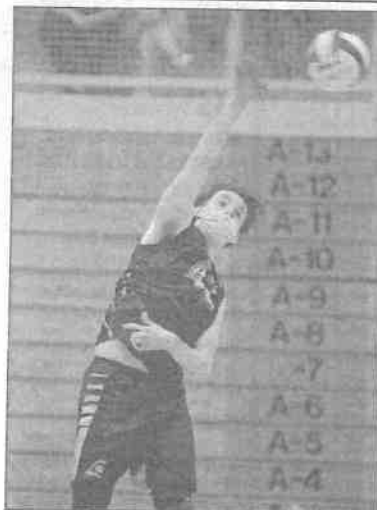


SPORTS

MAY 27, 2021 • 17



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors beat Addison Trail

The Willowbrook boys volleyball team rallied to beat Addison Trail in last week's West Suburban Gold Conference match in Villa Park. Addison Trail won the opening game of the May 20 contest, but the Warriors rallied to defeat the Blazers 18-25, 25-17, 25-16. Willowbrook improved its season record to 4-5 with the victory. Senior Jack Walsh (No. 42 - above left) provided 14 kills, 16 digs and three aces for the Warriors.

Senior John Donovan (No. 37 - above middle) supplied 20 assists and a pair of aces for Willowbrook. Donovan is pictured while hitting an ace late in the second game. Senior Josh Chavez contributed six kills and seven blocks for the Warriors, while junior Franky Goles made 16 digs. Another photo from the match shows Addison Trail junior Vince Calzante (No. 7 - above right).



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Winning Warrior

Junior Jacob Skinner of the Willowbrook baseball team is pictured while delivering a pitch during last week's West Suburban Gold Conference game against Morton. Skinner fired a complete game to lead the Warriors to a 6-2 victory on May 20 in Villa Park. Skinner threw 89 pitches over seven innings in his winning performance. He allowed five hits and one earned run. He recorded eight strikeouts and didn't give up any walks. Sophomore Isaac Sobieszcyk went 1-for-3 and drove in three runs for the Warriors. Junior Bennett Fleming went 1-for-2 with two runs batted in. Willowbrook began last week with a 4-3 win at Morton on May 17. The Warriors tried to complete a sweep of their three-game series against the Mustangs on Saturday, but Morton earned a 3-1 win. Saturday's loss dropped Willowbrook to 12-5 overall and 11-4 in conference play. The Warriors' schedule this week includes a three-game conference series against Addison Trail.

Warriors win again

The Willowbrook girls soccer team extended its winning streak to seven matches with last week's 1-0 West Suburban Gold Conference victory over Morton. The May 20 victory in Villa Park gave the Warriors an overall season record of 9-2. Willowbrook suffered a 3-1 loss at Morton when the two teams squared off on April 27. Last week's rematch was scoreless at halftime. Senior Gracie Tumilty (No. 13) of the Warriors scored the lone goal of the match in the second half. That goal gave Tumilty 23 goals this season. Sophomore goalkeeper Maddie Aderholt delivered a shutout performance with support from Willowbrook's defense. Two days before beating Morton, the Warriors earned a 5-0 conference win at Addison Trail. Tumilty scored three goals in that match. Junior Erin Fitzgibbon provided two goals. The Warriors are finishing their regular season with this week's matches against Downers Grove South, Proviso West and Proviso East. The Warriors will open the IHSA Class 3A post-season with a match against Glenbard East on June 2 in Lombard.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Softball seniors

The seniors on Willowbrook High School's softball team visited the softball field after Sunday morning's first of two commencement services in the school's main gymnasium. Pictured left to right are: Gwen Hallik, Caroline Dooley, Annemarie Knudtson, head coach Rachel Karos, Grace Chambers and Stephanie Dasbach. One of the team's

seniors—Natalie Krichbaum—is not pictured. While the school year is over for the seniors, the softball season continues. The regular season ends this week. The Warriors will play in an IHSA Class 4A regional next week. The Willowbrook softball team's entire 2020 season was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Four students earn top-10 finishes at BPA National Conference

Six Addison Trail students recently competed in the 2021 Business Professionals of America (BPA) Virtual National Leadership Conference. This year's event took place from April 26 to May 9, and the theme was "Envision, Empower, Ignite." The four students (top right) earned top-10 finishes in their respective categories: senior Nalysa Garcia: Legal Office Procedures, 2nd place; Business Law & Ethics, 10th place; junior Lindsay Stevenson: Health Insurance & Medical Billing, 2nd place; junior Yana Patel: Health Insurance & Medical Billing, 8th place; junior Amalia Panos: ICD-10-CM Medical Diagnostic Coding, 10th place.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Pictured (from left): senior Nalysa Garcia, junior Lindsay Stevenson, Junior Yana Patel and Junior Amalia Panos.

DuPage Health Department receives 'Pool Safety Grant' of \$860,000

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has awarded the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) a \$291,811 grant to provide assistance for enforcement, training, and education of pool safety requirements that are intended to save lives and prevent serious injuries. DCHD was one of five state and local governments selected to receive more than \$860,000 in Pool Safety Grant Program (PSGP) grant funds, which are aimed at preventing pool and spa drownings, as well as drain entrapments.

"As a previous recipient of Pool Safety grant funding, DCHD has strengthened partnerships and created great momentum in enforcement training and education throughout our region," said Karen Ayala, executive director of DuPage County Health Department. "This funding will enable us to further expand our educational impact to a much larger geographic and demographic radius

with a special focus on children who are at the highest risk of drowning in pools or spas."

DCHD has partnered with various agencies and organizations, including the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium (NIPHC), numerous DuPage County municipalities, Illinois Department of Public Health, Safe Kids Illinois, DuPage Regional Office of Education, Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association.

Drowning leading cause in accidental deaths of children 4 and younger

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death among children ages four and under and the second leading cause of death among children ages 5 to 14.

Per media reports, eight Illinois children fatally drowned between June 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020.

Two Illinois children under age five fatally drowned in 2021 in open water incidents. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), for every child that dies due to drowning, another five children are treated for non-fatal drowning submersion injuries at emergency departments.

The grant program, authorized through the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB Act),

was passed by Congress and signed into law in 2007. The PSGP seeks to provide state and local governments with assistance for education, training, and enforcement of pool safety requirements.

DCHD regulates about 700 public pools and spas. Our partnering building departments regulate initial construction and the more than 10,000 existing residential pools in DuPage County.

Addison Trail seniors sign to continue their sport at collegiate level

On May 19, Addison Trail hosted a signing day for 13 seniors who have committed to play their respective sport at the collegiate level.

The students celebrated with teammates, friends, administrators, staff members and family members.

The student-athletes who were recognized are:

Daniel Alvarez: Track and Field, Elmhurst University
Jade Campos-Benitez: Track, College of DuPage

Mario Ferri: Baseball, Ohio Dominican University
Jake Matthews: Wrestling, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Dylan Moran: Cross-Country and Track and Field, Elmhurst University

Omar Perez: Track and Field, Concordia University Chicago
Eric Reed: Rugby, Marian University

Robert Roszkiewicz: Basketball, Aurora University
Anna Ruffolo: Softball, Concordia University Wisconsin
Viviana Sanfilippo: Cross-Country and Track & Field, Illinois State University

Francesca Scarabaggio: Track and Field, Elmhurst University
Ally Severino: Volleyball, Elmhurst University
Raul Villarreal: Football, Roosevelt University

Wrestling program honors the late Dr. Scott Helton

Plaque to remain on display in wrestling gym

On May 20, Addison Trail dedicated a plaque provided by the school's Wrestling Team in honor of the late District 88 Superintendent Dr. Scott Helton.

Addison Trail administrators and Wrestling Team coaches presented the plaque to Dr. Helton's sons (Scott Jr., Joe and Tommy) and their mother, Annie Rice.

Dr. Helton coached several sports, but wrestling was his true

passion. He was a professional wrestler during his college years and a few years of his teaching/coaching career. All three of his sons also competed in wrestling at a high level.

As a tribute to Dr. Helton's positive impact on the sport, Addison Trail will display the plaque in its Wrestling Gym. To watch the presentation, there is a video available at the D88 web site at dupage88.net.

Addison Trail hosts annual Senior Awards Night

On May 19, 71 members of the Addison Trail class of 2021 were recognized for their achievements and outstanding academic performance during the school's annual Senior Awards Night.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Addison Trail Guidance Counselor Shane Cole, and the Student Master of Ceremonies was senior Jina Patel.

During the event, students were recognized for earning scholarships and being named as State Scholars, National Merit Scholarship Program honorees and recipients of the President's Award for Educational Excellence. To date, the class of 2021 has received more than \$4.4 million in scholarships and financial aid.

To watch the ceremony, there is a video at dupage88.net.

Memorial Day Convoy leads off from Wilder Park on Monday

Vietnam veteran Kevin Calkins to serve as Grand Marshal

The City of Elmhurst is hosting a community-wide "Always Remember" convoy on Monday, May 31 stepping off from the Veterans Memorial in Wilder Park at 9:30 a.m. It will also conclude in Wilder Park where an in-person Military Ceremony will be held.

Starting and ending at the Veterans Memorial, the 2021 convoy will feature some 30 military, police and fire vehicles traveling the same 16-mile route across Elmhurst as last year and will air live on Facebook (no sound) from the lead police car. Elmhurst TV will videotape the convoy to air on local access cable television and post to YouTube.

Calkins to serve as Grand Marshal

Kevin Calkins, a former United States Army Specialist 5 who served in the Vietnam War, will serve as the 2021 Grand Marshal. In 2015, Calkins helped raise funds to install a granite base for an unnoticed ground plaque located on the front lawn of the Wilder Mansion in honor of the 14 Elmhurst residents killed in action in Vietnam.

True Patriots Care will stage groupings of American flags at Elmhurst City Hall, Elmhurst Police Station, both Elmhurst Fire Stations, Post 187 and Wilder Park.

Residents invited to get in the spirit

In conjunction with the convoy, Elmhurst residents can show their support by decorating parkway trees with ribbon provided by the Elmhurst Fire Department for a donation of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50 or \$100 to benefit Elmhurst American Legion THB Post 187. Ribbons ordered online via the ECCI website will be safely home delivered to resident donors by the start of Memorial Day weekend or residents can pick up ribbons at Post 187 via a drive-thru table open weekdays (tentatively) from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Post 187 will serve lunch for interested parties following the 11 a.m. Military Ceremony.



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Meet Addison Trail's class of 2021 graduation speakers

On May 23, Addison Trail seniors Jina Patel and Cristal Moreno Aguilar addressed nearly 500 of their classmates as the student graduation speakers during Addison Trail's 55th commencement ceremonies.

Patel and Moreno Aguilar entered the school's annual graduation-speech competition and were selected as this year's winners by a panel of judges.

Get to know Jina Patel

Title of your speech: "All the Light Inside You"

Summary of your speech: My speech serves to highlight the class of 2021's tenacity. It elaborates on the idea that we need the tunnel more than the light at the end of the tunnel and that each student already possesses the light, as it is inside them. This extended metaphor encourages students to acknowledge their capabilities to succeed and make positive change as they embark on the next stage of their lives after graduation.

Lessons/advice you hope to share with your peers through your speech: I hope my peers will take away the lesson that with continued resilience and unity, our potential is limitless. My advice for my peers is to engage in random acts of kindness wherever they go, because kindness ripples.

What does it mean to you to be a speaker during the commencement ceremony and to represent the class of 2021? It was a true honor hearing I would be one of the students to speak at graduation and represent my peers. I am beyond grateful for this opportunity.

Involvement at Addison Trail: Co-President of National Honor Society; Dance Leader with

the International Dance Show; member of International Club, Youth Equity Stewardship (YES!) series, Student Council, Class Board and AT News Channel

How Addison Trail has supported you:

Addison Trail has helped me on my path to a successful future by giving me a diverse high school experience. Through rigorous courses and a variety of extracurricular activities, I have learned many life skills, including leadership, compassion and communication. Being surrounded by a multitude of cultures has helped me become a more ethical, diverse-minded individual.

Your future plans: I will attend University of Michigan and plan to major in neuroscience. I hope to pursue medicine, and I strive to become a neurosurgeon.

Get to know Cristal Moreno Aguilar

Title of your speech: "A Penny For Your Thoughts"

Summary of your speech: My speech is about the walk across the stage as we receive our diploma. We've been walking since we were 1 year old, but now we take a step closer to whatever goals we wish to achieve. I also will wear my mother's dress, so that she can graduate alongside me. This is in similarity to all the people who have majorly influenced a graduate in the class of 2021. They, too, will walk across the stage symbolically with their graduate. Lastly, the day we graduate is National Lucky Penny Day. Therefore, everyone will find a lucky penny on this day. We can look back onto freshman year, when the upperclassmen might have jokingly thrown one our way, and see how far we've made it since

that time. Whenever we feel as if we've hit rock bottom, we can find a penny to remind us that we can do this!

Lessons/advice you hope to share with your peers through your speech: I hope my peers learn more about their own capabilities. I know they are able to persevere, even when faced with a pandemic. I hope they know their strength and use it to fight through any challenges they might face.

What does it mean to you to be a speaker during the commencement ceremony and to represent the class of 2021? When I was told I would be one of the students to speak during graduation and represent my peers, I was exhilarated. I don't believe I ever imagined myself giving a speech at graduation, but I am glad to do it, because I can take one last glance at those I have spent these past four years or more with before we all head our separate ways.

How Addison Trail has supported you:

Addison Trail has offered me countless opportunities to grow – not just as an individual, but as a leader as well. All the Advanced Placement (AP) and honors classes have taught me how to challenge myself and how to seek help when needed. With all the clubs, sports and activities, I also have learned about time management and been able to get out of my comfort zone, feel confident and feel comfortable meeting new people. All these factors are merely a few ways Addison Trail has helped me on my path to a successful future.

Your future plans: I will attend Augustana College, where I plan to major in international business and minor in French. I hope to create my own business one day.

Edward-Elmhurst Health: COVID-19 vaccines and the circulating variants

The COVID-19 pandemic first hit the community in March 2020. Without a vaccine, the only defense was avoiding other people by staying at home, wearing masks in public and keeping physically distant.

In 2021, variants with the ability to infect more people are becoming predominant. Fortunately, there is now a powerful weapon against these variants: three COVID-19 vaccines, approved by the FDA under emergency use authorization.

Society is already seeing the benefits of vaccines in those over age 65 and in residents of long-term care facilities, the first group to receive vaccines. By the end of April, over 85% of residents over age 65 in DuPage County had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

While Edward-Elmhurst Health has seen an uptick in COVID-19 hospitalizations in March and April 2021, none are from long-term care facilities and few are over age 65. The spring wave of hospitalization has been predominantly middle-age and younger adults, who had not yet had their turn to be vaccinated.

But now no adult needs to be vulnerable because vaccines are widely available.

How did the variants come about?

Each time SARS-CoV2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) replicates, it can mutate.

With the rapid pace of viral spread worldwide, the many opportunities to mutate has led to a natural

selection for variants that are more fit, that can out-compete and become dominant.

Variants that have a change in these characteristics are known as "variants of concern." Variants being investigated but not yet proven to be significant are called "variants of interest."

What are the variants of concern and variants of interest?

The B.1.1.7 variant, recognized first in the UK in November 2020, has several mutations causing changes to the spike protein, notably the N501Y mutation, thought to allow for better attachment to the ACE-2 receptor, resulting in increased transmissibility.

B.1.1.7 has become the predominant variant in the United States, rising from less than 1% at the beginning of January 2021, to 9.5% on March 13, 44% on March 27, and to 57% by April 10.

In South Africa, the B.1.351 variant, and in South America, the P.1 variants, carry the N501Y mutation as well as the E484K.

E484K mutation changes targets on the spike protein, making antibodies less able to neutralize the virus.

In fact, serum from patients who recovered from COVID-19 did not neutralize the B.1.351 variant.

However, serum from those who have received Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines did neutralize the B.1.351 variant.

This is because the levels of anti-

bodies after immunization are significantly higher than after natural infection.

The Janssen (J&J) vaccine was trialed in South Africa (where the B.1.351 variant predominates), and though it was found to have a lower efficacy compared to the U.S., it was still highly effective in preventing severe infection, with no hospitalizations or COVID-19 deaths in vaccine participants.

The Pfizer-BioNTech phase 3 clinical trial was expanded to South Africa, enrolling 800 patients.

There were nine infections in the placebo group, and none in the vaccine group.

Approximately six of the nine infections were due to B.1.351 variant.

The B.1.351 accounts for 0.9%, and the P.1 variant for 3.5% of infections in the United States through April 10. Other variants of concern in the U.S. at a rate of less than 5% include B.1.429 and B.1.427.

Variants of interest are B.1.526, B.1.526.1, B.1.525, and P.2.

In India, with less than 10% of the population having received a first-dose of a vaccine and less than 3% not fully immunized, there is fertile ground for widespread trans-

mission of viral variants, leading to the largest daily cases and death toll in the history of COVID-19. The B.1.1.7 variant has become dominant in the province of Punjab.

While a new variant, B.1617, the so-called "double mutant" is a variant of interest, of unknown significance, circulating in other parts of India.

While the efficacy of the three COVID-19 vaccines has been proven across adults of all age groups and medical conditions, there is not enough information to know the level of protection in those who have a medically compromised immune system.

Are the COVID-19 vaccines more widely available now?

Vaccines are now widely available for everyone age 12 and older. The faster more people can become fully immunized, the less variants will continue to spread through our community.

Becoming fully immunized means that someone is not only protected from getting severe illness with COVID-19, they're also less likely to become infected and transmit the virus to someone else.

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

Park District hosts vaccine drive

On Wednesday, June 2 from 1-5 p.m., the Addison Park District is hosting a COVID-19 Vaccine Drive for ages 12 and older at Club Fitness.