

Blood drive...

WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL hosted a blood drive earlier this month. Nearly 200 students and staff members donated blood at the Nov. 7 drive to benefit LifeSource. The school's student council organized the event. The photo on the right shows (left to right) Willowbrook seniors Alex Rego and Brooke Bimber donating blood. District 88's other school—Addison Trail High School—held a similar blood drive on Nov. 11. According to the American Red Cross, one unit of blood can help three people. In addition to helping save lives, the blood donations will provide scholarship money from LifeSource to District 88 students. For information about making a donation at any LifeSource center, call 877-543-3768, or visit www.lifesource.org.



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VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

Vol. 55 No. 47

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Price 60¢

Vote to rezone property results in tie; ordinance fails

by Chris Fox

An ordinance to rezone property on the 800 block of North Villa Avenue and grant a conditional use for a medical marijuana dispensary failed during Monday night's Villa Park Village Board meeting.

Three board members voted in favor of the first reading of the ordinance, while three other board members voted against the measure. The 3-3 tie resulted in the failure of the ordinance advancing to a second reading at the board's next meeting on Dec. 8.

Village President Deborah Bullwinkel joined trustees Robert Taglia and Robert Wagner in voting against the ordinance. Trustees Chris Aiello, Albert Bulthuis and Donald Kase voted in favor of advancing the ordinance to a second reading.

Solace Solutions submitted an application to the state of Illinois in September to open a medical marijuana facility at a vacant office building at 851 N. Villa Avenue. Tami Wanless, the dispensing agent in charge of Solace Solutions, explained during a presentation before Monday's vote that the state will allow three medical marijuana dispensaries in DuPage County. Solace Solutions is one of more than 20 applicants for the three dispensaries in the county. The state is expected to announce the three selected sites sometime in the next two months.

Wanless left the meeting shortly after the board's 3-3 vote and did not comment on the decision. It is unclear if Solace Solutions could still find another location in Villa Park for a potential dispensary.

Wanless initially appeared before the Villa Park Village Board on Aug. 25. At that time, Solace Solutions was in the process of submitting an application to open a dispensary at another Villa Park location on the 600 block of North Addison Road. That application was later withdrawn because the site on North Addison Road was within 1,000 feet of a day care facility. According to the state's Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act, which went into effect at the beginning of 2014, dispensaries cannot be located within 1,000 feet of schools, churches and day care facilities.

An ordinance that called for Villa Park Village Board members to approve the rezoning of the site at 851 N. Villa Ave. initially appeared on the formal agenda of the Oct. 13 board meeting. That ordinance was removed from the formal agenda during that meeting following complaints of the procedural details of the zoning change. Villa Park resident Brian Anderson stated during that meeting that he did not believe Wanless had the authority to request the zoning change because she did not own the property. Anderson added in his Oct. 13 comments that he did not think Wanless submitted the proper documentation in the process to rezone the area.

Patrick Grill, Villa Park's director of community development, spoke during Monday's board meeting. Grill noted that the village's planning and zoning commission voted 7-1 last week in favor of rezoning the property at 851 N. Villa Ave. to an M-1 light industrial district. A Villa Park ordinance requires that medical cannabis facilities be located within an M-1 light industrial district. Grill also noted that Solace Solutions had proposed donating 10 percent of its profits to causes deemed worthy by the village board.

The speakers during Monday night's discussion of the proposal to rezone the building at 851 N. Villa included Andrea Alvarez, a community lawyer with the Citizen Advocacy Center (CAC) in Elmhurst.

"The CAC takes issue with the process of changing a previously zoned area solely to meet one applicant's needs, and without proper community engagement," said Alvarez.

Anderson also spoke during Monday's meeting. He said that the village board decided last year to allow potential medical marijuana facilities only in M-1 light industrial districts.

"Now that we have an applicant, we want to convert that [the property at 851 N. Villa] to an M-1 area," said Anderson. "That doesn't make sense."

Anderson also described the medical marijuana facility as a high-risk business.

"Do we really need that type of business in our town?" Anderson said. "I don't think it fits into our community's standards."

Villa Park resident Greg Hassler, who is a

member of the planning and zoning commission, spoke in favor of rezoning the property to an M-1 light industrial district.

"I believe they'd be a good business partner for the village," said Hassler.

Trustee Bulthuis said during board members' discussion of the proposed ordinance

that a medical marijuana dispensary is similar to a pharmacy, and that a dispensary could potentially be located in a commercial district. Trustee Wagner disagreed with Bulthuis and said that he had heard from residents who are concerned a medical marijuana facility could

(Continued on the next page)



Four straight trips to the state meet...

WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR Kelly McNamara (above) will make her fourth straight appearance at the IHSA girls state swimming meet this weekend. McNamara, who is a member of the Willowbrook/Addison Trail combined team, qualified for this year's state meet in two individual events at Saturday's IHSA sectional at York High School in Elmhurst. She won the sectional's 100-yard butterfly race in 56.53 seconds. McNamara also qualified for the state meet in the 50-yard freestyle with her third-place sectional time of 24.23 seconds, which met the state-qualifying standard. McNamara placed second in the 100-yard butterfly event in last year's state meet. As a sophomore, she swam to a sixth-place finish at the 2012 state meet. McNamara swam on state-qualifying relay teams in each of the previous three state meets. This year's state meet takes place Friday and Saturday at Evanston High School. McNamara is a Villa Park resident and a longtime member of the Villa Park Mariners summer swim team.



all photos provided

Saluting those who serve, including first-responders

Above: During Willowbrook's Veterans Day assembly on Nov. 11, the school recognized local first responders and veterans, including staff member Rich Rentner, who will retire after this year. Top left: Pictured are American flags that lined the entryway to the parking lot at Willowbrook in honor of Veterans Day. Left: The "rock" at Willowbrook is painted as an American flag in honor of Veterans Day.



WBHS honors veterans through Veterans Day events

On Nov. 11, Willowbrook hosted its annual Veterans Day assembly. (left): Tom Forbes with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 in Villa Park shares information about the VFW. (middle): Retired Willowbrook teacher Andy Isaacson speaks to Willowbrook students about the true meaning of Veterans Day. (right): Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause greets the crowd. Soldiers with a connection to Willowbrook were honored. Honorees included State Sen. Tom Cullerton (D, District 23). The event was also attended by the Villa Park Police Department and members of the Villa Park VFW Post 2801.

photo provided

Willowbrook supports District 88 Blood Drive

Giving back is a cornerstone of District 88 pride and on Friday, Nov. 7, 195 Willowbrook students and staff took part in a blood drive for LifeSource, donating a total of 171 units of blood. Pictured are (far left): Willowbrook seniors Alex Rego and Brooke Bimber donating blood. (Left): Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause gives a big thumbs up, as he takes part. According to the American Red Cross, one unit of blood can help three people.



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
News:
630.834-8244
General Information:
630.834-8244

E-mail:

Advertising Department:
Questpublishing@sbcglobal.net
News Department:
Questpublishing@aol.com

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Advertising:
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Subscriptions:

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:

Content appearing in the Independent may not be reprinted without permission of the publisher or editor. Requests should be directed to Questpublishing@aol.com or 630.834-8244.

Postmaster, Please send address changes to:

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

Office Hours:
Tuesday-Friday 11-3



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AT students visit Chicago Options Exchange

On Nov. 5, 32 Addison Trail students visited Chicago Board Options Exchange and Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. They're pictured at Chicago Board Options Exchange with State Sen. Tom Cullerton (D, District 23) (far left).

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Spirito! Singers Winter Concert to be held Dec. 6, 7

ELMHURST—Spirito! Singers is pleased to announce the dates of its Winter Concert, "The Seven Joys of Christmas."

Join Spirito!'s three eclectic choral ensembles as they perform at Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church (149 W. Brush Hill Road) at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 and at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

Each ensemble will perform individually along with joint collaborations with select instrumentalists from the surrounding areas. Come and let Spirito! share the Seven Joys of Christmas: love, children, bells, dance, Mary, the New Year and song—to put you in the holiday spirit.

Tickets are \$23 each. Visit spiritosingers.org or call 1-877-8WE-SING for ticket information.

photos: independent archives

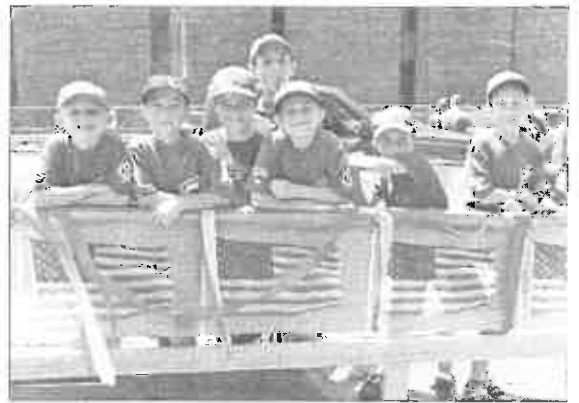
Is there anyone who doesn't know Sid?

While Parker the Bear is quickly becoming a popular guy in Villa Park, it is doubtful he will ever be as well-known as Sid Bergh, pictured here shaking hands with York Township Supervisor John Valle. Sid, who considers himself Parker the Bear's "handler," is usually on the scene at the Villa Park VFW, cracking jokes at the microphone.



Baseball and the 4th of July

Nothing says summer like baseball and the 4th of July, evidenced here by Villa Park's U8 Cubs baseball team, which used patriotic bunting to decorate a float for the 4th of July parade. This year's parade even drew then-Governor Pat Quinn, who ran unsuccessfully against Governor-elect Bruce Rauner.



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Villa Park loves its sports, especially when Willowbrook High School quarterback Brian Johnson led the Warriors to a playoff berth in 2013. Willowbrook sports have always been among the highlights of the Villa Park community.



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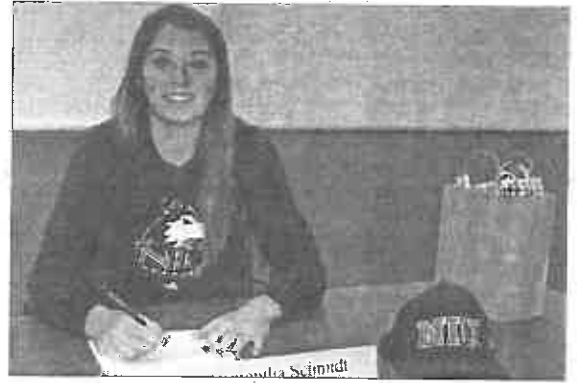
WB senior signs to play softball at NIU

VILLA PARK — Willowbrook senior Samantha Schmidt signed a letter of intent on Nov. 12 to play softball for Northern Illinois University (NIU).

A four-year varsity member of the Willowbrook Softball Team, Schmidt plans to play **shortstop** when she gets to college. Samantha's career began playing baseball

in sixth grade and later transitioned to softball.

"I love being part of a team, which is why I want to continue with the sport in college," she said. "One of the biggest lessons I've learned through softball is to always have confidence in yourself and be resilient when things aren't going your way."



SAMANTHA SCHMIDT

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, Nov. 22

Kontras String Quartet

The Kontras String Quartet begins its own music series at 1:30 p.m. in Buik Recital Hall at Elmhurst College with Geselligheid: Music of Beethoven and Tchaikovsky. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased at the door or online at brownpapertickets.com/event/865247.

Friday, Dec. 5

Hospital Foundation

Reindeer Route Housewalk

The Elmhurst Memorial Hospital Foundation will host the annual Reindeer Route Housewalk throughout several homes in Elmhurst. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and again from 6-9 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Marilyn Graber Teen Scholarship program. Tickets: \$30 in advance, or \$35 on the day of the event. For tickets and info: emhfoundation.org/foundation/events.cfm or call 331-221-0388.

Hospital Open House

for "Love Lights"

From 4:30-6 p.m., Elmhurst Memorial Hospital Foundation will host an open house to celebrate the Love Lights program in the Hospital's East Lobby. The trees aligning the Central Garden will be lit at 5 p.m. All are invited to sponsor a Love Light to honor someone like a caregiver, colleague, volunteer, physician or special person for a \$20 donation; for \$30, a commemorative Love Lights ornament will be included. Come join your friends and neighbors for refreshments and carolers.

Saturday, Dec. 6

Joyful Traditions Family Festival

The Villa Park Chamber of Commerce's annual Family Festival, which features a Christmas tree lighting with Santa Claus, will take place from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Ruggard Gazebo, Park and Ardmore Avenue. Sponsorships are available for as little as \$35. The festival is free, but financial donations are needed. Info: 630-366-6440 or visit villaparkchamber.org.

Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 13-14

Catholic youth to perform "Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

Saint Genesius Productions youth theater group will present The Best Christmas Pageant Ever at Montini High School, performed by students from local Catholic grade schools including St. Pius X, Sacred Heart, St. Alexander, St. Joseph, Kingswood Academy and Seton Academy. Show times are Saturday, December 13 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and, Sunday, December 14 at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 and all seating is general admission. Tickets may be ordered online at SaintGenesiusProductions.com

Ongoing events...

Library offering technology training

Need to update your skills on various computer programs or develop your technical skills and learn new ones online? The Villa Park Public Library's new resource, Atomic Training, will give you the information you need to increase your proficiency or to learn new skills. Atomic Training provides libraries across the country with a comprehensive online database of how-to training tutorials. Info: go online to the library's website, vppl.info, or call 630-834-1164, Ext. 5.

Widows or Widowers

(W.O.W.) meet each month

Widows or Widowers (W.O.W.) of the Western Suburbs meets on the third Thursday of each month and offers a variety of social activities. The meetings are held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 537 S. York Road, Elmhurst, starting at 6:30 p.m. Admission: \$5. Info: (630) 620-4060 or www.cfsites.org.

Electronic items disposal

From 9 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday of every month, the village of Villa Park has coordinated with Roy Strom, the village's waste hauler, to offer E-Waste "the right way"—a convenient, cost free drop-off electronic disposal solution. The drop-off site has been relocated to the Village Hall parking lot, located at 20 S. Ardmore Ave. Info: call (630) 592-6052.

Villa Park Men's Garden Club meetings

On the fourth Tuesday of every month, the Men's Garden Club of Villa Park has monthly meetings at 7:30 p.m. at the Villa Park Recreation Center, 320 E. Wildwood.

Your Place for Seniors

Area seniors are invited to "Your Place" at the Community Rec Building, 320 E. Wildwood, to play Pinochle, bridge, canasta, a board game or whatever game is being played. Hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; and, Tuesdays from 1-2:30 p.m. (NOTE: "Your Place" does not meet on the second Thursday of the month.) Info: (630) 834-8525.

VPRD's Reader's Theater Group

Would you like to perform without having to memorize scripts or lyrics? Join the Readers' Theatre Group each Monday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Community Rec Building; 320 E. Wildwood. Free; no registration needed. Info: Jenny Casale at (630) 834-8525.

VFW Bingo

The Villa Park VFW hosts Bingo every Tuesday from 5:30-10 p.m.

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.

WB soccer standouts earn state honors

VILLA PARK — Two members of the Willowbrook Boys Soccer Team have received state-level recognition.

Willowbrook senior Mike Rogalski has been named as a member of the 2014 Chicago Fire Boys All-State All-Academic Team (1st Team). Rogalski, who is captain of the Willowbrook Boys Varsity Soccer Team, also has been named to the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) All-Sectional Team.

Also, Willowbrook sophomore Saul Hernandez has received an IHSA All-Sectional Honorable Mention.

They will be recognized during the Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association (IHSSCA) Boys Honors Banquet on Nov. 20 at Diplomat West Banquet Hall in Elmhurst.



MIKE ROGALSKI



SAUL HERNANDEZ

Joyful Traditions to be held Dec. 6

VILLA PARK — The Villa Park Chamber of Commerce's annual Family Festival, which features a Christmas tree lighting with Santa Claus, will take place from 6-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 at the Ruggard Gazebo, Park and Ardmore Avenue.

Among the featured events will be photos with Santa by J.W. Reedy, a smore's station by Chris Aiello, a tasting tent, the Willowbrook High School Show Choir Carolers, a trolley car and horse wagon rides, Santa sacks, a new SnoMan cave and a giant stocking drawing for kids.

The festival is free, but financial donations are needed. Your donation determines how much fun we can buy.

Sponsorships are available for as little as \$35. All sponsored attractions are customized to your business. No two snowflakes are alike and neither are your sponsorship items. Each one is uniquely designed based

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I'm as Good As Gold sponsor options: Trolley Car sponsor, \$500; SnoMan cave sponsor, \$1,000.

I'm no Scrooge Silver sponsor options: Eight-foot toy-filled stocking: \$200; Trolley seat sponsor, \$250; 36-inch customized lighted wreath, \$275; WB Show Choir sponsor, \$300; 48-inch customized lighted wreath, \$325; 60-inch customized lighted wreath, \$350.

Twinkle Tinsle sponsor options: Window stocking, \$35; Prairie Path tree, \$45; Lighted glass block, \$50; SnowMan Globe, \$75; Gazebo wreath, \$100; six-foot lighted gazebo tree, \$125; giant boys and girls Santa sacks, \$150.

For more information, call the chamber at 630-366-6440 or visit the website: villaparkchamber.org.

SPORTS

NOVEMBER 20, 2014 • 20

Addison Trail football team sweeps conference player of the year honors

Blazers place 11 players on all-conference team

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Addison Trail's dominance on the football field translated into many post-season honors.

The Blazers placed 11 players on the all-West Suburban Conference Gold Division team and also had three players earn league player of the year honors.

Addison Trail finished the season 9-2, won the WSC Gold Division title with a perfect 6-0 mark and advanced to the second round of the Class 7A state playoffs.

Senior Jaavion Bradley was named the conference player of the year. Senior quarterback Mike Rybarczyk was named the offensive player of the year, while senior linebacker Eric Gilliam was named the defensive player of the year.

Joining those three on the all-WSC Gold team were Jake Atiyeh, Bobby Rinaldi, Josh Broschinsky, Matt Gon-

tarek, Tyler Schroeder-Zelek, Anthony Metallo, Malik Pierre-Lewis (junior) and Mike Peters.

"We had an outstanding season," said Addison Trail coach Paul Parpet Jr. "We fought right up to the end of that last playoff game. This group never gave up. We won a conference championship this year and that's something you can never take away. That was the message I gave to the kids after the season. In the high-school football playoffs, only eight teams go home happy at the end of the year. We accomplished something we set out to do and that's win a conference championship. That's a good feeling."

Parpet Jr. praised the contributions of the Addison Trail senior class.

"We had outstanding senior leadership this season," he said. "I think the combination of hard work we put in during the off-season, the experience we had coming back and a pretty good talent level—you put those three things together and that's why we had the success we had this year. These seniors put in a lot of time and effort and worked to get better—that in itself allowed us to have success."

Addison Trail turned in a stellar performance on defense, holding opponents to 17 or less points in 10 of its 11 contests.

"Our defense was very stingy," said Parpet Jr. "We played with a lot of effort. The guys stepped it up on defense and we were able to make things happen. The two biggest differences this year were we played great team defense and we were able to control the ball and run it when we were on offense. We also were sound in special teams. Again, those three things allowed us to be successful week in and week out."

The cupboard will be far from bare heading into 2015.

"We have a handful of guys coming back on offense and defense," said Parpet Jr. "Anytime you have a little experience coming back it helps. The guys that came back this year were a major part of our success. The experience we have coming back will help us move toward next year. A lot of guys had bad tastes in their mouths walking off the field after that last playoff game. That's a good thing. We will have guys coming back that played a lot of minutes for us this year."

Parpet Jr. noted this year's senior class helped the junior class learn the varsity ropes. He's confident that will again happen next season.

"The sophomore group coming up has a tremendous amount of talent," he said. "We have to get them bought into what it takes to be successful at the varsity level and these seniors-to-be will teach them that."

Parpet Jr. was proud of his group this season not just for its football accomplishments.

"These are talented athletes who are outstanding in every phase of their lives," he said. "They are outstanding in the community, in the classroom and on the field. They did everything the right way and that's the reason we had success this year. The effort these kids put in the classroom is what you saw on the field Friday nights. We had 13 or 14 kids earn all-conference academic awards. They got it done in the classroom. There is a direct correlation between what happens in the classroom and what happens on the field on Friday nights. If you have kids that get it done like that, you have a chance to be successful and we were this year."

Fenton girls basketball team poised for success

Bison return numerous players from last year's 16-win team

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

A successful record the previous year and numerous players returning from said team generally spells good news.

Veteran Fenton girls basketball coach Tim Anderson hopes that is the case with his team this season.

Anderson, in his 28th season, returns plenty of talent from last year's team that went 16-13 overall and finished 7-5 in the Metro Suburban Conference.

"We have a lot of girls back from last year," he said.

That group of returning players includes seniors Dana Fritz (5-10, guard-post), Val Andrews (5-9, guard-post) and Daisy Mora (5-4, guard), along with juniors Jessica Bango (5-6, guard) and Courtney Susmarski (5-9, guard-post). Sophomores Krysta Wilson (5-8, guard) and Ellie Wassmann (5-7, guard) played on the varsity as freshmen.

Anderson also moved up eight seniors

that played on the junior-varsity team last year. Senior guard-post Bianca Valdez (5-5) headlines that group.

"All of them are doing a great job," said Anderson. "Biana is impressing Beth (assistant coach Keathley) and me. She's picking up things very fast. She has our attention."

Anderson said the team's defense is further along right now than the offense, but that's a good thing.

"The thing that is the most impressive and it's something I use as a barometer is that a team in practice when its defense is scrimmaging the offense and is better than the offense, that bodes well," he said. "Because if the offense is struggling in practice it's because it is playing a good defensive unit and that's usually a harbinger of good things to come. That's how you improve as a team. If it's the other way around, you likely will be surprised in games. We're playing very good defense and that's going to help us continue to get better."

Anderson's superlative list doesn't stop at defense.

"The girls get along with each other and they get along with the coaches and they work hard," he said. "We

"If we keep going the way we've been going, we will keep getting better. These girls will keep moving forward. We have savvy and experience back from last year."

— Fenton girls basketball coach Tim Anderson.

also have a lot of talented kids back and we have balance throughout the roster. Last year we had Tina (Guarino) and Rachael (Leschewski) and we knew they were going to get a significant amount of points. I don't know where the points are going to come from yet. We're going to keep playing defense. I'm not worried about that. Nobody has emerged yet as a go-to person. I'm anxious to see who does that. We'll watch it evolve. I have some inklings."

This will be Fenton's first season in the new-look Metro Suburban Conference. Fenton is in the West Division.

"It will be a very interesting season," said Anderson. "We're in the new division. We don't know a lot about the four new teams, but we know a tremendous amount about the other two teams (Riverside-Brookfield and Glenbard South). Both of them will be incredible this season. We'll be competitive. Those two teams, R-B and Glenbard South, are not only good programs but programs with a lot of good players coming back."

Right now, Anderson is concerned only about his team's improvement.

"If we keep going the way we've been going, we will keep getting better," he said. "These girls will keep moving forward. We have savvy and experience back from last year. The question mark right now is the scoring, but it's not a point of worry. It's a point of curiosity and anticipation. These girls are up to the challenge."

Fenton is co-hosting its Thanksgiving tournament once again with Addison Trail. The Bison open the tournament this week at home against Leyden, Lane Teach and Northside Prep. The tournament shifts to Addison Trail next week. Fenton plays Addison Trail next Wednesday.

Depth a strength for Addison Trail girls basketball team

Blazers return six players who saw significant action last season

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Depth and experience are on the side of the Addison Trail girls' basketball team this season.

The Blazers return six players who were contributors last season. Addison Trail is looking to improve on a 2013-2014 record of 5-22 overall and 2-10

in West Suburban Conference Gold Division action.

Back from last year are seniors Rachel Baumgartner, Nina Beltrano, Kelly Delawder, Alex Disilvio and Stephanie Messina, along with junior Tegan Graff.

Baumgartner and Graff are the team's top two returning scorers.

Newcomers to the team include the likes of juniors Maria Koulogeorgas (guard), Nicole Pudlo (guard) and Marina Stokes (post-guard).

"We have six kids back who played significant minutes for us last year," said Addison Trail coach Rob Schader. "That will

definitely help us out."

Schader also is impressed with the depth of talent on the team.

"We can play nine kids on a regular basis," he said. "The girls are very similar with their play. If we get in foul trouble or someone needs a break, it will be very easy to substitute kids in."

Schader sees a good mix of inside and outside on offense this season. "It will be a little bit of both," he said. "We have girls who can attack and shoot outside and we have a couple of strong post players. It's a pretty nice combination to have."

Schader said the team's

defensive fortunes have taken a turn for the better as well. "We should be much improved defensively," he said. "We struggled last year a little bit with that. I think we're improved on both sides of the ball and we're a little better rebounding. These kids work hard and they love the game of basketball. They are basketball kids."

Schader said the WSC Gold will be competitive night in and night out. "The conference is always tough. I think it's kind of evened out for the most part. There are a lot of good teams."

Addison Trail opened the

season this week with a non-conference game against Riverside-Brookfield. The Blazers also are co-hosting a Thanksgiving tournament with Fenton. The Blazers play Leyden and Lane Tech at Fenton this week. Action shifts to Addison Trail next week prior to Thanksgiving.

"We're excited about the season," said Schader. "We have those six kids who played substantial minutes. When you have that, the game slows down for them. It's their second year on varsity and they have a lot more confidence. Hopefully we can get off to a faster start this year."

Willowbrook girls basketball team ready to defend conference title

Schmidt, Zabran, Giammarino among key returners for Warriors

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook girls basketball team lost seven seniors from last year's team that went 24-4 and won the West Suburban Conference Gold Division title with a perfect 12-0 mark.

But the Warriors aren't about to dwell on that. Instead, coach Terry Harrell is extremely excited about the group he has in the gym—one he feels will be right there in the race for the 2014-2015 WSC Gold crown.

The Warriors return the likes of seniors Sam Schmidt (6-1, wing), Micala Giammarino (5-6, guard) and Alyssa Ressinger (5-10, forward), along with junior Josie Zabran (5-9, forward). Junior Kelsey McGowan (5-3) is new to the team and the starting lineup. She played on the sophomore team last year and will take over point guard duties this season.

"Sam and Josie are two girls we will look to give us a lot of scoring," said Harrell. "Josie will play in the post and on the wing and Sam will play primarily on the wing. Micala has played primarily point guard in the program and now she'll play the 2 guard where she'll have ample opportunities to score. Alyssa is 5-10 but plays even bigger than that. We're looking for a big rebounding and defensive year from her in the post. This is Kelsey's first varsity action and we expect her to do well at the point guard position."

Juniors Alyssa Spada (5-7, guard) and Kylin Konrath (5-9, forward) also will help the Warriors.

"We will be strong inside this season," said Harrell.

Zabran was a key presence for the team after being called up late in the season.

"Josie played nine games on the varsity last year and averaged 16 points a game," said Harrell. "She had some big games at the end of the season and we expect her to return to that form quickly and advance from there."

Harrell also is excited about Schmidt's prospects this season.

"Sam on the perimeter will be very important for us from a rebounding standpoint," he said. "She gives us three very strong rebounders along with Josie and Alyssa. We expect to be strong in the lane."

Harrell noted the team also is looking strong on the defensive end.

"We expect to be good defensively again," he said. "We're a little bigger team this season. We might not be fast-paced and up-and-down as we have been in the past. It's a bigger team and there is a lot of talented girls here. We're looking to have another good season."

Harrell also has been impressed with how quickly the team has come together.

"It's a good group that gets along very well," he said. "We did lose the seven seniors and we lost some leadership there. But there are experienced athletes here who are stepping it up. Sam plays both basketball and softball and so does Alyssa. Micala was a leader on the volleyball team this fall. We

expect to be a well-led group."

Harrell sees a very competitive WSC Gold this season.

"We expect to compete for the conference championship," he said. "I don't expect to go 12-0 again. Everybody in the conference has gotten better. There were a lot of teams that had young talent last year. We expect to be right there."

Willowbrook opened the season Tuesday against Glenbard North. The Warriors begin play in their own Thanksgiving tournament on Thursday. This

year's tournament features Proviso East, East Aurora, Walther Christian, St. Joe's and St. Francis.

"These first three weeks are very important for us," said Harrell. "We will play six games in the first two weeks and a total of eight in the first three weeks and one of them is against one of the teams I feel will be a top team in the conference—Proviso East. We will know if we will be a good team in the first eight games. It will show quickly."

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Addison Trail-Willowbrook's McNamara qualifies for state

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Addison Trail-Willowbrook girls swimming standout Kelly McNamara is headed back to the state finals.

McNamara qualified in two events for this weekend's state meet at the recent York sectional in Elmhurst.

McNamara won the butterfly sectional title with a time of 56.53. The second-place finisher in the race clocked in at 57.38. The state-qualifying standard in the butterfly was 58.68.

McNamara finished second in the state in the butterfly in 2013 with a time of 55.11. Oak Park Fenwick senior Mimi Schneider won the state title last year with a time of 53.86.

McNamara also will compete in the 50 free-style at state. She finished third at York with a

time of 24.23. The state-qualifying standard was 24.59.

Addison Trail-Willowbrook finished seventh as a team at the sectional with 93 points. Fenton took 12th with 21 points.

Kelly McNamara at state

Addison Trail-Willowbrook's Kelly McNamara is a four-time state girls swimming qualifier in nine events. Here's a look at the events she's qualified in.

Year	Event	Place
2014	Butterfly	??
2014	50 free	??
2013	Butterfly	2nd
2013	200 relay	22nd
2012	Butterfly	6th
2012	200 relay	12th
2012	400 relay	21st
2011	200 relay	15th
2011	400 relay	21st

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Addison Suburban Life is the successor publication to the Addison Press.
Also serving Bensenville and Wood Dale.

Suburban Life Media
mysurbanlifemedia.com/addison

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General information
Addison Suburban Life (USPS #739-390) is published weekly and delivered to homes by Shaw Media, 1101 W. 31st St., Suite 100, Downers Grove, IL, and at additional mailing offices. Refund policy: Subscribers may cancel subscriptions within 45 days of first delivery. Refunds will be prorated. No refunds after 45 days. Postmaster: Send address corrections to Shaw Media, 1101 W. 31st St., Suite 100, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

Subscription rates
Single copy \$1.50
Delivery (annual) \$40/
\$79 out of area

ON THE COVER

Addison residents Lita Funderburg (from left) and Alesha Henley check out the silent auction items at the Mayor's Community Charity Ball.

Mary Beth Versaci - mversaci@shawmedia.com

Hundreds support Addison charities at ball

By **MARY BETH VERSACI**
mversaci@shawmedia.com

ADDISON – Thousands of dollars were raised for local charities at the Mayor's Community Charity Ball on Saturday in Addison.

Eighteen organizations came together for the event, which benefited each of them through ticket sales, donations, a raffle and silent auction. The exact amount raised by the event is not yet available.

The ball was attended by more than 500 community members, including representatives from the various participating organizations. See what some of them had to say below about why it is important for the community to support the charity ball.

Dennis Baier

Position: Knights of Columbus Council 650 at St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Addison



Dennis Baier

More about organization: General service organization that particularly benefits people with disabilities

Why support: Looking out for the community makes better citizens out of everybody.

Donna Cain

Position: President of DuPage High School District 88 Board of Education



Donna Cain

More about organization: District 88 Education Foundation funds teacher minigrants, AP test fees for students in need, laptops and Internet service for students to rent and college visits

Why support: It brings the community together to recognize the needs in the community. It's an opportunity to support all the charities in your community at the same time.

Kevin Charpentier

Position: Principal at Concord Lutheran School in Bensenville



Kevin Charpentier

More about organization: Provides Christ-centered education for children in preschool through eighth grade

Why support: I think it's an excellent opportunity for nonprofit organizations to showcase how they build stronger communities.

Cindy Holmberg

Position: Co-president of Women's Club of Addison



Cindy Holmberg

More about organization: Provides college scholarships and donates to other charities

Why support: Addison's a great community, and I think it's important to come out and support the different charities.

Don Jessen

Position: Chairman of Addison Park District's Parks and Recreation Foundation



Don Jessen

More about organization: Funds special items not included in park budget and scholarships for families who can't afford programming

Why support: We're all family. It makes a community stronger. No other community does something like this.

Jim Lombardo

Position: Co-president and coordinator of Addison Community Switchboard

More about organization: Provides food and clothes to families and seniors in need

Why support:

Without the help from all the organizations in town, we wouldn't be able to do what we do at Christmastime or Easter time or Thanksgiving time.



Jim Lombardo

Samantha Slater

Position: Miss Addison
More about organization: Not applicable

Why support: I think it raises awareness for our organizations and gathers our community and makes it stronger.



Samantha Slater

Tom Willis

Position: President of Kiwanis Club of Addison

More about organization: Serves children through ways such as offering college scholarships

Why support: It's community activism. Addison prides itself on being one community – many different organizations making up the whole.



Tom Willis

Mayor's ball highlights Addison's generous spirit

When I pulled into the Alta Villa Banquets parking lot in Addison, it was packed.

This was the Mayor's Community Charity Ball after all, and what did I expect but a hot house?

Still, the freezing weather and my decision to wear peep-toe pumps made me nervous as I circled the lot, looking for a spot into which I could squeeze my minivan.

Having secured a place, I ventured inside, where I was greeted by an expansive ballroom filled with people.

I later learned 518 guests attended the mayor's ball, from Addison residents to school and government officials to business owners and members of various nonprofit organizations.

Then there was me, invited



IEWS
Mary Beth Versaci

by the village of Addison and eager to get to know the community behind the Addison Suburban Life newspaper.

The 2014 Mayor's Community Charity Ball – the village's 24th – benefited 18 organizations that serve the residents of Addison.

I'm not going to name everyone I met Saturday night – because I met many – but I was happy to be able to place faces with the names of people I've talked to via phone or email since becoming editor of the Addison Suburban Life.

I still may be learning about Addison, but if I had to

summarize my Mayor's Community Charity Ball lesson, it would be that there really is an advantage to being part of the Addison community.

As Addison residents and officials know, the "Addison Advantage" is a phrase often used around town. It was a phrase I learned the first time I visited the village's website, addisonadvantage.org.

The village staff members who shared my table at the ball were quick to recognize the Rev. James Zimmerman of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Addison when he returned to our table after opening dinner with an invocation that mentioned the Addison Advantage.

We then joked about how long it must have taken to figure out a way to incorporate it

into the prayer.

I can assure you it didn't take me long to realize it needed to make an appearance here, too.

When I looked around the Alta Villa Banquets ballroom, I was amazed at how many people were there to support their local charities. In looking at the event program, I was struck by how many organizations there are in town for the community to support.

And in attending the Mayor's Community Charity Ball, I learned what a privilege it is for me to cover a town with so much pride, strength and generosity.

Mary Beth Versaci is the news editor of Addison Suburban Life and may be reached at 630-427-6249 or mversaci@shawmedia.com.

Meet SLM's all-area volleyball team

The girls volleyball season wrapped up Saturday with all four classes

finishing up at Redbird Arena in Normal. That means its time to honor

the best local players with the all-area team.



Sam Bell

■ **SCHOOL:** Glenbard East
 ■ **YEAR:** Senior
 ■ **IMPACT:** Bell directed the Rams' attack as the team's setter this fall and helped the team win 25 matches and the program's first regional title since 2008. Bell was a three-year varsity player.



Mary Bowe

■ **SCHOOL:** Montini
 ■ **YEAR:** Senior
 ■ **IMPACT:** Bowe became a fantastic second option on offense to pair with star Monica Loftus for Montini. She racked up 243 kills, led the team with 49 aces and totaled 248 digs to help the Broncos finish fourth in Class 3A.



Kelsey Linnig

■ **SCHOOL:** Willowbrook
 ■ **YEAR:** Senior
 ■ **IMPACT:** Linnig was a four-year varsity setter for the Warriors and helped Willowbrook win 18 matches this fall. She was all-conference in the West Suburban Gold and finished with 346 assists.



Monica Loftus

■ **SCHOOL:** Montini
 ■ **YEAR:** Senior
 ■ **IMPACT:** The all-area MVP is one of the hardest hitters in the state. Loftus, a St. Louis University recruit, had 314 kills this season to go with 74 blocks. This season, she became a full-rotation player for the Broncos and helped the program to its first state trophy.



Molly Manion

■ **SCHOOL:** IC Catholic
 ■ **YEAR:** Senior
 ■ **IMPACT:** Manion put up some great numbers as the Knights' libero. She recorded more than 350 digs for the season with more than 400 serve receptions and more than 30 aces. Manion is top five in average digs per season in IC program history.



Hanna Markewycz

■ **SCHOOL:** Timothy Christian
 ■ **YEAR:** Senior
 ■ **IMPACT:** Markewycz finished up her four-year varsity career as one of the best liberos around. She racked up 297 digs, but also had a staggering 87 aces this fall, helping the Trojans win 36 matches, a regional and the Metro Suburban East title.



Sarah Murphy

■ **SCHOOL:** Glenbard East
 ■ **YEAR:** Senior
 ■ **IMPACT:** Murphy, a 6-foot middle hitter and a three-year varsity player, was a team captain this season and a big presence at the net. The Rams had one of the best seasons in recent memory thanks to Murphy's leadership and skill.



Sarah Petrbok

■ **SCHOOL:** Addison Trail
 ■ **YEAR:** Sophomore
 ■ **IMPACT:** The Blazers were a young team this season and Petrbok emerged as a player the program can build around the next two years. The 5-foot-10 outside was the team's leading hitter.



Alex Preuss

■ **SCHOOL:** York
 ■ **YEAR:** Junior
 ■ **IMPACT:** Preuss carried York to a sectional final this season, proving to be one of the most dominant hitters in the area when she's on her game. She smacked down 464 kills this season, racking up kills even when the opposition knew she was getting most of the sets.



Mia Railing

■ **SCHOOL:** Willowbrook
 ■ **YEAR:** Senior
 ■ **IMPACT:** Railing, a 5-foot-9 outside hitter, led the Warriors in kills with 204. She was West Suburban Gold all-conference this season and a two-year starter for Willowbrook.



Kacie Stoll

■ **SCHOOL:** Timothy Christian
 ■ **YEAR:** Senior
 ■ **IMPACT:** Stoll's 319 kills led a 36-3 Trojans team, and she also contributed 157 digs, 40 blocks and 32 aces. Stoll, who is headed to Trinity Christian College to continue her career, racked up more than 1,000 kills in her four-year varsity career.

Honorable mention

■ **ADDISON TRAIL:** Jessica Mell and Nicole Pudlo
 ■ **GLENBARD EAST:** Allison Farrell and Jessie Spontak
 ■ **IC CATHOLIC:** Hannah Hartnett and Tess Reardon
 ■ **MONTINI:** Jordan Brusciannelli and Gina Cappetta
 ■ **TIMOTHY CHRISTIAN:** Juliana Stremier and Dani Van Laten
 ■ **WILLOWBROOK:** Danielle McNamara
 ■ **YORK:** Ally Mann and Elizabeth Pronove

Villa Park police issue warning to residents about ruse burglaries

by Bonnie MacKay

A number of incidents on the South side of Villa Park last week prompted Villa Park police to warn residents of numerous ruse residential burglaries which have been occurring in other nearby communities.

According to a department press release, the burglaries involved a group of male subjects posing as water department or Nicor employees. Villa Park Police Detective Sgt. Dan McCann said the subjects generally knock on the doors and request entry into the residence to check the water pipes or gas lines. McCann said the ruse usually involves a number of subjects, and once they are inside the residence, one of the subjects will distract the homeowner and another will steal property from the residence.

On Nov. 18, at approximately 10:30 a.m., Villa Park police received a suspicious person call in the 100 block of East Van Buren Street. A male subject knocked on the door posing as a water department employee and advised the homeowner that he needed to check the water meter inside the residence. The homeowner did not allow the subject into the house. The male subject had left the area by the time police were notified. It was confirmed that the subject was not from the water department.

"The resident did the right thing and didn't let him in," McCann said, adding anyone who sees suspicious activity in their neighborhood or has someone asking to check their pipes or

gas lines come to their door, should call 9-1-1.

The detective added that in the recent incidents, the subjects were "fascinated and knocked persistently."

"You're better off to call 9-1-1," he said.

On Nov. 14, a similar incident occurred during daytime hours in the 1060 block of South Cornell Street. The subject was described as tall white male in his mid-30s, wearing a brown hoodie and cream colored hat.

In another incident, on Nov. 22, at approximately 1 p.m., two subjects in a red van drove into the driveway of a residence in the 600 block of North Iowa in Villa Park.

They reportedly knocked on the door, claiming they were plumbers who had been called to the residence.

According to a department press release, the homeowner had not called a plumber and noted that the subjects had no business cards, tools or markings on their van indicating they were from a plumbing company.

A separate witness in the area reported seeing the same vehicle circling the neighborhood prior to the 9-1-1 call from the homeowner.

The first subject was described as a white male in his 60s, of average height, with a heavy build and unshaven. The second subject was described as a white male in his 40s, of average height and build. He also was unshaven.

Anyone with information about the incidents is asked to contact Villa Park investigators at 630-834-7447.

Villa Park VFW prepares annual Thanksgiving dinner for recruits

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 2801 in Villa Park is continuing its annual tradition of welcoming recruits from Naval Station Great Lakes on Thanksgiving Day. The post will hold this year's event at the American Legion post at 310 W. Butterfield Road in Elmhurst. The Villa Park VFW also held its holiday dinner at the Elmhurst post in 2012.

In recent years, the post has welcomed well over 100 recruits for a day of food and relaxation. Up to 200 recruits are expected this year. The recruits arrive early in the morning and depart in the early evening. In addition to enjoying a traditional holiday meal, the young men and women spend the day relaxing, watching football, playing video games and talking with family and friends on cell phones. The recruits from Naval Station Great Lakes who come to Villa Park on Thanksgiving have not had contact with family and friends for several weeks, so they are especially eager to communicate with their loved ones.

The Villa Park VFW welcomes financial contributions toward the Thanksgiving feast. One of the largest expenses in holding the event is the cost of renting buses to transport the recruits to and from Elmhurst on Nov. 27.

Several local businesses are supplying food for the event. All of the turkeys donated for the Thanksgiving dinner will be cooked and carved at Maggiano's in Oak Brook.

Donations can be made to VFW Post No. 2801, 39 E. St. Charles Road, Villa Park, IL 60181.

In addition to welcoming recruits for the holiday dinner, the post is assembling holiday food baskets for more than 100 needy families. The baskets will be distributed shortly before Thanksgiving. The post also welcomes contributions of food and money for the holiday baskets.

For more information about the Thanksgiving dinner and holiday food baskets, call the post at 630-834-8191.

Two Lombard teenagers arrested after a store burglary in Villa Park

by Bonnie MacKay

An early morning stop of two male subjects by Villa Park police led to the arrest of two Lombard teens on burglary charges.

Villa Park midnight shift officers stopped the two near Little Caesar's Pizza, 321 E. St. Charles Road, at approximately 4:38 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 14. At the time, the subjects were identified and released.

A few hours later, at about 7:13 a.m., Villa Park police officers were called to the Little Caesar's location for a burglary which occurred overnight.

Officers found the front window of the business had been smashed and a safe, along with approximately \$1,200, was missing from the pizza store.

Upon reviewing surveillance video from the business, officers discovered that the two male subjects stopped by Villa Park officers in the early morning hours were the same subjects allegedly involved in the burglary.

According to a department press release, one of the subjects is seen on the video smashing the window with a rock and the

other is seen carrying the safe out of the business.

According to Villa Park Police Detective Sgt. Dan McCann, the two subjects on the surveillance video can be seen wearing the same clothing as when they were stopped by Villa Park officers.

Later that same day, officers located both subjects at two separate Lombard locations.

The two were taken into custody without incident, according to McCann, who added that the safe and currency from the safe were recovered by Villa Park investigators.

"They were stopped by the midnight shift, the detectives came in and it all kind of fell into place," McCann said.

Abel Carlos Medina, 18, was charged with burglary. He was transported to the DuPage County Jail in Wheaton. As of press time, Medina was being held at the jail in lieu of \$40,000 bond.

A 17-year-old Lombard teen also was charged with burglary and was transported to the youth home.

The investigation is ongoing.

WILLOWBROOK HOLIDAY MUSIC CONCERTS

Willowbrook High School's music department will present three upcoming holiday concerts. All three concerts will begin at 7 p.m. in the school's Doris White Auditorium.

Thursday, Dec. 4

FEATURING: Jazz Band and CenterStage Show Choir

Thursday, Dec. 11

FEATURING: Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Freshman Band and Percussion Ensemble

Wednesday, Dec. 17

FEATURING: Chamber Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Treble Choir, Beginning Choir, Concert Choir, Beginning Guitars and Guitar Ensemble

Ticket prices for all three events are: \$3 for adults and \$2 for seniors (senior citizen gold cards and student passes are welcome). Admission is free to children 12 years old and younger who are accompanied by an adult.



Book drive at Willowbrook...

THE NATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY at Willowbrook High School held a recent book drive to collect books for Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. The book drive, which took place from Nov. 4 through Nov. 21, yielded the donation of 410 books. Willowbrook's English classes competed to see which classes could collect the most books during the drive. The winner was the classes of English teacher Leslie Allenspach with 93 books. All of the books collected during the drive will be given to Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago for the holidays. The above photo shows the school's National English Honor Society officers with some of the donated books. Pictured left to right are: junior Morgan Pullia, junior Amanda Barrie, senior Joe Draus, senior Nora Grzadzki, senior Haley Patel and senior Mohammed Hameed.



District 88's Best...

WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL senior Tyler Rusnak (above, left) of Villa Park is his school's recipient of the District 88's Best award for the month of November. Rusnak, who is pictured with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause, was recognized at the District 88 Board of Education meeting on Nov. 17. Each month of the school year, the board of education presents the District 88's Best award to students from each of the district's two schools—Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools. The board created the award to recognize students for their achievements both inside and outside the classroom. Rusnak consistently pursues the most demanding courses available at Willowbrook. When he graduates, he will have completed 10 Advanced Placement (AP) courses, as well as several honors courses. He maintains an academic rank within the top 1 percent of his class. Earlier this year, Rusnak earned a perfect composite score of 36 on the ACT, a national college admissions exam. Rusnak has been inducted into the National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society, Willowbrook's social studies honor society (Civitas), and is involved in numerous curricular and extracurricular activities. He's a member of Gay-Straight Alliance, the math team, Key Club, Science Olympiad and Econ Challenge, as well as DECA—an organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in the areas of marketing, finance, hospitality and management. Rusnak plans to study botany at either the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Carleton College or the University of Chicago.

Sports

LOMBARDIAN VILLA PARK REVIEW

Broncos make sixth straight trip to the title game

The Montini football program earned its sixth straight berth in the IHSA Class 5A state championship game with Saturday's overwhelming 52-15 victory over Geneseo in a semifinal game in Lombard. The Broncos dominated the Maple Leafs, who entered the contest with a perfect season record of 12-0. Geneseo could not stop the Montini offense, which guided the home team to a 31-7 halftime lead. Senior quarterback Chuck Norgle fired four touchdown passes in the opening half. Junior Tyler Millikan hauled in three of the touchdown receptions, including an 83-yard bomb midway through the second quarter.

Norgle completed 22 of 30 pass attempts on Saturday for 323 yards and four touchdowns. Millikan made five receptions for 120 yards and three touchdowns, while senior Leon Thornton grabbed eight receptions for 161 yards and one touchdown.

"We knew we'd be able to throw the ball," said Norgle after the victory. "We've been getting it done on the ground throughout the playoffs. Game to game, if the coaches need me to throw, I'm going to throw. If they need me to hand the ball off, that's what I'll do. Our offensive line gave me time. The play calling was awesome. It was a group effort. We played our best game."

Montini will seek revenge in this Saturday's Class 5A championship

game against Springfield's Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, which will begin at 10 a.m. at Memorial Stadium in Champaign. The Cyclones beat the Broncos 38-28 in last year's championship game at Northern Illinois University to end Montini's string of four straight state Class 5A titles from 2009-12.

"This [Sacred Heart-Griffin] is the team that did it to us [last year]," said Montini head coach Chris Andriano in Saturday's post-game speech to the players. "They'll be ready. They've got great coaches and great players. This has to be our best and most important game as a program, to come back from last year. You guys have a second chance. We have to be ready. It's going to be a heck of a football game."

Sacred Heart-Griffin (12-0) earned a spot in this year's championship game with Saturday's 49-21 semifinal victory over Peoria in Springfield. The Cyclones cruised to a 49-7 halftime lead.

Montini, which improved its overall season record to 10-3 with the win over Geneseo, scored on all of its offensive drives in the first half. The first drive ended with senior Mason Weissenhofer's 31-yard field goal, which gave the Broncos a 3-0 lead with about five minutes to play in the first quarter. Geneseo fumbled the ball away on its ensuing possession; senior Patrick Howard recovered the

loose ball at the Maple Leafs' 30-yard line. Moments later, Norgle threw an 83-yard touchdown pass to Millikan.

The Broncos' next drive featured a juggling catch by Thornton on the first play of the second quarter. Thornton's diving grab of the tipped pass set up Norgle's second TD pass to Millikan—a 5-yard connection with about 10 minutes left in the first half. Weissenhofer's extra-point kick gave Montini a 17-0 lead.

"Our passing game started clicking in the middle of the first quarter," said Andriano. "We got a field goal and a turnover and we were able to score. That was exactly the scenario we were hoping for—to get an early lead so that we could be relaxed and run what we wanted to do offensively."

Geneseo, which may have had more fans at the game in Lombard than the Broncos, delivered a touchdown drive on the ensuing series to cut Montini's lead to 17-7. The Broncos scored about one minute later when Norgle threw a deep ball to an open Millikan, who caught the pass near midfield and sprinted into the end zone for the 83-yard touchdown reception.

"I didn't expect anything like this," said Millikan of his explosive performance against Geneseo. "I'm just so happy. It just so happened to be my day."

The Broncos delivered another long and quick drive on their next possession, moving 80 yards in about 60 seconds. Thornton's 29-yard touchdown catch completed the drive with about 30 seconds remaining in the first half.

Sophomore Prince Walker's 21-yard touchdown run completed



Semifinal standout... Photo by Chris Fox

MONTINI JUNIOR Tyler Millikan (above) heads toward the end zone for an 83-yard touchdown reception during the second quarter of Saturday's IHSA Class 5A semifinal football game against Geneseo. The touchdown—Millikan's third of the game—gave the Broncos a 23-7 lead. Montini defeated Geneseo 52-15 in Lombard.

Montini's opening drive of the second half and helped build the lead to 38-7.

Junior Justin Blake, who relieved Norgle at the quarterback position in the second half, added a short touchdown run with about four minutes left in the third quarter. Blake scored moments after he completed a 40-yard pass to Thornton.

Junior Dylan Maher scored Montini's final touchdown of the day on a short run with about nine minutes left in the game that helped push the lead to 52-7 and initiated the running-clock rule, which keeps the

clock running when a team builds a lead of at least 40 points.

The Broncos' sixth straight surge into the Class 5A championship game will cause the program's sixth consecutive holiday-morning practice on Thanksgiving Day.

"This is awesome," said Andriano of the annual post-season excitement. "It never gets old. Everybody's doing their part to help us be a good team. My hat's off to our whole program, and to our kids for the great improvement we've made over the course of the year."



State champion...

WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL senior Kelly McNamara (above, center) won an individual state championship at the IHSA girls state swimming and diving meet on Saturday at Evanston High School. McNamara, a member of the Willowbrook/Addison Trail girls swim team, won the state title in the 100-yard butterfly event. She finished Saturday's championship race in a first-place time of 54.83 seconds, which was six-tenths of a second faster than the runner-up finisher. She is the first member of the Willowbrook/Addison Trail team—female or male—to win an IHSA individual state championship. "It was really exciting," said McNamara, who described the IHSA state meet as her favorite meet of the year. "It's the loudest meet I've ever been to. It's really different from club meets." McNamara earned a spot in the finals with her time of 54.68 seconds in Friday's preliminaries. She posted the fastest preliminary time in the event to earn one of six berths in the final. McNamara was a member of a state-meet qualifying relay team as a freshman. As a sophomore, McNamara finished sixth in the 100-yard butterfly at the 2012 state meet. She delivered a second-place finish in the same event at last year's state meet. "I didn't think I would do as well as second," said McNamara of her runner-up finish one year ago. McNamara is pictured with Willowbrook/Addison Trail assistant coach Tara Murphy (left) and head coach Paul Anderson (right) shortly after Saturday's medal ceremony. A Villa Park resident and a longtime member of the Villa Park Mariners summer swim team, McNamara began swimming when she joined the Mariners as a 7-year-old in the summer of 2004. She also swims for the Westmont Swim Club. McNamara plans to swim at the collegiate level and has not yet decided which school she will attend next fall.



Senior Ram...

SENIOR ALLISON HANSEN (above) of the Glenbard East girls basketball team watches a shot during Monday's game against Glenbard South. The Raiders beat the Rams 40-29 in the contest at the Rachel Bach Tournament in Lombard. Glenbard East opened its season with two wins, including Saturday's 40-20 victory over Glenbard North on the opening day of the tournament. Hansen scored a team-leading 15 points for the Rams in Saturday's win. She made five field goals and converted all five of her attempts from the free-throw line.

Rams start with a pair of wins

The Glenbard East girls basketball team began its season with a 50-22 victory at Elgin on Nov. 19. The Rams improved to 2-0 by opening their own Rachel Bach Tournament with Saturday's 40-20 win over Glenbard North.

Junior Brasia Solid scored 17 points in the win over Elgin. Senior Allison Hansen added 12 points. Hansen

poured in 15 points against Glenbard North. She scored nine points in the fourth quarter, when the Rams outscored the Panthers 16-5. Solid provided 12 points.

Glenbard East dropped to 2-1 when it lost its next game of the six-team tournament. Glenbard South beat the Rams 40-29 on Monday. Solid and Hansen added 12 points. Hansen

(Continued on the next page)

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A win for the Warriors...

JUNIOR JOSIE ZABRAN (above) led the Willowbrook girls basketball team to a 55-48 victory over East Aurora on Thursday in Villa Park. The Warriors beat the Tomcats on the first night of Willowbrook's six-team, round-robin Thanksgiving tournament. Zabran scored 11 of her 12 points during the fourth quarter. She also grabbed 13 rebounds. Senior Micala Giammarino (below) made three free throws in the closing seconds. The Warriors lost their next two games of the tournament. They will finish the event with today's game against Walther Lutheran.



Basketball...

(Continued from the previous page) junior Ashley Brown both scored nine points, while Hansen scored eight points. Glenbard South senior Sydney Bauman finished with 15 points. Junior Payton Carl added eight points for the Raiders.

Willowbrook

The Warriors opened the 2014-15 season with a 41-38 loss at Glenbard North on Nov. 18. Willowbrook trailed the Panthers 21-13 at halftime, but a 10-2 surge by the Warriors during the third quarter tied the score at 23-23 with eight minutes to play.

Glenbard North made 25 of 33 free-throw attempts during the game, while Willowbrook converted seven of 12 foul shots.

Junior Josie Zabran provided a team-leading 15 points for the Warriors. Senior Sam Schmidt and junior Kelsey McGowan each scored seven points, while senior Alyssa Rensing scored six points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

The Warriors earned their first win of the season when they opened their own six-team Thanksgiving tournament with Thursday's 55-48 victory over East Aurora. Zabran scored 12 points and pulled down 13 rebounds for the Warriors, who held a 39-38 lead at the end of the third quarter. She provided nearly all of Willowbrook's offense in the closing minutes, scoring 11 of her team's final 14 points. Zabran scored a pair of baskets early in the quarter. She added a 3-point play that gave the Warriors a 48-43 advantage with about three minutes left in the game. East Aurora responded with a 3-point shot, but Zabran's inside basket raised Willowbrook's lead to 50-46. The Tomcats scored within one minute remaining to cut the lead to 50-48. Zabran scored a layup seconds later to push the lead to four points. Senior Micala Giammarino added one free throw with 17.4 seconds to play. Giammarino scored the last two points of the game by making a pair of free throws with 5.4 seconds remaining.

McGowan, who made six of eight free-throw attempts, scored 12 points to share high-scoring honors with Zabran. Schmidt scored nine points, while Rensing and junior Alyssa Spade both scored six points. Giammarino added five points.

The Warriors lost their next two games of the tournament, falling to St. Joseph on Friday and St. Joseph on Saturday. Willowbrook will complete the round-robin event with this week's games against Walther Lutheran and Plainfield East.



Dominant victory...

Photos by Chris Fox

MONTINI SENIOR LEON THORNTON (above) makes an acrobatic reception during the second quarter of Saturday's IHSA Class 5A playoff game against Geneseo. Thornton's catch helped Montini to its second touchdown drive of the semifinal contest in Lombard. The Broncos scored shortly after the reception to take a 17-0 lead. Thornton's 29-yard touchdown reception in the final minute of the second quarter helped the Broncos to a 31-7 halftime lead. The photo below shows sophomore running back Prince Walker crossing the goal line for a 21-yard run to complete the Broncos' opening drive of the third quarter. Montini beat Geneseo 52-15 in the semifinal game to advance to the IHSA Class 5A state championship game for the sixth straight year. Montini will face Springfield's Sacred Heart-Griffin in this weekend's championship game in Champaign. The game is a rematch of last year's Class 5A title contest. The Cyclones earned a 38-28 victory to stop the Broncos from winning a fifth consecutive state championship.



Super Crossword

CD CHANGER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fast lazily
 - 7 "Fame" singer
 - 16 Wood-timbering tool
 - 20 Ice-block houses
 - 21 Bottom-line costs
 - 22 Taunt in fun
 - 23 Talks Texas-style while trapped by some rubble?
 - 25 Era-spanning story
 - 26 Legislator in D.C.
 - 27 Crowded
 - 28 —Magnon man
 - 29 Part of rpm
 - 30 "As — often the case..."
 - 31 Things enjoyed at a beer-selling gallery?
 - 38 — charge (grams)
 - 41 Become swollen
 - 42 Dred out...
 - 43 "Quiet down!"
 - 44 What major flooding may do to an Australian state?
 - 49 Hammy actor
 - 51 Item swiped for credit
 - 52 Sums of cash
 - 55 "There is Nothin' Like —" ("South Pacific" song)
 - 56 Suffix with fool or ghou!
 - 57 A law unto —
 - 59 Order
 - 61 Game with pawns
 - 63 Baby tiger
 - 65 "—Gold" (Peter Florida film)
 - 66 SSE part
 - 67 Dull color
 - 68 SSE part
 - 70 Take
 - 72 Gem with a play of colors
 - 76 John Hershey's "A Bell for —"
 - 78 Prefix with physics
 - 79 Take
 - 80 Pappas who love pekoes?
 - 85 Riches
 - 89 Elite retreat
 - 90 Second part of a play
 - 91 Not live, as a TV show
 - 93 Sharpe watch out for
 - 95 Team esteem
 - 97 Gorgeous resident of Rome?
 - 99 Brian of Roxy Music
 - 100 Nest eggs for sn.
 - 103 Alve rival
 - 104 Cure — (paracetamol)
 - 105 Dog trained to lead
 - 112 Sorority letters
 - 113 Hideaways
 - 116 Hedge snub
 - 118 Conical-bore instrument
 - 120 Boy shopping for topshah clothes?
 - 125 Very big dog
 - 127 Broadway's "Miss —"
 - 128 See 117-Down
 - 129 "The Divine Sarah" of stage and screen
 - 130 Data-entry person
 - 37 Mole's kin
 - 38 Counsel
 - 39 Singer
 - 40 Quick bites
 - 41 F preceders
 - 44 At once
 - 46 Large lank
 - 47 CPA hrar
 - 48 Iceland's —
 - 50 Like a heavy favorite
 - 53 In — race
 - 54 Toni Morrison bestseller
 - 58 PC monitor type
 - 60 A neighbor
 - 62 Aranas
 - 64 Plead
 - 67 Rage
 - 68 —Aryan
 - 69 Bring to ruin
 - 70 Bread answer
 - 71 Fawn nurer
 - 73 Flower part
 - 74 Plea
 - 75 Finds out
 - 77 Many newspapers
 - 79 Most old ballad
 - 80 Housebroken
 - 81 — Lodge degree
 - 82 Appalling
 - 83 Takeoff abbr.
 - 84 Kitchen wrap
 - 86 — nitrite (angina treatment)
 - 87 Chou Ex —
 - 88 Blast stuff
 - 92 Marti —
 - 94 Actor Arin
 - 96 Make a gallo drama
 - 98 "The Lost Weekend" co-star Ray
 - 101 Hogs (to)
 - 102 Sak spinner
 - 106 Conflicted
 - 107 Chinese, e.g.
 - 108 Punker
 - 109 Amoxic rendezvous
 - 110 Test, as one
 - 114 Work without —
 - 115 Berro of baseball
 - 116 Valentine's Day god
 - 117 With 128-Across, speed
 - 118 A bit askew
 - 119 Furry scarf
 - 120 Soviet Union spy org.
 - 121 Lullinette
 - 122 Toothpaste tube letters
 - 123 — es Salam
 - 124 Helpful lead

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Arrest made in burglary of Little Caesars Pizza

Two Lombard males charged with felony counts

By Dee Longfellow
For The Villa Park Independent

VILLA PARK — According to a release issued by Detective Sergeant Dan McCann of the Villa Park Police Department, on November 14, 2014, at approximately 7:13 a.m.,

Villa Park officers responded to the Little Caesars Pizza located at 321 East St. Charles Road to investigate a burglary to the business which had reportedly occurred overnight. Upon arrival officers found that the front window of the business was smashed out and a safe was reported missing from inside the business.

Prior to the burglary being discovered, officers stopped two suspicious male subjects near the business at approximately 4:38 a.m. The subjects were identified and released at that time.

Upon reviewing surveillance video from the business, officers discovered that the two suspicious subjects that were stopped by officers were in fact the same subjects involved in the burglary. One subject is seen on video smashing the window with a rock; the other subject can be seen carrying the safe out of the business.

Both subjects were located the same day by officers at two separate locations in Lombard. They were both taken into custody without incident. The safe and currency from the safe was also recovered.

Abel Carlos Medina, 18, of Lombard, was charged with Felony Burglary and transported to the DuPage County Jail.

A 17-year-old male juvenile, also of Lombard, was also charged with Felony Burglary. Since he is a juvenile, the suspect was transported to the youth detention home.

Members of the public are reminded that these complaints contain only charges and are not proof of the defendant's guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the government's burden to prove his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.



photo provided

WB National, English Honor Society hosts children's book drive

Throughout November, the National English Honor Society at Willowbrook collected more than 400 books for Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Pictured are the officers of the National English Honor Society (from left): junior Morgan Pullia, junior Amanda Barrie, senior Joe Draus, senior Nora Grzadziel, senior Haley Patel and senior Mohammed Hameed.

COMMUNITY CAPSULES

Here's what is happening at Village Hall

By Paul DeGuidice
For The Villa Park Independent

The Villa Park Board of Trustees met for a Formal Meeting on Monday, November 17 at Village Hall. The meeting would normally take place the following Monday, but was changed due to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

- The meeting began with appointments to Boards and Commissions. Gary Schiefer and John Banaszak were appointed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. They will serve from November 17, 2014 through April 30, 2016. Jes Spivak was appointed to the Environmental Concerns Commission, with his term running from November 17, 2014, through April 30, 2017. All three Commissioners were sworn in on the spot by Village Clerk Hosanna Korynecky.

- Village President Deborah Bullwinkler read two proclamations. The first declared November 2014 as Lung Cancer Awareness Month; the second proclaimed November 2014 as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Awareness Month.

- Bullwinkler also announced the free leaf and brush pick-up will continue through December 5. The Village President also reminded residents that the Joyful Traditions event will be held at the Gazebo on the Prairie Path on Saturday, Dec. 6. The event is free and is sponsored by the Villa Park Chamber of Commerce.

- Alex King, of the 100 block of W. St. Charles Rd. spoke during public comment.

"One of the questions I hear asked most commonly at commission meetings is: How can we attract business to Villa Park?" King, a builder, said. "I think our street project is a huge step in that direction. Having a good solid infrastructure is not money spent, it is money invested."

- During the Consent Agenda portion, the Board voted on six items, including:

- The Village Bill Listing dated November 17, 2014 in the amount of \$461,888.

- Approval of the minutes from the Committee of the Whole and Formal Meeting of November 10, 2014.

- A First and Final reading of an ordinance authorizing an addendum to the mutual aid box alarm system agreement. This ordinance was needed to allow Villa Park's Fire and Police Departments to seek compensation after assisting another town for an extended period of time.

- A resolution approving an agreement for legal services related to the issuance of Series 2014 and 2015 general obligation (G.O.) bonds. This resolution was needed to proceed with issuance of \$10 million in bonds in 2014 and another \$10 million in 2015 for road and infrastructure repairs. The law firm of Arnstein & Lehr will provide the legal services.

- A resolution approving acceptance of bids for the 2014 Village parking lots improvement project. The two lots included in the plan are the Community Development offices at 325 E. North Ave. and Fire Station #2 at 102 W. Plymouth St. Five contractors submitted bids with Chigoland Paving Contractors, Inc. of Lake Zurich, the lowest bidder in the amount of \$72,900 for the fire station lot. According to the formal agenda, Village staff will

bring forward the other project in the near future.

- The Board unanimously approved the first reading of an ordinance to issue general obligation (G.O.) bonds in the amount of \$10 million for:

"The purpose of paying for the cost of certain street and related improvements and costs related thereto and to the issuance of such bonds and authorizing the execution of a bond order in connection therewith and for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds."

A second (final) reading is expected to take place at the Monday, December 8 Village Board meeting. If the ordinance passes (as expected), the bond issue will be approved before the end of the year, allowing the Village to take advantage of favorable interest rates, according to staff.

- The Board also approved agreement for legal services related to the issuance of the 2014 and 2015 G.O. bonds. The law firm of Arnstein & Lehr was chosen from several proposals, according to staff. The Bond Counsel will prepare all required bond documents related to the two \$10 million bond issues.

- The Board voted 3 to 3 on the first reading of an ordinance approving the rezoning of property at 851 N. Villa Ave. to M-1 Light Industrial from the current commercial zoning. The tie means the measure failed, and the zoning will not change. The petitioner, Tami Wanless of Solace Solutions, sought the change to allow for a potential medical cannabis dispensary on the site.

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
News: 630.834-8244
General Information: 630.834-8244

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Subscriptions:

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:

Content appearing in the Independent may not be reprinted without permission of the publisher or editor. Requests should be directed to Questpublishing@aol.com or 630.834-8244.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to:

THE INDEPENDENT
240 N. West Avenue,
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Office Hours:

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Tom Cullerton: Senate creates veterans suicide task force

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois State Senate adopted a resolution creating a task force to investigate Illinois veteran suicide on Thursday, November 20. State Senator Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park) sponsored the bipartisan task force. "We need to help veterans transition back into to the civil-

ian world," he said. "We owe it to them to do everything to better understand and treat the causes of veteran suicide."

Nationwide, an average of 22 veterans commit suicide every day. Between 2005 and 2011, the veteran suicide rate in Illinois was twice the rate for civilians. During that time-

frame, more than 17 percent of all suicides in Illinois were veterans.

The task force will investigate the causes of veteran suicide, form policy recommendations and report back to the General Assembly.

The eight-person Task Force on Veterans' Suicide will be

made up of representatives from the departments of Veterans Affairs, Military Affairs, Public Health and Human Services as well as Democratic and Republican lawmakers.

The resolution, HJR 91, passed with bipartisan support and no opposition.



courtesy photo
Kelly McNamara is all smiles after earning first place in the 100 butterfly at the state swimming finals held at Evanston Township H.S. on Saturday, Nov. 22. McNamara, a senior at Willowbrook H.S., won the title with a time of 54.83 to become the first state champion for the Addison Trail-Willowbrook co-op girls swimming team.

AT-Willowbrook's McNamara wins state swimming championship

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail-Willowbrook girls swimming team has its first state champion.

Willowbrook senior Kelly McNamara recently won the 100 butterfly championship at the girls state swimming finals held at Evanston Township High School.

McNamara won the title with a time of 54.83. She finished ahead of Loyola Academy's Mari Jardeleza, who clocked in at 55.43.

McNamara advanced to the finals after finishing first in the preliminary round with a time

of 54.68. Jardeleza was second with a time of 55.06.

McNamara came into the state final with a seed time of 56.53.

McNamara also took 20th in the 50 free with a time of 24.30. She did not advance to finals in that event.

It was McNamara's fourth state finals medal. She took second in the fly last year and was sixth in the event as a sophomore. She also was part of Willowbrook's 12th place 200 relay team as a sophomore.

She is one of five AT-Willowbrook girls swimmers to win a state medal.

VFW Fish Fry to feature Flash Baxter band

VILLA PARK — The Villa Park VFW Post #2801 has added an extra treat to its regular Friday Fish Fry — musical entertainment. The popular Flash Baxter band will perform classic rock hits from the 60s, 70s and 80s during the Fish Fry on Friday, December 12. The band will be on stage from 7 to 10 p.m. at the VFW Post, 39 E. St. Charles Rd. There is no cover charge. The Fish Fry is \$11. For more information, call 630-834-8191.

Dickmann signs to play volleyball for Indiana U

AT senior to continue athletic career at college level

ADDISON — For the past six years, volleyball has been a major part of Alex Dickmann's life. Dickmann, a senior at Addison Trail, has spent countless hours on the court at Sports Performance Volleyball Club in Aurora and at Addison Trail, where he has been a varsity player since his freshman year. And that hard work has paid off.

On Nov. 18, he signed a letter of intent to play volleyball for Indiana University - Purdue University - Fort Wayne, where

he will play right-side hitter. Dickmann also has received an academic scholarship to the school, where he plans to major in engineering.

Dickmann said he would like to thank the Sports Performance Volleyball Club, his team and coaches Chad Grant and Dan Styler at Addison Trail, and his parents, Michael and Lynda, for all their support. He has been involved in other sports, including football for nine years, but volleyball was a natural fit from day one.

"I felt like I was constantly improving in volleyball, and I really liked it from the beginning," he said. "I just love competing, and that's why I want to continue with the sport in college."



photo provided
Pictured is Addison Trail senior Alex Dickmann, who recently signed to play volleyball for Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne. "I just love competing, and that's why I want to continue with the sport in college," he said.

Local businesses, organizations honored for support

ADDISON/VILLA PARK
 —During its Nov. 17 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education honored local organizations and businesses for their support of District 88.

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Villa Park were recognized for sponsoring the annual Spaghetti Dinner at Willowbrook, which took place on Nov. 14 this year. The Spaghetti Dinner provides an opportunity for attendees to enjoy a great meal, as well as see the fall musical at the school. This year, those who attended saw "Beauty and the Beast" after they enjoyed a home-cooked spaghetti dinner.

Proceeds from the event are used to support scholarships for Willowbrook students, supplies and materials for elementary school students and local charitable organizations and foundations. Students from Willowbrook's Key Club, through their interaction with the Kiwanis Club, assisted with the dinner and attended the Board meeting to thank the Kiwanis Club.

Board appreciates help with Latino food festival

The Board also recognized 23 local businesses for helping with the Latino food festival (called Kermes) that took place on Nov. 1 at Addison Trail. More than 400 guests attended Kermes, which invited families to come together to share food, music, culture and good will. The event raised about \$3,700 that will go toward scholarships for students who are members of Addison Trail's Interact Club. Proceeds also will benefit District 88 students who will participate in a trip to Spain this spring. Students had to apply to participate in that trip and went through a rigorous selection process. Money raised from Kermes will help defray the costs of travel for the students.

The businesses and individuals that helped make Kermes a success are Addison Floral, Alma Villegas, Aracely's Bakery, Baker's Basket Inc., Carnicerias Jimenez, D's Flowers Gifts and More Inc., El Milagro Tortillas, Ernest Hernandez, Famous Dave's, IHOP, Judy Campbell (North-Coast Wellness Center), La Hacienda De Los Fernandez, La Placita Mexican Restaurant and La Huerta, La Riviera Maya Restaurante, Lazer X, Mamma Maria's Pizzeria & Ristorante, Michaels Driving School Inc., Mr. and



The District 88 Board of Education thanks Larry Bollmann (second from right), owner of Addison Floral, for his support of the Latino food festival (called Kermes) that took place on Nov. 1 at Addison Trail. The Board also recognized 22 other businesses that helped make Kermes a success. Pictured are (from left) Interact Club co-sponsors Jorge de Leon and Esther Delgado; Interact Club officers Jessica Garay, Mayra Sarabia, Deanna Rodriguez, and Edgar Flores; Bollmann and Dr. Scott Helton, District 88 Superintendent.



At its meeting on Nov. 17, the District 88 Board of Education thanked members of the Kiwanis Club of Villa Park for sponsoring Willowbrook's annual Spaghetti Dinner. Pictured are (from left) Kiwanians Jim Luebker, Erv Ziemer, Rae Rupp-Srch and Sandy Hill; Key Club officers Tyler Rusnak, Lauren Downer, Abby Pakeltis, Micala Giammarino and Gloria Johnson; Key Club Sponsor Megan Dericott and Superintendent Dr. Scott Helton.

Mrs. Cosio, Rotary Club of Addison, Safari Land, Shave Legends, U & Style and Whittingham Meats. Interact Club students also helped with the event, and officers of the club attended the Board meeting to thank the businesses for their support.

The businesses and the Kiwanis Club of Villa Park were recognized as District 88 Business Partners and were given a certificate as a thank you for their partnership with the district.

photos provided



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SALE
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WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
STYLES MAY VARY

POLICE REPORTS

Area Police Departments recently reported the following arrests and citations. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a conviction, and that subjects are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Juveniles age 17-or-younger are not named.

Addison Nov. 19

• Jose Diaz, 24, of Addison, was arrested in the 200 block of Michael Lane at around 8:19 p.m. Police said Diaz had a failure to appear warrant out of the DuPage County Sheriff's Department.

• Nashely Reyes, 25, of Addison, was arrested in the 1-100 block of Ruga Court at around 5:21 p.m. Police said Reyes had two failure to appear warrants out of the DuPage County Sheriff's Department.

• A 23-year-old Addison woman was arrested in the 400 block of Green Oaks Court at around 4:11 p.m. and charged with domestic battery.

Nov. 18

• Manar Albaroudi, 27, of Chicago, was arrested near Route 83 and North Avenue at around 4:33 p.m. and charged with possession of cannabis,

possession of drug paraphernalia, driving while his license was suspended, no insurance and expired registration.

• Edgar A. Avalos, 27, of Melrose Park, was arrested at Lake and First at around 12:19 a.m. and charged with possession of cannabis and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• Taylor R. Getting, 21, of Naperville, was arrested near Lake Street and I-355 at around 1:45 a.m. and charged with DUI, driving in the wrong lane, improper lane usage and speeding.

Nov. 17

• Marco A. Cardenas, 33, of Melrose Park, was arrested at Lake and Addison at around 12:48 p.m. Subsequent to a traffic stop, police said Cardenas had a failure to appear warrant out of the DuPage County Sheriff's Department. Cardenas also was charged with no valid driver's license, no insurance and no front license plate.

• Anthony J. Tanon, 29, of Round Lake, was arrested at around 9:44 a.m. Police said Tanon had an original warrant out of the Addison Police Department.

• Nicholas M. Villasenor, 26, of Addison, was arrested

at around 8:48 p.m. and charged with possession of cannabis.

Nov. 16

• Jacob J. Connell, 24, of Addison, was arrested in the 100 block of S. Villa at around 5:05 a.m. and charged with DUI, leaving the scene of an accident, failure to give aid or information and driving too fast for conditions.

• Jamie Lira, 50, of Addison, was arrested in the 200 block of E. Lake St. at around 2:05 a.m. and charged with DUI, aggravated resisting arrest, obstructing ID, unsafe equipment, no insurance, failure to notify the Secretary of State of an address change, not having a driver's license on person, improper lane usage and failure to signal.

• Jose Perez-Diaz, 20, of Addison, was arrested in the 1200 block of National Avenue at around 4:15 p.m. and charged with possession of cannabis.

Nov. 14

Jorge A. Andrade, 21, of Addison, was arrested at 3 Friendship Plaza at around 3:56 p.m. and charged with a warrant service. Police said Andrade had a warrant out of the Berkeley Police Department.

Nov. 13

Garcia M. Reed, 21, of Addison, was arrested at 3 Friendship Plaza at around 3:20 p.m. and charged with unlawful possession of another's credit card. Police said Reed was in possession of a victim's debit/credit card.

Villa Park Nov. 15

• Emmanuel Georgitsis, 19, of Lombard, was arrested in the 700 block of S. Cornell at around 6:52 a.m. and charged with criminal trespass to a residence and resisting/obstructing a police officer.

• Darryl Russell, 21, of Maywood, was arrested at a local hotel at around 8:08 p.m. and charged with unlawful possession of cannabis.

Nov. 14-Nov. 15

Theft was reported in the 400 block of E. North Ave. Between 5 p.m. Nov. 14 and 3 p.m. Nov. 15, an unknown offender removed a snowplow blade from a victim's truck.

Nov. 14

Megan Parker, 24, of Chicago; Cassie Shew, 20, of Chicago; and a female juvenile from Chicago were arrested at a local store at around 4:18 p.m. Each was charged with retail theft.

Nov. 13

Edward Wagner, 64, of Elmhurst, was arrested near Michigan and Woodrow at around 7:58 p.m. and charged with two counts of DUI, unlawful possession of cannabis, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, and stopping, standing or parking in a roadway where prohibited.

Nov. 12

• Luis Marquez, 22, of Addison, was arrested at Twin Lakes Park at around 11:03 p.m. and charged with unlawful possession of cannabis.

• A female juvenile from Villa Park was arrested at a local high school at around 9:27 a.m. and charged with criminal damage to property.

Nov. 11

• Jessica Delrio, 22, of Addison, was arrested at a local store at around 6:02 p.m. and charged with retail theft.

• Stanley Jones, 52, of Chicago, was arrested at a local store at around 9:39 p.m. and charged with retail theft.

• Theft was reported at a pharmacy in the 200 block of E. Roosevelt Road at around 3 p.m. Police said an unknown offender took a victim's purse

from a shopping cart in the parking lot.

• Theft was reported at a restaurant in the 1-100 block of W. Roosevelt Road. Between 11:55 a.m. and 12:55 p.m., police said an unknown offender ordered food and left without paying.

Nov. 10

• Roberto Ramirez, 30, of Villa Park, was arrested near Villa and Madison at around 3:07 a.m. and charged with aggravated DUI, illegal transportation of alcohol, unlawful use of a weapon, driving while his license was suspended, no insurance, improper parking on a roadway and no seatbelt.

• Burglary to a motor vehicle was reported in the 100 block of W. Roosevelt at around 10 a.m. Police said an unknown offender entered a victim's unlocked vehicle and took bagged lunches, a cell phone and a car title.

Nov. 9

Meghan Davidson, 18, of Elmhurst, was arrested at a local store at around 1:27 p.m. and charged with retail theft.

Nov. 8-Nov. 9

• Theft was reported in the 600 block of E. Washington. Between 11 p.m. Nov. 8 and 8 a.m. Nov. 9, police said an unknown offender took an inflatable turkey decoration and extension cord from the front yard of a victim's home. The decoration was located a block away in damaged condition.

• Theft was reported in the 400 block of W. Division. Between 11 p.m. Nov. 8 and 7 a.m. Nov. 9, police said an unknown offender removed three air conditioner units from plastic platforms from the exterior of apartments. The units were found behind a fence a few buildings away.

Nov. 8

Criminal damage to property was reported in the 100 block of W. Terrace at around 9:44 a.m. Police said an unknown offender damaged a door and frame at an apartment.

Nov. 7

A male juvenile from Villa Park was arrested in the 500 block of W. Division at around 8:11 a.m. and charged with no valid driver's license, driving a motor vehicle on a sidewalk, failure to give information to the owner after striking property, and failure by the driver to report an accident to police.



photo provided

Addison Trail Leos induct new members

On Nov. 14, Addison Trail Assistant Principal Courtney DeMent was sworn in as a member of the Addison Lions Club. Left: John Barsanti, Chairman of District 1J Zone 2, swore in DeMent as a new member of the Addison Lions Club. Right: DeMent (third from left) stands with (from left) Barsanti, Addison Lions Club President Tom Reed and Addison Lions Club Secretary/Treasurer Kathi Reed after becoming a new member of the club.



Submitted photo

Paradiso recognized as Employee of the Month

The Addison Historical Society is proud to recognize Jeanette Paradiso, curator of the Historical Museum. She received November Employee of the Month honors from Mayor Richard Veenstra at the Addison Historical Commissioners meeting, Nov. 3 at the Village Hall.

WBHS students attend COD's Career Day for manufacturing, tech, engineering

VILLA PARK — On Nov. 14, the Willowbrook Guidance Department took 20 students who are enrolled in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) course at the school to the Manufacturing and Engineering Technology Career Exploration Day at College of DuPage (COD).

During the trip, students had the opportunity to listen to local employers discuss their manufacturing, engineering and technology careers. Students also attended a presentation about the various career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and the need for more people to pursue those fields. Students also learned about COD's certificate and degree programs in manufacturing, welding and technology and saw a demonstration of the work that occurs in those courses.

The trip ended with a visit to FONA International, a local manufacturing company, where students were able to see the careers they had learned about in action.

AT Social Studies to offer WWII trip to Europe

Tour of France, Belgium, Germany set for spring 2016

ADDISON — During spring break of 2016, Addison Trail students currently in grades nine through 11 are invited to participate in a trip to Europe. The educational tour will consist of visits to World War II sites in France, Belgium and

Germany.

Students must apply and be selected to join the trip, and the selection process involves:

Students must pay the cost of the trip.

Students must have a 3.5 cumulative GPA.

Students must have a teacher recommendation.

Students must complete an essay and an interview.

Students cannot have any

behavioral issues from the Deans Office.

Informational meetings for students will take place on December 10. There will be a meeting at 7:15 a.m. in room 349, during resource period in room 208; and, at 3 p.m. in room 349. For more information, contact Social Studies Department Chair Brendan Lyons at 630-458-4380 or blyons@dupage88.net.

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OBITUARY

Olga M. Herman, 93

Olga M. Herman, nee Komel, of Villa Park, passed away in Lombard on November 14, 2014, at the age of 93. Beloved wife of the late Hugh P. Herman, Jr., loving mother of Diane (Raymond) Maida, Carol (David) Paul and Hugh P. Herman III (Ellen) Herman, dearest grandmother of Juliann (Ian) Mutch, Aaron (Allison) Maida, Christopher (Maureen) Maida, Matthew and Benjamin Brown, Ryan Herman, Brandon (Maurine) Herman, Kristin Herman and the late Mark Maida, great grandmother of 5, dear sister of Paul (Joanne) Komel, fond aunt of many. Funeral Mass was held on Monday, November 17, 2014, at St. Alexander Church 300 S. Cornell, Villa Park. Interment Queen of Heaven. In lieu of flowers memorials to Wounded Warrior Project at woundedwarriorproject.org Arrangements provided by Steuerle Funeral Home. Call (630) 832-4161 or visit steuerlefh.com for more information.



Above: The Villa Park Lions presented a \$500 donation to the York Township Food Pantry. Pictured are (from left) Lion Rich Hamlin, Food Pantry Manager Pam Sarno, York Township Supervisor John W. Valle and Lion President Tom Cantlin. The disbursements were given at the Lions Club meeting held on November 13.

Right: Sue Linden of the Salvation Army in Oakbrook Terrace accepts a \$400 donation from Lion Tom Cantlin, the current president of the Villa Park Lions Club. It was just one of the club's many fall donations.

Villa Park Lions make annual fall donations

VILLA PARK — On Thursday, November 13, the Villa Park Lions Club made their fall donations. The Club presented the Lombard-Villa Park Food Pantry with \$500; the York Township Food Pantry also with \$500; the Salvation Army with \$400; and the Villa Park VFW Post 2801 also with \$400.



Willowbrook names November recipient of 88's Best recognition

VILLA PARK — Tyler Rusnak has been named as Willowbrook's November recipient of 88's Best recognition for his academic achievements. A senior, Tyler was recognized during the Nov. 17 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

As a student, Tyler consistently pursues the most demanding courses available at Willowbrook. When he graduates, Tyler will have completed 10 Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses, as well as a long list of honors courses. He has maintained a class ranking within the 99th percentile and earned a perfect score on his ACT.

Tyler has been inducted into the National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society, the World Language Honor Society, the social studies honor society (Civitas) and has received numerous academic acknowledgements throughout his career at Willowbrook. Outside of the classroom, Tyler is involved in numerous curricular and extracurricular activities. He is a member of Gay-Straight Alliance, Math Team, Key Club, Science Olympiad, DECA and Econ Challenge.

"Rusnak is an absolutely superb student," said Anna Lu, Willowbrook math teacher. "I feel blessed to have had him in my class. He is so thorough and pays such attention to detail. He is conscientious, respectful and super kind/warm. Oh yeah ... he's wicked smart, too! There is no doubt in my mind Rusnak will do great things in this world. I

expect in 10 to 20 years, I will read about him inventing something that will change lives. Whatever he chooses to do, this young man is bound for greatness!"

Willowbrook science teacher John Fouser agreed.

"Tyler is a student with a passion for learning and a healthy curiosity," he said. "He throws himself into the learning and absorbs so much of what he is being taught. He brings an enthusiasm to the classroom that can be inspiring to others."

Willowbrook English teacher Terri Woebel said Rusnak's caring personality is what makes him stand out.

"Rusnak is one of the most talented and thoughtful writers I have had the privilege to teach," Woebel said. "I always looked forward to reading his work, because I knew it would be stylistically creative with insightful connections. I was able to use his work as models for others. He is simply an incredibly positive presence and role model for those around him. Rusnak's résumé truly speaks for itself; however, I cannot stress enough that his exceptional character and humble demeanor are what make Rusnak one of the top students of my career. Rusnak's simple, kind acts are what make him outstanding, in addition to his incredible intelligence."

Tyler plans to study botany at University of Wisconsin-Madison, Carleton College or The University of Chicago.



Pictured is Willowbrook senior Tyler Rusnak (left), who has been named as Willowbrook's November recipient of 88's Best recognition. With him is Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause.

Addison Trail Lettermen Club hosts Run-a-Thon



Funds support scholarship program, community outreach

ADDISON — On Nov. 18, 18 members of Addison Trail's Lettermen Club participated in a Run-a-Thon to raise money for the Lettermen Club Scholarship Fund and to help Addison Trail families in need.

Club members ran as many laps as they could in Addison Trail's field house, and the event

raised about \$400. Members also were encouraged to invite a staff member to join the run, and several staff members participated in the event as well.

Lettermen Club is a coed club for varsity athletes. The club is in charge of several events during the school year, including Senior Takeover Day and Lettermen Club Week, and also awards a scholarship. For more information about Lettermen Club, contact Becky Cibulka at 630-458-4379 or rcibulka@dupage88.net or Hannah Sutton at 630-458-4352 or hsutton@dupage88.net.

All photos provided
Addison Trail Principal Adam Cibulka walks with his son Tyler at the Run-a-Thon held by Addison Trail's Lettermen Club. Funds raised at the November 18 event will be put toward the Club's scholarship program.



Pictured are the officers of Addison Trail's Lettermen Club at the Club's Run-a-Thon on November 18. They are (back row, from left) senior Gabriella Morrone, senior Eric Gilliam, (front row, from left) sophomore Annalise Morrone and senior Joanna Villalobos.

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Police Department announces next S.A.L.T. meeting

VILLA PARK — The Villa Park Police Department is pleased to announce that the next scheduled quarterly meeting for S.A.L.T. (Seniors And Law Enforcement Together) will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, at the Wildwood Community Center located at 320 East Wildwood Ave.

Residents and guests are invited to arrive at 10:30 a.m. to gather and enjoy some coffee, pastries, and fellowship prior to the presentation.

Police Chief Robert Pavelchik and officer Jeffrey Runge have announced that officers Jose Pagan and James Svara of the Villa Park Police Department will be presenting.

The Villa Park Senior Concerns Commission (Hosanna Korynecky, Irene Shaffer, and Bob Allan) will again be sponsoring a lunch for all of our guests immediately following the presentation.



WB sophomores visit colleges

Willowbrook sophomores, pictured here at Northwestern University on November 17, recently had a chance to visit several colleges including DePaul University, Lewis University, Lake Forest College as well as Northwestern. It is the guidance department's goal to provide students with college campus experience firsthand.

VILLA PARK COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, Dec. 4

Pictures with Santa

The Alpha Tau Omega fraternity of Elmhurst College is hosting pictures with Santa from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and from 2-5 p.m. in the Frick Center on Elmhurst College Campus. Info: contact Jack Smithy by email at: jack.smithy@net.elmhurst.edu

Friday, Dec. 5

Hospital Foundation Reindeer Route Housewalk

The Elmhurst Memorial Hospital Foundation will host the annual Reindeer Route Housewalk throughout several homes in Elmhurst. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and again from 6-9 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Marilyn Graber Teen Scholarship program. Tickets: \$30 in advance, or \$35 on the day of the event. For tickets and info: emhfoundation.org/foundation/events.cfm or call 331-221-0388.

Hospital Open House for "Love Lights"

From 4:30-6 p.m., Elmhurst Memorial Hospital Foundation will host an open house to celebrate the Love Lights program in the Hospital's East Lobby. The trees aligning the Central Garden will be lit at 5 p.m. All are invited to sponsor a Love Light to honor someone like a caregiver, colleague, volunteer, physician or special person for a \$20 donation; for \$30, a commemorative Love Lights ornament will be included. Come join your friends and neighbors for refreshments and carolers.

Saturday, Dec. 6

Joyful Traditions Family Festival

The Villa Park Chamber of Commerce's annual Family Festival, which features a Christmas tree lighting with Santa Claus, will take place from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Ruggard Gazebo, Park and Ardmore Avenue. Sponsorships are

available for as little as \$35. The festival is free, but financial donations are needed. Info: 630-366-6440 or visit vil-laparkchamber.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 10

S.A.L.T. meeting

The Villa Park Police Department will hold the next scheduled quarterly meeting for S.A.L.T. (Seniors And Law Enforcement Together) at 11 a.m. at the Wildwood Community Center located at 320 East Wildwood Ave. Residents and guests are invited to arrive at 10:30 a.m. to gather and enjoy some coffee, pastries, and fellowship prior to the presentation.

Friday, Dec. 12

VFW Fish Fry features Flash Baxter band

During its regular Friday Fish Fry, the Villa Park VFW, 39 E. St. Charles Rd., will feature the band Flash Baxter, playing classic rock from the 60s, 70s and 80s from 7-10 p.m. No cover charge; Fish Fry is \$11 per person. Info: 630-834-8191.

Saturday, Dec. 13

Agape Ringers' handbell ensemble to perform

The Agape Ringers, Chicago's premiere handbell ensemble, will present Sounds of the Season at 4 p.m. at Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church, 49 W Brush Hill Road. Tickets: Tickets \$25 at the door; patron seating is \$35. Discounted general admission tickets are available until Dec. 1. Ticket info: contact Linda Lunt at 630-834-3859.

Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 13-14

Catholic youth to perform "Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

Saint Genesius Productions youth theater group will present The Best Christmas Pageant Ever at Montini High School, performed by students from local Catholic grade schools including

St. Pius X, Sacred Heart, St. Alexander, St. Joseph, Kingswood Academy and Seton Academy. Show times are Saturday, Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 and all seating is general admission. Tickets may be ordered online at SaintGenesiusProductions.com

Sunday, Dec. 14

Handel's Messiah

Elmhurst Choral Union and Orchestra performs the Christmas classic, Handel's Messiah at 3 p.m. in Hammer-schmidt Chapel on the campus of Elmhurst College. Tickets: \$25 for adults, \$23 for seniors and \$10 for youth (ages 7-22). To order tickets, visit elmhurst-choralunion.org or call 800-838-3006. Complimentary shuttle bus service from the college parking lot on Alexander Boulevard will be available.

Ongoing events...

Library offering technology training

Needs to update your skills on various computer programs or develop your technical skills and learn new ones online? The Villa Park Public Library's new resource, Atomic Training, will give you the information you need to increase your proficiency or to learn new skills. Atomic Training provides libraries across the country with a comprehensive online database of how-to training tutorials. Info: go online to the library's website, vppl.info, or call 630-834-1164, Ext. 5.

Widows or Widowers (W.O.W.) meet each month

Widows or Widowers (W.O.W.) of the Western Suburbs meets on the third Thursday of each month and offers a variety of social activities. The meetings are held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 537 S. York Road, Elmhurst, starting at 6:30 p.m. Admission: \$5.

Info: (630) 620-4060 or wow.cfsites.org.

Electronic items disposal

From 9 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday of every month, the village of Villa Park has coordinated with Roy Strom, the village's waste hauler, to offer E-Waste "the right way" — a convenient, cost free drop-off electronic disposal solution. The drop-off site has been relocated to the Village Hall parking lot, located at 20 S. Ardmore Ave. Info: call (630) 592-6052.

Villa Park Men's

Garden Club meetings

On the fourth Tuesday of every month, the Men's Garden Club of Villa Park has monthly meetings at 7:30 p.m. at the Villa Park Recreation Center, 320 E. Wildwood.

Your Place for Seniors

Area seniors are invited to "Your Place" at the Community Rec Building, 320 E. Wildwood, to play Pinochle, bridge, canasta, a board game or whatever game is being played. Hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; and Tuesdays from 1-2:30 p.m. (NOTE: "Your Place" does not meet on the second Thursday of the month.) Info: (630) 834-8525.

VPRD's Reader's Theater Group

Would you like to perform without having to memorize scripts or lyrics? Join the Readers' Theatre Group each Monday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Community Rec Building, 320 E. Wildwood. Free; no registration needed. Info: Jenny Casale at (630) 834-8525.

VFW Bingo

The Villa Park VFW hosts Bingo every Tuesday from 5:30-10 p.m.

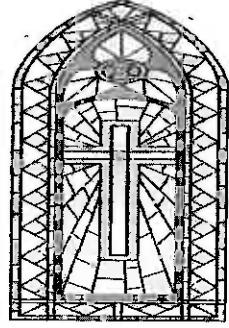
Clubs and organizations are welcome to send entries for this column to: Quest-Publishing@aol.com. Please include a phone number or e-mail address to contact for information.



photo provided

The gang's ALL here!


Pictured at left are all the participants of the 2nd annual Run-a-Thon hosted by the Addison Trail Letterman Club. Funds raised are used for scholarships as well as to help families in need in the community.




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SPORTS

NOVEMBER 27, 2014 • 18

Addison Trail boys basketball team looking to make more progress

Coach Lyons impressed with senior leadership

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail boys basketball team made key strides forward last season.

The Blazers won 11 games and more importantly tied for third in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division with a 6-6 record. Addison Trail played three sectional finalist teams last year (Morton, Geneva and Maine South) and five regional champions (Morton, Geneva, Maine South, King and Proviso East).

Eighth-year coach Brendan Lyons welcomes back a number of contributors last season, plus newcomers from a sophomore team that posted an 18-6 mark.

Senior Taylor White (6-3, small forward) is back for his third varsity season. He averaged 10 points per game last year. Senior Matt Gontarek (6-2, shooting guard) started 22 games last year.

"We're going to mix a four-guard offense with some bigger lineups," said Lyons. "We have some decent size across the board. Taylor and Matt will see the floor a lot."

Seniors Dante Frazier (6-4, small forward), Jinu Matthew (5-11, shooting guard) and foot-

ball standout Jaavion Bradley (6-4, point guard) also will help, as will juniors Eric Grygo (6-5, power forward), Zach Novak (6-4, small forward), Nick Conrad (5-10, point guard), Ryan Zygowicz (6-2, shooting guard) and sophomore Jack Kalbas (5-10, shooting guard). Seniors Tyler White (6-2, shooting guard) and Joe Nasti round out the list of newcomers—both were on the junior varsity team last year.

Frazier also played junior varsity last year and had a strong offseason, according to Lyons. Matthew also has made good progress since last year, while Bradley did not play basketball last year. Grygo gives the team another solid post presence, while Novak is another player Lyons has been pleased with in terms of offseason advancements.

"Zach Novak is someone who has made as much progress as anybody during the offseason," said Lyons.

Lyons feels Conrad will provide a steady presence, while Zygowicz led the sophomore team in scoring and also finished up as the football team's quarterback in the state playoffs this fall.

"Early in the year we're going to play 10 or 11 guys and find what rotations work for us," said Lyons. "We feel we have better height across the board

this year and this is as deep of a team as we've had. It's a very coachable group. They are good teammates to each other—there's not a lot of ego around here. It's a smart group. During the preseason they were able to take on a lot. Energy isn't a problem. They motivate each other. It's a been a very positive feeling the first few weeks. There is a definite competitiveness and drive with this group. It's a different feeling with these guys."

Lyons would like to see the team again be a presence in the WSC Gold.

"I'd like us to compete in the conference. We tied for third last year," he said. "We play hard and I think we can out-smart people with our play. We are able to do multiple things. This group will handle a lot. We have a good blend of players here. We have guys who can shoot and guys who are versatile. We have some guys capable

of catching fire. We have multiple weapons."

Lyons said the team will continue to use a combination of man-to-man and zone approaches on defense. "We have a little more size this season at every position," he said.

Lyons is anxious to get into actual game situations with this group.

"The first two weeks of practice, I like the balance we have," he said. "We need to see the bigger picture now. We have guys who are capable. We don't have that one guy who can score 18 or 19 points a game, but we have kids who can get into double digits on any given night."

Lyons said the WSC Gold will be loaded with talented teams and players. "It's the usual suspects," he said. "Morton and Proviso East are good and other teams such as Hinsdale South and Willowbrook will be improved. Night in and night out it will be tough. You

could find yourself below .500 in the league because of what we're faced with. We know we can compete, but we know we have to be at our best every night."

Addison Trail opened play in the Elmwood Park tournament earlier this week.

The Blazers also will host a pre-holiday tournament for a second year in a row before heading to Centralia's holiday tournament.

"Our success will depend on the leadership of our seniors, which has been great in the off-season to date and how quickly many juniors can make the adjustment to the varsity level," said Lyons. "The sophomore group went 18-6 last season and provides much-needed size and skill to this year's team. As a whole, they are an intelligent and hard-working group, but will need to adjust quickly to the speed of the varsity game in our conference."

Willowbrook boys basketball team poised for improvement

Warriors rich at guard position; Rushing, Roycroft key inside presences

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

a lot of running involved. They like the concept and are excited to get better."

In addition to improvement on the defensive end via the up-tempo pressure style, Perkins also cites the team's outside shooting as a strength.

"We have a couple of guys that can knock down the three-ball," he said.

Roycroft and Rushing also give Willowbrook a strong inside presence.

"Those are two returning starters and two of our biggest post presences," said Perkins. "Chris is 6-6 and Kyle is 6-5. Kyle is coming off a good football season as well."

Perkins said early on a key will be getting everybody used to the varsity pace.

"We have a lot of depth, but we don't have a lot of kids who have played real varsity games," said Perkins. "When we get that experience under our belts, that will help us a lot."

Perkins said teams such as Proviso East, Morton and Downers Grove South will be squads to watch in the WSC Gold.

"It's going to be the usual three-headed monster," he said. "Hinsdale South also has a 6-10 kid. I see definite improvement this year for our group."

Willowbrook started play in the Stag tournament earlier this week. The Warriors face host Stag at 2:30 p.m. Friday and then play St. Laurence at 1 p.m. Saturday. The Warriors head to Glenbard West for Christmas play and will be part of a Martin Luther King Shootout in January at Sterling High School where they will play a total of four games over a two-day span.

Willowbrook girls basketball team opens season

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook girls basketball team opened the season hosting its own tournament.

The Warriors started the season with a 55-48 win over East Aurora. Willowbrook trailed 8-7 after the first quarter, but used a 22-11 second quarter to pull away. East Aurora outscored Willowbrook 19-10 in the third quarter to close the gap, but the Warriors came right back and outscored East Aurora 16-10 in the fourth quarter.

Kelsee McGowan and Josie Zabrán each had 12 points for the Warriors. McGowan shot 6 of 8 from the free-throw line.

Sam Schmidt added nine points, while Alyssa Spada and Alyssa Rensing each had six points. Michala Giammarino had five points. Zabrán pulled in five

rebounds.

The Warriors then dropped a 56-49 decision to St. Joe's. Willowbrook led 18-7 after the first quarter and 27-18 at halftime. St. Joe's outscored Willowbrook 17-13 in the third quarter and 21-9 in the fourth quarter.

Zabrán had 21 points for the Warriors. She shot 8-for-11 from the free-throw line. Schmidt added 13 points. McGowan added seven points and Rensing had six points. Schmidt pulled in 12 rebounds. Giammarino had five assists.

In a 61-39 loss to St. Francis, Willowbrook trailed 15-7 after the first quarter and 31-19 at halftime.

Zabrán had 11 points, McGowan added nine points, while Spada had eight points. Rensing had eight rebounds and Destiny Williams had two assists.

There's nothing wrong with a little flexibility. And that's music to Willowbrook boys basketball coach Chris Perkins' ears.

"We have good depth at the guard position this year," he said. "That gives us a lot of flexibility. It gives us the opportunity to do things differently defensively that we weren't able to do in the past. That's very exciting."

Willowbrook returns six players from last year's team that went 2-25 overall and 0-12 in West Suburban Conference Gold Division play.

Back are seniors Kyle Rushing (forward), Chris Roycroft (center), Andrew Kanelos (forward), Jake Bruns (guard) and Micah Williams (guard), as well as junior Carlos Meyers (guard).

Newcomers to the group include the likes of juniors Kevin Miller, Brandon Jones and Billy Degnan, along with sophomore Alonzo Verge Jr.

"This is completely different for us because of the guard depth," said Perkins. "We have the ability to play different defenses and it allows us to utilize all the guards and get after it. We'll be more up-tempo this year. Last year we tried to slow down our play in the half court. This year we are going to get it and go. The kids are excited about it. Unfortunately they don't like the practices that get us prepared for it. There's

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VOLUME 11, NUMBER 43

PUBLISHED BY ROCK VALLEY PUBLISHING LLC

November 27, 2014

Police warn of ruse residential burglaries

Suspects claim to work for water department, Nicor

By Dee Longfellow
For The Independent

BENSENVILLE — According to a release issued by Detective Sergeant Dan McCann of the Villa Park Police Department, last week numerous ruse residential burglaries occurred in nearby communities involving a group of male subjects posing as water department and Nicor employees. The subjects knock on the door and request entry into the residence to check the water pipes or gas lines. Once inside the residence, the homeowner is distracted and property is stolen.

On Tuesday, November 18, 2014, at approximately 10:30

a.m., Villa Park Police received a suspicious person call on the 100 block of East Van Buren Street. A male subject reportedly knocked on the door, posing as a water department employee and advised the home owner that he needed to check the water meter inside the residence. The homeowner did not allow the subject into the house. The male subject had left the area by the time police were notified. It was confirmed that the subject was not from the water department.

On Friday, November 14, 2014, a similar incident occurred during the day on the 1000 block of South Cornell Street. The subject was described as male/white, mid 30's, tall wearing a brown hoodie and cream-colored hat.

Residents are asked not to hesitate and to report any suspicious activity in your neighborhood by calling 9-1-1.

Forest Preserve District approves 2015 tax levy

WHEATON — The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County approved the agency's \$54 million 2014 tax levy, which represents a slight decrease over the prior year and will support the 2015-16 fiscal year budget, at its Commission meeting last week.

The levy translates to approximately \$155 in property taxes for the owner of a \$300,000

DuPage County home. For every dollar spent in property taxes by DuPage County residents, about two cents supports the District.

The agency maintains a balanced general fund that matches operating expenses with current-period revenues. Operations are funded primarily by property taxes.



English teacher Paul Anderson wears a ballerina's tutu, as he walks the track at Addison Trail's Lettermen Club Run-a-Thon held on November 18. Anderson said he would wear the tutu in a bet with student Anne Jankowski, who said she would raise at least \$100 for the event. Needless to say, the Addison Trail sophomore successfully won the bet! Story and more photos inside this issue.

courtesy photo

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***ORIGIN MIXED ADC 601
042085-04/24/2015 C011
DISTRICT 88
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District 4 announces changes in administration

Donoso-Kelly named assistant principal at Indian Trail

ADDISON — At its regular meeting on November 19, the Addison School District 4 Board of Education approved the administrative contract for Karla Donoso-Kelly as the new Assistant Principal for Indian Trail Junior High School, effective January 20, 2015. Donoso-Kelly has served as a bilingual teacher in District 4 since 2001, teaching at Ardmore School, Army Trail School, and, currently, Indian Trail Junior High. She holds Master's degrees in Arts & Teaching, Reading, and Educational Leadership.



KARLA DONOSO-KELLY



ERIN ALEXANDER



KIM LOHSE



KRISTINA ARDIZZONE

A number of other administrative changes have been made to prepare for three major educational initiatives scheduled to be in place for the 2015-16 school year—the opening of the Addison Early Learning Center, the reopening of Ardmore School as a kindergarten through 5th grade building, and the implementation of full-day kindergarten in all of the district's seven elementary schools.

Erin Alexander, the current Ardmore principal, has been named the principal for the Early Learning Center; Kim Lohse, current Stone School principal, will be the new principal for Ardmore Elementary School; and Cristina Ardizzone, who is currently an assistant principal at Indian Trail Junior High, will be the new principal for Stone School. Karla Donoso-Kelly will be filling the vacancy created by Ardizzone's reassignment to Stone.

"I am excited about this new opportunity," said Donoso-Kelly. "I am extremely grateful for the mentoring I have received from administrators and colleagues over my years in District 4 and I'm looking forward to taking on this new leadership opportunity."



photo provided

AT 'Torch' staff visits Chicago Tribune

Addison Trail students from the school's newspaper, The Torch, recently toured the Chicago Tribune. Pictured are (back row, from left): Torch sponsor Steve Bruns, senior Daniella Gonzalez, senior Dakota Rosch, senior Ariana Stateczny, junior Dinorah Cantu, junior Fabian Ortiz, junior Curtis Fulmer, junior Courtney Cechini; (front row, from left): junior Isabel Carrillo, sophomore Jesus Arzeta, junior Giana Ricci and sophomore James Krause Jr. The students were able to speak with reporters and observe editors. After the tour, they enjoyed a meal at — where else? — the Billy Goat Tavern!

Addison Trail names November recipient of 88's Best recognition

ADDISON — Michal Silezin has been named as Addison Trail's November recipient of 88's Best recognition for his academic achievements. A senior, Michal was recognized during the Nov. 17 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

When he graduates, Michal will have taken 12 honors courses and 13 Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses.

"In AP European History, Silezin was a tenacious learner, demonstrating he possesses a tremendous work ethic and boundless intellectual curiosity," said Laura Magnavite, Addison Trail social studies teacher. "When I think of him, I think of a maturity that belies his years."

Michal also has been successful outside of the classroom. He does not join a club or sport just to join — he has to have a high level of interest and passion in everything he does. During his four years at Addison Trail, he has been a member of the Soccer Team, Volleyball Team, Orchestra, Science Olympiad (in which he placed second in one of his events at the State tournament), Math Team, Psychology Club, Key Club, Interact Club, National Honor Society and Tri-M Honor Society.

"Silezin is a hardworking student on the field and in the classroom," said Ryan Dini, Addison Trail physical education teacher and Boys Soccer Head Coach. "He was named All-Academic All-Conference this year for soccer. It has been a pleasure coaching Silezin, and I cannot wait to hear what he will accomplish in the next chapter of his life!"

Aileen Sullivan, Addison Trail science teacher and Science Olympiad co-sponsor, agreed.

"Silezin is very soft spoken, but that shouldn't underestimate his inquisitiveness," she said. "As a student, he always strives to do his best. I have really enjoyed working with him on Science Olympiad. I have witnessed firsthand his studious, hardworking and competitive nature. He constantly challenges himself to try new things and to succeed."

Addison Trail Orchestra Director Dan O'Connell said Michal's commitment to hard work is what makes him stand out.

"Silezin has been one of 88's Best since the day he set foot in Addison Trail," O'Connell said. "He has maintained a consistent effort and high-quality work ethic, as well as the desire to excel. In orchestra, he has served in a leadership position of either first or second chair and Concertmaster of Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Strings."

Michal said he has a passion for continuing his education.

"I've learned I can never stop working — there is always new stuff to be learned," he said. "And I can always increase my knowledge or skill in certain areas."

In college, Michal plans to study engineering. Aerospace engineering appeals to him, but he plans to take multiple engineering courses to determine which field suits him best. He has applied to Massachusetts Institute of Technology; California Institute of Technology; University of California, Berkeley; Stanford University and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



photo provided

Pictured is Addison Trail senior Michal Silezin with Addison Trail Principal Adam Cibulka. Michal has been named as Addison Trail's November recipient of 88's Best recognition.

Addison Trail hosts Madrigal Dinner

Evening includes Renaissance-style feast, music, performances

ADDISON — On Nov. 20, the stage at Addison Trail was transformed into a Renaissance-style feast, as the school presented a Madrigal Dinner.

The event featured 10 songs performed a cappella by 22 Concert Choir singers and a brass quartet. Participants also enjoyed theatrical skits, and students were dressed in costumes to portray the time period. About 150 people attended the event, and about \$500 was raised to benefit the Addison Trail Choir.

Choir Director Jeff Nellessen said this was the first time in more than 10 years the school has hosted a Madrigal Dinner, and he plans to make it an annual tradition.

"It's great to see traditions coming back," he said. "I have heard nothing but excitement from staff and community members that we are doing the Madrigal Dinner again, and hopefully it is something we will continue for a while."



all photos provided
Addison Trail junior Melissa Lechuga DelaCruz (left) and sophomore Greta Qano sing during the Madrigal Dinner, hosted for the first time in more than 10 years.



A group of Addison Trail students performed theatrical skits during the school's Madrigal Dinner on Nov. 20. Those students are sophomore Sevina Topalska, junior Kelsy Bauers, senior Alyssa Lombardo, senior Carl Bergren and senior Michael Amadeo. It made for a lively, entertaining evening.



Pictured are the Addison Trail students who entertained the audience of the Madrigal Dinner, including (from left): sophomore Maxwell Dziabis, senior Michael Ruizol, junior Cinthia Rodriguez, junior Ellyanne Eaves, junior Cab Callaway and senior Levi Gamble. It was the first time Addison Trail has held a Madrigal Dinner in more than 10 years.



Pictured are three performers who provided some of the musical entertainment at the Madrigal Dinner held at Addison Trail on Nov. 20. Pictured are (from left) junior Lia Caruso, junior Jacob Bartkiewicz and sophomore Treyor Yurek.

AT's Leos named Club of the Year

New member inducted, several honors bestowed

ADDISON — On Nov. 14, Addison Trail's Leo Club was honored with several awards and recognitions.

Leo Club offers students opportunities to expand on their leadership and teamwork skills and is comprised of members from the School Association for Special Education in DuPage County (SASED) vision program. The club, which is affiliated with the Addison Lions Club, allows students with visual impairments to understand the impact they can make on the world and gives them the confidence to succeed outside of Addison Trail.

On Nov. 14, the club was named as "Leo Club of the Year" for District 1J Zone 2, which consists of 12 clubs. Members received that honor for hosting events such as visual impairment day, diabetes awareness events, a goalball tournament, a craft fair with items made by students and a children's book drive for students at Fullerton Elementary School.

"Because of your outstanding work this year, you've been chosen as our club of the year," said John Barsanti, Chairman of District 1J Zone 2.

Leo Club President Aziz Zeidieh (a junior) accepted a \$500 check from Barsanti to benefit the club. Club sponsors Liz Jacobson and Deb Zufan were presented with Outstanding Supervisor awards. Also during the recognition ceremony, Addison Trail Assistant Principal Courtney DeMent was sworn in as a new member of the Addison Lions Club.



Pictured are members and sponsors of Addison Trail's Leo Club. On Nov. 14, the club was honored with several awards and recognitions, including being named as "Leo Club of the Year" for District 1J Zone 2. The group is pictured with Addison Lions Club President Tom Reed (left) and Addison Lions Club Secretary/Treasurer Kathi Reed (right). photo provided

ADDISON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, Nov. 27

Addison Park District Turkey Trot

The annual Addison Park District Turkey Trot will take place at the Addison Community Park, 120 E. Oak St. (north of Lake Street). The kids' 1/2-mile Drumstick Dash starts at 8:45 a.m. and the Turkey Trot—a 1- to 3-mile walk or 1- to 5-mile run—begins at 9:10 a.m. Fees: individual \$15, couple \$25, family of three \$33, family of four \$40, family of five \$45 and family of six \$48. Info: 630-233-7275.

Thursday, Dec. 4

Pictures with Santa

The Alpha Tau Omega fraternity of Elmhurst College is hosting pictures with Santa from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and from 2-5 p.m. in the Frick Center on Elmhurst College Campus. Info: contact Jack Smithy by email at: jack.smithy@net.elmhurst.edu

Friday, Dec. 5

Hospital Foundation Reindeer Route Housewalk

The Elmhurst Memorial Hospital Foundation will host the annual Reindeer Route Housewalk throughout several homes in Elmhurst. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and again from 6-9 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Marilyn Graber Teen Scholarship program. Tickets: \$30 in advance, or \$35 on the day of the event. For tickets and info: emhfoundation.org/foundation/events.cfm or call 331-221-0388.

Hospital Open House for "Love Lights"

From 4:30-6 p.m., Elmhurst Memorial Hospital Foundation will host an open house to celebrate the Love Lights program in the Hospital's East Lobby.

The trees aligning the Central Garden will be lit at 5 p.m. All are invited to sponsor a Love Light to honor someone like: a caregiver, colleague, volunteer, physician or special person for a \$20 donation; for \$30, a commemorative Love Lights ornament will be included. Come join your friends and neighbors for refreshments and carolers.

Saturday, Dec. 6

Historical Museum presents "Why Gone With The Wind Still Matters"

At 7 p.m., Leslie Goddard, known for her lectures on historical topics and history portrayals, will present a free program, "Why Gone With The Wind Still Matters," sponsored by the Addison Historical Society. It will take place at the Addison V.F.W., 446 W. Lake St.

Refreshments served. To register, please call or e-mail by Nov. 25 to 630-628-1433 or museum@addison-il.org.

Saturday, Dec. 13

Agape Ringers' handbell ensemble to perform

The Agape Ringers, Chicago's premiere handbell ensemble, will present Sounds of the Season at 4 p.m. at Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church, 49 W. Brush Hill Road. Tickets: Tickets \$25 at the door; patron seating is \$35. Discounted general admission tickets are available until Dec. 1. Ticket info: contact Linda Lunt at 630-834-3859.

Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 13-14

Catholic youth to perform "Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

Saint Genesius Productions youth theater group will present The Best Christmas Pageant Ever at Montini High School, performed by students from local Catholic grade schools including

St. Pius X, Sacred Heart, St. Alexander, St. Joseph, Kingswood Academy and Seton Academy. Show times are 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14.

Tickets are \$5 and all seating is general admission. Tickets may be ordered online at SaintGenesiusProductions.com

Sunday, Dec. 14

Handel's Messiah

Elmhurst Choral Union and Orchestra performs the Christmas classic, Handel's Messiah at 3 p.m. in Hammer-schmidt Chapel on the campus of Elmhurst College. Tickets: \$25 for adults, \$23 for seniors and \$10 for youth (ages 7-22). To order tickets, visit elmhurst-choralunion.org or call 800-838-3006. Complimentary shuttle bus service from the college parking lot on Alexander Boulevard will be available.

Ongoing events...

David Becker's "From Chicago To Venice"

Now through Dec. 13, the Addison Center for the Arts presents "From Chicago To Venice," an exhibition by David R. Becker, at the ACA Gallery at 213 No. Lombard Road inside Addison Trail High School. Enter door #4 on the north side. Partly funded by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency. Info: 630-458-4500 or addisoncenter-forthearts.com

Addison Park District open gym

The Park District will be having an open gym for all ages from 3-5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and from 6-10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays at the Centennial Rec Center gymnasium. Fees: \$2.50 for children in eighth grade

and younger on regular days, or \$4 for extended days and weekends; \$3 for ages high school and older on regular days, or \$5 on extended days and weekends. Info: go to addisonparks.org or call 630-233-7275.

Widows or Widowers (W.O.W.) meet each month

Widows or Widowers (W.O.W.) of the Western Suburbs will meet on the third Thursday of each month and has a variety of social activities. The meetings are held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 537 S. York Road, Elmhurst, starting at 6:30 p.m. Admission: \$5. Info: (630) 620-4060 or wow.cfsites.org.

Active Adults Senior Club

Adults, ages 55 or better, are invited to Park District's Active Adults Senior Club on Tuesdays from noon-2 p.m. 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, option #2.

Holiday lights recycling

The Addison Park District has teamed up with Elgin Recycling to keep your holiday lights out of area landfills. The holiday lights recycling program will run from Friday, Nov. 21, until Monday, Jan. 18, with drop off locations at all Park District facilities. Residents can bring in non-working holiday lights such as: mini-lights (or Italian lights), C7 lights, C9 lights, rope lights, LED lights and extension cords.

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.

Suburban Life Scholars

Willowbrook High School (Villa Park)

Abby Pakeltis

Academic Achievements: Abby consistently carries a strenuous course load at Willowbrook High School. She is currently enrolled in six AP courses and has previously completed six other AP courses and ten honors level courses. Abby has been named to the Distinct Honor Roll each semester of her high school career, has maintained a class ranking within the ninety-ninth percentile and is an inductee of the National Honor Society (president), the National English Honor Society, World Language Honor Society, the Math Honor Society and the social studies honor society, Civitas.

School Activities: Abby continues to demonstrate a true passion for learning and her commitment to the Warrior community. Abby is a current member of the following clubs, activities, and teams: Science Olympiad, Math Team, Scholastic Bowl, Key Club (president), and Student Council. Additionally, she is a very active member in both Blue Crew and New Beginnings.

Community Service: Abby dedicates herself to helping others by volunteering at Easter Seals, helping disabled children learn to ride bikes, leading the children's mass at church, and through activities with the Willowbrook Key Club.

Nominated by Scott Forcash, Counselor: "Tara Murphy, English teacher, relates, "Abby Pakeltis is one of the most conscientious students that I have taught... Learning, not the grade, is at the forefront of her efforts. She wants knowledge for the sake of enriching herself and for the sake of applying this to the future... Abby is also rare in the way that she approaches life. She is effervescent and giving. She treats everyone with kindness. And gives back to her community in all ways possible."

Liz Zwart, Math teacher, summarizes what our staff thinks about Abby when she exclaims, "Abby is a truly excited learner whose intellect takes her even beyond her own expectations. Abby demonstrates initiative and leadership in all that she does... Academically, Abby stands out as one of the top students in her graduating class. Her determination to immerse herself in the concepts being presented are stellar and her motivation to succeed helps her accomplish the goals she sets forth for herself... Her truly amazing personality and genuine care for others makes her the kind of student that every teacher hopes to have the opportunity to work with each school year."

Wheaton Academy

Alec Heidlauf



Academic Achievements: National Merit Semifinalist; National Honor Society; IHSA Scholastic Achievement Award; AP Scholar; Citizenship Award; High Honor Roll (9-12).

School Activities: Volleyball (9-12); Cross Country (10-11); Kantorei A Capella Ensemble (11-12); Project LEAD Local Service Team (12).

Community Service: Led re-construction of Garfield Farm for Eagle Scout Project.

Nominated by Dan Crabtree, College Counselor: "With a flawless 3.98 GPA and very high test scores, Alec Heidlauf is a proven scholar. He ranks near the very top of our senior class and is also a National Merit Semifinalist. Alec can be described as determined, responsible and insightful. But Alec is much more than a bright and accomplished academic. He is an Eagle Scout, having held many leadership positions such as Patrol Leader, Instructor, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Chaplain. He is also a fine musician and athlete, and serves on a school service team that is active in the local community. I am proud to nominate Alec for this program."

Downers Grove North High School

Michael Rivera



Academic Achievements: National Hispanic Merit Scholar; National Merit Commended Scholar; National Technical Honor Society Member.

School Activities: Gymnastics; Journalism Editor; Investment Club Officer; ELITE Leadership Council; Positively North Stars (mentor to current freshmen); Homecoming Committee; Northwind Literary Magazine.

Community Service: Volunteer for PADS which is an organization to provide shelter, food and services to people in need.

Nominated by Cyndi Karmik, Counselor: "Michael is a high achieving and diligent student. Since I met Michael his freshman year, he has always desired to have a broad and robust high school experience. He has been successful with this accomplishment. I believe Michael captures this idea best in his own words, "As a summer student at Stanford University in Creative Writing this past year, I was privileged to expand my horizons even more so, and as a student, expansion is what I strive for. Though I haven't decided what field I want to pursue and thus have not put my resources into one area, I feel that my willingness to take on a variation of academic subjects and school activities is what will most aid my learning from an academic and a social standpoint - Ultimately making me a better person."

Suburban Life Scholars

St. Francis (Wheaton)

Kyra Stompanato

Academic Achievements: 4.98 gradepoint average on 4.0 weighted scale. A Honor roll all four years; Congress of Future Medical Leaders; Spanish National Honor Society.

School Activities: Varsity Lacrosse; Freedom Lacrosse Club Team Captain; River City Indoor Lacrosse; Suburban Lacrosse Club; River City Lacrosse, youth coach; JV Basketball; Student Ambassadors; Mentors; Math Team; Chess Club; Eucharistic Minister.

Community Service: Marian Park Tutoring; Marian Park Senior Citizen Volunteer; Darst Service retreat - worked with inner city homeless; Hanover Park MLK Legacy Day; Feed My Starving Children; St. Isadore Volunteer.

Nominated by Trudy Rigney, Director of Guidance: "Kyra Stompanato makes a wonderful candidate for the Suburban Scholars program. She is one of the top students in this year's senior class and excels in every area - academics, athletics, leadership and service. Kyra is a teacher's dream. Highly mature, she accepts challenges, exceeds expectations and follows through on her commitments. She can grasp difficult concepts and apply them. Kyra often starts assignments early, reads thoroughly and writes with clarity and insight. A people person, she is a very charismatic and enthusiastic individual who is able to motivate others and get them involved. She brings positive energy and a "can do" attitude to any endeavor. Kyra has a very bright future ahead of her and we are proud to recognize her through this program."



Willowbrook (Villa Park)

Tyler Rusnak

Academic Achievements: Tyler Rusnak has been named as a semifinalist in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship program. He has either taken or is currently enrolled in ten Advanced Placement courses in addition to a lengthy list of honors level courses. Tyler has maintained a class ranking within the ninety-ninth percentile and boasts a perfect ACT score on his resume. Tyler has been inducted to our National Honors Society, National English Honors Society, World Language Honors Society, Civitas, and he has received numerous academic acknowledgements along the way.

School Activities: Outside of the classroom, Tyler is not only a scholar, but also is involved in numerous curricular and co-curricular activities. He is a member of our Gay-Straight Alliance, Math Team, Key Club, Science Olympiad, DECA, and the Econ Challenge team.

Community Service: As an active member of the Villa Park Key Club, Tyler has volunteered for events such as the Crop Walk, various flower sales and food drives, Feed My Starving Children, Salvation Army bell ringing, and Prairie Path Clean Up Day.

Nominated by Scott Forcash, Guidance Counselor: "Tyler was one of the most talented and thoughtful writers I have had the privilege to teach. I always looked forward to reading his work because I knew that it would be stylistically creative with insightful connections. I was able to use his work as models for others. Tyler is such a responsive student; for example, as students and I were sharing thoughts in class, I would always see Tyler completely engaged and providing verbal and nonverbal feedback. He is simply an incredibly positive presence and role model for those around him. He was a leader in small group setting, encouraging and supporting his peers... Tyler's resume truly speaks for itself; however, I cannot stress enough that his exceptional character and humble demeanor are what make Tyler one of the top students of my career. Even though he is now a senior, he makes a point to pop into my classroom to see how my day is going. These simple, kind acts are what make Tyler outstanding in addition to his incredible intelligence." - Ms. Terri Woebel, English Teacher

Lisle Senior High School

Sarah Mogensen

Academic Achievements: High Honor Roll - 9-12; All-Academic Basketball - 9-1; All Academic Soccer - 9-1; Prairie State Scholar; National Honor Society - 11-12.

School Activities: FAFS - 9-12; Tennis - Grades 9-12; Basketball - 9-12 (6th Man Award)(All-Conference) (Co-Captain); Soccer - 9-12 (Most Improved Player) (All-Conference); Jazz Band - 9-12; Symphonic Band - 9-12 (Outstanding Freshman Award) (Trumpet Leader) (Leadership Team) (Outstanding Junior) (All State); ILMEA District Orchestra; Student Ambassadors (Vice-President); Athletic Leadership Team

Community Service: Key Club - 10-12 (Executive Board); Youth Choir at church; Mission Trips to Birmingham AL & Parsons, KS.

Nominated by Jeffrey Howard, Principal: "In her four years at Lisle Senior High School, Sarah Mogensen has come to exemplify the characteristics and qualities of a student leader. Not only is she extremely active in sports, clubs and activities, but she also has taken on clear leadership roles in virtually everything she is associated with.

For Sarah, being a student at Lisle Senior High School is about maintaining her own personal traits, such as passion, empathy and a gentle kindness, but to also promote those traits to her peers through her numerous endeavors.

Sarah is a three sport athlete. But she is not just an athlete. She is an All-Academic athlete, she is a captain and a leader. She is an outstanding trumpet player. But she is not just a trumpet player. She is a section leader, winner of numerous band awards for outstanding achievement including All-State honors and a member of the Leadership team. She is not just involved in clubs, but she is on the Executive Board and a Vice-President.

Sarah Mogensen will leave a tremendous legacy behind her when she leaves Lisle Senior High School to major in cellular and developmental biology. We are proud to recognize her as this month as Lisle's Suburban Life Scholar."



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Good as gold



Monica Synett - msynett@shawmedia.com

Addison Trail-Willowbrook co-op senior swimmer Kelly McNamara competes Saturday in the 100-yard butterfly final during the IHSA state meet at Evanston Township High School. McNamara earned her third state medal and first championship in her final high school meet.

AT-Willowbrook co-op's Kelly McNamara swims to state butterfly title

By MATT LE CREN

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EVANSTON – Swimming has never been a high-profile sport at Willowbrook High School, but Kelly McNamara may be changing that.

The senior became the first state champion in the history of the Addison Trail-Willowbrook co-op program Saturday when she captured the 100-yard butterfly at the state finals at Evanston.

"I'm a little bit in shock," McNamara said. "I wasn't actually sure if I would win or not, so it's really nice."

McNamara had been building toward this moment for two years. She finished sixth in the butterfly as a sophomore and was second last year.

100 butterfly finals

1. Kelly McNamara: AT-Willowbrook, 54.83 seconds
2. Mari Jardeleza: Loyola, 55.43
3. Rachael Kelch: Notre Dame, 55.62
4. Azra Avdic: Niles North, 55.91
5. Carly Kramer: Plainfield Central, 56.06

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In front of a crowd that included Willowbrook principal Dan Krause, McNamara broke

her own school record during Friday's prelims and earned the No. 1 seed in the finals with a time of 54.68. But she wasn't taking anything for granted.

"It was going to be a close race because [of last year's finalists], most of us were back in the final," McNamara said. "So you knew it wasn't going to be a runaway."

It wasn't, but McNamara took the lead halfway through the race and won in 54.83, beating Loyola senior Maria Jardeleza by 0.60. She added another strong showing in the 50 freestyle, where she finished 20th overall.

"[The state title] was the goal at the beginning of the year and the fact that it came to fruition is just awesome," AT-Willowbrook coach Paul Anderson said. "I haven't

wrapped my head around it and I probably won't for the next week."

McNamara, who has swam for Elmhurst Swim Team and Westmont Swim Club, and her teammates have toiled in obscurity using second-rate facilities. Neither District 88 school has a pool, so the girls have to take a bus to practice at the Addison Park District fitness center. They share the pool, which has just five lanes and one legal starting block, and a hot tub with members of the public.

That didn't stop McNamara, who doesn't get home from practice until 8 p.m., from honing her craft and making the improvements that transformed her into a champion.

"I did a lot more over the summer, so when I came into

this season I had, like, more of a base," McNamara said. "I was more in shape, so then it was easier to focus on the turns and start and technique and do all the little things right."

Anderson said McNamara, who is undecided on where she will swim in college, has put the program, which is unknown even to some Willowbrook students, on the map.

"With all our kids go through with the buses and the bad pool and that stuff, to be able to accomplish this is just mind blowing," Anderson said. "I'm so proud of her and I'm so proud of our team."

"There's a lot of kids who pushed Kelly over her four years to get her here and a lot of work she put in. It was just unbelievable that she was able to do this."

York, IC eye playoff success; AT, TC are improved

By DAN SANTAROMITA
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The girls basketball season has tipped off with many teams playing in tournaments to start the campaign. Here's the outlook for Addison Trail, IC Catholic, Timothy Christian and York this season:

Addison Trail Blazers

Coach: Rob Schader

Conference: West Suburban Gold

2013-14 record: 5-22 (2-10 WSG)

Top returners

Name	Year	Position
Rachel Baumgartner	sr.	F
Annina Beltrano	sr.	G
Kelly Delawder	sr.	G
Tegan Graff	jr.	F
Stephanie Messina	sr.	G
Alex DiSilvio	sr.	F

Outlook: The Blazers feature a lot of returning talent from a team that struggled last season.

Guards Kelly Delawder, Steph Messina and Nina Beltrano and post players Tegan Graff, Rachel Baumgartner and Alex DiSilvio saw regular playing time a year ago. Five of the girls in that group are seniors while Graff is a junior. That experience has the Blazers looking to be more competitive this season.

"We have six returning players from last year who all played major minutes for us," coach Rob Schader said. "We expect to compete this year and win more than the five games we won last year."

IC Catholic Knights

Coach: Aubree Lawrence-Schuetz

Conference: Metro Suburban West

2013-14 record: 25-8 (9-1 Suburban Christian Gold)

Top returners

Name	Year	Position
Anjella Farmer	jr.	G
Chiara Gaudio	sr.	G
Erin Maloney	sr.	G
Tess Reardon	so.	G

Promising newcomer

Name	Year	Position
Claire Gibler	fr.	F



York's Alyssa Kovatchis passes the ball Nov. 21 in a home game against Wheaton North. Kovatchis is one of several returning players giving a boost to the Dukes this season.

Outlook: The Knights were fourth in Class 2A last year, but that team's leaders, Rory Manion and Grace Vitek, are gone.

Two starters return in guards Chiara Gaudio and Erin Maloney. Both players averaged more than six points per game last season and will likely be asked to provide a bit more scoring.

On the inside, the Knights have more to replace. Claire Gibler, a 5-foot-10 freshman, could provide a boost in the paint.

"We are young, but the newcomers bring game experience," coach Aubree Lawrence-Schuetz said. "They are coachable and willing to learn. Expectations are high and we expect to be competitive in the [larger] division of the new conference [Metro Suburban West]."

Timothy Christian Trojans

Coach: Michele Strube

Conference: Metro Suburban East

2013-14 record: 6-22 (3-9 MSC)

Top returners

Name	Year	Position
Kaitlyn Gehrke	sr.	F
Maty Huisman	sr.	G
Juliana Stremler	sr.	F

Promising newcomer

Name	Year	Position
Allison Zeilstra	so.	G

Outlook: Timothy endured a rough first season under coach Michele Strube, but there is optimism for more success in year two.

Kaitlyn Gehrke, a 6-foot-1 senior, scored a game-winning basket at the buzzer Nov. 21 against Reed-Custer. Gehrke already has two double-doubles so far this season. Fel-

low senior Juliana Stremler, 5-foot-10, is another third-year player in the frontcourt.

The Trojans went 1-3 at the IMSA Tournament. Timothy lost against Yorkville (47-14), Aurora Christian (63-23) and Indian Creek (44-39) while beating Reed-Custer 54-53.

"We have two really good post players this year if our guards can get it to them," Strube said. "Gehrke and Stremler are a great team together. We just have to get them some help."

Sophomore guard Allison Zeilstra has stepped up to be a key contributor early on.

"Zeilstra is a great aggressive player," Strube said. "I love her heart, her passion, her aggressiveness."

York Dukes

Coach: John Constable

Conference: West Suburban Silver

2013-14 record: 15-13 (5-7 WSS)

Top returners

Name	Year	Position
Jessica Bianchi	sr.	G
Alyssa Kovatchis	sr.	G
Jamie Kovatchis	sr.	G
Sarah Milkowski	sr.	F
Kelly Polte	jr.	F

Promising newcomers

Name	Year	Position
Megan Backman	jr.	G
Danielle Dennis	fr.	F
Kyra Kroll	fr.	G
Caylin Rufus	fr.	F

Outlook: York is loaded with returning talent, led by last year's leading scorer Jessica Bianchi.

Bianchi, a senior guard, scored double figures in two of the Dukes' first three games and is a solid defender. She is a four-year varsity player along with Alyssa Kovatchis.

York lost its season opener against Prospect 57-52 before beating Queen of Peace 72-36 and Wheaton North 72-58.

Sarah Milkowski, all-conference last year, is a tough rebounder inside and can provide some scoring when needed as demonstrated by her 19 points against Wheaton North. Kelly Polte, described by coach John Constable as the team's only true post player, and freshmen Danielle Dennis and Caylin Rufus will also see time in the frontcourt.

In the backcourt Jamie Kovatchis is also slated for a big role, especially as a key defender. Megan Backman, who poured in 22 points against Wheaton North, and freshman Kyra Kroll are newcomers pushing for minutes as well.

"The one player that has really stepped up from the sophomore team and really given us great minutes so far is Megan Backman," Constable said.

While pushing for a conference title is always a goal, Constable wants the team to focus on every game with the main goal of getting a good postseason seed.

"Our goal is to be a top four [sectional] seed," Constable said. "We have to constantly have that in the back of our mind so when that time rolls around we are in that position."

Gateway Gators SRA sends 3 teams to state Special Olympics

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

The Gateway Special Recreation Association Green and Red teams brought home the gold in volleyball at the Special Olympics Qualifying games in September, and both teams went on to finish second at the state Special Olympics in Rockford in October.

Meanwhile on the softball field, the Gateway SRA Gators won a gold medal at the Special Olympics in Decatur in September. In the 2013 season, the Gateway Gators qualified for the state Special Olympics, but lost the gold by one run. This year, the Gators emerged victorious, winning by one run.

This success highlights the importance of the Gateway Special Recreation Association, which provides community recreation programs for individuals with special needs. The Gateway SRA is an extension of the park districts of Burr Ridge, Elmhurst, Oak Brook, Pleasant Dale, Westchester, York Center Park District in Lombard and the villages of Countryside, Hinsdale, and Willowbrook. Gateway SRA contracts with the Ray Graham Association to provide recreation programs



The Gateway SRA Gators Green volleyball team places second at the state Special Olympics meet this fall. Photos provided



Gateway SRA Gators celebrate after finishing second at the state Special Olympics meet.

for individuals with disabilities.

Along with athletic activities, Gateway sponsors social clubs, performance arts opportunities, holiday camps and special events and out-

ings. This program diversity provides all individuals with special needs the opportunity to succeed in their chosen field of interest by focusing on their abilities instead of their disabilities.

York girls swimmers compete at state meet

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

EVANSTON – The York girls swimming team had two individuals and two relays represent the Dukes Nov. 21 in the preliminaries of the state meet at Evanston Township High School.

Jessica Woolfe, Paula Nolte, Sam Marloff and Maggie Schlecht placed 22nd in the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 1:48.68.

Individually, Woolfe was 23rd in the 100-yard backstroke (58.35 seconds) and 46th in the 50-yard freestyle (24.91).

Nolte placed 18th in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:05.76.

The 200-yard freestyle relay team of Paige Jaeger, Nolte, Meghan Quinn and Schlecht finished in 1:40.49 to place 37th overall.

BOYS BASKETBALL IC Catholic

The Knights defeated Serena 88-36 on Tuesday in the

season opener at the Coal City invite. Rhashaun Epting had 24 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for IC.

IC concludes play at the round-robin event with games against the host Coolers (tonight) and Gardner-South Wilmington (Saturday).

Addison Trail

Starting the season at the Elmwood Park tournament, the Blazers picked up a pair of wins with Taylor White leading the way.

White had 20 points and Eric Grygo added 13 in a 74-49 win against Little Village on Monday, and White scored 22 points the next night in a 61-29 win against Northtown.

GIRLS BASKETBALL York

The Dukes had the offense rolling in their first two games of the season as they defeated Queen of Peace 72-36 on Nov. 20, and followed with a 72-58 win against Wheaton North the next day.

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