the Theatre Department from hosting two virtual events to showcase the school's talented students.

Virtual Variety Show

Talent of all types is wanted — dancers, musicians, actors, comedians, martial artists, magicians, ventriloquists, etc. All interested participants must upload their talent via Google Form by Friday, Dec. 4 at dupage88.net/ATVarietyShowAuditions2020.

The show will be streamed online at no cost at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11 to celebrate the holiday season with entertainment provided by

Addison Trail students. Information to access the performance will be posted at dupage88.net/ATVarietyShow2020. For questions or more information, contact Addison Trail Theatre Director Anna McSweeney at amcsweeney@dupage88.net or 630-628-3365.

Winter Musical

The Theatre Department has announced this year's winter musical will be "The Addams Family: Quarantined Concert Version."

Audition information is posted at addisontrailtheatre.com. It also will be posted on the Theatre Google Classroom page (the access code is bnx4d4). Auditions must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 2.

Pritzker calls on Madigan to answer questions or step aside

Indictments of former ComEd officials fuel erosion of support for House speaker

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Gov. JB Pritzker has put his own pressure on House Speaker Michael Madigan, saying the Democratic leader needs to answer questions from the press and the public or else resign.

The governor's comments during his daily COVID-19 briefing in Chicago came one day after federal prosecutors in Chicago handed down indictments against four former Commonwealth Edison officials, charging them with bribery and conspiracy in a scheme to win Madigan's favor for legislation benefitting the company.

"If Speaker Madigan wants to continue in a position of enormous public trust with such a serious ethical cloud hanging over his head, then he has to, at the very least, be willing to stand in front of the press and the people and answer every last question to their satisfaction," Pritzker said. "Written statements and dodged investigatory hearings are not going to cut it. If the speaker cannot commit to that level of transparency, then the time has come for him to resign as speaker."

The indictments charge four people—Michael McClain, a former legislator and close Madigan ally who later worked as a lobbyist at ComEd; former ComEd CEO Anne Pramaggiore; former company executive John Hooker; and Jay Doherty, a lobbyist who worked on contract for ComEd—with conspiring to award no-work jobs, internships and lobbying contracts to Madigan associates in order to gain his support for

"I've maintained from the beginning that legislators have a right to make their own decisions about who leads them, and I continue to feel that way."

— Gov. JB Pritzker

favorable legislation.

That included measures that relaxed the state's rate regulation process and provided ratepayer-funded subsidies for two nuclear power plants owned by ComEd's parent company, Exelon.

Madigan himself has not been charged, and he issued a lengthy statement Nov. 19 reiterating his longstanding denial of any wrongdoing.

Madigan has served as House speaker for all but two years since 1983 and is currently the longest-serving state legislative speaker in U.S. history. He is also expected to seek another term as speaker when the General Assembly reconvenes in January, but his support within the ranks of House Democrats has been eroding since he was first implicated in the bribery scheme in July, when company officials entered a deferred prosecution agreement that included

favorable legislation. As of Nov. 19, according to several media reports, he appeared to be short of the 60 votes needed to secure another term as speaker. At the same time, however, no other Democrat appeared to be close to a winning margin either.

Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, D-Oswego, is the only other announced candidate for the job, but she has attracted little vocal support from other Democrats so far.

Pritzker would not offer any comment about who he thinks should be the next speaker and he said he had not spoken to Democratic lawmakers since the indictments were released Nov. 18.

"I've maintained from the beginning that legislators have a right to make their own decisions about who leads them, and I continue to feel that way," he said. "These legislators alone hold the unique power to elect the Illinois speaker, and I trust that they will think long and hard about the duties that they owe to the people that we all work for."

Prior to Nov. 19, Pritzker had tried to keep some distance from the controversy, at first saying only that Madigan should resign if the allegations are proved true. He stepped up his criticism slightly following the Nov. 3 general election, during which Pritzker's signature graduated tax amendment went down in defeat, suggesting Madigan should step down from his role as chairman of the Democratic Party of Illinois because the cloud of scandal surrounding him had become a liability for the party.

Restrictions (Continued from page 4)

Athletics and Leagues

- All indoor athletics and programs on hold, including indoor basketball classes and leagues.
- Outdoor sports and recreation are allowed; however, groups are limited to 10 people or less with social distancing and face coverings are always required.
- All indoor athletic rentals have been put on hold until December 4.

Active Adult Senior Club

- Programs such as the Variety Show, Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheons are postponed.
- Classes/Program cancelled until further notice include Group Exercise, TAP, Card Games, and Tuesday Senior Club meetings. Program dates will be re-evaluated in January 2021.

Special Events

- Where possible, any special events will be virtual.

Parks and Playgrounds

- Parks, playgrounds, outdoor walking paths, basketball courts remain open.
- Tennis courts are closed for the season.
- Please maintain a minimum of 6ft. social distance.
- Mask wearing is strongly encouraged even while outdoors.
- Gatherings are limited to 10 persons or less.

The health and safety of our patrons is a top priority. We are adhering to the IDPH and CDC recommendations for preparedness and taking additional steps as needed such as small group ratio and sizes and limiting activities that do require close physical contact. Program staff and facility maintenance staff comply with all IDPH and CDC disinfecting/cleaning protocols. As COVID-19 continues to impact our community and country, we hope that our patrons remain safe and healthy.

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ACA hosts virtual exhibition for Art Guild's Member Show

As an annexed facility to Addison Trail High School with shared District 88 resources and policies, the Addison Center for the Arts (ACA) closed in March and has yet to reopen to the public. Naturally, the ACA had to postpone planned events and exhibitions.

One of those events was the annual Addison Art Guild Member Show and reception in October/November. The Addison Center for the Arts collaborated with the AAG to produce a safe virtual exhibit. The art show went live on AddisonCenterfortheArts.org, starting the second week of November, 2020.

Every year, the art guild asks a professional artist to judge the exhibit and award prizes. This year's judge for the Addison Art Guild's 2020 Virtual Art Exhibit is Cynthia Hellyer Heinz, Associate Professor of Draw-

ing and Foundations at the Northern Illinois University School of Art and Design in DeKalb, IL. Judging online exhibitions is extra challenging, but Professor Hellyer Heinz awarded ribbons and an honorable mention to six of the artists:

- Best In Show: Annette Perone Leiber for "Reflections," a landscape collage on canvas of the coastline of St. Germaine, WI.
- First Place: Tanya Blanco for "Contemplation," a collage on canvas.
- First Place: June Feil for "Underwater," a watercolor on paper.
- Second Place: Sharon Peters, "Composite of Japanese Gardens," an oil painting.
- Second Place: Adrienne Curiale, "Contemplation," an acrylic painting.
- Honorable Mention: Lisa Stout,

"Mother Mary at the Grotto," an acrylic painting.

• Honorable Mention: Susan Carrigill, "Bonsai," mixed media on paper.

The Addison Center for the Arts

congratulates all of the artists from the Addison Art Guild who participated in the virtual 2020 AGA Members' Show and look forward to hosting their exhibition and reception in the ACA Gallery next Fall.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Annette Perone Leiber holds "Reflections," winner of the Best In Show award for the Addison Art Guild's Member 2020 Virtual Exhibition.

Addison Park District releases mitigation restrictions at facilities

Governor J.B. Pritzker announced that the State of Illinois will move to Tier 3 resurgence mitigations beginning Friday, Nov. 20, which means residents should refrain from non-essential activities and stay home as much as possible.

The Addison Park District Board of Commissioners and staff are following the advisory set by the Governor. As a result of the advisory the park district has made the following modifications to our operations and programs. This change is expected to last at least two weeks.

Club Fitness at Centennial Rec Center

- Face coverings must always be worn, including while engaged in individual exercise regardless of person or machine spacing. This also applies to lap swim until the individual is in the water.
- Locker rooms will be CLOSED, exception is swimmers.
- NO Indoor Group Fitness classes and NO Aqua Group Fitness classes.
- Club Fitness exercise floor will remain open and operate at no more than 25% capacity or 40 patrons maximum.
- Swipe cards held by members will be used to manage in house capacity and serve as the reservation for use in Club Fitness.

Golf Dome

- Temperature checks will be taken upon entry.
- One person per mat.
- 25 people maximum in hitting area of Dome.
- Masks must always be worn by employees, instructors, and patrons.
- Golf Pro memberships will be sold allowing certified professionals to teach during prime hours.
- Guest professionals will be allowed to teach M-F 8 a.m.-11 a.m. and after 7 p.m., weekends after 7 p.m. for \$10/lesson.
- Lessons are limited to 1 hour.
- No group golf lessons.
- No chipping or putting without purchase of a mat when near capacity.
- Spacing designed for every other mat when possible.
- Parents of youth in the golf les-

son programs will be allowed to enter at drop off and pick up only.

- Parents may wait in their cars in the parking lot.
- When Dome is at or near capacity, a wait list will be created, and people will be instructed to stay in their car until called.
- Dome will use the \$2/5 minute option for seniors who usually come with a friend or cannot hit for a full half-hour.
- Two-for-Tuesday program is on hold.
- No Platinum cards or season passes sold this year. The Dome rewards card will grant a free 1/2 hour after 8 1/2 hours purchased.
- A vacancy/no vacancy sign installed to let people know if the Dome is full or not.
- New touchless hand sanitizers installed.
- Remote Learning Day Camp/Day Off Fun/School Break Camp Programs
- Remote Learning Day Camp, Day Off Fun Camp, and School Break Camps will remain open as an essential service. These childcare programs will operate from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Preschool/Enrichment Programs

- Preschool and Enrichment classes are on hold after the dismissal of classes on Friday, November 20. The preschool program will resume on Tuesday, January 5 and Wednesday, January 6, 2021 depending on the day of the week your child attends. Installment billing for preschool will be placed on hold and resume on January 1, 2021.

Cultural Art Programs

- The art and dance programs are on hold. Recital dance classes and art programs for adults and youth remain scheduled to begin mid-January 2021.

Rentals and Party Rentals

- All rentals are on hold due to gathering restrictions. Field rentals will be re-evaluated after a 2-week period.

Village, Police Department prepare for Santa's arrival

Will drive through neighborhoods to greet residents

On Saturday, Dec. 5, the Village of Addison and the Addison Police Department will partner with the Addison Fire Protection District to welcome a certain Jolly Old Elf to town to bring some holiday cheer to the Addison community.

Beginning at 7:30 p.m., Addison will host Santa Claus himself, riding through neighborhoods on a fire truck. Enjoy the holiday lights and come outside to wave to Santa during one of the Christmas parades.

A second route will be held on

Saturday, Dec. 19, also beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Face coverings and social distancing guidelines must be observed.

For a map as well as a street-by-street list of each of Santa's routes through town, visit ItHappensInAddison.com. Find out when he will drive by your home.

In addition, Santa will help light the Village Green Christmas Tree following the first parade. It will be live-streamed on the Addison YouTube channel (VillageAddison).

Addison Trail clubs, parent groups host fundraisers; makes perfect holiday gift

Are you looking for the perfect holiday gifts? The Addison Trail booster clubs and parent groups are here to help!

- The booster clubs are partnering to host a live virtual auction from 5 to 8 p.m. on Dec. 5 through Zoom. Proceeds will help the booster clubs provide student scholarships and support. See all the details at dupage88.net/site/public/files/?item=5537
- The Theatre Booster Club also is hosting a Color Street fundraiser through Dec. 11. Color Street is real nail polish that has been dried down onto a strip-like sticker for an easy,

mess-free manicure with no-dry time. It's a salon-quality manicure, with a base coat, color coat and topcoat that's applied in one step - without worrying about streaks or smudges. Fifteen percent of the proceeds will support Addison Trail Theatre. Details at dupage88.net/site/public/files/?item=5532.

• The Addison Trail Teacher-Parent Organization (TPO) is hosting two fundraisers - a Pampered Chef party (order by Dec. 12) and a Taste-fully Simple party (order by Dec. 14). Proceeds will go toward senior scholarships.



Finally, Trump is following the law and common sense to allow the new Administration to start the process of administering our great nation and truly work to rebuild America into the wonderful country it was four years ago. I feel so sorry for his die-hard followers who bought into his nonsense of bigotry and hatred, and even are still sending him money—money, most of which is going into his political fund, not to pay off debt as he proclaims. He surely has been an embarrassment to the United States, but we will overcome his

failures and again work with other countries to bring peace, common sense, and measures to save our planet for our children and their children. You only need to look at the rising water levels in Florida to know global warming is real and happening now. Joe Biden will not be perfect, but he will be reasonable and listen to the experts—not fire anyone and everyone who disagrees with him. It will be a difficult four years, but we will be a stronger country.

I keep seeing these signs around town that say, "In Our America." The sign should say, "In Our Leftist America" because these signs have nothing but leftist feel-good slogans on them. Here are a few of the slogans on that sign and how I interpret them in parenthesis. In Our America, love wins. (But if you support Trump, then we have every right to vilify and hate you.) In Our America, all people are equal. (But if you support Trump, then you are not equal. You have to be either a racist, sexist, bigot, misogynist, fascist or a combination thereof.) In Our America, immigrants and refugees are welcome. (Especially if they are here illegally.)

I take this virus very seriously. I wear a mask in public and social distance. I am in an age group where I'm more susceptible to getting the virus. I know relatives who have it right now. I salute all the healthcare professionals who are on the front lines every day treating those with the virus and saving lives. My heart goes out to anyone who has tested positive, or even worse, lost a loved one to this virus. All that being said, why is it that anyone who dares to bring up the devastating impact this

virus is having on local businesses and the economy is somehow greedy or selfish and doesn't care about saving lives? Small-business owners and restaurants are getting hammered. Many of them have put their heart and soul into their businesses for years, only to go out of business in a few short months, or be on the verge of going out of business. What is Pritzker's solution? Apply for a small pool of grant money they very well might not get. How long do these small business owners and their employees have to continue making sacrifices while the big-box stores and supermarkets thrive?

I noticed that grocery stores are limited to 50 percent capacity under billionaire Pritzker's mitigation guidelines. Really? When I drove past a well-known brand name grocery and pharmacy store in the area the day before Thanksgiving, the parking lot sure looked like it was full to me.

Just want to make the case one more time to the people. What they're telling you about COVID-19 is not true. Yes, it is a problem, but it is not the problem they're telling you.

Many thanks to the religious organizations from Villa Park and Lombard for the online Community Thanksgiving Service. It was wonderful to see different faith groups giving thanks to the same God who gave us all so much.

So glad to see so many politicians working together to remove Madigan as the Illinois Speaker of the House. He has, for too many years, controlled all the working groups of our great state. Even our governor and local representative, Deb Conroy, are voting to remove him. Thanks!

Remember that tax cut for the billionaires that Trump and the Republicans passed a couple years back? Well someone has to pay for it, and according to that change in the tax law, those who earn less than \$75,000 per year will face a tax increase in 2021, 2023, 2025 and 2027. I certainly hope that the new administration does something about that. And in October, one in four Americans was either unemployed or earning poverty-level wages.

I guess it could be worse; like living in California. Los Angeles County shut down outdoor dining—remember it is still warm there—and fraudulent California unemployment claims were filed in the name of convicted murderers like Scott Peterson. Or, we could have Kate Brown as governor, who encouraged Oregon residents to report their neighbors on Thanksgiving if they had more than six people in the residence. She said it was no different from reporting a noisy party, and I quote, "This is just like that. It's like a violation of a noise ordinance." (*The Federalist*) I am just as frustrated as the next person and eager to open society back up.

I wear my mask and stay socially distant, and limit my time in public places. I do that out of consideration for others, and hope they would do the same, but I am not going to narc on my neighbors; I'll just keep my distance from them.

We the people have spoken. In my 93 years I have never seen anyone try to overthrow a legitimate election. This is absolutely wrong. And the GOP should stop this nonsense. I am speaking as a registered Republican who has never been taken in by the 20,000 documented lies of President Trump starting at day one. Thank you, and please pray for our country. Goodbye.

I want to share a nice little story with you guys. My sister and her husband have been out of work since March, April. They're one of those Democratic families who believe everything the Democrats tell you and everything the government tells you. Raise taxes, raise fees and all that. The other day my sister and my wife went out to a fast food restaurant to get food for four adults and two kids. My sister decided she wanted to pay for it. It was almost \$100. All she did was complain. She starts complaining to me, and I'm like, well you raise taxes, you raise fees, you raise minimum wage and guess what, everything else goes up. You voted for Pritzker and Pritzker told you he was going to raise fees. You just complained that you paid \$151 for the license plate sticker. You raised it \$50 because you voted for Pritzker.

Many people with student loan debt voted for the Democrat socialists for one reason: forgiveness of student debt. What about the students who paid off their loans? What are you going to do for them? What about the people who went in the military for four more years so the military would pay for them? What are you going to do about them? What about the people who went in the military so the military would pay for their college education and were killed or suffered permanent damage? What are you going to do about them? What about the students who went to community college the first two years and then a state college and did not rack up additional costs for graduate school? What are you going to do about them?

Our founding fathers wanted and envisioned a country with an educated and knowledgeable citizenry with this election. We have failed miserably. I am neither Republican nor Democrat. I'm an American first.

Folks, you heard it here first. If Joe Biden does, in fact, win this election, remember all this 25th Amendment nonsense that you've heard Nancy Pelosi talk about for President Trump? Mark my words, they will use this within six months to oust Joe Biden as the president and you will have Kamala Harris as our president. You read it here first. Biden will be done within six months with the 25th Amendment. He will be gone and this country will be in really, really big trouble. Thank you.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook students honored as All-District Musicians

Fourteen Willowbrook High School students were recently recognized as All-District Musicians for District 9 of the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA). Auditions for the ILMEA All-District Band, Orchestra, Chorus and Jazz honors took place virtually this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The honored Willowbrook students who are residents of Villa Park (pictured left to right) are: (top row) senior Caitlin Brennan (Senior Orchestra; violin), junior Katie Corsini (Senior Chorus; Soprano I) and sophomore Caitlin O'Connor (Senior Chorus; Alto II); (bottom row) senior Connor Staunton (Senior Chorus; Bass II), senior Anna Tymoszenko (Senior Chorus; Alto II) and junior Katherine Wentworth (Senior Chorus; Soprano II). According to the Illinois Music Education Association, all district-level in-person events for the 2020-21 school year will be canceled. ILMEA is working to build a virtual event for students who would have been selected.

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CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Gloves from the 'Giving Tree'

Villa Park residents Jason and Tracy Herbers are sponsoring one of the Villa Park Chamber of Commerce's 4-foot, pre-lit trees that are lining the Illinois Prairie Path this holiday season. The Herbers family decorated its tree on Saturday, Nov. 28 (see Page 1 photo). The decorations on that tree, which is located along the path, just east of Cornell Avenue, include sealed pairs of gloves. The tree, which Tracy Herbers described as "The Giving Tree," includes gloves for children and adults. Passersby are welcome to take gloves from the tree. As the Herbers family completed its decorations, members of the Isbell family of Villa Park passed by while walking on the path. Encouraged by the Herbers family, the Isbells took some gloves from the tree. Pictured (left to right) with their new gloves are siblings Isalah (age 6) and Veronika (age 3) Isbell. They were out for an afternoon walk with their brother Luka (10 months old) and mother Amanda. "It's a great idea," said Amanda, who also took a pair of gloves from the tree as temperatures dropped just before sunset. "It was perfect, because I thought it was warm out here when we decided to go for a walk."

Food availability not in question ahead of holiday season

As pandemic struggles continue for many families, annual survey finds cost of traditional Thanksgiving meal drops. With concerns resurfacing over possible food shortages, a study from a national farm group found the supply chain is as resilient as ever—and it's showing up in the form of lower prices for many traditional Thanksgiving dinner ingredients.

This year, the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual Thanksgiving dinner survey calculated the average cost of a traditional Thanksgiving meal for 10 people at \$46.90. That's less than \$5 per person and down 4 percent from last year.

"The average cost of this year's Thanksgiving dinner is the lowest since 2010," said AFBF Chief Economist John Newton, Ph.D. "Turkeys—and other staples of the traditional Thanksgiving meal—are currently in ample supply at grocery stores in most areas of the country."

The national survey's menu includes turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, rolls with butter, peas, cranberries, a veggie tray, pumpkin pie with whipped cream, and coffee and milk, in generous amounts accounting for leftovers. Volunteer shoppers across the country tracked the prices of these items in stores near them and online.

The average price for a 16-pound turkey is \$19.39, down 7 percent from last year, according to survey results. Prices also dropped for sweet potatoes and whipping cream, while the cost of other staples, like dinner rolls, cubed bread stuffing and pumpkin pie mix,

rose moderately. The falling total cost comes as a surprise for some, given the effect COVID-19 had on grocery bills earlier this year.

"There was an expectation that the prices would have gone up, as we saw last spring," said Illinois Farm Bureau Associate Director of Food Systems Development Raghela Scavuzzo. "I'm glad to see the price decreases, especially for those who are struggling this holiday season due to the impacts of the pandemic."

Some consumers responded to the pandemic by cooking more at home and stockpiling the ingredients. But farmers and the food industry adapted. Despite the ongoing shifts in supply and demand seen by the agriculture industry over the past several years, farmers have continued to provide a healthy food supply.

"Even in the throes of a pandemic, life goes on; farms continue to produce and we continue to eat," said IFB Consumer Engagement Manager Gracie Weinzierl.

"While the supply chain surely does not look the same as it did a year ago, we've figured out how to adapt and make sure that consumers have steady access to food."

"The great news is that we know upholding our Thanksgiving traditions are affordable this season, regardless of whether we choose to prepare our favorite family recipes for a small gathering at home, partake in a dinner drop with friends and family to enjoy in their separate homes, or order take-out or delivery from a local restaurant."

DuPage County Health Department opens COVID-19 testing site at the Odeum

The DuPage County Health Department recently announced the addition of its second community-based drive-through COVID-19 testing site.

That additional site is located at the Odeum Expo Center, 1033 N. Villa Ave., Villa Park.

The testing site at the Odeum opened the week of Nov. 23, but was closed from Nov. 26-28 because of the Thanksgiving holiday. The site re-opened on Sunday, Nov. 29, and will be open this week through Friday, Dec. 4. Daily hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., or until the daily test capacity of 600 tests is completed each day.

Anyone can be tested, and no appointment, doctor referral or insurance is required. Visitors are encouraged to pre-register at test-directly.com/dupage, but pre-registration does not guarantee testing or a place in line for that day.

The county's other community-based COVID-19 testing site is located at the DuPage County Complex in Wheaton. That site is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until noon, or until the daily capacity of 600 tests is met.

The DuPage County Health Department advises residents to protect themselves and their families by staying home as much as possible, avoiding all non-essential travel and not gathering with people from outside of their household.

Additionally, residents are advised to wear a mask, practice social distancing, and wash their hands frequently to slow the spread of COVID-19.

For more COVID-19 information and resources, visit the DuPage County Health Department's website at dupagehealth.org/covid19.



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Villa Park resident honored as 88's Best for November

Willowbrook High School senior Le'Kendra Hill was her school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of November. Hill was recognized during the District 88 Board of Education's virtual meeting on Nov. 16. The district's board and administration created the 88's Best award to honor students for their achievements both in and out of the classroom. The award recognizes nine students at each of District 88's two schools—Willowbrook and Addison Trail—each school year. Hill, who is a Villa Park resident, received the 88's Best award for her highly improved academic performance. Hill's commitment to continuous growth resulted in her earning Honor Roll status last semester. She is earning As and Bs in her classes this semester. Beyond the classroom, Hill is a member of Willowbrook's Best Buddies Club and Black Organization for Student Success (BOSS). Hill plans to continue her education at Elmhurst University, where she intends to pursue a degree in special education or social work. She hopes for a career in a school setting, where she can provide the support to others that she experienced during her high school career.

G.M. Smith & Son of Villa Park holds food drive through Dec. 18
Donations will be distributed to area food pantries

G.M. Smith & Son Realtors, located at 203 S. Villa Ave., Villa Park, is holding its annual Holiday Food Drive through Friday, Dec. 18. The food drive is collecting non-perishable food items, which will be delivered to local food pantries on Dec. 19.

Items needed include: canned or bagged beans, canned tuna or chicken, canned soups, stews, broth, chili, fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, jams and jellies, ketchup, mustard, relish, pickles, processed cheese, cereal, oatmeal, pasta, rice, instant breakfasts, napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, milks (condensed, evaporated and powdered), juices (100 percent), flour, flour-based mixes (bread, brownie and cake), diapers, baby wipes, soap, shampoo and toothpaste.

Do not donate items with glass containers.

For more information, call 630-834-2632.

Sports



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

One year ago

It's been just over one year since the Willowbrook football team made its charge to the semifinals of the IHSA Class 7A playoffs. The Warriors went 8-1 during the 2019 regular season and captured their third straight West Suburban Gold Conference championship. (Willowbrook posted 6-0 conference records during the 2017, 2018 and 2019 seasons). The Warriors then earned playoff victories over Moline, Yorkville and Lake Zurich to advance to the Class 7A semifinals. On Nov. 23, 2019, about four months before the COVID-19 pandemic led all Illinois K-12 schools to close their buildings to in-person instruction, Willowbrook faced Mount Carmel in a semifinal battle in Villa Park. The visiting Caravan defeated the Warriors 27-6 to earn a berth in the Class 7A state-championship game. Mount Carmel went on to defeat Nazareth Academy 37-13 to win the state title and complete a perfect 14-0 season. The photos from last year's semifinal game in front of a capacity crowd at Willowbrook's stadium show the pre-COVID-19 scene that existed before the arrival of social distancing practices and mandatory mask-wearing. The pandemic led the IHSA to move the football season for the 2020-21 school year from the fall to the spring season. The spring football season is tentatively scheduled to take place from Feb. 15 to May 1, 2021.



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Willowbrook graduate now cheerleader at DePaul

Villa Park resident Kathleen Doyle is a member of the DePaul varsity cheerleading team. Doyle, who graduated from Willowbrook High School earlier this year, tried out for and earned a position on the Blue Demons' team. Doyle was a member of the Willowbrook cheerleading program for four years. She spent three years of high school on the varsity team. While at Willowbrook, Doyle served as a junior coach for the Villa Park Warriors. As a junior coach, she created a pep song, selected music and taught the routine to a group of grade-school cheerleaders. This spring, Doyle received the T. Family Scholarship during the Willowbrook Athletic Booster Club senior athletic banquet, which was held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Doyle is majoring in elementary education at DePaul. The Blue Demons' men's basketball team will begin its 21st season this month.

Thornton signs to play at Eastern Illinois University

Taris Thornton, a senior at Willowbrook High School, recently signed a National Letter of Intent to continue her academic and basketball careers at Eastern Illinois University (EIU). This is Thornton's first year at Willowbrook. She transferred from Montini Catholic High School, where she helped the Broncos claim the third-place trophy in the 2020 IHSA Class 3A state tournament earlier this year. Montini finished the 2019-20 season with an overall record of 33-5. Thornton scored a team-leading 15 points to help Montini to a win over Sycamore in the championship game of the IHSA Class 3A Hampshire Sectional. The Broncos then advanced to the super-sectional round, where they earned a victory over Grayslake Central. The win over Grayslake Central propelled Montini to the IHSA state semifinal at Redbird Arena in Normal. Thornton provided four points and six rebounds in the Broncos' semifinal loss to Simeon—the eventual Class 3A state champion. In her final game as a Bronco, Thornton contributed 12 points and six rebounds in Montini's victory over Springfield's Lanphier High School in the Class 3A third-place contest on March 7. The EIU Panthers are members of the Ohio Valley Conference.



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