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VOL. 18 • NO. 38

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THURSDAY, SEPT. 9, 2021



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

## Saluting the heroes

Pictured are the Addison Trail cheerleaders with the banners they carried for the Addison Medinah Shriners Parade on Sunday, Aug. 29, saluting first-responders and other healthcare workers. Story and more photos inside.

## DuPage Medical Group informs patients of data security incident

### Investigation: Outage caused by 'unauthorized actors' gaining access to network

The DuPage Medical Group (DMG) announced on Monday, Aug. 30 that it has identified and addressed a data security incident, and is now notifying patients whose information may have been involved.

On July 13, DMG experienced a security incident that caused a disruption to its network systems. DMG immediately began working with third-party cyber-forensic specialists to assist in the investigation to determine the full nature and scope of the incident.

Through the investigation, it was determined that the network outage

was caused by unauthorized actors who gained access to the DMG network, between July 12 and July 13. With the assistance of the forensic specialists, DMG conducted a thorough and time-consuming review of its systems to understand whether any patient information may have been impacted as a result of this event.

On Aug. 17, DMG determined that certain files stored within its environment that contained patient information may have been impacted by this incident.

DMG is in the process of mailing letters to a broad and inclusive list of

individuals directly whose information may be involved in this incident. The personal information potentially affected by this included names, addresses, dates of birth, diagnosis codes, CPT codes (Current Procedural Terminology, also known as service codes, are a universal system that identifies medical procedures), and treatment dates.

For a small subset of individuals, Social Security numbers may also have been affected. To date, DMG has no evidence that any information has been subject to actual or attempted misuse as a result of this incident.

This event did not impact financial account numbers.

While the investigation determined that only certain portions of the network were impacted by this event, DMG conducted an extensive and thorough investigation and could not rule out the possibility that files containing patients' information may have been impacted by this event.

DMG said it takes this incident seriously, and as an added precaution, it is offering credit monitoring and identity theft protection at no cost for those individuals affected and potentially affected by this incident.

A dedicated call center has been established to help address questions. Additional information is available by calling the toll-free incident response line at 1-800-709-2027 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by visiting [www.dupagemedicalgroup.com](http://www.dupagemedicalgroup.com).

The company has implemented additional cybersecurity measures and as part of DMG's ongoing commitment to the security of information, is reviewing existing security policies to further protect against future incidents and improve its technology roadmap to better serve patients.

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## District 88 welcomes new staff members

During its Aug. 30 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education welcomed new Addison Trail, Willowbrook and Transition Program staff members to the District 88 family. The staff members introduced themselves and shared their education/career background, and the Board wished them well for the school year.

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# D88 takes part in Medinah Shriners Parade

On Sunday, Aug. 29, District 88 participated in the Addison-Medinah Shriners Parade.

This was the third village-wide parade since 2008, and the Grand Marshal was former Village of Addison Trustee Harry Theodore and

his wife, Lori. The event featured 57 community units, plus about 45 units provided by the Shriners. Despite the wind and rain, it was a great community outing.

District 88 was well-represented, as members of the Addison Trail

Marching Band, Color Guard, Orchestras team, cheerleaders, Blazettes, Boys soccer team, football team and Student Council, as well as Willowbrook's marching band, participated and performed during the event.

District 88 Board of Education

President Donna Craft Cain, Board Vice President Dan Olson and Board member Diana Stout rode in the parade, along with District 88 Superintendent Dr. Jean Barbancante and new Addison Trail Principal Jack Andrews.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

These flute players followed by clarinet marchers grin and bear it through the rains that dropped on the Addison Medinah Shriners Parade on Sunday, Aug. 29.



Above: These drummers are doing their best as they fight a rain shower at the Addison Medinah Shriners Parade. At this point in the parade, the rain was really pouring. It still was a nice tribute to first responders and healthcare workers to whom the parade was dedicated.

Left: When the rains came pouring down on the Addison Medinah Shriners Parade, these Addison Trail students just decided to give it up and enjoy the rain as much as possible - there wasn't really a choice! Proves you can have fun in any weather.



## Volunteers sought for Park Pride Day

Park Pride Day is a day for patrons and residents to show their hometown pride and help us by participating in the beautification and sprucing up of Addison parks. The Addison Park District is all about making a positive impact - every day - on its 37,000 residents living throughout the community we serve.

On Saturday, Sept. 18 beginning at 9 a.m., the Addison Park District is hosting Park Pride Day at the Army Trail Nature Center, 270 N. Lombard Road. (Rain date: Sept. 25)

Volunteers are needed to plant flowers, perform landscaping tasks such as spreading mulch and help clean-up certain areas of the Nature Center. Each registered volunteer will receive a t-shirt and lunch will be provided free. To register, visit [addisonparks.org](http://addisonparks.org) or call 331-209-2147

It is the hope of the Park District that this day will foster a sense of ownership among residents for parks and environmental stewardship. When you support Park Pride, you help enrich lives by connecting people with parks and recreation services.

The Park District will provide volunteers with work gloves and tools to get the job done. This is a great opportunity for children, families, neighborhoods, Scout troops, church groups, local businesses and other organizations to give back to the community.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## District 88 holds summer commencement

Pictured are (from left) Willowbrook principal Dr. Daniel Krause, WBHS graduate Monzerrat De La Paz, AHS graduates Diego Perez and Samantha Calzado, WBHS graduate Allyssa Lorann, and Addison Trail principal Jack Andrews. Not pictured: Other Addison Trail students who graduated are Juaquin Flores, Emanuelle Hernandez, Kevin Islas, Ezekiel Lopez, Daniel Medina, Tiffany Perez, Darlin Reyna, Jocelyn Salas Trejo, Isaac Salazar and Emily Zenner. Other Willowbrook students who took part in summer commencement were Jacqueline Acevedo, Lizette Guazhima, Maria Mendoza Ontiveros, Brandon Smith and Anthony Weaser.

## Cantigny to host Sept. 11 ceremony

The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park invites everyone to the Heroes of 9/11 Memorial Ceremony at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 11.

The event will be held adjacent to the museum's outdoor exhibit comprised of two structural steel beams from the former World Trade Center buildings in New York.

The memorial is dedicated to those lost in the terrorist attacks 20 years ago and honors the first responders who served that day and continue to serve in our local communities.

The Cantigny ceremony also will pay tribute to the families of 9/11 victims; post-9/11 War on Terrorism fallen soldiers, veterans and their families; essential caregivers; and Gold Star families.

Parking is free before noon on Sept. 11.

Following the ceremony, Cantigny and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation's Veterans Program will host a Post 9/11 Veterans Resource Fair from 12:30 to 3 p.m., in the First Division Museum Pavilion. The event will offer resources tailored to young veterans and their families.

A variety of Chicagoland nonprofits and programs plan to exhibit—participating organizations are listed below and posted at FDMuseum.org. Non-veteran guests are welcome and encouraged to learn about volunteer opportunities and additional ways to support veterans in their neighborhoods.

The Sept. 11 events coincide with First Responders Appreciation Weekend at Cantigny Park. On Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 11 and 12, first responders, military service members and veterans will receive free parking all day, a \$10 value, by showing a valid ID.

The First Division Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours until 8 p.m. on Wednesdays. Entry is included with Cantigny's parking fee. Face coverings are currently required inside the museum, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status. More information is online FDMuseum.org.

Attn: Village of Bensenville  
12 Center St.  
Bensenville, IL 60106

### Re: Time to Consider others in our actions including our children Zoning and Planning Educational Advancement

August 5, 2021

To the Village of Bensenville,

I have an offer that I believe the Village of Bensenville would be interested in pursuing. I would like to offer to pay for two of the Village planners to take two courses on the basics of city planning to help advance their educational development in the field of zoning and planning.

It became clear to me that this would be something that the Village and Village planners would be interested in because good planning would not permit the construction of a car wash next to apartment homes when you have 300,000 square feet of land available to put it elsewhere. I believe some classes on the basics would make it apparent that one should not place a car wash so intrusively close into the lives of working people. Grand Subaru wants to put their car wash operation away from their sales operation and the village allowed them to put it 40 feet away from our tenant's, including children's, bedrooms. Permitting commercial construction close to a residential environment is disruptive and unsuitable planning.

If the Village wishes to pursue this offer, I would be happy to discuss zoning and planning schools that could help instruct the Village planners on the fundamentals of effective city planning. Grand Subaru should be a good neighbor and move its car wash west on its lot and let the residents of Brook Forest Apartments get a good night's sleep.

Sincerely,  
Matt Pauga  
Brook Forest LP  
(847) 713-2901



# Addison Trail names August recipient of 88's Best recognition

Lindsay Stevenson has been named as Addison Trail's August recipient of 88's Best recognition for her outstanding academic accomplishments. A senior, Stevenson was recognized during the Monday, Aug. 30 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

Stevenson said the transition from a small parochial school with a graduating class of just four students to a high school of nearly 2,000 students was a little scary at first, but she found the drive to not only achieve academically, but also to become a true Blazer.

Stevenson credits being willing to step out of her comfort zone, getting involved in many activities and meeting a lot of people as part of her success.

As a student, Stevenson has challenged herself by taking a rigorous course load year after year, and she continues to push herself to do her absolute best. She attributes her work ethic to her parents, who taught her the importance of hard work, and to her sister, who consistently set a high standard of achievement. As a freshman, Stevenson set a goal of being at the top of her class academically. She has undergone a tremendous amount of personal and academic growth to make her goal a reality.

## Academic achievements:

- Completed 15 honors courses
- Completed 13 Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses

## Involvement at ATHS:

- Editor-in-chief of Addison Trail's student newspaper, The Torch

- President of National Honor Society (NHS)
- Student Council Board member
- Three-sport athlete (girls tennis, girls bowling and girls badminton)
- Member of Math Team (where she is a Sectional champion and a top-five finisher in the state)
- Business Professionals of America (where she placed 2nd nationally).

## Future plans

After Stevenson graduates from Addison Trail, she plans to attend college. She looks forward to continuing a challenging path and will pursue a double major in journalism and business.

## Staff member comments:

"Stevenson is an obvious choice to be celebrated as one of District 88's Best. As editor-in-chief of the AT student newspaper, The Torch, Stevenson has already proven herself a reliable and talented member of the staff. Not only did she contribute as a co-editor during her junior year by developing the newspaper website, but she spent many hours in August already, before the school year even started, by decorating the publications lab and compiling an official Torch Style Guide for our upcoming editions. Her leadership is already on full display, as she leads the staff in brainstorming meetings for stories, photos and graphics for our first edition. Additionally, she was one of the few juniors last May who achieved a perfect score of 5 on her AP Language and Composition test. She is the perfect storm of talent and motivation, which means she will accomplish countless goals during her senior year and beyond."

- Stephen Bruns, AT English teacher

"Stevenson is an amazing student. She is hardworking, responsible and respectful - a TRUE BLAZER! I was so happy to have her in two classes last year. She participated in Zoom discussions, and she was always present. I could only hope to have more and more students like Stevenson."

- LeVonne Cescolini-Boyer, AT social studies teacher

"Stevenson is a great student and an amazing leader in the building and surrounding community. She is involved in so much at Addison Trail, and she is a true model of how to take advantage of everything our school has to offer. Her academic success will open many doors for her in the future, but it is her hard work and dedication to people that will set her apart from the rest."

- Rob Schader, AT Department Head for physical education, health and driver education

"Stevenson is an example of one of the reasons why I continue to have faith in this generation of young people. She is a tremendously positive, kind and loyal person."

- Steve Holland, AT Director of Deans



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Lindsay Stevenson, pictured here with Addison Trail Principal Jack Andrews, has been named as Addison Trail's August recipient of 88's Best recognition for her outstanding academic accomplishments. Stevenson, a senior, was recognized during the Aug. 30 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

# Addison Trail hosts annual Open House

On Thursday, Sept. 2, Addison Trail students and parents/guardians attended the school's annual Open House.

Participants were able to tour the building, meet administrators and staff members and learn about Addison Trail's curriculum as they followed an abbreviated version of their student's daily schedule. New Principal Jack Andrews welcomed the group and shared successes of

Addison Trail, as well as important information for the school year.

The District 88 Transition Program also hosted a virtual Open House for parents/guardians. That program supports individuals who have disabilities and helps them learn life skills, obtain job training in a community setting and transition to life after District 88. The program welcomes 70 students this year, including College of DuPage Connections.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Addison Trail Principal Jack Andrews speaks with a visitor at Addison Trail's recent open house held on Thursday, Sept. 2. Attendees were invited to tour the building, meet staff and learn about the curriculum.

# School Districts' biliteracy event deemed successful

On Aug. 28, Addison School District 4, District 45, Salt Creek School District 48 and District 88 hosted a Community Resource Fair and Biliteracy Workshop at Willowbrook.

During the event, participants were able to visit more than 30 local organizations that shared information about services/programs in the areas of education, health/well-being, early childhood, financial support and more. They also had the opportunity to participate in six workshop sessions that discussed various aspects of biliteracy.

Free food, transportation, babysitting, door prizes and a mobile COVID-19 vaccine clinic (for ages 12 and older) were provided as well.

For more information - including a list of the resources and to watch the biliteracy presentations - go to <https://sites.google.com/dupage88.net/resourcefair2021>.



Two guests stopped by the District 88 School Board table at the Addison Trail open house. There was also a virtual open house at the same time for the District 88 Transition Program, which welcomed 70 students this year.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Kuban recognized as 88's Best for August

Willowbrook High School senior Alex Kuban was recently named his school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of August. Kuban was honored during the District 88 Board of Education's Aug. 30 meeting. He is pictured (right) at that meeting with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause. The 88's Best honor recognizes 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. An accomplished student, Kuban has maintained a class ranking within the 99th percentile of Willowbrook's Class of 2022. He has completed several Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses, as well as a multitude of honors courses, and he has been named to Willowbrook's Distinction Honor Roll each semester of his time at the school. Kuban is an inductee of the National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society, the Math Honor Society, the World Language Honor Society and Willowbrook's social studies honor society—Civitas. He is a member of the school's math team, as well as its Econ Challenge and Scholastic Bowl teams. Additionally, Kuban serves as a New Beginnings mentor and leader, assisting freshmen with the transition to high school. Kuban is a three-year member of Willowbrook's varsity boys soccer team. He is serving as a captain of the team during the current season. Kuban's plans for the future are undecided, but he intends to continue his academic and athletic careers after he graduates from Willowbrook next year.

## Slow down and move over: New laws aim to strengthen Scott's Law

*Come January, judges can issue community service as punishment for violating*

By Jerry Nowicki  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Seventeen crashes involving Illinois state troopers or their vehicles have occurred in 2021 as a result of violations to the state's traffic law known as "Scott's Law."

Gov. JB Pritzker recently signed a new law, Senate Bill 1913, allowing judges to issue community service among other penalties to those violating the law, which requires drivers to slow down and change lanes when there is a first responder present with flashing lights stopped on the roadway.

The measure will take effect in January.

Pritzker was joined by a bipartisan group of lawmakers and members of the Illinois State Police for the bill signing. The governor also signed a bill clarifying the scope of Scott's Law and one creating a database of mental health programs for first responders. All three measures passed the General Assembly with unanimous bipartisan support.

"This is a wake-up call for every resident of Illinois—your distracted driving could be someone else's worst nightmare, and no text or other distraction is worth that," Pritzker said at a bill-signing event at the Illinois Capitol in Springfield. "So next time you hit the road—to be clear, every time you hit the road—please remember the real risks of not honoring Scott's Law."

In February, Illinois State Trooper Brian Frank was the fourth involved in a crash this year due to a violation of Scott's Law. His wife, Lauren Frank, said at the bill signing event that over the past six months, she and her husband have been on an arduous journey that has included visits to 35 doctors, four hospitals, three brain surgeries, two emergency room visits, 12 ambulance rides and eight weeks of therapy.

Lauren Frank said Brian is in a state of "unresponsive wakefulness" and remains in critical condition.

"The setbacks are devastating, and the unknowns of our future are overwhelming," she said. "The daily grief sits heavily on us as we wait and watch Brian fight for his life, to come back to us. And again, this was all preventable."

Frank said while Scott's Law was named for Lt. Scott Gillen, a firefighter killed while assisting with a crash on the Dan Ryan Expressway in 2000, it honors every officer who has died on roadways and those who currently patrol them.

ISP reported 1,340 violations of the law during the 19-day period between Feb. 18 and March 7, according to the governor's office.

Illinois State Police Director Brendan Kelly noted "education and enforcement" are the best method of ensuring safety through Scott's Law, crediting Frank for her efforts to share her story.

"And maybe if they listen a little bit to what she had to say, they'll slow down, they'll move, they'll give a damn about what's going on around them, instead of being self-centered and being clueless—the people that are out there trying to protect public safety," he said.

Kelly said one of the laws signed by Pritzker, House Bill 3656, made it easier to prosecute drivers violating the law.

That language says, "Drivers of vehicles approaching a stationary emergency vehicle in any lane shall the warning of the signal, reduce speed of the vehicle, proceed with caution, maintain a safe speed road conditions, be prepared to and leave a safe distance until it has passed the stationary emergency vehicle."

That law, sponsored by Chi Democrats Rep. Fran Hurley and Antonio Muñoz, also creates a "Over Early Warning Task Force" made up of members appoint state agencies and law enforcement entities to study ways to better force road safety and alert drive hazards.

Senate Bill 1575, sponsored by Chicago Democrats Sen. R. Martwick and Rep. Lindsey LaPorte directs the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health to create an online database mental health resources geared to first responders.



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THURSDAY, SEPT. 9, 2021



## Warriors win title at their own invite

The Willowbrook girls volleyball team captured the title at its own eight-team invitational, which took place on Friday and Saturday. The Warriors, who won five straight matches at the event, defeated Metea Valley 19-25, 25-17, 25-21 in Saturday's championship contest. That victory gave Willowbrook an overall season record of 7-0. The photo shows the Warriors after their three-game triumph over Metea Valley.

Pictured (left to right) are: (front row) junior Natalie Cipriano, junior Grace Conley, senior Elizabeth Bruschuk, senior Katie Linnig and senior Madiynn Hoffman; (back row) sophomore Elle Bruschuk, sophomore Calli Kenny, senior Kyla Ostrowski, junior Hope Reckamp, junior Lily Lowe and freshman Hannah Kenny. For more about the Warriors, see page 11.

CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

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# Willowbrook graduate promoted by U.S. Air Force

Ryan Flaherty, a 2015 graduate of Willowbrook High School, recently was promoted by the U.S. Air Force to the rank of staff sergeant by Brigadier Gen. Matthew Higer, commander of Edwards Air Force Base in Kern County, California—the country's second largest Air Force base.

The promotion follows his selection earlier this year to the Edwards Air Force Base Honor Guard, a small group that is handpicked for the ceremonial role. They serve on special occasions, such as when dignitaries visit, at funerals for vets, as well as at the L.A. Chargers football games during the half time presentation of colors.

Just prior to Flaherty's transfer earlier this year from Aviano Air Force Base in Italy to Edwards in

California, he was awarded the "Air Force Achievement Medal for Meritorious Service" for multiple actions that he took in support of varied theaters that the U.S. secures from its base at Aviano, including the Baltic Sea (Russia), the Arabian Gulf (multiple threats) and Iran in particular.

The Air Force said Flaherty's keen eye is credited with catching a likely fatal mechanical defect in the function of a fighter jet before it was to launch. He was also commended for several other noteworthy accomplishments by the Base Commander in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

Flaherty is serving as an F-16 fighter jet mechanic/crew chief. He is the son of John and Maureen Flaherty and the brother of Lauren.



Ryan Flaherty has been promoted by the U.S. Air Force to the rank of staff sergeant. He serves at Edwards Air Force Base in Kern County, California.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## DuPage County libraries receiving funds for upgrades, Cullerton announces

### Villa Park Library among libraries to get funds

Eight local libraries, including the Villa Park Public Library, will receive funds totaling over \$350,000 to upgrade programs and help patrons get the resources they need, State Sen. Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park) recently announced.

"This funding will allow libraries to expand the help they give," Cullerton said. "Whether it be allowing people to access the Internet to apply to jobs or providing programming to help kids retain their education over the summer, libraries are a valuable asset to our communities."

The funds received by the eight area libraries is part of \$18.1 million in grants awarded to 638 public libraries across the state. Libraries will use these funds to implement and expand services and products like audiobooks and eBooks, dual language materials, adult programming and more.

The following libraries in the district Cullerton represents will receive funds:

Bartlett Public Library District, \$55,394; Bloomingdale Public Library, \$32,477; Carol Stream Public Library, \$58,574; Glenside Public Library District, \$53,482; Itasca Community Library, \$12,757; Roselle Public Library District, \$33,617; Villa Park Public Library, \$32,308.40; Wood Dale Public Library District, \$19,420; Addison Public Library, \$54,489.

"It's exciting to see what these libraries will do with this new funding to give back to our communities," Cullerton said. "From story

times with children to seminars to help people access assistance, I encourage everyone to see what their local library has to offer."

For more information on the grants, people can visit the secretary of state's website.

## Cullerton backs mental health support for students

State Sen. Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park) said he is proud to see a measure that would offer mental health support information on student ID cards being signed into law.

"Providing mental health support to students—whether they're in middle school or college—is so important, especially as they start to return to in-person learning," Cullerton said. "Something as simple as a contact number for a crisis line could help prevent unnecessary tragedy in an age group that has seen increasing suicide rates over the years."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, between 2007 and 2018, suicide rates for people aged 10-24 increased by 57.4 percent. Suicide is the fourth leading cause of death for children between the ages of 10 and 14.

To provide students with essential mental health support services, House Bill 1778 would require school districts that issue ID cards for students in sixth to 12th grade to include the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the Crisis Text Line numbers on the backs of cards. It also requires colleges and universities to publish the information on student IDs.

A similar measure sponsored by Cullerton, HB 2014, was also recently signed into law.

HB 1778 was recently signed by Gov. JB Pritzker and will go into effect July 1, 2022.

*Editor's note: This was submitted by the office of State Sen. Tom Cullerton.*

## Arts DuPage recruited as regional leader for Arts Alliance Illinois 'Vax to Get Back' project

Arts Alliance Illinois (AAI) recruited Arts DuPage, an initiative of DuPage Foundation, to select local artists to participate in AAI's "Vax to Get Back" pro-vaccination project designed to reach and inspire the population unvaccinated against COVID-19.

The four participating artists selected by Arts DuPage are: George Berlin of Glen Ellyn; Ryan Jolly of Glen Ellyn; Nolan McCants of Naperville; and Fernando Ramirez of West Chicago. All of the artists released their projects this week; viewing locations and applicable links are posted on [dupagefoundation.org/artsdupage](http://dupagefoundation.org/artsdupage).

Arts DuPage was one of the first organizations enlisted by AAI to lead the dynamics of the project within DuPage County based on the initiative's intimate knowledge of the arts and culture landscape for the region.

Artists in 24 regions across Illinois received a grant from AAI to create influential pieces, ranging from street concerts and video essays to poster campaigns and public art.

Debbie Venezia, director of Arts DuPage, said, "The arts were among the hardest hit industries devastated by the impact of COVID-19. Grants through DuPage Foundation and funding from generous donors have kept many local artists and organizations afloat through the pandemic. Our goal now is to get audiences safely back into theaters and galleries so organizations can generate enough revenue to ensure viability. The 'Vax to Get Back' projects aim to motivate the unvaccinated population to get the vaccine, which will bolster audience confidence and get arts activities running at full capacity again."

Arts DuPage showcases works of the vibrant local arts community, which generates cultural, economic, and social benefits for DuPage County and its residents.

"Arts DuPage is proud to be a champion for local artists and celebrate the unique history, identities and cultures within our community," said Venezia. "Creative expression, especially during times of uncertainty, can be a healing outlet for both the artist and the consumer."

Arts DuPage supports, promotes, and advocates for the arts in DuPage County. An initiative of DuPage Foundation, Arts DuPage stimulates engagement and investment in DuPage County's vast cultural landscape through [artsdupage.org](http://artsdupage.org), its comprehensive website for all things art.

## Obituary

### Christian A. Van Dommelen, 31

Christian A. Van Dommelen, of Ludington, Mich. and Villa Park, passed away suddenly at the age of 31. Funeral Services were held Tuesday, Sept. 7, at Brust Villa Park Funeral Home, 305 S. Princeton Ave., Villa Park. Interment followed at Mt. Emblem Cemetery, Elmhurst. Arrangements by Brust Villa Park Funeral Home. Info: [www.brustfuneralhome.com](http://www.brustfuneralhome.com) or 888-629-0094.



# Warriors claim title at their own invite

*Willowbrook rallies for a three-game win over Metea Valley in championship match*

## STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls volleyball team won the championship at its own eight-team invitational, which took place on Friday and Saturday.

The Warriors won five straight matches at the invite to improve their overall season record to 7-0.

Willowbrook won three matches at the invite on Friday, beating Glenbard South (25-16, 25-16), Coal City (25-10, 25-7) and West Chicago (25-14, 25-10). The Warriors beat Trinity 25-15, 25-15 on Saturday morning to advance to the championship contest against Metea Valley, which won the invitational the last time it was contested in 2019. The state's high school girls volleyball teams did not play in the fall of 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those teams played an abbreviated season in the spring of 2021.

The Warriors lost the opening game of Saturday's title contest against the Mustangs, but rallied for a 19-25, 25-17, 25-21 victory.

"The girls played hard and they played together, which was fun to watch," said Willowbrook coach Irene Mason after the win over Metea Valley. "We needed a challenge like that to show we can do it against a great team. Metea Valley is very strong. To know that we can come back and do it is going to be big going forward."

Mason referred to the Warriors' balanced attack as a critical part of the team's success.

"It was a combination of all of the skills and all of the girls," said Mason in talking about the Warriors' first-place performance at the invitational. "That's what I like about this group. We have a lot of options. It makes it fun. If someone is struggling, someone else will get the job done."

Sophomore Calli Kenny supplied 16 kills and

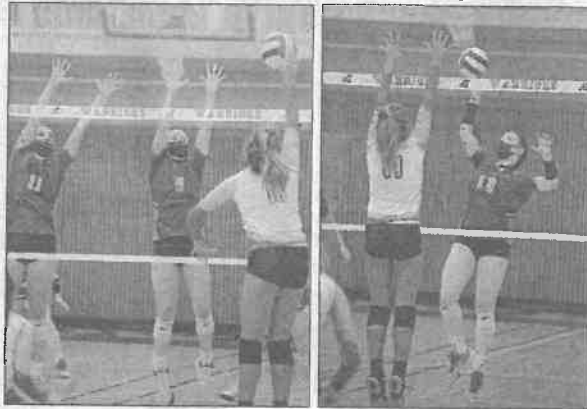
14 digs for Willowbrook during the championship match against Metea Valley. Her sister—freshman Hannah Kenny—recorded 14 assists, four kills, four digs and three blocks. Senior Kyla Ostrowski had five kills, five digs and two blocks. Senior Katie Linnig provided 12 assists and five digs, while senior Elizabeth Bruschuk contributed 12 digs and five assists. Junior Hope Reckamp had four blocks, three kills, two aces and two digs. Junior Natalie Cipriano delivered four kills and two digs.

Two days before the invite, the Warriors earned a 25-9, 25-15 victory at Glenbard North. Calli Kenny provided eight kills, four digs and four aces. Hannah Kenny contributed four digs, three kills and three assists. Linnig handed out nine assists and added one kill and one ace. Bruschuk supplied six digs and an assist. Ostrowski delivered two kills, two digs and one ace, while Reckamp had two kills and two blocks.

The Warriors opened their West Suburban Gold Conference season with this week's match at Addison Trail. Willowbrook won the conference title during the shortened spring season. The Warriors beat each conference opponent once on their way to a perfect 6-0 record. The team posted an overall spring record of 10-2.

In addition to playing its conference matches, the Warriors played six contests against teams from the West Suburban Silver Conference. Willowbrook opened the season with two losses before reeling off 10 straight wins.

"It's great to be back to somewhat of a normal season," said Mason after Saturday's championship performance. "The girls have the opportunity to experience a full season [with about 35 matches] and a state series. I love the energy level that we're at right now."



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Willowbrook girls volleyball team won the championship at its own eight-team invitational, which concluded on Saturday. Willowbrook won five straight matches at the invite to improve its overall season record to 7-0. The Warriors beat Metea Valley 19-25, 25-17, 25-21 in the championship match. One photo (above left) from that match shows (left to right) junior Hope Reckamp (No. 11) and sophomore Calli Kenny (No. 9). Another photo (above right) from the match against Metea Valley shows senior Kyla Ostrowski (No. 13). The Warriors beat Glenbard South, Coal City and West Chicago on Friday. They defeated Trinity on Saturday morning to advance to the championship match against Metea Valley. Willowbrook started its West Suburban Gold Conference season with this week's match at Addison Trail. The Warriors won the conference title with a perfect 6-0 record during the abbreviated 2021 spring season. The fall 2020 season was postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Warriors' lead evaporates in loss at Downers Grove North

*Willowbrook builds an early 14-0 advantage, but Trojans rally for a 27-14 triumph*

## STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook football team dropped to 0-2 with Friday's 27-14 loss at Downers Grove North. The Warriors, who scored on the game's first play from scrimmage, held a 14-0 lead early in the second quarter.

The Trojans, who improved to 2-0, rallied to take a 17-14 lead by halftime. Downers Grove North scored a touchdown midway through the third period to build its lead to 24-14. The Trojans added a field goal with about four minutes to play in the fourth quarter.

Willowbrook received the opening kickoff and began its first drive at its own 16-yard line. On the first play from scrimmage, sophomore quarterback A.J. Palicki faked a handoff to senior Josh Brown, looked to his left and fired a pass to senior Vince Vassolo, who was wide open. Vassolo caught the pass on the run near Willowbrook's 40-yard line and sprinted to the end zone for an 84-yard touchdown reception that lit a spark under the Warriors and their enthusiastic student section.

Vassolo's long touchdown reception gave the Warriors their first points of the season. Willowbrook failed to score in its opener—a 10-0 loss at Providence Catholic on Aug. 27.

Junior Adrian Guerrero kicked the extra point after Vassolo's touchdown to give the Warriors a 7-0 lead with 11:41 left in the first quarter.

The Trojans committed two turn-

overs during the opening period. Sophomore DaeVonn Madison of the Warriors intercepted a pass to end Downers Grove North's first offensive drive. A few minutes later, senior Evan Stubblefield recovered a Trojan fumble at Willowbrook's 35-yard line with 5:35 left in the period.

The Warriors scored on the first play of the second quarter, with Palicki finding Vassolo in the back of the end zone on a 24-yard touchdown pass. Guerrero's kick extended the Warriors' lead to 14-0 with 11:52 left in the first half.

Downers Grove North made a 31-yard field-goal attempt with 7:03 left in the second quarter to cut Willowbrook's lead to 14-3. The Trojans scored their first touchdown of the night shortly after recovering a Warrior fumble. A 4-yard touchdown run and the subsequent extra-point kick reduced Willowbrook's lead to 14-10 with 2:54 left in the first half.

Downers Grove North took the lead by returning a punt about 75 yards for a touchdown with 1:26 remaining in the first half. The ensuing extra-point kick gave the Trojans a 17-14 lead in the crossover game between West Suburban Conference teams. Downers Grove North is a member of the conference's Silver Division, while Willowbrook plays in the Gold Division.

Willowbrook's offensive unit couldn't generate any sustained drives during the second half.

"At no point did we really estab-



lish the running game," said Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth after Friday's setback. "We've got to get better at that."

The Trojans took a 24-14 lead on a 3-yard touchdown run with 5:43 left in the third quarter. Downers Grove North's 33-yard field goal with 4:08 left in the fourth period closed out the scoring.

The Warriors will play their first home game of the season this Friday, when they will open the West Suburban Gold Conference season against Proviso East (0-2).

"We have a bunch of new guys in new spots," said Hildreth. "We need to figure some things out and go into conference play."



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Willowbrook football team built an early 14-0 lead in Friday's game at Downers Grove North, but the Trojans rallied to post a 27-14 victory. The Warriors scored on the game's first play from scrimmage—an 84-yard touchdown pass from sophomore quarterback A.J. Palicki to senior Vince Vassolo. The same two Warriors connected on a 24-yard touchdown pass on the first play of the second quarter. Vassolo (No. 11, middle) is pictured (above) while celebrating with Palicki (No. 2, right) following the second-quarter touchdown. Another photo shows Palicki (above left) throwing a pass during the fourth quarter. Willowbrook dropped to 0-2 with Friday's loss at Downers Grove North. The Warriors will play their first home game of the season this Friday, when they will face Proviso East (0-2) in a West Suburban Gold Conference contest.

## Speak Out

Voting in our great country is getting more difficult by the day. I do not understand why Republicans are so scared that they will lose the next election(s) if people could vote everywhere fairly. These states that are denying basic voting principles are changing their laws to prevent tens of thousands of people from voting. I was against changing the filibuster procedure, but now I'm for it. We must allow everyone a fair and equal chance to vote. I hesitate to increase the number of judges on the Supreme Court, but we must do everything necessary to preserve our freedom!

I see the left is having a conniption fit over the Supreme Court denying a request from Texas abortion providers to freeze a state law that prohibits abortions after six weeks. No worries around here. Thanks to the Illinois Reproductive Health Act signed by JB Pritzker in 2019 and supported by our local representatives Tom Cullerton,

Suzy Glowiak Hilton, Deb Conroy and Terra Costa Howard, a woman can get an abortion up to 24 weeks. There were 46,500 abortions performed in Illinois in 2019, and also that same year, more than 7,500 women came from other states to have an abortion here. Illinois is now the abortion oasis of the Midwest. That's something to be proud of, don't you think?

Who wants to wear a mask? Nobody I know, but here we go again. We wouldn't have to wear masks if people would just understand they should get the COVID-19 shots. They are completely safe. Pregnant women are not losing their babies. Now we must all wear a mask everywhere we go to protect not ourselves, but our youths under age 12 who cannot yet get the shots. Come on people! Wise up—get the shot, protect yourself and our kids!

Next time you drive past a fast-food restaurant, take a look at how many

cars are in the drive-thru lanes. And we wonder why we're gaining weight and putting more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

All the states that border Illinois—Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri—don't have indoor mask mandates. Keep that in mind the next time you go to your favorite restaurant, grocery store, Target, Walmart or wherever. Isn't nice to live in a state run by Pope Pritzker and all the regressive leftists in Springfield?

To all of you Trump-hating Biden voters who thought you were restoring competency, decency and respect to the White House: you are fools. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

While on the surface the spin appears that Sen. Glowiak Hilton supports small businesses, and that she wants to ease their burden, what stands out to me is her quote that "Local governments are capable of deciding what is best for the local business community's financial future." Oh, really? So even if she is advocating for local governments (assuming versus county or the state) to ease up restrictions, fees, etc., that doesn't mean the local governments will do so. Also, wouldn't the businesses themselves be in the best position to make those determinations and bring them before their town's leaders? Perhaps her choice of wording was not clear, but then Democrats think they know what's best for all of us.

Did you hear the story about the man in California who was found, passed out in a car with 300 unopened mail-in ballots for that state's upcoming recall election for its governor? I thought mail-in elections were secure. I guess not. I suppose Democrats would say this was an isolated incident. You'd have to be pretty naive to believe that.

For the parents pushing to mask our children, I hope they understand that in order to be consistent, they will have to mask their children all day, every day during the annual cold and flu season.

Biden is given a list of reporters to call on. He can't really speak in complete sentences. It looks like he has a hard time breathing. The man is not well. Some of you leftists may still be in denial about that. You need to wake up.

I saw the flags at half-staff today. I believe they're for the 13 servicemen/women that were killed by the ISIS suicide bombers in Afghanistan. Rightly so. The Biden administration has totally botched this situation. As far as I'm concerned, the flags should remain at half-mast until a new president is inaugurated—provided of course, it's not Biden, Harris, Trump or anybody supporting the big lie.

It seems like the strategy of the Democratic Party for this country is to divide and conquer. That's interesting, because that's probably the same strategy that China has for our country. So, it's not surprising that the Democrats and China seem to work together pretty well.

I want to just say everybody have a

good day. And there are good people I'm sorry, great people, in this world. I lost my cell phone; someone found it. Got a hold of me, returned and wouldn't take any kind of reward. All the trouble they saved me. I ple are good. People are honest. I get along everybody. Thank you. know who you are.

Hello, this is a request for gro stores to please put daily newspapers that are for sale in a different place the store other than as customers walking out. By the time we're walking out, it's too late to purchase newspapers. It would be more convenient and probably more productive for the newspapers to be put in a prior to the checkouts. Thank you.

This is in response to the person who left a message in Speak Out about the local business papers that are on our driveway. I am in Villa Park haven't received my papers for 14 days almost a year. I have called Wednesday morning to the Tribune the last several months. All I get is will have one on my driveway by the end of the business day, and I will one every week. I have yet to receive one. Businesses are just wasting money advertising in these papers. I live on a busy street, but all our neighbors who also live in Villa and my son, do not, and we are not getting any of these papers, so I feel pain. I wish there was something that we could do about it. I depend on my paper.

A big shout-out to Hacker's bard Gardens. I understand they've been 45 years this year in Lombard. My garden had never looked so good. Their products are always fresh. People are always friendly. So congratulations to 45 years and thank you for a bountiful season.

Yes, am I the only one who finds it absolutely absurd that some people speak out only to post to complain pictures of people who are not wearing masks? I'm looking at old news from a year ago. Is it really that difficult that a photo of a sports team taken without everyone wearing a mask? They can't sit without the mask for five seconds for a photograph? It's absolutely absurd.

## Musical event at Villa Park VFW Sept. 17

Villa Park VFW Post 2801 is hosting a musical event from 5-8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17 at the VFW, E. St. Charles Road.

The event is open to the public. There will be live music by a band with outside patio food serve 5-8:30 p.m. On the menu are burgers with fries, a double hot dog and fries and a shrimp basket with a cost of \$5 each. Domestic beer is \$2 per glass, while domestic bottled beer is \$3 per bottle.

Gaming machines also are available. For more information, call 834-8191 or email vpvwpost@gmail.com.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Warriors beat the Eagles

The Willowbrook boys golf team defeated Leyden 161-188 in last week's West Suburban Gold Conference dual meet at Sugar Creek Golf Course. The Warriors improved to 2-0 in conference play and 2-1 overall with their Sept. 2 victory over the Eagles. Willowbrook senior Tommy Doyle (above) earned medalist honors in the meet by firing a 9-hole score of 38 on the par-32 course. Senior Max Hirsch (below) posted a 40 for the Warriors, while junior Brett Vandergrift shot a 41. Junior Brandon Rodriguez contributed to Willowbrook's team total of 161 with his score of 42.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## On the move

Willowbrook's boys cross-country team ran to an 11th-place finish in Saturday's 14-team Mike Kuharic Invite at Lyons Township High School. Junior Kevin Diederich, above, posted the Warriors' fastest finishing time—18 minutes, 4.2 seconds—in the 5-kilometer (3.1-mile) event. Diederich finished 57th in the event's individual standings. Junior Charlie Hayes (18:42.7) placed 65th among all individuals in the race, while junior Sean Kling (18:47) finished 68th. Senior Damian Rocha (19:15; 78th) and junior Garrett Williams (19:26.9; 83rd) rounded out Willowbrook's scoring lineup. Junior Henry Sloan (20:20.7; 88th) and senior Alex Simmons (20:54.7; 92nd) also ran for the Warriors in Saturday's varsity race. Sandburg won the event's team title. Willowbrook will run at this Saturday's meet at Peoria's Detweiler Park—the site of the IHSA boys and girls cross-country state meets. This year's state-meet races will take place on Nov. 6.



## Running Warrior

The Willowbrook girls cross-country team competed in Saturday's Mike Kuharic Invite at Lyons Township High School's south campus in Western Springs. The Warriors placed 12th in the team standings of the 13-team competition. Senior Lily Weder, above, delivered Willowbrook's best finishing time in the 5-kilometer (3.1-mile) race. She completed the race in a 56th-place time of 22 minutes, 6 seconds. Junior Amelia Barrington (22:34.6) finished 60th in the individual standings, while senior Madeline Barrington (22:41.5) landed in 62nd place. Juniors Abby Kusmierz (23:20.9) and Calley Dolson (23:58.3) finished 73rd and 74th, respectively, while junior Alyssa McKenna (28:18.9) placed 87th. Lyons Township won the team title in Saturday's girls event. The Warriors will run in this Saturday's meet at Detweiler Park in Peoria.

