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

Vincent Calzante has been named as Addison Trail's December recipient of 88's Best recognition for his outstanding academic accomplishments. Calzante, a senior, was recognized during the Dec. 13 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

The transition from a small parochial school with a graduating class of just 14 students to a high school of almost 2,000 students was a big change, but Calzante found the drive to not just achieve academically, but to become a true Addison Trail Blazer.

**Academic achievements:**

- Completed nine honors courses, and earned As in every one to date
- Completed 12 Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses, and earned As in every one to date
- Involvement at Addison Trail:
  - Founder and Co-President of Future Medical Professionals (a club focused on providing opportunities for students interested in pursuing medical careers)
  - National Honor Society (NHS) Board member
  - Italian Club Board member
  - Class of 2022 Historian
  - Four-year member of the Boys Volleyball Team
  - Member of Psychology Club
  - Member of Math Team
  - Member of Student Council
  - Tutors other students through the AT Ambassador Resource

**Community involvement:**

- Participated in the Northwestern Medicine Discovery Program, which exposes students to a broad range of health care careers through activities such as tours, guest speakers, group discussion and hands-on projects
- Serves as a lifeguard and a swim instructor at a local park district

**Future plans:**

Calzante plans to major in biochemistry and minor in creative writing. Post undergrad, Calzante plans to attend medical school or continue

his interests in graduate school. He hopes to enroll at University of Michigan, his dream school since seventh grade, or University of Notre Dame.

**Staff member comments**

"Calzante is a top-notch young man, truly a shining star in and out of the classroom. Calzante is a fine, humble young man, who truly wants to make this world a better place, using his talents to help others. One example that stands out is when Calzante approached me during his sophomore year with the idea of initiating a tutoring program for athletes. While he was in the process of organizing this program, we started remote learning, so he then took the initiative to reach out to teachers/students and provide virtual peer tutoring support. He has helped many students better comprehend concepts in a variety of subjects, but particularly in the STEM field. Calzante would like to become a physician. He was accepted into a highly competitive program for high school students interested in the medical field through Northwestern. His passion for helping others, combined with his love for STEM and his analytical reasoning skills, make him a perfect fit for a career in medicine. I have no doubt in my mind Calzante will achieve his goal of becoming a physician, providing quality care to his patients from diverse backgrounds."

— Dana Marine, AT Counselor

"When I think of Calzante, I think of a person who is completely self-aware and holds himself accountable for his actions. It has been a privilege to have had Calzante in class for two years and to be his volleyball coach. He is resilient, driven and incredibly hardworking. I appreciate Calzante's willingness to advocate for himself and his ability to communicate so effectively. In addition, he is a stellar writer, and I could ALWAYS rely on him to participate through Zoom last year. I am very proud of what he has been able to accomplish, and he is



Vincent Calzante is pictured here with Addison Trail Principal Jack Andrews.

deserving of this recognition!"

— Jessica Clark, AT English teacher and Boys Volleyball Team coach  
"Calzante has impressed me with the quality of his work in AP Biology. His salient comments during discussion underlie a general thirst for knowledge and an ability to apply what he has learned to new situations and across concepts. He is a natural leader among his peers, and I have no doubt he will succeed in any endeavor he pursues."

— Carolyn Erwin, AT science teacher

"I've had the pleasure of knowing Vincenzo since he stepped foot into Addison Trail! He is definitely gifted in a foreign language. He shows a great interest in Italian, and his appreciation and respect for diverse

cultures is quite evident. His passion for expanding his ability to communicate with a wide variety of people is outstanding. A student like him is one in a million. Vincenzo is highly respectful of his fellow students, and he enjoys giving a helping hand when needed. He sets forth a great example for his classmates and for me. He is one of the kindest students I've had the pleasure of teaching. His kindness, combined with his drive, makes for a well-rounded individual. His leadership qualities are exceptional. I know I could count on him if I ever need assistance in class with volunteering a question or answer at any given moment. Vincenzo is worthy of this well-deserved award!"

— Judie Vinirini-Lynch, AT world language teacher

## • Bond (Continued from front page)

where Lane was running after the shooting. Williams was transported to a local hospital for medical attention. He was released from the hospital into police custody on Dec. 27. The innocent bystanders who were shot were also transported to a local hospital for medical attention. None of their injuries were life-threatening, and they have all been released from medical care. When processing the scene, authorities found twelve fired 9 mm shell casings.

"The allegations that these two men opened fire in a crowded mall of between 15,000 to 20,000 people, on one of the busiest shopping days of the year are evidence of an unconscionable degree of violence and a complete and utter disregard for public safety," Berfin said. "Make no mistake, in DuPage County public safety is our top priority and anyone who commits this type of violent crime in DuPage County will be apprehended, charged and, if found guilty, face a significant amount of time behind bars."



Steven Lane



Tyrann Williams

"We are all extremely grateful that the injuries sustained by the four innocent victims do not appear to be life-threatening and that they are all on the mend. I thank all the law enforcement agencies involved in this situation for their assistance. Within minutes, hundreds of police officers from across the county descended on the mall and quickly brought a chaotic situation under control."

The next court appearance for Williams is scheduled for arraignment on Jan. 20. The next court appearance for Lane is scheduled for arraignment on Jan. 19. Both cases will be heard in front of Judge John Kinsella.

## Coming events

**Friday, Jan. 7 and Friday, Jan. 21**  
Craft time for littles

From 10-10:45 a.m. at the Addison Public Library, craft time for littles is geared toward ages 2-5, but open to all ages. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-543-3617.

**Saturday, Jan. 8**  
Vaccine clinic

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Large Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library, the Illinois Department of Public Health is bringing a vaccine clinic to the library for people 12 years of age and older. Walk-ins are welcome. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. IDPH Hotline: 833-621-1284.

**Monday, Jan. 10-31**  
Story time on Zoom

From 10-10:30 a.m. at the Addison Public Library, stories, songs and more. Geared toward ages 2-5, but all ages are welcome. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-543-3617.

**Monday, Jan. 10**  
Start the new year with meditation

Starting at 7 p.m. on Zoom via the Addison Public Library, Nirav Sheth has been inspiring audiences to practice a simple meditation technique. Bring joy, peace, positivity, and relaxation into your daily life. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-543-3617.

**Slices of life**

**Reflections on 2021, stepping forward to '22**

It's that time of year. Out with the old, in with the new. It would be an understatement to say that I welcome the new. It would more of an understatement that I still mourn the old. But I'm getting there.

It's been a year of hardship for me as well as a year of healing. Mostly healing. When I look back to last January, I can honestly say I was walking around in a complete fog. It's a wonder I got out of bed, much less wrote columns—which I did. I didn't miss a one.

I think meeting those deadlines helped in ways I didn't understand at the time. They forced me to do something—anything. That, in turn got me up each morning. It made me shower and get dressed and pretend to exert some normalcy in a life that was anything but normal at the time.

People were counting on me to tap out 600 or so words each week and I think that helped to keep me going. People were counting on me—at a time when I couldn't count on myself, when I couldn't, or wouldn't—do something for me, because I didn't have it in me. I was exhausted. Beyond that, honestly.

There was no gas in the tank. I felt completely empty. Still do, sometimes, but the emptiness is slowly dissipating. The tank is slowly being replenished. It's been a process. It is a process.

And in the end, I have not only the growth and the renewal of my life, but I have my written words. Columns that came out of the depths of grief as well as the depths of healing and finding life anew. Columns demonstrating the miracle of hope. The miracle of the continuance of life.

My written words helped keep me alive. I'm so glad they helped others, but just as much they helped me.

I guess what I'm trying to say is "Thank you." In so many ways, this column kept me going. Kind messages and emails from readers kept me afloat. They kept my head above water at a time when I wasn't sure whether I'd drown or not.

When I think about how far I've come, tears stream down my face. I can't stop them and don't think I'd want to. I've learned that tears can cleanse. Tears can heal. And 2021 has been a year of healing for me, as I hope it has been for others.

I hope I never have to repeat this growth, but now that I'm going into 2022, I'm glad for all the lessons, all the heartache and all the pain. Because pain can become strength. Heartache can become joy. Lessons can help you become the teacher.

I can boldly say I am not the same person I was a year ago; she is but a shadow of me. I look no different from the outside, but my inside has changed most completely.

Would I go back to my old self, my old me? I'm not sure I could anymore. When you change, you change.



By **JILL PERTLER**  
Columnist

Would I want to live out the life I'd planned? Yes. Of course I would. That got taken from me and that will never change. This life I am living is not what I planned; it's what I have, still. And in looking ahead to 2022, I can say firmly and unashamedly that I look forward to the future.

I couldn't say that a year ago, but I can with resolute confidence now. Bring it on 2022. Let's grow together. Let's meet some new friends. Let's dance and laugh and live this life.

With that, I offer a huge thanks to all of you who have made this new me possible.

Your support has been life-changing. Big hugs.

*Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. She invites readers to follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.*

**Clutch basket**

Junior Sara Stout (No. 22) of the Willowbrook girls basketball team is pictured while making a game-tying shot during last week's game against Wheaton North at the Bill Nelbch Falcon Classic. Stout's basket tied the score at 41-41 with about six minutes left in the fourth quarter. Stout added another basket less than two minutes later to give the Warriors a 45-41 lead. Wheaton North then scored nine straight points to take a 50-45 lead. The Falcons went on to beat Willowbrook 60-50, handing the Warriors their first loss of the season. Stout scored nine points in the loss to the Falcons. Willowbrook finished the tournament with a 71-58 win over Waubonsie Valley on Dec. 28. The Warriors, who won the third-place trophy at Wheaton North's event, completed the holiday competition with an overall record of 13-1.



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# Montini Catholic celebrates \$100,000 Scholarship Club

Montini Catholic proudly recognizes the first eight members of its Class of 2022's \$100,000 Scholarship Club. The club includes students who have received \$100,000+ in academic scholarship offers during their quests for college offers. So far, Montini Catholic seniors have accumulated close to \$2.5 million in academic scholarship offers.

The number of members and the total of offers is expected to grow as the school year progresses.

Congratulations to the following seniors:

**Aniyah Ashford MacArthur**  
Middle School  
\$95,000 President's Scholarship - Bradley University; \$108,000 Valparaiso Board of Directors Scholarship - Valparaiso University

**Sarah Ernst (Lombard)**  
Sacred Heart School  
\$28,000 Academic Merit Scholarship; \$1,000 Husky Legacy - Northern Illinois University; \$100,000 Presidential Scholarship; \$500 Visit Grant; \$500 Priority Admissions Grant - Olivet Nazarene University

**Sebastian Jara (Lombard)**  
St. Plus X Parish School  
\$88,000 Presidential Scholarship; \$500 Early Action Scholarship - Elmhurst College; \$100,000 Presidential Scholarship; \$10,000 Catholic Heritage Award - Loyola University; \$127,600 University of Dayton Scholarships - University of Dayton; \$74,424 Mari Twain Non-Resident Tuition Waiver - University of Missouri

**Ned Kalata**  
St. Mary of Gostyn  
\$116,000 Vice President's Scholarship and Catholic High School Award - Saint Louis University; \$96,000 Trustee Distinguished Scholarship - St. Norbert

**Varehika Karthi (Addison)**  
St. Philip the Apostle  
\$88,000 Loyola Scholarship - \$10,000 Catholic Heritage Award - Loyola University; \$24,500 North Central College Scholarship - North Central College

**Tommy May**  
O'Neill Middle School  
\$40,000 Regents Scholarship; \$10,000 Catholic Heritage Scholarship - Loyola University; \$68,000 John F. Kennedy

Scholarship - St. Norbert; \$88,000 Scholarship - Boena Vista University

**Katie Peters**  
Everest Academy  
\$72,000 Benedictine College Scholarship - Benedictine College; \$60,000 Deun's Scholarship - Franciscan University of Steubenville; \$120,000 Trustee Scholarship - University of Dallas; \$36,000 St. Thomas Welder Scholarship - University of Mary; \$30,000 Trustee's Merit Award - Belmont Abbey College

**Jessica Watts (Lombard)**  
Divine Infant Jesus School  
\$92,000 Catholic Heritage Scholarship - DePaul University; \$84,000 Presidential Scholarship - Dominican University

## Jim Peterik to perform at AHS studio theater

Join the Addison Center for the Arts on Thursday, Feb. 10 to welcome Grammy award winner Jim Peterik of The Ides of March to the Addison Trail Studio Theater Stage located inside Addison Trail High School, at 213 N. Lombard Road. Experience the music and the stories of Jim Peterik along with guitars from his private collection in this intimate setting of the studio theater.

You may remember Jim Peterik from The Ides of March as the singer/songwriter of one of rock-and-roll's most iconic songs, "Vehicle." Over the years Jim's songs have garnered 18 Top 10 Billboard spots and have sold more than 30 million copies, earning him a Grammy(TM), a People's Choice award, an Oscar nomination, and multiple gold and platinum RIAA commendations. These songs are among everyone's favorites and are all instantly recognizable. His collaborations with .38 Special - "Caught Up In You," "Hold On Loosely," and "Rockin' Into The Night," to name a few, vaulted to the top of the charts. Jim has collaborated with Sammy

Hagar in writing the movie theme song "Heavy Metal" and has collaborated with Survivor on the Rocky movie theme song "Eye of the Tiger."

Over the years Jim has collected quite an arsenal of guitars, more than 140 of them, and he says, "they all have a story." Hear the music and some of the stories that inspired the songs and see some of Jim's guitars on stage up close and personal from his private vault.

Don't miss this intimate musical presentation with rock-and-roll legend Jim Peterik. Support the Addison Center for the Arts with your attendance and make the guitar hero, singer songwriter in your family happy this Valentine's Day with this experience.

Only 100 tickets will be sold so reserve yours early for Thursday, Feb. 10 at: [www.AddisonCenterForTheArts.org](http://www.AddisonCenterForTheArts.org) and Eventbrite.

## Coming events

**Tuesday, Jan. 11**  
• How to master the phone and video interview

From 10-11 a.m. at the Large Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library, the People's Resource Center will help attendees learn about the unique challenges of phone and video interviews as well as strategies to be successful. Info: [addisonlibrary.org](http://addisonlibrary.org) or call 630-543-3617.

• **Book discussion: Before We Were Yours** by Lisa Wingate

Starting at 7 p.m. at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library, based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals, this riveting, wrenching, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong. Info: [addisonlibrary.org](http://addisonlibrary.org) or call 630-543-3617.

**Wednesday, Jan. 12**  
• **Polar Bear story time**

Polar Bear story time will be held from 10-10:30 a.m. at the Addison Public Library. Info: [addisonlibrary.org](http://addisonlibrary.org) or call 630-543-3617.

• **Virtual lunch and learn: Circular economy 101**

Starting at 11 a.m. on Zoom via the Addison Public Library, work together to propose ideas for people to minimize waste, increase efficiency, and close resource and energy loops. We'll make designing circular systems real! Plant Chicago was established in 2011 as the anchor for the project known as The Plant, a collaborative community of food businesses on the southwest side of Chicago. Info: [addisonlibrary.org](http://addisonlibrary.org) or call 630-543-3617.

630-543-3617.

**Thursday, Jan. 13**  
• **Chair yoga**

Starting at 10 a.m. at the Large Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library, certified yoga instructor Marti Lahoud will guide you through one of the gentlest forms of yoga, emphasizing breath awareness and relaxation. Info: [addisonlibrary.org](http://addisonlibrary.org) or call 630-543-3617.

• **Cricut Design Space basics: Monograms**

From 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, learn the basics of Cricut Design Space—the designing software for the Cricut Maker cutting machine. This class will teach you how to create a custom monogram using the text tool and uploading images. Info: [addisonlibrary.org](http://addisonlibrary.org) or call 630-543-3617.

**Friday, Jan. 14**  
• **Creative Studio drop-in help**

From 2-4 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, need help with a Creative Studio project? Drop-in to get assistance from staff. Equipment and staff help will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Info: [addisonlibrary.org](http://addisonlibrary.org) or call 630-543-3617.

**Saturday, Jan. 15**  
• **Essentrics: Dynamic stretching**

Starting at 10 a.m. at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library, Essentrics® is a low-impact, full-body workout that is safe for all ages and fitness levels and helps you improve flexibility. Wear comfortable clothes.

We workout in bare feet or non-

slip socks. Info: [addisonlibrary.org](http://addisonlibrary.org) or call 630-543-3617.

**Ongoing events**  
• **Storytime inside**

From 10-10:30 a.m. Thursdays through Feb. 3 at the Addison Public Library, Storytime inside is geared toward ages birth-3, but all ages welcome. Please register for each session separately. Info: [addisonlibrary.org](http://addisonlibrary.org) or call 630-543-3617.

• **[Hola! (drop-in)]**

Join the Addison Public Library on Thursdays from 10:43 to 11:15 a.m. for an in-person bilingual story time in Spanish and English. Drop-in. Info: [addisonlibrary.org](http://addisonlibrary.org) or call 630-543-3617.

• **Let's Move story time**

From 10 to 10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 14 and Friday, Jan. 28, at the Addison Public Library, please register for each session separately. Info: [addisonlibrary.org](http://addisonlibrary.org) or call 630-543-3617.

• **Computer basics**

Learn computer basics from 6-7 p.m. at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library. Info: [addisonlibrary.org](http://addisonlibrary.org) or call 630-543-3617.

• **Heroes story time**

From 10-10:30 a.m. at the Addison Public Library, join us for stories and activities about everyday heroes, superheroes, and more. Info: [addisonlibrary.org](http://addisonlibrary.org) or call 630-543-3617.

Clubs and organizations are welcome to send entries for this column to: [news1@rvpublishing.com](mailto:news1@rvpublishing.com). Please include a phone number or e-mail address to contact for information.

## Joliet Diocese seeks grant applicants for humanitarian programs

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) of the Diocese of Joliet is now accepting applications for its local grant program.

Applications should be mailed by Tuesday, March 1.

The CCHD is the domestic anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, working to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ "...to bring

good news to the poor... release to captives... sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free." (Luke 4:18).

To ensure CCHD funds are used in keeping with Catholic moral and social teaching, all organizations applying must go through a multi-step review process.

To apply, visit [dioceseofjoliet.org](http://dioceseofjoliet.org) to find a grant application explaining the criteria to receive the funds.

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