

THE INDEPENDENT

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District 88 names new AP at Addison Trail

Michael Warren takes role of assistant of curriculum and instruction

During its April 12 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education approved the administration's recommendation to name Michael Warren as Addison Trail's new Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction, effective July 1.



Michael Warren

Warren will succeed Assistant Principal Dr. Courtney DeMent, who will transition to the role of Principal at Downers Grove North High School.

Warren is a familiar face to District 88, as he has been a science teacher at Willowbrook since 2002.

Warren is a familiar face to District 88, as he has been a science teacher at Willowbrook since 2002. During that time, Warren has demonstrated leadership in his role as a

classroom teacher and in his union positions. He was instrumental in the design and implementation of the science department's curriculum and assessment program; he built a successful Advanced Placement (AP) college-level biology program, increasing enrollment from 12 students to more than 70; and he coauthored the student growth portion of District 88's Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) and Willowbrook's Warrior Time resource model. Outside of District 88, Warren collaborated with educators throughout Illinois to create the Illinois Science Assessment. Beyond the classroom, Warren has coached the Willowbrook Football Team and the Boys Track and Field Team and has sponsored the Willowbrook Science Olympiad Team.

"Mr. Warren has been part of the culture at District 88 for nearly 20 years, and we couldn't be more excited to welcome him to the Addison Trail family as one of our assistant

principals," said Michael Bolden, AT principal. "His knowledge, skills and passion will be a tremendous asset to ensure the Blazer Pride at Addison Trail continues for years to come."

Warren earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Illinois State University, his Master of Science in Education degree from Northern Illinois University and his Master of Science in Biology degree from University of Nebraska.

He is pursuing his Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree from Concordia University.

"I couldn't be more pleased with the Board's support to appoint Mr. Warren to this position," said Dr. Jean Barbanente, District 88 Interim Superintendent. "His inclusive and culturally responsive instructional and grading practices have served as exemplary models for how to accelerate the learning of students who are accessing more rigorous courses for the first time. I am confident he will

add immense value to the Addison Trail and District 88 administrative teams."

Warren lives in Wheaton with his wife, Maura, and their children, Audra, Bernie and Tabitha.

"I am honored and excited to join the exceptional staff at Addison Trail," Warren said. "I look forward to continuing the work the school and district have done in raising student achievement, while ensuring every student graduates college, career and culturally ready for their life beyond the classroom. I intend to be a collaborative member of the school team, working closely with teachers to link their curriculum, instruction and assessment practices to help them bring out the best in students each and every day. I truly believe in educating the whole student and look forward to helping the school continue to improve with social-emotional learning, equity and culturally responsive teaching practices."

SPORTS

APRIL 22, 2021 •

Warriors close out home season with a win over Morton

Brown delivers four touchdown runs in a 49-19 victory

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook football team played its third and final home game of its abbreviated season on Friday night. The Warriors beat Morton 49-19 to improve to 4-1.

Willowbrook earned its victory over Morton one week after suffering its first loss of the season—a 25-23 setback at York.

The Warriors were supposed to finish the spring season with this Friday's game at Proviso East. Issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, have sidelined the Pirates, along with a few other West Suburban Conference teams, during the current season. At the beginning of this week, the Warriors were searching for an alternate opponent for their April 23 season finale.

"It's been a bizarre year," said Willowbrook head coach Nick Hildreth after Friday's win. "This whole group of kids has endured a lot over the last year and change. They've handled it so well. They've played so hard. It's fun to be a part of."

Willowbrook scored three first-quarter touchdowns to take an early 21-0 lead over Morton. The Warriors' lead grew to 35-0 in the second quarter. The Mustangs scored a touchdown in the final minute of the second period to cut Willowbrook's halftime lead to 35-7.

The Warriors scored a pair of third-quarter touchdowns to build a 49-7 lead. The advantage of at least 40 points triggered a running clock for the remainder of the game.

Senior Rajee Bey-Moore scored Willowbrook's first touchdown of the

night on a 16-yard run with 10:21 left in the opening quarter. Junior Josh Brown broke a 36-yard touchdown run later in the first quarter to push the lead to 13-0. Junior Izabelle Manning added the second of her seven extra-point kicks to raise the lead to 14-0. Brown added one more touchdown run—a 22-yard burst—in the opening quarter.

Junior Evan Stubblefield scored on a 6-yard touchdown run to extend Willowbrook's lead to 27-0 in the second quarter. Brown's third touchdown of the game—a 5-yard run—raised the lead to 34-0 with about three minutes left in the first half.

Morton scored its only touchdown of the first half moments after the Warriors failed to execute a clean snap on a punt play. Morton's drive began inside Willowbrook's 5-yard line. The Mustangs then scored on a 1-yard touchdown run. The extra-point kick cut the Warriors' lead to 35-7.

Brown's fourth touchdown run of the night—a 3-yard run with more than nine minutes to play in the third quarter—helped the Warriors build their lead to 42-7.

Through five games, Brown has scored 19 touchdowns.

Bey-Moore delivered his second touchdown of the night on a 38-yard run that extended the lead to 48-7. Manning's kick gave the Warriors a 49-7 lead with 7:01 left in the third quarter.

Morton scored a touchdown late in the third quarter to reduce Willowbrook's lead to 49-13. The Mustangs closed out the scoring with a 37-yard touchdown run with 1:07 left in the game.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Public

The Willowbrook football team played its third and final home game of the spring season on Friday. The Warriors defeated Morton 49-19 to improve to 4-1. Junior Josh Brown (No. 31, pictured above) scored four rushing touchdowns in Friday's victory. Through five games, Brown has run for 19 touchdowns. Junior Evan Stubblefield (No. 9, pictured below) delivered a touchdown run in the second quarter. The Warriors are hoping to complete their spring season with a game this week. They were originally scheduled to play Proviso East this Friday, but the Pirates have been sidelined by concerns related to COVID-19. Willowbrook is hoping to find an alternate opponent to face this week.



Warriors move to 5-0 in West Suburban Gold Conference

Last week's three victories leave Willowbrook one win away from a perfect WSGC season

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls volleyball team improved to 7-2 overall and 5-0 in West Suburban Gold Conference play with last week's 25-10, 25-14 victory over Addison Trail in Villa Park.

The Warriors honored the team's seniors immediately after the April 15 win over the Blazers. Willowbrook will finish its abbreviated spring season this week.

Junior Katie Linnig provided 11 assists, six digs and one ace for the Warriors in the match against their District 88 rival. Freshman Calli Kenny delivered nine kills, 10 digs and one assist. Senior Grace Reckamp bashed nine kills and added five assists and two digs. Junior Elizabeth

Bruschuk contributed 11 digs, three assists and one ace. Senior Ti Thornton had two blocks and one kill.

Willowbrook's seniors are: Stephanie Dasbach, Noelle Faulk, team manager Lindsey King, Alejandra Lopez Sahagun, Reckamp and Thornton. Each senior walked to center of the court with her teammates to greet head coach in Mason during the post-match ceremony.

The Warriors began last week's action with a 25-10, 25-4 conference win over Proviso East. Linnig had 15 assists, six aces and two digs the April 12 match. Reckamp had

See WARRIORS Page 1

•Warriors (Continued from page 14)

seven kills and five assists, while Kenny provided five kills and seven digs. Dasbach connected for six kills,

while Bruschuk contributed eight kills and five assists, while Kenny provided five kills and seven digs. Dasbach connected for six kills,

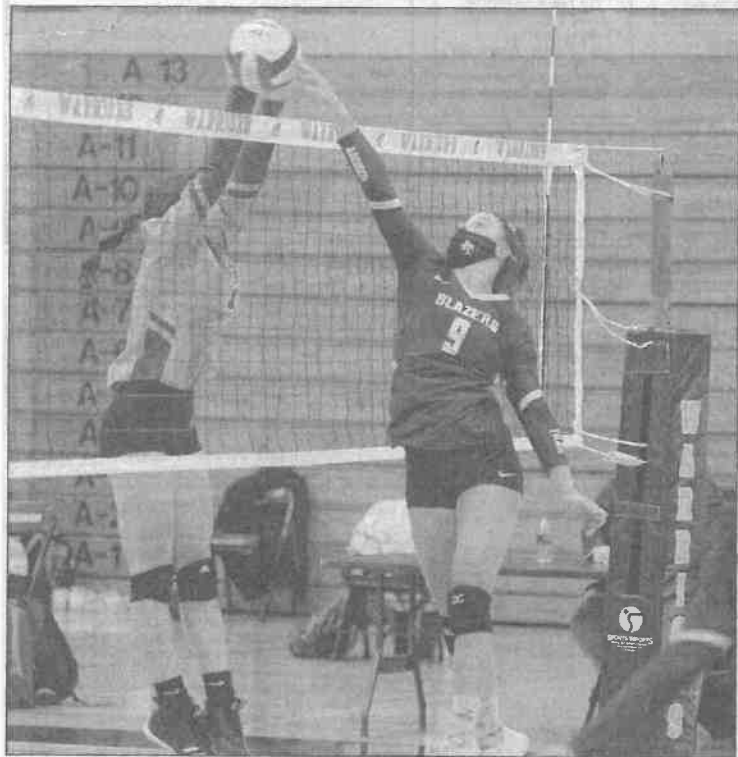
One day after beating Proviso East, Willowbrook earned a 25-20, 25-9 conference victory over Leyden. Junior Kyla Ostrowski hit six kills against the Eagles. Linnig had 11 assists, five aces, two kills and two digs. Thornton provided three kills and three blocks, while Bruschuk made 11 digs. Dasbach had five kills, while sophomore Natalie Cipriano delivered four kills. Kenny had three kills and four digs. Reckamp contributed five assists, three digs and two kills.

The Warriors will wrap up their season with this week's matches against Proviso West, Hinsdale South and Hinsdale Central. A victory over Hinsdale South would complete an undefeated season against West Suburban Gold Conference opponents.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls volleyball team moved to 5-0 in West Suburban Gold Conference play with last week's 25-10, 25-14 win over Addison Trail in Villa Park. The Warriors are completing their shortened spring season this week. Willowbrook can complete an undefeated West Suburban Gold Conference season with a home victory over Hinsdale South. The Warriors enter the final week of the season with an overall record of 7-2. The Warriors honored their seniors after the win over Addison Trail. The seniors are pictured above with head coach Irene Mason. Pictured left to right are: Grace Reckamp, Stephanie Dasbach, Noelle Faulk, Mason, Alejandra Lopez Sahagun, Taris Thornton and team manager Lindsey King. A photo from the match against the Blazers shows Reckamp (No. 14-above right) sending the ball over the net.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Blazer battles at the net

Junior Juliana Nasti (No. 9, right) of the Addison Trail girls volleyball team is pictured during last week's match at Willowbrook. Nasti and Willowbrook senior Noelle Faulk (left) are shown during the opening game of the April 15 match in Villa Park. The Warriors defeated Addison Trail 25-10, 25-14.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Season opener

The Willowbrook baseball team, which did not play in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, opened its 2021 season with last week's West Suburban Gold Conference game against Downers Grove South. The visiting Mustangs defeated Willowbrook 7-0 in the April 13 contest in Villa Park. The game was scoreless at the end of six innings. The Mustangs then erupted for seven runs in the top of the seventh inning. Junior Max Vaisvila was Willowbrook's starting pitcher in the game. He pitched four scoreless innings, allowing one hit. Sophomore Alex Chaltin is pictured while pitching in the fifth inning. Chaltin pitched a scoreless fifth inning, while senior Jacob Cieslak worked a scoreless sixth inning on the mound. The Warriors fell to 0-2 after a 12-2 loss at Downers Grove South on April 14. Willowbrook won the third game of its series with the Mustangs, prevailing 5-4 on April 15 in Downers Grove. Cieslak pitched the last five innings of the game, allowing no runs and three hits. He struck out six batters.

Villa Park REVIEW

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CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

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Willowbrook High School's girls' volleyball team completed an undefeated season in West Suburban Gold Conference play with last week's 26-24, 25-27, 25-18 victory over Hinsdale South in Villa Park. The Warriors finished their conference season with a 6-0 record. Hinsdale South ended the conference season with a 4-2 mark. Willowbrook head coach Irene Mason noted that this is the Warriors' first conference title in girls' volleyball in over 10 years. One day after beating Hinsdale South, Willowbrook completed its abbreviated spring season with a non-conference victory at Hinsdale Central. The Warriors opened the season with two straight losses, but proceeded to win their next 10 matches to close the season with an overall record of 10-2. The members of the Willowbrook team, pictured (left to right) after the win over Hinsdale South, are: (front row) Junior Elizabeth Bruschuk, senior Alejandra Lopez Sahagun, Junior Madlynn Hoffman, Junior Katie Linnig, sophomore Natalie Cipriano and senior Noelle Faulk; (back row) Coach Mason, Junior Kyla Ostrowski, sophomore Hope Reckamp, senior Taris Thornton, senior Stephanie Dasbach, senior Grace Reckamp, freshman Calli Kenny and senior team manager Lindsey King. For more about the Warriors, see Page 14.

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District 88 names Barbanente as new superintendent

Will be the district's first superintendent to speak multiple languages; also first female

By Dee Longfellow
FOR ROCK VALLEY PUBLISHING
At Monday's District 88 Board of Education meeting, board president Donna Craft Cain recommended that the board take action to appoint Interim Superintendent Dr. Jean Barbanente as the district's new superintendent.

"As we reflect on this past year, it's difficult to not be overwhelmed by the amount of hardships we have all faced," Cain said in a statement released prior to Monday night's board meeting. "From the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic; to social unrest; to losing a true leader, education ambassador and friend in our Superintendent Dr. Scott Helton, this has been a surreal and devastating year to say the least."

"Without hesitation, Dr. Barbanente stepped up to lead the district during one of the most challenging and unprecedented times in public education and in our history. She not only continued with the duties of her position as assistant superintendent, but she took on the role of interim superintendent as well."

Barbanente has been with District 88 for more than 25 years and worked side by side with previous superintendents Helton and Steve

Humphrey. Cain said, "I have every confidence she will maintain the tradition of excellence that has been established here at District 88, as she has a consistent record of increasing rigorous academic opportunities for students, expanding social-emotional supports, cultivating inclusive environments at our schools, building strong stakeholder partnerships/relationships and championing equity," she said. "Our vision at District 88 is to prepare students to be college, career and culturally ready, and Dr. Barbanente has been at the core of that work."

"She co-facilitates the DuPage County Equity and Excellence Committee and implemented our efforts with equity, culturally responsive teaching, trauma-informed practices and restorative practices. She also helped develop the District 88 C.A.R.E. Team (Committed to Academics, Resiliency and Equity)."

"At District 88, we are proud to have a diverse school community—we have about 40 languages and

more than 30 countries represented among our families, and almost half of the nearly 4,000 students at District 88 speak a language other than English at home. Dr. Barbanente truly embraces and welcomes this diversity and advocates to support all of our students, staff and community members. She would be the first District 88 Superintendent to speak multiple languages (English, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese)."

More about Jean Barbanente

Barbanente also serves on the Illinois Advisory Council for Bilingual Education and is a member of the Village of Addison Sister Cities program with Triggiano, Italy, where Addison hosts students from Triggiano, and Addison Trail students travel to Italy.

She joined District 88 in 1995 as a member of the World Language Department at Addison Trail, where she taught Italian and Spanish. In 2002, Barbanente transitioned to her first leadership role in District 88 as she took on the position of Director of Guidance at Addison Trail. In 2006, she was named as director of Learning Services and was later appointed as assistant superintendent. She has since provided leadership in the ar-

reas of teaching, learning, human resources, compliance, equity, special education and Pupil Personnel Services (PPS).

After receiving her bachelor's degree in secondary education with an emphasis on teaching Italian and Spanish from Dominican University (Rosary College), Barbanente earned her Master of Arts in Education degree in curriculum and instruction with ESL and bilingual concentration from National Louis University. She completed her administrative and superintendent Licensure program at Concordia University and received her doctorate in educational leadership from Aurora University, concentrating her research efforts in leadership for equity.

Barbanente and her husband, Anthony, have two college-age children and two dogs. The family enjoys traveling and participating in international missions and youth trips.

"Dr. Barbanente would be District 88's first female superintendent," Cain noted. "With her extensive background, knowledge and passion, I know Dr. Barbanente will help lead our district to accomplish our mission of working for the continuous improvement of student achievement."

District begins spring prescription burn season

Specially trained crews carry out burns in spring and fall

In coming weeks, specially trained crews from the DuPage Forest Preserve District will be conducting prescription burns at selected sites in the county's preserves.

Prescription burns are considered an effective natural resource management tool for restoring native prairies, wetlands and woodlands.

Prescription burns generally take place in the early spring before new vegetation emerges and in late fall after the season's vegetation has died. The forest preserve district's first purposefully set, controlled burn was conducted at Churchill Woods in Glen Ellyn in the mid-1970s.

Conducting prescription burns depends on the daily weather and other factors, so the district cannot schedule them in advance. Residents who live near planned burn locations receive notices in the mail, and on the morning of a burn, crews post signs and contact local fire departments.

Specially trained crews remain

on the site throughout the process, which takes place only during daylight hours. If these factors are not present, the public should call 911 because they may be witnessing a wildfire.

"Fire is an important tool in our restoration toolbox," said Erik Neidy, forest preserve district director of Natural Resources. "Prescription burns help us control invasive exotic plants so desirable native species with deep root systems can thrive."

Prescription burns are not to be confused with the catastrophic, uncontrolled wildfires that occur in the dense coniferous forests of the West, where an overabundance of flamma-

ble materials builds up and often enables fires to burn at extremely high temperatures and spread uncontrollably from treetop to treetop.

"Our oak and hickory woodlands in the Midwest do not provide the same type of fuel to cause the wildfires we see in the news," Neidy said. "Prairies and forests used to burn regularly and were essential to the American landscape before the land was developed with homes and farms. We are bringing fire back to safely re-create what nature once did on its own."

To learn more about prescription burns, watch "Why We Burn" and "How We Burn" videos, or visit the District's prescription burn webpage.

Obituary

**DEANNA MARIE
LAPIDUS, 53**

Deanna Marie LaPapus, nee Scavone, age 53, of Lombard. Beloved wife of the late Alan LaPapus; loving mother of Brianna (Robert Nolte) Scavone; dear daughter of Carol Scavone, nee Schlechter, and the late Raymond Scavone; dear sister of Raymond Scavone Jr.; fond aunt of Taylor and Tori Scavone; friend and relative of many. Deanna was raised in Lombard, IL, which has a special place in her heart. She loved to cheer on the Cubs, Bears, and Hawks. She spent most of her free time walking her dog, Gracie, around the Lagoon with her mother, Carol. If she wasn't at home, she was enjoying quality time at her daughter's house or gathering with her closest friends. She was the most thoughtful, loving, and friendly person. She cared more about others than she did herself. No matter what life threw at her, she always lit up the room. Her smile, bubbly personality, and great laugh were completely contagious. She truly loved her job as it allowed her to embrace her love for good conversation and to radiate positivity to all those around her. Deanna, a friend to all.

Villa Park's 2021 Spring Sweep recycling and shredding event takes place May 15

Drive-through event is free to Villa Park residents, except for fees for paint recycling

Villa Park's Community Pride Commission is joining the Villa Park Environmental Concerns Commission to hold the 2021 Villa Park Spring Sweep recycling and shredding drop-off event from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 15.

The drive-through Spring Sweep will take place on Home Avenue, near Villa Park Village Hall. Traffic will enter from Harvard Avenue, heading north, and exit onto Ardmore Avenue. Entrance onto Harvard from St. Charles Road will be prohibited during the event.

Participants will recycle from the safety of their vehicles by driving to

different stations on Home Avenue. Volunteers will collect and remove items from vehicles for disposal. Masks are required. Attendees are asked to remain in their vehicles at all times. Please load all items into your vehicle's trunk or hatchback, if possible.

The event is free to Villa Park residents, but a fee will apply for residents who drop off paint for recycling. While non-residents are welcome, they will have to pay additional fees for document shredding (\$10) and electronics recycling (\$20), in addition to the paint recycling fees.

Accepted items include adult

bikes, hardcover and paperback books, used clothing and shoes, small appliances in working order, full and discharged fire extinguishers, old and tattered American flags, eyeglasses, hearing aids, paint, computers, monitors, printers, household batteries, digital cameras and cell phones.

The document shredding offers a limit of three banker boxes per household.

No stains, solvents, cleaning products or pesticides will be accepted.

For more information, or to volunteer for the event, send an email to the village's community pride commission at pride@invillepark.com.



As far as Derek Chauvin, he should get life, but that won't happen. But whatever sentence he does get should be without parole. Thank you.

I think justice was served in the George Floyd case. Derek Chauvin belongs behind bars. The demonstrations organized last year supporting George Floyd in cities and communities across the country had my support, as long as they were peaceful. Having said all this, why is it that we never see mass demonstrations organized to protest the shootings and killings that occur every weekend on the south and west sides of Chicago? The vast majority of these victims are Black. Don't their lives matter, too?

Hi, I just read the Speak Out call about a woman wearing her mask while walking outside and this person was mocking her and making fun of her. I also saw another one elsewhere, someone commenting on a person wearing a mask in their car and making fun of that as well. I'm not sure why anyone would make fun of another person's caution or why we even need to comment on it. Everyone has a different thought on how cautious to be and I don't think we need to add to the dialogue by laughing at other people. Thank you, bye-bye.

I am so sad to say there is a restaur-

ant in Villa Park which has a menu on their website, but when you go to check out, every item is \$3-\$4 more than when you "add to cart." I hope that everyone is cautious when you order online. The restaurant says "we are trying to get it changed."

Anyone else getting frustrated with so-called "experts" on what to do with and without the COVID-19 vaccines? A year and a half ago nobody ever heard of COVID-19; how did all these people become experts on something nobody in the past 100 years has had to deal with? These "experts" know not what they talk about. They are sending mixed messages and involving politics in their decision. Enough of this. Open everything up and let's get our lives back. And shame on the teacher unions for holding our children hostage all the while they are getting full pay and keep making demands and moving the goal posts.

I can think of several U.S. Representatives and Senators from both political parties that have held public office for too long, and Maxine Waters is one of them. Read up sometime on the vile and divisive rhetoric she's spewed during her 16 terms (32 years) in Congress, going back to the Rodney King verdict and the Los Angeles riots in 1992, all the way through to the Derek Chauvin verdict. That's her claim to

fame. It's certainly not her record as a legislator.

For those who object to Democrats in office, people vote them in because the GOP has repeatedly failed to not only work in a bipartisan manner but obstructs any effort made to address problems that affect all Americans. Gun violence, immigration reform, healthcare, infrastructure improvements; nothing was addressed in the last four years and no effort will be made until they start putting country over party.

I hope everyone enjoyed Earth Day 2021. I'd like to remind everyone how wrong the climate fanatics have been over the years. According to some of these so-called experts, our planet was supposed to run out of food and oil more than 40 years ago. Just remember how wrong some of the experts have been when they tell you we've only got a few years left to "save the planet" and bow to their radical demands.

This is in response to the person, believing himself or herself to be witty and humorous, who made the comment about the woman in a mask walking her dog. You are not witty and humorous. Maybe that woman was my daughter, fortunate to have received a kidney transplant. Transplant patients are told to wear a mask unless home. Perhaps it was my neighbor going through chemo, also told to wear masks. Has Trumpism removed all vestiges of humanity, understanding and empathy? It saddens me to know people as uncompassionate and hateful as you live in this community. The Review needs to stop printing these senseless and hurtful comments.

The Democrats have bankrupted Illinois, Chicago and Cook County. I think they are pushing anti-Americanism in the schools, they are handcuffing the police as violent crime soars and they are encouraging illegal immigrants to come here. So, I ask my fellow DuPageans, is this what you want

for DuPage County? Please do your homework before voting as the Democrats are intent on controlling this county and every school in it.

Can somebody please tell me why nobody seems to believe they have to stop at stop signs? And I'd say 70 percent of the ones I see are the new woke generation. They don't care what

anybody says. Let's not do anything about it.

I heard the Oscars were on Sunday night. I didn't watch a second of it. Why? For the same reason I don't watch late night talk shows such as Jimmy Kimmel and Stephen Colbert. It's become a forum for leftists to rant.

Conroy supports mental health legislation

Taking a stand for those encountering substance use disorders, state Rep. Deb Conroy, D-Villa Park, is supporting legislation in the House Mental Health Committee which expands coverage to critical access to care.

"We cannot afford to stand idly by while the victims of substance use disorders continue to struggle simply because coverage to resources they desperately need is inadequate," said Conroy, chair of the House Mental Health Committee. "As an advocate for mental health and those confronting substance use, I'm acutely aware of inequities that exist in our system that do not go far enough to help the most vulnerable. That is why I'm sponsoring a bill which demands more from insurance providers, establishes access to grant dollars, and expands access to prescription drugs."

Conroy's House Bill 2589 amends

the Substance Use Disorder Act by expanding commercial insurance coverage to addiction treatment medication while also opening the door to grant funds that will enable victims to receive better access to treatment.

Conroy's legislation would help increase distribution of opioid antagonists, expand access to peer recovery specialists, provide housing public health fairs, promote harm reduction activities and provide connections to community partners.

"There are countless victims whose livelihoods would drastically improve if this bill is signed into law," said Conroy. "It is critically important that we meet this moment in order to continue forging a path forward for those most in need."

Editor's note: This was submitted by the office of State Rep. Deb Conroy.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Advocating for support

To continue his commitment to advocate for people with developmental disabilities, state Sen. Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park) recently met with members of the Ray Graham Association. "I had a great time meeting with Christian from the Ray Graham Association today. I always enjoy getting the opportunity to meet with local Ray Graham participants. The work Ray Graham does and the services they provide are essential for the disability community in the 23rd District and DuPage County," Cullerton said. "I will continue to make this community a priority as we work to pass a budget and various pieces of legislation aimed at supporting organizations like the Ray Graham Association." The Ray Graham Association, which was founded in 1950, now serves over 2,000 people with disabilities and employs nearly 350 people. It believes in a person-centered approach to care and community, and provides people with disabilities and their families an array of services that cater to their individual needs, strengths and dreams. "After this unprecedented year, support for this community is more important than ever," Cullerton said. "I hope to continue meeting with organizations like the Ray Graham Association to learn how I can best advocate for the funding and support they need." To support people with disabilities, Cullerton is co-sponsoring Senate Bill 1787, which would expand and accelerate state support services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Taking flight

Willowbrook's dance team delivered its final halftime performance of the 2020-21 school year during the April 16 home football game against Morton. This year's dance team features two seniors—Katie Kramme (left) and Natasha Daum (center)—who are pictured (in white shirts) during the April 16 performance.

SPORTS

APRIL 29, 2021 •

Warriors finish a special season in style

Willowbrook captures WSGC title with a perfect 6-0 record; team wins its last 10 matches

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls volleyball team completed an undefeated West Suburban Gold Conference season with last week's exciting three-game victory over Hinsdale South. The win over the Hornets gave the Warriors sole possession of the conference title with a perfect 6-0 record.

Willowbrook defeated the visiting Hornets 26-24, 25-27, 25-18 in the April 21 showdown in Villa Park. The Warriors entered the match with a conference record of 5-0, having beaten Morton, Downers Grove South, Proviso East, Leyden and Addison Trail. Hinsdale South entered the confrontation with Willowbrook with a conference mark of 4-1. The Hornets lost a conference match to Morton earlier in the season.

"Hinsdale South is always a strong team; I knew it was going to be a tough battle," said Willowbrook coach Irene Mason after the Warriors' win over the Hornets. "My girls played

great. I'm very proud of them. They just came out every night and worked hard together. They did something that hasn't been done in a long time."

Mason just completed her fourth season as the Warriors' varsity coach. During her previous three seasons, Willowbrook placed fourth in the conference standings. Before becoming the varsity coach, Mason spent a few years coaching the Warriors' lower-level teams. She said it's been at least 10 years since the Willowbrook girls volleyball program has won a conference title at the varsity level.

"It's very exciting, and a great accomplishment," she said. "From the beginning of the season, we said our goal was to be conference champions. We thought we had the group to do it. It feels good to win it all. These girls have come a long way."

One day after beating Hinsdale South, the Warriors finished their abbreviated spring season with a 25-15, 25-16 non-conference win

at Hinsdale Central—a West Suburban Silver Conference team. That victory gave the Warriors a final overall record of 10-2. Willowbrook closed its season with 10 straight victories. The Warriors opened the season with three-game losses to a pair of West Suburban Silver Conference teams—Lyons Township and Glenbard West.

The Warriors' April 21 home match against Hinsdale South featured thrilling finishes in each of the first two games. The Hornets had a game point (24-23) in the first game, but Willowbrook reeled off three straight points to prevail 26-24.

The Warriors built a 16-12 lead in the second game, but the Hornets rallied to tie the score at 18-18. The teams were tied at 21-21 before Willowbrook won two straight points to take a 23-21 advantage and pull to within two points of winning the match. The Hornets, however, won three consecutive points to grab a 24-23 lead. Willowbrook fought off a pair of game points before the Hornets claimed their 27-25 triumph in the second game to even the match and force a decisive third game.

With Willowbrook junior Katie Linnig serving, the Warriors won the first eight points of the third game to take an 8-0 lead. The lead grew to 15-4, and later swelled to 22-7. Hinsdale South did not go down quietly at the end of the third game. The Hornets won seven straight points to cut the Warriors' lead to 22-14. Willowbrook won the next point, but Hinsdale South responded by winning four straight points to trim the lead to 23-18.

The Warriors won the next point to take a 24-18 lead and move within one point of the victory. Junior Elizabeth Bruschuk of Willowbrook then served at match point. The Warriors won the point to end the match.

Freshman Calli Kenny recorded 11 kills, 22 digs, one assist and one ace for the Warriors

in their hard-earned win over Hinsdale South. Senior Grace Reckamp, playing the final match of her four-year varsity career with Warriors, provided 10 kills, nine assists, blocks and two aces. Senior Stephanie Dabach delivered nine blocks, six kills and digs.

Bruschuk piled up 28 digs against the Hornets; she also had two assists and one ace. She contributed 10 assists, eight digs, two and an ace. Junior Kyla Ostrowski supplied four kills, two blocks, one dig and one ace. Reckamp tallied eight kills, seven digs

See WARRIORS, Page 2



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls volleyball team completed a perfect 6-0 West Suburban Gold Conference season with last week's three-game win over Hinsdale South in Villa Park. The Warriors edged the visiting Hornets 26-24, 25-27, 25-18. Willowbrook head coach Irene Mason noted after the match that the Warriors had not won a conference title in girls volleyball in over 10 years. One photo (above) from the Warriors' April 21 victory over Hinsdale South shows seniors Grace Reckamp (No. 14) and Stephanie Dabach (No. 15). Another photo (right) shows freshman Calli Kenny (No. 6). One more photo (far right) shows junior Elizabeth Bruschuk keeping the ball in play. One day after beating Hinsdale South, the Warriors finished their season with a win at Hinsdale Central. Willowbrook opened its spring season with two straight losses. The Warriors won their next 10 matches to finish the season with an overall record of 10-2.



Warriors finally return to the field

Dooley fires a no-hitter in season opener

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls softball team opened its 2021 season with Friday's 12-0, five-inning victory over Morton in a West Suburban Gold Conference game in Villa Park.

The contest marked the Willowbrook softball program's first game since 2019. The Warriors, like many other high school athletic teams, had

their 2020 season wiped out by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're all thankful to be back out here again," said Willowbrook coach Rachel Karos after the win over Morton. "I think the attitude this year is just to have fun, stay positive and be thankful that we get to play."

Karos said the Warriors are currently planning to play 23 games during the regular season. Those games will be played entirely against teams in the West Suburban Gold and

Silver Conferences. The Warriors are a member of the seven-team Gold Conference. This year's softball season will also include a traditional IHSA post-season tournament.

Senior Caroline Dooley pitched a no-hitter in Friday's season opener against Morton. Dooley, who recorded 12 strikeouts, nearly fired a perfect game. She retired the first 14 batters in order. A Morton hitter reached base on an error with two outs in the fifth inning. Dooley struck out the next batter to end the game.

The Warriors scored one first-inning run against the Mustangs. Willowbrook erupted for nine runs in the

second inning. Senior Grace Chambers hit a pair of two-run singles in the inning to drive in four runs.

Junior Kayla Neff hit a towering two-run home run over the left-field fence in the bottom of the third inning to account for the Warriors' final two runs.

One day after beating Morton, Willowbrook dropped to 1-1 with a 5-2 loss at Lyons Township—a West Suburban Silver Conference team. The Lions connected for only three hits in the game, but two of those hits were home runs.

Neff pitched the first four innings for the Warriors. She struck out 10

batters and allowed two hits, both of which were home runs.

Junior Caitlyn Kulczyski pitched two innings for the Warriors. She struck out three batters and allowed two runs.

Kulczyski, who was Willowbrook's leadoff batter, went 3-for-4 and scored the Warriors' second run of the game in the fifth inning.

Junior Grace Hayes provided Willowbrook's first run against the Lions when she hit a solo home run in the top of the second inning.

Willowbrook's schedule this week includes games against Leyden, Addison Trail and Glenbard West.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Willowbrook softball team, which did not play in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, opened its 2021 season with Friday's 12-0, five-inning win over Morton in Villa Park. Senior pitcher Caroline Dooley (No. 3-left) fired a no-hitter for the Warriors. She struck out 12 batters and didn't allow any walks over five innings. Dooley almost pitched a perfect game; she retired 14 straight batters before a Morton batter reached on an error with two outs in the fifth inning. Another photo shows Willowbrook junior Kayla Neff (No. 54-above) arriving at home plate after hitting a two-run home run in the third inning. The Warriors fell to 1-1 following Saturday's 5-2 loss at Lyons Township.

Warriors sweep Pirates

The Willowbrook baseball team swept a three-game West Suburban Gold Conference series against Proviso East last week. The Warriors, who opened the 2021 season by winning one of three games in a conference series against Downers Grove South, ended last week with a record of 4-2. Willowbrook defeated Proviso East 8-0 on April 19 in Villa Park. The Warriors earned another 8-0 win over the Pirates on April 22 at Proviso East. Willowbrook completed the three-game sweep by beating the Pirates 11-1 in Saturday's five-inning game in Villa Park. Junior Max Valsvila joined two other Willowbrook pitchers to throw a no-hitter in the first game of the series against Proviso East. Valsvila struck out 11 batters and allowed two walks in five and two-thirds innings. Senior Sean Nilles and junior Owen Pierce each pitched two-thirds of an inning for the Warriors. Senior Jacob Cieslak (pictured) pitched six and one-third innings in Willowbrook's April 22 victory at Proviso East. Cieslak gave up one hit. He recorded 10 strikeouts and allowed three walks. Willowbrook junior Jacob Skinner pitched four innings in Saturday's victory. Skinner allowed one hit and one run. He struck out five batters. Senior David Rojo pitched a scoreless fifth inning for the Warriors. Junior Jacob Kutella went 3-for-3 with three doubles in Saturday's game. He drove in three runs. Senior Matt Gillono and sophomore Alex Chaitin both drove in two runs. The Warriors will play a three-game series this week against a West Suburban Silver Conference team—Hinsdale Central.



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

• Warriors

(Continued from page 14)

assists, three blocks and an ace in the April 22 season finale at Hinsdale Central. Linnig had 14 assists, five digs and one ace, while Kenny provided seven kills, five digs and three aces. Bruschuk had 10 digs, three assists and an ace, while Dasbach made four kills and three blocks.

The conference title and the 10-match winning streak to end the season highlighted a brief, highly successful and unique season for the Warriors, who normally play during the fall season. In one of the many changes related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IHSA moved girls volleyball from the fall to the spring season during the current 2020-21 school year. The shortened spring season did not include any playoffs.

The Warriors played 36 matches during their previous full season in

the fall of 2019, going 20-16. The state's 2020-21 girls volleyball season may have been pushed from the fall of 2020 to the spring of 2021, and it may have been one-third as long as a typical campaign, but the Warriors made the most of it.

"We're all so grateful," said Mason. "I'm just happy these girls had the opportunity to play and have a season."

The Warriors began last week's play with a 25-3, 25-6 non-conference win at Proviso West—a West Suburban Silver Conference team—on April 20. Linnig had 13 assists in that match, while Kenny connected for 10 kills. Reckamp had six kills, six assists and five aces. Bruschuk provided four digs and five aces, while Dasbach hit three kills. Senior Alejandra Lopez Sahagun made four digs.

Warriors open season with a pair of decisive wins

Tumilty scores seven goals against Eagles and Blazers

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls soccer team began its 2021 season with last week's pair of 5-1 home victories

against West Suburban Gold Conference opponents. The Warriors earned a 5-1 win over Leyden on April 19. Three days later, Willowbrook beat

Addison Trail 5-1.

Last week's match against Leyden marked the Willowbrook program's first contest since 2019. The Warriors' entire 2020 season was wiped out by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senior Gracie Tumilty scored seven goals in Willowbrook's first two victories. Tumilty delivered four goals against Leyden. She tacked on three more goals against the Blazers.

"It's a different breed of athlete when you're talking about her," said Willowbrook coach Julio Del Real of Tumilty, who will play soccer at Carroll College. "She's a special young lady who just goes all out and does everything that she can to make sure the team does as well as possible."

Even if the Warriors had been able to play a 2020 season, Tumilty would have missed the entire campaign due to a knee injury she suffered during the fall of 2019. She made up for lost time with her seven-goal output in her first two matches of Willowbrook's 2021 season, which will feature 14 regular-season contests, followed by the IHSA state playoffs.

Leyden scored the opening goal in the April 19 match against the Warriors. Tumilty then scored two goals to give Willowbrook a 2-1 lead by halftime.

Tumilty added two more goals in the second half to extend the Warriors' lead to 4-1. Sophomore Haley Preuss scored Willowbrook's fifth goal of the match.

Tumilty delivered the Warriors' opening goal of the April 22 match against Addison Trail. Willowbrook took a 2-0 lead after the Blazers allowed an own goal. Natalie Lupo of Addison Trail scored to cut the Warriors' lead to 2-1 with about 10 minutes left in the first half.

Tumilty converted a second-half penalty kick to give the Warriors a 3-1 lead over the Blazers. Tumilty added another goal to push the lead to 4-1. Junior Brooke Vandergrift scored the Warriors' fifth goal.

Del Real, who has been coaching high school soccer for over 30 years, spoke last week about the Warriors' joy of returning to action after being sidelined last season.

"To finally be out here is just awesome," said Del Real after the win over the Blazers. "It's a thrill. We missed it so much."

Del Real mentioned that at the end of each season, the team's departing seniors write letters to the underclass players. The Warriors open and read those letters at the start of the following season.

The COVID-19 pandemic robbed the Willowbrook team's 2020 graduates of a senior season. Those players, most of whom began their varsity careers as freshmen, still wrote letters to the team's younger players. The Warriors opened and read those letters before last week's season-opening match against Leyden.

"The common theme was, it was

taken away from us; it was an av thing; we hope it never happens to you guys; if you do have a season please enjoy it to the best of your abilities," said Del Real in discussing the letters from the team's 2020 graduates. "That was basically message that those girls were sending everybody else."

The Warriors' regular season consists of two matches against each of their six opponents in the West Suburban Gold Conference, all with two matches against Proviso West of the West Suburban Silver Conference. Willowbrook's season continues with this week's conference matches at Morton and Downs Grove South.

Warriors finish season with 42-0 win at Rich Township

Team posts a spring record of 8

STAFF REPORT

Willowbrook's football team completed its abbreviated spring season with Friday's 42-0 victory at Rich Township High School.

The Warriors finished the season with a 5-1 record. Willowbrook won its first three games, defeating Proviso, Suburban Gold Conference opponents Leyden, Addison Trail and Forest Dale South. The Warriors fell to 1-0 following a loss at York—a 14-7 Suburban Silver Conference loss. Willowbrook bounced back to win that loss by beating Morton 49-0 in an April 16 conference game in Park.

The Warriors were originally posed to finish the spring season at a conference game at Proviso but issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic sidelined the Pirates. Willowbrook and Rich Township rely agreed to square off in last week's season finale.

Willowbrook scored all 42 points against Rich Township in the first half. The Warriors and Pirates played the entire second with a running clock.

Willowbrook's scoring included touchdowns from junior Josh Brown and Jaylon Whitwell as a touchdown pass from freshman quarterback A.J. Pali. Junior Vince Vassolo.

The high school football season in Illinois usually takes place in fall. The football season normally includes a nine-game regular season, followed by the state playoffs. The COVID-19 pandemic forced IHSA to make several changes to athletic schedules during the 2020-21 school year. One of the changes moved the football season from the fall to the spring. The season was shortened to six games with no playoffs.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Senior Gracie Tumilty (No. 13) of the Willowbrook girls soccer team scored seven goals in the Warriors' first two matches of the 2021 season. Tumilty delivered four goals in her team's season-opening 5-1 home win over Leyden on April 19. Tumilty added three more goals in Willowbrook's 5-1 victory over Addison Trail in Villa Park on April 22. The Willowbrook girls soccer team's entire 2020 season was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Warriors' 2021 season will feature 14 regular-season matches, as well as IHSA post-season action.



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SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook senior Caitlin Brennan is her school's recipient of the 88's Best award for April. The award honors students for their achievements in and out of the classroom. Brennan, a Villa Park resident, has been an exceptional student at Willowbrook. She has also taken part in numerous extracurricular activities at the school. She's been a four-year member of the girls swimming and soccer teams, and she's contributed to Willowbrook's theatrical and music productions. Brennan plans to pursue an engineering major in college. She's been accepted into the engineering programs of multiple schools, including the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, the University of Michigan and the University of Iowa.

Brennan receives 88's Best award for April Villa Park resident a standout senior at Willowbrook

Willowbrook High School senior Caitlin Brennan of Villa Park is the school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of April. Brennan was honored during the District 88 Board of Education's virtual board meeting on April 12.

District 88's board and administration created the 88's Best award to recognize students for their achievements in and out of the classroom. The award is presented to nine students at each of District 88's two schools—Willowbrook and Addison Trail—each school year.

When she graduates from Willowbrook next month, Brennan will have completed 13 Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses, along with several honors courses. Brennan has been named an AP Scholar with Distinction and a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. She has been named to Willowbrook's Distinction Honor Roll each semester of her high school career.

Brennan is an inductee of the World Language Honor Society, the Math Honor Society, the National English Honor Society and Willowbrook's social studies honor society—Civitas.

Additionally, Brennan received Willowbrook's Human Relations Award. Recipients for that honor are nominated by Willowbrook staff members for their outstanding char-

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CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Registration event

The Villa Park Police Department joined the village's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to hold Saturday's bicycle registration event alongside the Illinois Prairie Path, just west of Villa Avenue. Village residents who attended the free event registered their bicycles with the police department. The Villa Park residents who attended Saturday's registration included (right: left to right) Ali McQuillan (age 10), and her parents—Jenny and Tom. The team that registered more than 20 bicycles on Saturday included (above: left to right) Villa Park CERT member Melenie Becker, Villa Park Community Service Officer Patrick Lyons, Villa Park Trustee and Villa Park CERT member Robert Wagner, Villa Park Community Service Officer Brittany Hall and Joe Amore, who serves on the Villa Park Bike, Pedestrian and Transit Subcommittee.



Obituaries

Mary Zabran, 99

Mary Zabran, of Villa Park, passed away recently at the age of 99. Beloved wife of the late Kenneth J. Zabran; loving mother of Bruce (Donna) Zabran, Eleanor "Ellie" (Mike) Sarallo, Joseph (Susan) Zabran; dear grandmother of Julie, Brian, Kelly Zabran, Whitney Sarallo, Dana (Tom) Fallucca, Ben (Kim) Gries, Allison (Derik) Leary, and Josie Zabran; great-grandmother of Wyatt, Barrett, Luca, and Briella; fond sister of the late Jennie Jakse, Frank and Stanley Kolibca. Dear Aunt of many.

Mary was a crossing guard for 25 years at St. Charles and Ardmore Ave in Villa Park. She also volunteered her time as a Cub Scout Den Mother, provided cookies and candies to her family and neighborhood children and was an avid bingo player.

Memorial visitation will be held Saturday, April 24 from 1-4 p.m. until the time of memorial service at

Steuerle Chapel, 350 S Ardmore Ave., Villa Park.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that anyone wishing to remember Grandma Z's donate to the Lydia home in Chicago. The Lydia home association provides hope, healing, and a home to children and families in need. Lydia Residential Treatment Center at <https://lydia.funraise.org/fundraiser/Mary-Zabran> or send to 4300 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60641. Arrangements provided by Knollcrest Funeral Home Steuerle Chapel.

Arthur T. Kalish, 97

Arthur T. Kalish, of Belmont Senior Living in Carol Stream, and formerly of Villa Park and Cicero, passed away at the age of 97. Purple Heart Veteran of World War II, 1941 to 1945, Company C 48th Engineers. Former co-owner of a service station business in Cicero.

Beloved husband of the late Do-

lores Vicelli Kalish; loving father of Susan (Leonard) Cecala and the late Arthur L. Kalish; devoted grandfather of Amy (Gabriel) Hocking; cherished great-grandfather of Emma Hocking and Ethan Hocking; dear brother of the late Mitzi (the late Louis) Fidelor and the late Eleanor (the late Peirce) Clasen; fond uncle of many nieces and nephews; and dear friend of Lynn Giever.

Arthur was born and grew up in Cicero. He moved to Villa Park with his family in 1957. He and his late wife Dolores enjoyed fishing, both from their boat on the Fox River, and ice fishing in the winter. For many years he attended reunions of his World War II Army group. He enjoyed reading nonfiction, especially United States war history. He cheered for the Cubs and the Bears.

All services are being held privately. Info: www.steuerlefh.com or 630-832-4161.



Someone commented in the April 15 paper about a woman walking her dog with a mask on. I am fully vaccinated, but found wearing my mask on my daily walks has actually helped my allergies from inhaling pollen. Yes, a positive outcome from this pandemic! So please, do not be so quick to pass judgment on our mask wearing.

With all the political turmoil and the terrible shootings in the news, how refreshing to hear about Yermi Mercedes of the White Sox. He played almost 10 years in the minors and in independent leagues. Now he's leading the American League in hitting. What a great story!

I have been voting for over 30 years. I've never had a problem submitting identification, and I don't mind two poll workers verifying my signature, as they did on April 6. I've also never expected anyone to feed me or give my water while I waited in line to vote.

How many more liberties are we going to let this government take away before we start fighting back? Before long there will be no turning back. This cancel culture, not being able to have a different opinion, is ruining this country.

According to Pew Research, over the last 15 years in nine states spending has exceeded revenue. Eight of those nine states are blue states and Illinois is the second worst on the list. When will the voters wake up? The Democrats are fiscally irresponsible and cannot be trusted with our tax dollars.

Who asked Major League Baseball to stick its nose in politics? A

bunch of millionaires who don't live in the real world want to tell us their thoughts on voting? Give me a break; they are a bunch of hypocrites. The law passed in Georgia has the same rules on providing food and drink to voters in line that Illinois has. Did this waiting in long lines happen before COVID-19? They don't think you should show an ID to vote. Really, you have to show an ID to get your baseball tickets at will call; you have to show an ID to buy a beer at the ballpark. MLB is a joke and I am done with them.

The sad thing is, just as in the Chauvin trial, where Chauvin took the 5th, these officers who used deadly force will likely not testify, so we will not get a chance to hear the rationale for their actions. That is their right, but I think they owe it to the public they are assigned to "serve and protect" to explain and justify what they did; what they were thinking in the moment to help us understand, right or wrong.

Why do some candidates include two first names on the ballot, with one name in quotation marks? What's the point of Robert "Bob" or William "Bill" or John "Jack"? How about picking one first name and going with it? I'm less inclined to vote for anyone who puts two names on the ballot.

With American citizens living homeless under bridges, what's going to happen with these immigrants? They're coming here; no luggage, nothing and with their kids. Are they going to be under a bridge, too, or is the taxpayer going to have to support them? Good bye.

How did Democrats become the

dominant party in California and Illinois? It wasn't that long ago those two states frequently voted for Republican presidential candidates. Those states aren't even contested anymore. Is it because Democrats have done such a great job of governing in California and Illinois? Are millions of people impressed with Democrats' fiscal policies and ability to control crime? Hardly.

I have no problem with peaceful protests, but when someone gets up to the microphone and screams and

shouts as if they were at a tent revival, that actually drowns out the message. And throwing frozen water bottles at police, taunting them and daring them to react, is it no wonder that the police are on high alert these days? They never know what projectile will be coming at them. By the same token, I think the police cannot go into a situation with a preconceived notion of what they will encounter. It works both ways.

This is for all of you who play the Illinois Lottery. The Illinois Lotto

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ticket has suddenly and very quietly been raised from \$1 to \$2 per ticket. The smallest prize on an Illinois lotto ticket is \$1. This is the only lotto game I know of where the winning prize is less than the cost of the ticket. Only in Illinois.

I can't begin to imagine what it's like to own a business in Chicago and Minneapolis these days. Businesses in both cities have had to board up again due to anticipated unrest. It will likely take years for these cities to recover, if they recover at all.

Villa Park Library events

Monday, April 26

Bessie Coleman's great niece presents library program

The Villa Park Public Library will present *Bessie Coleman: One Woman's Virtual Show* from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Join Gigi Coleman, the great niece of Bessie Coleman, as she reenacts the life of the world's first African-American female to become a licensed pilot in 1921. This program will be held online via Zoom. Registration and a valid email address are required. For more information, visit the library's website atvppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Tuesday, April 27

Villa Park Garden Club sponsoring library program

The Villa Park Public Library will present *Creativity in the Garden* virtually from 7 to 8 p.m., sponsored by the Villa Park Garden Club. First presented by Carol Cichorski at the

2013 Chicago Flower and Garden Show, this seminar will encourage attendees to think outside the box and show their creativity in their gardens. 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 atvppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Ongoing programs

Free meals for kids available at Library

The Villa Park Public Library is working with the Northern Illinois Food Bank to offer free meals for kids ages 18 and younger from now through May 20. Meals will be available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At this time, families are allowed to pick up meals and take them home. All families who need assistance providing meals for their

children are welcome to pick up meals at the library. For more information, visit the library's website at atvppl.info, call 630-834-1164 or follow them on social media.

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 atvppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

•Brennan (Continued from page 4)

actor, sense of others and selfless behavior.

While at Willowbrook, Brennan has been a section leader for the school's orchestra, and she was named to the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) All-District Orchestra Ensemble. She has taken part in the school's theatrical productions on stage, in the pit orchestra and as a member of the lighting crew. She also served as an assistant director of Willowbrook's IHSA contest play—"Antigone Now"—this year. The performance earned fifth-place honors in the Drama category of the IHSA Drama and Group Interpretation State Final in March.

Brennan is a member of the school's speech team, and she's been a four-year member of the girls swimming and soccer teams. Brennan served as the captain of the Willowbrook/Addison Trail girls swimming team during her senior year. The school's girls soccer team is beginning its 2021 season this week.

Brennan, who plans to pursue an engineering major in college, is interested in aerospace/aeronautics and mechanical engineering. She has been accepted into the engineering programs at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, the University of Michigan and the University of Iowa.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Halftime music

Members of Willowbrook High School's marching band are pictured during Friday's halftime performance at the Warriors' home football game. Playing its final home contest of the spring season, Willowbrook's football team defeated Morton 49-19.