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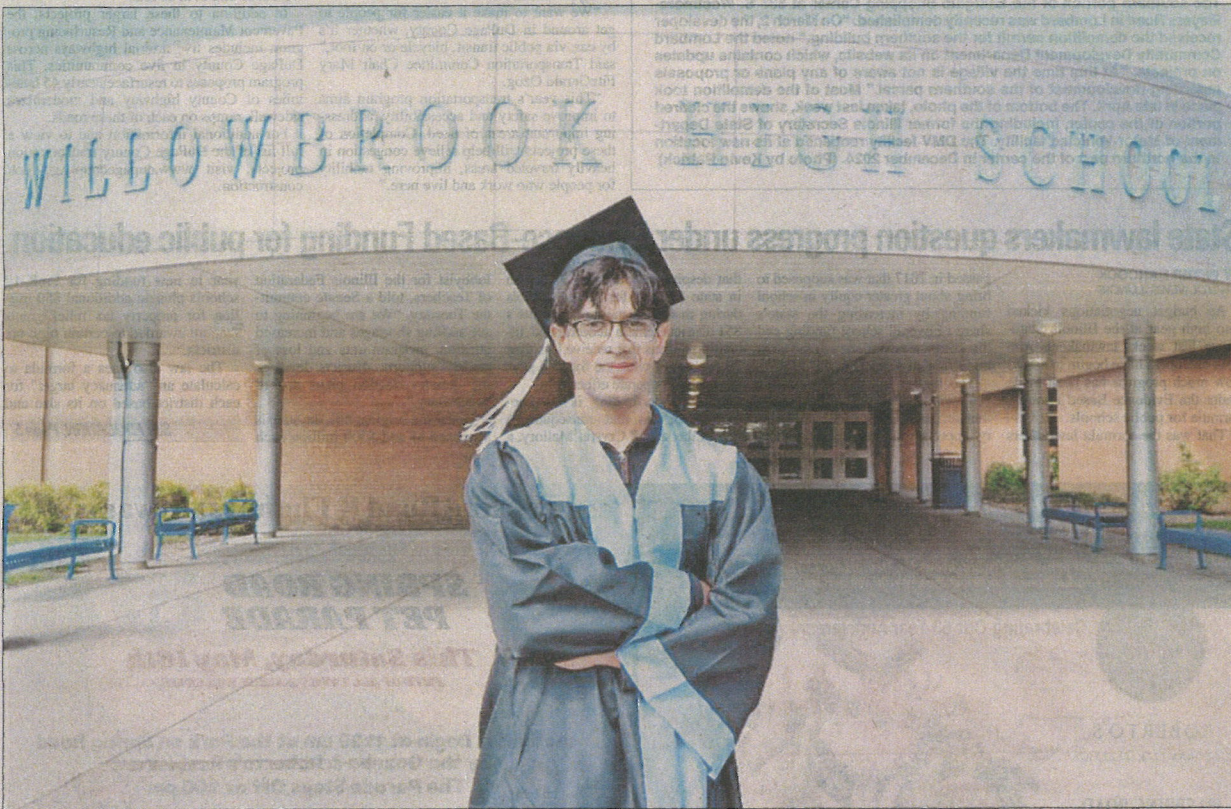
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Villa Park resident Salman Siddiqi will represent Willowbrook's Class of 2026 when he speaks during this Sunday's commencement ceremony. (Submitted photo)

## Class of 2026 academic standout will speak at commencement

### Villa Park resident will attend Stanford

Salman Siddiqi of Willowbrook High School's Class of 2026 will address his classmates at the school's 67th commencement ceremony, which will take place in the main gymnasium this Sunday, May 17.

Willowbrook's Class of 2026 includes more than 420 students. Siddiqi, who is pictured last week, is a resident of Villa

Park. He was selected to speak at the ceremony based on his outstanding academic accomplishments.

The title of his speech is "Still in Motion."

Previewing his commencement speech, Siddiqi said he will talk about "navigating through high school and trying to do it all, while learning that balance is not a goal—it is a process—and how I learned this through my own struggles and mistakes."

Siddiqi said he hopes his speech will inspire his classmates to "dream big, fail a lot and don't be scared to try and go out of the norm."

"Make sure you give yourself leeway to fail, and learn from these failures: knowing that within all of us, there is a light and a spark that is waiting to be ignited."

Siddiqi plans to pursue a degree in computational biology at Stanford University.

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# District 88 staff member honored during DuPage ROE Educators of the Year Awards Celebration

On April 30, District 88 IEP Coordinator Rachel Morris was honored and recognized during the DuPage Regional Office of Education's Second Annual Educators of the Year Awards Celebration.



Rachel Morris

This year's event took place at Abbington Distinctive Banquets in Glen Ellyn, and the theme was "Rooted & Rising." Morris was nominated by Willowbrook High School social worker Erik Engel for her passion, dedication and positive impact on the students and learning community of District 88.

"What makes (Morris) so extra special at her job is that, like a powerful lawyer, she is willing to go toe-to-toe with anyone getting in the way of student or parent rights," Engel said. "(Morris) has been key at helping students end up where they need to be to be educated, earn a diploma and have solid transitional

programming for successful postsecondary plans. She is the model of collaboration and works with other staff members to seamlessly assist students and their families with obtaining their special education needs."

Morris first joined District 88 in 2007 as a special education teacher aide at Willowbrook.

She then served as a special education teacher and an IEP Coordinator at Willowbrook, before transitioning to the District Office position in 2023.

# Cook County man accused of causing fatal May 1 crash

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin announced last week that Judge Joshua Dieden granted the state's motion to detain pre-trial a Cook County man accused of causing a crash that claimed the life of 65-year-old Rebeca Hidalgo.



Adolfo Carrillo

Adolfo Carrillo, 50, of Cicero, appeared in court on May 4, and was charged with one count of aggravated DUI causing death, a Class 2 felony, and multiple misdemeanor and petty offenses, including DUI, improper lane usage and driving too fast for conditions.

On Friday, May 1, at approximately 5:58 p.m., troopers with the Illinois State Police responded to a call of a crash in the area of northbound I-555 and Army Trail Road in Addison. Upon their arrival, officers observed two damaged and disabled vehicles, a gray 2002 Ford F-150, allegedly driven by Carrillo, and a gray 2017 Lexus SUV occupied by Hidalgo and her two adult children.

Hidalgo was found in the driver's side rear passenger seat of the Lexus, unconscious but breathing. She was immediately transported to a local hospital for medical attention where, at approximately 7:10 p.m., she passed away from injuries she sustained in the crash. Those injuries included lacerations to her vital organs, including her liver, pancreas and small intestine. Hidalgo's adult children were also transported to the hospital for evaluation of minor injuries, as was Carrillo.

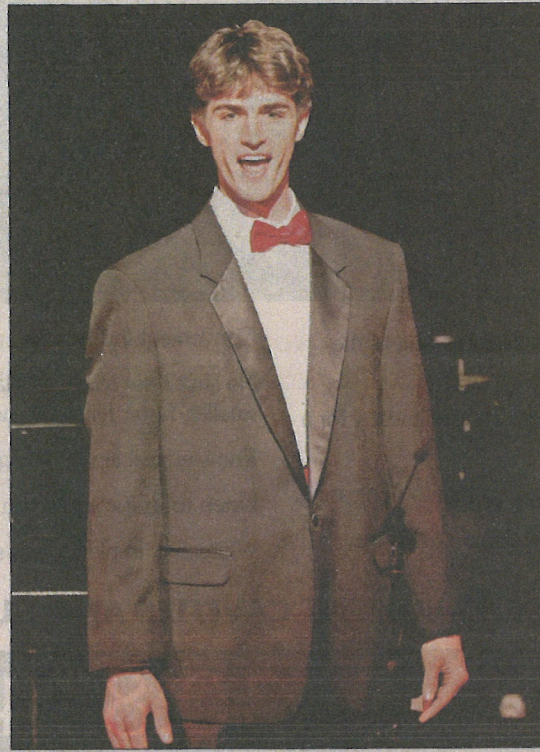
Following an investigation into the crash, it is alleged Carrillo was driving the Ford at a high rate of speed on Army Trail Road entering the merge lane of I-355 northbound, where he abruptly cut across lanes of traffic and crashed into the passenger side of the Lexus.

It is further alleged that when speaking with Carrillo, a trooper observed Carrillo to have bloodshot, red, glossy eyes and an odor of an alcoholic-based beverage emanating from his breath. It is also alleged that at approximately 7:30 p.m., Carrillo's blood alcohol content (BAC) was .098.

"I offer my sincerest condolences to Rebeca Hidalgo's family and friends as they grieve this devastating loss," Berlin said. "In the blink of an eye, their lives have been turned upside down and tragically, will never be the same without the love, support and friendship Rebeca once provided. Like all alleged DUI cases, the case against Mr. Carrillo was 100 percent avoidable."

Carrillo's next court appearance is scheduled to take place on June 1 in front of Judge Margaret O'Connell.

# Students showcase talent



Montini Catholic High School's Fine Art students entertained parents, friends and art fans at their annual Spring Concert and Art Show. It was a bitersweet afternoon for senior band and choir members as they performed together for the last time in the high school's auditorium. Senior Michael May of Villa Park is pictured during the concert, which was directed by Donnie Glowinski and included performances by the A Cafellas and Treble Makers groups, Concert Choir, Chamber Choir, Combined Bands and members of the Rock Band Club. After the concert, guests were invited to linger and check out the Spring Art Show, which featured students' art, digital art, and photography. (Submitted photo)

# Village accepting requests to plant parkway trees

The Village of Villa Park is currently accepting requests for parkway tree planting to be included in the annual fall planting schedule. To submit your request for a parkway tree, or for more information, visit [villapark.com/forestry](http://villapark.com/forestry) or call the Villa Park Public Works Department at 630-834-8505.

Submitting a request does not guarantee tree placement.

The Village of Villa Park will assess the eligibility of the parkway and select the type of tree that will be planted.

Residents will be notified before any trees are planted in the parkway in front of their home.

# 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.

## May 5

A complainant in the 1-100 block of S. Ardmore reported at 12:40 p.m. that a subject was causing a disturbance and throwing items. The subject was issued a trespass warning.

## May 4

A complainant in the 300 block of N. Ardmore reported at 8:42 p.m. that they went to open their window and were alarmed and disturbed to find a subject outside trying to open it. The subject received an ordinance citation and was released.

## May 3

Victoria M. Gaul, 34, of West Chicago, was charged with DUI, improper lane usage and speeding near W. North and N. Joyce at 10:45 p.m.

An unknown subject struck a stop sign at the intersection of S. Monterey and E. Highland and left the scene without reporting the damage.

## May 2

A complainant at a business in the 200 block of W. Roosevelt reported that a subject stole cash from a bank bag.

## May 1

Schameil L. Yule, of Bloomington, Illinois, was charged with retail theft at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83.

Villa Park officers responded to a report at 4:36 p.m. and assisted the Metra Police Department with a subject who threatened the conductor with a weapon on the Union Pacific Railroad tracks near the Villa Park Metra station at 349 N. Ardmore.

Police responded to a gas station in the 1-100 block of W. St. Charles at 8:55 a.m. when a subject reportedly caused a disturbance after being asked for an ID to purchase tobacco products. The subject did not have their physical ID on them and was then trespassed from the property.

A complainant in the 1600 block of S. Michigan reported at 10:18 p.m. that their child was battered by other juveniles.

## April 30

A 44-year-old Villa Park man was charged with two counts of domestic battery in the 1-100 block of W. Adams. He was transported to the DuPage County Jail.

The manager of a bank in the 1-100 block of E. St. Charles reported finding a notebook with disturbing statements in it.

A complainant at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83 reported at 12:49 p.m. that a subject rang up merchandise at a checkout kiosk, had a verbal altercation with an employee, and then left with merchandise without paying for it.

A complainant at a pharmacy in the 200 block of E. Roosevelt reported at 2:33 a.m. that a subject was making threatening statements and refusing to leave. The subject was issued a trespass warning.

A complainant at a restaurant in the 100 block of E. Roosevelt reported at 7:32 p.m. that a subject was arguing with a customer. The restaurant's management wanted the subject to be trespassed from the property.

A complainant reported that someone was attempting to use their identity to fraudulently purchase a vehicle at a dealership in the 100 block of E. North.

## April 29

A complainant in the 100 block of S. Michigan reported they received a phone call regarding their banking information which they found to be suspicious, and possibly a fraud attempt.

A complainant in the 500 block of S. Yale reported that a subject battered them.

# Sports

## Rams come back from 10-1 deficit to beat Riverside Brookfield

The Glenbard East baseball team rallied from a 10-1 deficit to beat Riverside Brookfield 12-10 in last week's Upstate Eight Conference game in Lombard. The Bulldogs, who scored seven runs in the top of the second inning of the May 5 contest, held a 10-1 lead at the end of the third inning. Glenbard East scored six runs in the bottom of the fourth inning, and added five more runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to overtake the Bulldogs.

Senior Lucas Calderin went 3-for-4 and drove in two runs for the Rams in their comeback victory over Riverside Brookfield. Sophomore Jackson Turko went 2-for-4 with two RBIs.

Senior Carson Pignato also went 2-for-4 with a pair of RBIs. Sophomore Emmett Lavin with 2-for-4 with one RBI and scored three runs. Senior Justin Kay, who hit a two-run home run in the fourth inning to cut the Bulldogs' lead to 10-5, went 1-for-4 with two RBIs.

Sophomore Daniel Wells pitched two scoreless innings to earn the win for the Rams. After Wells shut down Riverside Brookfield in the fourth and fifth innings, Calderin pitched two more scoreless innings to close out the victory.

One day after beating the Bulldogs, the Rams earned a 9-5 victory over Elmwood Park in a conference game in Lom-

bard. Glenbard East posted a wild 23-13 conference win at Elgin on May 7 to raise its Upstate Eight record to 13-2. The Rams scored eight runs in the top of the first inning and added six more runs in the top of the second inning.

Lavin and senior Collin LaCount provided four hits each in Glenbard East's 23-run outburst in Elgin. Freshman Aaron Solis connected for three hits. Turko went 2-for-2 and drove in four runs.

The Rams suffered a 17-2 loss at Naperville North in a non-conference game on Saturday, May 9. Glenbard East's overall record fell to 15-10-1 with its loss to the Huskies.

## King advances to state after winning sectional singles title

Two Glenbard East doubles teams qualify for the state meet

The Glenbard East badminton team will send one singles player and two doubles teams to compete in this week's IHSA state meet at DeKalb High School. The state-qualifying Rams earned their berths in DeKalb at the Glenbard East Sectional on May 7.

The top four singles players and the top four doubles teams at each of the state's 16 sectionals qualified for the state meet.

Senior Samantha King of the Rams won the singles title at last week's sectional in Lombard. She posted three straight wins at the sectional, including a 21-17, 21-8 win in the championship match.

Glenbard East's doubles team of juniors Betsy Facchini and Daniela Romero qualified for the state meet after posting a third-place



Glenbard East senior Samantha King won the singles title at last week's sectional in Lombard. (Photo by Chris Fox)

See **BADMINTON**, Page 11

## Rams earn a pair of conference wins

Glenbard East's boys volleyball team improved to 17-9 overall and 4-1 in the Upstate Eight Conference following its 25-15, 25-11 home victory over West Chicago on May 7.

Sophomore Max Waldschmidt bashed eight kills for the Rams in their win over the Wildcats.

Senior Gabe Polyak provided six kills for Glenbard East.

Sophomore Cole Smith handed out 13 assists and made five digs for the Rams. Senior Nate Lynch supplied five digs, four blocks, two assists and one kill.

Two days before beating West Chicago, the Rams earned a 25-11, 25-19 conference win at Elmwood Park. Polyak hit eight kills in the May 5 win.

Waldschmidt pounded six kills, while senior Jackson Yates and Lynch added five and four kills, respectively. Smith doled out 13 assists. Senior Loyce Mojica contributed 12 assists.



Senior Nate Lynch elevates at the net during Glenbard East's win over West Chicago May 7. (Photo by Chris Fox)



Willowbrook extended its winning streak to 22 games with Saturday's 10-6 Senior Day victory over Downers Grove North. The seniors are: (front row) Jacob Bylsma, Jake Bonino, Alex Dew, Charlie Roelle, Tommy Roelle, Conner Spears and Max Wilkison; (back) Bobby Biggs, Jory Crocker, Ryan Dasbach, Noah Edison, Alek Ramey, Luke Ranieri and David Sullivan. (Photo by Chris Fox)

## Warriors push winning streak to 22 with four more victories

Willowbrook aims to close out perfect conference season

The Willowbrook baseball team's winning streak swelled to 22 games after the Warriors won four games last week. Willowbrook moved to 15-0 in West Suburban Gold Conference play by sweeping last week's three-game series against Proviso East. One day after completing the sweep against the Pirates, the Warriors posted a 10-6 win in Saturday's non-conference battle with Downers Grove North in Villa Park.

Willowbrook's overall season record stood at 23-4 after Saturday's Senior Day victory over the Trojans.

"We do a lot of things really well," said Willowbrook coach Vic Wisner while speaking about the Warriors' lengthy winning streak after Saturday's triumph. "We score a lot of runs. We've been playing really good defense. We have good pitching, and we run the bases well."



LEFT: Jory Crocker slides safely into third for a triple in Saturday's victory over Downers Grove North. RIGHT: Alex Dew went 2-for-3 and drove in two runs for the Warriors in the win. (Photos by Chris Fox)

The Warriors have already clinched the West Suburban Gold Conference title. They can complete a perfect 18-0 conference campaign by sweeping this week's three-game series against Morton. Willowbrook will play a non-conference game at Lyons

Township this Saturday, May 16.

The Warriors opened their series against Proviso East with a 10-1 road victory on May 4.

One day later, Willowbrook beat the Pirates 12-2

See **WARRIORS**, Page 11

# Broncos win four games in six days

## Heyer and Palmer team up to pitch a no-hitter against Saint Ignatius

The Montini Catholic baseball team won four straight games last week to raise its overall season record to 18-10. After opening the week with a pair of wins over Saint Ignatius, the Broncos added two decisive victories over Leo.

Montini beat the Wolfpack 9-5 in Lombard on May 4. One day later, the Broncos earned a 2-0 win at Saint Ignatius. Seniors Blake Heyer and Drake Palmer pitched a no-hitter in the May 5 victory.

Heyer started the game on the mound and worked six and two-third innings. He allowed no hits and two walks while recording 14 strikeouts.

Palmer took the mound in the bottom of the seventh inning and struck out a batter to end the game.

Junior Johnny Louise and sophomore Kameron Cox both homered for Montini in the team's 9-5 home win over Saint Ignatius. Senior Quin Paprockas went 1-for-3 and drove in both of the Broncos' runs in the May 5 win with a two-run single in the top of the fourth inning.

Louise went 2-for-3 with a home run and drove in three runs in Montini's May 7 win over Leo. Louise delivered similar production in the Broncos' May 9 triumph at Leo, going 2-for-3 with a home run and three RBIs.

# Warriors (Continued from page 10)

in Villa Park. The Warriors finished the series sweep with a 19-1 win at Proviso East on Friday, May 8.

Seniors Alek Ramey and Jake Bonino hit home runs for Willowbrook in the series opener against Proviso East. Ramey and senior Jory Crocker hit two home runs each in the series finale. Bonino and junior Alex Rodriguez added one homer each in their team's dominant 19-1 four-inning victory over the Pirates.

The Warriors and Downers Grove North were tied at 1-1 after three innings of Saturday's contest. Willowbrook scored four runs in the bottom of the fourth inning to take a 5-1 lead.

The Trojans cut the lead to 5-3 when they scored two runs in the top of the fifth inning. Willowbrook responded with another four-run burst in the bottom of the fifth inning to push its lead to 9-3.

Seniors Noah Edison and Bobby Biggs pitched one inning each for the Warriors in Saturday's victory.

After Edison started the game on the mound, Biggs pitched the second inning.

Junior Mikey Garner pitched the next four innings and picked up the victory. Garner allowed no earned runs, four hits and one walk. He recorded four strikeouts. Crocker pitched the seventh inning and gave up four hits. The Trojans scored three unearned runs in the top of the seventh inning. Willowbrook committed four errors and didn't allow any earned runs in Saturday's victory.

Senior Alex Dew went 2-for-3 and drove in two runs for the Warriors in their win over the Trojans. Dew scored two runs. Crocker went 2-for-3 and scored two runs. Senior Max Wilkison went 1-for-2 with two RBIs. Senior Charlie Roelle also went 1-for-2 with a pair of RBIs.

Willowbrook has not lost since it dropped a 7-1 decision at Montini on March 25. The Warriors, who fell to 1-4 with their loss to the Broncos, picked up three straight wins during their spring break trip to Tennessee to even their record at 4-4.

"They care about each other, and I think that's another thing that goes unmentioned," said Wisner while explaining the Warriors' success. "The closeness and the fun was there before the streak."

# Smrz helps Warriors outlast Hinsdale Central



Senior Marii Smrz of Willowbrook's softball team celebrates after the final out of the Warriors' 14-13 victory over Hinsdale Central in Villa Park on May 5. Smrz went 4-for-5 with a home run and drove in five runs in the win. Junior Liz Pettinger went 4-for-5 and drove in one run for Willowbrook. Senior Gianna Dugo went 2-for-4 with two RBIs. One day after beating Hinsdale Central, the Warriors lost 9-7 to Hinsdale South in a West Suburban Gold Conference battle in Villa Park. The Warriors improved to 15-12 overall and 8-2 in conference play following their 16-0 victory over Proviso East in a night game played in Willowbrook's stadium on Friday, May 8. (Photo by Chris Fox)



Juniors Betsy Facchini (foreground) and Daniela Romero (background) of Glenbard East qualified for the IHSA state badminton meet by placing third in doubles action at last week's sectional. (Photo by Chris Fox)

# Badminton (Continued from page 10)

finish at the sectional. The Rams' other sectional doubles duo—juniors Marija Cheeks and Taylor Washick—advanced to the state meet with a fourth-place sectional effort. Metea Valley won the team title at the Glenbard East Sec-

tional with its total of 16 points. The Rams placed second in the six-team competition with 12.5 points.

## Thompson will represent Warriors at state meet

Willowbrook senior Maisie Thompson earned a berth in the state meet's singles competition by placing fourth in the singles draw of last week's Naperville North Sectional.

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