

Giving Tree...

ARDMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S Giving Tree project will benefit 23 families this holiday season. Information about the project went out to Ardmore families during parent/teacher conferences. PTA Giving Tree chair Lori Toliulis worked with Ardmore School social worker Andrea Paris to identify 23 families in need. According to Toliulis, each classroom at the Villa Park school anonymously adopted a family. Students then pulled tags from their classroom's cardboard giving tree. Each tag indicated an item that the family needed. "We have items from food to clothes to toys, and we try to include something for Mom and Dad," said Toliulis. "Then our Ardmore families always add more." The picture on the right shows five Ardmore fifth-graders with Toliulis and some of the Giving Tree gifts. The students (left to right) are: Owen Pierce, Audrey Hinrichs, Joey DeMito, Gillian Enriquez and Evan Barnes.



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VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

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Village mourns the loss of former deputy police chief

by Chris Fox

Mark Johnson, who grew up in Villa Park and spent more than 30 years as a member of the Villa Park Police Department and 15 years on the District 88 Board of Education, passed away on Saturday at the age of 66.

According to a statement released by District 88, Johnson, who was diagnosed with bone cancer in the spring, passed away with his family by his side.

Johnson attended Villa Park's Washington Elementary School and Villa Park Junior High School (now Jackson Middle School). He graduated from Willowbrook High School in 1966. He then attended Illinois State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree.

Johnson is survived by his wife Phyllis, their four daughters—Kristin, Melissa, Stephanie and Bethany—and five grandchildren. All four of Johnson's daughters graduated from Willowbrook High School.

"Mark truly represents all that District 88 stands for—building futures for students and working for the continuous improvement of student achievement," said Dr. Scott Helton, District 88's superintendent, in the statement. "He was part of this district in so many ways. He graduated from District 88. His children are

graduates, and he was a board member for 15 years. He was dedicated to guiding this district in a positive direction in the best interest of students."

The statement issued by District 88 noted that Johnson received Willowbrook's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2012. Johnson joined the District 88 Board of Education in 1999. From 2003 to 2011, he served as the board president.

Johnson joined the Villa Park Police Department as an auxiliary officer in 1978. On his final day as a sworn officer—June 30, 2009—Johnson told the *Villa Park Review* that he had planned to pursue a career in music education.

"I was going to be a music teacher," said Johnson, who received his master's degree in choral music. "The dramatic 90-degree turn to police work was very strange, but something I never regretted."

Johnson explained that he was working as a salesman after graduating from college when he became interested in the Villa Park Police Department's CB radio club. Members of the club would assist the department on Friday and Saturday nights by using their CB radios to call for police assistance if it was needed.

"In order to do this, you had to fill out an

application," said Johnson of his interest in the CB radio club. "The officer brought me the wrong application. He brought me an application to be a part-time officer. I thought that could be interesting. That's how I got started. I got the wrong application and stayed around 31 years."

Johnson joined the Villa Park Police Department as an auxiliary officer in 1978. He was then an auxiliary unit coordinator and a community service officer. He was hired as a full-time officer in 1983.

Johnson was among the first group of police officers in Illinois to serve as a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) officer. The DARE program came to Illinois in 1987. In his capacity as a DARE officer, Johnson spent time in area schools encouraging children to avoid drug use and violence.

Johnson was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1996. Two years later, he was made a watch commander. In July of 2004, Johnson and Robert Budig were both promoted to the rank of deputy chief. Johnson's official title up until his final day as a sworn officer was Chief of Support Services. His responsibilities included supervision of the department's records and investigative divisions.

(Continued on the next page)



MARK JOHNSON (above), a former Villa Park deputy police chief, died on Saturday at the age of 66. Johnson, who grew up in Villa Park and graduated from Willowbrook High School in 1966, retired from the department in 2009. He had been a member of the District 88 Board of Education since 1999.

Students honored...

THE ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION (ISAC) recently announced the Illinois State Scholars for 2015-16. The list included 57 seniors from Willowbrook High School. The photo on the right shows several of the honored students. According to ISAC, the Illinois State Scholar program recognizes students for outstanding academic achievement. State Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of the state's high school seniors at 671 high schools throughout Illinois. Selection is based on students' SAT, ACT or Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) scores, as well as their class ranking at the end of their junior year. The honored students will receive a certificate noting the achievement. See the following page for the complete list of Willowbrook's Illinois State Scholars.





Singing in the mall...

Photo by Chris Fox

WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL'S CenterStage show choir sang holiday songs outside of the second floor Carson Pirie Scott at Yorktown Center in Lombard on Dec. 9. The above photo shows some members of the choir during the evening performance. Willowbrook's music department will present its third and final holiday concert of the month tonight in the school auditorium. The concert, which will begin at 7 p.m., will include performances from the chamber orchestra, symphony orchestra, treble choir, beginning choir and concert choir, as well as the beginning guitars and guitar ensemble groups.



CHRISTOPHER McMAHAN

Villa Park police arrest village resident for child pornography ...

VILLA PARK POLICE OFFICERS, working a joint investigation with the Wheaton Police Department, served a search warrant Dec. 12 at a Villa Park residence in the 400 block of North Douglas Avenue. Officers located a computer reportedly containing images of child pornography during a search of the residence. Christopher McMahan, 28, (left) was charged with child pornography and transported to DuPage County Jail in Wheaton, where as of press time he was being held in lieu of \$100,000 bond.

Willowbrook's Illinois State Scholars

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) announced this month the Illinois State Scholars for 2015-16. Selection is based on students' SAT, ACT or Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) scores, as well as their class ranking at the end of their junior year. The honorees, several of whom are pictured on the previous page, include the following 57 seniors from Willowbrook High School.

Abdulaziz Ahmed	Sarah Dvorak	McKenna Mintz
Madison Aiello	Nicholas Eufrazio	Asra Mubeen
Furkhan Ali	Thomas Fitzmaurice	Wesam Nijim
Morgan Amaya	Molly Frobels	Abby Pakeltis
Liam Atkins	Micala Giammarino	Haley Patel
Alyssa Barrantes-Leonard	Daniel Head	Elizabeth Pegler
Joshua Beausoleil	Michelle Jelinek	Michael Rogalski
Brooke Bimber	Kristian Johansen	Tyler Rusnak
Margaret Brown	Gloria Johnson	Nicholas Russell
Jessica Budig	David Jones	Shukan Shah
Mika Cabudol	Cassandra Joyce	Muhammad Shahzad
Ira Canete	Andrew Kanelos	Atif Siddiqui
Nicholas Carperos	Gideon Karasek	Laura Smith
Giselle Carter	Thomas King	Olivia Smith
Jessica Cookingham	Avery Kirchner	Erin Stanis
John Corkery	Elizabeth Koivun	Erin Sulla
George Dawson	Alexander Lapinski	Hannah Trewitt
Lauren Downer	Isabelle Martinez	Henry Wallace
Joseph Draus	Kelly McNamara	Kelli Wysoglad

Newspapers announce hours, closures and deadlines for holiday issues

The *Lombardian* and *Villa Park Review* offices, located at 116 S. Main St., Lombard, will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25 in observance of Christmas.

The office will reopen at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 26, and will close at 5 p.m. The Dec. 31 issue of the newspapers will be delivered on Wednesday, Dec. 31, as scheduled. Normal deadlines will be observed for the Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 issues.

All editorial submissions for the Dec. 24 issue must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19. The deadline for classified advertising will remain Monday, Dec. 22, at noon. For the Dec. 31 issue, editorial submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26. The deadline for classified advertising will remain Monday, Dec. 29, at noon.

The *Lombardian* and *Villa Park Review* newspaper offices will be closed between noon and 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19, and will close at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31, for New Year's Eve. The office will remain closed until 9 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 2, 2015.

Copy for ads or articles may be mailed to 116 S. Main St., Lombard, IL 60148. faxed to 630-627-7027, or e-mailed to lombardian@wsbglobal.net.

Villa Park Youth Baseball offers online registration for 2015

Villa Park Youth Baseball's online registration for the 2015 season is up and running at the organization's Web site, www.vpyb.com. Players are able to register online for the new season and to participate in upcoming camps. Visit the Web site for complete details.

In-person registration for the 2015 season will take place on Jan. 10 and Jan. 17 at the Iowa Community Center, located at 338 Iowa Ave. Each registration session will take place from 9 a.m. to noon. Candy bar pickups and uniform fitting will be available at each of the sessions.

Villa Park Youth Baseball will welcome a former Major League Baseball player who will conduct an instructional camp in 2015. There will be a one-time charge of \$25 for the 90-minute clinic. All participants will receive a 12-week hitting manual.

Villa Park Youth Baseball is open to any boy or girl between the ages of 5 to 18. All baseball registrants must be at least 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2015, and must not be older than 18 as of Sept. 1, 2015. Girls fast-pitch softball is open to players ages 8 to 14. All softball registrants must be 8 as of Jan. 1, 2015, and must not be older than 18 years as of Jan. 1, 2015.

Police urge residents to guard against theft of holiday packages

The Villa Park Police Department encourages residents to take action to prevent theft of holiday packages from doorsteps.

According to a recent news release issued by the police department, thefts of packages from residential doorsteps are being reported in the village. The release stated that thieves often prey on neighborhoods looking for a quick way to make a low-risk theft. Packages are often delivered to unoccupied homes and left outside the front door, making the items vulnerable to theft.

Police encourage residents to ask for

delivery signatures and tracking numbers, as well as having deliveries scheduled when they know they'll be home. Residents should also ask for text or e-mail alerts of delivery. If possible, have the packages delivered to work, or to a family member, friend or neighbor who will be home.

"Package theft is a crime of opportunity," said Villa Park Police Chief Robert Pavelchik in the release. "Let's work together to reduce those opportunities."

As always, residents should not hesitate to call 9-1-1 to report any suspicious persons or activities.

Mark Johnson...

(Continued from the previous page)

"Police officers get a bum rap so often, that they don't have any feelings, that they just go about doing their job," said Johnson on his last day on the force in 2009. "That really is so untrue. If they didn't have feelings, if they didn't care about people, if they didn't want society to work and run properly, they wouldn't be in this job."

Johnson continued to work for the Villa Park Police Department after his retirement as a full-time officer. He contributed as a civilian on a part-time basis.

A longtime member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Villa Park, Johnson also spent several years as a choral director at Christ Church in Oak Brook. A self-described classical music lover, he enjoyed composing

music pieces.

In addition to music, Johnson's interests included cooking and gardening. While he understood that classical music, cooking and gardening might not necessarily be the primary interests of a majority of police officers, Johnson said that it was essential for all officers to find and enjoy some hobby or activity away from the job.

"If police officers don't have diversions, the job really gets to them," he said. "If they internalize everything they deal with on a daily basis, it will take their soul away."

Visitation will be held from 3-8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19, at Steuere Funeral Home Ltd., 350 S. Ardmore Ave. The funeral service will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, located at 545 S. Ardmore Ave., proceeding to Chapel Hill Gardens West Cemetery in Oakbrook Terrace.



A life of service...

File photo by Chris Fox

MARK JOHNSON (above), who spent more than 30 years with the Villa Park Police Department, died on Saturday. He was 66 years old. Johnson was diagnosed with bone cancer earlier this year. The above photo was taken at the Villa Park Police Department on Johnson's final day as a sworn officer—June 30, 2009. Johnson joined the department as an auxiliary officer in 1978. He was promoted to the rank of deputy chief in 2004 and served in that position until his retirement. Johnson grew up in Villa Park and graduated from Willowbrook High School in 1966. All four of his children also graduated from Willowbrook. "Mark was a great cop and friend to all here," said Villa Park Police Chief Robert Pavelchik. "He will be missed." In addition to spending more than three decades with the police department, Johnson served on the District 88 Board of Education for the last 15 years. He was the president of the school board from 2003-2011.

Senate Bill 16 stopped by grassroots opposition

Strong "grassroots" opposition by suburban residents has defeated a controversial education funding reform bill that would have stripped more than \$39 million from local schools, according to State Sen. Chris Nybo (R-Elmhurst).

State lawmakers adjourned the fall veto session in Springfield earlier this month without acting on Senate Bill 16.

"The outstanding efforts of local residents and education leaders stopped Senate Bill 16 in its tracks, which shows just how much can be accomplished when we work together," Nybo said. "We must keep an eye on the issue of equality in education funding reform, however, because the components of the now-defunct Senate Bill 16 could easily re-emerge in another form once the new General Assembly convenes in January."

The 24th District senator says a series of public forums in several suburban communities this fall sent a

clear message to state lawmakers that suburban residents are not willing to increase their already high property taxes or compromise their children's educational resources.

Nybo and state Rep. Sandra Pihos (R-Glen Ellyn) partnered with local educators to host one of the community forums Nov. 17 at Westmont High School. More than 100 local residents attended and heard presentations by Dr. Darlene J. Ruscitti, regional superintendent of schools DuPage County; Kevin Carey, superintendent of Community Unit School District 201; Jim Vroman, vice president of District 200 School Board; and Mimi Rodman, executive director of Stand for Children.

During a House of Representatives committee hearing about Senate Bill 16 in November, the online witness slips of opponents outnumbered proponents by six to one. In addition, more than 8,500 people signed online petitions against Senate Bill 16.



Rotarians donate coats

THE ROTARY CLUB OF LOMBARD recently donated a mountain of warm coats for needy Lombard School District 44 families thanks to the club's Warm Coats program. Pictured with the donated coats are club members (l. to r.) Jean Nolan, Deanna Wilkins and Kathy Volpe.

Residents may qualify for IHEAP utility assistance

Rep. Conroy, D-Villa Park, is encouraging residents to determine if they qualify for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Under LIHEAP, utility bill payments are made on behalf of certain low-income households.

"After experiencing last year's record-breaking cold temperatures, it is important that we ensure the health and safety of the most vulnerable families in our communities," Conroy said. This state program provides financial assistance to hard-working families who are struggling to make ends meet this winter and I strongly encourage people to see if they qualify."

LIHEAP is a state and federally funded energy assistance program for low-income families in which heating bill payments are made on behalf of households. In DuPage County LIHEAP applications are processed—until funds are exhausted—on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications are taken by appointment only at any of the Township General Assistance Offices or directly at the DuPage County Administration Building.

A single-person household can qualify with a monthly income of up to \$1,459; a two-person household up to \$1,966; a family of three can earn up to \$2,474; and a family of four can earn up to \$2,981. Benefits are paid directly to energy vendors on behalf of eligible households. The exception is households whose heating costs are included in their rent.

Clients must bring all required documentation when applying for assistance, including:

- Proof of gross income from all household members for the 30-day income period beginning with the date of the application.
- A copy of their current heat and electric bills issued within the last 30 days (if they pay for their energy directly).
- A copy of their rental agreement (if they are renting) showing that utilities are included, the monthly rental amount and landlord contact information.

• Proof of Social Security numbers for all household members.

• Proof that their household received TANF or other benefits, such as Medical Eligibility or SNAP, if receiving assistance from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

For more information about LIHEAP or for assistance in applying for the program, contact Conroy's full-time constituent services office at 630-415-3520 or RepDebConroy@gmail.com.

Need to say thank you?
CALL SPEAK OUT
630-629-TALK



Photos by Steve Spoden

Remembering the hungry

MEMBERS OF LOMBARD VFW LILAC POST 5815 and its Ladies Auxiliary presented donations to the Lombard-Villa Park Food Pantry and the York Township Food Pantry Dec. 12. Pictured presenting a \$250 donation to the Lombard-Villa Park Food Pantry's Coordinator Silas Glisson (center) are post members (l. to r.) Ron Wisniewski, Bernard Bucholtz, Tony Maroney, Gene Ferguson, post Commander George Miller, Giuseppe Volpe, Jim Gilmore, Dennis Jensen, Tom Zilla and Mike Mikulecky.

Impaired Driving Prevention Month

The holidays are considered by many to be a magical time of year, full of times with family, food and celebrations. However, for many families in Illinois, the 2014 holiday season will be the first without a loved one who lost their life on the roads of Illinois. December is designated "National Impaired Driving Prevention Month," a time to raise awareness about the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

In 2012, 335 people in Illinois were killed in alcohol-related crashes, which was 35 percent of the 956 total crash fatalities. In the same year, nearly 40,000 (37,126) DUI arrests were recorded by the Illinois Secretary of State's office, which is down just slightly from 2011 (38,704 DUI arrests).

Another alarming fact is that the number of high school-age drivers who have at least once driven after drinking alcohol or used marijuana or other illegal drugs is on the rise. According to the Illinois Youth Survey, 16.2 percent of 12th-graders drove after

drinking alcohol in 2010. In 2012, that number rose to 17.5 percent. The survey also indicates that in 2010, 20.3 percent of 12th-graders drove after using marijuana or other illegal drugs. That number rose to 21.2 percent in 2012.

In addition, research has shown that use of a cell phone is just as dangerous as drinking under the influence of alcohol and drugs. According to the study, A Comparison of the Cell Phone Driver and the Drunk Driver, "...When driving conditions and time on task were controlled for, the impairments associated with using a cell phone while driving can be just as profound as those associated with driving while drunk."

Once again, young drivers are greatly impacted by distracted driving. Nationwide, 10 percent of all drivers under the age of 20 involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted at the time of the crash. This age group has the largest proportion of drivers who were distracted.

Families, and schools can become involved in spreading awareness and

importance of the prevention of impaired driving in a number of ways.

• Have the talk: Driving is a serious responsibility. Discuss what it means to be a safe driver with your teen and set ground rules for when they're behind the wheel. If your teen is on the road, they should stay off the phone.

• Make a family pledge: Print out the pledge form and have every member of your family commit to distraction-free driving. Set a positive example for your kids by putting your cell phone in the glove compartment every time you drive.

• Celebrate the holidays with a substance-free party in December or arrange for transportation for guests who can legally drink.

• Restrict night driving. According to the Governors Highway Safety Administration (GHSA), close to two-thirds of fatal crashes that occur at night with 16-year-old drivers behind the wheel are speed related.

Prevention First is Illinois' only nonprofit resource center specializing in preventing alcohol and other drug use among youth and pregnant women.

North Pole - Santa Claus - P.O. Box 56099 - North Pole, AK - 99705



West Suburban Wellness is collecting toys for the Lombard-Villa Park Food Pantry Christmas Toy Drive. Last year over 450 needy children were able to experience the joy of Christmas due to the food pantry's assistance.

December 8th - December 22nd, 2014

You can receive a FREE New Patient Exam & FREE Treatment in exchange for One New Toy.

This Offer Includes (\$341 value):

- Consultation & Exam: (A \$120 Value!)
- X-Rays (if necessary): (A \$120 Value!)
- Report of Findings Consultation: (A \$50 Value!)
- 1st Treatment (if necessary): (A \$51 Value!)

Offer Expires: Monday, December 22nd

Call (630) 629-9500 Today!



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Sports

LOMBARDIAN VILLA PARK REVIEW

Warriors' comeback bid vs. Hornets falls short

The Willowbrook boys basketball team had a chance to pull out a victory in Friday's West Suburban Gold Conference home game against Hinsdale South. The Warriors, who trailed the visiting Hornets throughout the second half, could not hit enough big shots or grab enough key rebounds to grab a lead.

Hinsdale South clung to a slim lead down the stretch and defeated Willowbrook 57-50 in Villa Park. The Warriors fell to 4-3 overall and 1-2 in the conference. The Hornets improved to 3-4 overall and 1-1 in conference play.

Sophomore Alonzo Verge poured in 31 points for Willowbrook. Verge connected on 10 of 25 field-goal attempts, including two of eight shots from 3-point range. He made nine of

10 free throws. Senior Micah Williams and junior Kevin Miller both scored five points. Senior Chris Roycroft added four points.

"We had every opportunity to win tonight's game," said Willowbrook head coach Chris Perkins after the loss to the Hornets, which marked the team's second straight conference loss. The Warriors opened the conference season with a home win over Addison Trail on Dec. 5. One night later, they lost a conference game at Morton. "We had open looks. We didn't knock them down. That's part of basketball. It's a make or miss game. Their [Hinsdale South's] rebounding really hurt us. They got a lot of second-chance points.

Hinsdale South pulled down 41 rebounds, while Willowbrook

managed 25 rebounds.

Verge scored 14 first-half points for the Warriors, who trailed Hinsdale South 30-26 at halftime. Verge's driving layup out the Hornets' lead to 37-36 with three minutes left in the third quarter. Hinsdale South scored the last seven points of the period to build a 44-36 lead with eight minutes left in the game.

Williams, who contributed all five of his points at the beginning of the fourth quarter, sank a 3-point shot to cut the Hornets' lead to 46-39 with less than seven minutes to play. He added another basket about 30 seconds later to trim the lead to 46-41. Verge's basket off a turnover reduced the lead to 46-43. A steal and basket by Miller made the score 48-45 with less than five minutes to play.

The Warriors missed three 3-point shots that would have tied the game during the next few minutes. The Hornets delivered a big blow to Willowbrook's hopes by making the first of two free throws with 55 seconds to play. Hinsdale South missed the second free throw but grabbed the rebound, forcing Willowbrook to commit a foul. The Hornets then sank both attempts to take a 53-47 lead with 49 seconds remaining. Verge drained a 3-point shot at the 40-second mark to slice the lead to 53-50, but the Hornets closed the game out with four free throws and a steal in the closing seconds.

Willowbrook will play its last conference game of the month this week against Downers Grove South. The Warriors will kick off Glenbard West's holiday event in Glen Ellyn with Monday night's game against the tournament host.

Glenbard East

The Rams struggled last week, losing a pair of Upstate Eight Valley games by wide margins. West Aurora beat Glenbard East 72-38 on Thursday in Lombard. Two nights later, the Rams dropped a 68-45 decision at Nequa Valley. The two losses left Glenbard East with an overall record of 4-4 and a conference mark of 2-2.

The Rams beat Bartlett on Dec. 6. One night earlier, Bartlett beat West Aurora. Those results would lead one



Offensive threat...

Photos by Chris Fox

SOPHOMORE ALONZO VERGE (above) of the Willowbrook boys basketball team brings the ball down the court during the second half of Friday's game against Hinsdale South. Verge led all scorers with 31 points in the West Suburban Gold Conference battle. The visiting Hornets defeated Willowbrook 57-50 in Villa Park. The spectators included University of Illinois head coach John Groce, who attended the game to watch Verge and Hinsdale South junior center Barret Benson (No. 53, background), who had 14 points and 18 rebounds.

to think the Rams could at least compete with West Aurora, but the visiting Blackhawks outscored the Rams 28-7 in the second quarter to take a 40-14 halftime lead. The lead grew to 62-21 by the end of the third period.

Junior Zach Walsh scored 14 points for the Rams, who played the game without junior Patrick Peterkin, who missed the first of six games due

to suspension.

Walsh provided a team-leading 12 points in Saturday's game at Nequa Valley. Junior Terrance Lakes added 10 points for the Rams, who were outscored 20-7 during the fourth quarter.

The Rams' conference season continues with Thursday's game at East Aurora and Friday's home contest against Waubesa Valley.



Leading scorer...

GLENBARD EAST JUNIOR Zach Walsh (above) drives to the basket during Thursday's Upstate Eight Valley Conference boys basketball game against West Aurora. Walsh scored 14 points for the Rams, who suffered a 72-38 loss. Walsh scored a team-leading 12 points in Saturday's 68-45 conference loss at Nequa Valley. "We've got to figure out a way to be consistent," said Glenbard East coach Scott Miller after Thursday's game. "We've just got to compete and take care of the basketball. We had too many turnovers and we didn't play hard enough."



Not your average crowd...

THE WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL student section featured some interesting outfits at Friday night's boys basketball game against Hinsdale South. The above photo shows some members of the student section cheering on the Warriors during the second half of the game. The students' loud and colorful support wasn't quite enough to help Willowbrook to a victory in Villa Park. The Hornets defeated the Warriors 57-50.



A conference win...

File photo

JUNIOR ASHLEY BROWN (above) helped the Glenbard East girls basketball team to its first Upstate Eight Valley Conference victory of the season on Friday in Lombard. Brown scored 11 points in the Rams' 40-24 win over West Aurora. Glenbard East improved to 4-4 overall and 1-2 in the conference. Brown scored six points during the first quarter with two field goals, including a 3-point shot, and one free throw. She made five of six free-throw attempts in the fourth quarter. Senior Allison Hansen added eight points for the Rams, while junior Brittany Paganucci provided seven points and a strong defensive effort against West Aurora's top outside shooter. Junior Amanda Chlebek added six points for the Rams, whose season continues with Saturday's conference game at East Aurora. The Chicago Sky of the WNBA named Glenbard East its "High School Team of the Week" winner for its 2015 competition. All Illinois high school girls basketball teams are eligible to win the Sky's weekly honor. Nominations from parents, coaches, school faculty members and players are welcome. The Sky will present 12 winners during the 2014-15 season. Those 12 teams will be eligible for the Sky's "High School Team of the Year" award, which will be determined through online voting and announced at halftime of a Sky game in 2015. Visit the Sky's Web site at www.wnba.com/sky for more information.

SPORTS

DECEMBER 18, 2014 • 19

Addison Trail boys basketball team off to nice start

Blazers go 4-1 through first five games

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail boys basketball team's hot start to the season continued at its own Addison Trail Invitational recently.

The Blazers opened play in the pre-holiday tournament by scoring a 56-46 win over Stagg.

"We got off to a slow start and got down 9-0," said Addison Trail coach Brendan Lyons. "We started to come back and tied the game at 17-17. We played much better the next three quarters on the defensive end of the floor. We gave up 29 points after the first quarter. It was a nice wake-up call for

us."

Strong shooting helped Addison Trail pull out the win.

"We shot it well in the second half," said Lyons. "We had eight 3s overall. Stagg is a tough team to play. They mix defenses all the time. We came out and were more aggressive in the second half and picked up the tempo of the game."

Taylor White led the Blazers with 14 points. Matt Gontarek had 12 points on four 3-pointers. Ryan Zygowicz added 11 points off the bench.

"We had some good balance with our scoring," said Lyons. "It was nice to see Ryan play well. He's a guy we expect to help us this year and he contributed for us. I thought as the game went on we were very unselfish and moved the ball well and found open guys for shots and they knocked them down. We did enough to build the lead and hold on. It

was a good win."

Earlier, the Blazers dropped a 56-51 West Suburban Conference Gold Division game to District 88 neighbor Willowbrook.

"From an energy and effort standpoint we were great," said Lyons. "We competed for four quarters. But we shot 31 percent from the floor. We led by a point at halftime and were up by three at the end of the third and with four minutes to go. We couldn't separate ourselves from them. It was a hard-fought game to the end. We saw some things that we need to correct, but I was proud of the effort. If we come with that effort every game we are going to put ourselves in a position to win more times than not."

White had 16 points to lead the Blazers. "Taylor has been playing very well for us," said Lyons. "He's averaging around 17.5 points a game and he's

scoring a variety of ways whether it's shooting the three or making free throws or scoring in transition. He's not one-dimensional in how he scores. He's very important for us."

Lyons said the Willowbrook game will be a preview of what else is to come in the conference.

"We know the conference is going to be competitive," he said. "Willowbrook has a solid team."

The Blazers played two more games in their tournament earlier this week. Addison Trail also will head to Centralia for a Christmas tournament.

"We have five games over the next week-and-a-half," said Lyons earlier last week. "If we play with that same high energy and correct some of our mistakes, I feel we have a chance to be in every one of those games."

Addison Trail girls basketball team improving on offensive end

Baumgartner providing spark for Blazers

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail girls basketball team is giving opponents a run for their money.

"We're hanging with teams and competing, but we haven't been able to finish," said Addison Trail coach Rob Schader. "We lost some games we could have won. We lost by three to Fenton and lost by nine to Illiana Christian. We lost to Hinsdale South by 10 or 12 and lost to Leyden by 10. We're scoring more points but we're giving up points, plus rebounding and turnovers have hurt us."

Addison Trail was 1-8 overall through its first nine games. "The girls are fighting hard," said Schader. "We've been really good defensively at times, but then we'll give up second chances. We've struggled a little with rebounding and we're turning the ball over too much. We had 24 turnovers against Illiana Christian."

Schader said the team certainly isn't lacking in the effort department.

"The girls are getting after it and dive on the floor for balls, but we'll have one or two breakdowns and that's hurt us," said Schader.

Schader said the team also is encountering a talent-rich West Suburban Conference Gold Division. "Most of the conference is pretty well-matched with Proviso East and Morton," said Schader. "We got it down to six in the third and fourth quarter against Morton. They had a couple good scorers. We got it down to five points against Illiana Christian and then we had a couple 3s go in and out and we end up losing by eight or nine. We also had a tough time with free throws against Illiana."

A major bright spot for the Blazers has been the play of Rachel Baumgartner. "Rachel is playing great," said Schader. "She's scoring 10 to 12 points a game and is such a hard-working kid."

Schader also cited strong play from Stephanie Messina and junior Maria Koulogeorgas. "Steph Messina has been playing well and Maria has been doing a very nice job scoring," said Schader. "She had one game of 18 and another of 16."

Addison Trail played Downers Grove South on Tuesday and will face Leyden Friday in another WSC Gold game.

"The girls are trying hard and keeping their spirits up," said Schader. "These kids fight to the end."

Fenton girls basketball team faces strong conference competition

Fritz starring for Bison in recent contests

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Fenton girls basketball coach Tim Anderson had an inkling a recent three-game stretch in the schedule would present some major challenges.

He was correct. The Bison dropped three Metro Suburban Conference West Division games to Elgin St. Edward, Glenbard South and Riverside-Brookfield.

"It was a rough stretch for us," said Anderson. "We played some very good teams. St. Edward was ranked 10th in the state in Class 3A and had a 7-0 record. Those three games will be the toughest three-game stretch we will see all season. R-B was 8-0. It was an experience. We knew going in two of those three would be really tough and St. Edward was right up there with those two. They have a very good team. It was a learning curve that is going to help us figure some things out."

Fenton lost 54-35 to St. Edward. "It was not a 20-point game," said Anderson. "We were down by seven in the fourth quarter. We gave them everything we had. They made a push midway through the fourth. They hit two 3-pointers and that was the dagger. I was happy with how our girls played. We competed very well and performed fairly well. The competitive part always comes first."

The Bison also dropped a 44-32 game to Glenbard South. "Again, I thought we played a good game and were competitive," said Anderson. "This was another case where there was a height differential. St. Edward had a 6-3 girl who had 19 points, but only had one offensive

rebound. We did a good job keeping her off the boards. Glenbard South has a 6-4 girl and we did a nice job keeping her off the boards. Glenbard South was a little bigger and quicker."

The three-game stretch came to a close with a 82-34 loss to Riverside-Brookfield.

"R-B shot us out of the gym," said Anderson. "They have a 6-7 girl, but they hit 13 threes and shot 53 percent. There is nothing you can do. It was a shooting barrage. There only are a finite number of things you are able to do when a team shoots like that against you. And it wasn't like these were wide-open looks. R-B deserves a lot of credit. They have a really good team. They have everything. They have three guards. It's not a matter of stopping one of them, it's three of them. We didn't have an answer."

Anderson lauded the recent play of Dana Fritz. "Dana isn't intimidated by anything or anyone," he said. "She's been one of our big leaders because of how hard she plays."

Fenton was 2-5 after the three games. "We played really good teams that sent a pretty strong message of what we need to improve on to move forward," said Anderson. "We'll play all three teams again. It's about us moving forward at this point in the season. We know what we do well and what we need to work at. Sometimes we go into shooting droughts. We showed in our games against Addison Trail and Lane Tech that we can shoot well. The potential is there to put the basketball in the basket. It's a huge priority for us right now."

Fenton played Ridgewood on Tuesday and will head to St. Viator for a Christmas tournament.

Willowbrook girls bowling team faring well

Fenton wrestlers continue strong start

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Willowbrook girls bowling coach Bill Eufasio likes what he is seeing from his team thus far.

"The season has started with a great deal of optimism and enthusiasm," he said.

The varsity team features first-year senior bowler Lauren Mast, juniors Kelly Conley, Maddie Weinhold, Haley Doyle and Julia Bergh, along with sophomore Jordan Tiberi and freshman Dana Sassenick.

"They all have displayed moment of great individual success," said Eufasio.

The coach noted Tiberi and Sassenick have been the team's

most consistent bowlers. "Jordan and Dana have registered some excellent scored," said Eufasio. "We still are searching for consistency as a team. The girls continue to work hard at practice to improve their skills."

Eufasio noted the program also shows promise at the junior-varsity level. "The JV team keeps showing continual improvement," he said.

First-year senior bowlers Mia Railing and KJ Wanger along with first-year sophomore bowler Olivia Pennebaker have been key JV contributors. "Mia, KJ and Olivia are very athletic and their skills are improving rapidly," said Eufasio.

Willowbrook's program currently features 27 bowlers. "All members of the team are provided with the opportunity to

earn competition time," said Eufasio. "Assistant Coach Kevin Allen and I feel our proudest moment so far this season was having 22 bowlers compete in a match against York. This is an indication of our growth as a program and of a very positive future."

Willowbrook competes in the Lisle tournament Saturday.

Fenton wrestling

The Fenton wrestling team was off to a 5-1 start in dual matches. Fenton had wins over Hoffman Estates, Palatine, Maine West, Kelvyn Park and Chicago Mather.

"We have had quite a successful start to the season," said Fenton coach Brian Hastings.

At the Fenton Weiss tournament, the Bison placed second out 10 teams. Milton (Wis.) won the tournament.

Senior Corey Muniz (106

pounds), Oscar Ledezma (145) and Joe Oweina (152) won individual titles.

Second-place finishers included senior Antoine Bess (126) and juniors Manny Morales (113) and Nathaniel Miller (120).

Taking third were seniors Grayson Kaspar (152), Juan Alfaro (182) and Rodrigo Castaneda (220), along with sophomore Angel Nava (132) and freshman Dylan Butts (160). Sophomore Ivan Rodriguez (182) placed fifth.

Through late last week, Ledezma and Muniz each were 7-0. Oweina and Morales were 7-1. Kaspar was 6-1. Alfaro and Nava were 8-2 and Bess had a 7-2 record.

Willowbrook girls basketball

The Willowbrook girls basketball team dropped a recent 43-31 West Suburban Confer-

ence Gold Division game to Downers Grove South.

Downers Grove South led 10-2 after the first quarter and 17-11 at halftime. The Trojans outscored Willowbrook 11-7 in the third quarter and 15-13 in the fourth quarter.

Josie Zabran led the Warriors with 11 points. Sam Schmidt added six points.

In earlier action, the Warriors scored a 58-24 win over Leyden in WSC Gold play. Willowbrook led 14-2 after the first quarter and 23-18 at halftime. The Warriors scored 11 points in the third quarter and held a 24-2 edge in the fourth quarter. Zabran had 19 points on 8-for-8 shooting. Michala Giammarino had 10 points (two 3-pointers). Alyssa Resinger and Schmidt each had 10 points.

Willowbrook boys basketball team making strides

Miller's strong outside shooting benefitting Warriors

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Willowbrook boys basketball coach Chris Perkins has seen positives from his squad thus far.

Through the first six games of the year, the Warriors were 4-2 overall and 1-1 in West Suburban Conference Gold Division play. Willowbrook defeated District 88 neighbor Addison Trail and lost to Morton in its first two conference games.

"We're doing alright so far,"

said Perkins. "We are forcing a lot of turnovers and converting those into easy baskets for us. We're mixing up the full-court pressure with half-court traps and trying to speed teams up. It's been a group effort defensively."

The Warriors have received a number of key contributions on the offensive end. Sophomore Alonzo Verge Jr. was leading the team in scoring through the first six games. Junior Kevin Miller and seniors Jake Bruns, Kyle Rushing and Chris Raycroft also have helped.

"Alonzo has been our leading scorer every game so far and is averaging over 20 points for us," said Perkins. "He gets to the basket and puts pressure

on the defense when he does that."

Perkins noted Miller has been a big help from the perimeter. He had five 3-pointers in each game against Addison Trail and Morton.

"Kevin has been shooting the ball really well for us," said Perkins.

Perkins likes the progress

he's seen offensively thus far. "We're trying to get better offensively with our read option offense," he said. "Guys are getting more comfortable making the proper reads. We're switching some defenses on the fly and getting stops. It's a different style of play than last year. The key is the kids are getting more confidence in

what we are trying to do. We're playing OK right now and I think we can play a lot better. I'm waiting for us to put together a complete game."

Willowbrook played at home Tuesday against Downers Grove South in another WSC Gold game. The Warriors will head to Glenbard West at Christmas for tournament play.

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Willowbrook/Burr Ridge 2015 Community Directory

The Community Directory is an essential reference guide for both residents and businesses. It includes a comprehensive list of Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry members with feature stories on business and industry trends, plus retail professional and service establishments. Vital information is provided about city and government services, as well as educational and recreational opportunities.

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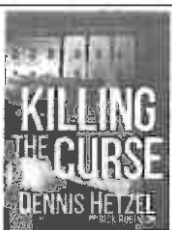
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PARKS & REC NEWS

Winter camp coming over holiday break

VILLA PARK — The Parks and Recreation Department is offering Winter Camp for kids age 5-12 to offer fun activities to do while on holiday break from school.

Winter Camp will be held Dec. 22, 23, 26, 29, 30, 31 and Jan. 2 at the Iowa Community Center, 338 N. Iowa. Camp is available 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily with a \$28 fee; if your camper needs to extend their camp day Sunrise and Sunset Camps are available for additional fees. Campers will enjoy theme days with many games and activities to keep them busy.

Please send a nonperishable lunch each day. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Sign up for the full week or camp or just the days you like.

Get personalized letters from Santa

The Villa Park Recreation Department is offering a Letters from Santa program. Imagine the joy and surprise when your child receives a personalized letter from Santa. Just complete a form available at the recreation buildings or online at vprd.org. The fee is \$3 per letter residents; \$4 non-residents.

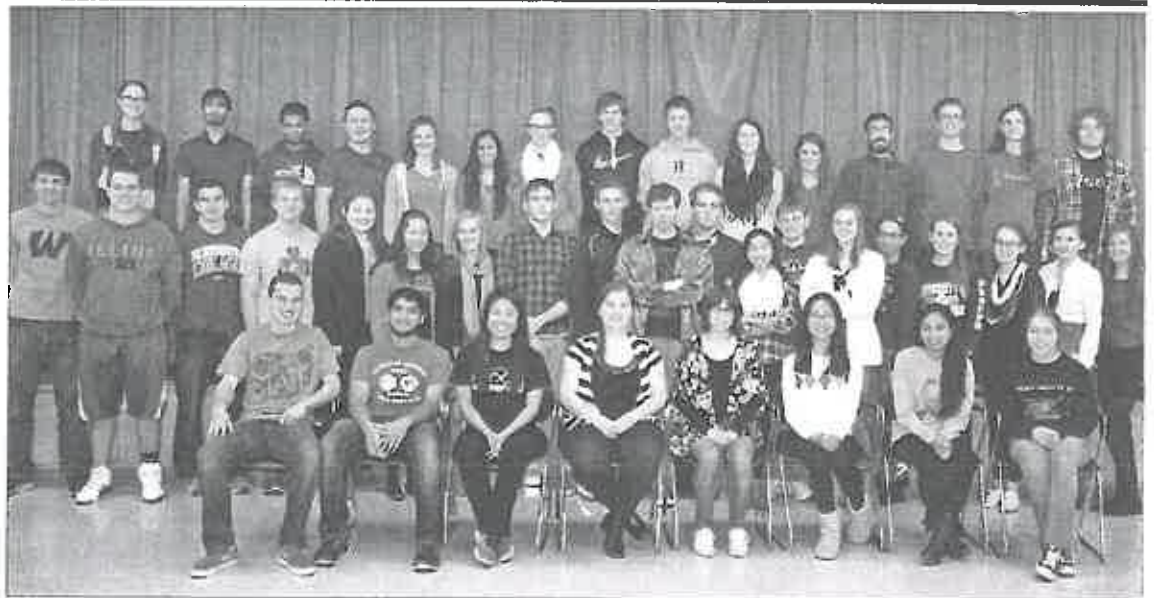


photo provided

Willowbrook students designated as Illinois State Scholars for 2015-16

On Dec. 2, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) announced the Illinois State Scholars for 2015-16, and 90 District 88 students earned that honor. The following students from Willowbrook High School were selected (listed alphabetically, not as pictured): Abdulaziz Ahmed, Madison Aiello, Furkhan Ali, Morgan Amaya, Liam Atkins, Alyssa Barrantes, Joshua Beausoleil, Brooke Bimber, Margaret Brown, Jessica Budig, Mika Cabudol, Ira Canete, Nicholas Carperos, Giselle Carter, Jessica Cookingham, John Corkery, George Dawson, Lauren Downer, Joseph Draus, Sarah Dvorak, Nicholas Eufrazio, Thomas Fitzmaurice, Molly Frobel, Micala Giammarino, Daniel Head, Michelle Jelinek, Kristian Johansen, Gloria Johnson, David Jones, Cassandra Joycem, Asra Mubeen, Andrew Kanelos, Gideon Karasek, Thomas King, Avery Kirchner, Elizabeth Koivun, Alexander Lapinski, Isabelle Martinez, Kelly McNamara, McKenna Mintz, Asra Mubeen, Wesam Nijim, Abby Pakeltis, Haley Patel, Elizabeth Pegler, Michael Rogalski, Tyler Rusnak, Nicholas Russell, Shukan Shah, Muhammad Shahzad, Atif Siddiqui, Laura Smith, Olivia Smith, Erin Stanis, Erin Sulla, Hannah Trewitt, Henry Wallace and Kelli Wysoglad.

VILLA PARK COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, Dec. 18

VPRD Holiday Pajama Party

From 6:30-7:30 p.m., kids ages 3-5 are invited to the Iowa Center for a Holiday Pajama Party to read a book, enjoy hot chocolate and make a holiday craft. Fee: \$10. Pre-registration required. Info: 630-834-8970 or visit vprd.org.

Monday, Dec. 22

VPRD - Cookie Decorating, Ornament Making Party

From 10-11:30 a.m., kids ages 3-12 are invited to the Iowa Center to decorate cookies for Santa and make ornaments to take home. Fee: \$12. Pre-registration required. Info: 630-834-8970 or visit vprd.org.

Monday, Dec. 29

Enchanted Castle lock-in

Join other teens from neighboring communities for this night of fun. The lock-in will be held from 8 p.m.-midnight at Enchanted Castle in Lombard for kids ages 10-17. Each participant gets 60 game tokens. Pre-registration is required with the Villa Park Recreation Department. Info: 630-834-8970 or vprd.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 31

New Year's Eve aftermoon celebration

Area adults and seniors are invited to join in fun at this year's New Year's Eve Afternoon Celebration hosted by Parks and Recreation at the Popular Francesca Amici's Restaurant, 174 N. York Road, Elmhurst. The festivities will

begin at 11:30 a.m. with a countdown to noon. Fee: \$42 for residents/\$45 non-residents and must be paid as soon as possible. Seating is limited. To register; call 630-834-8525.

Ongoing events...

• Letters from Santa

The Villa Park Parks and Recreation Department is offering a Letters from Santa program. Just complete a form available at the recreation buildings and online at vprd.org. Fee: \$3 per letter residents; \$4 non-residents.

• Winter Camp

Parks and Recreation is offering Winter Camp for kids age 5-12 to give them fun activities to do while on their holiday break from school. Winter Camp will be held Dec. 22, 23, 26, 29, 30, 31 and Jan. 2 at the Iowa Community Center, 338 N. Iowa. Camp is available 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily with a \$28 fee. Info: call 630-834-8525 or visit vprd.org.

• Winter Break Chess Camp

This camp is great for kids ages 6-14 who want to learn the game of chess or need to brush up on their skills. The beginning Chess Camp will be held from 9 a.m.-noon Dec. 29-Jan. 2. Chess Camp for experienced players will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 29-Jan. 2. Call 630-834-8970 for more information.

• 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 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.

• Indoor Walking Group

Now that the weather has turned colder, stop by the Iowa Community Center gymnasium for your daily walk. Indoor walking is available 7-9 am, Monday-Friday. No need to pre-register for this free drop-in program.

• 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.

• Senior Concerns Commission

The Senior Concerns Commission meets the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at Village Hall, 20 S. Ardmore Ave. The meeting is open to the public. Seniors and those interested in issues related to seniors are invited. For information contact the Village Manager's office at 630-592-6052.

• 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.

Sal's Beverage World building closer to completion

Village Board approves liquor license for new store

By Paul DelGuidice
For The Villa Park Independent

VILLA PARK — Folks driving by 298 W. Roosevelt Road in Villa Park the last few months surely will have noticed a new building under construction. The location, where the Bakers Square Restaurant stood vacant for nearly six years, will soon be a Sal's Beverage World retail liquor store.

"It's going up and it looks fantastic," said Village Manager Richard Keehner.

The Villa Park Board of Trustees, at its Formal Meeting held in Village Hall on Monday, December 8, approved a liquor license for the new store. The Class B-Packaged Liquor license, allows Sal's to sell alcoholic liquor in its original packaging. No consumption of liquor on the premises will be permitted.

"Thank you for the time you've spent on this project," said Village President Deborah Bullwinkel. "It looks like it is going to be a lot bigger building than we thought...(it) looks great."

The new building will be 11,700 square feet with storage in the basement. The old restaurant building was demolished in September and plans called for construction of the

new store to be completed by Christmas.

"We're about a month away. We hoped to open by Christmas, but that isn't going to happen," said Sal Liotta, owner of Sal's Beverage World, in his address to the Village Board before Monday's license approval vote. "We plan on having a big party before the Super Bowl!"

Sal's Beverage World has another location on St. Charles Rd. in Elmhurst, just east of Villa Ave. According to Liotta, the two stores will serve different customers and he has no plans to close the Elmhurst location. Liotta's main focus has been the completion of the new store in Villa Park, however.

"The sign should be up in the next couple of weeks," he said. "It will be the same sign that we have in Elmhurst."

The project is estimated to cost \$2 million. According to Liotta, it could generate more than the \$5 million in revenue produced at the Elmhurst store. Additionally, ten new jobs will be created at the Roosevelt Road location. According to Village Manager Rich Keehner, the store will generate "significant positive sales tax revenue" for Villa Park.

"I've been trying to build this building on Roosevelt Road for the last four or five months, but the weather hasn't been cooperating," said Liotta. "I'm trying to hurry up and get it done. I want to get out of the mud."



Submitted photo

Left to right: Villa Park Lions President Tom Cantlin, Villa Park Lions Rich Hamlin and York Township Supervisor John W. Valle.

Villa Park Lions donates toys, books to York Township families

VILLA PARK — Earlier this month, the Villa Park Lions Club Christmas Party was held at La Tosca Ristorante.

The party's theme again this year was "Literacy For The Young". Guests were asked to bring a book along with a toy for donation to the York Township Food Pantry which will distribute the

gifts to families with children in York Township.

York Township Supervisor John W. Valle said, "The Lions are known for their big hearts. Their generous donations will put smiles on the faces of a lot of children this holiday season. York Township is grateful for the ongoing support of the Villa Park Lions Club."

Senator Cullerton serves as Principal for a Day

VILLA PARK — On Dec. 9, a new face took over as Principal of Willowbrook, as State Sen. Tom Cullerton (D, District 23) served as Principal for a Day through the Illinois Principals Association (IPA).

The Principal for a Day program provides an opportunity for principals and other administrators to build and refine relationships with their state and federal legislators. Participation in the program involves state and federal legislators visiting schools in their legislative district, interacting with staff and students and performing

selected administrative tasks.

During his visit, Cullerton enjoyed a tour of Willowbrook, stopped by several classrooms to speak with students and staff and led the school in the Pledge of Allegiance.

"The Principal for a Day program is a great way for us to share with legislators what's going on at Willowbrook, in District 88 and in education throughout the U.S.," said Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause. "We always enjoy opening our doors to showcase our students, staff and programs to Cullerton and other legislators."



all photos provided

On Dec. 9, a new face took over as Principal of Willowbrook, as State Sen. Tom Cullerton (D, District 23) served as Principal for a Day through the Illinois Principals Association (IPA). Pictured are (from left) District 88 Superintendent Dr. Scott Helton, Cullerton and Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause.



Above left: Cullerton (left) speaks with Willowbrook Academic Resource Center science tutor Daniel Fernandez (center) and Krause. Above right: Cullerton (right) tours Willowbrook and speaks with students and staff in the school's College and Career Center. Also pictured is Krause.



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ON THE COVER

Nicholas Sanchez, 6, and his sister, Gianna, 3, of Addison try to decide what they want for Christmas during Breakfast with Santa.

Lorae Mundt • For Shaw Media

Deck the town



Jakayla Burton, 7, of Addison tells Santa what she wants for Christmas during Breakfast with Santa on Saturday at the Addison Park District Community Center.



Dylan Alvarez, 6, of Addison works on an art project Saturday at the Addison Park District Community Center during Breakfast with Santa.



Lizzeth Alvarez of Addison receives candy canes from Mrs. Claus on Dec. 5 during the Addison Christmas Tree Lighting.



Fynn MacShane, 10, of Lombard is excited to have survived a round of hot potato Saturday during Breakfast with Santa at the Addison Park District Community Center.

Photos by Lorae Mundt • For Shaw Media

District 88 mourns Board of Education member

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

DuPage High School District 88 Board of Education member and Willowbrook High School alumnus Mark Johnson died Saturday with his family by his side after being diagnosed with bone cancer this spring, according to a district news release.



Mark Johnson

"It is with great sadness District 88 shares the news," the release stated.

Johnson served on the District 88 Board of Education since 1999 and was president from 2003 to 2011. He graduated from Willowbrook in 1966 and

received the school's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2012. His four children also graduated from Willowbrook, according to the release.

"Mark truly represents all that District 88 stands for — building futures for students and working for the continuous improvement of student achievement," Superintendent Scott Helton said in the release. "He was part of this district in so many ways — he graduated from District 88, his children are graduates and he was a board member for 15 years. He was dedicated to guiding this district in a positive direction in the best interest of students."

Along with being on the Board of Education, Johnson also served as deputy chief of

police for the Villa Park Police Department, and he was part of the District 45 Foundation, Kiwanis Club of Villa Park and Tri-Town YMCA. He also was a council member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Villa Park and a PADS worker, the release stated.

Johnson often said his favorite aspects of being on the board were shaking hands with all the potential for the future that walk across the stage on graduation day, seeing the successes and dedication of students whom receive the District 88's Best award, and working with faculty and staff who have demonstrated themselves to be among the best in the area and knowing their passion is focused entirely on

the development of the student, according to the release.

Johnson and his wife, Phyllis, shared a passion for the arts, and they were big supporters of the fine arts program in District 88, the release stated.

A wake for Johnson will take place from 3 to 8 p.m. Friday at Steuerele Funeral Home in Villa Park. Funeral arrangements are scheduled for Saturday at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Villa Park. Johnson will lie in repose from 9 to 10 a.m. The funeral will then take place, followed by the funeral procession to Chapel Hill Gardens West Cemetery in Oakbrook Terrace.

The Johnson family asks that you share your thoughts and well-wishes at caringbridge.org/visit/markjohnson5.

Tough games part of plan for IC boys

By DAN SANTAROMITA
dsantaromita@shawmedia.com

ELMHURST – IC Catholic boys basketball has been put through a grinder early in the season with the hopes of the tough schedule paying off come playoff time.

For the second straight Friday, the Knights took on a bigger school with a good program and came out on the losing end. IC lost its home opener against Riverside Brookfield 69-42 Dec. 12 after dropping a 57-36 game at St. Patrick a week earlier.

IC had opened the season with four straight wins and rebounded from the losses with a 61-46 win against Fenton on Tuesday, but the two losses show the Knights still have a ways to go.

"It's tough, we have to learn to come together as a team being so young," coach T.J. Tyrrell said. "We're starting two sophomores and three juniors and we're still looking for a leader to step up."

Junior Rhashaun Epting scored 13 against the Bulldogs, but had just two in the first half as the Knights trailed by 23 at the break. Junior Will Lyles scored 10 points and sophomore Jordan Rowell had eight points and nine rebounds.

"Obviously RB is a top 20 team, a big school, so it was a little bit humbling," Tyrrell said. "We know we have a good



Erica Benson - ebenson@shawmedia.com

IC Catholic's Will Lyles squeezes past two Riverside Brookfield defenders Dec. 12. The Knights lost to the Bulldogs, a Class 4A team, for the second of back-to-back losses.

team here. It's just getting the guys to believe it and bring it consistently. It's good that these things happen early to get us some growing pains and learn to work through those."

The new Metro Suburban West provides a number of bigger schools as competition for the Knights. St. Edward is the only other Class 2A school in the conference along with the Knights.

"It will be good to play and see that kind of competition and work through these things," Tyrrell said.

Against the Bison, four dif-

ferent Knights scored in double figures led by Lyles' 17 points. Epting scored 14 points, Troy Burrows added 13 and Austin Reed contributed 11 points.

"Jordan Rowell has been playing through some pain and he's really working hard," Tyrrell said. "Will Lyles has been doing an outstanding job battling for us. I think we have some unique matchups that we can give some teams some mismatches. We've still yet to play a 2A school. The goal is still a long playoff run and we got to work towards that and keep that in our sights."

PREP ROUNDUP

Blazers basketball takes home tournament title

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

Addison Trail's boys basketball team is on a five-game winning streak.

AT won its own pre-holiday invite and also picked up a West Suburban Gold win against Downers Grove South. Jaavion Bradley scored 21 points and Taylor White scored 14 against the Mustangs.

In their tournament title, the Blazers defeated Stagg 56-46, Lake Park 45-43, Universal School 75-33 and Naperville Central 55-54 in overtime. The win against Naperville Central came Wednesday and was led by 14 points from Kevin Grygo and 10 from Matt Gontarek. White was the tournament MVP for the 8-1 Blazers.

BOYS BASKETBALL Timothy Christian

The Trojans picked up a pair of Metro Suburban East wins last weekend to improve to 5-3 overall and 3-1 in the league. Timothy defeated Guerin 39-33 on Dec. 12 with 18 points and nine rebounds from Joe Bishop. A day later, the Trojans beat Elmwood Park 45-32.

GIRLS BASKETBALL IC Catholic

The Knights beat Fenton 50-23 on Dec. 12 to improve to 7-3 overall.

Timothy Christian

Juliana Stremmer's 11 points led the Trojans to a 43-41 win Saturday against Westmont. Kaitlyn Gehrke also scored in double figures with 10 points. Timothy is now 5-4 on the year.

Addison Trail

Maria Koulogeorgas scored 10 points, but the Blazers lost Saturday against Willowbrook 58-32. Downers Grove South beat the Blazers 51-33 on Tuesday.

WRESTLING York

Michael Ordonez (138 pounds) and Tom Helton (285 pounds) were second at Prospect's Mudge/McMorrow invite Saturday. The Dukes were eighth as a team.

Addison Trail

The Blazers were seventh at Prospect's Mudge/McMorrow invite. Mike Huynh (113 pounds) and Jaime Valdez (126 pounds) both placed second.



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Scribe makes holiday wish list, checks it twice

Mr. S. Claus
c/o The North Pole
Dear Mr. Claus:

Aside from my disdain for bad holiday music and a particular FM station in the Chicago area that insists on playing this stuff 24/7 for six weeks, I think I've been a good boy.

Because I'm a big believer in applying the old "you miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take" adage to making out a holiday wish list, my list is a bit lengthy. That said, hopefully you'll deliver on a vast majority of my requests.

All I want this holiday season is ...

-- To have the "Do-it-Yourself Messiah" done for me.

-- To require people who a.) either stand in line for a store to open on Black Friday (and Thanksgiving night, as well), or b.) are seen on the nightly news fighting with each other for position in the checkout line, to work long hours in retail next holiday season.

-- For Chicago Bears head coach Marc Trestman to stop telling Bears fans how he's been trying to "grow men" and how wonderful the team's practices were throughout the week, leading up to yet another shelacking. Oh, and to see Trestman, Aaron Kromer and Mel Tucker file for unemployment on Monday morning (i.e., the day after the 2014 season mercifully ends this Sunday).

-- For Honda to stop airing its stupid Happy Honda Days commercials. Last year it was Michael Bolton's annoying crooning. This year, it's Gumby and Pokey, G.I. Joe, Skeletor, Strawberry Shortcake and Stretch Armstrong making sales pitches. Sheesh!

-- For the Salvation Army to set up two collection buckets at participating venues next holiday season -- one for regular donations, and the other for donations that would be used to purchase winter clothing for those I see out and about wearing shorts in 30-degree weather.

All I want this holiday season is ...

-- To catch the re-run of "Swamp People Christmas," which aired in mid-December on The History Channel.

-- For Santa to put a lump of coal in Anheuser-Busch's stocking for its decision not to trot out the famous Budweiser Clydesdales and feature them in its holiday advertising campaign this year. It's the best holiday commercial ever made.

-- For public restrooms to



Mike Sandrolini

Columnist

do away with hand dryers and automatic soap dispensers and use paper towels and good, old fashioned bars of soap instead.

-- For new Chicago Cubs pitcher Jon Lester, who'll be making \$25 million this coming season, to donate the entire salary from one of his future starts to my IRA. (That works out to around \$750,000 per start if he starts 32 games in 2015.) I'm admittedly not holding my breath since I'm a White Sox and Cardinals fan.

-- For the makers of Dinovite®, a dietary supplement for dogs, to make Dinovite for humans. If you've ever heard their radio commercials, Dinovite apparently cures every canine-related ailment under the sun.

-- For any parent who routinely calls their young son "buddy" to, well, call him by his first name. (Unless more and more parents are naming their sons Buddy these days.)

-- For the caps on bottles of Glaceau Vitamin Water not to be fastened so tightly that you practically need a vice grip to get the cotton-pickin' things off.

-- For Bulls star guard Derrick Rose, who recently wore an "I Can't Breathe" T-shirt during pregame, to also wear an "I can't shoot 3s" or an "I can't stay healthy" T-shirt during pregame warm-ups. (Rose wore the T-shirt to support Eric Garner, the African-American man who died after reportedly being choked by a white New York City police officer last July.)

-- For companies that advertise on "Family Guy" to kindly consider pulling their sponsorships, particularly after airing an episode earlier this month titled, "The 2,000-year-old Virgin." I haven't seen the episode, nor will I, but I've read enough about it to know it's highly offensive—I'd go as far to say blasphemous—to those of the Christian faith, no matter what one's denomination happens to be. The creators of this program are, of course, free to produce whatever trash they'd like, but is nothing sacred anymore?

District 88 remembers Mark Johnson

Willowbrook alum, Board member loses fight with cancer

VILLA PARK — It is with great sadness District 88 shares the news that Mark Johnson, District 88 Board of Education member and Willowbrook High School alumnus, has passed away.

Johnson was diagnosed with bone cancer this past spring and passed away with his family by his side on Dec. 13. Johnson served on the District 88 Board of Education since 1999 and was President from 2003 to 2011. He graduated from Willowbrook in 1966 and received the school's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2012. His four children also graduated from Willowbrook.

"Mark truly represents all that District 88 stands for — building futures for students and working for the continuous improvement of student achievement," said Dr. Scott Helton, District 88 Superintendent. "He was part of this district in so many ways — he graduated from District 88, his children are graduates and he was a Board member for 15 years. He was dedicated to guiding this district in a positive direction in the best interest of students."



photo provided
Pictured is District 88 Board of Education member and Willowbrook High School alumnus Mark Johnson, who passed away on December 13 after a battle with bone cancer. Johnson was a tremendous asset to the District 88 family and will be greatly missed.

Along with being on the District 88 Board of Education, Johnson also served as Deputy Chief of Police for the Villa Park Police Department and was on the District 45 Foundation, the Kiwanis Club of Villa Park and Tri-Town YMCA. He also was a Council Member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Villa Park, as well as a PADS worker.

Johnson could always be counted on to make the tough decisions Board members face to ensure a high-quality educational experience for the students of District 88. He often said his favorite aspects of being on the Board were shaking hands with all the potential for the future that walks across the stage on graduation day, seeing the successes and dedication of students who receive the District 88's Best award and working with a faculty and staff who have demonstrated themselves to be among the best in the area and knowing their passion is focused entirely on the development of the student. Johnson and his wife, Phyllis, shared a passion for the arts, and they were big supporters of the fine arts program in District 88.

Funeral services for Johnson were scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 20, 2014, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Villa Park. Interment at Chapel Hill Gardens West Cemetery in Oakbrook Terrace. Arrangements were handled by Steuerle Funeral Home in Villa Park.

The Johnson family asks that you share your thoughts and well-wishes at caringbridge.org/visit/markjohnson5.



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KC Council presents donation to Perks & Possibilities Café



Coffee shop operated by District 88 Transitional students

ADDISON — When you visit Perks & Possibilities Café inside the Addison Public Library at 4 Friendship Plaza in Addison, you're greeted by the welcoming aroma of freshly brewed coffee, snacks and juices lining the counters and — of course — friendly smiles.

The café is run by students in District 88's Transition Program, which helps students ages 19 to 21 learn life skills, obtain job training in a community setting and successfully transition to adult life. Perks & Possibilities Café is open from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday through Thursday and will celebrate its fifth year this March.

An exceptional characteristic of the café is it's a community project that has united intergovernmental agencies, local businesses and donors to support student learning. Perks & Possibilities Café is a result of the support provided by the community, and that generosity continues.

On Dec. 17, Knights of Columbus Juan Pablo II Council No. 14069 gave the café a monetary donation. That money was raised through selling Tootsie Rolls during an intellectual disabilities drive hosted by the council.

"Knights of Columbus hosts an intellectual disabilities drive each year, and we distribute the proceeds to organizations that meet those needs," said David Macnak, Deputy Grand Knight and Financial Secretary with the council. "We wanted to support organizations in Addison to keep the money local, and Perks & Possibilities Café is a perfect fit."

Macnak and Council Treasurer Chuck Seriano came to the café to present the contribution. Lori LaBarbera, Vocational Aide with the Transition Program, said the donation will be used to expand the café's services to provide more opportunities for students in the program.

courtesy photo

Enjoy a holiday meal with friends and relatives at



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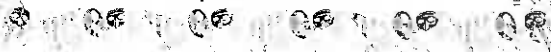
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Addison Trail students participate in college visits

On Dec. 10, a group of Addison Trail juniors and seniors (pictured) participated in a college visit to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. During the visit, students toured the campus and heard a presentation about the programs offered at the university. On Oct. 30, 44 juniors and seniors traveled to the University of Iowa for a visit, where they heard a presentation about the admission process and toured the campus. The trips were part of the Guidance Department's efforts to allow students to experience college campuses firsthand.

District 4 receives federal grant for early education

Addison one of 18 communities supported by Bright & Early DuPage

WHEATON — Illinois Governor Pat Quinn announced last week the Illinois recipients to receive funding through a competitive federal grant program from the U.S. Department of Education and Health and Human Services. Through

this program, Illinois will receive \$20 million per year, renewable for four years, to expand access to full-day preschool services for four-year-olds in 18 communities around the state.

Three of those communities are in DuPage County—Addison, West Chicago and Wheaton/Warrenville—and two of those (Addison and Wheaton/Warrenville) have collaboratives sup-

ported by The DuPage Community Foundation's Bright & Early DuPage.

The grants—Preschool Development Grant/Expansion Grants—are awarded to school districts throughout the country and are intended to help build, develop and expand high-quality preschool programs for low to moderate-income families. In just the first year, the Preschool Development Grants will

serve more than 33,000 additional children across the United States.

About Addison's Early Childhood Collaborative

The mission of the Addison Early Childhood Collaborative is to ensure

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AT football players receive state recognition

Pictured are five Addison Trail student-athletes who have received state-level recognition for their success on the football field. They are (from left) seniors Jake Atiyeh, Eric Gilliam, Matt Gontarek, Tyler Schroeder-Zelek and Mike Rybarczyk. Atiyeh, Gilliam, Gontarek and Schroeder-Zelek were named to the 2014 Illinois High School Football Coaches Association (IHSFCA) 7A Academic All-State Team. Rybarczyk has been named to the All-State Team.

TCD plans 40th anniversary community open house

Prepping students for the 21st century workplace

ADDISON — Technology Center of DuPage (TCD) turned 40 this year, but its mission and vision are sharper than ever: helping DuPage area high school students explore a career interest while equipping them for postsecondary education and a career. TCD invites parents, interested students, alumni, and the community at large to attend the 40th Annual Community Open House on Wednesday, January

21, 2015, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. TCD is the advanced, elective career and technical education campus for 24 high schools in DuPage County and Lyons Township, offering both high school and college credit.

During the evening, Open House visitors may see any or all of TCD's 21 program areas. In addition, there will be an optional, 30-minute career presentation at 7 p.m. for parents and students called High Tech, High Pay - No Thanks (?).

More than 90% of Americans value a strong manufacturing sector and 82% support fur-

ther investment in the industry. So Americans want manufacturing jobs — as long as it's for somebody else. A panel of Chicago area manufacturers sort facts from fiction and offer an eye-opening view of the opportunities open to qualified young people in this high tech, high paying industry. Featured companies include TCD business partners Arrow Gear in Downers Grove; Bison Gear in St. Charles; DuPage Machine Products in Bloomingdale; and Fidelity Tool & Mold in Batavia. Seating for the presentation is limited.

TCD's member High School districts include:

- Hinsdale Township H.S. District 86
- Glenbard Township H.S. District 87
- DuPage H.S. District 88
- Community H.S. Dist. 94

- Community H.S. Dist. 99
- Fenton CHSD 100
- Lake Park CHSD 108
- Wheaton-Warrenville CUSD 200
- Westmont CUSD 201
- Lisle CUSD 202
- Naperville CUSD 203

TCD by the numbers...

About TCD's 2014 seniors:

90% continued their education at a community college or university

5% continued their education through an industry apprenticeship

3% continued their education through a technical school

84% earned a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) — see act.org/certificate

Earned 5,299 hours of col-

lege credit

TCD's state-certified teachers have at least 2,000 hours of work experience in their fields.

They hold bachelor's and master's degrees as well as industry certifications and licenses

See tcdupage.org for curricula, program-specific certifications and college credit available.

• GRANT

Continued from page 1

that coordinated and comprehensive quality early learning experiences are available, accessible, and most importantly, utilized by the diverse families and young children of Addison so that they can achieve their maximum potential.

"The grant from The DuPage Community Foundation has been so instrumental in continuing and enhancing the work of the Addison Early Childhood Collaborative," said Chuck Wartman, assistant superintendent for Addison School District 4. "The DuPage Community Foundation has provided an opportunity to our collaborative to have a central focus which is to educate and communicate to all community partners, service providers, and families about the importance of kindergarten readiness and early intervention."

"Expanding access to full day preschool means a richer day of learning that helps prepare children for success in kindergarten and beyond," said Theresa Nihill, executive director of Metropolitan Family Services DuPage. "We are excited to partner with a great team of organizations to keep building a strong foundation for children in our community."

Metropolitan Family Services DuPage serves as the fiscal agent for both the Addison and Wheaton/Warrenville early childhood collaborative efforts.

"Through the support of the Foundation, we have been able to seed collaboratives in areas where they are needed most," said Barb Szczepaniak, Foundation director of programs. "These collaboratives have been able to put systems in place to help families learn, understand and pre-

pare their children for success when they enter kindergarten. The announcement of the grants to school districts in Illinois and especially DuPage will greatly support our collaborative efforts and is particularly exciting because it's confirmation that the Foundation's initial investments helped position these communities to be eligible to apply for and receive this funding."

More about Bright & Early DuPage:

Bright & Early DuPage is piloted and funded by The DuPage Community Foundation. The

Board of Trustees of The DuPage Community Foundation believes that Bright & Early DuPage is an opportunity for the Foundation to work with a variety of funders (i.e., individuals, organizations, foundations, etc.) to address a fundamental quality of life issue that will create a better future for DuPage County citizens for generations to come.

To date, the Foundation has established an endowment of more than \$5.5 million from which income will be used to address early childhood care and education and workforce development issues in perpetuity. The Foundation expects to contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars to Bright & Early DuPage projects over the next several years and will seek funds to extend the scope of this critical initiative.

It is estimated that for every dollar invested in early childhood education, \$7 to \$10 is saved on remedial education, health and criminal justice expenditures. For more information, visit defn.org/be.

AT holds 29th annual Toys for Tots initiative

ADDISON — This holiday season, Addison Trail students and staff participated in the 29th Annual Toys for Tots service project, in cooperation with the Addison Community Switchboard.

This year, Addison Trail sponsored more than 90 children from Addison. The Toys for Tots service project was organized by Addison Trail's Business Professionals of America (BPA) and the group's advisors, Juliann Boudouris and Jeff Laschinski.

Individuals, groups and departments at Addison Trail are invited to sponsor a child for a minimum \$50 commit-

ment to buy and wrap gifts for that child. This year, nine clubs, 16 classes, three departments and 27 faculty/staff members participated in the program.

Phone calls were made to each home to confirm information and ask what the child needs and wants. That allows sponsors to meet the specific needs of each child. This year, gifts were collected on Dec. 9, and students in Addison Trail's Business Work Program sorted and bagged the gifts. The presents were delivered on Dec. 10, with the help of business teacher Mike Maaske and Addison Trail junior Alexis Tellez.

See photo on page 9.



all photos provided

(Above left): Addison Trail science teacher Nick Pingel (center) visits with alumni (from left) Joe Amato, Frank Amato, Hugo Reyes and Nate Mueller, all from the class of 2014.
 (Above right): Addison Trail Counselor Shane Cole (third from left) visits with alumni (from left) Trinity de Guzman, class of 2014, Ryan Domino, class of 2014, Fionna De Guzman, class of 2014, Viviana Hernandez, class of 2013, and Fatima Baig, class of 2014.
 (Right): Roman Flores (left, class of 2013) and Rachel Murray (right, class of 2014) visit Addison Trail art teacher Tim Hockensmith.



photo provided



Addison Trail hosts annual Young Alumni Day

ADDISON — On Dec. 19, Addison Trail hosted its annual Young Alumni Day, where alumni from the last 10 years are invited back to the school. About 170 alumni attended the event, which involved visiting with friends and former teachers, coaches and staff members; seeing the school; and enjoying refreshments. "Young Alumni Day is an opportunity for recent Addison Trail graduates to return to their alma mater and visit with their former teachers," said Addison Trail Assistant Principal Mike Bolden. "Every year, the Addison Trail staff looks forward to reconnecting with alumni to see the path they have taken after graduation."

Addison Trail participates in Toys for Tots service project

This year, Addison Trail sponsored more than 90 children from Addison through the 29th Annual Toys for Tots service project. Toys for Tots is organized by Addison Trail's Business Professionals of America (BPA) and the group's advisors, Juliann Boudouris (pictured at right) and Jeff Laschinski (pictured third from left). Also pictured are Addison Trail business teacher Mike Maaske (left) and Addison Trail junior Alexis Tellez (second from left), who helped deliver the gifts to the Addison Community Switchboard, as well as Mary Arbaugh, President of the Addison Community Switchboard.

DISTRICT 88 BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWS

Approves 2014 proposed tax levy

ADDISON/VILLA PARK — During its Dec. 15th meeting, the District 88 Board of Education hosted a public hearing regarding the 2014 proposed tax levy and then approved the tax levy.

The proposed tax levy for 2014 was reviewed during the Oct. 20 and Nov. 10 Board meetings.

At its Nov. 10th meeting, the Board adopted a resolution to establish the aggregate amount of taxes estimated to be lev-

ied for the year 2014 in the amount of \$52,471,267. That request represents a 4.9-percent increase, but the district expects to receive an increase of about 2.3 percent, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at 1.5 percent and limited new-property growth. The final tax extension will be released in March 2015.

For more information about the 2014 proposed tax levy, visit dupage88.net/site/public/files/?item=1936.

For frequently asked questions about the tax levy, visit dupage88.net/site/public/files/?item=1189.

Vacancy on Board of Education

In compliance with Illinois School Code and District 88 Board policy, District 88 announces a vacancy on its Board of Education.

The seat is open until a candidate is elected after the April 7, 2015, school board election. To apply for the position, go to <http://tinyurl.com/ppvgg2>. Selected candidates will be interviewed by the Board of Education during the Jan. 12, 2015, Board meeting.

For questions or more information, contact Superintendent Dr. Scott Helton at shelton@dupage88.net or 630-530-3990.

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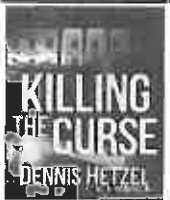


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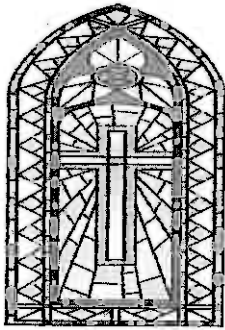
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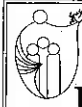
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Addison Trail recognizes Students of First Semester

ADDISON — Each semester, Addison Trail departments establish criteria that guide the nomination of a student who displays Blazer Pride to receive Student of the Semester recognition.

Criteria typically include:
Extraordinary achievement
Outstanding effort
Commendable attitude and motivation

Demonstration of ability to overcome obstacles

Continuous exemplary performance

On Dec. 16, 14 students were recognized as Students of First Semester for the 2014-15 school year and were presented by the staff member who nominated them. Those students are: Art: senior Cassandra Terrill; CTE business: senior Brandee Samlow; CTE family and consumer science: senior Daniel Baeza; CTE industry and technology: senior Adrian Villarreal; English: senior Franc De Guzman; ESL: junior Luz Dominguez Avelar; Math: senior Dayana Ramirez; Music: senior Elizabeth Lodzinski; Physical education: senior Yesenia Melendez; Reading: junior Sebastian Fuentes; Science: junior Selena Velasco; Social studies: junior Angelo Feola; Special education: senior Martin Carrillo Jr.; and, World languages: freshman Bryan Florian.



Pictured are Addison Trail students who were recognized on Dec. 16 as Students of First Semester for the 2014-15 school year. They are (back row, from left) junior Angelo Feola, senior Adrian Villarreal, junior Luz Dominguez Avelar, senior Franc De Guzman, senior Elizabeth Lodzinski, junior Sebastian Fuentes; (front row) senior Cassandra Terrill, senior Yesenia Melendez, junior Selena Velasco, senior Daniel Baeza, senior Brandee Samlow, senior Dayana Ramirez and freshman Bryan Florian. Not pictured: senior Martin Carrillo Jr. photo provided



all photos provided

Addison Trail hosts Principal's Cup of Cheer

To open their doors and spread holiday cheer, on Dec. 12, Addison Trail students and faculty hosted its annual Principal's Cup of Cheer. (Top left): Addison Trail Principal Adam Cibulka (left) greets (from left) former Addison Trail Principal Jim

Mortier, Addison Mayor Rich Veenstra and Addison Trustee Harry Theodore.

(Top right): Cibulka (left) greets (from left) Addison Police Department Director of Police Timothy "Bill" Hayden, Deputy Chief Joseph Maranowicz and Deputy Chief Brian Goss.

(Below): Addison Trail seniors (from left) Amanda Peters, Lauren Szydlowski and Maribel Huitron serve guests during the event. They are enrolled in the school's Hotel/Restaurant/Travel Industry course.



ADDISON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, Dec. 31

Family New Year's Party

From 2-5 p.m. at the Centennial Rec Center, the Addison Park District invites families for a dip in the pool and then a rockin' DJ and a delicious ice cream sundae bar. Enjoy an inflatable jumpy, family games, a countdown and a balloon drop. Register before Monday, Dec. 15 and save; the registration deadline is Tuesday, Dec. 23. All ages are welcome. Fee: \$5 for resident; \$8 for nonresidents per person (before Dec. 15); \$8 for residents; \$10 for nonresidents per person Dec. 16 or later. Info: Call 630-233-7275.

Ongoing events...

• 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 www.cfsites.org.

• Active Adults Senior Club

Adults, ages 55 or better, are invited to Park District's

Active Adults Senior Club on Tuesdays from 12-2 p.m. at Community Rec Center, 120 E. Oak Street. For more information, 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. Now through Monday, Jan. 18, residents drop off non-working holiday lights at all Park District facilities. Lights eligible for recycling: 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.

SPORTS

DECEMBER 25, 2014 • 13

Fenton boys cagers pushing through adversity

Biagi scores 25 against IC Catholic Prep; Bison slowed by injuries, illness

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The disabled list for the Fenton boys basketball team has been quite crowded lately.

Fenton has been slowed by both injury and illness of late. The Bison lost recent Metro Suburban Conference West Division games to IC Catholic Prep, Aurora Central Catholic and Glenbard South.

"It's been rough for the guys the past week," Fenton coach Josh Payton said late last week.

"We're dealing with illness and injuries and they have really bogged us down. We haven't been at full strength lately."

Fenton lost 79-70 to ACC in a game Payton was pleased with how his team played.

"That was probably our best all-around performance," he said. "We had a good performance there by a lot of players."

With injuries and illnesses adding up, Fenton has been limited on the practice court.

"There were two days where we had eight players available out of 14," said Payton. "It's been various things such as torn thumb ligaments, a rolled

ankle and a bad back and there are guys fighting the flu. At different times we've been missing different guys. It's been a tough skid. Hopefully we can get everybody back healthy or as many as possible by (mid-this week)."

Payton noted he was impressed with the team's offensive prowess in the ACC game.

"The fact that we put up 70 points is really big," he said. "Last year we were averaging in the high 30s. To get that type of output where you basically are doubling your point average from the previous season is huge."

Sophomore guard Bryan Larsen has made a difference for the Bison of late.

"Bryan is such a player," said Payton. "He played the first half against ACC and then his back tightened up. He's done a phenomenal job."

Junior guard Eric Trujillo also played well in the game. "Eric sparked us off the bench," said Payton. "His ball-handling ability and getting to the rim have been critical. He gets a lot of people open looks."

Senior Jeremy Biagi, a forward-center, had 25 points in the loss to IC Catholic Prep. "That was a great game for him," said Payton. "We strug-

gled in the first half of that game putting together our offense. Our defense played pretty well. We held them to 24 points, but we only scored 12. It was a struggle on offense the first half, but a defensive victory. Jeremy stepped up for us and poured in everything he could to keep us competitive."

Fenton will compete in the expanded Luther North tournament over the holidays.

"The field has been doubled there," said Payton. "This is our first year there. You're guaranteed four games and potentially five. This is a tournament where we think we can be competitive. I'm optimistic."

Willowbrook girls basketball team defeats Morton, Hinsdale South

Warriors sitting at 4-2 in conference through end of first round

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook girls basketball team finished off the first round of West Suburban Conference Gold Division play in style.

The Warriors scored a pair of overtime wins against Hinsdale South and Morton. Willowbrook was 7-5 overall and 4-2 in WSC Gold play after the Morton win.

In a 44-41 overtime win over Hinsdale South, Josie Zabran had 22 points for the Warriors. Sam Schmidt added eight points and Michala Giammarino added five points. Zabran also had 10 rebounds.

Hinsdale led 13-7 after the first quarter, but Willowbrook came back to take a 20-16 lead at halftime. Willowbrook led by a point at 28-27 heading into the fourth quarter.

"We didn't shoot particularly well

against Hinsdale South," said Willowbrook coach Terry Harrell. "We played well enough to get it done."

In a 53-51 overtime win against Morton, the two teams were tied 15-15 after the first quarter and 27-27 at halftime. Willowbrook outscored Morton 12-9 in the third quarter, but Morton held an 11-8 edge in the fourth quarter, forcing the extra session.

Zabran again led Willowbrook with 18 points to go with eight rebounds. Giammarino added nine points and five rebounds, while Alyssa Spada had seven points. Breonna Brown added six points. Sam Schmidt pulled in a team-high 17 rebounds and had five assists. Alyssa Rensinger had three blocked shots.

"We've been up and down for most of the season," said Harrell. "For awhile we would win one, lose one, win one, lose one and most of these games have been by six or eight points. Lately, our defense has gotten better and we've won conference games. We're not scoring (as much as) we would like, but the

defense has been much better. We're starting to come together. It took us a little while to get back to where we should be playing. We've made some adjustments with ball-handling. We've figured out what we need to do."

Harrell has been pleased with the team's guard play of late.

"We've had some good guard play from Michala (Giammarino) and Kelsey (McGowan)," he said.

Bench play also has aided the team's plight. "This last week here our bench has been beginning to emerge a little bit and that's a good thing," said Harrell.

In the Hinsdale South game, Harrell liked the defensive efforts of Brown and Cheyenne Brunig. "That was really good to see their efforts," he said.

Willowbrook has been paced in the post by Zabran and Rensinger.

"Our posts have been solid most of the year," said Harrell. "Josie is averaging 16 points and nine rebounds and Alyssa is averaging six points and eight rebounds. Sam Schmidt is averaging six points and eight rebounds for us and has

been solid for us."

Willowbrook opened play earlier this week in the Wheaton North Christmas tournament.

"We'll see what kind of depth we have in that tournament," said Harrell. "There are so many games so quickly that you can't just depend on five or six players. You need your bench to contribute. We are making progress. As we are gaining experience and the girls are getting more comfortable, we are playing together as a team more. I think we have good things ahead of us."

Earlier, Willowbrook scored a 58-32 conference win over neighbor Addison Trail. Willowbrook led 18-11 after the first quarter and then used a 16-2 second quarter to pull away.

Zabran had 13 points. Giammarino added 11 points (three 3-pointers). Schmidt had 11 points as well (two 3-pointers). Spada scored eight points. Zabran also had seven rebounds, while Kelsey McGowan had seven assists. Willowbrook shot 6-for-10 from the 3-point line.

Addison Trail gymnast Casey Boksha wins individual title

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail girls gymnastics team recently placed sixth at the Hersey Invitational.

The Blazers finished with a team score of 130.075.

Individually, Casey Boksha won the beam event with a score of 9.25. Kennedy O'Neill was fifth on bars and floor, sixth on vault and eighth in the all-around scoring.

Terra Garcia was the winner of the Michael Myer Award for, as Addison Trail coach Brandi Kisse explained, "her dedication, hard work and perseverance in the gym. She is someone who is consistent with her routines and is someone the team always can count on."

Kisse likes what she is seeing in practice and in competitions. "The team is doing a great job staying motivated and focusing on their goal each

meet," she said. "The girls are continuing to improve and are looking forward to the break so they can focus on new skills. The team has done a great job of going into the gym and being focused on what they need to accomplish for the day. Some days I do not even need to tell them what they need to work on because they already know what I am going to say. Practices run really smooth and they get a lot done."

Another gymnast who has

shown improvement of late is sophomore Jessica Rosal. "Jessica has really stepped up recently," said Kisse. "She is a sophomore who is competing all-around this year. Last year she only competed in three events and worked really hard over the summer to add bars. If I ask her to try a new skill, once she gets the skill, the look on her face is priceless."

Kisse is anxious to see what the team can accomplish in 2015.

"The team is doing great so far," she said. "I am very proud of what they have done already and I'm excited to see where they are going to be at the end of the season."

Addison Trail returns to action Jan. 8 with a West Suburban Conference Gold Division meet against District 88 neighbor Willowbrook in Villa Park. The team's final regular-season home meet is Thursday Jan. 15 against Leyden.

ADDISON

Suburban Life

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Re-live Addison's most memorable stories of the year



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ON THE COVER

Jeff Nellessen (top right) leads a music production class Sept. 3 at Addison Trail High School that focuses heavily on the use of technology.

Bill Ackerman file photo



Photo provided by the Addison Historical Society

An Illinois Central Railroad train travels south near the old depot at Lake Street and Addison Road in the early 1900s.

Look back at the area's biggest stories

By **MARY BETH VERSACI**
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As the new year nears, it's time to revisit what made 2014 memorable. From a big anniversary to airport noise, this year's top stories will live on long after the ball drops next week.

1. Happy anniversary

What happened: This year marked Addison's 130th anniversary as an incorporated village.

The Addison area was first settled about 1834 by European immigrants looking for farmland, and it was incorporated 50 years later.

Addison celebrated its anniversary at the final Rock 'N' Wheels concert of the summer. Addison singer and songwriter Joe Kalish debuted a special song he wrote just for his town and later sang it again at the annual Mayor's Community Charity Ball in November.

Englishmen Hezekiah Dunklee and Mason Smith are credited as being the first settlers to stake out homesites in the area, inspiring its original name of Dunklee's Grove.

Many of the early settlers to the region were German Lutherans, and Addison developed largely thanks to the institutions started in town by the Lutheran Church.



Next week

Find out what stories you need to be following in 2015.

More memories

Share your top 2014 memories with us at facebook.com/mysurbandlife.

Quote of note: "As residents of Addison, there is so much we need to be proud of and recognize and celebrate," **Addison Mayor Rich Veenstra** said.

36,942 The population of Addison, according to the 2010 census

2. Technology growth

What happened: DuPage High School District 88 is increasing the presence of technology at its schools as students' personal use of technology continues to grow.

A few years ago, the district started a bring-your-own-device policy that allowed students to use their smart-

phones, tablets and laptops in class. More students are now taking advantage of the opportunity, and a laptop checkout program to increase students' accessibility to technology also was expanded this school year.

New this year, District 88 students can take a blended online P.E. class for individualized fitness instead of a traditional P.E. class. Students are given heart rate monitors along with physical tasks or benchmarks. They meet periodically with their teacher but exercise on their own while the heart rate monitor collects data about their workout.

This is the first class that uses the district's Nucleus learning management system, which allows teachers to post class information and assignments online, as well as set up class forums or discussions similar to online college courses.

Quote of note: "It's definitely a needed and essential part of how kids are learning," **District 88 Director of Technology, Learning and Teaching Aaron Lenaghan** said.

13 The number of laptop carts each District 88 school has

3. No noise

What happened: Voters in suburbs near Chicago O'Hare International Airport overwhelmingly showed their support Nov. 4 for measures to

help mitigate airport noise.

In Bensenville, residents voted in favor of developing a plan to address noise, requiring airlines to "fly quiet" from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. and establishing a noise level metric. Each referendum measure received more than 90 percent of the vote.

Similar measures passed in Bloomingdale, Itasca and Wood Dale as well, with about 80 percent to more than 90 percent of the vote.

Airport noise also was a major campaign issue in the race for the DuPage County Board District 1 seat, which represents Addison, Bensenville, Bloomingdale, Elmhurst, Itasca and Roselle.

The topic flared up during a board meeting Oct. 14, with claims of politicking and inaction.

Several members of the public, including former District 1 candidate Rolland "Rolly" Waller and former county clerk candidate Jean Kaczmarek, both Democrats, spoke during the meeting about the board's slow response to increased noise near O'Hare airport.

Quote of note: "I feel that [the board] can play a much bigger role," **former DuPage County Board District 1 candidate Rolland "Rolly" Waller** said.

79 The lowest percentage of votes an O'Hare noise referendum measure received in the Nov. 4 election

SPORTS



Have a question or comment?

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

YEAR OF THE CHAMPION

York track title tops list of memorable moments

By DAN SANTAROMITA

dsantaromita@shawmedia.com

With 2015 in its early stages, there is no better time to take one last look back on the successes IC Catholic, Timothy Christian and York student athletes had in a slew of sports during the 2014 calendar year.

School: York**Sport:** Boys track**Place:** State champions

State run: The Dukes won a fifth boys track state title in the spring to send retiring coach Stan Reddel out a winner. York scored 40 points, just edging ahead of the 36 points scored by Edwardsville and Lake Park and the 34 points from Neuqua Valley.

Quote: "Everyone who came down contributed; everyone wanted to do well for each other. And we wanted to do this for coach Reddel. He is a phenomenal coach, he is a phenomenal guy and he's our friend." **high jumper Reid Smith**



File photo by Bill Ackerman - backerman@shawmedia.com

Timothy Christian goalkeeper Ben Lodewyk is mobbed by celebrating teammates Oct. 28 after the Trojans won a penalty kick shootout against Latin to earn a berth in the state semifinals. TC went on to finish second at the Class 1A state finals.

Name: Kelly McNamara, Addison Trail/Willowbrook co-op

Sport: Girls swimming, 100-yard butterfly

Place: State champion

State run: McNamara had been building towards this state title, which she won in November. She was sixth in the 100-yard butterfly as a sophomore and second as a junior. The senior capped it all off by breaking her own school record in the prelims to earn the top seed in the final, which she won with a time of 54.83 seconds.

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

School: Timothy Christian**Sport:** Boys soccer**Place:** Class 1A runner-up

State run: The Trojans made it to state for the first time since winning in 2009 by defeating Latin in penalty kicks in the supersectional. Once at the Corn Crib in Normal for the finals in No-

vember, Timothy won another penalty shootout in the semifinal against Harvard before losing 2-0 to Columbia in the final. Senior Tyler Vlasak led the team with 27 goals and 16 assists in 25 matches.

Quote: "It's something they'll never forget. Ultimately they came up a little short, but in time I think they'll realize they accomplished something pretty special." **coach Joe Grit**

School: York**Sport:** Boys track, 4x100 relay**Place:** Second in Class 3A

State run: Jeff Ostling, Josh Farrar, Greg Gornick and Itoro Akpakpan teamed up to earn the highest finish and most points for York in one event. All four were seniors last spring and finished in 41.48 seconds, just two-hundredths of a second behind winners Lake Park.

Quote: "That was an awe-



Monica Synett file photo - msynett@shawmedia.com

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

some moment, an awesome experience. We really cleaned things up. All year, we had one bad handoff here or one bad handoff there. We put it all together." **Jeff Ostling**

Name: Jordan Rowell, IC Catholic

Sport: Boys track, 200-meter dash

Place: Third in Class 1A

State run: Rowell was a

varsity athlete in three sports as a freshman and capped off his fantastic school year by earning all-state honors

See CHAMPION, page 22



Bill Ackerman - backerman@shawmedia.com

York's Ryan Camp dribbles past Wheaton North's Nick Jordan on Tuesday at York's Jack Tosh tournament. The Dukes went 2-2 at the event and take a 6-5 record into 2015.

York gets 'great experience' at Tosh Holiday Tournament

By **DAN SANTAROMITA**
dsantaromita@shawmedia.com

ELMHURST – Hosting the 32-team Jack Tosh Holiday Tournament last week made for a busy week for York players, coaches and staff off the court, but the Dukes also had some tough games on the court.

York, which had made the final the past two years, went 2-2 at the tournament. The Dukes opened with a 58-47 win against Minooka before losing 64-48 against Riverside Brookfield. In the consolation bracket York beat Hinsdale South 53-51 and lost 65-46 against Wheaton North in the finale.

"This was a great tournament for us," coach Vince Doran said. "We got great experience. We played four very good teams and to come out 2-2 was really good, actually, playing the competition we played and getting in the winners' bracket right away. Two good wins, Minooka has done well here after we beat them, they won their next two games, and ... Hinsdale South, who is very talented. We competed against RB and Wheaton North, we just let those games get away from us."

Senior Jayvon Thomas returned to the team after missing York's two games before the tournament. The guard scored in double figures in all four games and led the team each game. He scored 28 in the loss against RB and averaged

20.75 points per game during the tournament.

"It was nice getting Jayvon back," senior guard Luke Libert said. "Obviously he's a very good offensive player. He allows us to drive and kick for threes. We hadn't been shooting it that well, but once we got those drive and kicks we knocked them down a little better."

Libert scored in double figures in each of the Dukes' past two games. The first consolation game had a little more intrigue because Doran coached Hinsdale South through the 2010-2011 season before taking over at York. Doran still teaches at the Darien school and knows some of the players on the team.

"A couple of those kids I have in class and are real good kids so I guess they can't talk any garbage to me the rest of the year," Doran joked.

York now brings a 6-5 record into 2015. The first game of the year will be Jan. 6 at Naperville North. The Dukes return to West Suburban Silver play Jan. 9 against Downers Grove North in Elmhurst.

"We're going to get into the heat of things now with a tough nonconference game first with Naperville North, who is playing real well right now," Doran said. "In league play we're 1-1 right now. We're going to get down the stretch and get into some real battles. Everyone is looking forward to playing in some exciting games coming up here."

PREP ROUNDUP

IC boys play for tourney title

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

IC Catholic's boys basketball team won all three pool play games at the IC/Westmont Invite to make the tournament final on Tuesday. IC defeated Elmwood Park 63-48, Latin 68-54 and Evergreen Park 75-47.

In the final St. Edward beat the Knights 58-41. Troy Burrows and Rhashaun Epting scored 10 points each in the final.

BOYS BASKETBALL Timothy Christian

The Trojans went 1-3 at York's Jack Tosh Holiday Tournament. Elk Grove beat the Trojans 55-38 in the first round. In consolation play, TC lost 58-52 against Sandburg before beating Ridge-wood 61-51. In the finale, Timothy lost 65-38 against Staggs. Ben Lodewyk averaged 10.75 points per game during the tournament.

"We love to play big teams, it helps to toughen us up," coach Jack LeGrand said. "We're getting there. We made about five steps forward in this tourney, and then about two steps back."

The Trojans (6-8) are traveling to California for a service project that will include a game on Jan. 6 at Crean Lutheran High School in Irvine.

"We're excited to get there and I think [against Staggs] we might have been looking ahead to some of those fun times," LeGrand said of his team's performance in the tournament finale.

Addison Trail

The Blazers won their opener at the Centralia Holiday Tournament, beating University City (Mo.) 57-40 in the first round. Taylor White scored 17 points and Zachary Novak added 14. In the quarterfinal on Tuesday, AT lost

50-25 against tournament host Centralia after shooting 5-for-37 from the field.

WRESTLING York

The Dukes placed eighth out of 16 teams at DeKalb's Don Flavin Invite on Tuesday. York went 2-1 in pool competition with wins against Waubesa Valley (50-36) and Staggs (54-16) and a loss to Naperville North (58-15). In day two bracket competition, the Dukes lost to Prospect (64-13), Batavia (46-28) and Plainfield Central (39-27).

GIRLS BASKETBALL IC Catholic

The Knights took on big school competition at the Oswego East Holiday Classic Tournament and went 2-2, placing sixth out of 16 teams. In the consolation bracket the Knights beat Harlem 51-27 and lost 48-39 against Metea Valley.

Lady Dukes defend tournament title

By **DAN SANTAROMITA**
dsantaromita@shawmedia.com

OSWEGO – Whatever York's girls basketball team has been doing to prepare for and play at the Oswego East Holiday Classic Tournament the past two years has been working.

The Dukes defended their tournament title and beat some strong teams along the way.

York entered last year's tournament with a losing record and won the title. This year the Dukes entered with a 6-4 record after some up and down play, but turned it on around Christmas to retain the title.

"I think every start to every season you're always trying to find the right balance, the right players and matchups and what you do well," coach John Constable said. "I think last year and this year, this year in particular, we just found the right balance at the right time on offense and defense."

Sarah Milkowski was named the tournament MVP and Jessica Bianchi joined her on the all-tournament team. A year ago Bianchi was the

MVP and Milkowski was also all-tournament.

Milkowski averaged just under 18 points per game and eight rebounds through the first three games, but felt sick in the final against Sycamore. Milkowski didn't score and pulled in four rebounds.

"If you had told me her stat line at the end of that championship game and that we would have won, I wouldn't have believed you," Constable said. "Megan Backman came off the bench and was on fire. She single-handedly kept us in the game offensively. Jess Bianchi and Alyssa Kovatchis did a great job of finding her."

Kelly Polte, who was out sick for the first two games of the tournament, made her only start against Sycamore and grabbed a team-high six rebounds while matching up against a player Constable described as a strong post player.

Backman had a team-high 18 points in the 50-43 victory and was 5-for-6 from 3-point range. Bianchi had 15 points and six assists. Kovatchis scored nine points and had four assists.

Earlier in the tournament, York defeated Joliet 63-33, Plainfield North 46-26 and West Suburban Gold leader Proviso East 50-43. Constable credited the team's overall defense, especially the play of Jamie Kovatchis, for leading the team's title run.

"There wasn't a game that she had [to guard] a player that ... wasn't usually a 15-20 points per game scorer," Constable said. "Especially in the championship game, she had her hands full with a girl from Sycamore that can flat our score. Jamie Kovatchis was just on lock down."

The 10-4 Dukes next play at Lake Park on Jan. 6. The next West Suburban Silver game is at Downers Grove North on Jan. 9.

"I think momentum wise we have the senior guards to keep us competitive in every game that we play this year," Constable said. "If we play defense the way that we did during this tournament and we're able to shoot the ball the way we did ... I think we're going to be pretty good."

• CHAMPION

Continued from page 20

in three track events in the spring. He was third in the 200-meter dash, sixth in the 100 dash and was a part of the Knights' 4x200 relay, which placed eighth.

Quote: "I loved the atmosphere and I loved seeing the big crowds. I kind of got nervous, but when the race starts, you just have to run your race." **Jordan Rowell**

Name: Reid Smith, York
Sport: Boys track, high jump
Place: Third in Class 3A

State run: Smith, a senior last spring, took third in the high jump by clearing 6-foot-8. He was the top individual place winner for state championship Dukes.

2 Top-10 finishes in the high jump for Smith, who was ninth in the event as a junior.

School: York

Sport: Boys track, 4x200 relay

Place: Third in Class 3A

State run: Jake Sacksteder, Josh Farrar, Greg Gornick and Ito Akpakpan gave the Dukes a second top-three relay finish at state. Sacksteder was the only junior with three seniors. Farrar, Gornick and Akpakpan medaled in two relays at state.

1:26.66 The relay team's time in the state final race.

School: IC Catholic

Sport: Girls basketball



York's Josh Farrar (middle) nears the finish line in the 100-meter dash finals on May 31 at the state meet in Charleston. Farrar was fifth in the event, helping the Dukes win the team championship.

Place: Fourth in Class 2A

State run: The Knights won every game in the regional and sectional rounds of the playoffs by double digits and edged Seton Academy 40-38 in the super-sectional to earn the program's first trip to state. At state, IC lost a pair of close games to take fourth. Seniors Grace Vitek and Rory Manion were standout seniors for the Knights.

1 State trophies IC has in girls basketball.

Name: Josh Farrar, York

Sport: Boys track, 100-meter dash

Place: Fifth in Class 3A

State run: Farrar finished with a time of 10.87 seconds in the 100-meter dash final. Then a senior, he also competed in the 4x100 and 4x200 relays as both events placed in the top three.



IC Catholic's Jordan Rowell waves to the crowd in May after receiving a state medal for his finish in the 200-meter dash. Rowell, then a freshman, placed third in the event in the Class 1A field.

3 Events in which Farrar earned all state honors, including two relays.



Shaw Media file photos

York's Reid Smith competes in the high jump at the Class 3A state meet in May. Smith placed third in the event and helped the Dukes to the team title in the process.

Name: Matt Plowman, York
Sport: Boys track, 800-meter run

Place: Fifth in Class 3A

State run: Plowman, also a standout cross country runner, used his distance running experience to contribute to the Dukes' track

title by placing in the 800-meter run. He finished the race in 1:54.80.

Quote: "It's cool to medal, but I just wanted to get points for my team. It was a fast race, a good race, and I was just happy to be a part of it." **Matt Plowman**



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SPORTS



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Holiday tourney time for AT, IC, TC, York hoops

By DAN SANTAROMITA

dsantaromita@shawmedia.com

It's holiday season, which in the world of high school sports means basketball tournaments. Here's the outlook for boys and girls teams from Addison Trail, IC Catholic, Timothy Christian and York:

BOYS

Addison Trail

Tournament: Centralia Holiday Tournament

Location: 2100 E. Calumet St., Centralia

First game: 9:15 p.m. Monday vs. University City (Mo.)

What to watch: Despite graduating a lot of key talent from last year's team, AT is 9-1 and has two tournament titles already at Elmwood Park and at the Blazers' own pre-holiday tournament.

Senior returners Taylor White and Matt Gontarek have been key, but newcomers Jaavon Bradley, Eric Grygo and Ryan Zigowicz have stepped up to make AT a deep team.

A win against University would mean a likely meeting with host Centralia in the second round.

IC Catholic

Tournament: IC/Westmont Invite

Location: 217 S. Cottage Hill, Elmhurst

First game: 7:30 p.m. today vs. Elmwood Park

What to watch: IC co-hosts this tournament with Westmont, per usual, and even has the same pool play opponents - Elmwood Park, Latin and Evergreen Park - as last year, when IC finished in third place.

Junior Rhashaun Epting leads an athletic, but young, IC roster which is 6-2 entering tournament play. Juniors Will Lyles and Troy Burrows and sophomores Austin Reed and Jordan Rowell are also part of the Knights' young core.

Timothy Christian

Tournament: Jack Tosh Holiday Classic

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York's Jack Julian (left) guards Lyons Township's Harrison Niego on Dec. 5. Julian and the Dukes will have home-court advantage at the Jack Tosh Holiday Classic tournament at York.

Location: 355 W. St. Charles Road, Elmhurst

First game: 8:30 a.m. today vs. Elk Grove

What to watch: The Trojans return to York for the second straight holiday season, and for the second straight holiday season they open against Elk Grove, which was one of eight teams to receive a seed in the 32-team tournament.

Timothy brings a 5-4 record into the tournament this year, but hasn't played a Class 4A school yet. Six of the eight teams in the Trojans' quarter of the bracket are 4A schools.

York

Tournament: Jack Tosh Holiday Classic

Location: 355 W. St. Charles Road, Elmhurst

First game: 8 p.m. today vs. Minooka

What to watch: York has made the final of its own holiday tournament the past two years, losing last year and winning in 2012.

The Dukes have a young team which enters the tournament with a 4-3 record. York could see undefeated Riverside Brookfield in the second round if it gets past Minooka.

Senior guard Jayvon Thomas is the team's leading scorer. Luke Libert is the only other returning player with varsity experience. Juniors Jack Morrissey, Jack Julian and Ryan Camp are among the contrib-

uting newcomers.

GIRLS

York

Tournament: Oswego East Holiday Classic Tournament

Location: 1525 Harvey Road, Oswego

Next game: 1 p.m. today vs. Proviso East

What to watch: A year ago the Dukes were just 3-8 when they headed to Oswego East and won the tournament title. This season York has still been inconsistent, but is off to a better start and entered with a 6-4 record.

Jess Bianchi (2013 tournament MVP) and Sarah Milkowski (2013 all-tournament team) are among the Dukes' return-

ing players.

York defeated Joliet Central 63-33 in the first round and Plainfield North 46-26 in the quarterfinals to earn a semifinal date with Proviso East.

IC Catholic

Tournament: Oswego East Holiday Classic Tournament

Location: 1525 Harvey Road, Oswego

Next game: 2:30 p.m. today vs. Harlem

What to watch: The Knights are back at Oswego East, which means a field of larger schools. After opening with a 39-38 win against the host Wolves, the Knights lost against Downers Grove South 50-49.

They still have two consolation games remaining.

Timothy Christian

Tournament: Holiday Cage Classic

Location: Lisle High School, 1800 Short St., Lisle

First game: 8 p.m. today vs. Coal City

What to watch: After a slow start the Trojans have picked up their play recently. TC had a four-game winning streak until a loss Saturday against Chicago Christian.

At 5-5, Timothy is showing great improvement from a year ago. Juliana Stremmer and Kaitlyn Gehrke are the key players leading the Trojans to the Lisle tourney.

Addison Trail

Tournament: Riverside

Location: 160 Ridgewood Rd., Riverside

Next game: 11 a.m. today vs. Shepard

What to watch: The Blazers headed into tournament play fresh off their first conference win of the season, 63-53, against Leyden on Dec. 19.

AT lost tourney pool play games against Glenbard East and South Shore. AT faces Shepard before two placement games on Saturday.

PREP ROUNDUP

Tough quad field tests York wrestling

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

After hosting Oswego East in a dual Dec. 19, the York wrestling team competed in the Plainfield South Super Quad on Saturday.

Facing some top competition at the event, the Dukes lost matches against Glenbard East, Wheaton North, Wheaton Warrenville South and the host Cougars.

WRESTLING Addison Trail

The Blazers placed sixth out of 16 teams at the Lake Park Invite on Saturday. Mike Huynh, at 113 pounds, and Karim Fuentes, at 285 pounds, were finalists.

GIRLS BOWLING York

The Dukes placed third at the West Aurora Invite on Saturday. York's next meet is Jan. 6 at Addison Trail.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS York

The Dukes lost to two-time defending state champion Lyons Township 143-102.85 Dec. 19 in La Grange.

The next day, York headed to the Palatine Invite, where it placed fifth out of eight



Erica Benson - ebenson@shawmedia.com

York's Tom Helton wrestles at 285 pounds Dec. 19 in a match against Oswego East's Ryan Ingalls. The Dukes also wrestled Saturday at the Plainfield South Super Quad.

teams with a score of 120.75. Maggie Thoele had York's best all-around score with a total of 31.7, good for 12th place.

Addison Trail

The Blazers hosted the Winter Tumbleland Invitational on Saturday and placed third out of six teams with a score of 131.45.

Blazers' bench comes through big in AT win

By DAN SANTAROMITA
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FRANKLIN PARK - After a disastrous start to the third quarter that put Addison Trail behind by 16 points against Leyden, coach Brendan Lyons pulled his entire starting lineup off the court, and the bench rewarded his move.

The Blazers trailed by as many as 17 points in the third, but rallied for a 63-53 win aided by 30 points from bench players. AT is now 9-1 overall, the best start in Lyons' eight-year tenure, and 2-1 in the West Suburban Gold heading into the Centralia Holiday Tournament starting Dec. 29.

"I don't think anybody expected us to be 9-1 to be honest, but we had it in us," junior forward Eric Grygo said. "We're just showing it now and we're turning heads."

Leyden led 25-20 at half-time and opened the third quarter on an 11-0 run. The first seven points came within the first 35 seconds of the quarter after two turnovers in the Blazers' end of the court.

Soon after, Lyons brought in five new players off the bench. This Blazers team has

enough depth to put a second squad on the floor and get something out of them. Later in the quarter, AT went on a 13-0 run to get within 39-35.

"That first minute of the third quarter, it was almost comical in terms of the bad decisions that we made," Lyons said. "Something had to change. If that meant seniors who have done a ton of stuff for a couple years had to sit down for a while, then that's what that meant. I couldn't watch."

"I applaud our guys for responding."

Jaavion Bradley (12 points) and Ryan Zigowicz (13 points) were part of the bench squad that led the comeback. A Zigowicz 3 with 1:58 left in the game gave AT a 55-52 lead and started a game-closing 13-1 run for the Blazers.

"I don't think I've ever been down that much and came back in a game like that," said Grygo, who had nine points and six rebounds. "Our stamina was down and our enthusiasm was down, but the important thing was to keep going and keep trying hard and keep coming back."

Seniors Matt Gontarek and Taylor White scored 12 points each.

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Year in review...

(Continued from the previous page)

Bullwinkel said the seven town hall meetings regarding road repairs that took place in the 16 months leading up to the election were a significant factor in the approval of the referendum.

"Now that we have a funding source we can get to work to fix the roads that we've been complaining about for many, many years."

According to information provided by the village during the presentations at the town hall meetings, the approval of the referendum will result in a tax increase of about \$15.25 per month, or about \$183 per year, for the owner of a home valued at \$250,000. The information, which is also posted on the village's Web site (www.invallapark.com), also states that the approval will result in an increase of \$6.10 per month per \$100,000 of a home's market value.

Village officials stated during the town hall meetings that the only dedicated funding source to road repairs was a half-cent sales tax, which generates about \$1.5 million each year. The village presentations stated that complete reconstruction of a road costs more than \$1 million per mile, while resurfacing costs from \$350,000 to \$450,000 per mile.

Shortly after voters approved the referendum, the Villa Park Village Board voted unanimously to approve an ordinance providing for the issuance of up to \$10 million in general obligation, tax-exempt bonds. According to Villa Park Village Manager Rich Keehner, the village is issuing nearly \$10 million in bonds before the end of 2014 because current interest rates are extremely favorable. Keehner said the village plans to issue about \$10 million more in bonds in early 2015. The remaining \$3 million will be issued when required. The village will have 20 years to pay back the borrowed money. According to the village's financial advisers, the current interest rate for the recently borrowed amount of about \$10 million is about 3.65 percent.

Keehner said during the village board meetings of Nov. 10 and Nov. 17 that there will be an aggressive construction schedule in Villa Park in 2015 that will include several resurfacing projects. He said street reconstruction projects will take longer than the resurfacing projects because they require more design work. The village manager noted that each reconstruction job will be bid individually, with the lowest responsible bidder landing each project.

Four years ago, Villa Park voters rejected a similar referendum to borrow money for road repairs. The question on the ballot in the election of Feb. 2, 2010, proposed the village borrow up to \$27.5 million for street and storm sewer repairs. Voters rejected the proposal by a margin of 56.5 to 43.5 percent (2,240 against and 1,726 in favor).

Cannabis dispensary in Villa Park?

The Villa Park Village Board meeting of Aug. 25 included a presentation from a representative of a group wishing to open a medical marijuana dispensary in the village.

Tami Wanless, the dispensing agent-in-charge of Solace Solutions, delivered the

presentation on Aug. 25, stating that Solace Solutions was in the process of submitting an application to the state of Illinois (applications were due Sept. 22) to open a medical marijuana dispensary in a vacant building on the 600 block of North Addison Road—which is about two blocks south of North Avenue and in a zoned M-1 light industrial district. Wanless, a College of DuPage professor and a registered dental hygienist, noted during her Aug. 25 presentation that up to 60 dispensaries will be licensed in Illinois. Of those 60, three will be allowed in DuPage County.

According to the state's Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act, which went into effect at the beginning of 2014, all of the dispensaries in the state must be located at least 1,000 feet from schools, day care centers and churches. Additionally, state law requires that the Illinois State Police must have access to around-the-clock live video surveillance of every dispensary in the state.

According to Wanless, patients must be diagnosed with one of more than 40 debilitating medical conditions to be eligible to buy medical cannabis in Illinois. Each patient would be allowed to purchase up to 2.5 ounces of cannabis every 14 days. Speaking at the village board meeting on Nov. 17, Wanless said the potential facility in Villa Park would include 15 full-time and 10 part-time employees.

As Villa Park Trustee Albert Bulthuis noted during the Aug. 25 meeting, the village board could not stop a dispensary from opening in Villa Park. The board could, however, require that such a facility be located in an M-1 district.

Wanless and Solace Solutions had to seek a new location for the potential dispensary in Villa Park because the initial location on the 600 block of North Addison was within 1,000 feet of a licensed home day care facility. Solace Solutions chose a vacant office building at 831 N. Villa Ave., located just south of the Odeum. That facility, however, is not in an M-1 district. The village's planning and zoning commission voted in favor of rezoning the property to an M-1 district.

The Villa Park Village Board considered the issue in its board meeting on Nov. 17. Three board members (Bulthuis, Chris Aiello and Donald Kase) voted in favor of the first reading of the ordinance to rezone the property. Three other board members (Robert Taglia, Robert Wagner and Villa Park Village President Deborah Bullwinkel) 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.

There were reportedly more than 20 applications for the three available licenses in DuPage County. The state is expected to award the three licenses in early 2015.

Davis resigns from the village board

Villa Park Village Trustee John Davis resigned from the village board at the Oct. 27 meeting. Davis stated after that meeting that he resigned for health reasons. Davis was the senior member of the village board, which includes six trustees and the village president. He was appointed in the fall of 2006 and

Blood drive in Villa Park on Saturday; donors receive a \$10 gift card

LifeSource will hold a Villa Park community blood drive on Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 2801, located at 99 W. St. Charles Road. To schedule an appointment, call LifeSource at 877-543-3768, or visit www.lifesource.org and use code VP18. While appointments are preferred, walk-ins will be welcome. All presenting donors will receive a \$10 Visa gift card.

Donors must be at least 17 years old, or 16 years old with signed parental consent. Proper identification (a LifeSource or military ID, driver's license, passport, employee or student ID including full name and picture) is required to donate blood.

Villa Park Youth Baseball offers online registration for 2015

Villa Park Youth Baseball's online registration for the 2015 season is up and running at the organization's Web site, www.vpyb.com. Players are able to register online for the new season and to participate in upcoming camps. Visit the Web site for complete details.

In-person registration for the 2015 season will take place on Jan. 10 and Jan. 17 at the Iowa Community Center, located at 338 Iowa Ave. Each registration session will take place from 9 a.m. to noon. Candy bar pickups and uniform fitting will be available at each of the sessions.

Villa Park Youth Baseball will welcome a former Major League Baseball player who will conduct an instructional camp in 2015. There will be a one-time charge of \$25 for the 90-minute clinic. All participants will receive a 12-week hitting manual.

Villa Park Youth Baseball is open to any boy or girl between the ages of 5 to 18. All baseball registrants must be at least 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2015, and must not be older than 18 as of Sept. 1, 2015. Girls fast-pitch softball is open to players ages 8 to 14. All softball registrants must be 8 as of Jan. 1, 2015, and must not be older than 18 years as of Jan. 1, 2015.

Arctic chill...

THE PHOTO on the right, taken on the afternoon of Jan. 6 outside of the Community Bank of DuPage at 2 W. Roosevelt Road in Villa Park, shows a reading of 14 degrees below zero. The official temperature at the National Weather Service's recording site at O'Hare International Airport was as low as 16 degrees below zero earlier in the day. Students at area schools were supposed to return from a two-week break on Jan. 6, but heavy snow and brutally cold temperatures cancelled classes on both Jan. 6 and Jan. 7. Another blast of subzero temperatures cancelled two more days of school on Jan. 27 and Jan. 28. The official low temperature on Jan. 28 reached 11 degrees below zero, while the wind-chill factor on that day was as low as 30 degrees below zero.

elect to fill out a two-year term in the spring of 2007. He was re-elected to four-year terms in 2009 and 2013. Villa Park Village President Deborah Bullwinkel announced near the end of the Oct. 27 meeting that she would not appoint anyone to serve the remaining time of Davis's current term. Voters will decide who will serve out the term during the election of April 7, 2015. The deadline to file to run in that election was Dec. 22. Three candidates—Nick Cuzzone Sr., Catherine Sewell and Diane Blair-Sherlock—will run to serve the remaining two years of Davis's term.

The four-year terms of current trustees Chris Aiello, Albert Bulthuis and Donald Kase expire in the spring of 2015. All three trustees are running for re-election. They will be joined by one challenger—Bradley Phillips—in the

race for the three available seats on the Villa Park Village Board.

Villa Park turns 100

The Village of Villa Park's centennial celebration featured several events during the weekend of Aug. 8-10. The village officially turned 100 on Friday, Aug. 8. One day later, a large crowd attended a village picnic under ideal weather conditions at Cortesi Park. The picnic, which began at 12:45 p.m. and continued until 11 p.m., included multiple live music performances and an evening fireworks display that originated from nearby Lions Park. Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 2801 prepared and served 12 inside rounds of beef and several pork shoulders at the picnic. All of that meat sold out during the course of the day's celebration.



Graduation...

WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL'S 55th annual commencement exercises took place on the afternoon of June 8 in the school gymnasium. The school's Class of 2014, which included more than 500 graduates, entered the gymnasium as the school orchestra played "Pomp and Circumstance." Principal Dan Krause then gave brief welcoming remarks and introduced the members of Willowbrook's senior choir, who performed two songs. The two student speakers during the ceremony were class president Rokas Dubinas and Santhanam Kumar, who held the top academic ranking in the graduating class. The photo on the right shows several of Willowbrook's newest alumni members tossing their caps into the air at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Photos by Chris Fox

Happy New Year!





'Warrior Project' adopts families for Christmas

WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL students and faculty members representing the school's Student Council "Warrior Project" recently delivered a load of Christmas presents to the York Township Food Pantry for its annual "Adopt A Family" Christmas gift program. The gifts were distributed to the children of pantry client families in time for Christmas. Pictured with some of the donations are (l. to r.) York Township Supervisor John W. Valle, Willowbrook teacher Jamie Gourley, students Mia Railing, Micala Giammarino, Karl Land, Kelsey Linnig and Tommy King and teacher Brandon Murphy. Every year, York Township brings together families with local individuals, companies and organizations, such as the "Warrior Project," who wish to help at Christmas time. "I want to thank the 'Warrior Project' for their ongoing support," said Valle. "Year after year, the students and faculty of Willowbrook High School support our efforts to make the holidays happier for York Township residents."

DuPage Habitat receives donations

Bank of America has donated a two-bedroom condo to DuPage Habitat for Humanity in support of the affiliate's efforts to build affordable housing in partnership with low-income families in DuPage County. They have also committed to a \$50,000 corporate donation to support the mission.

The donations are part of a national partnership with Habitat for Humanity International through which the bank will donate up to 2,000 vacant properties for renovation or reconstruction over the next three years. In DuPage County low-income families will build in partnership with DuPage Habitat volunteers over the next two months, rehabilitating local donated properties.

"The donation of properties by Bank of America has enabled DuPage Habitat for Humanity to provide additional affordable housing for families within DuPage County," said Jennifer Tuff, Family Services manager for DuPage Habitat for Humanity. "Because of this work and thanks in part to Bank of America, we here at Habitat are able to fulfill our mission: Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, community and hope."

DuPage Habitat for Humanity's goal for fiscal year 2015 is to help 21 limited-income families in need of affordable housing. The affiliate plans on executing this goal by construction of two new homes, five rehab projects, four multi-family homes and 10 repair projects. These homes will be constructed by over 5,000 volunteers through the fiscal year. Bank of America will be a part of this volunteer number by participating in a build day at a donated property in Woodridge.

Following the Bank of America build day, in December, DuPage Habitat dedicated the Woodridge property to a single mother of one, Tiffany heard about DuPage Habitat through a close friend and attended an informational session at the end of the summer. Her application was accepted and she is now at the end of her 250 hours of sweat equity. Tiffany and her son were thrilled to finally have stability and a home, right in time for Christmas.

"It is through partnerships with organizations like Habitat for Humanity where we can help homeownership become a reality for families in need of affordable housing and revitalize our local communities and neighborhoods," said Tim

Maloney, Illinois president, Bank of America.

In addition to the property donation programs through Bank of America Home Loans, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation has contributed more than \$22 million to Habitat's work around the world through a national partnership launched in 2002. Additionally, bank employees annually contribute more than 30,000 volunteer hours to help rehab and build homes.

For more information on partnering with DuPage Habitat for Humanity, contact the DuPage Habitat executive director, Dave Neary, at dneary@dupagehabitat.org.

ENGAGED



Katie Irl to marry James Miene Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Irl of Thomasboro, Ill., announce the engagement of their daughter, Katie, to James Miene Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Miene of Villa Park.

The bride-to-be graduated from Rantoul High School in 2003 and in 2007 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies. She is employed as a Pre-K teacher.

Her fiancé graduated from Willowbrook High School in 1997 and in 2001 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a B.S. in Finance. He is employed as a financial analyst.

The couple got engaged on the sidelines of Soldier Field before the Bears versus Packers game on Sept. 28, 2014.

An Aug. 8, 2015, wedding is planned in Champaign.

C.O.D. sixth largest due to increasing enrollments

College of DuPage is the fastest-growing community college in the nation outside of California among colleges with enrollments greater than 10,000 students, according to a recent report by Community College Week magazine.

Based upon total headcount enrollment figures from fall 2012 to fall 2013, College of DuPage grew 9.4 percent, from 26,156 students to 28,627 students. This ranks College of DuPage sixth nationally behind five California schools.

"This is a reflection of the excellent work happening at College of DuPage," said COD President Dr. Robert L. Breuder. "Our students recognize the high quality education they are receiving from us while understanding the economic value of attending a community college."

The Community College Week report comes on the heels of five-year numbers released by the Illinois Community College Board. Of the 39 community college districts in Illinois, the report shows that College of DuPage is the only college district to grow Full Time Equivalent Student (FTES) enrollment over the past five years. Between fall 2010 and fall 2014, COD grew FTES enrollment by 6 percent. During that same period, the state's 39 community college districts were down a total of 13.1 percent.

The ICCB report also shows growth at College of DuPage between fall 2013 and fall 2014. During this time, no other Illinois community college district added more headcount than College of DuPage, which increased by 849 students, a gain of 3 percent. The state (aggregate of all 39 community college districts) was down in credit headcount by 4 percent. During this same period, College of DuPage had the largest FTES growth of any Illinois community college district, up 293 FTES or 1.8 percent. The state (aggregate of all 39 community college districts) was

down 4.8 percent in FTES.

"College of DuPage is clearly headed in the right direction," said Erin Birt, chair of the COD Board of Trustees. "Through careful listening and strategic planning, we understand what our students and community need, and we continue to work hard to provide a top quality educational experience."

For more information, call 630-942-2371.

Former Lombard resident appears in literary journal

Local author Marjorie Sullivan Lee has once again been included in *Blood and Thunder*, the medical literary journal of the University of Oklahoma Medical School. Lee's story entitled "Partners, Not Caregivers," emphasizes the roles of herself and her son, Kevin Lee.

In this era when aging and disability concerns could exist for either or both of them, the Lees have a wonderful arrangement. In spite of her status as a 92-year-old person sharing a household with her 53-year-old son who is identified as a person with Down Syndrome, their situation is a partnership rather than a care giver situation for either of them.

This is the fourth time that Lee has been included in the *Blood and Thunder* publication, which revolves around human interest prose, poetry and art with a medical emphasis. Although her contributions have been short essays, her theme continues to be: "Life With Down Syndrome is OK," which is also emphasized on her Web site.

Our perfect companions never have fewer than four feet.

-Colette



Holiday Train Ride in Villa Park

VILLA PARK RECREATION recently held a Holiday Train Ride with Santa and elves to the "North Pole" and enjoyed on-board activities including caroling, visits with Santa, crafts, hot chocolate and cookie, and a reading of "The Polar Express." Pictured above are (left photo) Heidi and Yalme Urieta, and (right photo) Hayden and Grace Roscoe.

MONTHLY SENIOR LUNCHEON IN VILLA PARK

Villa Park Parks and Recreation holds a monthly Birthday Bunch & Lunch program for seniors at the Community Recreation Building, 320 E. Wildwood. The next gathering is Thursday, Jan. 8, noon to 2:30 p.m. Whether or not you are celebrating your birthday the month you attend, you are invited to join in the fun. After

lunch you can play bingo for gift prizes and sing to those celebrating their birthday in January. The fee is \$5 per person, payable at the door. RSVP to 630-834-8525 one week in advance. Birthday Bunch & Lunch is sponsored in part by G.M. Smith and Son Realtors in Villa Park.

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Sports

LOMBARDIAN
VILLA PARK REVIEW

Multiple Montini teams enjoy success in 2014

Some of Montini's athletic teams have developed into perennial powers that contend for state championships every year. The Broncos made runs for state titles in a number of sports in 2014. The wrestling and girls basketball teams captured first-place trophies in 2014. Some of Montini's other teams enjoyed breakthrough seasons in the past year.

The Broncos' wrestling program won its seventh consecutive IHSA state dual-meet championship on March 1, defeating Geneseo 49-21 in the Class 2A final in Bloomington. The victory gave the Montini program its 12th IHSA state dual-meet title since 2000. Five Broncos won state titles at the Class 2A individual state meet, which ended on Feb. 22 in Champaign.

Montini's girls basketball program captured its fourth IHSA Class 3A state titles in five seasons when it scored a 57-44 win over Joliet Catholic in the championship game on March 8. The Broncos won three straight Class 3A titles from 2010-12 before settling for the third-place trophy in 2013.

Montini's girls volleyball team had never advanced to a sectional final before this year. The 2014 Broncos

advanced to and won a sectional title on Nov. 6 before adding one more post-season win two days later at a supersectional to advance to the state semifinals. Montini claimed the fourth-place trophy in the Class 3A tournament and finished the year with an overall record of 23-13.

The Broncos' softball program had never advanced beyond the sectional semifinals until the 2014 season. Montini won three straight post-season games this year to earn a spot in an IHSA Class 3A sectional title tilt with two-time state champion Glenbard South. The Broncos beat the Raiders 14-6 in the June 7 contest to win the sectional title. Montini's season ended two days later with a 5-4 loss to St. Ignatius in a supersectional game. Montini completed the season with a 27-11 record.

Another area team that enjoyed a memorable season was Willowbrook's 2013-14 girls basketball team, which produced a perfect 12-0 West Suburban Gold Conference record and won the program's first conference title since the 1995-96 season. The Warriors finished the season with an overall record of 23-5.



Another state title for the Broncos...

Photo by Chris Fox

THE 2013-14 MONTINI GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM (above) won the IHSA Class 3A state championship on March 8 with a 57-44 victory over Joliet Catholic Academy in the title game in Normal. The win gave the Montini program its fourth state title in five seasons. The Broncos won three straight championships from 2010 to 2012 before claiming the third-place trophy in 2013. Montini, which finished the season with an overall record of 34-2, made 11 of 20 shots from 3-point range against Joliet Catholic Academy. Senior Kelly Karls, who made four 3-pointers, scored 16 points. Sophomore Lea Kerstein made three 3-pointers and scored 13 points. Senior Kateri Stone, who also sank three 3-point shots, added 12 points.



Playoff excitement...

Photo by Chris Fox

THE MONTINI GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM qualified for the IHSA Class 3A state semifinals with five straight post-season victories. The above photo shows members of the Broncos celebrating their victory over Timothy Christian in a sectional championship match at Nazareth Academy on Nov. 6. Montini defeated Timothy Christian 17-25, 25-22, 25-22 to advance to a supersectional final against Tinley Park. The Broncos beat Tinley Park 25-13, 25-22 to earn a spot in the state semifinals. Montini's post-season run included a win over the Latin School of Chicago on Oct. 30. That victory gave the Broncos their first regional title since 2002. Montini had never advanced beyond the sectional semifinals until this year. The Broncos lost to Joliet Catholic Academy at the state semifinals in Normal on Nov. 14. They lost to Breese Mater Dei in the third-place match one day later and settled for the fourth-place trophy. Montini finished the season with a 23-13 record.

State champion...

WILLOWBROOK SENIOR Kelly McNamara (right) captured the state championship in the 100-yard butterfly at the IHSA girls state swimming and diving meet in Evanston on Nov. 22. McNamara, who finished second in the same event at the 2013 meet, won the 2014 title with her first-place time of 54.83 seconds in the championship race. She became the first member of the Willowbrook/Addison Trail swim program—male or female—to win an individual state championship. McNamara competed in four straight IHSA state meets. She swam on a qualifying relay team as a freshman and placed sixth in the 100-yard butterfly event as a sophomore. McNamara began her swimming career when she joined the Villa Park Mariners summer swim team as a 7-year old in 2004.



36-3...

KOLIE ALLEN (above) of the Glenbard East girls tennis team completed her freshman season with an overall record of 36-3. Allen, who won her first 31 matches of the season, won her first three singles matches at the IHSA state meet on Oct. 23 and added one win in the consolation round one day later. She won the No. 1 singles title at the Upstate Eight Valley Conference Meet on Oct. 10. Glenbard East sophomore Priscilla Palermo made her second straight trip to the state singles meet in 2014. She won two matches in the main draw of the meet and finished the season with an overall record of 26-4.



State runner-up...

Photo by Chris Fox

THE MONTINI FOOTBALL TEAM advanced to the IHSA Class 5A state championship game for the sixth year in a row in 2014. For the second straight season, the Broncos lost to Springfield's Sacred Heart-Griffin in the title contest. The undefeated Cyclones beat Montini 29-14 in the 2014 championship game, which took place on Nov. 29 in Champaign. The above photo shows (left to right) seniors Leon Thornton and Michael Reiley on the awards stand. Montini, which won four straight state titles from 2009 to 2012, finished the 2014 season with an overall record of 10-4.



Rams win regional championship...

THE 2014 GLENBARD EAST girls volleyball team (above) won an IHSA Class 4A regional championship on Oct. 30. The Rams rallied to beat St. Ignatius Prep 24-26, 26-24, 26-24 in a regional final at Little Village High School in Chicago. The Rams trailed St. Ignatius in the third game before winning nine of 11 points to close out the match. The victory gave Glenbard East its first regional title in girls volleyball since 2008. The Rams' season ended in their next match—a loss to York in a sectional semifinal battle on Nov. 4. Glenbard East finished the season with an overall record of 25-13.

SPORTS

JANUARY 1, 2015 • 14

IC Catholic Prep splits conference games

Four players in double figures for Knights in victory over Fenton

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The IC Catholic Prep boys basketball team split a pair of recent Metro Suburban Conference West Division games before heading into the holiday break.

The Knights scored a 61-45 win at home against Fenton. IC led 11-3 after the first quarter and 24-12 at halftime.

Will Lyles had 17 points and nine rebounds for the Knights.

Rhashaun Epting added 14 points, while Troy Burrows had 13 points. Austin Reed chipped in 11 points, nine rebounds, six steals and four assists.

"Austin gave us a really nice performance," said IC coach TJ Tyrrell, who also lauded Lyles' effort that included four steals and three blocks as well.

Tyrrell was pleased with the balanced scoring output. "It was a balanced effort," he said. "We played very well. It was nice to win at home. It was an overall good effort from the guys. I'm happy with what we showed that game. We did a better job overall of rebound-

ing and running our offense and getting out in transition. We had several factors working in our favor there."

The Knights also dropped a 70-56 MSC West decision to Wheaton Academy.

"We had a great first half," said Tyrrell. "The guys were really clicking. We had a nice first quarter (IC led 19-17). Wheaton Academy made some adjustments and went to a matchup zone and also a box-and-one on Rhashaun. We didn't respond well to the changes. We stopped running our sets. We have to do a better job when we get into situa-

tions such as those and run our offense. We've been working at being able to adjust during a game and sticking with what works. We will be successful at this. We want to get to a point where we're not calling a timeout when a team makes a run. We've been stressing valuing possessions, getting good looks and being patient. We will be better prepared for those situations."

Tyrrell feels a loss like the one to Wheaton Academy will pay dividends down the line.

"Wheaton Academy was a tough loss especially with how hard the team played in the first

half," he said. "But it opened our eyes early in the season to what we need to improve on. If a loss like this happened later in the season it could be detrimental. For us it happened in game eight and we'll go to work and build upon it."

IC headed into the holidays at 5-3 overall and 1-2 in MSC West play.

"It's been kind of a tough start to the conference season but there still are plenty of games left to bounce back," said Tyrrell.

Epting had 22 points in the Wheaton Academy game. Burrows added 13.

Willowbrook wrestlers continue to excel

Verr, Rowland and Jessen already over 20-win barrier; Rowland named outstanding wrestler at Hoffman Estates invite

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook wrestling team continues to make great strides on the mat.

The Warriors headed into school break with a 13-7 dual-meet record, which included a 3-1 mark in West Suburban Conference Gold Division action.

Willowbrook scored a recent

44-26 WSC Gold win over Hinsdale South and dropped a close 33-30 conference decision to Morton. The Warriors also took third out of 12 teams at the Hoffman Estates invitational.

On the individual front, Matt Rowland and Jack Jessen both sported 23-0 records and both were ranked third in the state in their respective weight classes, Rowland at 152 and Jessen, a freshman, at 170.

Andrew Verr was 20-3 at 106 pounds and earned an honorable-mention state ranking. Christian Chavez was 15-3 at 220 and also earned an honorable-mention state nod.

Trevor Bell was 15-7 at 113 pounds, while Marcus Kru-

piczowicz was 14-7 at heavy-weight and Alex Rego was 14-9 at 120. Jacob Seymour was 4-1 at 138 pounds.

Rowland won the Hoffman Estates tournament and earned outstanding wrestler honors at that event.

Jessen also won the Hoffman Estates tournament and did so by pinning a returning senior state qualifier who was ranked eighth in the state at the time.

In Willowbrook's WSC Gold win over Hinsdale South, Chavez pinned No. 2 ranked Josh King.

Willowbrook coach Brandon Murphy also was pleased with the recent contributions of seniors Austin Denz and Seymour.

"Austin had a 1-0 decision against Addison Trail that helped us secure the dual-meet win," said Murphy. "Jacob had missed the beginning of the season with an injury and came back in the lineup with two crucial conference wins against Hinsdale South and Morton."

"The guys are starting to realize if they do the small things right, positive results will come," said Willowbrook coach Brandon Murphy. "The team is working hard and adjusting to varsity wrestling. We have many new faces in the lineup this season."

Murphy has been pleased with the overall progress he has seen since the beginning of the season.

"With being a young team, I have seen some real growth from the beginning of the season," he said. "The wrestlers are adjusting to the speed and intensity increase that comes with being a varsity wrestler. The team is very dangerous. They always are looking for the fall and when we put up bonus points we are a dangerous team to wrestle. I am very pleased with this team's progression. If you look at each wrestler individually, they all are improving. As a team, we still are learning to wrestle smarter with our match awareness. The team has been working on its physical and mental strength and I'm pleased with the progression in those areas."

Addison Trail-Willowbrook boys swimming team improving

Buzuayene picks up JV win in 50 free; 400 relay second at Rolling Meadows

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail-Willowbrook boys swimming team recently recorded a victory over the Proviso co-op team.

"The guys swam all their off

events," said AT-Willowbrook coach Neil Wahlgren. "It was nice seeing them in their off events and still getting good times. We worked the guys pretty hard before the meet and it was nice to see them work through everything."

Wahlgren, in his first season as coach, likes what he has seen from the group thus far.

"I like the all-around commitment," he said. "We have a smaller team and we have to

travel to a fitness center pool to work out together. Everybody is working hard and they are working together."

Wahlgren noted he has seven freshman swimmers on the varsity. "With seven freshmen, it's nice to see the leadership from the older guys," he said. "The freshmen are improving every day. From the first day of practice until now there has been a huge difference."

Wahlgren added the team

will roll up its sleeves and be hard at work in the pool over the holiday break.

"The guys have been working hard and they will work hard during winter break," he said. "The yardage will be a little more, but there will be more intensity. We will be working on getting them into racing strategies such as working on going all out in the sprint events."

AT-Willowbrook also

enjoyed success at the 13-team Rolling Meadows invitational. The 400 relay team took second. That group included Ethan Wallace (Willowbrook), Josh Qwak (Willowbrook), freshman Zach Thompson (Willowbrook) and Nick Obrzut (Addison Trail). Wallace, Qwak and Obrzut all are juniors.

The AT-Willowbrook 350

See **SWIMMING**, Page 16

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• SWIMMING

Continued from page 14

relay team placed fourth out of 13 teams at Rolling Meadows. That group includes Freshman Patrick Florey (50 free), Thompson (100) and Wallace (200).

"The 350 relay was impressive. We had two freshman in it," said Wahlgren.

Sophomore Jake Roucka also has been swimming well of late.

"Jake is showing some great things," said Wahlgren.

Wahlgren likes the direction the program is headed in the near- and long-term.

"With those freshmen on the varsity, hopefully we get another group in here like that and that will help us over the next few years," he said. "We're working on the little things. It was nice to switch it up in the Proviso meet and see the guys swim in other events they aren't used to and see if there are other races they could help us out in. The Rolling Meadows meet was a positive with a couple relays getting in the top four and we're getting overall best times. Times are better than the previous year and they only are going to get better. We're doing a lot of good things."

One key highlight in the Proviso meet was the performance of Koji Buzuayene, who won the 50 freestyle in the junior-varsity competition.

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SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

With the arrival of 2015, Suburban Life asked members of area communities to share their New Year's resolutions.



"Make more time for family and friends."

Elmhurst Fire Chief Jeff Bacidore



"Not to sell my Chicago Bears season tickets for the 2015 season."

NEDSRA Marketing Coordinator Bruce Flowers



"To continue to ensure District 88 remains a cornerstone of pride in the community."

DuPage High School District 88 Superintendent Scott Helton



"To spend quality time with my wife and children."

Villa Park Village Manager Rich Keehner Jr.



"Like many, to lose some weight."

Villa Park Police Chief Bob Pavelchik



"I hope to find more time to exercise; however, I would like to do it more often."

Villa Park Fire Chief Ronald Rakosnik



"To be positive throughout the day and to be an example to those around me to do the same."

Lombard Town Centre Executive Director Sarah Richardt



"To carve out more time to spend with family and friends."

Lombard Historical Society Executive Director Natalie Troiani

YOUR WEEKEND FORECAST

Source: National Weather Service

Friday
High: 30
Low: 23

Partly sunny, slightly warmer

Saturday
High: 33
Low: 21

Cloudy with rain and snow

Sunday
High: 21
Low: 4

Partly sunny, chance of snow

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