

Addison Trail names December recipient of 88's Best recognition

Fawzan Ali has been named as Addison Trail's December recipient of 88's Best recognition for his outstanding academic accomplishments.

Ali, a senior, was recognized during the Dec. 14 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

During his time at Addison Trail, Ali has completed nine honors courses and 13 Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses. As a freshman, Ali was enrolled in Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry Honors.

He is now taking two highly advanced math classes — Calculus 3, which will earn him credit from Elmhurst University, and AP Statistics.

Ali has been on the honor roll for seven consecutive semesters and will no doubt end his senior year with eight straight semesters of that distinction. Ali said he draws inspiration from his parents and credits his father with sparking his interest in math at an early age. Religion also plays a huge role in Ali's life, and his Muslim identity helps to shape his mindset about how he approaches his studies with diligence and care.

"English 9 Honors was a very analytical class thanks to Ali!" said Patricia Subers, English teacher. "He was able to articulate complex thinking in his words during discussion, which proved as motivation and a challenge for other students, and in

his writing. His commitment to his academic excellence was clear four years ago. This commendation has been well earned — kudos to Ali!"

Science teacher Kira Bonk agreed. "Ali is an impressive young man, who is a leader in the classroom and on Academic Team. I am so grateful to have had the privilege of being Ali's teacher and coach. He has a wide array of knowledge and interests, as well as a natural intellect that surpasses his peers. I congratulate Ali on this honor and can't wait to see what he does after graduation."

Ali also participates in a variety of clubs and activities at Addison Trail. For the past two years, he has competed at the varsity level in

cross-country and track and field. Ali is a member of Key Club, Academic Team, Math Team and Debate Team as well. He fondly recalls his participation in school events such as Mr. AT (a talent show for male students) and how much fun he has had through the years.

After he graduates, Ali plans to continue his academic journey to study computer science, particularly in the field of artificial intelligence. He has applied to University of California, Berkeley; University of Michigan; University of Wisconsin-Madison; and his first choice, The University of Chicago, and is patiently awaiting those acceptance letters.



Fawzan Ali

Montini Catholic releases first virtually-recorded Christmas album

While not yet ready to compete with the likes of record producers Sony or Warner Brothers, Montini Catholic High School in Lombard is reeling from the applause received for the Lasallian college preparatory high school's innovative musical creation, "Virtually In Sync" — their 2020 Christmas album recorded virtually and released online on Monday, Dec. 14.

The album was the brainchild of Music Director Donnie Glowinski, who's second year teaching choir and band at Montini is shaping up to be a quite unique one in the wake of COVID-19 restrictions.

Early in the fall, Glowinski was tasked with making a crucial decision on how to showcase the talents of his students in a safe and appropriate manner.

"With the current restrictions on gatherings and natural spread of germs through singing and playing an instrument, a concert was just not a viable option," he said. "Hybrid Learning (half of students attending school one day and the second half, the next) is a daunting task for any teacher, however, teaching music to students who are not present on a full-time basis presents its own unique set of challenges."

"I was determined to still work on music with my students, because there are so many skills that you can learn, while learning a song or piece of music."

"My main mantra this year has been — even though we are not together, we can still make music together. I wanted the students to have a product to show for their hard work this semester, and our concerts usually fill that void. An album seemed like the best way to embrace the current climate. Everything right now in life is digital, learning and social too."

For the most part, Glowinski says his students were very excited about his proposal for a virtual album.

"They were very hesitant and nervous too," he said. "In a concert, if you mess up, it can be hidden or happens so quickly that it is not a large impact on the performance. With a recording like this, students are much more exposed in their playing/singing."

Not to mention, digital is forever!

The focus for the project

His main goal in embarking on this very ambitious project was to use his iPad for everything.

"I wanted to demonstrate to my students all the power at their fingertips and how they

"I am so happy for my students. They have received such wonderful praise for their work. They really deserve all of it and more! This was so much more work for them than a normal concert, and I know they are very proud of themselves."

— Donnie Glowinski, music director

can create amazing things with just this one piece of technology," he said. "Everything was recorded, mixed, produced, and published from the iPad. I recorded individual rehearsal tracks for each student. We would rehearse the songs in class, somewhat like a normal year, to help them learn the music and hear what the overall product would sound like. They would go home and, using the rehearsal track, would record their single part and submit that recording to me."

Glowinski would then take all the parts, put them in a file and start editing.

"This would take anywhere from a few hours per track to 10+ hours per track," he said. "As the students got more comfortable with the technology, their recordings got better. Our later recordings are far better than the ones we did first."

In the end, the album contains a total of 35 student artists featured in 13 compositions, representing countless hours of hard work and diligence. Glowinski also enlisted the help of colleague and design teacher Stephanie Kuecker, who lent a hand by having her students create the images to accompany each song.

Despite the many challenges that came along with a project of this magnitude, Glowinski found that he really embraced the ability to add many additional instruments to the recording. "Usually, for choir for instance, the main accompaniment is piano," he said. "But on some of our tracks, I was able to play piano, keyboards, bass, strings, percussion, and just about anything else I wanted. It gave me an awesome opportunity to create too!"

Glowinski humbly stressed that even after this venture, he does not consider himself a proficient music producer, giving full credit to his students for the final product.

"They recorded their individual parts at school, in bedrooms, closets, cars, and anywhere they could find a quiet space," he said. "The quality of the recording fell on them, just like it would for a normal concert. I told them that I would not fix (nor could I fix) wrong notes, intonation, tempo, etc. That still fell on their shoulders. My job was to put it all together."

Glowinski has his eyes set for a live concert this spring and is vowing to try to do something outdoors.

"Of course, because of the lovely, unpredictable Illinois weather, who knows what the weather will be for a winter concert," he said.

Hybrid learning less than ideal for music classes

Glowinski admits that learning in hybrid mode is not ideal for students to learn music.

"It takes them much longer to work through a piece of music, than a normal year," he said. "Being in the classroom every other day lengthens the amount of time it takes us to learn a piece of music, unfortunately."

"I think I speak for every music educator in the country by saying we have had to completely rewrite the playbook (regarding teaching during Covid). Virtually, rehearsals happen with mics muted, because the delay is too great to all perform together. I think that the role of music has shifted too."

"Some of our classes take a little longer to get started because the students just have some talking to do, or some things to get off their chest. There are very few things that remain constant from a normal year to this year. The most constant aspect is the students' willingness to learn and participate. They are as eager as ever this year!"

So far, praise for the album has exceeded expectations. It was released to the school community (students, parents, alumni and donors) on Monday, Dec. 14 through Youtube and SoundCloud.

"I am so happy for my students," Glowinski said. "They have received such wonderful praise for their work. They really deserve all of it and more! This was so much more work for them than a normal concert, and I know they are very proud of themselves."

Students featured on 'Virtually In Sync'

Band

Collin Angelakos, freshman (Lombard)
Sam Cooper, freshman (Northlake)
Anjay Dhir, freshman (Lombard)
Justin Gergen, junior (Lombard)
Joey Giannola, freshman (Oak Brook)
Kassandra Gutierrez, freshman (Westchester)
David Hernandez, freshman (Westchester)
Zena Jabir, senior (Lombard)
Camille Jefferson, senior (Westchester)
Justin Jones, freshman (Berwyn)
Angela Maduzia, junior (Downers Grove)
Nate Nowak, junior (Darien)
Matthew Paulino, freshman (Lombard)
Caleb Strohecker, senior (Bolingbrook)
Joshua Sun, senior (Hinsdale)
Nora Sypkens, senior (Hillside)
Igor Vitale, freshman (Oak Park)

Chamber Choir

Nathan Camba, sophomore (Burr Ridge)
Julia Donaldson, senior (Westchester)
Sarah Ermat, junior (Lombard)
Alessandra Geraci, senior (Addison)
Madeline McDowell, senior (Westchester)
John McNamara, senior (Naperville)
Justin Monroe, senior (Lombard)
Julia Moran, junior (Elmhurst)
Amanda Mrazek, sophomore (Lombard)
Katherine Pogorelec, sophomore (Lombard)
Cydney Rand, senior (Lemont)
Heather Sledzinski, senior (Westmont)
Kenneth Sledzinski, sophomore (Westmont)
Francesca Spizziri, sophomore (Oak Brook)
Nora Sypkens, senior (Hillside)
Jillian Todd, junior (Lombard)

Concert Choir

Ava Goree, freshman (Maywood)
MaryKate Lewan, freshman (Naperville)
Yuhan (Iris) Xiao, sophomore (Lombard)

•EEHealth (Continued from page 4)

Who will administer the vaccines?

When the vaccine becomes more widely available later in 2021, it will be distributed by large hospitals, pharmacies, mobile clinics, large employer health clinics, critical access hospitals and community health centers. Check with state and local health departments for more information.

Which vaccines are available?

Several vaccines are currently in development; all but one require two doses. A Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use on Dec. 11, 2020. The FDA approved a vaccine by Moderna for emergency use on Dec. 18, 2020. Both are mRNA vaccines—a new technology that involves synthetic messenger RNA.

How do the vaccines work?

The vaccine helps the body develop antibodies that makes it less susceptible to the disease. The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are mRNA vaccines. They contain the portion of mRNA that encodes the spike protein, the button on the surface of the SARS-CoV2 virus. It is not a live virus, cannot replicate itself and is quickly destroyed in the cell shortly after translation. After injection, the protein teaches the body how to fight off the spike protein. The antibodies produced after vaccination are then able to fight off the spike protein that surrounds the SARS-CoV2 virus so it cannot bind to and invade human cells.

Are the vaccines safe?

Data gathered in large clinical trials conducted by the vaccine manufacturers have found the benefit of a vaccine for COVID-19 outweighs any known or potential harm that would come from being infected with the coronavirus. The FDA has studied the data and

concluded that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is safe for ages 16 or older, and the Moderna vaccine is safe for ages 18 or older. Right now, there is no specific information regarding whether these vaccines will be recommended for children or immune-compromised individuals. The CDC recommends that pregnant women consult with their doctor before getting the vaccine.

Which vaccine is the most effective?

Both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines were more than 94 percent effective in preventing symptomatic coronavirus infection (Pfizer's is at 95 percent while Moderna's is 94.1 percent), and nearly 100 percent effective in preventing severe illness from COVID-19. In phase one and two trials, two doses of mRNA were given to hundreds of subjects and elicited neutralizing and binding antibodies in all participants. Antibody levels were higher than the 50th percentile of patients who had natural infection, in both young adults and the elderly. The vaccines were both effective for different races and genders, as well as for people with underlying medical conditions.

Can people choose which vaccine to get?

No. Which vaccine you receive depends on supply.

How long will it take after getting the shots to be protected from COVID-19?

Those who receive the two-dose vaccine will develop maximum immunity several weeks after the second dose. It normally takes about 2-3 weeks for cellular immunity to develop and several weeks for full antibody development.

Does the vaccine protect others?

The more people who get vaccinated,

the fewer people will spread the virus, the less effectively the virus can transmit, and there's a better chance for herd immunity. It's not yet clear whether vaccinated people could still develop asymptomatic infections and be able to spread the virus to others.

Do people experience any side effects after getting the vaccine?

As with other vaccines, it is normal to experience some fatigue, muscle aches, headaches or low-grade fever following the vaccination. Side effects could also include pain, redness or swelling at the injection site, chills, joint pain, nausea and swollen lymph nodes. Side effects may be more frequent after the second dose and less common among older adults. The side effects are a sign the body is mounting a defense against the disease. The vaccine does not use live or weakened virus, so it cannot give you COVID-19.

Once someone's had a vaccine, can they stop wearing masks?

No. People should continue to wear a mask after receiving the vaccine. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were around 95% effective in trials for preventing symptomatic and severe COVID-19. Experts don't know the vaccine's effect on asymptomatic infection or transmission of the virus. It will be several months before the overall risk of exposure is low because so many others have been immunized.

Until most of the population is vaccinated, wearing masks, distancing and handwashing are the only tools society has to stop the spread of COVID-19. People must stay vigilant until many have received the vaccine and COVID-19 is a rarity.

For more information, visit www.ceehealth.org/coronavirus.

AT senior signs to play volleyball for Elmhurst University

Addison Trail senior Ally Severino recently committed to join and compete for the Elmhurst University Women's Volleyball Team.

Severino has been a starter on the Addison Trail Varsity Girls Volleyball Team since her sophomore year, and she has been playing volleyball for nine years. She said the camaraderie of the sport is what makes her want to continue at the collegiate level.

"Something that I enjoy so much about continuing to play volleyball is that it is always teaching me important life lessons such as perseverance, selflessness and teamwork," Severino said.

Severino said highlights of her high school career include going undefeated and winning against Glenbard West in a tournament her freshman year, winning against Wheaton North during the Semifinals her junior year and competing against Downers Grove South for the Regional Championship her junior year.

"Severino is a versatile player, who proved she is capable of executing skills displayed by every position on the floor at a high level," said Dan Styler, girls volleyball team head coach. "She had a breakout season her junior year and was a crucial



Ally Severino

piece in leading our team to a historic 23-14 record. It's hard to imagine our team could have advanced to a Regional Championship without Severino. In 2019, she was named to the All-Conference Team in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division. Severino led our team in hitting percentage at .335 percent, with 162 kills. She also led our team in blocks, with 46."

Severino plans to major in special education at Elmhurst University.

Addison students enjoy remote ballet of 'The Nutcracker'

The Addison Center for the Arts partnered with the Salt Creek Ballet Company, The National Endowment for the Arts and Addison School District #4 to present a performance of "The Nutcracker" to hundreds of ASD#4 grade K-8 students during remote learning music classes in December.

In the past, the ACA has hosted The Salt Creek Ballet at the Addison Trail High School Auditorium for student performances. Since the students couldn't be bused in as usual for a live performance this year, the Salt Creek Ballet produced a version of "The Nutcracker" that teachers could stream for their students during remote classes. The SCB provide enriching study guides for the students and teachers to get the most out of this special performing arts experience.

The general music team for ASD#4: Kris Brokos, Elyse Willis, Jamie Mason, Lisa Kargl, Lawrence Underwood, and Karlene Prieboy give some inspiring insights into musical education in 2020:

"It was so amazing to be able to see a new performance of 'The Nutcracker' during this challenging time of remote learning. The music team misses being able to put on concerts and doing large special events. During a normal school year, students are preparing for musicals, singing at tree lighting ceremonies, or learning choreography to dance as cups of hot chocolate or Frosty the Snowman in school performances. These social, cultural, and musical events create excitement and long-lasting memories. This virtual field trip to Salt Creek's beautiful ballet felt very

special. Tchaikovsky's music and Salt Creek's costumes, scenery, and choreography, brought smiles to our student's faces, even over Zoom. There was an element of "the show must go on". The dancers in masks performed socially distanced choreography and it made us feel that although it may be challenging, maybe we can still do big things in the time of Covid-19."

Annette Leiber, President Emerita of the Addison Center for the Arts discussed the organization's partnership with the Salt Creek Ballet.

"The Addison Center for the Arts is grateful to the National Endowment for the Arts for their flexibility in granting us the funds to bring a remote-learning production of 'The Salt Creek Ballet to the schools this year," she said. "We have partnered with the SCB for live performances many times over the years. Favorites for the public and parochial students have been 'The Carnival of the Animals' by Camille Saint Saens' and Tchaikovsky's 'The Nutcracker.' Study guides are provided to teachers and students to prepare them for the ballet. The costumes always hold a great interest for the children."

Theater and dance performance opportunities are scarce during an epidemic. These are tough times for cultural non-profit organizations. Most have had to cancel their fundraising events that keep them afloat financially. If you can, please remember the Salt Creek Ballet Company and the Addison Center for the Arts when considering your end-of-year charity donations. Both SCB and ACA have donation information on their web sites: saltcreekballet.org and addison-centerforthearts.org.

College news

Resident graduates from ENMU

Laura McPherson of Addison graduated from Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, New Mex. A virtual commencement ceremony was held on Dec. 12.

Sheth earns diploma from Trine University

At the end of the Fall 2020 semester, Soniya Sheth of Addison graduated from Trine University located in Angola, Ind. Sheth earned a Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree.

Dean's list

Gina Federighi from Addison has been named to DePauw University's Fall 2020 Dean's List.

Lauren Stamatopoulos of Addison was named to the Fall 2020 University of Kentucky College of Arts & Sciences Dean's List. During this term, Lauren was majoring in Mathematical Economics.

More than 2000 students were named to Bradley University's Fall 2020 Dean's List. Among them were the following Addison residents and their majors:

Konrad Czerniawski, History and Social Studies Education;

Karlee Frewert, Theatre Arts;

Shannon Joseph Kinesiology and Health Science.

Micor named to the ILMEA All State Band

Fenton junior Anna Micor has qualified for the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) All State Band playing the Piccolo.

A few months ago Micor was selected for the ILMEA District 1 Festival, and her audition was then advanced to the state level where she was chosen from a large pool of applicants from across Illinois.

"I'm so grateful for everyone who has helped me become the musician I am today," Micor said. "Music plays a significant role in my life and I'm honored to represent Fenton at musical events. I am excited for the future and for further improving my musical skills!"

Garrett George, Fenton's Director of Bands, said he's extremely proud of Anna.

"Anna is very mindful with the music she plays," he said. "She makes beautiful musical interpretations and tells a story through her flute playing. Anna doesn't just play the flute, but she creates works of art!"

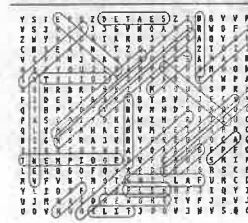
The current plan is for ILMEA to host the All-State festival in May. At that time, Anna can audition to join the Honors Band (the top tier group).

Congratulations, Anna Micor! Fenton is proud of you.



Anna Micor

Answers



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D88 'Those Who Excel' awards include tribute late Superintendent's legacy

Virtual memorial service for Helton set for Jan. 28

Every year the Illinois State Board of Education presents its Those Who Excel Awards program as a tremendous way to honor the success of outstanding people in education in the state of Illinois. District 88 gratefully received two state-level awards in 2019 and two in 2020.

"As a school district administrator, there is no greater highlight than having the opportunity to recognize the achievements of our stakeholders," said District 88 Interim Superintendent Jean Barbanente. "During the Jan. 11 District 88 Board of Education meeting, we came together to celebrate those outstanding accomplishments."

"As we continue to mourn the loss of Superintendent Dr. Scott Helton, it was touching to watch and listen

as this recognition event became a tribute to Dr. Helton. The passion, dedication and enthusiasm Dr. Helton exuded each and every day to cultivate student success, staff engagement and community partnerships was incredibly apparent as the Those Who Excel recipients shared how these awards wouldn't be possible without his efforts and support – and that is truly Dr. Helton's legacy, which will live on for years to come."

District 88 will host a memorial in honor of Dr. Scott Helton to remember and celebrate his life and his positive impact on students and the School District. It will air on Thursday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. Details can be found at dupage88.net/site/public/files/?item=5588.

News from EEHealth

What should I expect when I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

After nearly a year of mask-wearing, physical distancing from friends and family, and frequent handwashing and disinfecting, an effective vaccine has arrived.

The COVID-19 vaccine helps your body develop antibodies that make you less susceptible to the disease.

While it will take months to roll out to the general public and people should continue following public health precautions, the vaccine offers hope.

What can people expect when it's their turn to get the vaccine? Which vaccines are available? When does protection against COVID-19 begin after vaccination?

How will people know when they're eligible to receive the vaccine?

At this time, the COVID-19 vaccines are in limited supply so they will be administered in phases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has determined that healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities should receive the first phase of vaccines due to supply limitations. Government officials have estimated that the general public may start receiving the vaccine in the spring of 2021.

On Jan. 11, 2021, the state of Illinois authorized health departments that have substantially completed

phase 1a of the vaccine distribution plan to move on to 1b, which opens vaccine eligibility to those 65 and older and those who are front-line essential workers. Phase 1b also includes essential workers such as first responders, teachers and other school personnel; grocery store employees, day care workers and U.S. postal workers.

Does everyone need more than one dose?

For the most recently available vaccines, yes. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which was approved for emergency use, requires two doses, separated by 21 days. The vaccine produced by Moderna (also approved for emergency use) also requires two doses, separated by 28 days. The first shot starts building protection and the second shot strengthens the immune response. Both doses are necessary to achieve each vaccine's full effectiveness. The vaccines are not interchangeable, so individuals should complete the second dose with the same vaccine.

Will people need this vaccine every year?

Scientists are still studying this and will decide once the vaccine is distributed and more data is available.

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Addison top crime news

Man found slumped behind wheel becomes combative, police say

On Jan. 9, Tyshawn Hobson, 36, of Itasca, was charged with DUI, battery, assault and improper stopping in a roadway near Lake and Rohlfing at around 4:47 a.m. Police said officers responded to a vehicle stopped in the left-turn lane blocking the intersection, with Hobson,

the driver, slumped over the steering wheel. According to police, Hobson swatted an officer's hand, was being verbally abusive, and stepped up on the officer in an aggressive manner while pointing his finger in the officer's face. Police said Hobson became combative at officers tensing his arms and pushing up on officers in an attempt to not being placed in a cell, refusing to obey officers' com-

mands, yelling and stepping up on another officer in an attempt to elicit a startled reaction.

Suspect allegedly whips victim, abuses children

On Jan. 5, a 19-year-old Addison man was charged with domestic battery, endangering the life and health of a child, aggravated resisting a police officer, aggravated disarming

a police officer, possession of a controlled substance and aggravated assault in the 100 block of S. Lincoln at around 8:09 p.m. Police said the suspect whipped a victim with an extension cord numerous times, and battered their two young children. The suspect attempted to strike officers with a beer bottle, resisted arrest, and attempted to grab an officer's baton and taser, according to police.

A special message from Dr. Jean Barbanente

Interim Superintendent salutes Dr. Scott Helton

For more than 25 years, I have had the honor and privilege to be part of the District 88 family – and nearly 20 of those years were spent working side by side with former District 88 Superintendent Dr. Scott Helton.

It is with an incredibly heavy heart and great sadness that I step into the role of Interim Superintendent after the passing of Dr. Helton on Dec. 10.

Yet it is with great pride and determination that I continue his legacy. Scott was not only a colleague and mentor – he also was a tremendous human being and friend, and he will be greatly missed. Scott can never be replaced, but I promise to uphold the tradition of excellence he helped establish at District 88 and to advocate for our students, staff, parents/guardians, schools and communities.

From being in the classroom as a world language teacher, to leading the Addison Trail Guidance Department to serving as a District Director of Learning Services and then as Assistant Superintendent, I have had the opportunity to experience nearly all aspects of the district. I have been the chief adviser to two superintendents for the last 15 years and am confident I will be able to provide a seamless leadership transition to continue serving our students, staff and families. As Interim Superintendent, I will maintain our work to:

1. Develop programming, interventions and policies to close the opportunity gap, increase rigor and expand college and career access for all students.
2. Increase opportunities for students to enroll in Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level, Honors and Dual-Credit courses.
3. Increase vocational opportunities and global experiences for students through local and international partnerships.
4. Implement social-emotional supports for students and staff through culturally responsive, trauma-informed and restorative practices.
5. Ensure an equitable and



Dr. Jean Barbanente

inclusive environment in which all students, staff and community members feel safe and welcome.

6. Maximize resources for student learning and offer a comprehensive curriculum to build futures for all students, while remaining fiscally responsible.

7. Uphold our Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan (dupage88.net/StrategicPlan2018).

8. Connect with and care for students and staff to provide a positive learning experience during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic (dupage88.net/ReturnToSchoolPlan).

9. Communicate with all stakeholders in a transparent and honest manner.

This has been an unprecedented and challenging year as we deal with the loss of Dr. Helton, the adverse impacts of COVID-19 and social unrest. But we will get through this together. I look forward to partnering collaboratively with our Board of Education, staff, students, parents/guardians and community members for a seamless transition as we move forward in District 88. We will remain focused on accomplishing our mission of working for the continuous improvement of student achievement to champion student success.

My door is always open, and I welcome you to contact me at any time at jbarbanente@dupage88.net or 630-530-3980. Thank you for your continued support of District 88.

[This was reprinted with permission from the District 88 newsletter.]

Willowbrook speech team takes part in virtual competition

Finishes fourth in the 19-team event

Members of the Willowbrook High School speech team competed in a recent virtual tournament hosted by Grant Community High School of Fox Lake. Willowbrook placed fourth out of 19 teams in the Jan. 8 competition.

Junior Emily Maher of Willowbrook earned first-place honors in the Extemporaneous Speaking category. Maher also placed fifth in Impromptu Speaking.

Senior Michael Poirier of Willowbrook claimed first place in Prose Reading. He also placed third in Po-

etry Reading. The Willowbrook team's other contestants in the event included the duo of Caitlin Brennan and Cara Burns; the two seniors placed second in Dramatic Duet Acting. Senior Sean Shepherd and junior Katherine Wentworth finished sixth in the same category.

Shepherd teamed with sophomore Amelia Tortorici to place third in Humorous Duet Acting. Tortorici was a finalist in Original Comedy. Senior Lily Morgan earned second-place recognition in Prose Reading.

Villa Park Library events

Monday, Jan. 25

Library presents Medicare 101

The Villa Park Public Library will present Medicare 101 from 7-8:30 p.m. Attendees can get up to speed on what Medicare covers, what it doesn't, and their potential out-of-pocket exposure. They will also learn about Supplements, Advantage Plans, Part D Prescription Coverage, and cost-saving strategies for the years ahead. This program will be held online via Zoom. Registration and a valid email address are required. The link for the meeting and instructions on how to attend will be sent to all registrants via email. For more information, visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

CUB offers free utility bill clinic through the Library

The Citizens Utility Board (CUB) is offering an online Utility Bill Clinic through the Villa Park Public Library on the above date. All are welcome to sign up for a free 30-minute one-on-one consultation with an energy expert from CUB. Sessions will be held online via Zoom, and various timeslots are available. Registration is required. For more information, visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Thursday, Jan. 28

Library presents I Miss You postcards

The Villa Park Public Library will present I Miss You Postcards—Valentine's Day Edition! from 6-7 p.m. At this virtual program, participants will use a kit to make a great project to send to loved ones! Kits are available at the Library and cost \$3 per person, per project. The program will be online via Zoom, but it will also be recorded and viewable until Thursday, January 28 for those who cannot make the live session. Registration is required. For more information, visit the Library's website

at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Ongoing programs

Winter Reading Program returns to Library

Journey beyond the covers of books with Dig Deeper, the Villa Park Public Library's 2021 Winter Reading Program. The program officially launched online with Beanstack on Jan. 4. This is the same system the library used for Summer Reading 2020. It's a fun, free, easy-to-use app for iOS or Android devices. Returning readers can easily join in the challenge from the Beanstack website or app, and new readers can sign up from the library's website. Get ready to start tracking reading, collecting badges, and earning tickets for prize drawings this winter. The adult and youth programs offer fun for all ages. Both programs are free, easy, and open to everyone. For more information, visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Library presents healthy cuisine virtual program

The Villa Park Public Library will present Healthy Cuisine to Start the New Year with Chef Maddox! At this virtual program, attendees will learn how to skip the calories but not skimp on incredible flavors and textures. They will also learn some new methods and techniques in preparation and cooking. It is an online presentation via YouTube, and will be recorded and viewable from Thursday, Jan. 14 through Thursday, Jan. 21. Registration and a valid email address are required. Registrants will receive the YouTube link and recipes through email before the class is available. For more information, visit the Library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Library offers take-home science kits for kids

In partnership with the Museum of

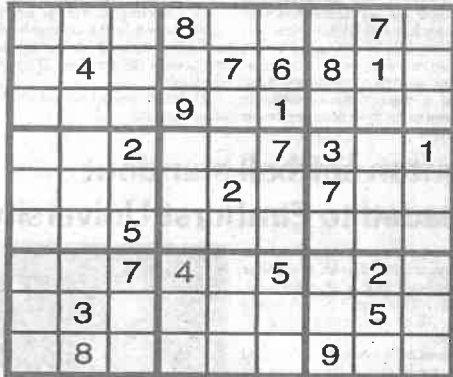
Science & Industry Chicago, the Villa Park Public Library is offering MSI Science Minors: Science at Home take-home activity kits. These kits are perfect for children who loved attending in-person science minors programs in the past or who just have a curious mind and enjoy some hands-on experiments. Each kit will contain three activities that focus on sound, light, and air. The activities are intended for children ages 8 and older to do independently. Registration is required. For more information, visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Library offers online ukulele classes

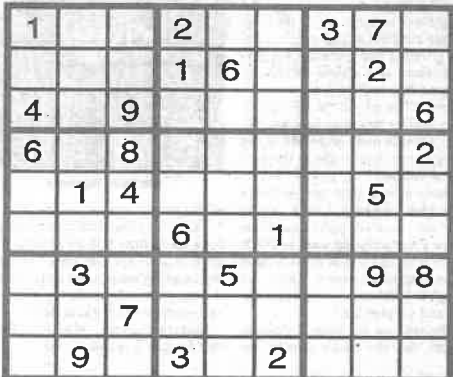
The Villa Park Public Library is offering ukulele classes for everyone ages 14 and up. Classes will meet online via Zoom on Wednesdays through Feb. 10 from 6 to 7 p.m. During this six-week course, students will learn to play some chords and songs. Registrants must attend all six classes. Visit perysmusic.net for details about ukulele rentals. Registration with a valid email address is required. For more information, visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Library offers winter activity kit for kids

Children ages 5 and younger can make the most of winter with a bundle of frosty fun from the Villa Park Public Library. The Winter Wonders Bundle for Little Ones contains crafts and activities about snow and cold weather delights that will give young children a way to explore and enjoy the season from the comfort of home. Activity kits can be picked up at the library now. Registration is required. For more information, visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.



Level: Intermediate



Level: Advanced

SUDOKU

Fun by the Numbers

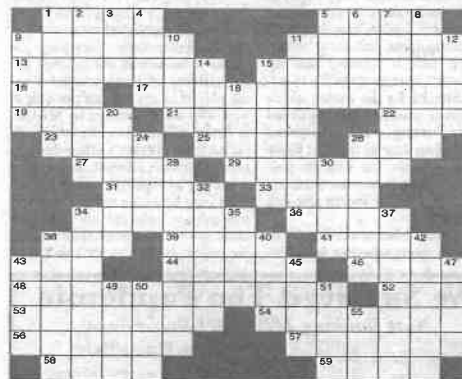
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test! **Here's How It Works:** Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle! Answers on page 18

CLUES ACROSS

1. Composed
5. Lesotho currency
9. Ethnic group associated with Hungarians
11. Gains knowledge of
13. Gradual destruction
15. Purchase
16. Pharaoh of lower Egypt
17. Where you're going
19. The 6th letter of the Greek alphabet
21. Fishing net
22. Midway between south and southeast
23. A way to sort
25. C C C
26. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
27. Discount
29. Consumes tobacco
31. A way to run
33. Popular musical awards show
34. Pertains to the male sexual organ
36. Supplements with difficulty
38. Green veggie
39. Deep-bodied freshwater fish
41. Holy fire
43. Usually has a lid
44. Being of use or service
46. Have a yen for
48. Unknowingness
52. Dry white wine drink
53. Unwinds
54. Traveling by sea
56. Outdoor entertaining areas
57. Stringed instruments
58. Redgrave, actress
59. Moves earth

CLUES DOWN

1. Progressive decay of a bone or tooth
2. Burrowing rodents
3. French/Belgian river
4. A professional cleaner



5. A Russian river
6. Kin
7. True statements
8. Most private
9. French city
10. Masses of fish eggs
11. Apart from others
12. Monetary unit of Samoa
14. Nanosecond
15. Film
18. Men's fashion accessories
20. Flowering shrub
24. North Carolina university
26. Former monetary unit of Spain
28. Foodies
30. New Zealand parrot

32. Makes very happy
34. A payment required for not fulfilling a contract
35. Emerald Isle
37. The act of terminating someone's employment
38. Gland in some mammals
40. Commoner
42. Large animals
43. Belch
45. Employee stock ownership plan
47. Work units
49. Wagon
50. Nerve fiber
51. Proclaimed
55. Japanese delicacy

New law on odometer disclosure

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is alerting the automobile industry, along with private party vehicle sellers, of a new federal odometer disclosure rule that increases the amount of time odometer readings must be declared at the time of a vehicle sale. The new federal rule took effect Jan. 1.

The new federal rule, which was issued by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, is intended to help combat odometer fraud as the nation's fleet of vehicles ages.

The average age of a vehicle in the United States is now almost 12 years, up from 7.6 years when the odometer rules were last changed in 1988.

Under this new federal rule, vehicles made in 2011 and newer will be subject to odometer disclosure for 20 years rather than the current 10 years.

Under the old rule, a 2011 vehicle would have become exempt from disclosure in 2021. Now, the odometer reading must be disclosed at the sale of a 2011 vehicle until 2031. For example, 2012 vehicles will become exempt in 2032,

and so on.

The immediate impact is that 2011 vehicles will not become odometer exempt on Jan. 1, as they would have under the old rule. The new rule applies even if the existing title says "Exempt - Model year over 9 years old." This applies to automobile dealers and private party vehicle sellers.

Simple guidelines to help ensure compliance include:

- If the vehicle is a 2011 model or newer, the seller must enter the current mileage in the Odometer Reading section of the title upon sale of the vehicle.

- If the vehicle is a 2010 model or older, the seller may check the "Exempt" box on the title.

Due to the new federal rule, the Secretary of State Vehicle Services Department must reject paperwork for sales of vehicles 2011 or newer unless the odometer disclosure is completed.

For used vehicle dealers and other businesses in the automobile industry, the new federal rule means they will be required to disclose the odometer reading on a greater number of vehicles.

Back in action! High school athletics return

Winter teams in low-risk sports cleared to compete; boys and girls basketball can train with no physical contact

STAFF REPORT

After being sidelined by the COVID-19 pandemic for over two months, some of the area's high school athletes are now able to practice.

Last week, several DuPage County high schools, including Willowbrook High School, announced that practices in low-risk winter sports would resume this week. The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) winter athletic seasons for the 2020-21 school year were supposed to start on Nov. 16, 2020, and continue through Feb. 13, 2021.

The entire state, however, was placed into Tier 3 mitigations in mid-November. The Tier 3 status—the most restrictive level in the state's mitigation plan—prohibited all athletic practices and competitions, forcing a pause in all IHSA winter sports.

Last week, Region 8—which consists of DuPage and Kane counties—moved out of Tier 3 mitigations and into Tier 2.

Willowbrook's approved winter sports for the current school year include girls bowling, cheerleading, dance, boys swimming and diving, girls gymnastics and badminton.

Badminton is normally a spring sport, but in December, the IHSA announced it would be moved to the winter season in the current school year.

"I'm just excited to get back into the gym safely with my team," said Willowbrook badminton coach Eastman Tiu, whose squad held its first practice of the season on Monday, Jan. 25. "We all need the morale boost."

"We are so, so, so excited to start," stated Maggie Porter, the head coach of Willowbrook's dance team.

According to the guidelines from the IHSA and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), low-risk

sports in Tier 2 regions could hold practices this week. Competitions within their region will begin at a future date.

Other than boys and girls basketball, all Willowbrook winter sports are classified as low-risk sports. Boys and girls basketball are classified as high-risk sports. In high-risk sports in Tier 2 regions, teams are allowed to begin training with no physical contact.

The IHSA conducted a meeting earlier this week, on Jan. 27, to finalize and announce further details about schedules of the upcoming sports seasons.

According to the IHSA standards as of Jan. 24, high-risk sports like basketball and football would need to be in a region of at least Phase 4 mitigations to conduct competitive events. Phase 4 is a less restrictive level than Tier 1.

Region 11 (Chicago) and Region 10 (suburban Cook County) recently moved from Tier 2 to Tier 1. As of Jan. 24, Region 8—the region that includes DuPage County—was close to meeting all of the metrics required to move from Tier 2 to Tier 1 mitigations.

The deluge of tiers, phases, regions and various metrics can be confusing. The bottom line for now, however, is that some of the state's high school athletes are able to play.

"My team and I are very excited to finally get back in the gym," said Tiu. "The last time I saw them all was March 13, 2020."

Badminton and other IHSA spring sports from the 2019-20 school year had their entire seasons canceled by the COVID-19 pandemic. All K-12 schools in the state closed to in-person instruction at the end of classes on March 13, 2020. The state's school buildings remained closed for the rest of the school year.

Montini Catholic Mathletes prepare from upcoming invitationals Montini's math team standouts include Villa Park resident

Members of Montini Catholic's Math Team recently competed (remotely) on in the third and final Catholic Math League meet of the year.

"The morning began with a 50-minute individual competition," said Chrissie McManus, Math Team coach and math department chair. "Our top scorers were Heather Sledzinski, Audrey Kekstad, Alex Silveyra, and Sam Hemmersmeier."

The team then competed in an eight-person competition and a calculator competition.

"We used this meet as preparation for the Lemont Invitational and MTA Invitational in February," said McManus. (This year scores are not being compared to other schools since some have been unable to field full teams due to remote learning).

"Although there have been fewer competitions and the format is quite different than what we are used to, we are very happy to be able to get together and compete," McManus added. "We have a strong core group of students that spans all four grade levels and hope to entice more participants via their enthusiasm for mathematics."

The Catholic Math League (CMLS) meets are utilized by Math Teams throughout the country as practice for the Regional Meet in February.

The national math competition was started in 1997 and currently serves hundreds of schools. The goal is to develop test taking skills in participating students when they take achievement tests and college entrance exams.

Montini Catholic's Math Team includes over 60 members annually and is the only Catholic school in Division 2A to qualify for state every year since 2001. (Unfortunately, the season was cut short when the 2020 state meet was cancelled last May due to the coronavirus shutdown.)

Montini Catholic is holding all CMLS (Catholic Math League South) remotely due to strict COVID regulations. Students gather at their own high school for the competition (coaches also have the flexibility to have the students compete from home).

Montini Catholic is not comparing scores currently at these meets, but is using these meets as practice for the Statewide Regional Competition.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Montini Catholic High School's top scorers in the individual competition of a recent Catholic Math League meet were (from left to right): Sam Hemmersmeier (freshman, Elmhurst), Alex Silveyra (sophomore, Carol Stream), Audrey Kekstad (junior, Villa Park) and Heather Sledzinski (senior, Westmont). The four students on the Montini team—known as the Mathletes—joined their teammates to compete remotely in the meet, which took place on Jan. 16.

High school sports restart outlook much brighter

About-face by IDPH last week gives hope for basketball, football teams

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Late last week the Illinois Department of Public Health pulled a stunner, announcing all COVID-19 regions of the state that reach Phase 4 mitigations can resume high school athletics competitions, including the much talked-about higher-risk sports of football and basketball.

As of last Friday, only two regions in the state had reached Phase 4 (East Central and Southern). The DuPage County region (Region 8), which encompasses York, IC Catholic Prep, Timothy Christian, Willowbrook, Addison Trail and Fenton, moved into Tier 2 or two steps away from Phase 4 (the next stop for Region 8 would be Tier 1 before reaching Phase 4).

According to an IDPH chart posted on the IHSA website, low-risk sports currently in Tier 2 can begin to play games within their conference and COVID region. Medium-risk sports

can conduct practices and intra-team scrimmages, but no games. High-risk sports in Tier 2 are allowed to stage non-contact practices and trainings.

For the current winter IHSA season, that has been on hold, girls badminton, boys swimming, cheer and dance, boys and girls bowling and girls gymnastics are all low-risk sports, while boys and girls basketball remain high-risk. The IHSA said all medium-risk sports will need seven practices before starting a competition schedule, while basketball will need 12 practices before starting competitions.

Of critical interest was the IHSA's board meeting held earlier this week that was expected to lay out a completely revised competition schedule for the remainder of the school year, including what a truncated winter sports schedule would look like.

For Independent coverage area schools (all classified in Tier 2 as of Sunday morning), winter low-risk

sports can begin practice immediately and will await competition start dates coming out of that IHSA board meeting. Basketball teams may start intra-team scrimmages immediately.

Spring and summer sports, the IHSA noted, for schools in the Tier 2 phrase were able to conduct contact days starting this past Monday. All contact days must be conducted under IDPH All Sports Policy based on risk level. This means football teams in the Independent coverage area were able to reconvene starting this week. Weight training may be conducted under Tier 2 mitigations as long as social distancing and masks are utilized.

Also of note in Phase 4, IDPH allows for the return of tournaments, out-of-conference/league play, out-of-state play and championship games for all low-risk sports. Any sports in the medium-level category can enjoy Phase 4 designation for outdoor sports and then Phase 3 for indoor

sports, meaning intra-conference and COVID-region games allowed, plus intra-league play/meets. High-risk sports (currently basketball in the winter, football in the spring) in Phase 4 can play against teams in their conference and COVID region only.

"This is certainly positive news, but we still have a long way to go until we get all of our student-athletes back to being active," IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson said in a release. "High school student-athletes are hurting from a mental, physical and emotional standpoint, so we hope this is the first step toward getting that back to some normalcy."

Anderson said he anticipates the IHSA board will set competition start dates for low-risk winter sports prior to the Wednesday, Jan. 27 meeting (earlier this week).

"We all need to continue to take the mitigations seriously," he said. "Wear a mask. Socially distance. We need to get these other regions to Tier 2 and not risk having others backslide."

Football, boys soccer, girls volleyball, boys gymnastics and boys and girls water polo are part of the IHSA's adjusted spring season.

Those sports, as of now, are slated to begin official season practices on Feb. 15 with football games slated to start March 5 and all other spring sports scheduled to begin competitions on March 1.

Football remains a high-risk sport, while boys soccer, girls volleyball and water polo are classified as moderate risk, while boys gymnastics is the lone lower-risk sport in the spring lot.

DuPage Care Center to host Valentine's Day fundraiser for residents

The DuPage Care Center is offering several ways to spread Valentine's Day love to the residents of the center with the click of a button.

The DuPage Care Center created an Amazon Wish List featuring items the residents need. It can be found at [amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3CLF3ZEGAQVVT/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3CLF3ZEGAQVVT/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex). Items will be shipped directly to the DuPage Care Center.

The list contains art supplies, inexpensive electronics, books, and other items that will help improve the residents' quality of life. Monetary donations are also being accepted and can be made payable to the DuPage Care Center Foundation. Donations can also be mailed to the DuPage Care Center, 400 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187.

The DuPage Care Center is also providing Valentine's balloons to residents to spread cheer and warm wishes. For a \$4 donation, community members can send a balloon to a Care Center resident.

In the past, the public sent more than 800 heart-shaped, helium balloons to line the corridors and rooms on Valentine's Day. Volunteers and staff delivered the balloons to more than 350 residents living at the Center, brightening their days, and bringing lots of smiles along the way.

Balloon donations will be accepted until Feb. 10, and may be sent to: DuPage Care Center, Attn: Valentine Balloons, 400 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187. Balloons can also be sent by visiting [dpcfcfoundation.org/valentines-day-balloons/](https://www.dpcfcfoundation.org/valentines-day-balloons/). Balloons will be delivered on Feb. 12.

"The past year has been especially difficult for the residents of the Care Center, and these fundraisers provide a perfect way to raise their spirits and warm their hearts," said DuPage County Health and Human Services Chairwoman Julie Renahan. "People have always stepped up to help our residents, and we are pleased to be able to continue this tradition."

Funds from the sale of balloons will benefit the Resident Recreation Fund, which provides programs and activities to improve the quality of life of residents living at the Center.

The Care Center is currently not allowing visitors, per guidelines from the Illinois Department of Public Health and Centers for Disease Control. For more information, call (630) 784-4260 or email dpcrc@dupagecc.org.



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IHSA athletics remain on pause; board will meet later this month to review high school sports schedules

Region 8, which includes DuPage County, remains in restrictive Tier 3

STAFF REPORT

The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Board of Directors issued a statement after its regularly scheduled meeting on Jan. 13.

High school winter athletic seasons in Illinois were supposed to begin in November 2020, but those seasons have not started. High school sports in the state have been on pause since mid-November because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the window for winter sports narrowing, and with the spring seasons approaching, the IHSA, which oversees high school sports in the state, will soon have to announce if and when certain athletic seasons will be conducted during the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

According to the schedules announced at the start of the 2020-21 school year, the winter seasons were supposed to run until Feb. 13, 2021. The spring seasons—which include football during the current school year—are scheduled to hold their first practices on Feb. 15, with games starting on March 5, and the season continuing through May 1.

The newly created summer seasons are supposed to begin

with practices on April 19, and competitions on May 3. The summer seasons are scheduled to run through June 26.

On Jan. 7, IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson stated that the IHSA believed it could safely conduct sports. Anderson also criticized the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for not providing detailed benchmarks for allowing sports to resume. Anderson also noted that other states are currently conducting high school athletic seasons.

"We realize there is a desire for finality on a sports schedule for 2020-21, however, we did not believe it would be prudent to lock ourselves into a schedule at a time when IHSA schools are unable to conduct any sports," noted the statement from the IHSA Board of Directors after the Jan. 13 meeting. "Per Governor [JB] Pritzker, we have hope that low-risk sports may be permitted in certain regions of the state as early as this Friday [Jan. 15]."

The statement added that if high school sports in Illinois do not resume in February, the seasons of some sports could be in jeopardy.

"February seems like a realistic timeline to have sports resume statewide," noted the board in last week's statement. "We expect that the events of the next two weeks will go a long way toward informing our opinion on which scheduling option we decide to

proceed with. We recognize that if no sports have resumed by February, season lengths could be impacted in certain sports, and that we may need to take a longer look at the likelihood of true seasons being conducted in high-risk sports this year.

"Our overall goal remains unchanged, as we hope to conduct all IHSA sports during the remainder of the school year calendar. Please know that we see and read many of the comments and messages from student-athletes, coaches, and parents, and that we are doing everything we can to try and bring IHSA sports back within the current parameters we are working in."

The IDPH announced on Jan. 15 that three regions in the state would move to less restrictive tiers of mitigations. Those three regions are Region 1, which includes Rockford, Region 2, which includes Peoria, and Region 5, which includes the southern part of the state. Regions 1 and 2 moved to Tier 2, while Region 5 moved to Tier 1. The eight remaining regions in the state—including Region 8 (DuPage County and Kane County) remained in Tier 3.

"IDPH will continue to track the health metrics in all 11 regions and announce tier changes when a region makes progress," noted the state health department in a statement on Jan. 15.

The IHSA Board of Directors will hold its next meeting on Jan. 27.

Sidelined by the pandemic, high school athletes wait and hope for a season

STAFF REPORT

In a normal school year, the high school winter seasons would be in full swing by the middle of January. The current school year, of course, has been anything but normal.

High school athletes in Illinois have been sidelined for two months by the state's actions to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The truncated 2020-21 winter athletic seasons were supposed to start on Nov. 16, 2020, and continue until Feb. 13, 2021. But all Illinois High School Association (IHSA) sports in the state have been on pause since mid-November.

With or without reduced state-wide restrictions that may take place in the next few weeks, the IHSA will soon have to make some difficult decisions. What will happen to the winter seasons? Will the winter seasons be completely canceled? Will they be extended into late February or early March? If the winter seasons are extended, how will that affect the schedules of spring sports, which are scheduled to take place from Feb. 15 to May 1, and summer sports, which are slated to run from May 3 to June 26?

Last week, on Jan. 15, Gov. JB Pritzker announced that three regions in the state (1, 2 and 5) would be rolled back into less restrictive COVID-19 mitigations. DuPage County, however, is in Region 8, which remained in Tier 3 mitigations.

Regions 1 and 2 moved to Tier 2 mitigations, while Region 5, which is in the southern portion of the state, moved to Tier 1. The Tier 1 level includes fewer restrictions than Tier 2.

Schools in Tier 2 regions can resume athletic practices in low-risk sports (including bowling, competitive cheer, competitive dance, girls gymnastics and boys swimming and diving). Schools in those regions can conduct training with no physical contact in high-risk sports. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) classifies boys and girls basketball as high-risk sports.

For now, the area's high school athletes can only wait to see what happens.

"The gym is set up and ready to go, and we are hoping that the metrics come down soon so we can have more answers," said Deanna Zuchowski, Willowbrook's girls gymnastics coach. Girls gymnastics is one of the Willowbrook winter sports—along with boys and girls basketball, girls bowling, cheerleading, dance

and boys swimming and diving—that have been on hold during the state's current pause in high school athletics.

"The team has been meeting virtually to stretch and condition, as well as talk about goals and expectations for the year and the upcoming year," added Zuchowski. "We talk a lot about overcoming obstacles and have talked about the mind game that gymnastics plays. Gymnastics is not only a physical sport, but one has to be mentally ready for the challenge. We are trying, as a team, to stay positive for the season and not let our spirits falter."

The Warriors' strong 2019-20 season included a team score of 130.925 at the West Suburban Gold Conference Meet, which took place on Feb. 1, 2020, at Willowbrook. The Warriors finished second to the Downers Grove co-op team in the conference meet's team standings.

The Willowbrook team had not reached the 130-point mark in a meet in 12 years until the 2019-20 season. The drought ended in the Warriors' Jan. 23 win over Morton. The Warriors also reached the 130-point mark in their Jan. 29 victory over Leyden, and in the conference meet on Feb. 1.

The Warriors' strong 2019-20 campaign included an exceptional post-season from Bella Naumovsky, who won the first-place medal in the uneven bars competition at the conference meet. Naumovsky's strong sophomore season continued when she won the individual title in the uneven bars at the IHSA Lake Park Regional on Feb. 5.

Five days later, at the IHSA Glenbard South Sectional, Naumovsky earned a tie for third on the uneven bars to secure an individual berth in the state meet. Naumovsky was the first Willowbrook girls gymnast to qualify for the state meet in 11 years. She earned a score of 9.3 in the preliminary round of the IHSA State Meet, good for 12th place in the individual standings. The top 10 scorers, including ties, advanced to the individual finals.

Willowbrook's dance team, which should be in the middle of its competitive season right now, is also unable to practice together in person.

"We have been meeting virtually," said Maggie Porter, the head coach of the Willowbrook dance team. "We are hoping for a season."

For several years, the Willowbrook team has performed a kick routine to Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas is You" at halftime of a boys basketball game played during the Christmas season. The girls on the team did the best they could to continue that tradition this year by putting together a video/virtual performance, with each team member performing individually.

In 2019, the Willowbrook dance team qualified for the IHSA competitive dance state meet. One year ago, the team narrowly missed earning its second straight trip to the state meet. The top six teams at the Geneva Sectional advanced to the state meet. Willowbrook placed sixth in that sectional, which took place on Jan. 25, 2020.



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTOS, Rock Valley Publishing

High school sports in Illinois have been on pause since mid-November because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The state's high school winter athletic seasons have not started. The winter seasons for the current school year were supposed to take place from Nov. 16, 2020, until Feb. 13, 2021. The Willowbrook High School winter teams waiting for news about their seasons include the girls gymnastics team and the dance team. One photo from the 2019-20 season shows Willowbrook's Bella Naumovsky competing on the uneven bars at the IHSA girls gymnastics state meet on Feb. 21, 2020. Naumovsky, who qualified for the 2020 state meet as a sophomore, is pictured with assistant coach Andy Isaacson (left) and head coach Deanna Zuchowski (background). Another photo from the 2019-20 school year shows members of the Willowbrook dance team competing at the IHSA Geneva Sectional on Jan. 25, 2020. Willowbrook narrowly missed earning its second straight trip to the IHSA competitive dance state meet. The top seven teams at the Geneva Sectional qualified for the state meet. Willowbrook placed seventh in the sectional standings.



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Woman killed in fatal crash in Villa Park

Vehicle struck a tree at a high rate of speed in a residential neighborhood

STAFF REPORT

An adult woman died in a one-vehicle crash in a residential area in Villa Park last week.

On Thursday, Jan. 14, at 1:39 p.m., Villa Park police and fire units were dispatched to west Kenilworth Avenue near Yale Avenue for a vehicle on fire.

According to a statement issued by the Villa Park Police Department, officers arrived at the scene and found the vehicle fully engulfed in flames, with at least one occupant trapped inside the vehicle. The police officers and responding firefighters were unable to rescue the victim, the statement noted.

"The preliminary investigation indicates the vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed and struck a tree prior to starting on fire," noted the statement from the police department. "The investigation is ongoing at this time."

The crash site is in a residential area, one block north of Ardmore Elementary School.

On Friday, Jan. 15, Villa Park Police Chief Michael Rivas said the victim in the fatal crash is an adult female whose next of kin is from out of state. Rivas stated the victim was traveling westbound on Kenilworth at a high rate of speed. The exact rate of speed is unknown, he said.

According to a witness who was at the scene shortly after the crash, the vehicle—a black pickup truck with an extended rear seat cab—struck a tree on the north side of the street. The witness related that a Villa Park police officer tried to gain access to the driver-side door, but was pushed back by the heat from the flames.

The witness added that there were multiple small explosions from the vehicle's engine compartment following the crash. Debris was scattered as far as 100 feet away from the tree that was struck, stated the witness.

District 88 to present online memorial service for Dr. Scott Helton on Jan. 28

Superintendent passed away in December

District 88 will host a memorial to honor, remember and celebrate the life and legacy of Superintendent Dr. Scott Helton, who died on Dec. 10, 2020.

Helton, who was 58 years old, had served as the district's superintendent since 2012. Prior to that, he spent 11 years as the principal of Addison Trail High School.

The memorial service will air at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 28. For more information, visit the district's website at www.dupage88.net.

The district's website already includes the virtual funeral service for Helton from Dec. 19, 2020. The website also gives community members

an opportunity to share a message of sympathy with the Helton family.

In honor of Helton's legacy, his family has joined with the Partnership for Inspired Education (PIE) Foundation—a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that serves public school students in districts 4, 45, 48 and 88—to establish a scholarship to support and champion the educational success of students with need.

To donate to the Dr. Scott J. Helton Scholarship Fund, visit the district's website, or mail a check to: PIE Foundation, 2 Friendship Plaza, Addison, IL 60101. Include "Dr. Scott J. Helton Scholarship Fund" in the memo line.

Villa Park man charged with child pornography

Resident arrested after undercover internet investigation

STAFF REPORT

Authorities arrested a Villa Park man last week for a series of child pornography charges.

David Hibbeler, 68, of the 100 block of N. Summit Ave., is charged with four counts of possessing visual reproductions of child pornography.

DuPage County Associate Judge Alex McGimpsey set bail at \$30,000 during a hearing on Jan. 12.

The DuPage County Sheriff's Office Digital Forensic Investigation Unit, along with the Villa Park Police Department, executed a search warrant at Hibbeler's home on Jan. 11. According to information provided by the DuPage County Sheriff's Office, the warrant was signed following an undercover internet investigation into the possession and distribution of child pornography files.

The Lombard Police Department and the Glendale Heights Police Department also assisted in the investigation.

"Our Digital Forensics Unit is picking right up where they left off at the end of the year and are starting 2021 with a renewed commitment to finding and bringing to justice those who deal in child pornography,"



David Hibbeler

said DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick in a statement issued by his office. "Unfortunately, this is the first of many of these cases they will present to prosecutors in the coming year."

Hibbeler's next court date is scheduled for Feb. 12.

"Every day, child pornographers steal the innocence from thousands of young boys and girls, some less than a year old," added DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin in the statement issued by Mendrick's office after Hibbeler's arrest. "These young victims cannot protect themselves from the severe emotional and physical harm inflicted upon them by these sexual predators. The DuPage County Sheriff's Office, however, continues to do a tremendous job of identifying and locating suspected child pornographers, as is alleged in this case. I commend them for their ongoing efforts in protecting our children from child pornographers."

The statement from the sheriff's office reminded members of the public that this complaint contains only charges and is not proof of the defendant's guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the government's burden to prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

DuPage County Health Department reports 1,057 COVID-19 related deaths since March

STAFF REPORT

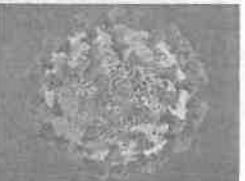
The DuPage County Health Department's daily COVID-19 update of Jan. 17 reported there have been 1,057 deaths related to the coronavirus in county residents since March 2020. The update from the same day reported 65,391 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the county.

There have been 2,037 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 16 deaths related to the coronavirus in Villa Park residents. Lombard has reported 3,409 cases and 45 deaths.

The DuPage County Health Department's latest COVID-19 information is posted on its website at dupagehealth.org.

The county's first death related to the coronavirus was reported on March 19, 2020.

The county health department's Jan. 17 update noted that 615 of the county's 1,057 deaths related to the coronavirus involved residents 80 and older. Another 247 of the deaths involved residents in their 70s, while 125 of the deaths involved the 60-69 age group. About 93 percent of the county's deaths related to COVID-19, therefore, involve residents 60 and older.



None of the county's 1,057 deaths related to the coronavirus have involved a resident 19 and under. There have been two DuPage County deaths related to COVID-19 in the 20-29 age group.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) update of Jan. 17 reported 1,068,829 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the state, with 18,208 statewide deaths related to the coronavirus.

More than 14.7 million tests for COVID-19 have been performed in the state. Illinois has a total population of about 12.67 million.

According to the IDPH, as of Jan. 15, nearly half (8,986) of the state's COVID-19 related deaths involved residents and staff of long-term care facilities.