

Rattana honored as 88's Best for February

Senior has excelled in academics and athletics

Willowbrook High School senior Emma Rattana was recently named her school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of February. Rattana was recognized at the District 88 Board of Education's meeting on Feb. 28.

The 88's Best award honors students for their achievements in and out of the classroom.

An exceptional student and athlete, Rattana has completed five Advanced Placement/AP college-level courses, along with several honors courses. She serves as the president of Willowbrook's National Honor Society chapter. She's also an inductee of the National English Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Tri-M (Modern Music Masters) Honor Society and Willowbrook's social studies honor society—Civitas.

Rattana has earned Distinction Honor Roll status in each semester of her time at Willowbrook. She's served as a New Beginnings board member and leader at the school; New Beginnings is a program in which upper-class students mentor freshmen and assist them in adjusting to high school.

Additionally, Rattana is a member of Willowbrook's Youth Equity Stewardship (YES!) program, which strives to prepare students to recognize and learn from the diversity

around them. Rattana is a standout member of Willowbrook's girls golf and badminton teams. She's served as captain of both squads. Rattana was the top player on the Warriors' girls golf team during each of her four seasons. As a freshman, she qualified for the 2018 IHSA Class 2A state meet.

Rattana will continue her education at Nova Southeastern University in Florida. She plans to major in biology and minor in neuroscience.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing



cos unveiled the state-championship banner commemorating the volleyball team's achievement. The 2021 state championship was the Montini girls volleyball program's first state title. Freshman Lizzie Evenson of Villa Park is one member of the Broncos' state-championship team. One photo (above) shows Evenson during the introductions at the ring ceremony. Another photo (left) from after the ceremony shows (left to right) Evenson with two of her teammates—sophomores Halley Goetz and sophomore Ella Herrmann. Evenson is a Villa Park resident. Goetz and Herrmann are residents of Lombard. Before attending Montini, Evenson and Goetz went to St. Plus X School in Lombard. Herrmann attended Lombard's Sacred Heart School.

State-championship team honored

The members of Montini Catholic High School's 2021 IHSA Class 2A state-champion girls volleyball team were recognized at a ring ceremony during halftime of the school's boys' basketball game against St. Ignace last month. Montini's volleyball team completed the 2021 season with a 40-1 record. The Broncos, who won their last 35 matches of the season, defeated Pleasant Plains in the Class 2A state-championship match on Nov. 13 at Redbird Arena in Normal. Moments after the ring presentations, the Bron-



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Broncos commit to compete at the next level

Montini Catholic High School in Lombard held a ceremony last month to recognize 12 senior Broncos who committed to continue their academic and athletic pursuits at the collegiate level. The Montini seniors who recently signed Letters of Intent (pictured left to right) included: (front row) Evan Peska (soccer, Carroll University), Jacoby Washington (football, St. Xavier University), Sawyer White (basketball and soccer, Illinois Wesleyan University), Michael Carver (football, University of St. Francis) and Mario Florio (football and lacrosse, Lake Forest College); (back row) Anthony DeFilippis (lacrosse, Carroll University), Colin May (football, Augustana College), Brady Raczkowski (lacrosse, Carroll University), Deion Manley (football, Ball State University), Gianni Paviopoulos (golf, College of DuPage), Brendan Dwyer (baseball, Illinois Institute of Technology) and Lorenzo Smith (football, Hamline University). Raczkowski is a Villa Park resident.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook High School senior Emma Rattana was recently named her school's February recipient of the 88's Best award. Rattana was recognized at the District 88 Board of Education meeting on Feb. 28. She is pictured (above right) at the meeting with Willowbrook assistant principal Jamie Gourley (left). Rattana has been a distinguished student and athlete throughout her four years at Willowbrook. She is the president of the school's National Honor Society chapter, and is also a member of several other honor societies. Rattana has been named to Willowbrook's Distinction Honor Roll in each semester of her high school career. She is also a member of the school's badminton and girls golf teams. Rattana was the Warriors' top girls goffer throughout her four years with the program. She earned an individual berth in the 2018 IHSA Class 2A state meet during her freshman season. The file photo (top right) shows Rattana during her senior season in the fall of 2021. Rattana will attend Nova Southeastern University in Florida. She intends to pursue a major in biology and a minor in neuroscience.

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DuPage Foundation mourns passing of co-founder Mary Eleanor Wall

Mary Eleanor Wall, a co-founder of DuPage Foundation, passed away recently, leaving behind a celebrated legacy and lifelong commitment to community. She was 92 years old.



Mary Eleanor Wall

As a visionary in community and civic affairs, Mary Eleanor was an influential voice who helped bring DuPage Foundation to life in 1986 with the late Jerry Bradshaw and Brooks McCormick. She recognized the need for a local charitable organization that would raise the quality of life for the residents of DuPage County. Today, her vision remains as the Foundation surpassed \$65 million in cumulative grants and operates under the same guiding principles created more than 35 years ago.

Mary Eleanor's leadership within the community started long before the Foundation's inception. An Elmhurst resident since 1959, she became actively involved in the community as she raised three sons. She was a member of the Elmhurst branch of the American Association of University Women and served as President from 1965 to 1967. She served as Illinois AAUW state president from 1979 to 1981.

In 1971, Mary Eleanor founded the DuPage County Democratic Women's Caucus and, in 1974, became one of the first Democratic women to be elected to the DuPage County Board. She also served as a Forest Preserve Commissioner and DuPage County Regional Planning Commissioner in the late 70s.

In 1975, Mary Eleanor helped form the DuPage Senior Citizens Council. Later, she served as both a board member and the first executive director of Senior Home Sharing, Inc. She received two presidential appointments from President Jimmy Carter. Her first appointment in 1977 was to the nine-member presidential

commission to make recommendations to the President for a new director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The second appointment was to the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, on which she served from 1980 to 1982.

In 1985, Brooks McCormick became a member of the DuPage County Planning Commission. At the time, he was also chairman of the executive committee for The Chicago Community Trust. Working together, Mary Eleanor and Brooks saw the extraordinary population growth in DuPage and believed in the power of establishing a local philanthropic resource to meet the County's growing needs. Jerry Bradshaw, a prominent Wheaton banker, was asked to join the effort and The DuPage Community Foundation was established.

Six other community leaders were recruited for their special areas of expertise to guide the Foundation's structure and scope of grantmaking. The first advisory committee included: Jerry C. Bradshaw, Elizabeth D. Eben, Jody E. Ellyne, John R. Horton, Brooks McCormick, Carleton Nadelhoffer, Hartman E. Stime, Charlie A. Thurston, and Mary Eleanor Wall.

Once the Foundation began making grants and became a permanent fixture and helping hand of the community, the momentum for community giving drew others to the cause. Mary Eleanor served as the Foundation's first Board Chair from 1986 to 1991 and was designated a Trustee Emerita upon her retirement from the Board. She also served on several Foundation committees, including Grant Committee from 1988-2006; the Bylaws Committee from 1988-2017; and the McCormick Match Committee from 2000-2004.

"Mary Eleanor Wall was a driving force behind DuPage Foundation and one of the most celebrated leaders of our 35-year history," said DuPage Foundation President and CEO Dave McGowan. "Without Mary Eleanor, there is no DuPage Foundation. She

was a special person with a unique vision and strong ambition to make DuPage County a better place. We were fortunate to know her and it's been our honor to carry out her vision of fostering philanthropy and building community partnerships."

Mary Eleanor received countless awards for her dedication to helping the community. In 2000, she was named Humanitarian of the Year by

the West Suburban Philanthropic Network and received the Community Service Professional Award from Metropolitan Family Services DuPage. A year later, she was honored as she was profiled in a book, The First Ladies of Elmhurst: Prominent Women of the Twentieth Century. The book was researched by the late Ruth Strand and written by Eugenie Urlick



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Willowbrook's DECA Team competes at state event

Willowbrook High School held a state send-off celebration last week for the school's DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) Team, which participated in the DECA state competition (known as the Illinois DECA Career Development Conference) from March 3-5 in Rosemont. Pictured left to right are: Junior Neeraja Kumar, senior Penelope DeValle, senior Charles May, senior Kalista Becker, senior Maxwell Hirsch and DECA adviser Laura Lopez. Not pictured are Junior Hudson De La Rosa and senior Chris Nasi. DECA is a competitive club that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. For more information about DECA, visit www.deca.org.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park Review

Fish fry to be held throughout Lent

Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 Commander Jim Blankshain (pictured at last week's fish fry) said the post will hold a fish fry each Friday during Lent, through April 15. "If it runs well for the next seven weeks, we'll continue on with it," he said.

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Addison Trail names February recipient of 88's Best recognition

Yana Patel has been named as Addison Trail's February recipient of 88's Best recognition for her outstanding service work. A senior, Patel was recognized during the Feb. 28 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

Throughout her four years at Addison Trail, Patel has participated in numerous clubs and has remained at the top of her class academically. She is a great role model for her peers and balances all of it with a positive attitude and a contagious Blazer spirit that has had a lasting impact on her teachers and classmates.

Academic achievements:

- Named as a State Scholar
- Named as the Social Studies Department's Student of the Semester
- Recognized as an AT's Best student
- Earned Honor Roll status since her freshman year
- Involvement at Addison Trail:
 - Key Club (serves as an honorary board member and the 2021-22 Governor for the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District of Key Club International)
 - Member of Math Team
 - Member of Business Professionals of America (BPA) (competed as a finalist at the state and national levels)
 - Member of International Dance (served as President this year)
 - Member of National Honor Society (NHS)
 - Member of Youth and Government

- Member of Theatre (crew)
- Serves as a Class Officer
- Community involvement:
 - Patel has been dancing since she was about 6 years old and participates in a cultural dance program, where she competes nationally.

Future plans:

Although Patel is still deciding which college she will attend, she plans to go to a four-year university and earn degrees in international relations and international business (law and econ). Her dream careers include serving as U.S. Secretary of State or being CEO of a very big business.

Staff members weigh in:

"Patel was one of the most impressive students I've ever taught. She works incredibly hard and is a natural class leader. She is the type of student teachers dream of and is sorely missed from my class."

— AT social studies

"A thread of kindness is interwoven into everything Patel is and does. She cares so much about everyone around her, including her family, school and community! She has an innate ability to see the positive in life. She can take a different problem and come up with a multitude of solutions that benefit all."

— AT science teacher
Andrea Grossart

"Patel is a young woman of commitment and intelligence. However,



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Pictured here with Addison Trail Principal Jack Andrews is Yana Patel, the recipient of the 88's Best Award at Addison Trail for February.

more important than Patel's intellect and dedication is her genuine desire to use her strengths to help others. As a veteran teacher, I have known many intelligent students, but few stand out in my memory as Patel will. A superb student like Patel perseveres not only for her benefit, but instead with the hopes of helping others. She is a natural leader, but also a trusted team player. She

always does her best, but she is not afraid to make mistakes. She is happy to help others, but she also knows when to ask for help. Patel has had a significant impact on the Addison Trail community because of her empathetic nature, her drive to succeed and her remarkable leadership qualities."

— AT world language teacher Kathleen McColaugh

Addison Art Guild to meet Thursday

The Addison Art Guild will hold its Thursday, March 10 meeting at 7 p.m. in Forum room B at Addison Trail High School. Enter door #4 at Addison Center for the Arts Gallery for entrance to the meeting room. Guests are welcome.

Dan Danielson, an award-winning artist, will be the guest artist who will do a watercolor painting.

Danielson's fascination with watercolor began at the American Academy of Art, studying under well renowned Irving Shapiro. After an exciting creative director/career in advertising, Dan began painting full-time and teaching. His award-winning work has been seen in many water-

color shows and businesses.

Dan continues to develop his colorist, regionalism style, while allowing the medium the freedom to reveal its qualities of brilliance and fluidity, capturing the medium's translucent elegance and strength in an ongoing odyssey.

Currently, Dan enjoys teaching at the DuPage Art League and leads workshops at The Peninsula school of Art in door county. He is a signature member of the Illinois Watercolor Society and was awarded "Best of Show" at the IWA Members show for the past few years.

More of his info and images at www.danielson.com

Park district plans Easter events

On Saturday, April 9, the Addison Park District will host an Easter Breakfast followed by an Egg Hunt at the Community Rec Center. Breakfast will be served at 9 a.m. before the Egg Hunt which begins at 10:30 a.m. SHARP. Don't miss it because it's usually over by 10:31!

For tickets to the breakfast and Egg Hunt, register with the Code: 602822-01.

Tickets are \$15/\$20NR. For tickets to the Egg Hunt only, use Code 602822-02. The Egg Hunt only fee is \$6R/\$9NR. For more information, visit addisonparks.org.

Addison Trail to host Career Week

At District 88, the mission is to work for the continuous improvement of student achievement. To assist with accomplishing that mission, programs, events and services are implemented to help ensure students are career ready and have the skills and knowledge to succeed in the workforce.

As part of that focus, the Addison Trail Guidance Department will host its annual Career Week from March 14 to 18. During that event, students will

be able to explore various careers, hear from professionals in a virtual format (provided by Junior Achievement of Chicago), register to meet with guest speakers of their choice and attend a Career/Job-Fair during lunch periods on March 16.

For questions or more information about Career Week, contact Addison Trail Guidance Counselor Mario Fernandez at mfernandez@dupage88.net or 630-628-3321.

Twelve qualify for SkillsUSA State Conference

Twelve Addison Trail students have qualified to compete in the SkillsUSA Illinois State Leadership & Skills Conference. Those students are:

Automotive Service Technology

- Senior Daniel Zielinski
- Sophomore Michael Sampey
- Senior Michael Godenius
- Senior Giovanni Sanchez
- Senior John Taci

Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair

- Junior Abraham Garcia
- Senior Joshua Gloms
- Sophomore Kevin Guardado
- Senior Jorge Garza Gallegos
- Sophomore Ruben Gomez
- Junior Huguer Jaimes

Technical Drafting

Sophomore Jake Santini
This year's event will take place from April 28 to 30 in Peoria.

•Man (Continued from front page)

tage Hill Avenue. When the officer began to follow the Nissan, it is alleged that the vehicle accelerated at a high rate of speed. It is alleged that the Nissan then turned southbound onto Spring Road, at which time the officer activated his emergency lights in attempt to conduct a traffic stop. It is alleged that the vehicle did not stop and instead continued driving through a residential neighborhood at a high rate of speed.

It is further alleged that the Nissan struck another vehicle as it turned on to Spring Road causing such damage to his vehicle that the officer was forced to break a window in the vehicle to remove the driver. It is further alleged that during a search, the officer found a baggie containing cocaine in Guerrero's posses-

sion. Guerrero was transported to a local hospital for medical treatment where he was treated and released.

"The lawlessness and complete disregard for the safety of the general public allegedly displayed by Mr. Guerrero as he led an officer on a high-speed chase in the middle of the afternoon through a residential neighborhood in a stolen motor vehicle will not be tolerated in DuPage County and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," Berlin said. "I commend the Elmhurst Police Department for their work not only in this case but for their continued efforts in keeping our roadways safe."

Guerrero's next court appearance is scheduled April 1 for arraignment in front of Judge Telander.

A 'superhero' discovering her powers: Lenee Beaumont led Benet to 30 wins, 4th at state

By JOSHUA WELGE
jwelge@shawmedia.com



Jon Cunningham for Shaw Media

Benet's Lenee Beaumont drives against Montini's Sawyer White during a Feb. 9 game.

Benet coach Joe Kilbride makes a unique comparison when describing his star junior guard Lenee Beaumont, and it's not a basketball player.

It does reflect Beaumont's vast abilities and potential.

"I think she is sort of like in Spider-Man when he was just discovering his powers," Kilbride said. "I feel like Lenee is kind of a superhero who is just discovering her powers and hasn't quite figured out ways to use them. But she has such an array of abilities. When she learns to fully use them, she'll be tremendous."

She's pretty special already.

Beaumont is a unicorn with a unique skill set for a guard, a facilitator and skilled passer with length at 6-foot. She is also like the modern-day pro point guard who can score. Beaumont put Benet on her back offensively in the first half of its supersectional win over Young. Legend has it that in Benet drills to see how many 3-pointers they can make in a minute, Beaumont routinely swishes 20 or so.

"It's hard to get off 25 shots in a minute, let alone make them," Kilbride said. "I can believe that every team we play is scheming 'How are we going to guard this kid?'"

That dilemma was not uncommon.

Beaumont led Benet to a 30-5 record, an unbeaten East Suburban Catholic Conference regular-season title and fourth place in Class 4A. Beaumont, voted Second Team All-State by The Associated Press, averaged 14.8 points, 4.4 rebounds, 3.7 assists and made 78 3-pointers at a sizzling 42% clip.

Beaumont is the Suburban Life Girls Basketball Player of the Year.

Beaumont arrived at Benet two years ago as a freshman on the most talented team Kilbride has ever had. The team had eight future Division I players. Beaumont quickly showed she belonged.

"When I threw her in with those

kids, it was obvious within five minutes she could play," Kilbride said. "The only questions were how soon do we get this kid on the floor, what's the right way to have her fully develop."

It was no surprise that Beaumont could play.

Beaumont's mom played volleyball in college at UIC and Florida State. Her dad played Division III basketball and later became a boys basketball coach at Glenbard South. Beaumont would go to his practices and do work on the sidelines while watching.

"Ever since I was young and could start walking, I feel like I had a basketball in my hand," Beaumont said.

"Sports has always been part of what I want to do."

College coaches woke up to Beaumont last spring and summer in a big way. Northwestern and Wisconsin offered her in June 2021. Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Tennessee joined the wave of offers in July that now are close to 35. DePaul coach Doug Bruno had come to a couple of Beaumont's games after eighth grade and offered her a scholarship before her freshman year.

"I had no question that it would happen. Same thing with [Benet senior and Navy recruit] Morgan [Demos]," Kilbride said. "Coaches hadn't seen her, but I knew she'd be fine. Morgan blew up, too, but she was like a cherry bomb. Lenee was a grenade, the size of the explosion."

Beaumont said she hopes to make a college decision before AAU season in July. In the meantime, she continues to work on developing a better mindset, what Kilbride calls a "dog mentality" in taking charge of her team. His only complaint is at times she's too unselfish, and Beaumont knows that. Last summer when Kilbride started working with this group he would stop and make the girls run if Beaumont passed up an open shot.

"The way he explains it, if we need a bucket, I have to be the one to step up, to not fear and stray away from the moment," Beaumont said. "When it's time to take over, I need to step up."

Suburban Life All-Area Girls Basketball team

Here is the Suburban Life All-Area girls basketball team.

FIRST TEAM

Lenee Beaumont, Benet, junior: A 6-foot guard with close to 35 scholarship offers including Tennessee, Michigan and DePaul, Beaumont led Benet to a 30-5 record and fourth place in Class 4A. Beaumont averaged 14.8 points, 4.4 rebounds, 3.7 assists and made 78 3-pointers at an impressive 42% rate. Voted Class 4A Second Team All-State by The Associated Press.

Morgan Demos, Benet, senior: Redwings' 6-foot-2 senior center who will play at Navy led 30-5 Benet to East Suburban Catholic regular-season championship and fourth place in Class 4A. Demos averaged 11.9 points and 7.8 rebounds per game. AP Honorable Mention All-State.

Amalia Dray, Nazareth, sophomore: One of three sophomore starters for 33-3 Class 3A state runner-up Roadrunners, Dray led Nazareth in scoring with 11.1 points

per game and assists with 3.1 per game. Also made 40 3-pointers. Voted Honorable Mention Class 3A All-State by AP.

Claire Hyde, Wheaton North, senior: Two-time DuKane Conference Player of the Year broke Wheaton North's school record for most points scored in a career, passing Hannah Snyder, and led Falcons to sectional final. Hyde this season averaged 20.0 points, 6.5 rebounds, 2.6 assists and 2.6 steals and made 76 3-pointers at a 33% clip. AP Honorable Mention All-State.

Nailey Markworth, Lyons, senior: 5-foot-10 guard and Winona State recruit led Lyons to 28-4 record, undefeated West Suburban Conference championship and a sectional final. Markworth averaged 11.2 points, 2.9 assists and 3.9 rebounds. All-conference pick was MVP at Grow the Game and Montini Christmas Tournament.

SECOND TEAM

Shannon Blacher, Montini, junior: 5-foot-11 guard/forward led Lady Broncos

to 25-9 record, undefeated GCAC conference championship and a sectional final. Blacher averaged team-high 13.4 points, 5.3 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 2.1 steals. AP Honorable Mention All-State in Class 3A.

Grace Carlstensen, Nazareth, junior: Sweet-shooting 6-foot junior guard tied Class 3A state tournament record with six 3-pointers in Nazareth's state semifinal via en route to second place in Class 3A. Three-year varsity starter averaged 10.7 points and 5.2 rebounds on the season, both second on Roadrunners, and made team-best 87 3-pointers at 41% clip. AP Honorable Mention All-State.

Kate Gross, Downers Grove North, senior: 5-foot-11 guard/forward and University of Chicago recruit was a two-time all-conference pick and led Trojans to 24-8 record and regional championship. Gross averaged 12 points, 3.5 rebounds and made 69 3-pointers at an impressive 41% clip.

Izzy Lee, Lyons, senior: Illinois soccer recruit and 6-foot forward averaged 13

points and 8 rebounds for 28-4 West Suburban Conference champions and sectional finalists. All-conference pick was MVP at Lyons Thanksgiving Tournament. AP Honorable Mention All-State.

Sophie Sullivan, Willowbrook, senior: Four-year varsity starter, the first two at Montini, and SIU-Edwardsville commit led Warriors to West Suburban Gold title. Sullivan averaged 16.2 points, 3.5 rebounds, 2 assists and 1.8 steals. Finished her career with 1,267 points.

HONORABLE MENTION

Mariann Blass, York, junior; Bella Kedryna, Lemont, junior; Cali Kenny, Willowbrook, sophomore; Victoria Matulevicius, Montini, sophomore; Eleator Monyek, Hinsdale Central, senior; Emily Petriug, Downers Grove South, sophomore; Danni Scully, Nazareth, sophomore; Margaret Temple, Benet, senior; Claire Wagner, IC Catholic Prep, senior; Rynne Wendt, Downers Grove North, senior.

on their COVID-19 vaccines, as well as high levels of population immunity from both vaccination and infections, the risk of outbreaks causing severe illness is reduced. In-person learning

rates. No state has a higher percentage of fully vaccinated 5- to 17-year-olds. Additionally, Illinois is home to the highest percentage of residents who have received a COVID-19 vaccine.

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