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CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

Willowbrook presents its winter play

Willowbrook High School's theater department presented its winter play—"Wait Until Dark"—last week in the school's Doris E. White Auditorium. The cast and crew presented three performances of the play—a thriller that was written by Frederick Knott and first performed on Broadway in 1966. Pictured left to right

during the Feb. 6 performance are seniors Gillian Falco (who portrayed Susy Hendrix, a blind woman who becomes the target of a group of ruthless criminals) and Eddie Devens (who portrayed Mike Talman—one of the criminals).

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Proposals (Continued from page 13)

Nearly every Illinois resident consumes fluoride in their drinking water, according to a 2023 CDC report. The annual report found 90 percent of state water systems had fluoride. Together, they serve 98 percent of the state's population.

Fluoride is required in Illinois drinking water under a 1967 state law, which was amended in 2016 to lower the amount of fluoride water systems are required to use. However, the 2016 law says the levels "shall be in compliance with the recommendations on optimal fluoridation for community water levels as proposed and adopted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

Additional rules established by the state's Pollution Control Board also govern the level of fluoride in water. It's not clear how Illinois' fluoride use would change if federal recommendations change.

"Illinois EPA cannot speculate on what actions may be taken if such decisions are made at the federal level. State regulations can be more stringent than federal regulation but cannot be less stringent," agency spokesperson Kim Biggs said in an email.

Vaccines

Kennedy is known for being skeptical of vaccines and spreading false information about them. What he would do about vaccines as HHS secretary is unclear. He has said he wouldn't take any vaccines away. However, he has pushed for significant deregulation and changes at HHS and its agencies that could affect approval of future vaccines.

The Illinois Department of Public Health requires a schedule of 12 vaccines children must receive and stipulates parents present their child's school with proof of immunization for certain vaccines by certain grade

levels. There are also various vaccine requirements for college students and health care workplaces.

Illinois' school vaccine policy is set at the state level based on recommendations of a CDC advisory committee on vaccines, according to IDPH.

The state's history of requiring vaccines in schools goes back more than a century. The Illinois State Board of Health first required children to get vaccines against smallpox to attend school in 1894. The World Health Organization eventually declared smallpox eradicated in 1977 after decades of vaccination against the virus.

Broader vaccine requirements that apply today were mandated by the General Assembly beginning in 1967.

The State Board of Health, a division of IDPH, is primarily responsible for any changes to Illinois' vaccine requirements, even if recommendations change at the federal level. Any changes to the requirements would be recommended by the Board of Health following a public hearing, according to IDPH, and are based on recommendations issued by a CDC review panel. States bear the responsibility of setting specific requirements for vaccines, according to the CDC.

Some common vaccines such as Hepatitis A, flu and COVID-19 are not required for children to attend school in Illinois despite appearing on the CDC's recommended vaccine schedule. Illinois law requires school districts to provide parents with information about flu shots, however.

State law also allows parents and guardians to skip vaccines for their children for religious or medical reasons.

Food Ingredients

Another of Kennedy's priorities is establishing healthy diets to combat obesity and chronic diseases. He has called for more regulation of food in-

redients in a pledge to crack down on ultra-processed foods and ingredients linked to health problems.

"Given the current nominee's interest, it's likely something like this could be on the docket on the federal level," University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health Senior Associate Dean and Professor Jamie Chriqui told Capitol News Illinois. "Usually what we see is it gets tested first at the state and local level before it becomes a federal push, unless there is a champion at the federal level who is interested in making changes."

Despite controversy around Kennedy, the Trump administration could have a partner with Illinois on ingredient restrictions. The state Senate took a bipartisan vote this spring to advance a bill that would ban brominated vegetable oil, red dye No. 3, propylparaben and potassium bromate—which are all used in food manufacturing—in food sold in Illinois beginning in 2028. The bill is currently stalled in the House.

"I agree with the science and in this case, it appears RFK does as well," bill sponsor Sen. Willie Preston, D-Chicago, told Capitol News Illinois. "We're in alignment. I'm happy to work with him if that's possible to move this issue forward, certainly here in Illinois, which I have a responsibility to do, but across this country."

Kennedy is "problematic" on other issues, Preston said, but he said he believes on the issue of food additives, Kennedy's appointment by Trump shows the country is moving toward further regulation to make food healthier.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which Kennedy hopes to reduce in size and scope, has considered revoking authorization for brominated vegetable oil.

These ingredients are all linked to health issues from cancer to nervous system issues, Chriqui said.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Pa

A strong regional for Warriors

The Willowbrook girls gymnastics team hosted an IHSA regional competition last week. Glenbard West won the Feb. 6 regional's 1 title with its score of 137.325. Willowbrook placed second with a total of 133.075, while Maine West (121.2) claimed third. The regional top five finishers in each individual event and the all-around competition automatically qualified for this week's Glenbard West sectional. Other gymnasts who competed at the Willowbrook Regional earned at-large sectional berths. Glenbard West's team secured automatic berth into the sectional's team competition. The Warriors earned one of two available at-large berths into the Glenbard West Sectional. Willowbrook competed against five other teams (Yorkville, Glenbard West, Lake Park and Wheaton Warrenville South sectional, which took place earlier this week. Willowbrook's Naomi Campbell won the all-around championship at last week's regional in Villa Park with her score of 36.1. Campbell won the place medal in the vault (9.4) at the regional. She is pictured (left) while approaching the vault during last week's event. Cam finished second on the balance beam (9.1), second in floor exercises (8.8) and third on the uneven bars (8.8). Junior Kala Capulor Willowbrook finished fifth in the regional's all-around standings her total score of 32.6. Capulor placed third on the balance beam (8.5) at the regional. She is pictured (above right) during her routine. Willowbrook sophomore Lilli Macias earned an at-large sectional berth in the vault with her fourth-place regional score of 9.1. Capulor earned at-large sectional berths in the vault and floor exercises. Willowbrook freshman Ella Paulsen also earned large sectional berths in the vault and in floor exercises.

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Rams earn sectional berth after placing third in IHSAA regional

Jenna Pitts finishes second in regional's individual standings; Jenna Pope delivers fourth-place effort for Glenbard East

The Glenbard East girls bowling team hosted an IHSAA regional on Saturday at its home venue—Bowlero in Glendale Heights. The Rams delivered a third-place finish in the 12-team regional and qualified for this week's sectional competition in Lyons.

The top four teams in each of the state's 18 regional competitions advanced to this week's sectional events. There will be six sectional competitions this Saturday, Feb. 15. The top four teams in each sectional will qualify for the IHSAA state meet, which takes place Feb. 21-22 at the Cherry Bowl in Rockford.

York won the team title at the Glenbard East Regional with its total pin count of 5,193. Morton secured second-place honors with its total of 5,187. Glenbard East placed third with its team score of 4,925. Fenwick claimed a sectional berth with its fourth-place total of 4,782. Fenwick finished 10 pins ahead of Willowbrook (4,772) in the battle for fourth place and a sectional berth. Willowbrook settled for fifth, while Downers Grove North (4,751) finished sixth.

Senior Jenna Pitts led Glenbard East's team at Saturday's regional with

her six-game total of 1,168. Pitts finished second to Fenwick senior Olivia Cameron in the regional's individual standings. Cameron posted a six-game score of 1,174 in the event to edge Pitts by six pins.

Pitts bowled a 186 in her opening game at Saturday's regional. She added scores of 178, 182 and 194 in her next three games before firing a 225 in her fifth game of the event. Pitts closed out the regional with a 203 in her sixth and final game.

Sophomore Jenna Pope of Glenbard East rolled a six-game score of 1,146 to place fourth in the regional's individual competition. Pope finished 10 pins behind York senior Ava Lewandowski, who posted a third-place score of 1,156.

After opening the regional with a 193 in her first game, Pope bowled a 200 in her second game. She turned in a 181 in her third game, followed by another 181 in her fourth game. Pope turned in a 170 in her fifth game before completing the regional with a 221 in her sixth game.

Sophomore Zoey Poling of Glenbard East bowled a six-game regional score of 1,094 and placed ninth in the

event's individual standings. Poling bowled her best game of the regional—a 215—in her sixth and final game of the day. Senior Adalya Bylsma contributed a six-game regional score of 769 for the Rams. Glenbard East senior Kylie White provided a six-game total of 748 at the regional.

The Rams will compete in this Saturday's De La Salle Sectional at Bowlero in Lyons.

The Glenbard East Regional's top 10 scorers who weren't members of sectional-qualifying teams advanced to the De La Salle Sectional as individuals. That group of individual qualifiers included three Willowbrook bowlers. Sophomore Elizabeth Pettinger of the Warriors qualified for the sectional with her six-game regional total of 1,096. Junior Reese Farquhar of Willowbrook earned a sectional berth with her regional score of 1,084, while freshman Lily Nguyen of the Warriors advanced to the sectional with her six-game total of 892.

Pettinger opened the regional with scores of 179, 170 and 172 in her first three games. After bowling a 181 in her fourth game, she rolled a 201 in her fifth game before finishing the event

with a 193 in her sixth game.

Farquhar opened the regional with a spectacular score of 257 in her first game. After rolling a 132 in her second game, she bounced back with a 220 in her third game. Farquhar finished the regional with scores of 182, 173 and 120 in her final three games.

Nguyen bowled her best game of the regional—a 173—in her third game of the day. Willowbrook's regional lineup also included freshman Mikayla Tijerina, who bowled a six-game total of 865, as well as senior Gabriella Maher, who provided a three-game total of 461. Willowbrook senior Paola Perez contributed a three-game score of 374.

Blazers win a regional championship

Addison Trail's girls bowling team won a regional title on Saturday at the St. Charles East Regional, which was held at the Funway Entertainment Center in Batavia. The Blazers advanced to this Saturday's De La Salle Sectional in Lyons after prevailing at the 14-team regional.

Addison Trail won the regional title with its team total of 5,255. The Blazers nipped second-place South Elgin (5,252) by three pins in the battle for

the regional championship. St. Charles North (4,950) finished third, while Elgin (4,878) claimed fourth. Those four teams will join eight other teams at this Saturday's sectional in Lyons.

Senior Val Pizzoferrato led Addison Trail at the regional with her six-game score of 1,097. Senior Grace Cannizzo provided a six-game regional score of 1,081 for the Blazers. Sophomore Alessandra Pizzoferrato contributed a six-game score of 1,037 for Addison Trail. Senior Amelia Leslie bowled a six-game score of 1,033 for the Blazers on Saturday, while senior Angie Ayala rolled a six-game total of 1,007.

Val Pizzoferrato, who bowled a 209 in her second game at the regional, finished fourth in the event's individual standings. Cannizzo, who fired a 206 in her third game of the competition, placed sixth among all individuals at the regional. Alessandra Pizzoferrato, who opened the event with scores of 190 in her first and second games of the day, earned a 10th-place finish in the event's individual competition. Leslie tied for 11th in the regional's individual standings, while Ayala delivered a 17th-place finish.

Broncos finish sixth in conference tournament

The Montini Catholic girls basketball team won two of four games and finished sixth in last week's Girls Catholic Athletic Conference (GCAC) Tournament. The Broncos' overall season record stood at 20-10 at the end of the tournament. Montini, which played the first two games of the tournament on its home court, opened the event with a 54-20 win over De La Salle on Feb. 3. Senior Nikki Kerstein scored a team-leading 22 points for the Broncos in the victory. She also notched the 2,000th point of her four-year varsity career during the game. Kerstein played at Deerfield during her freshman and sophomore seasons before attending Montini in her junior year. Senior Natalie Garlan (No. 42) made four 3-point shots and provided 16 points for the Broncos in their win over De La Salle. Montini lost its next game of the tournament, dropping a 45-40 decision to Providence Catholic on Feb. 4. The Broncos led the Celtics 40-31 at the end of the third quarter. Providence Catholic outscored Montini 14-0 in the game's final eight minutes. Kerstein scored 16 points in the loss to the Celtics. Senior Peyton Farrell supplied nine points for the Broncos, while senior Audrey Kinney scored eight points. Montini won its next game of the tournament, beating Mother McAuley 58-44 in a Feb. 6 contest at Loyola Academy. Kerstein scored 23 points in the Broncos' victory over the Mighty Macs. Senior Lily Spanos provided 15 points by draining five shots from 3-point range. Garlan and Farrell added 10 and eight points, respectively. The Broncos completed the tournament with Saturday's 72-67 loss to Aurora Central Catholic in a game played at Trinity High School. Kerstein scored 19 points in Saturday's loss. Garlan made three 3-point shots and supplied 15 points. Kinney contributed 14 points, while Spanos made a pair of 3-point baskets and provided nine points. Farrell, Kerstein and Spanos were named to the GCAC Red Division's All-Conference Team. The Broncos completed their regular season with a game against Benet Academy earlier this week. Montini will open the IHSAA Class 3A post-season with a Feb. 18 game at the Elmwood Park Regional.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Rams take third in Wheaton Warrenville South Regional

The Glenbard East girls gymnastics team competed in last week's IHSAA regional at Wheaton Warrenville South High School. The Tigers of Wheaton Warrenville South won the Feb. 4 regional's team title with their score of 139.9. Maine South (129.55) finished second, while Glenbard East (108.3) placed third.

The regional's top five finishers in each individual event and in the all-around competition earned automatic berths in this week's Glenbard West Sectional. Other gymnasts earned at-large sectional berths.

Glenbard East freshman Julia Daoud earned an automatic sectional berth with her fifth-place total of 29.225 in the regional's all-around scoring. Senior Dalia Daoud of the Rams secured an at-large sectional berth in the all-around competition.

Three Addison Trail gymnasts earn at-large sectional berths

The Addison Trail girls gymnastics team hosted an IHSAA regional competition last week. York won the team championship at the Feb. 3 regional with its score of 140.45. Geneva (136.375) finished second, while Addison Trail (128.9) placed third.

The Blazers did not deliver any top-five finishes at the regional. A top-five regional finish would have secured an automatic berth in this week's Glenbard West Sectional. Three Addison Trail gymnasts did earn at-large sectional berths.

Senior Olivia DeBeau of the Blazers earned at-large sectional berths in the all-around competition, the uneven bars and in floor exercises. Addison Trail junior Mia Trombatore claimed at-large sectional berths in the all-around competition, the vault, the uneven bars, the balance beam and in floor exercises. Freshman Izabela Hernandez of the Blazers earned an at-large sectional berth on the vault.

Warriors beat Pirates

The Willowbrook girls basketball team defeated Proviso East 48-40 in last week's West Suburban Gold Conference game in Villa Park. The Warriors and Pirates were deadlocked at 13-13 after one quarter of the Feb. 4 contest. Proviso East led Willowbrook 20-19 at halftime and 35-31 at the end of the third quarter. Senior Kendall Medinger helped the Warriors overtake the Pirates by sinking a pair of 3-point attempts during the fourth quarter. Willowbrook senior Ayaani Gusman (No. 10) made one 3-point shot in the fourth quarter. Gusman scored a team-leading 18 points in the Warriors' win over Proviso East. Sophomore Jada Langston provided 11 points, while Medinger supplied nine points with three 3-point baskets. She made her first 3-point field goal of the game during the third quarter. Senior Loralee McIntyre, who made two 3-point baskets in the first quarter, contributed eight points for the Warriors. Senior Kristin Woods added two points with a fourth-quarter basket. The Warriors finished their conference season with Friday's 53-26 loss to Leyden in Villa Park. The Warriors posted a 3-9 record in conference play. Their overall season record dropped to 6-20 with Friday's loss to Leyden. Willowbrook completed its regular season with a home game earlier this week against Oak Park and River Forest High School. The Warriors will begin the IHSAA Class 4A post-season on their home court. Willowbrook is hosting a regional that begins this Saturday, Feb. 15. The Warriors will face Bartlett in this Saturday's regional quarterfinal. The winner will meet St. Charles East in a regional semifinal on Monday, Feb. 17.



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