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THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026



SUBMITTED PHOTO O'Rourke Media Group

Willowbrook theater students win an IHSA state championship

Willowbrook High School's team of 69 students competed in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Drama and Group Interpretation state meet at Reavis High School in Burbank. Willowbrook's cast and crew presented their contest play—The Importance of Being Earnest—at the state meet, which concluded on Saturday, March 28. The Willowbrook students won the championship in the state meet's drama category for their presentation of Oscar Wilde's play. The championship team is pictured with its trophy after returning to Willowbrook on Saturday. The students qualified for the IHSA state meet after they received a perfect score and won a sectional title at the West Chicago Sectional on March 21.

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Villa Park Fire Department responds to fire at North Avenue business

No injuries reported in early morning fire at Ultimate Cigar Lounge

On Monday, March 23, at approximately 2 a.m., the Villa Park Fire Department responded to a fire alarm at Ultimate Cigar Lounge in the 100 block of E. North Avenue. Upon arrival, Villa Park Engine 82 found smoke and fire coming from the rooftop in the rear of the building. The alarm was upgraded to a structure fire response.

According to the Villa Park Fire Department, crews forced entry to the building

and located a fire in the rear of the business, just outside the restrooms. Crews deployed multiple hose lines and quickly extinguished the fire.

Fire damage was limited to the area just outside the restrooms and to the roof above. However, smoke and water damage led to the business's closure. Another business in the same building was undamaged and remains operational. The businesses were closed at the time of the fire. No injuries were reported among firefighters.

"The limited damage to the business can be attributed to the early activation of the properly functioning and monitored fire alarm system. If the business had a proper-

ly installed sprinkler system, the fire may have been limited to just the trash can itself," stated Villa Park Deputy Fire Chief Frank Reposh.

The fire is believed to have started in a trash can just outside the restrooms and is suspected to have been caused by the improper disposal of smoking materials, based on a preliminary investigation by the Villa Park Fire Investigation Unit, with assistance from the DuPage County Fire Investigation Task Force.

The Villa Park Fire Department was assisted on the scene by firefighting crews from Addison, Elmhurst, Lombard, and York Center, as well as the Villa Park Police Department.

District 88 to hold two Bond Proposal Information Meetings this month

The public is invited to attend the meetings at Addison Trail and Willowbrook high schools

District 88 invites residents to attend two upcoming Bond Proposal Public Information Meetings.

The district is evaluating a funding proposal that could appear on the Nov. 3, 2026, ballot to address essential facility improvements at Addison Trail and Willowbrook high schools. These improvements include safety and security upgrades, updates to aging infrastructure, enhancements to Americans

with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility, and improvements to Career and Technical Education (CTE) spaces. According to District 88, the proposal would allow the district to complete this work without a net tax rate increase.

The meetings will offer an opportunity to learn more about the proposal, ask questions and speak directly with District 88 administrators. Building tours also will be available to highlight the areas identified for updates. The first meeting will take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on

Monday, April 20, at Addison Trail High School, 213 N. Lombard Road in Addison.

The second meeting will take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, at Willowbrook High School, 1250 S. Ardmore Avenue in Villa Park.

"District 88 looks forward to connecting with stakeholders to discuss this important opportunity to improve our schools," stated the district in announcing the upcoming meetings. "Thank you for your continued support."

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CHRIS FOX PHOTO

Egg hunting at night

The Villa Park Parks and Recreation Department held its Flashlight Egg Hunt on Friday, March 27, outside of the Villa Park Recreation Center (VPRC). Kids between the ages of 11-16 hunted for treat-filled eggs on the field outside of the VPRC during the evening hunt, which took place after sunset. The eggs on the field included two golden eggs. The hunters who collected those golden eggs each won a McDonald's gift card. Four Willowbrook High school students who participated in the event are pictured after the egg hunt. Pictured left to right are sophomore Elena Fuentes, freshman Gavin Brattin, sophomore Riley Kahre and sophomore Brianna Kari. Fuentes won a McDonald's gift card after collecting one of the golden eggs.

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Sports

Rams move to 6-0 after winning four matches and claiming the title at the Oswego Invitational

Polyak delivers 37 kills in Glenbard East's four victories in Oswego

BY CHRIS FOX

The Glenbard East boys volleyball team opened its 2026 season by posting six straight victories in a five-day span that began with a home win over Willowbrook on March 24. After earning a three-game victory in a tight battle at Metea Valley on March 26, the Rams reeled off four victories to win the championship at Saturday's 12-team Oswego Invitational.

Glenbard East defeated Willowbrook 25-16, 25-22 in the season-opening match for both teams in Lombard. The Rams controlled the first game, building leads of 10-3 and 21-9 before closing out the game. Glenbard East led the visiting Warriors 15-9 during the second game, but Willowbrook won eight of the next 10 points to even the game's score at 17-17. The Rams won the next two points to take a 19-17 lead and maintained a slim lead before winning the game and closing out their victory.

Senior Gabe Polyak provided nine kills and five digs for the Rams in last week's win over Willowbrook. Sophomore Max Waldschmidt hit four kills and made four digs for Glenbard East, while senior Jackson Yates contributed three kills and three blocks. Senior Jake Hayes made eight digs for the Rams in their victory over the Warriors. Senior

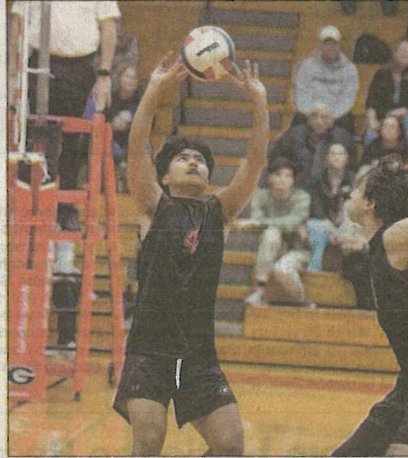


Glenbard East senior Gabe Polyak (No. 3) sends the ball over the net during last week's season-opening match against Willowbrook. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Nate Lynch supplied four kills and two blocks. Senior Loyce Mojica handed out 10 assists and made four digs for Glenbard East, while senior Charlie Cooper delivered six assists and two digs.

"We've got 10 returners

on this squad," said Glenbard East coach Bradley Cardott after the Rams' victory over Willowbrook. "They put a lot of work in during the off-season. Gabe Polyak is a completely transformed player from last year. One of our



Glenbard East senior Loyce Mojica (No. 4) is pictured during his team's season-opening match against Willowbrook. The Rams defeated the Warriors 25-16, 25-22 in Lombard. (Photo by Chris Fox)

strengths is our versatility and just being able to draw from multiple positions. We're a well-balanced team this year.

The Rams lost the first game of their March 26 match at Metea Valley, but rallied to post a 22-25, 25-19, 26-24 victory in Naperville. Polyak hit nine kills and added three digs and two blocks in the three-game contest. Wald-

schmidt added five kills and two digs. Yates bashed seven kills and made three blocks. Hayes piled up 18 digs and passed out five assists. Co-

oper provided 15 assists and 10 digs. Lynch connected for four kills.

Glenbard East opened Saturday's invitational in Oswego by posting a 25-23, 25-23 victory over St. Charles East. The Rams then beat Harlem 25-18, 21-25, 15-9 to advance to the semifinal round. After beating Oswego 25-22, 25-12 in a semifinal clash, Glenbard East defeated Yorkville 25-14, 25-18 in the championship contest.

Polyak pounded 37 kills and made 15 digs during the Rams' four victories at Saturday's invitational. Lynch drilled 20 kills and added nine blocks and six digs in Glenbard East's first-place performance in Oswego. Waldschmidt supplied 14 kills, while Yates hit 13 kills and made 12 blocks. Senior Michael Hoffmann contributed five kills, eight blocks, and five digs. Mojica delivered 44 assists and 10 digs, while Cooper gave out 31 assists and made 12 digs.

The Rams will continue their season with an Upstate Eight Conference East Division match at Glenbard South on April 7.



Glenbard East's boys volleyball team began its season with a 25-16, 25-22 home victory over Willowbrook on March 24. The Rams improved to 2-0 after their three-game win at Metea Valley on March 26. Glenbard East moved to 6-0 after winning four straight matches to claim the championship at Saturday's invitational at Oswego High School. The Rams defeated St. Charles East, Harlem and Oswego to advance to the event's championship game. Glenbard East beat Yorkville in the championship match to claim the invitational's first-place plaque. A photo from the Rams' season-opening match against Willowbrook shows seniors Nate Lynch (No. 12) and Michael Hoffmann (No. 13). (Photo by Chris Fox)



Rams take on the Dukes in Elmhurst

The Glenbard East baseball team fell to 1-1 following its 10-6 loss at Glenbard West on March 23. The Rams dropped to 1-2 two days later, when they lost 7-5 at York. Senior Nyle Anderson (No. 17) and sophomore Emmett Lavin (No. 14) are pictured during Glenbard East's March 25 loss to the Dukes in Elmhurst. The Rams moved to 3-2 overall, and 2-0 in Upstate Eight Conference East Division play, after they swept Saturday's doubleheader against Fenton. The Rams beat the Bison 14-0 in the opening game and pounded Fenton 17-0 in the second game. Both games of Saturday's doubleheader were played at Judson University in Elgin. On Sunday, the Rams headed to Tennessee to play a few games during their spring break week. (Photos by Chris Fox)



Rams move to 4-0

Glenbard East's softball team improved to 4-0 with last week's decisive home wins over Willowbrook and Addison Trail. The Rams beat Willowbrook 10-0 in a five-inning game in Lombard on March 24. One day later, Glenbard East pounded Addison Trail 12-0 in five innings. Junior Lilly Carver went 2-for-4 with a home run and drove in three runs for the Rams during the win over Willowbrook. Junior catcher Ally Amrhein (pictured) went 2-for-3 for Glenbard East. Junior Claire Bolda also went 2-for-3 for the Rams. Sophomore Hannah Berrier and Sophie Demarchi both went 2-for-2 at the plate for Glenbard East. Bolda (No. 23) allowed three hits and one walk while recording 12 strikeouts in five innings in the circle. Amrhein went 2-for-3 with a home run and drove in four runs in the Rams' March 25 victory over Addison Trail. Bolda pitched four innings, allowing no hits and three walks. She piled up 10 strikeouts. Senior Keira Nelson pitched one scoreless inning for the Rams. She allowed one hit and no walks. Glenbard East will open its Upstate Eight Conference East Division season with an April 7 game at Elmwood Park. (Photos by Chris Fox)

Warriors start their season with losses to Glenbard East and Glenbard South

Willowbrook's boys volleyball team began its 2026 season with last week's 25-16, 25-22 loss at Glenbard East on March 24. The Warriors fell to 0-2 following their 25-18, 25-21 home loss to Glenbard South on March 26.

Willowbrook struggled in the first game of last week's match at Glenbard East, but the Warriors won eight of 10 points during the second game. That 8-2 run evened the second game at 17-17. The Rams won the next two points on their way to prevailing in the second game and wrapping up their win.

"In game one we just came out kind of slow and too hyped up," said Willowbrook coach Tony Gulotta after the Warriors' season opener against Glenbard East in Lombard. "I felt like the second game was much more competitive, and how I feel we can play."

Senior Evan Kase supplied five kills and three aces for

Willowbrook in last week's match against the Rams. Junior Mikey Tymoszenko provided five kills, one block and one ace for the Warriors. Senior Matt Ciesinski contributed three kills and one ace. Junior Ryan Franz and sophomore Andrew Schrader handed out five assists each.

Kase had six kills and five digs in the Warriors' March 26 loss to Glenbard South in Villa Park. Tymoszenko hit six kills and made one block. Junior Sean Stramaglia added five kills for Willowbrook, while Ciesinski added two kills, three digs and one ace. Senior Ben Perry added four digs and one assist. Schrader made eight assists against the Raiders, while Franz provided six assists.

The Warriors will continue their season on April 7, when they will open their West Suburban Gold Conference season with a home match against Leyden.

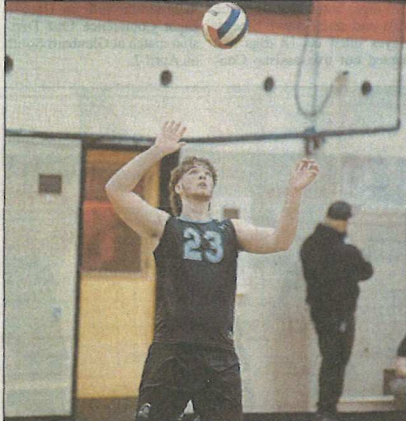
Warriors battle the Rams

Willowbrook's boys volleyball team opened its season with a 25-16, 25-22 loss at Glenbard East in Lombard

on March 24. The Warriors dropped to 0-2 following their 25-18, 25-21 home loss to Glenbard South on March

26. One photo from last week's match at Glenbard East shows seniors Evan Kase (foreground) and Ben Perry

(No. 26, background). Another photo shows senior Matt Ciesinski (No. 23) hitting a serve. (Photos by Chris Fox)



Willowbrook senior Matt Ciesinski (No. 23) hits a serve during his team's season-opening match at Glenbard East (Photo by Chris Fox)



Willowbrook seniors Evan Kase (No. 15) and Ben Perry (No. 26) are pictured during the Warriors' March 24 match at Glenbard East. The Rams defeated the Warriors 25-16, 25-22.



Serving the country

Montini Catholic senior Chris Juda was recently sworn in to the Tennessee Army National Guard. He will begin serving in the combat medic unit this fall. Juda (left) is pictured with Staff Sergeant Cook (right) of the Tennessee Army National Guard. Juda, who is a Lombard resident, was a member of Montini's 2024 and 2025 IHSA state-champion football teams. The Broncos won the Class 3A title in 2024. Montini posted a perfect 14-0 record and won the Class 4A championship in 2025. (Submitted photo)

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Rams earn three victories in their first home meet of the season



Glenbard East senior Gabi Jackonyte won three straight matches at No. 2 singles during last week's home meet to raise her overall season record to 10-5. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Glenbard East's No. 1 doubles duo of Facchini and Romero improves to 12-3 with a 3-0 effort in Lombard

The Glenbard East badminton team raised its season record to 7-2-1 by defeating all three of its opponents during its March 26 quad meet in Lombard. Playing in their first home event of the season, the Rams earned 8-0 wins over Reavis and Lincoln-Way Central and posted a 5-3 victory over Lincoln-Way East during the quad meet. Each competition featured four singles matches and four doubles contests.

Glenbard East senior Gabi Jackonyte posted three victories in the No. 2 singles position during the March 26 meet. In one of those wins, she beat a returning state qualifier from Lincoln-Way East. Jackonyte's overall season record stood at 10-5 at the

end of the meet.

The Rams' No. 1 doubles team of juniors Betsy Facchini and Daniela Romero also went 3-0 during last week's home meet against Reavis, Lincoln-Way Central and Lincoln-Way East. The three victories pushed the Glenbard East duo's season record to 12-3.

The No. 2 doubles team of juniors Marija Cheeks and Tailor Washick turned in a 3-0 record for Glenbard East in the March 26 contest. The Rams' No. 4 doubles team of seniors Hetvi Patel and Abhia Syed also went 3-0 during the meet.

The Rams began last week by beating two of three opponents in a March 24 quad meet at Metea Valley. Glenbard East earned 7-1 wins over both Wheaton North and Wheaton Warrenville South. The Rams dropped a 7-1 decision to Metea Valley.

Glenbard East will continue its season by hosting the Rams 16 Invite this Saturday, April 4.



Junior Daniela Romero (pictured) teamed with junior Betsy Facchini to win three straight matches at No. 1 doubles during Glenbard East's March 26 home meet. The tandem improved its season record to 12-3 with those three victories. (Photo by Chris Fox)



Junior Marija Cheeks (pictured) and junior Tailor Washick went 3-0 in No. 2 doubles matches during the Glenbard East badminton team's March 26 home meet. (Photo by Chris Fox)



Willowbrook's softball team earned its first win of the 2026 season with its 9-5 triumph at Plainfield South on March 25. The Warriors improved to 1-4 with the road victory, which provided Coach Natalie Gamino with her first career win. Senior Allie Coppersmith (pictured during the Warriors' March 24 loss at Glenbard East) went 3-for-4 and drove in two runs in Willowbrook's win over Plainfield South. Senior Adrianna Weaser went 2-for-5 with two RBIs. Junior Aleena McNamara went 1-for-4 and drove in three runs. Senior Kyleigh Miazga pitched a complete game for the Warriors and earned the victory. Miazga allowed seven hits, two earned runs and no walks in seven innings. She recorded nine strikeouts. (Photo by Chris Fox)



The five members of Lombard's 2026 Lilac Court attended the Lombard Park District's egg hunt on Saturday morning. The Lilac Princesses met with children and posed for photos during the event. They are pictured with Zoe Szweczyk (age 10) of Lombard. The members of this year's Lilac Court are (left to right) Alexis Roimicher, Charlotte Martin, McKenna Schanks, Lori Ong, and Elle Turner. One of the five princesses will be crowned as Lombard's 2026 Lilac Queen during the coronation ceremony in Lilacia Park on Saturday, May 2. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Events (Continued from page 7)

for Kids Workbook" and "Coping Skills for Teens Workbook." Her work has been featured in the Boston Globe, CNN and the Huffington Post. All are welcome to the free weekly GPS events, and no registration is required. To be placed on a reminder list for GPS events, contact Glenbard District 87 Student and Community Projects Coordinator Gilda Ross at gilda_ross@glenbard.org or 630-942-7668. Continuing

education credits are available. Visit GPSParentSeries.org for event details and the links to these webinars. **Lombard Service League to meet April 9**

GFWC Lombard Service League will hold their monthly meeting on April 9 at 7 p.m. at Lexington Square in Lombard. The theme for the night is a tribute to the Past Presidents of the Club. In celebration of the 75th year as a club, the members

and their guests will take a walk down memory lane with the past presidents as they share memorabilia and memories from their terms as club presidents. Refreshments will be served, and a business meeting will conclude the evening. Lombard Service League is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), GFWC Illinois and the 5th/6th District. Guests and prospective members are welcome to attend this meeting as final events of the club year are drawing to a close. For more information, visit them on

Facebook or call/text 630-988-0625.

Village blood drives

April 14, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Yorktown mall, lower level outside Von Maur; First Church of Lombard, 220 SW. Main St., Lombard, 1:30-7 p.m. Bring a photo ID. Appointments are appreciated; Walk-ins welcome. To schedule, go to www.versiti.org/IL, load the Versiti Donor app or call (800) 770-GIVE.

Media Literacy 101 program April 15

State Rep. Diane Blair-Sherlock and her Youth Advisory Council

are hosting a media literacy event at Glenside Public Library Community Room 1, 25 E Fullerton Ave, Glendale Heights. Join COD Political Science Professor Melissa Mouritsen for an engaging talk on navigating today's media landscape. From print to online to social media, learn how to spot one-sided coverage, break free from echo chambers and become a more informed consumer of news. For more information, contact abailey.district46@gmail.com or 630-415-3520. Bring your friends. Walk-ins are welcome.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park

Willowbrook students to present their IHSA contest play tonight in the school's auditorium

Willowbrook High School's theater department will present its upcoming Illinois High School Association (IHSA) contest play—*The Importance of Being Earnest*—tonight, Thursday, March 19, in the school's Doris E. White Auditorium. The community is invited to attend tonight's presentation of Oscar Wilde's farcical comedy, which will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults (13 and older) and \$5 for children (12 and younger). Admission is free for those with a District 88 student ID or a District 88 Senior Gold Card.

Tickets will be available to buy at the box office 30 minutes before the performance. Willowbrook's cast and crew will participate in an IHSA sectional at West Chicago School this Saturday, March 21. The IHSA state drama meet will take place Friday, March 27, and Saturday, March 28, at Reavis High School in Burbank. Following tonight's performance, Willowbrook will showcase its Short Film entry in the IHSA state drama competition—*The Way the Wind Blows*—written and directed by senior Lily Zachar.

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District 88 installs new Board of Education member to fill vacant position

During the March 9 District 88 Board of Education meeting, Margarita Look was installed to fill a vacant board position that was open as a result of the resignation of former board member Gail Galivan, whose term ends next year. The current Board of Education members selected Look after interviewing nine applicants.

Look is a resident of Addison and works in health care administration as a physician

manager at Cardiac Imaging. She also is a former special education paraprofessional with Addison School District 4.

Look is a long-standing community volunteer, non-profit board member and youth program director, with more than 15 years of involvement supporting schools, families and student development. For more than 15 years, she has been actively involved with local schools through the Parent Teacher Association.

"I am deeply committed to supporting students, families and educators, while helping to strengthen educational programs within our community," Look said. "I was a resident of Villa Park for 15 years, children still attended Addison schools, and for the past eight years have been a proud resident of Addison. This long-standing personal connection has given me a deep appreciation for the district and the communities it serves."

"We are pleased to welcome Look and have her join the District 88 Board of Education," said Donna Craft Cain, District 88 Board of Education President. "Her experience, involvement and passion, along with her focus on supporting students and families, aligns well with our mission and vision. We look forward to the contributions she will add to the board and district."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

Margarita Look (pictured) joined the District 88 Board of Education during the board's March 9 meeting. Look was installed to fill a vacant position that was open after the resignation of Gail Galivan. Look's term expires next year.

Willowbrook Music Booster Club presents its annual Trivia Night event on April 25

Sign up by April 20

The Willowbrook High School Music Booster Club will present its 12th annual Trivia Night on Saturday, April 25. The event will begin at 6 p.m. at the high school, located at 1250 S. Ardmore Ave., Villa Park. Check-in will start at 5 p.m.

Willowbrook students, parents/guardians, alumni, staff, community members and friends are invited to participate. Players must be at least 13 years old, or currently in eighth grade.

Teams of eight to 10 players are recommended. The entry fee is \$100 per team. For teams with 11 to 15 people,

the entry fee is \$150. Proceeds will support Willowbrook music programs and students.

The registration and payment deadline is Monday, April 20.

The upcoming Trivia Night event at Willowbrook will feature raffles and prizes, including a prize for the team

with the best theme. Teams are encouraged to be creative, decorate their table and dress in costume. Food and drinks are allowed, but alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

To register, and for full event details, visit <https://www.wbmsmusicboosters.org/trivia-night>.

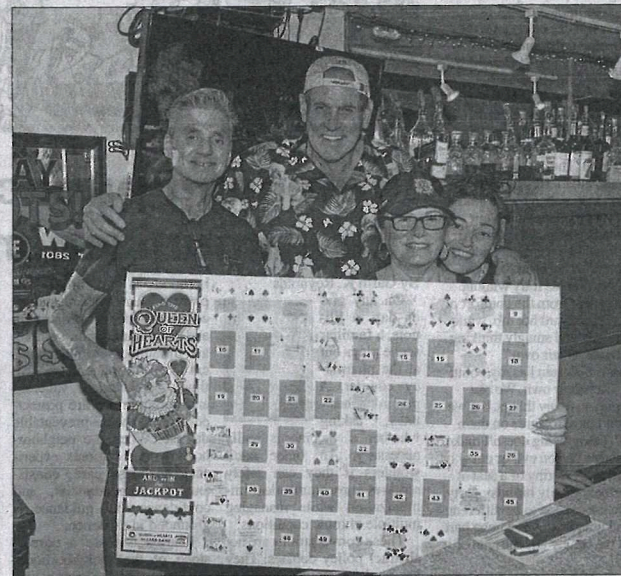


LILY MORGAN PHOTOS Villa Park Review



Quarterly SALT meeting in Villa Park

The Villa Park Police Department and Villa Park's Senior Concerns Commission hosted their quarterly Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) meeting at the Villa Park Recreation Center on Tuesday, March 10. During the meeting, representatives from VNA Health Care of Villa Park gave a presentation for attendees, and Sgt. Sonia Bregman (pictured in both photos) from the Villa Park Police Department spoke with seniors about how to recognize and avoid AI-related scams.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

VFW Post 2801's Queen of Hearts jackpot is more than \$78,000

The winner's share in Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801's current Queen of Hearts contest stands at more than \$78,000. The contest's ticket drawing takes place each Friday evening at 8 p.m. The ticket that's selected during the drawing includes a number on the contest board that has not been revealed. If that numbered space contains the Queen of Hearts, the ticket holder claims the winner's share of the prize pot. There are now 31 covered spaces on the contest board. The Queen of Hearts is behind one of those spaces. The ticket selected from the ticket drum in the drawing of Friday, March 13, had the number 4 written on it. The card behind that space on the contest board was revealed to be the King of Spades. The person whose ticket was selected during Friday's drawing won \$25. The next drawing will take place this Friday, March 20. The post, which is located at 39 E. St. Charles Road, is open to the public. A five-pack of contest tickets costs \$5. Tickets are available at the post during the week, up until a few minutes before the drawing. Contestants do not have to be present at the drawing. Pictured (left to right) after the March 13 drawing are contest committee members Tom Kopera, Michael Huston, Mary Agrusa and Jessica Rodriguez.

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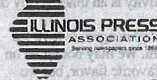
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Police Reports

The Villa Park Police Department recently reported the following arrests and citations. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a conviction, and that suspects are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Persons charged with domestic battery are not named in order to protect the privacy of victims. Juveniles age 17 or younger are not named.

March 10

Brian R. Cassidy, 31, of Woodridge, was charged with DUI, driving with a suspended license, speeding—21 to 25 mph over the limit, and driving with expired license plates in the 800 block of E.

Roosevelt at 2:53 a.m. **March 9** A 54-year-old man from Homosassa, Florida, was arrested at 10:20 a.m. on the above date and charged on an original complaint and warrant for two counts of domestic battery and criminal damage to property for an incident that allegedly occurred on Feb. 23. The man was transported to the DuPage County Jail.

March 8

Michael Williams, 66, of Hillside, was charged on the above date with burglary/identity theft, possessing a fraudulent ID card to obtain a credit/debit card or account,

and forgery for an incident that allegedly occurred on April 11, 2025. Williams was transported to the DuPage County Jail.

A complainant in the 1000 block of W. North reported at 3:28 p.m. that their vehicle's passenger-side window and steering column had been damaged.

A complainant in the 200 block of S. Oakland reported at 5:19 p.m. that a subject battered them. The complainant did not wish to sign complaints.

A complainant in the 1000 block of N. Princeton reported at 11:47 p.m. that a subject battered them. The complainant did not want to sign complaints.

March 7

A complainant at a pharmacy in the 200 block of E. Roosevelt reported at 2:12 a.m. that a subject was concealing items and then attempted to leave without paying. The subject agreed to pay for the items and was then trespassed from the property.

A complainant in the 1-100 block of N. Michigan reported at 11:59 p.m. that a subject is harassing them via telephone.

March 6

A complainant in the 300 block of N. Ardmore reported at 12:33 a.m. that a subject battered them. The complainant did not wish to sign complaints.

A complainant at a business in the 100 block of W. Roosevelt reported at 1:43 p.m. that a subject's behavior was alarming and disturbing.

A complainant at a store in the 1-100 block of S. Villa reported at 3:10 p.m. that a subject removed merchandise from display shelves and left without paying. The subject was issued a trespass warning and a citation.

March 5

Angel G. Vargas, 18, of Addison, was issued citations for unlawful possession of medical cannabis within a vehicle by a driver, disobeying a stop sign, and no valid license/permit—never issued—near E. St. Charles and N. Westmore

at 9:16 p.m. A complainant in the 600 block of N. Lincoln reported that a package was misdelivered and unable to be located.

March 4

A complainant in the 300 block of W. Division reported at 9:42 a.m. that a subject damaged several items in a home.

A complainant at a motel in the 1-100 block of W. Roosevelt reported at 4:36 p.m. that a subject battered them. The subject was advised to leave the property and issued a trespass warning.

A complainant in the 700 block of S. Riverside reported at 5:11 p.m. that a subject battered them.

Three Chicago juveniles charged with armed violence in Oak Brook crime spree

Defendants were allegedly armed with bear spray during commission of crimes

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Oak Brook Chief of Police Brian Strockis announced last week that three juveniles, all from Chicago, have been charged with stealing from three Oak Brook businesses on Sunday, March 8.

The three juveniles, two 16-year-old males and one 17-year-old female, each appeared at their detention hearing on Monday, March 9, when Judge Kishori Tank ordered they all be detained until at least their next court appearance. All three juveniles

are charged with three counts of burglary (Class 2 felony), three counts of retail theft (Class 3 felony) and one count of armed violence (Class 2 felony).

On Sunday, March 8, at approximately 4:34 p.m., the Oak Brook Police Department received information from the ALO store manager regarding three suspicious individuals. Following an investigation into the matter, it is alleged that three individuals, later identified as the defendants, entered the ALO store, located at 68

Oakbrook Court, selected 16 items of clothing with a total retail value of approximately \$1,906, and then left the store without paying for the merchandise.

It is alleged that the juveniles then went to Victoria's Secret, located at 52 Oakbrook Court, where they selected 24 items of clothing with a total retail value of approximately \$541.45, and then exited the store without paying for the merchandise.

It is further alleged that the juveniles then went to Macy's, located at 1 Oak-

brook Court, and selected six items of clothing with a total retail value of approximately \$1,965, and exited the store without paying for the merchandise.

Officers with the Oak Brook Police Department apprehended all three juveniles after they exited Macy's. It is further alleged that the defendants were in possession of

bear spray during the commission of the burglaries.

"The allegations that these three juveniles drove to Oak Brook and robbed three different establishments one after another after another are extremely alarming," Berlin said. "With warm weather on the horizon, the Oak Brook Mall will soon be a destination for thousands of visitors.

The quick apprehension of the suspects in this case, however, should serve as a warning to anyone thinking of committing a crime in DuPage County that if you do, you will be arrested, charged and prosecuted. I thank the Oak Brook Police Department for their quick response to this matter that led to the apprehension of all three suspects."

Lombard man charged with hate crime at Lombard bakery

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Lombard Chief of Police Joe Grage recently announced that Judge Leah Bendik granted the state's motion to deny pre-trial release for a Lombard man accused of hate crime following an incident at a Lombard bakery last week.

Justin Ward, 34, of the 2300 block of Woodbridge Way, appeared in court on Saturday, March 14, and was charged with one count of hate crime (Class 4 felony) and one count of aggravated battery in a public place (Class 3 felony).

On Friday, March 13, at approximately 9:19 p.m., Lombard police officers were dispatched to Crave Cookies,

217 E. Roosevelt Road, for a disturbance. Following an investigation into the matter, it is alleged that while the victim was in the parking lot of the establishment, an individual, later identified as Ward, began shouting at him. It is alleged that the victim ignored Ward and went inside Crave Cookies, and that Ward followed the victim inside the bakery. It is further alleged that once inside the bakery, Ward began yelling at the victim saying "f*** Iran," "this is America" and "I can't f***ing stand you Indians," and then spat at the victim, hitting him in the neck and chest. It is alleged that the victim walked out to his car, with Ward following him. It is further alleged that Ward fled the scene when police sirens were audible. A short time later, officers located Ward at his home, where he was taken into custody.

"The type of behavior alleged in this case will never be tolerated in DuPage County," Berlin said. "DuPage County is welcoming to all,

and my office stands ready to file the appropriate charges involving any attack on another individual based on their race, religion, sexual orientation or any other individual characteristic. I thank the Lombard Police Department for their quick response and apprehension of the defendant in this case."

"The Village of Lombard is a proudly diverse community, and the alleged actions of Justin Ward are completely unacceptable and have no place here," Grage said. "Acts of hate and racism go against the values we share as a community and will not be tolerated. We encourage anyone who experiences or witnesses a hate incident to report it to the Lombard Police Department. I would like to thank our officers for their dedication and professionalism in this case, and I appreciate the assistance of State's Attorney Bob Berlin and his office."

Ward's next court appearance is scheduled April 6, in front of Judge Daniel Guerin.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS: Villa Park Review

Willowbrook students win awards at Science Olympiad event

Members of Willowbrook High School's Science Olympiad Team competed in the Loyola Academy Science Olympiad Invitational on Feb. 28. Junior Claire Brennan (pictured) won the third-place medal in the Electric Vehicle competition. Willowbrook's duo of (left to right) junior Shayan Siddiqi and senior Katrina Smalling placed fifth in Forensics. According to Illinois Science Olympiad's website (<https://illinoisolympiad.org>), "Science Olympiad is a co-curricular educational program that strives to ignite the passion for science, medicine and engineering in young minds. With an unwavering commitment to fostering curiosity and critical thinking, it aims to nurture the potential of future scientists, health professionals and engineers, shaping a brighter tomorrow."



The Rams salute a state champion

Glenbard East High School recently honored senior Nadlia Shymkiv after she won the state championship in the 105-pound division at the IHSA girls wrestling state tournament in Bloomington. Shymkiv earned an overtime victory in the Feb. 28 championship contest. She completed her senior season with a 39-3 record. Glenbard East honored Shymkiv during an assembly in the school's gymnasium on March 2. One photo shows Glenbard East's athletic director—Tony Millard—speaking during the assembly. As a junior, Shymkiv placed second in the 105-pound level at the 2025 IHSA state meet. As a sophomore, she finished third in the same weight division at the 2024 state meet. Shymkiv is Glenbard East's first female wrestler to win an IHSA state title. She is the second Ram—male or female—to win an individual state wrestling title. Kevin Carlson won the 185-pound title in the AA level the 1981 IHSA state meet. Carlson went on to spend more than two decades as Glenbard East's wrestling coach.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Warrior qualifies for girls wrestling state tournament

Willowbrook sophomore Angle Manlapaz competed at the recent IHSA girls wrestling state tournament in Bloomington. Manlapaz, who battled in the event's 115-pound division, is the first state qualifier in the history of Willowbrook's girls wrestling program. She completed her 2025-26 season with a 17-6 record. Manlapaz (center) is pictured with Willowbrook assistant coach Molly Salerno (left) and Willowbrook head coach Mary Doro (right) at a sendoff celebration before the state meet.



JOE PEARSON PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

District 88 Foundation's third annual 'Paddle Battle' pickleball tournament a success

District 88 wants to thank those who supported and participated in the District 88 Foundation's third annual "Paddle Battle" pickleball tournament, which took place on Feb. 28 at Willowbrook High School. More than 50 players participated in the tournament. To view results from the event, visit www.dupage88.net/PickleballResults2026. The tournament raised about \$5,900, which will benefit District 88 students through mini-grants for staff to develop instructional initiatives and innovations.





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Villa Park REVIEW

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THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

Willowbrook theater students qualify for IHSA state meet



Willowbrook High School's theater department presented its Illinois High School Association (IHSA) contest play—*The Importance of Being Earnest*—in front of a large audience in the school's Doris E. White Auditorium last week. Willowbrook's cast and crew in the presentation of Oscar Wilde's comedy includes nearly 70 students. The March 19 presentation at Willowbrook prepared the students for Saturday's IHSA Drama and Group Interpretation sectional competition at West Chicago High School. Willowbrook earned first-place honors in the sectional's drama competition and advanced to this week's IHSA state meet at Reavis High School in Burbank. One photo (left) from the March 19 performance shows (left to right) sophomore Niamh Lashmet and junior Konstantine Gzamouranis. Another photo (below) shows (left to right) freshman Ashlyn Ruane and junior Kasey Barnett.

CHRIS FOX PHOTOS, Villa Park Review

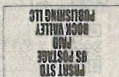


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Police Reports

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March 17

A complainant at a pharmacy in the 1-100 block of E. St. Charles reported at 1:30 p.m. that a subject removed merchandise without paying.
 A complainant at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83 reported at 5:47 p.m. that a subject removed merchandise without paying.
 A complainant at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83 advised at 8:14 p.m. that a subject accidentally struck their vehicle with a shopping cart. No damage was observed, but a confrontation ensued.
 A complainant in the 200 block of W. Kenilworth reported that they were a victim

of fraud.

March 14

Edison O. Cordova Galora, 32, of Villa Park, was charged with operating an uninsured motor vehicle causing bodily harm, operating an uninsured motor vehicle when registration was suspended for no insurance and driving with a suspended license near St. Charles and S. Ardmore at 10:39 p.m.
 A complainant in the 400 block of S. Princeton reported at 4:32 p.m. that a window on their door was broken.
 A complainant near St. Charles and Addison reported at 5:25 p.m. that a subject alarmed and disturbed them by following and honking at them. The subject then approached the complainant's vehicle at a stop light and threw objects at the vehicle. The subject was issued a citation for disorderly conduct.

March 12

A complainant at a store in the 400 block of W. North reported at 3:47 p.m. that two subjects were in the building after being trespassed. One subject had removed

merchandise from display shelves and did not pay for the merchandise. Police issued citations for retail theft and trespassing.

Officers responded to a report of four subjects fighting inside a fitness center in the 300 block of W. North at 9:13 p.m.

March 11

A complainant in the 1-100 block of E. North reported at 1:28 a.m. that their significant other left with the complainant's vehicle without permission and did not return.
 A complainant at a pharmacy in the 200 block of E. Roosevelt reported at 3:09 a.m. that a subject removed merchandise from display shelves and left without paying.
 A complainant at a gas station in the 1-100 block of W. St. Charles reported at 11:31 a.m. that a subject was inside the store asking for money. The subject was asked to leave and issued a trespass warning.
 A complainant in the 1000 block of N. Villa reported at 4:08 p.m. that a subject threatened them.

Willowbrook High School closed for a day of classes following a bomb threat

Students sent home after spending approximately one hour in the school's field house; police conducted a thorough sweep of the Willowbrook school building and property

An early morning bomb threat at Willowbrook High School last week caused the cancellation of a full day of classes.

On Thursday, March 19, someone reportedly called Willowbrook and left a message stating that there would be bombs and a possible armed offender at the school.

Villa Park Chief of Police Todd Kubish related in a media release that the police department was notified of the threat at the school at approximately 7 a.m.

"Police officers, along with mutual aid from surrounding agencies, responded immediately and began securing the exterior of the school," noted Kubish, who added that a large number of students were already inside the building when police arrived.

While the first period of classes each Thursday at Willowbrook typically begins at 7:45 a.m., many students arrive at school for the "zero hour" class period, which begins at 6:50 a.m.

"Through coordinated efforts between school staff and law enforcement, students were moved to secure areas within the building until they could be safely escorted off the property," added Kubish.

Responding officers reportedly conducted a sweep of the school's field house before directing students there. Approximately 1,500 students spent about one hour in the field house before they were sent home. Buses responded to the school to take students home.

"Police personnel and assisting agencies [including Lombard, Elmhurst and Oakbrook Terrace] worked alongside school staff to ensure the safe evacuation of all students and canine units responded to Montini and monitored all of the school's entrances and exits before the lockdown there ended by 11:20 a.m.

Kubish concluded the media release by stating that the incident at Willowbrook remains under investigation. Anyone with information related to the incident is encouraged to call the Villa Park Police Department's non-emergency number at 630-834-7447.

"At District 88 and Willowbrook High School, the safety and well-being of students and staff is our No. 1 priority," noted District 88 in a statement issued on the day of the incident. "This morning, Willowbrook became aware of a safety threat to the building, and administration immediately notified the Villa Park Police Department. We worked closely with local law enforcement and followed their instruction/guidance."

The missed day of classes at Willowbrook will not be made up before the end of the 2025-26 school year.

According to Kubish, the school was thoroughly searched, deemed safe, and returned to school administration later in the day. While the day's classes were canceled, some athletic events, including boys tennis and badminton, took place in the afternoon. That evening, the school's theater department presented its IHSA contest play to a sizable audience in the school's auditorium.

"During the course of the

investigation, it was determined that additional bomb threats had been reported at other schools in surrounding jurisdictions, indicating this was not an isolated incident," added Kubish.

Montini Catholic High School in Lombard was under a lockdown on the morning of March 19. Students and staff members were told to remain in their classrooms until the issue was resolved. Officers and canine units responded to Montini and monitored all of the school's entrances and exits before the lockdown there ended by 11:20 a.m.

Kubish concluded the media release by stating that the incident at Willowbrook remains under investigation. Anyone with information related to the incident is encouraged to call the Villa Park Police Department's non-emergency number at 630-834-7447.

"At District 88 and Willowbrook High School, the safety and well-being of students and staff is our No. 1 priority," noted District 88 in a statement issued on the day of the incident. "This morning, Willowbrook became aware of a safety threat to the building, and administration immediately notified the Villa Park Police Department. We worked closely with local law enforcement and followed their instruction/guidance."

The district's March 19 statement noted that Willowbrook students who needed to return to the building to collect items would be able to do so that day from 3 to 5 p.m.

"We take all threats seriously, and we will continue to work with local authorities to ensure the security of our schools."

Juvenile charged with leading police on high-speed chase in Oak Brook in a stolen car

The 14-year-old male subject from Addison allegedly fled from police on Butterfield Road

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Oak Brook Chief of Police Brian Strockis announced last week that an Addison juvenile has been charged with leading police on a high-speed chase in a stolen vehicle.

The juvenile, a 14-year-old male, appeared in front of Judge Kishori Tank at a March 18 detention hearing. Judge Tank ordered that he be released on home detention. The juvenile is charged with one count of possession of a stolen motor vehicle (Class 2 felony) and one count of aggravated fleeing or eluding a peace officer (Class 4 felony).

At approximately 1 a.m. on March 18, an Oak Brook police officer allegedly observed a Toyota stopped at a red light beyond the white boundary line, toward the middle of the intersection of Route 83 and Hodges Road. The officer followed the Toyota and activated his emergency lights near 16th Street, causing the Toyota to come to a stop on the

ramp of eastbound Butterfield Road. It is alleged that when the officer approached the passenger side of the Toyota, the driver, later identified as the juvenile, accelerated away at a high rate of speed. The officer returned to his vehicle and initiated pursuit of the juvenile, allegedly reaching speeds of approximately 70 mph on Butterfield Road.

It is alleged that during the pursuit, the juvenile ignored red stop lights on multiple occasions along Butterfield Road. It is further alleged that the juvenile drove into a residential area, at which time the officer slowed down and terminated pursuit but continued to follow the Toyota's path of travel. A short time later, the officer observed the Toyota abandoned with significant tire and wheel damage. With the use of a K9 unit, the juvenile was ultimately located in a shed in the backyard of a home in the 800 block of Saylor Avenue.

"Driving is a privilege, not a right," Berlin said. "Furthermore, it is a privilege enjoyed by those above sixteen years of age with a valid driver's license. The allegations that a 14-year-old boy attempted to outrun the police in a stolen

motor vehicle are extremely disturbing. The charges filed today once again send the message that anyone who attempts to flee from police, regardless of their age, will be caught and will quickly find themselves standing before a judge. I thank the Oak Brook Police Department for not only their efforts on this case, but also for their vigilance in keeping our roadways safe."

"Another stolen vehicle entered Oak Brook with dangerous intent, ultimately leading to an arrest," Strockis said. "It is especially troubling that the driver involved in this incident was only 14 years old. I want to commend our officers for their continued dedication to keeping our community safe. I also extend my appreciation to the many law enforcement agencies that assisted in the apprehension. Finally, I would like to thank State's Attorney Bob Berlin and his team for their support and guidance throughout this case."

The next court appearance for the juvenile is scheduled for April 9, in front of Judge Tank. Charges are currently pending against three other juveniles who also allegedly exited the vehicle and fled.

Oakbrook Terrace Lions Club holds its Someone Special Gala at Willowbrook High School on April 18

The Oakbrook Terrace Lions Club is hosting Someone Special as part of its ongoing commitment to serving and celebrating the incredible individuals and families who make our community stronger.

The club's 33rd annual Someone Special Gala will take place on Saturday, April 18, at Willowbrook High School.

Children with disabilities and their families are invited to attend the special event, which will feature a theater production of *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, followed by lunch at the school. The play will begin promptly at 10:30 a.m. Late arrivals will not be seated in the theater and are welcome

to wait in the lobby until the luncheon, which will begin immediately following the performance.

Tickets will be distributed at check-in, which begins at 9:30 a.m. Tickets are not transferable.

Reservations are due as soon as possible.

Cancellations must be received by April 10.

Free tickets are available to the child/special adult and up to three of their immediate family members (parents, guardians, siblings). Additional tickets are available for \$20 each, payable by check or Zelle to the Oakbrook Terrace Lions Club, and sent to the club at P.O. Box 7018, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

Zelle payments can be made to OBTLions@gmail.com. This must be a separate payment from the deposit check. (See below).

To ensure every family has a reserved spot, a refundable \$40 deposit is required. Send your deposit via check with your "Someone Special's" name written on the memo portion of the check. Your deposit check will be returned to you upon check-in. If you are a no-show, your deposit check will be graciously accepted as a donation to the event, as the club has to pay for every reserved spot.

For more information, contact Lion Anthony Lukaszewski at 630-209-3096, or at OBTLions@yahoo.com.

Sports

Rams edge the Warriors in a back-and-forth battle

Willowbrook scores four runs in the sixth inning to take a 4-2 lead;

Glenbard East scores three runs in the top of the seventh inning and pulls out a 5-4 win

The Willowbrook and Glenbard East baseball teams squared off on Saturday in Villa Park. Playing in their 2026 season opener, the visiting Rams defeated Willowbrook 5-4.

While Glenbard East improved to 1-0 with the win, Willowbrook fell to 1-1 after its narrow loss. The Warriors opened their season by beating Glenbard South 11-1 in Friday's five-inning game in Glen Ellyn.

Glenbard East scored two runs in the top of the fourth inning of Saturday's game to take a 2-0 lead over Willowbrook. Senior Carson Pignato singled to drive in the Rams' first run of the inning. Glenbard East scored its next run on a balk.

Senior Lucas Calderin of the Rams pitched five shutout innings in his team's season opener against the Warriors. Calderin, who was Glenbard East's starting pitcher in the game, allowed two hits and one walk. He recorded four strikeouts.

Senior Jayden Phistry took the mound for Glenbard East

in the bottom of the sixth inning. The Warriors scored four unearned runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to take a 4-2 lead.

The Rams delivered a comeback of their own in the top of the seventh inning, scoring three runs to grab their 5-4 lead. Phistry then held the Warriors scoreless in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Willowbrook senior Jory Crocker, who will continue his academic and baseball careers at the University of Arizona, drilled a one-out triple to center field in the bottom of the sixth inning. Crocker then scored on a ground ball by senior Jake Bonino. The Rams committed a throwing error on the play, and when the ball went down the right-field line, Bonino zipped around the bases and slid safely into home plate to even the score at 2-2.

Willowbrook took a 3-2 lead when senior Alex Dew drew a bases-loaded walk with two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning. The Warriors added another run moments later after Phistry threw the

ball into center field while trying to pick off a Willowbrook runner at second base.

Glenbard East senior Josh Ziemer singled with one out in the top of the seventh inning to drive in a run and reduce Willowbrook's lead to 4-3. The next batter—senior Collin LaCount—laced a single to left field that drove in two runs to give the Rams their 5-4 lead.

After walking Crocker with one out in the bottom of the seventh inning, Phistry struck out the next two batters to end the game.

Willowbrook senior Bobby Biggs pitched the first four innings of Saturday's contest. He allowed one hit and four walks while striking out three batters. Crocker pitched the final three innings for the Warriors. He gave up three hits, one walk and no earned runs. Crocker piled up six strikeouts.

Willowbrook scored three runs in the top of the first inning of Friday's game at Glenbard South. The Warriors added one run in the second inning and erupted for

six runs in the third inning to take a 10-1 lead. Willowbrook tacked on one more run in the top of the fifth inning.

Crocker went 2-for-3 and drove in four runs in Friday's win over the Raiders. He hit a three-run double in the top of the third inning to push the Warriors' lead to 10-1. Crocker delivered another double in the top of the fifth inning to drive in his team's last run of the game.

Senior Alek Ramey went 2-for-3 and drove in two runs for Willowbrook in Friday's win. Senior Noah Edison pitched the first two innings of the game for Willowbrook and earned the victory. Edison allowed two hits, one walk and no earned runs. He struck out three batters. Glenbard South scored an unearned run in the bottom of the first inning.

Senior Jacob Bylsma pitched the final three innings of Friday's game for the Warriors. He allowed two hits and one walk while picking up two strikeouts.

Willowbrook is scheduled to play three games this week.

The Warriors will face Montini today, March 26, in Lombard.

Glenbard East's sched-

ule this week features games against Glenbard West, York, Wheaton Academy and Fenton.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Glenbard East's baseball team began its 2026 season with Saturday's 5-4 win at Willowbrook. The Warriors opened their season one day earlier with an 11-1 victory over Glenbard South in a five-inning game in Glen Ellyn. Willowbrook senior Jory Crocker (No. 4), who is pictured during Friday's game, hit two doubles and drove in four runs in his team's win over the Raiders. Senior Lucas Calderin (No. 5) of Glenbard East is pictured while firing a pitch during Saturday's contest. Calderin started the game on the mound and pitched five scoreless innings. The Warriors evened the score at 2-2 when senior Jake Bonino (No. 6) slid safely into home in the bottom of the sixth inning. Bonino is pictured while scoring the tying run. Willowbrook added two more runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to take a 4-2 lead. Glenbard East then scored three runs in the top of the seventh inning. Senior Collin LaCount (No. 2) hit a two-run single in that inning to give the Rams their 5-4 lead.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Rams sweep the Hilltoppers

The Glenbard East softball team opened its 2026 season by winning both games of Saturday's doubleheader at Glenbard West. The Rams beat the Hilltoppers 11-2 in the opening game. Glenbard East defeated Glenbard West 15-6 in the second game. Junior Lilly Carver (No. 22) of the Rams bashed a home run in Saturday's first game and slammed two more homers in the second game. Carver went 2-for-5 and drove in two runs in the first game. She went 4-for-5 with two RBIs in the second game. Glenbard East junior Ally Amrhein went 3-for-4 with a home run in the opener. Sophomore Lorelai May, senior Keira Nelson, junior Althea Fitzgerald and senior Amelia Clifford provided two hits each for the Rams in Saturday's first game against Glenbard West. Junior Claire Bolda (No. 23) piled up 17 strikeouts for Glenbard East in the opening game. Bolda allowed four hits and one walk during seven innings in the circle. May and Nelson shared the Rams' pitching duties in the second game of the day. Bolda provided an offensive punch in the second game by belting a three-run homer in the top of the fourth inning.

Broncos kick off their season with three straight wins

Fox strikes out 15 in the season opener; Barrett fires a no-hitter one day later

The Montini Catholic softball team opened its 2026 season by posting three road wins in three days.

The Broncos began their season with an 8-1 victory at Nazareth Academy on Thursday, March 19. One day later, Montini defeated Aurora Christian 4-0. The Broncos raised their record to 3-0 with Saturday's 9-2 win at Waubonsie Valley.

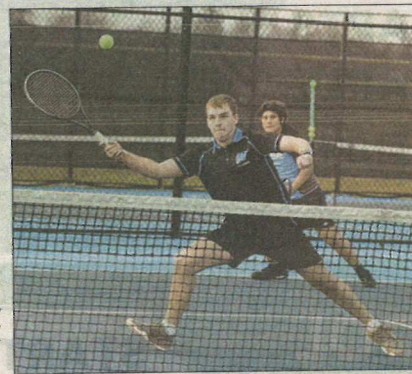
Sophomore Cameron Fox set a new Montini program record for strikeouts in a single game by piling up 15 strikeouts in the Broncos' season-opening win at Nazareth Academy. Fox allowed two hits over seven innings in the victory. Junior Aubrey Raffin went 4-for-5 for Montini in the win. Fox went 3-for-4 and drove in two runs. Freshman Brooke Willis went 2-for-4 with a home run. Junior Brid-

get Ryan went 2-for-4 and drove in two runs.

Montini junior Cedona Barrett pitched a no-hitter in Friday's win at Aurora Christian. Barrett recorded eight strikeouts and allowed just one walk in seven innings in the circle.

Raffin hit a solo home run in the top of the first inning to give Montini a 1-0 lead at Aurora Christian. The Broncos scored two more runs in the first inning and added a single run in the top of the third inning. Willis went 1-for-3 with a double and two RBIs in the victory.

Montini bashed 17 hits in Saturday's win at Waubonsie Valley. Fox went 4-for-4. Willis and junior Alex Kalins both went 3-for-4, while Barrett went 2-for-4. Raffin hit a home run. Fox recorded 10 strikeouts while allowing five hits and two walks over seven innings.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS/Rock Valley Publishing



CHRIS FOX PHOTO/Rock Valley Publishing

Leading the Warriors

The Willowbrook badminton team opened its season with multiple events last week. The Warriors began their season with a 9-6 win at Wheaton Warrenville South on March 16. Two days later, Willowbrook played in a quad at Downers Grove North High School. The Warriors defeated Andrew and lost to Downers Grove North and Hinsdale Central at the March 18 competition. Willowbrook faced Lake Park and Maine South in a three-team meet in Villa Park on March 19. Senior Maisie Thompson (pictured) provided the Warriors with their only two singles wins of the event with a pair of victories in No. 1 singles matches. She beat her Lake Park opponent 21-12, 21-15 and earned a 23-21, 21-8 win against her opponent from Maine South. Willowbrook's No. 1 doubles team of seniors Shannon Freer and Hannah Gawat won one match and lost another during the March 19 event. The Warriors' No. 4 doubles team of sophomores Azana Jackson and Lydia Lindquist also went 1-1 during the competition in Villa Park. Willowbrook continued its season by earning a third-place finish in Saturday's Shepard Invitational. Thompson won the first-place medal in the event's No. 1 singles flight. Freer and senior Sophia Gustafson placed second at No. 1 doubles, while Gawat teamed with junior Jada Langston to earn a second-place finish at No. 2 doubles.

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from 11 a.m. to noon at the Bensenville Railroad Museum. Open to all ages, the program combines crafting and local railroad history in a fun, family-friendly setting. Guided by staff from Fischer Farm, participants will create a train-shaped picture frame using popstick sticks and other craft materials. Each participant will also receive a complimentary photo to display in their finished frame. The fee is \$20 per participant, or \$15 for in-district residents. Registration is required by April 6 at the Deer Grove Leisure Center, 1000 W. Wood St. in Bensenville. For more information, visit the Bensenville Park District website, BvilleParks.org.

For more information, visit: <https://addisonparks.org/mc-events/glow-in-the-dark-party>

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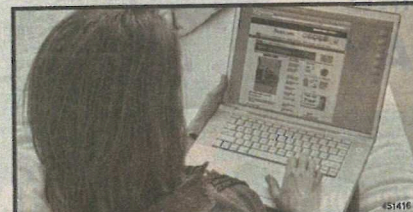
On Tuesday, April 21, 2026, an in-person and virtual meeting conducted by DuPage High School District 88 will take place at the District Office (2 Friendship Plaza, Addison) and via Zoom at 8:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the District's plan for providing special education services to students with identified disabilities who attend parentally placed private/parochial schools and home schools located within the District's boundaries for the 2026-27 school year. If you are a parent/guardian of a home-schooled student who has been or may be identified with a disability and you reside within the boundaries of DuPage High School District 88, you are encouraged to attend. If you have further questions about this meeting and/or are interested in attending, please complete the survey at: <https://forms.gle/qqoY4ipBKK5WoxLXA> or scan the QR Code:



(Published in the Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent, Villa Park Review and Elmhurst Independent March 26, April 2 & 16, 2026)

Warriors begin their season with a win

Willowbrook's boys tennis team opened its 2026 season with a 5-2 win over Maine West in Villa Park on March 19. Senior Brogan Byrne (pictured) of the Warriors posted a 6-2, 6-2 victory in the meet's No. 1 singles match. Willowbrook's No. 1 doubles team of seniors Corbin Tomasello and Danny Rocha earned a 6-4, 6-2 victory. Tomasello is pictured (foreground) hitting a volley at the net. The Warriors' duo of senior Nathan Leal and junior Kyle May teamed up to produce a 6-1, 6-3 win in the No. 2 doubles match. Willowbrook juniors Nathan Epple and Henry Wolf battled to a 6-4, 7-6 (7-2) win in the No. 3 doubles contest. Senior Haruki Yamada and sophomore Nikko Evans of the Warriors sailed to a 6-1, 6-0 victory in the No. 4 doubles match. The Warriors will continue their season by hosting their own Quad Under the Lights event this Friday, March 27.



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Answers

PUZZLE 1										PUZZLE 2									
5	6	8	3	7	1	2	9	4		5	6	4	9	7	3	2	8	1	
7	4	3	8	2	9	5	1	6		7	1	2	6	5	8	4	9	3	
1	2	9	5	4	6	7	3	8		3	9	8	1	2	4	5	6	7	
6	8	7	4	9	3	1	2	5		6	3	5	8	4	2	7	1	9	
9	5	4	6	1	2	8	7	3		8	4	7	5	9	1	3	2	6	
2	3	1	7	5	8	6	4	9		9	2	1	3	6	7	8	4	5	
4	1	6	2	3	5	9	8	7		1	7	9	2	8	5	6	3	4	
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CROSSWORD

APUS	ARROYO
CYRE	SECRETARY
ELAN	TOILET
MORAL	CONJUG
THU	THESE
SIRE	SAKE
AFFRIT	MANNEN
LOIRNA	CLINIC
MRMA	ERIC
DED	OLEN
NY	CHUMEN
DALIA	MO
SWORD	SMEN
DISC	LINE



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