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District 88 shares updates on moving to Phase 4 Tier 2 mitigation

As we all continue to deal with the negative impacts of the coronavirus disease pandemic, District 88 will maintain its practice of following data and guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, the Illinois and DuPage County health departments, the Illinois State Board of Education and the DuPage Regional Office of Education to make decisions in the best interest of the safety and well-being of our students, staff and community members.

As part of that focus, District 88 previously aligned its Return to School Plan with the DuPage County COVID-19 School Metrics Guidance. The guidance is comprised of six metrics that feed into three Community Transmission Levels (Minimal, Moderate or Substantial).

Moving to Phase 4 Tier 2 mitigation

On Monday, Jan. 18, DuPage County (region 8) was moved to Phase 4 Tier 2 mitigation. While the County remains in "substantial transmission," as a result of this change

in status and improved numbers, District 88 will implement the following (provided the community transmission levels do not increase):

1. Monday, Jan. 25: District 88 will end its adaptive pause (which was implemented on Nov. 20 and suspended all in-person curricular and extracurricular activities).

2. Monday, Jan. 25: District 88 will begin winter sports. See important details below. Student-athletes will receive communication from their coaches with specific details.

- Approved winter sports are:
- Boys swimming and diving
 - Cheerleading
 - Dance (Poms)
 - Girls bowling
 - Girls gymnastics
 - Girls badminton

See the story in Sports inside this issue of the Independent to find out more updates from the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) to allow sports to take place during the winter season.

Student-athletes who plan to participate in winter sports must register

online at the links below.

- Addison Trail registration can be done at il.8to18.com/aths
- Willowbrook registration can be done at willowbrook.8to18.com.

Follow those links to the Registration Tab at the top of the page.

On Jan. 22, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) provided Sports Safety Guidance. To view that information, go dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/sports-safety-guidance.

3. Monday, Feb. 1: Learning centers may resume.

4. Monday, Feb. 8: Other activities allowed in Stage 1 of the district's Return to School Plan (referred to as Remote) may resume, including the identification of individual students for specialized in-person instruction, intervention, support and/or related services.

Future steps:

1. The Return to School Plan is tied to the DuPage County metrics.

When the county moves to the Moderate Community Transmission Level, we will recommend transitioning to Stage 2 of our plan, referred to as Remote Plus. To see details of Stage 2, go dupage88.net/site/public/files/?item=5475.

2. After we move to Stage 2: Remote Plus, we will prioritize activities for seniors and freshmen (to help them acclimate to the school buildings).

3. During Stage 2: Remote Plus, we encourage teachers, coaches and sponsors to continue to connect with and care for students through providing curricular and extracurricular "in-person" activities that can be done in a cohort model. All activities must follow the policies, procedures and guidance that are in place regarding social distancing, health and cleaning protocols.

District 88 will provide weekly updates to parents via e-mail as we continue to monitor this situation. For more information about District 88's Return to School Plan, go to dupage88.net/ReturnToSchoolPlan.

Bond set for Carol Stream man accused of armed robbery Assistance comes from Villa Park K-9 unit

On Wednesday, Jan. 20, DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Wheaton Chief of Police William Murphy announced that a Carol Stream man had been arrested and charged with robbing a Walgreens drug store with a hatchet last weekend. Jason Zell, 32, of Carol Stream, appeared at a bond hearing where Judge Alex McGimpsey set bond at \$300,000 with 10% to apply. Zell has been charged with one count of Armed Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon, a Class X Felony.

On Saturday, Jan. 16 at approximately 8:50 p.m., officers with the Wheaton Police Department were dispatched for a call of an armed robbery at the Walgreens drug store located at 1601 North Main Street. Upon their arrival, Wheaton police

officers initiated an investigation with assistance from the Villa Park K-9 Unit. It is alleged that Zell, entered the Walgreens, selected an item to purchase and approached the clerk who was working at the front cash register. It is alleged that when the clerk opened the register to complete the sale, Zell jumped on top of the counter, removed a silver bladed hatchet from his backside, placed the hatchet on the counter, reached

around the plastic barrier and stole cash from the cash register. It is further alleged that Zell then knocked down the plastic divider, grabbed his hatchet and exited the store through the main entrance. Two days later at approximately 10 p.m., Zell flagged down a Wheaton police officer on patrol and turned himself in.

"The allegation against Mr. Zell, that he brandished a hatchet at the store clerk who was just trying to

make an honest living and stole hundreds of dollars will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," Berlin said.

Zell's next court appearance is scheduled for Feb. 11, 2021 for arraignment in front of Judge John Kinsella.

Members of the public are reminded that this complaint contains only charges and is not proof of the defendant's guilt.

Driving toward success

Addison Trail senior accepted into

Department of Automotive Technology at SIU

When Addison Trail senior Javier Castillo was about 10 years old, he started helping his dad and a family friend work on cars.

He never could have imagined that a childhood hobby would grow into a lifelong passion, as he was recently accepted into the Department of Automotive Technology at Southern Illinois University.

"I was pretty shocked and excited,"

Castillo said about being admitted into the program. "It's another door that's going to further allow me to achieve my best. The automotive industry is just intriguing to me. I love working hands-on and finding out how everything works with something we use every day."

Castillo said he was inspired to apply to Southern Illinois University by Addison Trail Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher Keith Santini.

"Without Addison Trail and Mr. Santini, I wouldn't have the certifications and knowledge I have today," Castillo said. "It has opened up a whole world for me and has provided opportunities to compete in a variety of



Javier Castillo

auto events such as SkillsUSA and Universal Technical Institute (UTI)'s High School Top Tech Challenge."

Castillo has earned the following certifications so far:

- Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Refrigerant Recovery and Recycling Program (individuals who successfully complete this EPA-authorized Section 609 program are certified to service motor vehicle air conditioning systems)
 - Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Heating and Air Conditioning
 - Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Electrical/Electronic Systems
 - Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Engine Repair
 - Bendix Air Brake
 - Pro-Cut Brake
 - Working to complete a Mercedes-Benz certification
- Castillo hopes to work for General Motors in the future, and he shared some advice for other high school students interested in this profession.
- "Follow a career you actually want to pursue," he said. "If you land your dream job, you'll never work a day in your life."

Addison Trail freshman performs on 'Late Show with Stephen Colbert' with Stephen Colbert' Anello, Chicago Children's Choir were to sing at inauguration

As we continue to face a time of unprecedented social unrest, one Addison Trail student recently participated in an event focused on unity, peace and equity.

As a member of the Chicago Children's Choir, freshman Angela (Ella) Anello appeared on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" on Wednesday, Jan. 20 after the Presidential Inauguration. Peter CottonTale - a music producer and composer from Chicago - assembled an ensemble featuring the choir, Chance The Rapper, Cynthia Erivo, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras and Kofi Lost for a performance of his song "Together." The performance, filmed in Chicago, is available on YouTube.

Angela Anello

Anello and 19 other members of the Chicago Children's Choir were originally selected to sing as part of the inauguration program but were invited to "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" instead, following the events of Jan. 6, 2021.

"It was a really emotional, really inspiring and really cool experience," Anello said. "It feels amazing to be part of something to make our ancestors proud that we're standing up for blackness and our history. Our goal with this performance is to create hope and unity."

"It was a really emotional, really inspiring and really cool experience."

- Angela Anello

This is Anello's first year with the Chicago Children's Choir, where she is part of the alto section.

She also is a member of Addison Trail's Beginning Mixed Chorus.

"I'm excited to see what the school's music program has to offer," she said.

P.I.E. Foundation to host pop-the-trunk donation drive Items for residents overcoming effects of COVID-19

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic can wear on every resource, and the Partnership for Inspired Education (PIE) Foundation will host a pop-the-trunk donation drive to help residents overcome the adverse impacts of COVID-19.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to noon on Feb. 27 at Addison Trail (213 N. Lombard Road in Addison) and Willowbrook (1250 S. Ardmore Ave. in Villa Park).

• See a list of requested items at dupage88.net/site/public/files/item=5611.

• Items received will be donated to local food pantries in school districts 4, 45, 48 and 88 communities to be distributed to needy families.

• For questions or more information, contact District 88 Director of Community Relations Dani Brink at dbrink@dupage88.net or 630-530-3989.

The PIE Foundation is a 501(c)(3)

charitable organization that serves public school students in Addison School District 4, School District 45, Salt Creek School District 48 and District 88.

Founded in 2009, PIE is designed to be the foundation that supports a long-term partnership with the community, businesses, schools and, most importantly, the children served. For more information about PIE, visit piefoundation.org.

More than 46,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses administered despite limited supply

DuPage County leads the state in number of inoculations

As of Wednesday, Jan. 20, DuPage County leads the state with 1.39% of the population fully vaccinated. More than 46,000 vaccines have been administered to DuPage County residents, and 12,949 persons have been fully vaccinated with two doses, according to COVID-19 vaccination data.

As the number of individuals vaccinated in the Phase 1a category increases to a substantial level, DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) anticipates beginning the transition to Phase 1b starting Monday, January 25.

Based on the very limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine across the country and in DuPage County, we anticipate it may take approximately 12 weeks to vaccine the estimated 268,000 individuals in DuPage County who meet Phase 1b criteria.

Anyone who lives, works, or attends college/university in DuPage County can register for updates about where and when COVID-19 vaccine will be available at dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine. Over the coming months, people will be able to access vaccine through a health care provider, retail pharmacies, the

Health Department, and many other locations. As the vaccine supply increases, much more information will be available from all of these providers about vaccine scheduling.

Healthcare providers in DuPage County have made substantial progress in administering vaccine received into the arms of Phase 1a healthcare personnel. DCHD is receiving and distributing an average total of 13,000 Pfizer and Moderna vaccines per week. The most significant factor in how many vaccines can be administered in DuPage County is the supply of vaccine available to us each week. The vaccine supply made available to DuPage County has varied from 10,075 to 23,925 each week.

"We recognize the sense of urgency to vaccinate our residents as quickly as possible. The Health Department team is working tirelessly seven days a week to increase vaccine accessibility and to ensure everyone who wants the vaccine will get it," stated Karen Ayala, executive director of DuPage County Health Department. "The demand for vaccine currently exceeds the supply available to us which means it will take time to fully

vaccinate those in DuPage County. We ask for everyone to understand that we can only administer the vaccine that is available to us each week through both the Health Department and our network of partner providers in the community."

The Health Department is working diligently with many different partners at all levels, including hospitals, healthcare providers, pharmacies, and community leaders to expand access to vaccine through numerous sites across DuPage County. As vaccine supply increases over time and additional vaccination sites become available, the Health Department expects the rate of vaccination will increase and more information will be available about the specific locations people will be able to contact to schedule appointments for vaccine.

Furthermore, to provide additional support to the expansion of vaccination efforts in the County, the community-based drive-thru testing site in Wheaton will close at the end of this month.

The last operating day is Friday, Jan. 29. For more information regarding local testing, please visit dupagehealth.org/covid19.

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.

Illinois awards \$31.5 million in grants funded by marijuana revenue

Restore, Reinvest and Renew program helps communities hit by war on drugs

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The state announced Jan. 21 that it has awarded \$31.5 million in grants to 81 community organizations around Illinois to help fund legal services for low-income residents, youth development, violence prevention and economic development in areas hardest hit by the war on drugs.

The Restore, Reinvest and Renew, or "R3" grants are funded with a portion of the state's revenue from sales of adult-use marijuana, and they were a key element of the 2019 bill that legalized recreational marijuana in Illinois.

"We know that too many communities, disproportionately Black and brown communities throughout our state, have suffered from over incarceration and decades of disinvestment due to the false

Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, who chairs the R3 Program Board, said during an interview with Capitol News Illinois. "And so the R3 program was one component that was included by the members of the General Assembly, with the leadership of the Legislative Black Caucus, in particular, to make sure that we focused on restorative justice."

The Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act went into effect on Jan. 1, 2020. Under that law, the state levies an excise tax of 10 percent of the purchase price of marijuana with a THC content of 35 percent or less. Marijuana with THC levels higher than that is taxed at 25 percent of the purchase price while cannabis-infused products are taxed at 10 percent.

The law also provides that 25 percent of that revenue be used to fund grants in communities that have suffered from economic disinvestment, violence, and the severe and disproportionate damage caused by the war on drugs, which are largely low-income communities of color.

nounced Jan. 21 were funded with revenues from the first month of legalized sales through the present. The deadline for submitting applications for the first round of grants was in July. Applications were submitted through the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, which was also responsible for identifying communities that were eligible.

Many of those grants will help fund free legal services for low-income residents involved in civil cases, including debt collection. A report published in the *Illinois Bar Journal* found that as many as two-thirds of all civil cases filed in Illinois outside of Chicago in 2015 involved at least one litigant who did not have an attorney.

Prairie State Legal Services, which provides services in northern and parts of central Illinois, was awarded four grants totaling just over \$1 million to provide civil legal aid, while Land of Lincoln Legal Services, which operates in central and south-

High school sports are back

Most winter events up and running; basketball waits Phase 4 return to begin game play

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Illinois High School Association brought smiles to faces across a state last week after releasing a revised sports calendar for the remainder of the school year that has most winter sports already back up and running, while basketball in the DuPage County COVID-19 region awaits a return to Phase 4 mitigations in order to start playing games.

"We understood the high level of anticipation surrounding the announcement, along with the scrutiny it will accompany it," IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson said. Ultimately, the board adhered to its stated goals throughout the pandemic:

ic: providing an opportunity for every IHSA student-athlete to compete safely this year and maximizing opportunities for traditional IHSA spring sports after they lost their entire season a year ago.

"I recognize many schools and coaches could likely offer a tweak here or there that would have, in their opinion, made it 'better' for their school or sport. Our board faced an impossible task with a litany of factors. They were conscientious in considering every possibility, and I believe their decisions today are a positive step for the mental, emotional and physical well-being of our students. We are excited to channel our energy into creating as many positive experiences for Illinois high school students as we can between now and the end of this extraordinary school year."

The low-risk winter sports of boys swimming, dance, cheerleading, boys and girls bowling and girls gymnastics and the recently relocated girls badminton were given the green light to being practices as soon as possible, and as soon as seven practice dates were completed, those sports can begin playing games and participating in competitions. The season-ending date for those sports is March 13 and with the exception of dance and cheer, there will be no state playoffs, although the IHSA listed girls badminton as TBD when it came to that sport's state series. Dance and cheer will hold virtual state series.

About basketball

In terms of boys and girls basketball, that sport remains classified as higher risk by the Illinois Department of Health. Basketball teams were to begin practicing immediately and once seven practice dates were logged, those schools that reside within a Phase 4 mitigation COVID-19 region can start playing games.

The three Elmhurst high schools (York, IC Catholic Prep and Timothy Christian), along with the other three schools in the Independent's coverage area (Addison Trail, Fenton and Willowbrook), reside in COVID-19 Region 8 (DuPage and Kane County), which as of this past Sunday morning had not yet returned to Phase 4 mitigations, which would allow game play to commence in basketball. As of last weekend, the five schools were permitted intra-team scrimmages with parental consent, but no competitive play yet.

As of this past Sunday morning, five COVID regions in the state were back at Phase 4 mitigations, while five others (including DuPage-Kane County) were still at Tier 1, while Region 4 remained in Tier 2. Basketball still has a listed IHSA season-ending date of March 13.

Schools in the Independent's coverage area, based on scans of athletic websites, are anticipating an imminent return to Phase 4 mitigations.

A scan of one website that houses York's athletic schedule shows only a Feb. 12 boys basketball date at Willowbrook as being on the books as of press time, same with the girls basketball team, but with the Dukes hosting the Warriors in the Campbell Gym.

Timothy Christian, on the other hand, already shows a robust boys basketball schedule with 12 games, all against Metro Suburban Conference foes, starting Feb. 9 in Kankakee against Bishop McNamara, ending March 13 at Riverside-Brookfield. The Trojans' girls basketball team has 13 games scheduled, beginning this Saturday with a 1 p.m. game at Westmont, and culminating March 11 at home against Wheaton Academy. Timothy also is scheduled to host Bishop McNamara Monday night at the Ward Athletic Center.

IC Catholic Prep's boys basketball team also has a 12-game schedule ready to roll, starting Tuesday, Feb. 9 at St. Edward in Elgin and ending Saturday, March 13 at home against Wheaton Academy—again IC Catholic Prep, like Timothy, playing a conference-only schedule. The Knights' girls basketball team has 12 games on their schedule, starting Monday at home against St. Edward and finishing up Thursday, March 11 at Aurora Christian.

Soccer and football

The remainder of the IHSA revised season calendar has boys soccer starting practice March 1 and finishing the season on April 17.

Football is scheduled to start practice March 3 with opening games starting March 19 and the season running until April 24, basically a six-game football schedule with no state playoffs.

Volleyball

Girls volleyball is scheduled to start practice March 8 and run until April 24. Boys soccer and girls volleyball also will not be afforded state playoffs. Those three sports were displaced from the traditional IHSA fall season due to the pandemic.

Gymnastics

Boys gymnastics is slated for a March 15 start and will run to May 22, while boys and girls water polo will run from March 15 to May 29. The IHSA listed TBD for state playoffs for those two sports.

Baseball, softball, lacrosse, T&F, more

And finally, the IHSA summer season has baseball, boys and girls lacrosse, girls soccer, softball, boys tennis, boys and girls track and field and boys volleyball starting practice April 5 and running until June 19 with the state leaving open the possibility for some sort of state series in all sports.

Wrestling, displaced to the summer season because of its continued high-risk categorization, starts practice April 19 and runs until June 12 with no state playoffs.

Athletic websites for Addison Trail and Willowbrook, as of this past weekend, show no scheduled boys or girls basketball games. Fenton's athletic website lists the boys basketball team with two games against Upstate Eight Conference opponents South Elgin (Feb. 12 at home) and Elgin Larkin (Feb. 16 away). The Fenton girls basketball team has games against South Elgin and Larkin also listed on those same Feb. 12 and 16 dates.

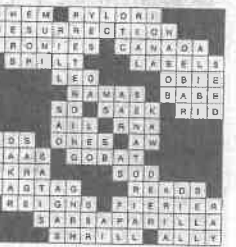
Answers

PUZZLE 1

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

PUZZLE 2

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



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Willowbrook athletes prepare for winter sports

Some winter teams held their first practice last week; Warriors' boys and girls basketball seasons remain on hold

STAFF REPORT

After two months on the sidelines, some of Willowbrook High School's athletes are back in action.

All Illinois High School Association (IHSA) winter sports were on pause for more than two months because of the COVID-19 pandemic. That pause ended shortly after all 11 of the state's regions moved out of Tier 3

mitigations.

Tier 3 is the most restrictive level in the state's Restore Illinois Mitigation Plan.

Region 8, which includes DuPage and Kane counties, moved from Tier 3 to Tier 2 mitigations on Jan. 18. Early last week, the region moved from Tier 2 to Tier 1.

On Wednesday, Jan. 27, the IHSA announced updated athletic schedules for the remainder of the current school year. Those schedules attempt to provide some competition for all of the teams that are supposed to play their winter, spring and summer seasons over the next four and a-half months.

Several of Willowbrook's winter athletic teams began practicing last week. As of Jan. 31, two of those teams (girls bowling and girls gymnastics) had competitions scheduled for this week.

In addition to girls bowling and girls gymnastics, Willowbrook's winter sports include badminton, cheerleading, dance and boys swimming and diving. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has classified all six of those activities as low-risk sports.

The IDPH classifies the traditional winter sports of boys and girls basketball as high-risk sports. Willowbrook's boys and girls basketball teams did not practice last week.

The District 88 weekly newsletter of Friday, Jan. 29, stated that the district will share more information about boys and girls basketball as soon as possible.

According to the IDPH and the IHSA, low-risk sports in a region of Tier 1 mitigations can conduct non-conference contests, out-of-state contests, tournaments and a state series. High-risk sports, such as basketball, are only allowed to conduct practices and intra-team scrimmages in Tier 1 regions. A region would need to advance to the less restrictive Phase 4 to conduct contests in high-risk sports. Those contests would be limited to teams within the same conference and region.

The key metric that would allow

Region 8 to move from Tier 1 to Phase 4—thereby allowing high school girls and basketball contests—is the COVID-19 test positivity rate of 6.5 percent. To move to Phase 4, the region's COVID-19 test positivity rate needs to be less than or equal to 6.5 percent for three consecutive days.

According to the IDPH update of Jan. 31, Region 8's test positivity rate stood at 7.1 percent on Jan. 28. The same rate was 7.9 percent on Jan. 19.

Region 8 has already met two other metrics needed to advance to Phase 4. If the region maintains those metrics and reaches the test positivity threshold of 6.5 percent or lower, it would move to the less restrictive Phase 4 level.

According to the IDPH limitations, there is a maximum of 50 spectators allowed at contests in regions in Phase 4. There's a limit of 25 spectators at contests in regions in Tier 1.

The IHSA's updated athletic schedules provide an end date of March 13 for several winter sports. The badminton season will continue through April 3.

There will be no state series in boys and girls basketball, boys swimming and diving, girls bowling and girls gymnastics. Both dance and cheerleading will reportedly feature a virtual state series. The IHSA stated last week that a badminton state series is to be determined.

Badminton is normally a spring sport, but the IHSA recently moved it to the winter season for the current

school year. The 2020 spring badminton season was canceled because of the pandemic.

The spring sports of the current school year include boys soccer, football, girls volleyball and boys gymnastics. There will be no state series in boys soccer, football and girls volleyball. A state series in boys gymnastics is to be determined.

The football season is scheduled to begin with practices on March 3. The first games of an abbreviated six-game season are supposed to begin on Friday, March 19. Football, like boys and girls basketball, is classified as a high-risk sport. The regular season in IHSA football normally features nine games.

Most summer sports seasons will begin with practices on April 5. This year's summer sports include sports that had their entire 2020 spring seasons canceled because of the pandemic. Wrestling, which is normally a winter sport, will take place in the summer season of the current school year. There will be no state series this year in wrestling—a high-risk sport. The wrestling season is scheduled to run from April 19 to June 12.

The IHSA has yet to determine if state series will be allowed in other summer sports, including baseball, softball, girls soccer, boys tennis, boys volleyball and boys and girls track and field.

The seasons in those sports are scheduled to run from April 5 to June 19.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Back in action

Willowbrook High School's badminton team held its first practice of the winter season last week. The picture above from the team's Jan. 27 practice shows (left to right) head coach Eastman Tiu and senior Lana Gallagher. Another photo (below left) shows senior captain Katie Abbott. One more photo (below right) shows junior Becca Lopez Egan. The program's entire 2020 spring season was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In late 2020, the IHSA moved the sport of badminton from the spring to the winter season of the current school year. All IHSA winter sports were on pause for more than two months because of the pandemic. That pause, which began in mid-November, recently ended after regions around Illinois moved out of the restrictive Tier 3 mitigations of the state's Restore Illinois Mitigation Plan. Region 8, which includes DuPage and Kane counties, moved from Tier 3 to Tier 2 on Jan. 18. Last week, on Jan. 26, the region moved from Tier 2 to Tier 1. One day later, the IHSA released updated athletic guidelines and schedules for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. The badminton season will continue through April 3.



•Obituaries

(Continued from page 4)

chael (Denise) Godzicki, Matthew (Jackie) Godzicki; grandmother of 9, great-grandmother of 13; great-great grandmother of 2; fond sister of 6; Aunt of many nieces and nephews.

Visitation Thursday, February 4th from 3-8PM at Steuler Funeral Home, 350 S. Ardmore Ave., Villa Park. Please register for visitation with the above link.

Funeral to be held Friday, Feb. 5 at 9:45 a.m. from the funeral home to St. Pius X Catholic Church, 1025 E. Madison, Lombard, for Mass at 10:30 a.m. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Arrangements provided by Steuler-Knoellcrest Funeral Home.

Craig Anthony Birdwell, 38

Craig Anthony Birdwell, 38, passed away in the early morning hours of January 14, 2021 after complications from the Sugar Toxin that lead to a career long battle with the infamous criminal known as Type 1 Diabetes. Civilians will recognize him as Rock-mat and thank him for his years of rocking out and making people laugh.

His family only knew him as a musician, an electric spark that could fill a room with a smile that was infectious and a style all his own. Craig was known for his entertaining stories that were usually wildly inappropriate and his abundance of useless knowledge.

He is survived by his father Robert Birdwell; wife Valerie Kast-Birdwell (separated); stepdaughter Shirley Eisele and daughters Beverly and Payton Birdwell, who will grow up to avenge their fathers' untimely demise! He is also survived by brothers Chris (Lauren) Birdwell, Jeff (Annun-

ziata) Birdwell, Jon (fiancee Sabrina) Birdwell; nieces and nephews, Nathan, Lucian, Jayden, Godric, Sophia, Athena, Dexter.

Instead of the traditional services, his family will be hosting a Celebra-

tion of Life Memorial on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2021 to begin at 7 p.m. through 12 midnight at Indian Lakes Hotel, 250 W. Schick Rd. in Bloomingdale. Arrangements provided by Steuler-Knoellcrest Funeral Home.

Library events

Thursday, Feb. 4

• Library presents Cheese & Chocolate Pairing

Just in time for Valentine's Day, the Villa Park Public Library will hold Cheese & Chocolate Pairing virtually from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Registrants will receive a suggested shopping list upon sign-up so they can take along with the group if they choose. This program is presented by Meredith Meder, ACS, CCP. This program will be held online via Zoom. Registration and a valid email address are required. For more information, visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

• Harry Potter Book Night Kits at the library

Children of all ages can celebrate all things Harry Potter with free take-home kits from the Villa Park Public Library. Kits will contain crafts and activities to go along with this year's Harry Potter Book Night theme: Diagon Alley. Activity kits will be available for pickup at the Library starting on Feb. 4. Registration is required for each child. For more information, visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Monday, Feb. 8

Mardi Gras celebrated with New Orleans cuisine at the library

Enjoy an evening traveling through the culinary world of Cajun/New Orleans cuisine with the Villa Park Public Library's Mardi Gras Celebration virtual program from 7-8:30 p.m. Chef Susan Maddox will be preparing both savory and sweet items which will make your Mardi Gras Celebration a hit with family and friends! Methods and techniques for making these fabulous recipes will be discussed and demonstrated. This program will be held online via Zoom. Registration with a valid email address is required. For more information, visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Wednesday, Feb. 17

Library hosts online Disney Family Trivia

The Villa Park Public Library will hold Disney Family Trivia virtually starting at 4 p.m. Presented live on Zoom by Baig of Tricks, this is the perfect opportunity for families to test their knowledge of all things Disney and have a laugh. Registration and a valid email address are required.