



Jenny Buehler



Lauren Coyne



Addy Horner



Hannah Kenny



Lynney Tarnow



Abby Vander Wal



Aniya Warren

2024 Suburban Life All-Area girls volleyball team

By JOSHUA WELGE
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Here is the 2024 Suburban Life All-Area girls volleyball team.

First Team

Jenny Buehler, Downers Grove North, senior, outside hitter: The rock, physically and emotionally, for a Trojans team that finished as unbeaten West Suburban Silver champions, regional champs and a sectional finalist. The 6-foot-1 six-rotation player had a team-high 317 kills and 37 aces and added 179 digs and 24 blocks. She was all-tournament at the Wheaton Classic and Autumnfest. "Because of Jenny's consistency, we were able to maintain a high level of play with a freshman setter, sophomore middle, sophomore outside," Trojans coach Mark Wasik said.

Lauren Coyne, Wheaton Warrenville South, senior, opposite hitter/outside hitter: Selfless player, an opposite hitter by trade, played out of position three of four years to make Tigers a better team. The 6-foot-3 hitter had 349 kills, 60 aces, 50 blocks and 227 digs. Broke program record for career kills (1,217) and career aces (216). All-tournament at Plainfield North, Wheaton Classic and Autumnfest.

Addy Horner, St. Francis, senior, setter/right side hitter: The 6-foot-3 Wisconsin

recruit and four-year varsity starter led Spartans to 2022 and 2023 Class 3A state titles. Horner, all-tourney at BlocktoberFest and Crossroads Classic, had 1,000 combined kills and assists this season. "She has led our team the past three seasons in kills and is a huge factor in our success," St. Francis coach Lisa Ston said. "Addy is a dynamic right-side attacker and setter. She is a great floor leader for our team. Addy has an incredible skill set and a fun energetic personality."

Hannah Kenny, Willowbrook, senior, setter/right side hitter: Committed to Louisville, where she will play libero. Kenny this season became the school record holder for career assists, career aces and surpassed the 1,000-kill milestone and broke the school record for kills in a career while leading the Warriors to a 29-8 record. Kenny had 306 kills, 359 assists, 270 digs, 102 aces and 23 blocks this season. All-conference, academic all-conference and all-tournament at Lincoln-Way Central. Willowbrook went 142-15 in her four years with three conference titles, three regional championships, two sectional titles and third place at state in Class 4A in 2023. "She's an incredible student, athlete and volleyball player," Willowbrook coach Irene Mason said. "Her tempo and ball placement is

beautiful and she puts her hitters in positions to score while also consistently scoring the ball herself."

Lynney Tarnow, Benet, junior, middle hitter: The 6-foot-5 Wisconsin recruit who is ranked the No. 1 Prep Dig player in the state and No. 6 in the country helped lead the Redwings to a 40-2 record and second place in Class 4A for the third consecutive year. Tarnow led Benet in kills with 247 and blocks with 85. She had 35 aces.

Abby VanderWal, Timothy Christian, senior, outside hitter: Texas recruit is the best player to ever come out of Timothy Christian. VanderWal led the Trojans to third place in Class 2A. The 6-foot-3 outside had 455 kills, hitting at a .501 percentage, with 220 digs, 78 aces and 30 blocks. "She is as close to unstoppable as a hitter comes," Trojans coach Scott Piersma said. Four-year varsity player is a two-time conference MVP and MVP of the Manteno Tournament and Montini Invite.

Aniya Warren, Benet, senior, libero: Purdue commit was the East Suburban Catholic Conference Player of the Year, MVP of the Wheaton Classic and Autumnfest and led Benet to a 40-2 record and second place in Class 4A for third straight year. Warren had 312 digs, 78 assists and 16 aces.

Second Team

Alex Barcenas, Downers Grove

South, senior, setter
Brooklynn Brass, Benet, junior, outside hitter

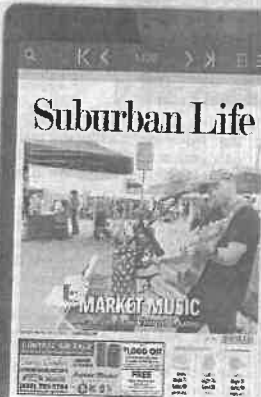
Brooklynn Moore, Glenbard South senior, middle hitter

April Rice, Lemont, senior, setter
Ella Rowe, Glenbard West, sophomore, outside hitter

Kiana Shields, Wheaton Academy, senior, middle hitter
Olivia Zamis, Wheaton North, senior, middle hitter

Honorable mention

Audrey Asleson, Benet, senior, setter; Nora Benjamins, Downers Grove North, junior, middle hitter; Kate Heatherly, Lyons, junior, libero; Cara Herbert, Glenbard West, sophomore, setter; Mackenzie Krzus, St. Francis, junior, outside hitter/setter; Natalie Lawton, IC Catholic Prep, senior, libero; Sylvia Masulionis, Downers Grove South, senior, outside hitter; Kotryna Melstrad, Hinsdale South, junior, outside hitter; Keira O'Donnell, Benet, senior, outside hitter; Bella Potempa, Timothy Christian, junior, outside hitter; Maddie Richard, Lyons, senior, outside hitter; Sienna Skarda, Montini, senior, middle blocker; Amalia Toliopoulos, York, junior, setter/opposite hitter; Ava Young, Hinsdale Central, senior, libero.




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Natalie Gartlan and Lauren Meistrin supplied four points each.

Kerstein erupted for 36 points in Saturday's victory over Bishop Chatard High School. She made 13 field goals, including five shots from 3-point range, during the game. Kerstein sank two 3-point shots and scored 10 points

to cut the Hawks' lead to 10-10. Parrell made two shots from 3-point range and scored 10 points in Montini's loss at Glenbrook South.

The Broncos will play their first home game of the 2024-25 season tonight, Dec. 12, when they will face Trinity in a GCAC contest.

Bell, Katelyn Bell, Macyn McCarty, Ava Sebben, Matthew McGivern, Sean Hubeny, Nick Irion (Lombard), Johnathan Neustadt (Lombard), Myles Monis (Lombard), Vince Irion (Lombard), Quin Paprockas, Chase Langert and Lily Spanos. Back row: James Kavanagh, Louis Corpora, Henry Herold, Vincent Knudson (Lombard), Peter Considine, Jimmy Fitzpatrick (Lombard), Alexander Tack (Lombard), Bryce Ryan (Lombard), Patrick Thompson and Finnegan Grimes (Lombard). Not pictured are: Collins Whitfield, Michael Kavanagh, Lilliana Navarro (Lombard), Malin McGivern, Gianna Langert and Jack Spanos.

Glenbard East junior bowls a perfect game

Justin Kay of the Glenbard East/Glenbard South boys bowling team fired a perfect game during the team's Nov. 21 meet against Bartlett at Streamwood Bowl. Kay, a junior at Glenbard East, fired the 300 game during the second game of his three-game series. After posting a 223 in his first game of the meet, Kay rolled 12 consecutive strikes in his second game to achieve the magic 300 score.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

"By the tenth frame, everybody stopped," said Kay in describing the tension as he closed in on the perfect game. "I was really nervous. Everybody stopped to watch." Needing one more strike to notch the perfect game, Kay delivered a shot, which he thought was slightly off-target. "I thought I missed, but I got a little lucky," he said of his final shot of the game. When all 10 pins fell, Kay's excited teammates surrounded him to celebrate his perfect game. Before Nov. 21, Kay's best-ever game score was a 288, which he rolled in a practice round. His best game score in a competitive meet was a 279. Kay, who has been bowling since he was in eighth grade, noted that while he had competed at Streamwood Bowl before, he had not enjoyed a lot of success there. "I usually don't do too well there," he said. Kay bowled a 194 in his third game of the Nov. 21 meet to turn in a three-game series score of 717 that led the team, known as the Ramders, to a win over Bartlett. He is pictured before the team's Dec. 2 home meet against Riversdale Brookfield. The Ramders defeated the Bulldogs in that meet. At the end of last week, the Ramders held an 11-0 season record in match play and an 8-0 mark in Upstate Eight Conference matches. Sophomore Geo Clayton fired a three-game series score of 691 in the team's win over Riversdale Brookfield, while Kay delivered a three-game total of 667.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Senior cheer

Willowbrook High School honored the seniors on its cheerleading team before last week's boys basketball game against Montini Catholic in Villa Park. The Warriors' senior cheerleaders, pictured left to right after the game, are: Mariah Green, ShaNiya Lawson, Kinsey Crawford, Trinity Smith, Myra Gnourou Bve and Maria Musni. The cheerleading team's competition season begins this month.

•Elections (Continued from page 2)

years." Further down the ballot, results certified Dec. 2 finalized many close races in the Illinois House. The chamber's balance is unchanged by the election and Democrats will hold a 78-member supermajority when lawmakers are sworn in on Jan. 8. "Democrats won every seat in the General Assembly that it already had, and we won in races that I think people didn't expect—county board races, taking control of the McLean County Board, for example, coroner races," Gov. JB Pritzker said last month reacting to the election results. "People clearly bifurcated and

made decisions different down the ballot than they did at the top of the ballot, so I'm proud of that. I think that's a result of the policies Democrats have had in Illinois." Rep. Martin McLaughlin, R-Barrington Hills, officially eked out a 47-vote victory in the 52nd House District in the Northwest Suburbs of Chicago in a race House Democrats spent millions hoping to flip. Rep. Amy Grant, R-Wheaton, won a fourth term in the 47th House District in DuPage County by 292 votes. And Rep. Brandon Schweizer, R-Danville, was reelected by 269 votes in the 104th House District in

Champaign and Vermillion counties. U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen, D-Moline, defeated former Winnebago County Republican judge Joe McGraw by 8.86 points in the 17th Congressional District, which was considered to be the state's most competitive federal race. A majority of voters also supported three statewide advisory questions which asked about potential penalties for interfering with an election judge, a tax on millionaires to cover property tax relief and requiring insurance coverage for in vitro fertilization.

Montini's Broncos pick up two wins to move to 5-2

Kerstein pours in 36 points in Montini's victory at the Hoosier Gym in Indiana

The Montini Catholic girls basketball team won two straight games last week to raise its overall season record to 5-2.

The Broncos opened their Girls Catholic Athletic Conference (GCAC) season with a 47-41 victory at DePaul College Prep in Chicago on Dec. 3. On Saturday, Montini defeated Bishop Chatard High School of Indianapolis 73-52 in a contest at the Hoosier Gym in Knightstown, Indiana. The Hoosier Gym is a basketball gym, museum and community center that was a filming location for the 1986 film "Hoosiers."

Senior Nikki Kerstein scored a team-leading 19 points for the Broncos in their Dec. 3 victory over DePaul College Prep. Senior Peyton Farrell added 14 points. Senior Lily Spanos provided five points, while seniors Natalie Gartlan and Lauren Mellish supplied four points each.

Kerstein erupted for 36 points in Saturday's victory over Bishop Chatard High School. She made 13 field goals, including five shots from 3-point range, during the game. Kerstein sank two 3-point shots and scored 10 points

in the first quarter to help the Broncos to a 22-17 lead after eight minutes of action. She scored eight points in the second quarter, helping Montini to a 38-24 halftime lead. Kerstein made three 3-point shots and scored 12 points during the third quarter to lift the Broncos to a 62-40 advantage with eight minutes to play.

Spanos connected on a pair of 3-point shots and scored 12 points in Saturday's win. Gartlan added eight points, while senior Audrey Kinney contributed seven points.

Three days before facing DePaul College Prep, the Broncos suffered a 56-37 loss at Glenbrook South in Glenview. Kerstein scored 12 points in the Nov. 30 loss. She swished a 3-point shot from just inside the half-court line at the end of the first quarter to cut the Titans' lead to 12-11.

Farrell made two shots from 3-point range and scored 10 points in Montini's loss at Glenbrook South.

The Broncos will play their first home game of the 2024-25 season tonight, Dec. 12, when they will face Trinity in a GCAC contest.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Montini Catholic celebrates 2024-25 Legacy Students

Montini Catholic recently gathered a unique group of students for what has become an annual photo celebration. The group represents what Montini Catholic endearingly defines as its "Legacy Students" — students of alumni parents who once walked the halls of Montini. This year, 52 students of total alumni are carrying on their parents' legacies. The number represents close to 10% of Montini's total student body. This year's Legacy Students are, front row: (left to right) Noah Paprockas, Ava Neustadt (Lombard), Nora Fitzpatrick, Zoe Gargas, Charlotte Payne Zabojsnik (Lombard), Avery Herold, Joseph Neustadt (Lombard), Annalee DeFeo (Lombard), Teagan O'Connor, Maryfaith Considine, Giuliana Karnick, Mary Grace Hubeny and Brianna Konopacz. Second row: Owen Ferris, Orla O'Flaherty, Margaret Nielsen (Lombard), Juliana Neustadt (Lombard), Audrey Ruddy, Jamie Loftus, Nolan Ferris, Jackson Bell, Katelyn Bell, Madilyn McGady, Marian Ogan, Leah Piper (Lombard) and Courtney Canty. Third row: Ava Sebben, Matthew McGivern, Sean Hubeny, Nick Irion (Lombard), Johnathan Neustadt (Lombard), Myles Monis (Lombard), Vince Irion (Lombard), Quin Paprockas, Chase Langert and Lily Spanos. Back row: James Kavanagh, Louis Corpora, Henry Herold, Vincent Knudtson (Lombard), Peter Considine, Jimmy Fitzpatrick (Lombard), Alexander Tack (Lombard), Bryce Ryan (Lombard), Patrick Thompson and Finnegan Grimes (Lombard). Not pictured are: Collins Whittfield, Michael Kavanagh, Lilliana Navarro (Lombard), Malin McGivern, Glanna Langert and Jack Spanos.

Five days after losing to the Warriors, Broncos win the rematch

Montini prevails 58-54 in an overtime battle in Villa Park

The Willowbrook and Montini Catholic boys basketball teams didn't need to wait long for a rematch.

The Warriors and Broncos faced off in the fifth-place game at Fenton High School's Chuck Mitchell Thanksgiving Tournament on Nov. 30. Willowbrook edged Montini 50-48 in that contest to place fifth in Fenton's eight-team tournament.

Five days later, the Broncos faced Willowbrook on the Warriors' home court in Villa Park. Montini won the rematch, beating Willowbrook 58-54 in overtime.

The Broncos improved to 2-4 with their Dec. 5 win over the Warriors. Willowbrook dropped to 2-3 with the loss.

The Warriors led Montini 18-7 after one quarter of last week's contest in Villa Park, which featured vocal student support for both teams. The Broncos scored the first 12 points of the second quarter to take a 19-18 lead. The Warriors regrouped and took a 28-22 lead by halftime. Willowbrook held a 37-36 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Montini senior Drew Church gave his team a 43-39 lead with his 3-point play with less than four minutes to play in the fourth quarter. Seconds later, Willowbrook junior Jaylen Griffin drained a 3-point shot to reduce the Broncos' lead to 43-42. Senior Feim Alka gave the Warriors a 45-43 lead when he sank



a 3-point shot with 2:40 remaining in regulation.

Montini junior Robert Sansone made a 3-point shot to give the Broncos a 46-45 lead in the back-and-forth clash. Senior Jaden Royal put the Warriors back in the lead with a 3-point play. Royal's driving basket and ensuing free throw gave Willowbrook a 48-46 lead with 1:28 to play in the fourth quarter.

Church's steal and basket evened the score at 48-48 with 1:03 remaining in the fourth quarter.



Church, who was fouled on the play, made the free throw to give the Broncos a 49-48 lead.

Montini held a 50-48 lead in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter. Royal's driving basket tied the score at 50-50 with 5.5 seconds left in the quarter. After a time out, the Broncos missed a long-range shot at the buzzer, and the game continued with a four-minute overtime period.

Willowbrook junior Otis Powell scored the first four points of the overtime period with a pair of free throws and an inside basket. Powell's four overtime points gave the Warriors a 54-50 lead, but Montini closed the game with an 8-0 run. Senior Dillon Bagley scored the Broncos' first basket of the overtime period. Sansone then scored to tie the score at 54-54. Bagley added another basket to give Montini a 56-54 lead with 34 seconds to play. Junior Henry Herold made two free throws with 15.4 seconds remaining to give the Broncos their 58-54 advantage.

Sansone scored a team-leading 15 points for the Broncos in their win over the Warriors. Bagley provided 13 points for Montini. Church and senior Jack Barrett contributed eight and seven points, respectively, for the Broncos.

Powell scored a team-high 18 points for the Warriors in their overtime loss to the Broncos. Senior Filip Palutkiewicz, who sank a pair of 3-point shots during the first half, supplied 12 points for the Warriors. Griffin added nine points.

Montini raised its overall season record to 3-4 following Saturday's 73-31 victory over Bishop Chatard High School of Indianapolis in a game played at the Hoosier Gym in Knightstown, Indiana. The Hoosier Gym was a filming location for the 1986 film "Hoosiers."



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors beat Morton, lose to Hinsdale South

Willowbrook's girls basketball team opened its West Suburban Gold Conference season with last week's 63-49 home victory over Morton. The Warriors led the visiting Mustangs 17-5 after one quarter of the Dec. 3 game in Villa Park. Willowbrook held a 37-26 lead at halftime. The Warriors owned a 47-38 lead at the end of the third quarter. Willowbrook senior Kendall Medinger (No. 14 - above left) made six shots from 3-point range and scored a team-leading 22 points in her team's win over Morton. Medinger sank a pair of 3-point attempts in the first quarter. She poured in three 3-point baskets in the second quarter and drained one 3-point attempt in the fourth quarter. She also made a 2-point field goal and sank two free throws during the fourth quarter. Senior Ayaanl Gusman, who made seven of eight free throws in the fourth quarter, added 18 points for the Warriors. Senior Kristin Woods provided nine points in Willowbrook's win over Morton. Sophomore Jada Langston and junior Joely Maciejewski contributed six and five points, respectively. Senior Loralal McIntyre netted three points. The Warriors fell to 1-1 in conference action following Saturday's 59-50 loss to Hinsdale South in Villa Park. The visiting Hornets led the Warriors 40-35 at the end of the third quarter. The teams were deadlocked at 47-47 during the fourth quarter. Hinsdale South then scored nine straight points to jump to a 56-47 lead. Gusman (No. 10 - above right) led the Warriors in scoring in Saturday's game with her 17-point output. Medinger made four 3-point shots to supply 12 points. Woods, who made four field goals and sank four free throws, also tallied 12 points. Willowbrook's overall season record fell to 2-4 after Saturday's loss to Hinsdale South. The Warriors' schedule this week includes non-conference games against Metea Valley and Lake Park, along with a conference battle at Addison Trail.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Montini Catholic's boys basketball team squared off against Willowbrook in last week's spirited game in Villa Park. The visiting Broncos beat the Warriors 58-54 in overtime in the Dec. 5 battle. The same two teams met five days earlier, when they played in the fifth-place game at Fenton's Chuck Mitchell Thanksgiving Tournament. Willowbrook scored a last-second basket to earn a 50-48 win in that meeting. Junior Otis Powell (No. 2 - top left) scored a team-leading 18 points for the Warriors in their Dec. 5 overtime loss to Montini. Senior Jack Barrett (No. 13 - top right) contributed seven points for the Broncos in their win over Willowbrook. One more photo (above) from last week's game shows (left to right) senior Filip Palutkiewicz (No. 23), who scored 12 points for the Warriors, and Montini junior Henry Herold, who scored the game's last two points when he sank a pair of free throws with 15.4 seconds remaining in the overtime period. Herold scored four points in the game.

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Hi, this is Lombard calling. I want to thank the person who helped me Thanksgiving afternoon around 4:30 at Harry Caray's Restaurant in Yorktown. The strong gusty winds that afternoon knocked me down between two cars that were parked and I couldn't get up. This gentleman came over and between him and my boyfriend, they were able with great difficulty, I might say, to help me stand up. I didn't get his name, but I sincerely hope that he sees this expression of great gratitude. Thank you.

I want to thank the Village of Lombard and all the others that host blood drives. Did you know one unit of blood can save up to three lives? I had a family member who was one of those statistics. Now, as the weather turns colder, we need more places to host blood drives, to keep saving lives. The Red Cross and even Versiti, which holds drives in Lombard, have put out the alarm that there is a blood shortage crisis. Our park district, First Church of Lombard, Plum Library and even District 44 have done the lion's share of hosting these drives for the village. Please consider letting Versiti use some of your free space by becoming a host.

I see people and yard services blowing leaves in the street all the time in Villa Park and Lombard. Is this legal? I think it clogs the sewers, causing flooding and additional work for the filtering system. Please let us know what we can do to report these offenders. (How about taking a picture and sending it to the city?)

After all the recent sub-zero wind chills and temperatures in the teens, I was glad to see temperatures get to 50 degrees on Sunday (Dec. 8). More global warming, please!

How Speak Out works

- Speak Out is a forum in which readers can express their opinion anonymously concerning local, state, national and international topics. Each call is limited to 200 words whether the caller calls 630-629-TALK or emails their opinion to speakout@rvpublishing.com.
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- All calls are checked by four editors. If a consensus of editors believes a particular call is deemed to be in poor taste, erroneous, inaccurate, libelous, doesn't make sense, or if claims stated in a call cannot be verified, the call will not be published.
- With regard to calls of a political nature, it is not possible to have an equal balance of calls with liberal and conservative viewpoints during any given week. The editors of Speak Out don't have control of who calls in, what their political leanings happen to be, and the topic(s) they want to discuss.
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radio talk show how people are going out and buying things like new cars, TVs and other big-ticket items, to get ahead of whatever tariffs Trump plans to impose, which the speaker said could add 20 percent or as much as 40 percent to the cost of imported goods going forward. But I can't even afford to buy those items now anyway, so I will just enjoy watching a movie on your TV, and taking a drive in your new car.

I read a letter to the editor in another paper, in which the person said those who voted for Trump did so not because of the border or inflation, but because of greed. Yes, greed. That is, presumably because we expect things to cost less under the new president. I am neither wealthy nor even middle class (anymore, thanks to the money-sucking Illinois Democrats), so I am just looking to pay my bills, keep more of my money instead of it being taxed to death and be able to afford to stay in my house. If that is considered greed, well, then I am greedy.

The State of Illinois projected budget deficit for FY 2026 is \$3.2 billion, the City of Chicago budget deficit for FY 2025 is \$300 million. I guess they ran out of the federal COVID money. Democrats bragged about budget surplus. It was because of the gift from Washington, D.C.; now they are broke again. Every school district has or is proposing a tax increase. DuPage County is now all elected Democrats. The residents fled Chicago and Cook County to DuPage and brought their Democratic vote with them. The spending must stop. Cut spending to balance the budget, quit taxing us to death. For only working nine months a year the teachers are all overpaid. Their salary, paid leave and benefits are more than most people working 12 months a year. We can no longer afford all of the government spending.

Good luck to Thomas Brown, the Bears head coach for the last five games of the season.

Democrats and their colleagues in the media frequently tell us that the economy has been great during Biden's presidency. Why, then, are we constantly bombarded with news of food drives, clothing drives, school supply drives and diaper

drives? It seems news about every one of these drives mentions an ongoing and urgent need, and that the number of those in need keeps increasing. There's a story in the Dec. 5 issue of this paper about one charitable organization in Lombard that refers to a large increase in its number of guests. I don't think anyone is against any of these charitable drives, and I don't think anyone could honestly deny that there are a great deal of people who need help. I just wish more people would point out that the mixed messages from the media don't make sense.

Hello Lombard. I am just reading the article about the Thomas More Society filing a suit against the state in regard to women's health issues, abortion speaking, and Peter Breen, who was once one of our representatives who claims to be very a fiscal proponent of helping Illinois establish a better economic state, is now wasting the state's money on battling this suit in court. What he needs to realize is that church and state don't mix. And that if people are against abortion then don't do it; give the right to those who want to choose. It's not your right to take away choice. And that's what's so great about this state is that we have a place where people can make their choices. Thank you.

Okay, I admit to having a college degree. But even I had to research the meaning of "hyperbole" in last week's Speak Out. The author of that piece was referring to a sarcastic letter to the *Lombardian* (Nov. 21) from a Mr. Berends who accused (sarcastically) the Republicans of stealing the 2024 presidential election. Don't you think if the Democrats were successful in stealing the 2020 election that they would have done it again just a few weeks ago? What if millions of Republicans across this great country believe, without any evidence, that the 2020 election was "stolen" from Donald J. Trump, but accept the results of the 2024 presidential election with Donald J. Trump as the victor? Was the 2020 election stolen? But the 2024 election was valid? Why is it one election is valid and the other invalid? Have we decided that facts do not matter? Have we become so tribal in our politics that "truth" becomes irrelevant?

So I see Jussie Smollett had his conviction overturned by the Illinois Supreme Court. Whatever. I wouldn't be surprised if he stages another fake attack to get himself more publicity.

Trump's inauguration can't happen soon enough for me. I'm counting the days until that bumbling, stumbling statue currently occupying the Oval Office who doesn't know where he is half the time leaves office. One night I watched an hour-long program that ranked the best and worst presidents. Biden was ranked the number 2 worst president of all time. That's being kind. He should be ranked number 1. Biden is an absolute disgrace!

Coming events

Villa Park Library program on holiday traditions
Come visit the Villa Park Public Library to see the fascinating real-life story of "The Night Before Christmas" come to life; as told by educational entertainer, Martina Mathisen, along with the stories of our American Christmas Traditions. On Monday, Dec. 16, at 5:30 p.m., we will discuss many of the season's traditions, and answer questions like: Why do we kiss under a mistletoe? Why do we decorate with poinsettias? Where did the jolly old man in the red suit come from anyway? And so many more traditions explored. Registration is required. For more information, please visit our website at www.vppinfo.org, or call 630-834-1164.

Versiti blood drive at Plum Library today
The library will also be hosting a Versiti Blood Drive in the plum meeting rooms at 411 S. Main St., Lombard, on Thursday, Dec. 12, from 2:30-7 p.m. Call 630-627-0316 or visit helenplum.org for more information, or call 800-710-GIVE to schedule an appointment. Please bring a photo ID.

•Project

(Continued from page 4)
ing gap, reducing our deterrence. The question of these capabilities is not simply one of what might happen in an armed conflict but actually how we deter conflict through demonstrating strength. As the CCP continues its policies of bellicosity and military buildup, signs of weakness and vulnerability on our part, whether in the state of our military or in our ability to supply it, actually make conflict more likely.

Thus, to prevent conflict and safeguard our country and our friends from military aggression, it is essential that we strengthen our military industrial base to produce the ammunition, shells, missiles, and other supplies we need to succeed if a conflict were to occur, and, much more importantly, to help prevent one from breaking out.

Raja Krishnamoorthi represents the 8th Congressional District of Illinois, which includes part of Addison, Wood Dale and Bensenville.

Letter to the editor Seniors: Gold Card gets you in free to District 88 fine arts performances

Since I wrote the letter to the editor that was published here on Oct. 31 regarding supporting our local high school's music and theatre departments, I have done some research and learned the following information:

District 88 (Addison Trail and Willowbrook high schools) offers a Gold Card to all seniors (age 65 and over) who reside in the boundaries of the District 88 area.

Anyone can go to the district office (2 Friendship Plaza—south side of Lake Street by the Addison Police Department and Addison Public Library) and fill out the paperwork to receive the card immediately.

Presentation of the card at any fine arts program (music concerts or theatre productions) will allow free admission to the event.

It can also be used for any sports event held at the school. Because I wrote how the public should support the schools' and fine arts programs, I would hope that those getting free admission would consider a donation to those programs when entering the auditorium.

These are wonderful events, worthy of your support, and will be a joy to you to view and hear.

Jim Reed
Lombard