

**THE INDEPENDENT**

Your Neighborhood Newspaper  
240 N. West Avenue  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Main Phone 630.834-8244  
Fax 630.834-0900

The Independent is published every Thursday by Rock Valley Publishing, LLC, 240 N. West Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126.

Display Advertising: 630.834-8355  
Classified Advertising: 630.834-8244  
News: 630.834-8244  
General Information: 630.834-8244

E-mail: Advertising Department: ads1@rvpublishing.com  
News Department: Independent@rvpublishing.com  
Classified Department: Classifieds@rvpublishing.com

Administration: Dee Longfellow  
News Coordinator

Debra Hamilton  
Advertising Director

Pete Cruger  
Publisher

Advertising: Brenda Garcia

Subscriptions: The Independent is mailed to the 60101, 60106 and 60181 zip code areas for \$15.95 yearly. Out-of-area mail subscriptions are \$29.95 yearly. For home delivery information call 630.834-8244.

Reprints: Content appearing in the Independent may not be reprinted without permission of the publisher or editor. Requests should be directed to Independent@rvpublishing.com or 630.834-8244.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to:

THE INDEPENDENT  
240 N. West Avenue,  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday 11am-3pm



## Addison Park District preps for Summer Day Camp

The Addison Park District's acclaimed camps will help children make new friends, build positive relationships, stay active and safe, and have fun while creating lasting memories.

Participants will go on supervised hikes, learn to play sports, adventure out to new outdoor places, plant a children's garden, create arts and crafts projects, have fun with dance parties, and will enjoy fitness and movie days. The program will operate in small ratios and groups which will enable participants to receive individual attention in a fun, safe environment. Enroll in a five day a week option or as little as two days per week. Addison All Star Summer will supply a sealed morning

snack and afternoon snack.

**Dates:** Camp begins June 14 and the last week to enroll is Aug. 16.  
**Meeting location:** Community Rec Center, Addison Park District  
**Time:** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Grade level:** Preschool-8th grade  
**Staff:** Addison Park District will be led by staff with backgrounds in education, child development, or recreation. All day camp staff will adhere to all IDPH and CDC guidelines with safety being our top priority. Staff will have trainings focusing on health and safety standards, certified in CPR/First Aid training and child wellness, best practice for social distancing and mask wearing, behavior management, and program development for weekly activities.

**Calendar/schedule of events:** Addison All Star Summer will email parents the week-by-week calendars the Sunday prior to each camp week listing the activities that all will participate in such as art, dance, theme days, gardening and more.

**What to bring to the Addison All Star Summer:** Backpack with supplies needed for the day. Addison All Star Summer may ask parents to send specific supplies depending on activities. Sealed water-bottle sent every day with participant. Disposable lunch bag (brown paper bag) with lunch. No fridge available. Addison All Star Summer will supply a sealed morning snack and afternoon snack. Sunscreen and hand sanitiz-

er. Please label and seal in plastic bag. Hat or headwear for sun protection not required but suggested. Provide facial mask per guidelines. Small blanket/towel for sitting on.

**Before and After Care:** Are you looking for additional supervision before or after the Addison All Star Summer program for your child? The Park District offers both before and after care options to complement your schedule. Before Care will operate starting at 7:30 to 9 a.m. when regular program drop-off begins. After Care will begin at 4 p.m. when the regular program pick-up ends and will operate until 5:30 p.m.

For more information, contact: dmacdonald@addisonparks.org

## Addison Trail to present 'The Addams Family Quarantined: A Dramatic Concert Version'

It's an all-too-familiar scenario for most of us - bringing your boyfriend or girlfriend home to meet your loved ones for the first time. Introducing a significant other to your family can be an awkward life moment - but it's even trickier when you're a member of the infamous Addams Family.

Addison Trail Theatre will explore this relatable life experience when it presents "The Addams Family Quarantined: A Dramatic Concert Version" on Friday and Saturday, Mar. 12 and 13. According to Theatrical Rights Worldwide, the musical is "a comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family, features an original story and it's every father's nightmare: Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family - a man her parents have never met. And if that wasn't upsetting enough, Wednesday confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he has

never done before - keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's 'normal' boyfriend and his parents."

Addison Trail Theatre Director Anna McSweeney said she selected this production because of its flexibility to be performed on stage or in a remote setting to meet requirements with regard to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. She said the cast members started with virtual rehearsals on Zoom to block the scenes and to learn the choreography. They recently were able to start meeting at the school in small groups, following all policies, procedures and guidance in place regarding social distancing, health and cleaning protocols. The performance might look a little different this year - the actors will be wearing masks and will be six feet apart, and the music will be a mix of live singing and prerecorded pieces - but McSweeney and the students are thankful to

be back onstage.

"It has definitely been a challenge, but we're so grateful for this opportunity and for the support from our Board of Education and district and building administration to provide this experience for the students and the community," McSweeney said. "High schools are one of the few places providing theatre right now, and it's remarkable and exciting that we're able to safely allow our students to be onstage this year."

**Addison Trail Theatre presents "The Addams Family Quarantined: A Dramatic Concert Version"**

Credits: Book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice; Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa

Cast list: dupage88.net/site/public/files/?item=5675

When: 7 p.m. on March 12 and 13

Where: The shows will be streamed online at no cost. Follow the steps below to access the performances.

1. Go to dupage88.net/ATMusical2021.

2. Click on "Login" in the upper right corner
  3. Click on "Create Account"
  4. Enter your information
  5. Click on "View Performances"
  6. Select which performance you would like to view and how many tickets you need, and then click on "Purchase Tickets" (NOTE: Tickets are free)
  7. Click on "Add to Cart"
  8. There is an option to make a donation to support the Addison Trail Theatre Booster Club (enter the donation amount, and then click on "Apply") (NOTE: This is optional)
  9. Click on "Checkout Now"
  10. Enter your billing information (NOTE: Tickets are free - you won't be charged)
  11. Click on "Continue"
  12. Click on "Process Order Now"
- For questions or more information: Contact Addison Trail Theatre Director Anna McSweeney at amsweeney@dupage88.net

## Swedish immigrant subject of upcoming talk via ZOOM

Program hosted by Addison Library, Historical Society

Dr. Donald Grossnickle, author and educator, will discuss the research and writing of his newly released book, "My Maja: A Grandson's Tribute" during a joint Addison Historical Society and Addison Public Library free ZOOM program on Thursday, March 18 at 7 p.m.

"My Maja" weaves tradition and truth into an exciting story of the life of a Swedish immigrant to Chicago in the 1920's. Grossnickle details his grandmother's travels, subsequent marriage and her struggles and survival during the Great Depression through historic photos, documents, and personal items found in her keepsake trunk. Maja was no ordinary woman, and Dr. Grossnickle tells you why. Those interested in histor-

ical memoirs, the Great Depression, women's history, and genealogy will gain inspiration and courage to begin researching and writing their own family history.

Dr. Grossnickle is a former Assistant Principal at Addison Trail High School and the author of over 50 published articles and several books. After 15 years of delving into the secrets of his family history, he decided to publish his findings. "My Maja" documents his journey of discovery.

To register for this free program, please go to the Addison Public Library website, addisonlibrary.org, and search the Events tab for Thursday, March 18. For more information, contact the library at 630-543-3617 or the Society at 630-628-1433.

## About 60,000 DuPage County residents have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19

Nearly 200,000 doses have been administered in the county

### STAFF REPORT

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) daily COVID-19 update of Feb. 28 indicated that about 6.44 percent of DuPage County's population has been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus.

According to the IDPH, as of Feb. 28, 59,774 DuPage County residents (out of the county's total reported population of 928,589) had been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The IDPH report from the same day related that a total of 196,518 COVID-19 vaccine doses had been administered to county residents.

The IDPH report from one week earlier—Feb. 21—noted that about 42,250 (about 4.53 percent) of DuPage County's residents had been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus. In the seven days between the Feb. 21 and Feb. 28 updates, therefore, an additional 17,524 county residents became fully vaccinated, according to the IDPH.

The first COVID-19 vaccinations in DuPage County were administered on Dec. 16, 2020.

# Montini students test their knowledge at annual Trivia Night

Students and faculty at Montini Catholic found a creative way to weather the winter blues by enjoying a night of fun, food and facts at the Lasallian high school's 3rd annual Trivia Night on Friday, Feb. 19. Hosted by the school's Student Government, the evening was a rousing success.

Sixteen energetic teams (two playing from home) showed up to test their wits throughout ten grueling categories, all in an attempt to be crowned "Bronco Trivia Night Champs." Winning this year was the four-person team of Heather Sledzinski, Maddie McDowell, Maria Hemmersmeier and Zena Jabir.

"Like many school events during these [COVID-19-regulated] times, we had to be creative and have faith and flexibility in how we executed it," said student government moderator Laura Medina. "All that really changed was the space in which we hosted the event. The cafeteria would've been a tight squeeze, given our school social-distancing guide-

lines and the amount of participants we had, so we moved to the classrooms instead. This switch allowed students to enjoy the feel of friendly competition between friends, classmates, and schoolmates, while also staying safe and respecting our mitigation strategies.

"Thanks to the power of Zoom, a set of Google Slides, a group of talented teachers/moderators and their question-creating abilities, we were able to make it a fun event for everyone. It truly went better than we could have anticipated. I think our students needed something fun and safe to do on a Friday night, and I'm so glad we were able to make that happen for them."

Medina and the members of her Student Government are looking forward to hosting a movie night in March and are also making plans for prom.

"With sports making a roaring return, we anticipate some celebrations to commemorate those seasons as well," she said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing  
The winning team of Montini Catholic's Trivia Night includes (from left): Zena Jabir, Maria Hemmersmeier, Heather Sledzinski and Maddie McDowell. They're pictured here by the "tote" board, showing their winning progress along the top row.

## ATHS names Jina Patel '88's Best' for February

Jina Patel has been named as Addison Trail's February recipient of 88's Best recognition for her outstanding service work. A senior, Jina was recognized during the Feb. 22 District 88 Board of Education meeting.



Jina Patel

Jina is a student who is on everyone's radar at Addison Trail - including with her peers - for all of the amazing things she continues to accomplish. Senior Huda Siddiqui recently requested to meet with administrators to let them know how amazing Patel is and to nominate her for the 88's Best award.

### Service work

Jina has been dedicated to service since she stepped foot inside the doors of Addison Trail, and she has continued on that path all four years of her high school career.

- Jina is a District Lieutenant Governor for the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District of Key Club International, overseeing Key Clubs from Addison Trail, Willowbrook, Glenbard East, Downers Grove South and York high schools.

- Jina's favorite service projects include Feed My Starving Children; blessing bags filled with personal care items, snacks and kindness notes to help those in need; and Paws for a Cause (an animal-friendly adoption fair).

- Breaking the cycle of poverty is a cause close to Jina's heart - her family is from India, and she has seen firsthand the impact poverty can have on children. She is truly dedicated to making sure poverty and hunger do not get in the way of a child's education. She said she draws inspiration from her grandmother, who never learned how to read or write, and she wants to make her grandmother and her parents very proud by performing the best she can.

### Involvement at ATHS

- National Honor Society (where she serves as Co-President)
- International Club
- International Dance Show (where she serves as a dance leader)
- Youth Equity Stewardship (YES!) series (a program to prepare students to

recognize and learn from the diversity around them)

- Student Council
- Class Board
- AT News Channel

### Academic achievements

- Completed 13 Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses (earned As in all of them)
- Completed nine honors courses (earned As in all of them)

### Future plans

After high school, Jina plans to attend college and pursue a career as a doctor. Her top choices include Northwestern University, Washington University and University of Michigan. By choosing medicine as her career, Jina is able to blend her favorite things - her love of science and her love of service.

### Faculty and staff weigh in

"I have had the pleasure of not only working with Jina in Leadership Training as a student last year, but also as the Vice President of National Honor Society and a leader on the district's Youth Equity Stewardship (YES!) series. Jina is a class act and a leader in and out of the classroom. Her dedication to her school and the students is evident in all that she engages in after the final bell rings. I am honored to be able to work beside her in these extracurricular areas."

- Rob Schader, Physical Education Department Head and National Honor Society sponsor

"Jina is amazing! What a bright,

compassionate, focused young woman. She was a joy to have in AP Physics and the National Honor Society. Jina is a role model for her peers and the adults in her life. Truly a brilliant young woman."

- Kira Bonk, science teacher

"I am thrilled Jina is being honored for her amazing legacy of service throughout her years at Addison Trail. As a student in AP Biology last year, Jina's keen intellect and incredible work ethic became apparent from the start. I could always count on her meaningful contributions to class discussions to move us forward. When I started to grasp the full scope of her involvement in extracurriculars and the active leadership roles she held, I often wondered when she slept! Her selfless dedication to making our school a place where all students feel welcome will be her legacy long after she graduates. I stand in awe of all she has accomplished already, and I can't wait to see how her future unfolds. Congratulations, Jina, and thank you for your leadership and service. It was an honor to be one of your teachers."

- Carolyn Erwin, science teacher

"Jina's compassion for humanity is a driving force in everything she does. I know Jina through her visits to the writing center, and she is not only talented in service, but equally gifted in the arts and science, too. Through scholarship and college admission essay drafts, I have learned so much about Jina's family, passions, strengths, vulnerabilities, goals, kindness and intelligence - how they define her and her place in this world. One thing is for certain: Jina will leave a lasting mark on the world of medicine through her endeavors - not only as an empathetic physician, but through her altruistic service to mankind. I will remember Jina by her ambitious and heartfelt words: "Through the challenges of life, my purpose of caring for and healing the sick acts as an indestructible motivator."

- MaryKathryn Maranowicz, Writing Center Assistant

## Fenton's Spring Musical 'Sister Act' is underway

Fenton's music and theater departments hosted auditions a few weeks ago and are getting started with practice for the 2021 spring musical. Directors chose to produce Sister Act, which was supposed to be last year's show but got cancelled due to the pandemic.

Auditions were held on stage in the auditorium. Only one student was allowed in at a time, and they were screened and temperature-checked at the front door. Performance areas were cleaned in-between auditions.

Seredy Williams and George Mussman were excited to see their students again.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing  
Fenton student Aiden Torres belts out a song to impress at an audition for the upcoming spring musical production of "Sister Act." The show was planned for last year, but had to be postponed due to the pandemic.

# Three losses send Warriors to 1-6

Late charge against Leyden falls short; Eagles earn a 53-50 win on Friday in Villa Park

**STAFF REPORT**

The Willowbrook boys basketball team lost three straight games last week. The losses to Proviso East, Leyden and Downers Grove North dropped the Warriors' overall record to 1-6.

Willowbrook's week began with a 57-49 loss at Proviso East on Feb. 23. The two West Suburban Gold Conference teams were tied at 20-20 at half-time, but the Pirates built a 39-35 lead by the end of the third quarter. Proviso East's lead grew to as many as 10 points (46-36) during the fourth quarter.

Junior Marquel Saleek made five field goals, including a pair of 3-point shots, on his way to scoring a team-high 15 points for the Warriors. Saleek

made five of 10 shots from the field and connected on three of four free-throw attempts.

Junior Evan Stubblefield provided nine points for Willowbrook. Stubblefield made three of four free throws for the Warriors, who sank 12 of 14 foul shots during the game. Sophomore Noah Campbell added eight points for the Warriors. Junior Alexander Simmons, who made all four of his free-throw attempts, contributed six points.

Leyden edged the Warriors 53-50 in Friday's game between West Suburban Gold Conference rivals in Villa Park. The visiting Eagles held a 14-7 lead after one quarter. The Warriors cut Ley-

den's lead to 26-22 by halftime. The Eagles, who did not surrender the lead in the second half, held a 39-35 advantage at the end of the third quarter.

Campbell's driving basket early in the fourth quarter cut Leyden's lead to 39-38 with about 6:30 left in the game. The Eagles, who made a pair of 3-point shots and converted all six of their foul shots during the final quarter, responded with an 8-1 run to push their lead to 47-39 with about 4:20 to play.

Baskets from Saleek and Campbell trimmed the Eagles' lead to 47-43. Another basket from Campbell sliced the lead to 47-45 with 1:55 remaining.

Leyden made four straight free

throws to take a 51-45 advantage, but Campbell sank a 3-point shot to reduce the Eagles' lead to 51-48 with less than 40 seconds on the clock.

The Eagles converted a pair of free throws to push their lead to 53-48 with 31.7 seconds to play. Senior Amaris Hughes delivered a basket with about 25 seconds remaining to cut Leyden's lead to 53-50.

Willowbrook stole the ball seconds later, but the Warriors soon missed the front end of a one-and-one free throw. Following a battle for the rebound, the ball went out of bounds, with possession to the Warriors. Willowbrook had a chance to tie the game in the closing seconds, but missed a lengthy 3-point attempt.

Campbell and Hughes both scored 11 points in the loss to the Eagles. Hughes also provided seven rebounds. Saleek, who made all four of his foul shots, added eight points. Junior Terrell Walker delivered six points and a team-leading eight rebounds. Simmons tallied six points and six rebounds.

Saleek made eight of 17 shots from the field and scored a team-leading 21 points in Saturday's loss to Downers Grove North. Saleek made one of four attempts from 3-point range. For the second straight game, he made all four of his free-throw attempts.

The Warriors trailed the Trojans 27-22 at halftime. Downers Grove North unleashed a 24-10 run during the third quarter to extend its lead to 51-32 with eight minutes to play. The Trojans' lead grew to as many as 32 points during the final quarter.

Willowbrook's season continues with this week's West Suburban Gold Conference games against Hinsdale South and Morton.



## Willowbrook girls win two, lose one in recent basketball action

CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls basketball team won two of three games last week. The Warriors beat Proviso East and Leyden during the week. In between those wins, Willowbrook faced Lyons Township in Villa Park on Feb. 24. The visiting Lions defeated the Warriors 57-48. One photo from that game shows Willowbrook senior Taris Thornton (No. 25), who scored a team-leading 18 points. Another photo from the contest shows Willowbrook freshman Calli Kenny (No. 35, foreground) on defense. Willowbrook's other defenders, pictured (left to right) in the background are senior Stephanie Dasbach, senior Gracie Tumilty, junior Sophie Sullivan (No. 11) and Thornton. The Warriors' schedule this week includes games against Hinsdale South and Morton. Willowbrook will complete its abbreviated season on March 13. See story on page 17.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's boys basketball team lost 53-50 to Leyden on Friday night in Villa Park. The Warriors trailed throughout the second half, but kept the game close until the closing seconds. Sophomore Noah Campbell (No. 25) scored 11 points for the Warriors. He scored nine points during the fourth period, when he made four baskets, including a 3-point shot. Senior Amaris Hughes (No. 10) also scored 11 points for Willowbrook. Friday's loss moved the Warriors' record to 1-5. Willowbrook dropped to 1-6 with Saturday's loss at Downers Grove North.