

THE INDEPENDENT

Your Hometown Newspaper
240 N. West Avenue
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Main Phone 630.834-8244
Fax 630.834-0900

The Independent is published every Wednesday by Rock Valley Publishing, LLC, 240 N. West Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126.

Display Advertising:
630.834-8355

Classified Advertising:
630.834-8244

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The Independent is mailed to the 60101, 60106 and 60181 zip code areas for \$15.95 yearly. Out-of-area mail subscriptions are \$29.95 yearly. For home delivery information call 630.834-8244.

Reprints:

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Postmaster: Please send address changes to:

THE INDEPENDENT
240 N. West Avenue,
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Office Hours:
Tuesday-Friday 11-3



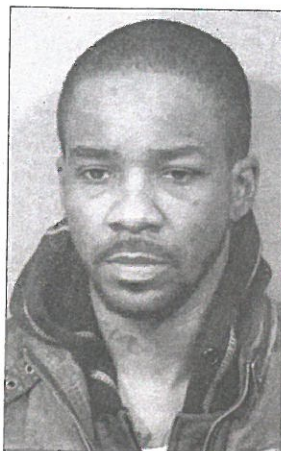
Downtown Elmhurst is scene of fleeing motorist

Eventually captured, Georgia man's charges include aggravated assault against officer

By Dee Longfellow
For The Independent

Late Tuesday afternoon December 10, The Independent learned that an incident beginning at the Springhill Suites on Lake Street resulted in a high-speed chase through downtown Elmhurst, ending with the arrest of Anthony Joyner, 33, of Atlanta, who is currently being held in DuPage County Jail on \$40,000 bond.

According to Elmhurst Police Chief Michael Ruth, a call was received from a woman claiming she had been stabbed by a man who was trying to kill her. Police responded to the Springhill Suites, 410 W. Lake St. at about 4 p.m. on Tuesday and found the woman without stab wounds but with the appear-



ANTHONY JOYNER

ance that she had been punched in the face several times. She told officers the man was "her boyfriend."

Other Elmhurst police units spotted Joyner's car speeding southbound on York Road, driving recklessly and allegedly crashing into eight vehicles along the way, including one unmarked police vehicle. A driver who was inside one of the vehicles Joyner alleg-

edly struck had to be taken to Elmhurst Memorial Hospital for injuries.

Joyner reportedly jumped out of his car but left it in gear, according to reports, just after striking the unmarked police car. The suspect attempted to flee on foot, but officers chased him across the Elmhurst City Hall parking lot. Another official was able to stop Joyner's driverless vehicle which was apparently rolling down the street near Francesca's Amici restaurant, where the officer was able to stop it.

Behind City Hall is a high redwood fence, which Joyner unsuccessfully tried to climb over, although he broke loose a plank, which had exposed nails in it. Joyner used the board to threaten the pursuing police officers, according to Chief Ruth. Joyner failed to injure the officers and was eventually taken into custody.

The woman who was attacked at the hotel was also arrested after officers investigating her hotel room discovered numerous fictitious state identification cards with various different names. The vehicle Joyner was

driving had been rented under a different name in Savannah, Ga.

Joyner, 33 of 243 Old Mill Court in Atlanta, Ga., has been charged with two counts of felony unlawful possession of a fraudulent driver's license, one count of misdemeanor aggravated assault against a police officer, one count of misdemeanor domestic battery, one count of misdemeanor fleeing and eluding police, one count of misdemeanor attempted obstructing justice, one count leaving the scene of accident and one count of driving without a valid license, police said. He is currently being held at DuPage County Jail in lieu of \$40,000 bail.

The woman, identified as Tiffany Wallace, 26, of Fischer, Ind., was charged with two counts of misdemeanor attempted possession of fictitious driver's license. She was released on her own recognition.

The case remains under investigation. The public is reminded that a complaint contains only charges and is not proof of a defendant's guilt.

Addison Trail senior receives Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship

ADDISON — Since his freshman year at Addison Trail, Ernesto Ramirez has strived to become a Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship recipient.

Now a senior, Ramirez's drive to fulfill his goal has paid off. He was recently named as an Evans Scholar and will live in the Evans Scholarship

House at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign or Purdue University, where he plans to major in aeronautical engineering.

According to their web site, Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship applicants must have a strong caddie record, excellent academics, demonstrated

financial need and outstanding character. Finalists are selected and go through a rigorous interview process. The scholarship is awarded from the Evans Scholars Foundation, a charitable trust that provides full, four-year tuition and housing college scholarships to deserving caddies.

"I couldn't stop smiling," Ramirez said about learning he had received the scholarship.

Ramirez has been a caddie at Medinah Country Club since 2010 and has been recognized as one of the top three caddies at the facility ever since he joined the club. He is ranked

as an "A" caddie.

During his time out on the golf course, he has learned some important life lessons.

"It has taught me patience," he said with a laugh. "I also have learned how to be respectful and how to communicate and interact with people."

Ramirez said he plans to continue caddying at Medinah during his freshman year of college when he's at home, and he credits Addison Trail for helping him reach this level of success.

"The courses and staff at Addison Trail have helped prepare me to be successful beyond high school," he said.

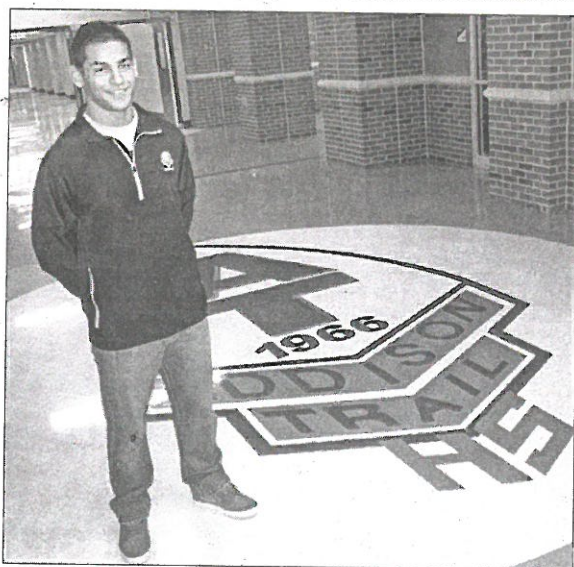


photo provided

AT senior earns caddie scholarship
Pictured is Addison Trail senior Ernesto Ramirez, who has been named as a Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship recipient.

District 4 School District seeks substitute teachers

ADDISON — Addison School District 4 is looking to hire qualified substitute teachers. Teacher illnesses, medical leaves, and a growing number of collaborative meetings and required trainings are straining the current pool of substitute teachers that are available. District 4 is looking to increase the number of substitute teachers that can be called to work in the classrooms when needed.

Substitutes must have a current teaching license or a substitute license issued by the State of Illinois. Qualified applicants can apply by visiting asd4.org and click on 'Employment' button on the left sidebar.

Substitutes in Addison School District make \$90 per day for subbing--perfect for new grads or existing teachers looking for sub positions. For more information, contact Chuck Wartman at 630-458-2432.



Submitted photo

A \$3,500 grant was awarded to the Addison Center for the Arts to fund the second year of "Arts Alive: An After School Program."

Addison Center for Arts receives grant from DuPage JCS Fund

WHEATON — The DuPage Community Foundation has announced that its JCS Fund for Arts and Education has awarded \$374,500 in grants to four area non-profit organizations in support of programs in the arts.

The grants, which ranged from \$3,500 to \$200,000, were awarded to:

- Addison Center for the Arts - \$3,500
- Chicago Sinfonietta at North Central College - \$11,000
- College of DuPage New Philharmonic Orchestra - \$160,000
- Community School of the Arts Music Education Program - \$200,000

Addison Center for the Arts

A \$3,500 grant was awarded to the Addison Center for the Arts to fund the second year of "Arts Alive: An After School Program" intended to foster development of music, theater and visual arts for students at Indian Trail Junior High School in Addison.

Through this program, students are offered experience in art fields that are not part of the regular school curriculum. In addition to providing hands-on arts experience to children, the program is intended as a productive way to avoid issues that may arise with "latch key" children in this age group.

The first year of "Arts Alive" also was funded by a grant from the Foundation.

AT Guidance Department hosts Career Week

ADDISON — From Dec. 9 to 13, the Addison Trail Guidance Department hosted Career Week, where activities and field trips took place to give students firsthand experience about potential occupations.

Field trips included visits to McDonald's corporate office-

es in Oak Brook, Glen Oaks Hospital, Universal Technical Institute, Environmental Technical Institute, Pivot Point, Paul Mitchell, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Illinois Center for Broadcasting.

On Dec. 10, more than 150 senior students participated in

Mock Interviews, where they were interviewed by community volunteers in a formal matter and given feedback on their interview.

Also during the week, students were able to participate in career presentations. A representative from Chamberlain College spoke with students about nursing, Illinois Institute of Technology offered a presentation called "Technology, Innovation and You" and a professional in the engineering field spoke with students about that industry.

"We believe Career Week is important because we can give attention to learning about careers, and students can explore

Community gets involved to offer real-life experiences

and find out firsthand about a number of careers," said Kevin Redding, Guidance Director at Addison Trail. "If students can get a feel for what they want to do in their future, it will help them make decisions on post-

secondary options."

Along with Career Week, Addison Trail will continue to offer job-shadowing field trips throughout the school year, so students can receive firsthand education about various careers.

Wedding, Special Event Expo takes place Jan. 19

ADDISON — The second annual Wedding & Special Event Expo, hosted by the Addison Chamber of Commerce, will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19 at Alta Villa Banquets.

For more information, contact the Addison Chamber of Commerce at (630) 543-4300 or email: addisonchamber@sbcglobal.net

This Expo will highlight all aspects of business services relating to special events: Weddings, anniversaries, showers, birthdays, christenings, prom, quinciniera. The list goes on and on.

Here's your invitation to be a part of this exciting event, as a sponsor and/or exhibitor or food vendor. The event will be well advertised, and public attendees will be admitted at no cost.

Banquet facilities and caterers (who can also offer free food samplings), photographers, florists, bridal/formal wear/tuxedo shops, jewelers, printers, gift shops, musicians, entertainers, limo services (and it's not just the special event—marrying couples may also be seeking financial services, home furnishings, insurance, etc.)—any business offering a service or product which would apply, is invited to contact us to participate.

Exhibitors are wanted; the ACCI member rate is \$80; nonmembers are \$100. For exhibitors, a covered table display, a listing in the event directory and advertising—and the opportunity to showcase your company—are included in the price. For food vendors, a table is provided at no cost in exchange for providing complimentary food samplings to visitors.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Platinum sponsors (\$1,000) receive a logo in all advertisement and the event directory and on the website, a prime table location, special signage and recognition at the event. Gold sponsors (\$500) receive a listing in all advertisement and the event directory and on the website, a prime table location, special signage and recognition at the event.



photos provided

Career Week offers valuable experience

On Dec. 10, more than 150 seniors from Addison Trail were formally interviewed by community volunteers and given feedback on their interviews later. Pictured at ATHS Career Week are (above) Addison Fire Deputy Chief Joe Leone interviewing Kris Santiago. Left: Carolyn Englund with Junior Achievement of Chicago interviewing Niko Rocha. Right: School District 4 community relations coordinator Diane Junokas interviewing Yariel Terrazas. The students are all seniors.

SPORTS

DECEMBER 19, 2013 • 22

Willowbrook boys basketball team making strides

Poole a major bright spot for Warriors

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

While the Willowbrook boys basketball team might be 1-6 overall, coach Chris Perkins feels his team will only benefit from the experience it gained in those seven games.

"We've played some very tough teams," said Perkins.

The Warriors dropped recent contests to Morton, Evanston and Hinsdale South. Willowbrook defeated Chicago Lindblom at the Stagg Thanksgiving

tournament.

"We've played a tough schedule to start off," said Perkins. "It will help us down the stretch. This is a relatively young team as far as actual varsity game-minute experience. It's been nice seeing the guys compete and hang in there for the better part of games against tough competition. We think this is going to help us down the stretch."

Perkins has been impressed with the team's progress defensively.

"We've improved on defense," said Perkins. "We're to the point where we are able to contain the opponent's best players. We've done a good job of

focusing in on who we have to control and then not let the others beat us. Lately, other players have been beating us. We have the first part of it down. Now we have to put both parts together."

The Warriors also are progressing on the offensive end.

"We scored 57 points against Morton, which is the most we've scored this season," said Perkins. "The guys are starting to shoot with more confidence."

Senior Chris Poole has been a key contributor throughout the season.

"Chris is the MVP for our first quarter of the season," said Perkins. "He's definitely been putting the team on his

back. He's been a standout. He's averaging 14 or 15 points a night. He's been consistent in every game."

Poole had 23 points against Hinsdale Southm scored 15 points against Morton and was in double figures against Evanston.

The Warriors are readying themselves for the Glenbard West Christmas tournament. Willowbrook took second there last year.

"We're making progress," said Perkins. "We'll see what we are made of at Glenbard West. We have (this week) to prepare. Hopefully we will continue our success at Glenbard West."

Fenton wrestling team starts season 5-2

Willowbrook girls bowling team improving

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Fenton wrestling team continued its strong start to the season recently with a 55-24 Metro Suburban Conference win over Illiana Christian.

In earlier action, the Bison placed fifth out of 10 teams at its own Weiss tournament. Lincoln-Way East, which was ranked third in Class 3A at the time, won the tournament.

Fenton's Juan Alfaro won the 182-pound title. Eric Lonergan took second at 195 pounds, while Jiven Delgado was third at 113.

Antoine Bess was fourth at 120, while Alex Cowan was fourth at 132. Arturo Alfaro also took fourth at 145.

Ryan Mencini was fifth at 106 pounds and Marshawn Bunch was fifth at 285.

Cowan was 6-1 at 138 pounds through late last week. Lonergan had a 6-2 mark at 195 pounds. Phil Espinoza was 4-0 at 220. Juan Alfaro was 7-1 at 182, while Delgado was 6-2 at 113 pounds.

Fenton competed in the Sterling tournament this past weekend.

Willowbrook girls bowling

The Willowbrook girls bowling team continues to make progress on the lanes.

"We keep showing improvement," said Willowbrook coach Bill Eufrazio. "Our scores are well-ahead of last year. We are maintaining our philosophy of, 'It's not how you start, but how you finish.'"

Seniors Becky Anton and Tina Nowak are among the Top 10 bowlers in the West Suburban Conference. Eufrazio said Anton and Novak, along with fellow seniors Jill Liebe, Rebecca Cisneros, Sara Kottke and Amy Kottiline, provide excellent leadership for the team.

Eufrazio noted the team is working hard to continue to improve in a number of areas.

"Many members of the team have provided great individual efforts," he said. "However, we need consistency throughout entire meets. We are working on our fundamentals and mental toughness in order to keep showing improvement."

Eufrazio has been encouraged by the contributions from numerous younger bowlers, including sophomore newcomers Kelly Conley, Maddie Weinhold, Haley Doyle, Gisela Burton and Julia Bergh, along with freshman Jordan Tiberi.

"They are very talented and provide hope for the future," he said.

Willowbrook competes in the Lisle invitational on Saturday and the Reavis invitational on Saturday, Dec. 28.



courtesy photo

Knights go to the mat against hunger

Members of the IC Catholic Prep wrestling team recently helped collect, box and donate more than 5,000 pounds of food for Elmhurst residents.

IC Catholic Prep's D'Amore commits to St. John's Senior recently helped Knights win state championship

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

It's been a heck of a run for IC Catholic Prep senior girls volleyball player Delaney D'Amore. In November, D'Amore helped IC win the Class 2A state title. D'Amore followed that great accomplishment by recently announcing she has committed to Division I St. John's University in New York.

"I went through a huge recruiting process to find the right college," said D'Amore. "I visited St. John's and slept on it and realized it was the best fit for me all-around. They have great academic programs so I know I am going to get a great education. The volleyball program and

the coaches there are outstanding. I know I'll be very happy with everything there. The campus is beautiful and very convenient. You always are near where you need to be. It's not too big and it's not too small. It's the right size school."

D'Amore is thrilled to have accomplished a major goal of hers.

"Playing Division I volleyball is incredible. It's what I've always dreamed of. It's been my goal," she said. "I can't put into words how awesome it is to be able to play at the next level."

She's also relieved that the college-selection process has come to a close.

"Very much so," she said with a laugh. "Choosing a college was a lot of work. There was months and months of looking at a bunch of different factors with schools and making sure I was happy with everything."

See D'AMORE, Page 23

Sports

**LOMBARDIAN
VILLA PARK REVIEW**

Rams lose a heartbreaker; Warriors move to 16-2

The Glenbard East girls basketball team seemed to have a grip on its third DuPage Valley Conference victory of the season during Saturday afternoon's home game against Naperville North. The Rams led the Huskies by 11 points at the end of the third quarter, and by eight points with about two minutes to play. Glenbard East's struggles at the free-throw line, coupled with Naperville North's strong finish, led to a disappointing loss for the Rams.

The Huskies outscored Glenbard East 17-3 in the fourth quarter to pull out a 38-35 victory in Lombard. Naperville North took its first lead of the second half—a 36-35 edge—after making two free throws with 25.7 seconds left in the fourth quarter. The Huskies made two more foul shots with 5.5 seconds to play. Naperville North made six of seven free-throw tries in the fourth quarter. The Rams converted just one of seven free throws in the final period.

Glenbard East dropped to 3-10 overall and 2-4 in the DVC.

"We didn't make our free throws down the stretch," said Glenbard East coach Don Finnie. "Other than that, I thought our kids played a great ball game. We controlled the tempo of the game. We played hard and took real good care of the ball."

Senior Elie Donovan led the Rams in scoring with 16 points, including four 3-point shots. She made a pair of 3-pointers in the second quarter to help her team to a 22-19 halftime lead. Neither team scored during the first four minutes of the third quarter until Donovan's long-range shot gave the Rams a 25-19 lead with a little more than three minutes left in the period. Donovan drained her fourth 3-point shot less than one minute later. She was fouled on the shot and made the subsequent free throw to complete a four-point play that gave the Rams a 29-21 lead with 2:17 to play in the quarter. Senior Taj Key scored the final three points of the quarter by making one of two free throws at the 1:32 mark and adding a layup with 26

seconds left in the period to raise Glenbard East's lead to 32-21 with eight minutes to play.

Key's basket midway through the fourth quarter gave the Rams a 34-26 edge with about four minutes to play. The Huskies heated up in the final two minutes, scoring one basket to drop the Glenbard East lead to 34-28 with 1:55 to play. About one minute later, after the Rams missed a couple of free-throw attempts, the Huskies delivered a three-point play to cut the lead to three points. Seconds later, the Rams missed another foul shot. Naperville North brought the ball downcourt and made a 3-point shot to tie the score at 34-34 with about 42 seconds to play.

Donovan made one of two free throws to give the Rams a 35-34 lead with 36.4 seconds remaining, but the Huskies responded by making a pair of free throws with 25.7 seconds left to take a 36-35 lead.

Glenbard East turned the ball over with about 10 seconds to play. The Rams then committed a foul to send the Huskies to the foul line. Naperville North made both free throws to close out the scoring.

Donovan attempted a desperation 3-point attempt at the buzzer that caromed off the backboard.

While Donovan provided the team-leading 16 points, Key added seven points. Sophomore Ashley Brown contributed five points.

The Rams played their first game of January on Thursday at DVC rival Wheaton North. The Falcons defeated Glenbard East 56-44. Junior Allison Hansen scored a team-leading 22 points for the Rams.

Glenbard East was supposed to play its first game of 2014 at Willowbrook on Jan. 7, but that contest was postponed because of the cold weather that cancelled classes at both schools. The Rams and Warriors have rescheduled their battle in Villa Park to Jan. 28. Glenbard East will play its next four games at a Martin Luther King holiday tournament at DeKalb High School. The Rams will

play a pair of games on Saturday in DeKalb. They will finish the event with two more games on Monday.

Willowbrook

The Warriors improved to 16-2 overall and 7-0 in the West Suburban Gold Conference with a pair of convincing victories last week. The Warriors completed the first half of the conference season by pounding Downers Grove South 61-42 on Friday night in Villa Park. Willowbrook began the second half of the WSGC season with Saturday afternoon's 69-32 victory at Leyden.

Senior Molly Krawczykowski poured in a team-high 19 points for the Warriors in Friday's victory. Senior Olivia Domin added 11 points, including a pair of 3-point shots in the third quarter. Willowbrook led the Mustangs 15-2 at the end of the first quarter, 29-13 at halftime and 44-26 after three quarters.

Sophomore Josie Zabran scored nine points for the Warriors in Friday's home victory, while seniors Lauren Carroll and Jada Stills contributed six and five points, respectively.

Krawczykowski provided 23 points during Saturday's victory over Leyden. She made 10 of 16 attempts from the field and three of four shots from the free-throw line. Krawczykowski has been her team's leading scorer in 15 of Willowbrook's 18 games this season.

The Warriors took control of the game in the second quarter, when they outscored the Eagles 19-4 to take a 33-13 halftime lead.

Senior Melissa Rader scored nine points for Willowbrook. Senior Allison Torres made a pair of 3-point shots and finished with eight points. Zabran scored seven points, while junior Sam Schmidt pulled down a team-leading 11 rebounds.

The Warriors will return to action on Monday morning, when they will play a home game against Providence Catholic at the McDonald's Chicagoland Prep Classic. The game will tip off at 9 a.m.



Last-second shot...

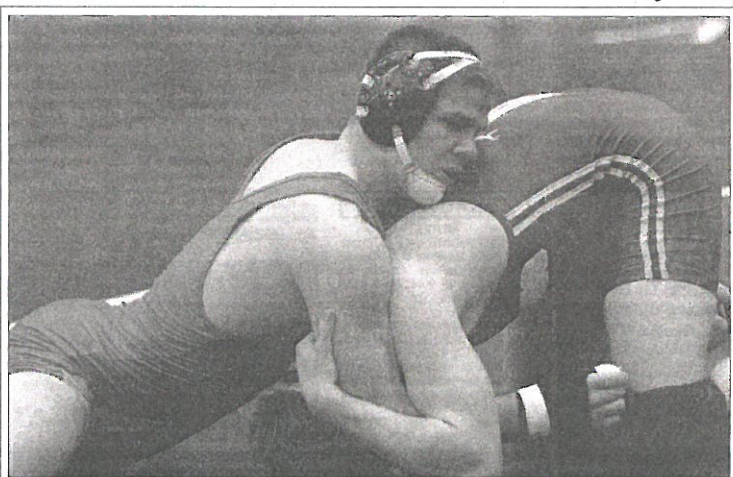
Photos by Chris Fox

GLENBARD EAST SENIOR Elie Donovan (above) launches a lengthy 3-point attempt during the closing seconds of Saturday's DuPage Valley Conference girls basketball game against Naperville North. Donovan's attempt to send the game into overtime missed the target, and the Rams lost a 38-35 battle to the Huskies in Lombard. Donovan led Glenbard East's offense with a 16-point effort that included four 3-point shots. The Rams held a 32-21 lead with one quarter to play, but the Huskies outscored Glenbard East 17-3 in the final eight minutes.



Warriors win in the WSGC...

SOPHOMORE JOSIE ZABRAN (above) of the Willowbrook girls basketball team shoots a free throw during Friday's West Suburban Gold Conference game against Downers Grove South. Zabran scored nine points in the Warriors' 61-42 victory over the Mustangs in Villa Park. Willowbrook completed a perfect first half of the conference season with the win. The Warriors improved to 7-0 in the conference and 16-2 overall following Saturday's 69-32 win at Leyden.



Winning Ram...

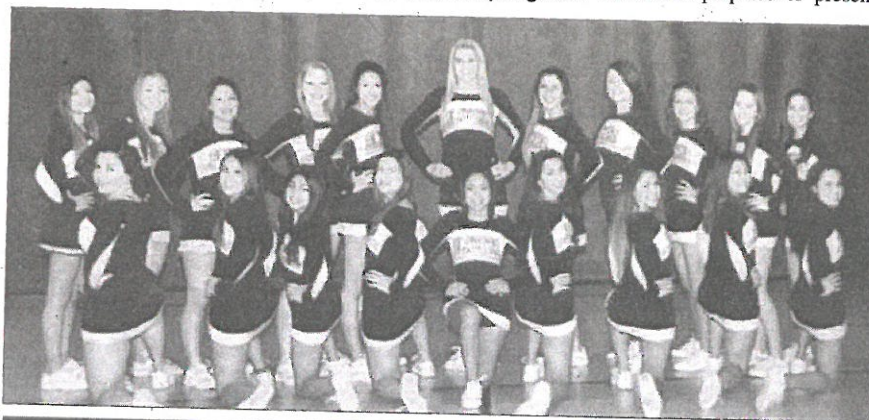
SENIOR JOSH MARTIN (above, left) of the Glenbard East wrestling team battles in the 145-pound match during Friday's DuPage Valley Conference dual meet against Wheaton North. Martin prevailed in the match, winning by a score of 7-4. His wins followed earlier Glenbard East victories by senior Dayton Olson (an 11-8 winner in the 126-pound match) and junior Jake Drew (a 7-2 winner at 132 pounds). Wheaton North won the dual meet, defeating the Rams 35-27 in Lombard. The loss dropped the Rams' DVC dual-meet record to 3-2. Glenbard East bounced back to win three dual meets on Saturday at Lincoln-Way Central. The Rams scored decisive wins over Joliet Central (59-15) and Bolingbrook (63-12). They also earned a narrow 34-33 victory over Lincoln-Way Central. Glenbard East will face Lake Park in this Friday's conference dual meet in Lombard.



ATHS cheerleaders place 4th at ICCA Championships

Pictured is the Addison Trail Varsity Cheerleading Team, which recently came in 4th place at the Illinois Cheerleading Coaches Association (ICCA) Championships held in Springfield.

Team members include (not as pictured) senior Gabi Scialabba (co-captain), senior Miranda Ristich (co-captain), senior Elaine Diamond (co-captain), senior Nicole Resendez, junior Ryleigh Merrill, junior Gina Dattolo, freshman Tiffany Rodela, freshman Christina Sanchez, sophomore Danielle Muccianti, sophomore Megan Tully, junior Natalie Palermo, junior Ari Renc, sophomore Nicole Infantino, junior Kim Schonder, junior Joanna Villalobos, junior Samantha Muraglia, junior Kelly Blucher, senior Elias Hernandez, sophomore Christian Vipparthi, senior Otto Ayala,



Register now for multi-chamber progressive luncheon Jan. 29

ADDISON — Join chamber members from Addison, Bartlett, Bloomingdale, Carol Stream, Glendale Heights, Hanover Park and Roselle at the annual multi-chamber progressive luncheon hosted by the Addison Chamber of Commerce.

The luncheon will take place from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29 at the Medinah Shrine Center, 550 Shriners Drive, Addison. The fee is \$25 per person for chamber members; \$30 per person for non-members.

Reservations are required by no later than Friday, Jan. 24. To register and make reservations, call (630) 543-4300 or email: addisonchamber@sbcglobal.net

Registration will be held from 11-11:20 a.m. and seating is at 11:30 a.m. sharp. Participants should be prepared to present

a one-minute infomercial and be sure to bring plenty of business cards to hand out. A table will be available to display brochures and other promotional items.

JV Cheerleaders take 7th at ICCA competition

Pictured at left is the Addison Trail Junior Varsity Cheerleading Team, which placed 7th place at the Illinois Cheerleading Coaches Association (ICCA) Championships in Springfield. Team members are junior Gianna Giometti (co-captain), junior Kelly Blucher (co-captain), sophomore Zyrena Santos (co-captain), sophomore Taylor Imperatrice (co-captain), freshman Lauren Kroll, freshman Ashley Hilgenberg, freshman Amber Schulz, sophomore Yennifer Ortiz, sophomore Nicolette Napoli, sophomore Julia Liace, freshman Gianna Pupillo, freshman Sabrina Arce, freshman Haley Weingart, freshman Ariana Calderone, freshman Alexandra Rodriguez, freshman Maria Ramos, freshman Carlee Vanko, sophomore Alexa Enriquez, sophomore Isabella Abbinante and freshman Rose Otero.

Addison Trail Blazettes to offer dance clinic

ADDISON — Time to put on your dancing shoes! The Addison Trail Blazettes invite girls from kindergarten to eighth grade to join them for a dance clinic on Saturday January 25 from 2:30-6 p.m. at the school.

Participants will learn a dance and will perform with the Blazettes during halftime at the Varsity Boys Basketball game, which begins at 6 p.m. Participants also will enjoy pizza. Fee for the clinic is \$25, which can be paid at the door.

For more information, contact Blazettes Coach Lori Irvin at Lirvin@dupage88.net or Coach Enza Spilotro at Espilotro@dupage88.net.

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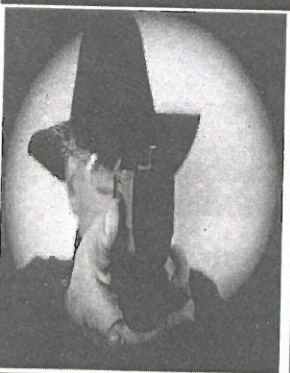
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Morgan Pirtle brings home awards



photo provided

Addison Trail senior Morgan Pirtle sings during a recent show at the school. Morgan's song "Pushin'" recently earned 3rd place in the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) Composition Contest in the Jazz Vocal/Instrumental category. Morgan also has been named as a National YoungArts Foundation Honorable Mention Winner in Jazz Voice.

Original song takes 3rd in composition contest

ADDISON — For as long as Morgan Pirtle can remember, music has been a part of her life.

Since her freshman year at Addison Trail, Morgan has continued to win awards and qualify for high-level music competitions. Now a senior, Morgan has made school history. Addison Trail Band Director Mark Corey said she is the first Addison Trail student to win an award for song composition through the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA). Her song "Pushin'" recently received 3rd place in the ILMEA Composition Contest in the Jazz Vocal/Instrumental category.

"Pirtle is an exceptional musician," Corey said. "She is highly motivated and has worked very hard to develop her skills as a musician. We are proud of all she has accomplished while

here at Addison Trail. She is a musician to watch, and we expect big things from her in the future."

Morgan said she composes for fun, and "Pushin'" was a project she completed for school last year. After encouragement from Corey, she recorded the song and submitted it for the competition.

"The song is about a fallout I had with someone and that person pushing me away," Morgan said. "It reflects my experience and emotions. Every song has a story, and composing is a way to express myself. I hear music in my head all the time, and I love turning that into a song."

Although Morgan enjoys composing, she was surprised to be recognized for her work.

"I was so excited — I was jumping up and down," she said of her reaction to the ILMEA award. "I want to encourage my peers to go for their dreams, and I hope getting this award helps inform people about these competitions and opportunities, so others can be recognized for their talents."

Pirtle will be honored for

her achievement during the ILMEA Conference on Jan. 25 in Peoria.

Also honored by National YoungArts Foundation...

Along with her ILMEA award, Morgan also was recently named as a National YoungArts Foundation Honorable Mention Winner in Jazz Voice. She is one of nearly 11,000 students in 10 disciplines across the literary, performing, visual and design arts fields to be recognized for her outstanding work and accomplishments. Established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison, the National YoungArts Foundation serves to identify and nurture the next generation of artists in the literary, performing, visual and design arts and to support the artistic development of talented young artists. For more information, visit youngarts.org.

YoungArts winners are selected through a blind adjudication process. Honorable Mention award winners like Morgan receive at least \$250 and, along with all winners, are eligible to participate in the

Emmy-nominated HBO series "YoungArts MasterClass." They also are eligible to participate in YoungArts' regional programs, where they will take master classes and workshops with internationally-renowned artists and will have the opportunity to present their work to the public.

YoungArts is the exclusive nominating agency for the U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts, the highest honor that can be awarded to any artistically talented graduating high school senior. Every year, YoungArts nominates 60 winners to the White House-appointed Commission on Presidential Scholars, 20 of whom are then selected to become U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts.

And this is just the beginning for Morgan Pirtle, who plans to attend University of Illinois at Chicago for the school's jazz studies program.

"I know I will sing in my future, and I hope to continue composing as well," she said. "Music is part of who I am."

ADDISON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sunday, January 19 Wedding & Special Event Expo

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Alta Villa Banquets, the second annual Wedding & Special Event Expo, hosted by the Addison Chamber of Commerce, will be held. This Expo will highlight all aspects of business services relating to special events: Weddings, anniversaries, showers, birthdays, christenings, prom, quinciniera. Admission: Free. Info: (630) 543-4300 or email: addisonchamber@sbcglobal.net

Sunday, January 19 Addison Park District WinterFEST

from noon-3 p.m. at Community Park, the Addison Park District invites everyone to its second annual WinterFEST. Participants will enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities both indoors and outdoors. Admission: Free. Info: Call (630) 233-7275 or visit addisonparks.org.

Wednesday, January 22 "Shape of Addison" town hall meeting

From 7 to 9 p.m., Itasca Bank

will present the 7th annual "Shape of Addison" Town Hall Meeting in the Village Hall Board Room, at 1 Friendship Plaza. Officials from throughout the Village and the school districts will attend. Addison Community Television (Comcast Channel 6 or U-Verse Channel 99) will air meeting live; viewers may call in questions during the broadcast. E-mail questions can be sent either before or during the meeting to ShapeOfAddison@addisonadvantage.org

Wednesday, January 29 Annual multi-chamber progressive luncheon

From 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Medinah Shrine Center, 550 Shriners Drive, Addison, join chamber members from Addison, Bartlett, Bloomingdale, Carol Stream, Glendale Heights, Hanover Park and Roselle at the annual multi-chamber progressive luncheon hosted by the Addison Chamber of Commerce. Fee: \$25 per person for chamber members; \$30 per person for non-members. Register by Friday, Jan. 24. Info: call (630) 543-4300 or email addisonchamber@sbcglobal.net.

sbcglobal.net.

Friday, January 31 • Food Wars Challenge for Charity

In conjunction with National Catholic Schools Week, St. Pius X Parish School in Lombard will be hosting the Food Wars Challenge for Charity. The event will be held in the school's Social Center at 601 S. Westmore Ave. Info: (630) 627-2353.

Friday, February 28 • Five Star Business and Health Expo

From 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Medinah Shrine Center, 550 Shriners Drive, Addison, the chamber of commerce from Addison, Bartlett, Bloomingdale, Carol Stream and Glendale Heights invites the public to participate in the 2014 Five Star Business and Health Expo. To register as a sponsor or an exhibitor, go online to: carolstreamchamber.com where there are registration forms available. To register as a food vendor, call Sharon at the Glendale Heights Chamber of Commerce at (630) 539-8399. Info: call the Addison Chamber of

Commerce at (630) 543-4300. **Ongoing events...**

• Ted E. Mueller art exhibit

Throughout January, the Addison Public Library has invited local artist Ted E. Mueller to have a one-person exhibit of his original paintings in the Friendship Plaza. The exhibit is part of his paintings from "Peaceful Splendor, Series 2." Info: call (630) 543-3617 or go to addisonlibrary.org

• Mixed media art exhibit

Through Feb. 1 at the Addison Center for the Arts, 213 N. Lombard Road, the center presents "Keep Your Edges Glued Down", an exhibition of Mixed Media Art by the "Collage Sisters Collaborative." Info: visit addisoncenterforthearts.com or call (630) 458-4500.

• Active Adults Senior Club

Active Adults, ages 55 or better, are invited to Addison Park District's Active Adults Senior Club on Tuesdays from 12-2 p.m. for lunch at Community Rec Center, 120 E. Oak Street. To find out more about special events, programs, trips and club membership, contact Teresa Grodsky at (630) 233-7275.

• St. James Farm

Throughout the winter, the

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County invites visitors to explore St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville. Over three miles of trails lead visitors on foot, bicycle, snowshoe, cross-country ski and horseback through this 612-acre forest preserve, which also features a pond with largemouth bass, bluegills and catfish for catch-and-release fishing.

• Blackwell Forest Preserve activities

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County invites trail trekkers to explore Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville on snowshoes this winter with new rental operations at the west division offices at 29W400 Mack Road and the tubing hill at Mount Hoy. Fee: \$5 for two hours or \$10 for the whole day and will be available when at least three inches of snow covers the ground through Feb. 28. Info: call the west division offices at (630) 876-5931.

Clubs and organizations are welcome to send entries for this column to: QuestPublishing@aol.com. Please include a phone number or e-mail address to contact for information.



photo provided

WBHS Environmental Club cleans up!

Members of the Willowbrook Environmental Club picked up litter last October at York/High Ridge, part of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. This spring, the club will again team up with the district to remove invasive species from local preserves. Pictured are (from left) junior Matt D'Alessandro, junior Howard Rauenzahn, senior Veronica Palma, senior Kevin Monaco, sophomore David Sanchez, sophomore Jorge Saenz, senior Omer Raza, senior Colton Flak, senior Trevonta Diggs, Senior Ranger Daniel Hebreard, Willowbrook teacher Justine Bryers, junior Adriana Garcia, junior Kayla Denwood, freshman Kyla Denwood and senior Tuba Altat.

Environmental Club to clean up the Forest Preserve

VILLA PARK — This spring, the Willowbrook Environmental Club will team up with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County to

remove invasive species from local preserves.

And that won't be the first time the club has helped. This past October, 20 students picked up litter at the preserve west of Willowbrook, called York/High Ridge.

"Rangers perform an essential function as land managers at the forest preserves," said

Daniel Hebreard, Senior Ranger with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. "Rangers check areas for safety daily and open the gates once the inspections are complete. We clean and maintain our high-use areas — shelters, parking lots and bathrooms.

"The job encompasses a variety of duties, from plow-

ing, leading prescribed fires, teaching archery and checking in on campers and picnic groups to using heavy equipment to trim back invasive species and applying herbicide to those areas. We work with several local groups to complete cleanup projects at preserves, and with Willowbrook as our neighbor, it seemed a natural

fit to have a workday. As with many groups, we hope this relationship can continue for several years and are currently looking to expand the ways in which we interact."

Cathie Smith of GM Smith & Son named 'Good Neighbor'

Conroy announces winner of "Business of the Year" award

VILLA PARK — During a meeting of Rep. Deb Conroy's Economic Advisory Committee, members chose the winner of the "Good Neighbor Business of the Year Award." This year's winner is Cathie Smith of GM Smith & Son Realtors.

"I think it's a testament to the business community in District 46 that there were so many eligible nominees that have been such valuable members of our community," said Conroy. "Members of the committee were very impressed by Cathie Smith's commitment to the community, her customers, and neighbors."

The "Good Neighbor Business of the Year Award" recognizes businesses that are located in District 46 that have displayed a dedication to improving their communities.

For more information, contact Conroy at (630) 415-3520 or by email at repdebconroy@gmail.com.

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AT senior honored for original song



Addison Trail senior Morgan Pirtle sings during a show at the high school. Pirtle's song "Pushin'" recently received third place in the Illinois Music Education Association Composition Contest in the Jazz Vocal/Instrumental category.

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

ADDISON – Morgan Pirtle, an Addison Trail High School senior, is the first student from her school to win an award for song composition from the Illinois Music Education Association.

Pirtle recently earned third-place honors at the ILMEA Composition Contest in the Jazz Vocal/Instrumental category for her song "Pushin'," which she wrote for a school project last year. Pirtle explained the song describes a fallout she had with someone and how that person pushed her away, according to a District 88 news release.

Addison Trail band director Mark Corey encouraged Pirtle to record the song and submit it for the competition.

Pirtle said in the release she composes for fun, but she's no stranger to awards. Music has always been part of her life and since her freshman year, Pirtle has won awards in high-level music competitions, the release said.

Still, this one came as a surprise. She hopes her accomplishment

spreads awareness about ILMEA competitions and encourages other students to compete.

Pirtle will be honored for her achievement during the ILMEA Conference on Jan. 25 in Peoria.

Along with her ILMEA award, Pirtle also was recently named as a National YoungArts Foundation honorable mention winner in Jazz Voice. The contest included nearly 11,000 applications from students in 10 arts disciplines.

As part of the honorable mention award, Pirtle will receive at least \$250. Like all of the 2014 winners, she is also eligible to participate in the Emmy-nominated HBO series "YoungArts MasterClass" and YoungArts' regional programs. Programs include master classes and workshops with internationally renowned artists.

Every year, YoungArts nominates 60 YoungArts Winners to the White House-appointed Commission on Presidential Scholars, 20 of whom are then selected to become U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts.

Pirtle plans to attend University of Illinois at Chicago for the school's jazz studies program.



Winter Fest

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'Firearms prohibited' signs now a fixture at area schools

By **MATTHEW PIECHALAK**
mpiechalak@shawmedia.com

LOMBARD – Returning from winter break, individu-

als entering local schools this month may have noticed a bold new state sign posted in the entrances.

The new "firearms prohibi-

ted" sign, provided by the state of Illinois, must be posted by municipalities, school districts and other organizations who wish to prohibit concealed-car-

ry on their properties.

In 2013, Illinois passed the Firearm Concealed Carry Act. The law allows properly licensed gun owners to carry concealed firearms except in locations where firearms are still prohibited, like school property. Currently, gun owners can apply for a concealed carry permit.

Illinois is the last state to pass legislation allowing concealed carry. Local school districts had the signs attached to their buildings during the holiday break.

Jean Hockensmith, community relations coordinator for School District 45, said there have been no questions from parents regarding the new signs.

"I think everyone was pretty aware," Hockensmith said. "You can't knowledgeably carry a firearm into a school building and with the new law, we now have to let people know."

"I think it's just one way to ensure we have a safe environment, and it makes it clear that the students and staff are safe," said Dani Schweigert, director

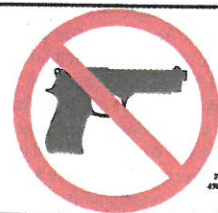


Photo provided

This sign, made available by the Illinois State Police, is now affixed to school buildings, municipal buildings and any other places where handguns are not allowed.

of community relations at DuPage High School District 88.

Peg Mannion, community relations coordinator for Glenbard High School District 87, confirmed that the signs were posted prior to Jan. 1, and that there have been no questions from parents regarding their placement.

According to the statute, hospitals, government buildings, public parks, sports stadiums and museums may also post the sign.

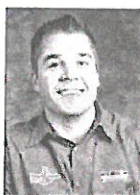
Ask a Pro

Q: I'm considering purchasing a service agreement with a contractor who recently serviced my home. Before I do, what should I be looking for?

A: Loyalty should be the basis of any type of service agreement. You should only consider enrolling in a service agreement with a contractor if the company has proven to be trustworthy and dependable. In turn, the company wants you, the homeowner, to know who to call when in need of service. As time passes in between service visits, you can forget who serviced your home previously. The agreement actually puts the responsibility on the contractor to stay in front of you—reminding you of various services or specials and should even take the initiative to contact you to set up seasonal maintenance service visits.

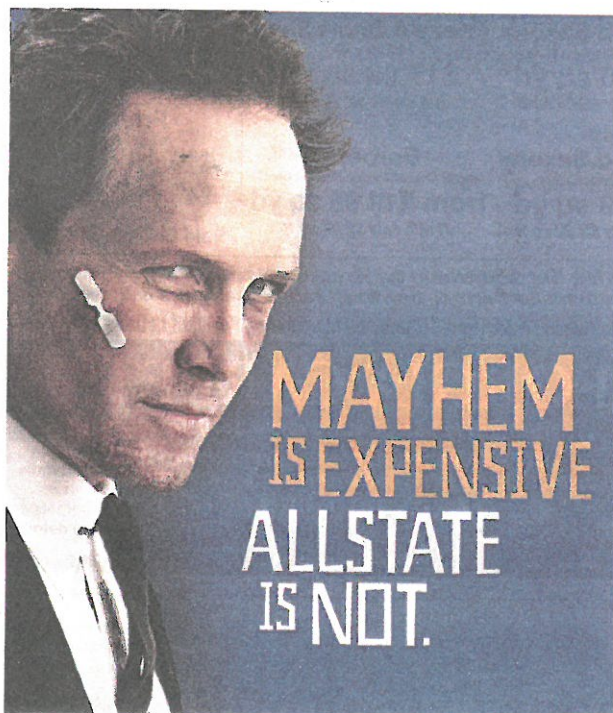
For example, some of the most expensive equipment in a home is the heating and cooling system. It is crucial that they are maintained so they are able to withstand long, hard winters and summers. Your service agreement plan should include at minimum, two visits annually just to service your HVAC equipment.

You should investigate what other type of perks come with your service agreement. Find out if the plan includes any type of savings or discounts off of work performed, if you receive any special scheduling considerations, or if the agreement extends to other service trades the company offers as well. Does the company you are considering also perform other trades? If you find a company who you love to do business with and they can service other trades within your home at a savings to you, you save a lot of energy. You can remain loyal to that single contractor, and they can remain loyal to you.



Mike Borowski
Vice President

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SPORTS

Comments?

Contact Sports Editor Jason Rossi,
jrossi@shawmedia.com or 630-427-6271

Addison Trail's Katie Dziabis looks to drive during Saturday's game against Hinsdale South. Dziabis scored nine points, but the Blazers fell 48-24.

Jason Rossi - jrossi@shawmedia.com

Blazers look to build on positives

By JASON ROSSI
jrossi@shawmedia.com

ADDISON - It didn't take hours of film study to diagnose what went wrong in Addison Trail's girls basketball loss to Hinsdale South on Saturday.

"We had four points in the first quarter and two in the fourth," AT head coach Rob Schader said. "You're not going to win many games doing that."

After jumping out to a 4-0 lead early, the Blazers found themselves starting at an 11-4 deficit at the end of the first quarter. AT lost the West Suburban Gold game 48-24.

The Blazers (4-15 overall, 1-6 in the Gold) were within striking distance at halftime,

Hinsdale South 48 Addison Trail 24

- Katie Dziabis: Nine points
- Kelly Delawder: Four points
- Stephanie Messina: Four points
- Rachel Baumgartner: Four points
- Annie Beltrano: Three points

Next game

Who: Addison Trail at Morton
What: West Suburban Gold conference game
When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday
Where: 2400 Home Ave., Berwyn

down 21-13, but Hinsdale South steadily increased the lead and outscored AT 10-2 in the final frame to secure the win.

"We're starting to play a lot harder. Defensively we're starting to play a lot better as well. We gave up 48 and last time [against Hinsdale South] we gave up 58, so it was better."

Rob Schader
Head coach

"[Hinsdale South] did exactly what we thought they were going to do with their half court pressure," Schader said. "We put some new things in and turned the ball over 28 times. There's not much you can do [when that happens]."

On a positive note, the Blazers stayed tough on the boards against a Hinsdale

South team with more height than them, and they also held the Hornets to 10 fewer points than in the first meeting of the season Dec. 10. It wasn't enough to earn the win, but it showed that AT is making progress.

"We're starting to play a lot harder," Schader said. "Defensively we're starting to play a lot better as well."

We gave up 48 and last time [against Hinsdale South] we gave up 58, so it was better."

The Blazers are well back in the WSG race, but with playoffs about a month away, the Blazers still have time to hit their stride if they do one key thing.

"We have a really athletic group of girls that have little confidence offensively. We just preach to be confident and try and attack," Schader said. "They have to find [the confidence] on their own. You either have it or you don't. It's starting to come during the season with some of them because they haven't played varsity ball before. You can see them getting more confidence as the season goes on."

7 girls basketball players have breakout seasons

By DAN SANTAROMITA
dsantaromita@shawmedia.com

Each basketball season provides an opportunity for new players to step into the spotlight. From seniors seeing significant playing time for the first time to underclassmen making an impact, these six girls basketball players are having breakout seasons for their teams.

Kaylee Bambule

School: Montini
Class: Freshman
Position: Guard

Impact: Bambule is the latest in a long line of freshmen to contribute right away at Montini. She is averaging 6.6 points over the last 12 games and has 15 3-pointers in that stretch.

"She has had huge games against the better teams, which is sign of the player we hope she can be over the next four years," Montini coach Jason Nichols said.

Connie Barkoulies

School: Addison Trail
Class: Senior
Position: Guard

Impact: As the Blazers' point guard, Barkoulies is the player that initiates the offense and has the ball in her hands at crucial times in the game. AT head coach Rob Schader has had no qualms in giving Barkoulies, who he said is averaging about 11 points and four assists per game, that level of responsibility.

"She's been phenomenal all year," Schader said. "Offensively and defensively, she's been a workhorse. She's usually the smallest kid on the floor but she plays like the biggest out there. She's had a great year."

Kaitlyn Gehrke

School: Timothy Christian
Class: Junior
Position: Forward

Impact: The 6-foot-1 junior has emerged as one of the Trojans' top players this season, averaging 12 points and 10 rebounds per game. Timothy lost all five starters from a year ago, and her play has helped keep the Trojans competitive.

"Next year, again with

some very good youth coming up, Kaitlyn will be a big factor in our offense," Timothy coach Michele Strube said. "She has the heart and work ethic that makes a coach proud. Every day I know I can count on Kaitlyn to be working her hardest and encouraging her teammates."

Brasia Solid

School: Glenbard East
Class: Sophomore
Position: Guard

Impact: Despite being a sophomore and a varsity newcomer, Solid has stepped up to be one of the Rams' top players this season. The versatile guard has played a key role in the team's improvement this season as the Rams have gone from winless in the DuPage Valley Conference to already having two DVC wins.

Danielle Velasquez

School: Willowbrook
Class: Sophomore
Position: Guard

Impact: Thanks to an uptempo offense, Willowbrook utilizes a deep bench that sees several players in action each game. Even among that large group of players, Velasquez has managed to stand out this season.

"She's our first guard off the bench," Willowbrook head coach Terry Harrell said. "She's a defensive dynamo, she's a great passer, and she's played really well for us."

Grace Vitek

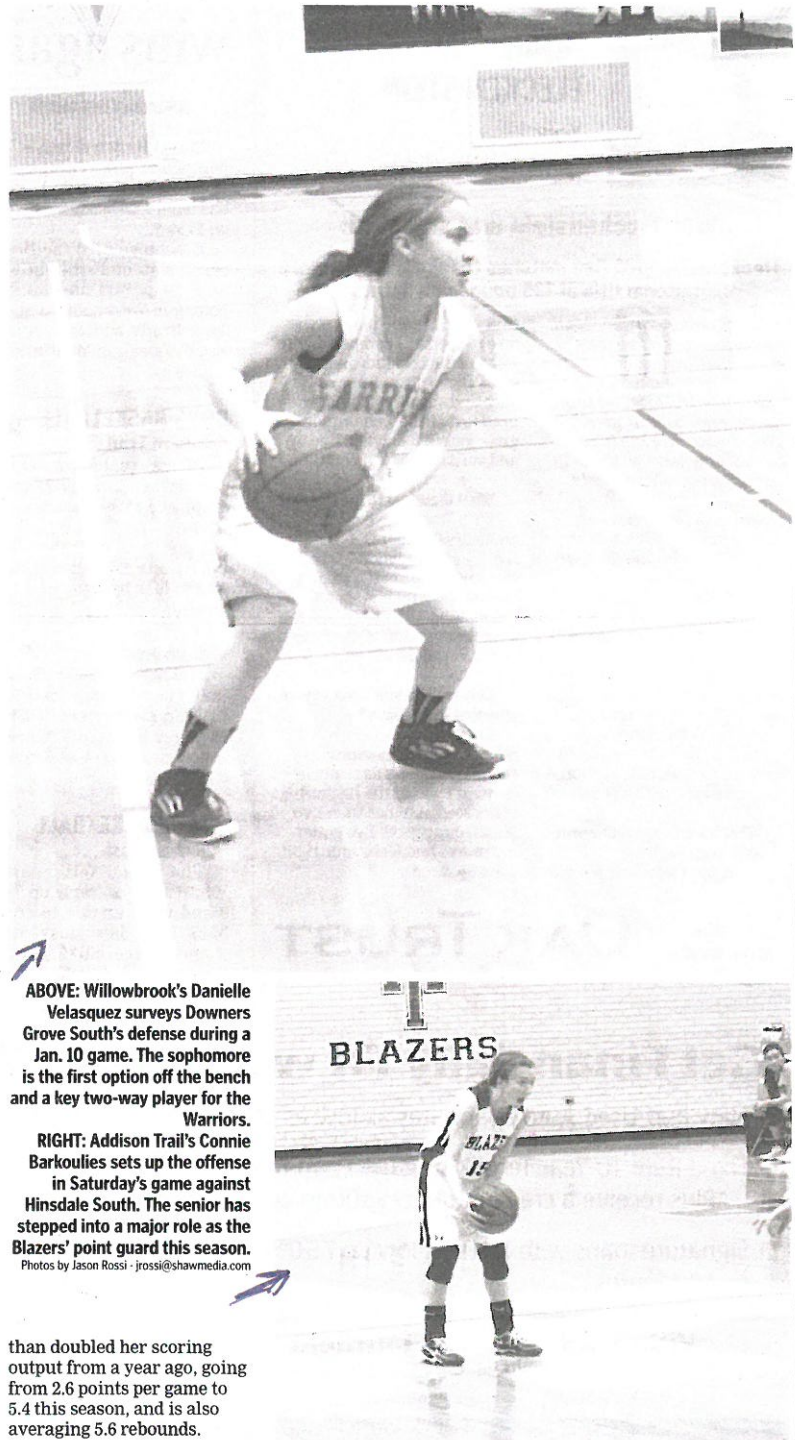
School: IC Catholic
Class: Senior
Position: Guard

Impact: Vitek was with the Knights as a freshman and sophomore, but missed her junior season. Her return has been a welcome one for IC as she leads the Knights in scoring at 9.8 points per game and assists at 3.4 per game.

Paige Wrasse

School: York
Class: Senior
Position: Center

Impact: The 6-foot center has stepped up to give the Dukes two valuable post players, joining 6-foot-2 Molly Schlecht. Wrasse has more



ABOVE: Willowbrook's Danielle Velasquez surveys Downers Grove South's defense during a Jan. 10 game. The sophomore is the first option off the bench and a key two-way player for the Warriors.

RIGHT: Addison Trail's Connie Barkoulies sets up the offense in Saturday's game against Hinsdale South. The senior has stepped into a major role as the Blazers' point guard this season.

Photos by Jason Rossi - jrossi@shawmedia.com

than doubled her scoring output from a year ago, going from 2.6 points per game to 5.4 this season, and is also averaging 5.6 rebounds.

Suburban Life ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



**NOAH
FLECKENSTEIN**
York
Senior | Wrestling

Why Fleckenstein was selected:

Fleckenstein won five matches to take the Sycamore Invitational title at 195 pounds on Saturday.

York senior wrestler Noah Fleckenstein is a two-time state qualifier that looks poised to make it for a third straight year. He is 25-3 this season and plans to attend The Citadel with the hope of becoming a Marine. Fleckenstein, the Oak Trust Credit Union Athlete of the Week, talked with Suburban Life sports reporter Dan Santaromita about winning the tournament and his postseason aspirations.

What did it mean to win at Sycamore?

It's one of the harder tournaments of the year and I was looking forward to the challenge. I was happy with the result. I'm definitely looking forward to regional, sectional and state-time of the year.

What have your experiences at state been like?

Going down to state for my

first year as a sophomore was an eye opener. I competed with some of the best kids in the state. It gives you some experience and shows you what you need to do to be a champion. It gives you that drive to live up and surpass that expectation.

What drew you to the Citadel?

It's a smaller school. It's about 2,500 students, but they're still Division I. They're selective. You get the smaller class sizes, which is something I'm looking forward to. It's just a smaller version of the bigger service academies.

How well do you think you've wrestled this season?

The first three losses happened at the beginning of the year. I wasn't as ready as I thought I was at the beginning of the season. Since then I've been feeling good. I've gotten my moves and technique tightened up more.

This Athlete
of the Week is
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►► PREP ROUNDUP

Brachmann leads Broncos to wins against Guerin, Westmont

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

Matt Brachmann's 22 points and Mike Delaplane's 17 gave Montini's boys basketball team a 62-56 win at Guerin on Friday.

Brachmann led the Broncos to a second straight win with 24 points and six rebounds at Westmont Tuesday. Jack Brady added 10 points and five steals in Montini's 54-36 victory.

BOYS BASKETBALL Addison Trail

After taking down Fenton 81-58 last Friday, the Blazers dropped a close game on Saturday.

Lane Tech beat the visiting Blazers 47-45. It was AT's fourth loss by two points or less this season.

Willowbrook

Downers Grove South beat the Warriors 56-36 last Friday. Ed Mickevicius scored 12 points in the loss. Willowbrook next plays at Leyden tonight.

GIRLS BASKETBALL Glenbard East

The Rams fell behind Wheaton North early on Jan. 9 and were unable to come back in a 56-44 loss. Elie Donovan scored 12 points. Naperville North beat East 38-35 two days later despite 16

points from Donovan and 10 from Ashley Brown.

Montini

Evanston and St. Edward both fell victim to Montini in the past week. The Broncos won 54-26 at Evanston on Friday thanks to 20 points from Kateri Stone and 14 points and seven rebounds from Sarah Ross. On Tuesday Montini earned a conference win over St. Edward, 79-43.

WRESTLING Glenbard East

After losing a dual 35-27 to Wheaton North on Friday, the Rams won three matches at Lincoln-Way Central on Saturday. East defeated Joliet Central (59-15), Bolingbrook (63-12) and the hosts (34-33).

Montini

The Broncos headed to Detroit Central Catholic for the Super Duals and went 1-3 on Saturday. They opened with a 36-18 loss to fellow Illinois school Oak Park-River Forest. After that, Montini lost to Davison (Mich.) 38-24, defeated Brecksville (Ohio) 36-30 and lost to the hosts 44-25. Xavier Montalvo (160 pounds) and Michael Johnson (285) both had undefeated days for Montini.

Addison Trail

With seven individual champions, the Blazers

won Glenbard West's Chris Chappell Invitational on Saturday. AT had 12 wrestlers place in the top three of the eight-team tournament. AT's champions were Mike Huynh (113 pounds), Erick Dela Cruz (120), Jake Pleckavic (126), Stephan Hayden (160), Niko Rocha (170), Danny Tomasello (195) and Bobby Carson (285).

Willowbrook

Dan Rowland continued his impressive season by winning the tournament title at Sycamore on Saturday. Rowland is 29-2 overall and helped Willowbrook place 14th out of 25 teams at the tournament. Jake Kroeger was second at 182 pounds.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS Glenbard East

The Rams were eighth out of 12 teams at the Naperville North Invitational on Saturday with a team score of 129.05. Veronika Srey was fourth on the uneven bars with a score of 9.0.

Addison Trail/Willowbrook

In the first meet since the holiday break, the Blazers defeated the Warriors 134.65-128.5 on Jan. 9. Willowbrook got another win on Monday against Glenbard South, 127.3-121.35.

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SPORTS

JANUARY 16, 2014 • 18

Addison Trail boys cagers gain good experience in Centralia

Blazers receiving contributions from numerous individuals

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail boys basketball team enjoyed a recent break from competition after a busy holiday schedule.

"The layoff was good for us," said Blazers coach Brendan Lyons. "It was good for a couple different reasons, that being our mental health and we've had some nagging injuries. We're rested up now and we're at full strength health-wise."

The Blazers closed out 2013 by competing in an event at Centralia. Addison Trail went 0-3 at the tournament, but came away with a positive experience.

"Everything was good about the trip, except going 0-3," said Lyons. "We played some good teams down there. The kids enjoyed their time there."

Willowbrook's Nowak wins individual bowling honor

Rolls four strikes in a row to take 'Queen of the Hill'

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook girls bowling team enjoyed success at two recent invitational.

The Warriors finished in the winner's bracket at both the Lisle Holiday Invitational and the Reavis Rock and Roll Invitational.

Senior Tina Nowak won the Queen of the Hill competition at Reavis by defeating 30 other competitors. She rolled four consecutive strikes to defeat the last two opponents.

Nowak and classmate Beckie Anton continue to rank among the Top 10 bowlers in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division.

We were there for three days. Maybe we were in a awe of the tournament a little bit at the start. They run a fantastic tournament with a fantastic setup. We were able to play some of the better teams from Downstate and in the Chicago area. We didn't fare too well, but we put up a fight."

Addison Trail was 5-10 overall after the tournament. The Blazers lost to Alton, Chicago Marist and Christian Co. from Kentucky. Alton lost in the championship game, while Marist won the consolation bracket. Christian Co. won a 2011 Kentucky state title.

"Alton was the 14th ranked team in the state at the time," said Lyons. "We played them tough through three quarters and then they pulled away. Marist was a tight game. They pulled away in the second half. We got sloppy on the defensive end. The game against Christian County, we played without Ronald Duling and James Pupillo, who were both injured. Those are

"We haven't struggled to score.

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— Coach Brendan Lyons

our two primary ball handlers. We had 28 turnovers, but only lost 65-62 in overtime. We led pretty much the whole game. Injuries hurt us a bit, but we're healthy now."

Lyons continues to be pleased with the team's performance on offense.

"These guys compete from an offensive standpoint," said Lyons. "We haven't struggled to score. Guys are investing a lot of time in that. We're 5-10 right now. We know we are a better team than that. Knowing it is one thing. Getting out and doing it is something different."

Lyons said another positive is the competitive schedule

the team has played.

"We've played a tough schedule," he said. "We lost to Proviso East by two in overtime and they have been the class of our conference the last seven or eight years. We're playing tough teams and we're getting battle-tested. But being battle-tested has to stop at a certain point in time and we have to get it done on the floor. We've played 15 games against good competition. We're 5-10 and a large part of that has been some lapses on the defensive end of the floor. We're working hard to correct that. We're healthy now and we know we have to do some fundamental

things better."

Lyons lauded the performance of Joe Villaseñor at Centralia.

"Joe played real well at Centralia," said Lyons. "He led the tournament in field-goal percentage at 89 percent. He doesn't do anything fancy, but he does the workman-like things like rebounding, put-backs and drop-offs. He's played very well for us. He gives us a good degree of consistency. He shot 18-for-21 or something like that in the tournament. We desperately need that. He's done a very good job on the offensive end."

Joe Kurucar scored 31 points against Christian County.

"Joe shot the ball well," said Lyons.

Lyons noted Duling and Pupillo have been mainstays the entire season.

"Ronald and James have played very well the entire year," said Lyons. "We play eight or nine guys a night. We need contributions night in and night out. When we're playing well against teams like Proviso East and Geneva, we're getting contributions from everybody."

Addison Trail girls gymnastics team earns season-high score

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail girls gymnastics team recently placed third out of seven teams with a score of 131.5 at its own Tumble and Invite.

The Blazers also recently recorded a season-high 134.65 score against district neighbor Willowbrook.

"The team is doing very well so far and is continuing to improve every practice," said Addison Trail coach Brandi Kisse.

As of late last week, Addison Trail was tied for first place in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division.

The team is paced by the likes of Casey Boksha and Kennedy O'Neil.

"Casey and Kennedy are continuing to help lead the team as our top all-arounders along with Terra Garcia as a steady and consistent all-arounder," said Kisse.

Kisse noted that Tamara Mendez suffered an injury to her heel at the Hersey Invitational, but hopefully will be back to help the team toward the end of the season.

Brianna Chesney, Karolina Dlugon and Olivia Ustas also have aided the team, specializing in their own events.

"Right now the team is working new skills on almost every event," the coach said. "We have not competed the skills yet, but when they are ready, this will help our team tremendously. The girls have a great way of motivating each other and pushing each girl on the team to where they know they can be and should be. Staying positive and going into each meet being confident with their skills will go a long way."

Addison Trail faced Leyden in a conference meet this week. The Blazers will then host Downers Grove South in a key WSC Gold meet on Jan. 22 that could determine the conference championship.