

Honored students...

TEN STUDENTS FROM Willowbrook High School were recognized as Outstanding Students during Thursday's breakfast in their honor. Students who receive the school's Outstanding Student award must demonstrate extraordinary achievement, outstanding effort and a commendable attitude. Additionally, students must also demonstrate the ability to overcome obstacles. Each of the students were nominated for the award by a staff member from the school's various departments. The photo on the right shows the 10 honored students, as well as Willowbrook science teacher Megan Graham, who received the school's Outstanding Teacher award. To be chosen for that honor, a teacher must treat teaching as a passion, create a positive learning environment, use a variety of strategies to engage students and be willing to offer extra support when needed. Pictured (left to right) are: (front row) freshman Briana Jones (physical education), senior Erin Sulla (music), sophomore Syeda Quadri (social studies) and junior America Torres (literacy); (middle row) freshman Ammar Waheed (English), Graham and senior Furkhan Ali (math); (back row) junior Lucas Betts (science), senior Juan Gallegos (career and technical education), senior Brandon Perry (learning services), senior David Jones (world languages) and senior Kevin Rezek (art).



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VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

Vol. 56 No. 5

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Price 60¢

Super Sunday snowstorm; well over a foot in one day

Villa Park joined the rest of the Chicagoland area in being buried by a snowstorm that began on Saturday and intensified on Sunday. According to the National Weather Service (NWS), the storm dumped a total of 19.3 inches of snow at the service's official recording station at O'Hare International Airport between Saturday and Monday. The 19.3-inch total ranks as the fifth-heaviest snowstorm since Chicago's official snow records began more than 125 years ago. The heaviest snowstorm in Chicago history, according to the NWS, is the 23.0-inch storm of Jan. 26-27, 1967.

According to the weather service, the recent storm included 16.2 inches of snow on Sunday, making it the snowiest single February day for all of Chicago's recorded history. Interestingly, the blizzard of 2011 also packed a punch on the same date. The storm of four years ago brought a total of 21.2 inches of snow, including 13.6 inches on Feb. 1. The

13.6-inch total from Feb. 1, 2011, had ranked as the snowiest February day in Chicago history until Sunday's 16.2-inch downfall.

The weekend blizzard caused area schools to be closed on Monday. That marked the third day that classes have been cancelled during the winter of 2014-15. (Inclement weather caused local schools to be closed on Jan. 7 and Jan. 8.) All area schools were back in session on Tuesday.

According to Rich Salerno, Villa Park's superintendent of streets and forestry, the village used over 65 tons of salt in responding to the snowstorm. Salerno stated on Tuesday that village staff had begun hauling snow off the center lane of St. Charles Road. Staff completed the removal from Westmore to Ardmore on Tuesday. He said the removal of snow on the center lane of St. Charles from Ardmore to Villa avenues would take place on Wednesday. That operation began at midnight to minimize traffic obstructions and delays.



Blizzard of 2015...

Photo by Chris Fox

THERE WAS HARDLY any snow on the ground on Saturday, but the weekend snowstorm brought well over a foot of fresh snow to the area. The above photo shows snow piled up near Cornell Avenue and Central Boulevard on Monday. According to the National Weather Service, the storm dumped 19.3 inches of snow at the service's official recording station at O'Hare International Airport between Saturday and Monday.



Heading downhill...

Photo by Chris Fox

SEVERAL CHILDREN TOOK ADVANTAGE of the heavy snowfall—and Monday's cancellation of classes—by heading to the hill near Jackson Middle School and the Islamic Foundation School. The above photo shows 13-year-old Matthew Caron of Villa Park beginning a downhill run. He managed to maintain his balance throughout his trip to the bottom of the hill.

Willowbrook seeks participants for Trivia Night event on March 7

The Willowbrook Parent Organization (WPO) will hold a Trivia Night on Saturday, March 7. The event will take place from 6-10 p.m. at Willowbrook High School. All proceeds will go toward scholarships for Willowbrook High School seniors. Teams should consist of eight to 10 people. The entry fee is \$10 per person. The evening will also include raffles, prizes and a bake sale.

To register, and to see a list of prizes, visit www.dupage88.net/TriviaNight2015. For questions or more information, send an e-mail to WPO President Elaine Ebeling at emcoig.mzed@comcast.net.

Willowbrook presents its winter play—"Little Women"—Feb. 12-14

Willowbrook High School's theater department will present its winter play—"Little Women"—next week. Each of the three performances (on Feb. 12, Feb. 13 and Feb. 14) will begin at 7 p.m. in the school's Doris White Auditorium.

The play, which takes place during the American Civil War, tells the story of the March family, which consists of four sisters and their parents. Their father is away, serving in the war. "Little Women" focuses on the relationships between the family members as the sisters grow up.

Senior Erin Sulla plays the lead role of

Josephine March. Senior Laura Smith portrays Marianne—the mother of the four siblings. The cast also includes freshman Kathleen Cicero—a newcomer to the Willowbrook stage—who will play Beth. Willowbrook English teacher Tami Woehol is directing the presentation.

Tickets cost \$7 for adults and \$5 for students. Admission is \$3 for those with an activity pass and are free for District 88 senior gold card holders.

To purchase tickets or for more information about Willowbrook's winter play, call 630-782-2855.

Villa Park site not included in state's list of approved dispensaries

Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner's office released a list Monday of the statewide sites that had been approved to grow and dispense medical marijuana. The three approved dispensaries in DuPage County did not include an applicant who sought to open a facility in Villa Park.

According to multiple sources, Monday's announcement from the governor's office disclosed that the licenses to open the three dispensaries in DuPage County had been awarded to 3C Compassionate Care Center, LLC, EarthMed, LLC and Mindful Illinois, LLC. The announcement did not provide any further details about the facilities. In addition to awarding a license to open a dispensary in DuPage County, the state also granted 3C Compassionate Care Center a license to open a similar facility in Will County. According to 3C Compassionate Care Center's Web site—www.3cdispensary.com—the business plans to open its DuPage County dispensary in Naperville and its Will County site in Joliet.

An Internet search yielded few details about the two other organizations that were awarded licenses to open dispensaries in DuPage County. Mindful Illinois, LLC, which is reportedly based in Niles, has joined the Addison Chamber of Commerce and is listed in the chamber's Web site under the business type of "Medical Cannabis Dispensary."

More than 20 applicants filed paperwork to open a medical cannabis dispensary in DuPage County. One of the applicants—Solace

Solutions—sought to open a dispensary at a vacant office building at 851 N. Villa Ave., Villa Park. According to Solace Solutions, the current structure would have been replaced with a one-story windowless facility that would include 15 full-time and 10 part-time employees.

Solace Solutions originally announced its desire to open a dispensary at another location in the village—a building on the 600 block of North Addison Road. That location was not available because it was within 1,000 feet of a day care facility. According to the state's Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act, which went into effect at the beginning of 2014, dispensaries cannot be located within 1,000 feet of schools, churches and day care facilities.

On Nov. 17, the Villa Park Village Board did not pass an ordinance to rezone the property at 851 N. Villa and grant a conditional use for a medical cannabis dispensary. The vote resulted in a 3-3 tie, which meant that the ordinance failed to advance to a second reading.

The state's Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act was signed into law in August 2013, and went into effect at the beginning of 2014. Patients must be diagnosed with one of more than 40 debilitating conditions to be eligible to purchase medical marijuana. Eligible patients will reportedly be able to purchase up to 2.5 ounces of cannabis every 14 days.

Willowbrook seeks professionals to take part in career fair on March 26

Willowbrook High School's guidance department is joining the Willowbrook Parent Organization (WPO) to hold a career and vocational fair on Thursday, March 26. The event will provide students with an opportunity to speak directly with experienced professionals about various careers. The goal of the fair is to provide a setting in which students can learn about a multitude of professions as they consider their futures.

For the fair to be successful, participants are needed to represent their career fields. Those who are interested in participating can download a form that's available online at <https://d45ptac83.net/site/public/files/item=1987>.

The deadline to submit entries for District 45's art show is Feb. 6

District 45's second annual student art show, which is sponsored by the District 45 PTA Council, is calling on student-artists to submit their entries.

Submissions for the show are due by 9 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 6. The student art show will take place Friday, April 10, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. in the common area and auditorium of Willowbrook High School, located at 1250 S. Ardmore Ave., Villa Park.

Submission forms are available in the offices of all eight District 45 schools and on the district's Web site at <http://www.d45.org/>.

For more information about the student art show, contact District 45 PTA Council Arts Committee Chair Tracy Vronan at 630-279-3514, or at d45studentartshow@yahoo.com.

Submission guidelines:

- The District 45 PTA Council Art Show is open to all School District 45 students in the following categories: Visual Art (Drawing, Painting, Collage) Photography and Sculpture.

- Students can submit a total of two pieces of artwork per category. Works to be displayed will be selected by the District 45 PTA Council Arts Committee. Not all submissions will be selected.

- The list of selected artworks will be posted in each school building by Tuesday, Feb. 17. All work that is not selected will be returned to the home school office by Feb. 17.

- Each selected piece 12 by 18 inches and smaller will be professionally matted and mounted by the PTA Arts Committee. No later than Feb. 20, send \$4 per piece of artwork selected in an envelope marked "PTA Student Art Show" to the school office. Students are responsible to purchase and mat any two-dimensional (flat paper) artwork larger than 12 by 18 inches into black matting board prior to the show. (This does not apply to works on canvas.)

- All artwork must be the student's original work. Although the council discourages use of copyrighted images, it understands that in collage or digital material they may be necessary and appropriate.

The committee reserves the right to exclude work that includes imagery inappropriate for a school audience.

- A completed registration form must be included with each art submission.

- Artwork, with completed registration forms, is due by 9 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 6.



Warriors win 10 straight...

Photo by Chris Fox

SENIOR MICAH WILLIAMS (above) of the Willowbrook boys basketball team scoops and makes a shot during the second quarter of Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference game at Hinsdale South. Williams, who is a Villa Park resident, scored nine points to help the Warriors to a 64-63 victory in Darien. One night earlier, Willowbrook edged conference rival Addison Trail 76-73 in overtime. Saturday's victory extended the Warriors' winning streak to 10 games and closed out a perfect month of January. Willowbrook began the month with a 6-6 record and completed January with a 16-6 record. The Warriors went 4-0 in conference play during January to improve their West Suburban Gold record to 5-3. Willowbrook will battle conference leader Morton this Friday in Villa Park. For more about the Warriors, see Page 12.



District 88's Best...

WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL senior Isabelle Martinez (above, right) of Villa Park is her school's recipient of the District 88's Best award for the month of January. Martinez, who is pictured with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause, was recognized at the District 88 Board of Education meeting on Jan. 26. Each month of the school year, the board of education presents the District 88's Best award to students from each of the district's two schools—Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools. The award recognizes students for their achievements both inside and outside the classroom. Martinez has an academic ranking within the 99th percentile of Willowbrook's Class of 2015. She is currently enrolled in five Advanced Placement (AP) college-level courses. She's already completed several honors and AP courses, and has been named to the school's Distinction Honor Roll each semester of her high school years. Martinez is a member of her school's math honor society, as well as its social studies honor society (Civitas). Outside of the classroom, Martinez has been a Student Ambassador and a member of Willowbrook's orchestra and band. She's also played in the girls soccer program and been a member of Willowbrook's Key Club, the World Language Club and Science Olympiad. She was part of her school's state-champion Science Olympiad team last year. Martinez has applied to the University of Michigan, the University of Notre Dame and Northwestern University. She intends to study biochemistry as a pre-med student.

Sports

**LOMBARDIAN
VILLA PARK REVIEW**

Two tight victories push Warriors' win streak to 10

For the second week in a row, the Willowbrook boys basketball team posted two narrow road victories against West Suburban Gold Conference rivals. The Warriors' latest successful weekend closed out a perfect January and extended the team's winning streak to 10 games.

Willowbrook outlasted Addison Trail 76-73 in overtime in Friday's conference battle between District 88 rivals in Addison. One night later, the Warriors traveled to Hinsdale South. Willowbrook held a 12-point lead at the end of the third quarter, but the Hornets rallied to take a two-point lead with about two minutes to play. The Warriors regained the lead when sophomore standout Alonzo Verge buried a 3-point shot with about 36 seconds to play. Senior Jake Bruns made two free throws in the closing seconds to help Willowbrook earn a 64-63 victory.

The wins over the Blazers and Hornets gave the Warriors an overall record of 16-6 and a conference mark of 5-3. Willowbrook has not lost a game since Dec. 27, when a 64-53 loss to Leyden at Glenbard West's holiday tournament evened the Warriors' season record at 6-6.

Only one of Willowbrook's 10 victories in January took place in Villa Park. The Warriors played their first game of the month at home and crushed Argo 77-34 in a non-conference contest on Jan. 10. Willowbrook then earned a victory at West Chicago on Jan. 13 before claiming four straight victories at Sterling High School's Martin Luther King Tournament. The Warriors played their first conference game of

the month on Jan. 19, when they prevailed 57-55 in overtime at Leyden. One day later, the Warriors edged Proviso East 68-65 in another conference battle.

The Warriors will play a conference home game this Friday against Morton, which currently holds first place in the WSGC standings. The Mustangs defeated Willowbrook 92-70 in the teams' first meeting of the season on Nov. 17.

Verge scored 44 points in Friday's overtime win at Addison Trail. That effort gave him 149 points in a four-game span that included a 45-point eruption in a Jan. 19 win over Montini and totals of 25 and 35 points in the conference victories over Leyden and Proviso East. Verge made five 3-point shots against the Blazers, who sank a 3-pointer of their own in the closing seconds of the fourth period to tie the score at 67-67 and force a four-minute overtime period.

Bruns scored 12 points in Friday's win over the Blazers. Senior Chris Roycroft added nine points.

Willowbrook, which lost 57-50 to Hinsdale South when the teams met on Dec. 12 in Villa Park, held a 28-21 halftime lead in Saturday's rematch. Verge scored only two points during the first half, but he would heat up in the third quarter, making a pair of shots from 3-point range during a span of 40 seconds to help the Warriors to a 45-31 lead. Junior Carlos Meyers added a 3-pointer later in the third quarter to give Willowbrook a 15-point lead (48-33). The Warriors led the Hornets 48-36 with eight minutes to play.

Willowbrook junior Kevin Miller gave the Warriors a 51-38 lead when

he delivered his fourth 3-pointer of the night with about seven minutes left in the game. Verge's 3-point shot about 30 seconds later restored the Warriors' lead to 13 points (54-41), but the Hornets then scored eight straight points to cut Willowbrook's lead to 54-49. A 3-pointer from Verge moved the Warriors lead to 57-49 with less than four minutes to play, but Hinsdale South unleashed a run of 10 straight points in less than two minutes to take a 59-57 lead. The Hornets made four free throws during the 10-point run, sinking two foul shots to tie the game at 57-57 at the 2:25 mark and added two more with 2:04 to play.

Verge made two free throws with 1:11 to play to tie the game at 59-59. Hinsdale South scored a basket with about 46 seconds to play, but Verge brought the ball downcourt and drained a 3-pointer 10 seconds later to give the Warriors a 62-61 lead. The Hornets then turned the ball over. Hinsdale South fouled Bruns a few seconds later, and he went to the line and made two free throws for a 64-61 lead. Junior center Barret Benson of the Hornets, who finished the game with 29 points, missed a 3-point shot in the closing seconds. One of his teammates grabbed the rebound and made a layup with about four seconds to play, but the Hornets were out of timeouts and could not stop the clock.

"I know the team needs me," said Verge in responding to questions about Saturday's game-winning shot. "I try to step up as much as possible."

"We're no longer surprised he makes those shots at the end of the game," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins in referring to Verge's last-minute 3-pointer against the Hornets. "Somehow he always comes up with the big shot."

Verge wound up with 19 points, including five 3-point shots. Miller provided 12 points with his four shots from beyond the 3-point arc. Senior Micah Williams scored nine points, while Bruns and Roycroft each contributed seven points. Senior Kyle Rushing added five points.



Another thriller...

Photos by Chris Fox

WILLOWBROOK SOPHOMORE Alonzo Verge (No. 25, above) drives past Hinsdale South's Barret Benson during the fourth quarter of Saturday's West Suburban Conference boys basketball game in Darien. Verge, who was fouled on the play, went to the free-throw line and sank both attempts to tie the game at 59-59 with a little more than one minute left in the fourth quarter. The Hornets scored with about 46 seconds to play to take a 61-59 lead, but Verge responded with a 3-point shot 10 seconds later to give the Warriors a 62-61 lead. Willowbrook beat the Hornets 64-63 to extend its winning streak to 10 games. Verge made five 3-point shots and scored 19 points for the Warriors, who won all 10 of their games during the month of January. Benson scored 29 points. "Our confidence is pretty good right now, but we're just trying to stay humble," said Verge after Saturday's win. Verge scored 44 points in Friday's 76-73 overtime victory at conference rival Addison Trail. He had only two points during the first half against Hinsdale South. "We had an overtime game last night, and he played 35 of 36 minutes," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins. "Once he got his second wind, he was good to go."



Rams beat the Warriors...

WILLOWBROOK SENIOR Sam Schmidt (above, left) and Glenbard East junior Brasia Solid (right) prepare to rebound a free throw during last week's girls basketball game. The Rams defeated the visiting Warriors 42-36 in the Jan. 27 battle in Lombard. Solid scored a team-leading 13 points for Glenbard East, which held an 18-11 lead at halftime. The Rams' lead stood at 33-29 at the end of the third quarter. Junior Amanda Chiebek scored nine points for Glenbard East, which never gave up its lead in the second half. Junior Ashley Brown added eight points, while senior Allison Hansen and junior Brittany Paganucci each scored eight points. Senior Cheyenne Brungli led Willowbrook in scoring with 12 points. Senior Alyssa Rensing provided nine points. Glenbard East won its next game, scoring a 43-39 Upstate Eight Valley Conference victory at Waubesa Valley on Thursday. Solid scored 18 points for the Rams, who improved to 13-13 overall and 4-7 in the conference. Willowbrook, which has been without injured junior Josie Zaban since Jan. 24, lost a West Suburban Gold Conference battle to Hinsdale South on Thursday. The Warriors rebounded on Friday, earning a 46-39 conference victory at Addison Trail. That win gave Willowbrook an overall record of 10-15 and a conference mark of 6-5.

GE Wrestling Boosters to hold pancake breakfast on Sunday

The Glenbard East Wrestling Boosters will sponsor a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 8, from 6:30-11 a.m. The breakfast, which will include all-you-can-eat pancakes for \$4, will take place in the cafeteria of Glenbard East High School, 1014 S. Main St., Lombard. The breakfast will also offer sausage, orange juice and coffee. Proceeds will benefit the Glenbard East wrestling program.



Road Warriors...

JUNIOR KEVIN MILLER (above, left) and senior Jake Bruns (right) helped Willowbrook's boys basketball team to Saturday's 64-63 West Suburban Gold Conference victory over Hinsdale South. The result extended the Warriors' winning streak to 10 games. Miller connected on four shots from 3-point range to score 12 points. The above photo shows Miller's last successful 3-pointer of the night, which gave Willowbrook a 51-38 lead with about seven minutes to play. Bruns added seven points, including a pair of free throws with 18.9 seconds remaining that gave the Warriors a 64-61 lead. "We've had a ton of close games," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins, in explaining the team's recent success. "We didn't have that experience in those end-of-the-game situations [earlier in the season], but now our team feels comfortable." Perkins did express disappointment that the Warriors were unable to beat the Hornets by a more comfortable margin after beginning the fourth quarter with a 12-point lead. "That's one thing we have to work on," stated Miller of the team's need to win decisively. "But even though we have those breakdowns, I feel like that's when we become a stronger team."



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VILLA PARK Independent

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 6

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FEBRUARY 5, 2015

Roads, infrastructure bond issues completed

To be paid back via
20-year increase
in property taxes
approved by voters

By Paul DeGuidice
For The Villa Park Independent

VILLA PARK — The Village of Villa Park will begin reconstructing and reconditioning miles of deteriorating streets and infrastructure this year, now that funds for the work have been secured through a second \$10 million bond issuance in the last 60 days.

"We went to market with \$8,850,000 total par amount and yielded about \$9,340,000 in project funds to the Village," said Tom Reedy of Stuart K. Baum and Co., the firm retained by the Village to oversee bond issuance in his address to the Board at their Monday, Jan. 26 meeting.

The final sale was for an 11-year bond issuance, with a total interest and principal cost of about \$10.55 million. That is a savings of nearly \$350,000 over the estimated cost of \$10.9 million when planning began in December 2014.

"The market has been cooperative and interest rates have

See **ROADS**, Page 3



photo provided

Willowbrook drama presents 'Little Women' as winter play

Willowbrook drama students rehearse a scene from the school's upcoming winter play, "Little Women." Pictured are (back row, from left): senior Erin Sulla (playing Josephine March), senior Allison Mahal (playing Meg March); (middle row) senior Laura Smith (in the role of "Marmee" March); (front row, from left) freshman Kathleen Cicero (playing Beth March) and senior Olivia Baumann (as Amy March). At right is junior Mariana Martens (who plays Hannah, the maid). Performances will take place on Feb. 12, 13 and 14. Full story inside this issue.

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Village Board approves purchase of \$80,000 brush chipper

Will help in clearing diseased ash trees

By Paul DelGuidice
For The Villa Park Independent

VILLA PARK — The Village of Villa Park has been hit hard by Emerald Ash Borer beetles over the past few years. In 2014 alone, the Village identified nearly 750 ash trees that were infected with the pests. About 600 of those were removed in 2014 and another 150 to 200 are scheduled for removal this spring.

To help with clearing the trees, Village staff asked for Board of Trustees approval to purchase a new Morbark M18R Brush Chipper with a 200 horsepower John Deere engine. The cost of the new chipper is \$79,822, and will be purchased from a dealer in Michigan through the Helping Government Across the Country Buy (HGACBUY) cooperative purchasing program.

The Village did not send the purchase out to bid, instead using the HGACBUY Cooperative at an estimated savings of \$16,000. The Village became a member of the HGACBUY program when it purchased a new fire truck in late 2014.

Villa Park currently owns a working 1998 Morbark Model 2400 chipper, but it is nearing the end of its useful life as a front line piece of equipment, according to Director of Public Works Vydis Juskelis.

"If we relegate (the old chipper) to a secondary role, we can increase its useful life," said Juskelis.

The Village plans to hire additional seasonal staff in the summer and use both the old and new chippers to help in tree removal, according to Juskelis. The crews will also plant new trees to replace the diseased ash trees.

"I fully support this," said Trustee Bob Wagner. "I see the wisdom of replacing a piece of equipment before it completely fails."



photo provided

WB students named 'Outstanding'

Pictured are the Willowbrook students who were recognized as Outstanding Students during a breakfast in their honor on Jan. 29. (All are seniors unless otherwise indicated.) They include (back row, from left): junior Lucas Betts, Juan Gallegos, Brandon Perry, David Jones, Kevin Rezek; (middle row, from left): freshman Ammar Waheed, WB science teacher Megan Graham (who received the Outstanding Teacher award), Furkhan Ali; (front row, from left): freshman Briana Jones, Erin Sulla, sophomore Syeda Quadri and junior America Torres.

OBITUARIES

Joan 'Giovanna' Orlando, 101

Joan "Giovanna" Orlando, of Villa Park, passed away on January 30, 2015, at the age of 101. Beloved sister of the late Katherine Orlando, Joseph (Carrie), Angelo (Angela), Robert (Barbara) Orlando, dear aunt and great aunt of many. She was a friend to all who knew her. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, at St. Alexander Church, 300 S. Cornell, Villa Park. Interment St. Joseph Cemetery, River Grove, Ill. In lieu of flowers memorials to St. Alexander School appreciated. Arrangements provided by Steuerle Funeral Home. Call (630) 832-4161 or visit steuerlefh.com for more information.

John R. Szuper, 48

John R. Szuper, of Elgin, formerly of Villa Park, passed away recently at the age of 48. Beloved husband of Renee nee Gonzales, loving father of Lisa Szuper and Jessie Gonzales, cherished son of John R. Sr. and the late Patricia, fond brother of Jeanne (Bill) Cook, and Jennifer (Chuck) Reynolds, uncle of Kyle, Casey, Sonya and Gabriel. Services were held on Monday, February 2, 2015. Interment Arlington Cemetery in Elmhurst. Arrangements provided by Steuerle Funeral Home. Call (630) 832-4161 or visit steuerlefh.com for more information.

Elizabeth J. 'Betty' Suchor, 87

Elizabeth J. "Betty" Suchor, nee Dooley, of Lombard and Villa Park, passed away on January 30, 2015, at the age of 87. Beloved wife of the late Walter, loving mother of James (Claudia), Barbara (John) Lux and Marybeth (David) Chaltin, grandmother of seven, great grandmother of one, fond sister of the late Margaret Mary (Bill) O'Connell and Alice Frances (Tom) Karr, dear aunt of many. Funeral Mass was held on Thursday Feb 5, 2015, at 10 a.m. at St. Pius X Church, Lombard. Interment Private. Memorials appreciated to St. Vincent DePaul in care of St. Pius X Church, 1025 E. Madison, Lombard, 60148. Arrangements provided by Steuerle Funeral Home. Call (630) 832-4161 or visit steuerlefh.com for more information.

Parks and Rec seeks public input on Master Plan

VILLA PARK — The Parks and Recreation Department is developing a Parks Master Plan for the future direction of parks, facilities and programming and public input to this process is extremely important. A series of input meetings will be held throughout February to let community members be part of the process.

The meetings will be moderated by Dan Dalziel of 3D Design, the firm assisting with the development of the plan. Staff will also be on hand. Meetings and topics covered will be as follows:

- Athletic Fields will be discussed on Saturday, February 7 from 10 a.m. – 12 noon at the Community Recreation Building, 320 E. Wildwood.

- Older Adult/Senior Recreation Programming will be discussed on Thursday, February 12 from 10:30 a.m.-12 noon at the Community Recreation Building. This meeting will be held prior to the monthly Birthday Bunch and Lunch event being held 12-2:30 p.m. that day.

- Swim Pools will be the topic on Tuesday, February 17 from 7-9 p.m. at the Iowa Community Center, 338 N. Iowa.

- Facilities and programs will be the discussion on Saturday, February 21 from 10 a.m.- 12 noon at Iowa Community Center.

- Parks and Playgrounds will be the topic of discussion on Wednesday, February 25 from 7-9 p.m. at the Community Recreation Building.

If you are unable to attend

on the day a particular topic is being discussed, feel free to attend any of the other meeting dates to share your thoughts and ideas. There will be time allotted at the end of each meeting for open discussion and input on any or all areas of the park and recreation system. Call 630-834-8970 with any questions.

ROADS

Continued from page 1

been coming down," said Reedy. "It was a very successful day in the market today."

Villa Park residents voted to approve issuing general obligation (G.O.) bonds in the amount of \$23 million during the November election. The bonds will be paid back through a 20 year increase in property taxes. Saving money in both principal and interest ultimately eases the property tax hike necessary to pay them back, according to Village staff. By seeking favorable rates and taking advantage of a strong market, the Village has maximized funds available for construction while keeping overall costs to tax payers as low as possible.

"The market currently prefers premium-priced bonds, meaning the coupon rate paid is higher than the yield," said Reedy.

The firm priced bonds from one to 11 years of maturity. The bonds purchased carry an 11-year maturity with a true interest cost of 2.145 percent. This compares favorably with the 12-year bond structure with a 2.5 percent interest cost that was initially planned.

"Of course the Village has a very strong credit rating, so it has been a very successful day in the market today," said Reedy.

A third bond issue of about \$3 million will occur in the next few years as needed for construction.

Willowbrook in rehearsals for winter play

'Little Women' opens Feb. 12

VILLA PARK — Willowbrook Theatre invites you to step back in time with its winter play, "Little Women," on Feb. 12, 13 and 14 to be performed in the school's White Auditorium. Curtain times are 7 p.m. all three evenings.

The play takes place during the American Civil War and tells the story of the March family, which consists of four sisters, their mother and their father, who is away serving in the war. The show focuses on the relationships between the family members as the sisters grow up.

"Even though it's a period piece, it's a timeless story," said senior Erin Sulla, who plays the lead role of Josephine (Jo) March.

Sulla described Jo as "stubborn, passionate and unconventional" and said she looks forward to portraying the classic character.

Willowbrook senior Laura Smith, who plays the mother (Marmee), said she hopes the audience takes away the message of the show.

"The characters go through trials and tribulations, but they make it through together," she said. "The main theme is everyone has hardships, but family is always there for you and is the most important thing."

Performing the role of Beth is freshman Kathleen Cicero, a newcomer to the Willowbrook stage. Cicero has been involved in theatre outside of Willowbrook and is excited to perform at the school. She said she was impressed with past performances at Willowbrook, and that's what inspired her to join theatre.

"It has been a wonderful experience," she said. "It's nice to meet everyone and to feel so welcomed by the upperclassmen."

Director Terri Woebel said she chose "Little Women" to present a different genre at the school and to share a beautiful story with the audience.

"I hope everyone falls in love with the sincerity of the story and the wonderful bond between the characters," Woebel said.

Tickets for Little Women are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students, \$3 with an Activity Pass and are free with a District 88 Senior Gold Card. For tickets and information, call 630-782-2855.

photo provided

Right: Willowbrook will present 'Little Women' on Feb. 12, 13, and 14 in White auditorium. Pictured are sophomore Anthony Clampit (playing the role of John Brooke) and senior Allison Mahal (in the role of Meg March) rehearsing a scene from the school's upcoming winter play.



COMMUNITY CAPSULES

Here's what is happening at Village Hall

By Paul DelGuidice
For The Villa Park Independent

VILLA PARK — The Villa Park Board of Trustees met at Village Hall for its first Formal Meeting of 2015 on Monday, January 26. Trustees Chris Aiello and Don Kase were absent from the meeting. Public Works Director Vydis Juskelis filled in for Village Manager Rich Keehner, who was also absent.

- The meeting began with Cub Scouts from Pack 122 leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Village President Deborah Bullwinkel read a Proclamation recognizing Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015, as Scout Day. The Proclamation commemorates the founding of the Boy Scouts of America on Feb. 8, 1910.

- The Community Pride Commission next presented their annual Holiday Decorating Awards. Winners included: the Romero Montoya family for their property in the 100 block of North Myrtle; Alan and Doreen Gervais for their property in the 1400 block of South Oakland; Gary and Mary Buschemi for their home in the 700 block of South Illinois; Patricia and Robert Kryskowski for their decorations in the

600 block of South Yale and Mrs. Rodriguez for her home in the 700 block of South Michigan.

Pride Commissioner Diane Blair-Sherlock reminded residents that Pride Week will be held in May, and the Commission is accepting nominations for the Spirit Award.

- The Village's administrative intern Adam Hall, from Northern Illinois University, gave a presentation on the Village's recycling plan. According to Hall, the Village began recycling in 1993 with 20 gallon "totes" distributed to residents for separating recyclables out of their trash. Since that time, there has been no planned recycling program in Villa Park.

The Village has recently distributed 64-gallon receptacles to 964 households in an initial trial with partner Roy Strom, Inc., the Village's contracted trash hauler. This program was deemed highly successful by Hall.

Part of the contract calls for a one-half percent savings on garbage pick-up rates if residents average 35 pounds of solid waste and 15 pounds of recyclables form the current 41 pounds of solid waste and 10 pounds of recyclables in a three-month quarterly period. Hall noted that residents using the recyclables bins do not need to separate items.

- Village President Deborah Bullwinkel announced that the next Coffee with the Board meeting will take place on Saturday, Feb. 7 at Village Hall. Bullwinkel also said a Town Hall meeting will take place at the end of February, but an exact date had not been determined yet.

- During the Consent Agenda portion of the meeting, the Village Board voted to approve 11 items including the Village Bill Listing dated January 26, 2015, in the amount of \$921,776 and approval of the minutes from the Village Committee of the Whole and Formal Board meetings of January 12, 2015.

- Other measures passed during the Consent Agenda include:

- The second (final) reading of an Ordinance providing for issuance of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$10 million. This issuance is part of the road and infrastructure bonds approved by voters in the November 2014 election.

- First and final reading of an Ordinance reducing the number of Class E liquor licensed from one to zero. This was prompted by Strat's restaurant, 231 E. North Ave., declining to renew their liquor license.

- A resolution adopting the Villa Park Facade Assistance Program as an incentive to

revitalize the Kenilworth TIF area and adjacent buildings along Villa Ave. (See story in last week's Villa Park Independent.)

- A resolution approving transfer of \$195,170 from the motor fuel taxes fund to the street improvement fund. The funds will be used for future road projects.

- A resolution authorizing an engineering agreement between the Village and Robinson Engineering for the 2015 pavement resurfacing program. This was needed to initiate designs work for 23,600 feet of street resurfacing and rehabilitation in 2015. The total cost of this construction is estimated at \$4.2 million. The cost of the engineering work is \$174,759.

- A resolution authorizing RJN Group Inc. to perform engineering services for the Capacity Management Operations and Maintenance plan for the Wastewater System. The goal of the plan, according to Village staff, is to reduce sanitary sewer overflows and basement back-ups. The cost of the contract is \$38,695.

- A resolution amending the contract with Lauterbach and Amen for audit services. This measure allows the Village to rescind its three-year agreement to have the firm provide audit services for the Sugar Creek Golf Course.

- A resolution approving a contract with Sikich, LLP, of

Naperville, in the amount of \$26,411 for each of the next five years plus the cost of a single audit, should it be necessary, to perform audit services for the Village.

- The Board also voted unanimously to approve a resolution for the purchase of a 2015 Morbarck M18R Brush Chipper to facilitate the removal of diseased ash trees. The current chipper owned by the Village is nearly 20 years old, but is still in working order, according to Juskelis. The cost of the new chipper is \$79,822.

- During the Village Trustee's Report portion of Monday's meeting, Trustee Bob Wagner congratulated parishioners of St. Pius X church of Lombard for their 60th anniversary. Wagner also said the Environmental Concerns Commission is seeking additional volunteers to join the Commission.

- Trustee Bob Taglia asked why parking is restricted on Village streets between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. Village President Deborah Bullwinkel said she did not know, but would ask Village staff and the Traffic and Safety Commission for the reason.

- The Board did not meet in Executive Session, as originally indicated on the Formal Agenda.



photo provided

Science instructor Graham named Outstanding Teacher

Willowbrook science teacher Megan Graham (left) receives the Outstanding Teacher award on Jan. 29. Graham was presented by Willowbrook junior Sally Nijim (right). To earn the award, the recipient must treat teaching as a passion – not just a job. He or she must create a positive learning environment where students feel encouraged and supported, use a variety of strategies to engage students, be willing to offer extra support when needed, provide prompt and effective feedback and relate to the viewpoints and perspectives of students.



photo provided

Willowbrook senior to perform in IMEA Conference

On Jan. 28, Willowbrook hosted a State sendoff for Alex Lapinski (pictured), a senior who was named to the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) All-State Honors Chorus for the second year in a row. Of the nearly 1,000 students who auditioned only the top 300 were selected for the All-District Chorus. Lapinski qualified to participate in the All-State Honors Chorus, which is the highest level, at the IMEA Conference held last weekend in Peoria.

WB senior Martinez named 88's Best for January

VILLA PARK — Isabelle Martinez has been named as Willowbrook's January recipient of 88's Best recognition for her academic achievements. Martinez, a senior, was recognized during the Jan. 26 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

Martinez consistently challenges herself with a rigorous course load, while maintaining a class ranking within the 99th percentile. She is currently enrolled in five Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level classes and has successfully completed 16 honors and AP courses. She has been named to the Distinction Honor Roll each semester of her high school career and is a member of Willowbrook's social studies honor society, Civitas; math honor society, Mu Alpha Theta; and the World Language Honor Society. She also has received an Outstanding Freshman Award and three Outstanding Student awards.

Beyond the classroom, Martinez has been a Student Ambassador and a member of Blue Crew, band and orchestra. She has been the Concertmaster and Drum Major and was selected as a member of the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) District Honors

Band. She has played soccer at Willowbrook and is a member of Key Club, World Language Club and Science Olympiad. As a member of Science Olympiad, she has received five Top 5 awards and was part of the Science Olympiad team that won State last year.

"Martinez was in my speech class last semester, and she was a wonderful role model for the rest of the class," said English teacher Diana Forsberg. "She is a diligent, talented and bright student and was a pleasure to have in class."

Social studies teacher and department chair Pete Montgomery agreed.

"I have had the privilege of getting to know Martinez through her participation in the soccer program," he said. "She is the type of person who soaks in coaching and advice, then works at full throttle to put it into action. Working with her is a bright spot in every day because she is always positive, friendly, funny and ready to make herself and everyone around her better than they were the day before. Between her academics, her music and her athletics, Martinez has a very bright future ahead of her!"

Science teacher John Fouser

said Martinez's positive personality makes her stand out.

"Martinez is a strong student, with tremendous enthusiasm," he said. "She enlivens the classroom and works hard to understand the material, often serving as a voice for the class. She fosters a strong bond between herself and her peers in the classroom. She pushes herself to be successful at every opportunity."

Martinez has applied to University of Michigan, University of Notre Dame and Northwestern University. She intends to study biochemistry as a premed student.



photo provided

Pictured with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause is Willowbrook senior Isabelle Martinez, who has been named as Willowbrook's January recipient of 88's Best recognition.

VILLA PARK COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, Feb. 7

• VPRD holds ice fishing derby

From 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Parks and Recreation is holding a FREE Ice Fishing Derby at the North Terrace Lagoon. Prizes awarded to kids. Bring your own bait. Children younger than age 12 must be accompanied by an adult; those age 16 and older must have a valid fishing license. Refreshments will be served indoors. Pre-register by calling 630-834-8525 so you can be contacted if the event date changes due to inadequate ice thickness.

• VPRD public meeting – athletic fields

From 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Community Rec Bldg., 320 E. Wildwood, VPRD will continue its public discussions about its Master Plan for the future direction of parks, facilities and programming. Free and open to the public. Come out and let your voice be heard! This meeting will cover the athletic fields.

Sunday, Feb. 8

• Church hosts Chili Cook-off, White Elephant Bingo

Beginning at 11:30 a.m., Community Congregation Church, 410 South Cornell Avenue, will host a Mardi Gras Chili Cook-Off and Crazy White Elephant Bingo. Enter your chili recipe by calling 630-834-8352 or via email to: cccvp.office@gmail.com

• Single Mothers Support Group

The Single Mothers Support Group will be holding its monthly meeting at the Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church, 149 W. Brush Hill Road, starting at 12:30 p.m. Elizabeth Klein, a conference speaker and author of the book, "Unraveling," will be speaking on "Relationships 201." You and your children can enjoy lunch at 12:30, and then the children will be dismissed to enjoy age-appropriate activities at 1:15 (there will be child care for children from infants to age 13). There is no pre-registration. Info: email Jane at: janeloe@aol.com

Thursday, Friday & Saturday, Feb. 12, 13 & 14

Willowbrook drama invites you to step back in time with its winter play, "Little Women," to be performed in the school's White Auditorium. Curtain times are 7 p.m. all three evenings. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students, \$3 with an Activity Pass and are free with a District 88 Senior Gold Card. Info: 630-782-2855.

Thursday, Feb. 12

VPRD public meeting – Older adult, senior programs

From 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Community Rec Bldg., 320 E. Wildwood, VPRD will continue its public discussions about its Master Plan for the future direction of parks, facilities and programming. Free and open to the public. Come out and let your voice be heard! This meeting will cover older adults and senior programs.

Friday, Feb. 13

VPRD's Princess Ball for dads, daughters

From 6:30-8:30 p.m., the Iowa Center will become a Princess Castle as the Parks & Rec Dept. hosts the annual Princess Ball for young ladies in the community and their favorite "date"—be it Dad, Uncle, brother, or special friend. Enjoy pizza and pasta, sweets and dancing to a DJ. Keepsake photos can be taken in an old-fashioned photo booth. Tickets: \$33 per couple, \$11 each additional daughter. Wrist corsages and boutonnieres can be ordered at registration for an additional fee, available for pick-up at the Ball. Info: 630-834-8525.

Tuesday, Feb. 17

VPRD public meeting – swimming pools

From 7-9 p.m. at the Iowa Community Center, 338 No. Iowa, VPRD will continue its public discussions about its Master Plan for the future direction of parks, facilities and programming. Free and open to the public. Come

out and let your voice be heard! This meeting will cover swimming pools.

Saturday, Feb. 21

VPRD public meeting – facilities, programs

From 10 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Iowa Community Center, 338 No. Iowa, VPRD will continue its public discussions about its Master Plan for the future direction of parks, facilities and programming. Free and open to the public. Come out and let your voice be heard! This meeting will cover facilities and programs.

Wednesday, Feb. 25

• VPRD public meeting – parks and playgrounds

From 7-9 p.m. at the Community Rec Bldg., 320 E. Wildwood, VPRD will continue its public discussions about its Master Plan for the future direction of parks, facilities and programming. Free and open to the public. Come out and let your voice be heard! This meeting will cover parks and playgrounds.

• Chamber installation dinner

The Villa Park Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an installation and member recognition and appreciation dinner at 6 p.m. at the Villa Park VFW Hall, 33 E. St. Charles Road. Price for the dinner and ceremony is \$35; RSVP to the chamber by Sunday, Feb. 1 by email (vpchamber@sbcglobal.net) or call 630-941-9133. Payment can be mailed to the chamber at: 10 W. Park, Villa Park 60181.

Thursday, February 26 VFW hosts Rock N' Wings

The Villa Park VFW Post 2801, located at 39 E. St. Charles Road, will host Rock N' Wings from 5:30 – 8 p.m. Come out for chicken wings and rock music provided by local youth. Info: 630-834-8191.

Addison Trail boys basketball team picks up two wins

Blazers move to 14-5 overall on season

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail boys basketball team picked up a pair of recent wins against Downers Grove South and Chicago Lakeview.

In a recent 53-51 overtime West Suburban Conference Gold Division win over Downers Grove South, Taylor White had 12 points, while Matt Gontarek and Dante Frontier each added 10 points.

Downers Grove South took its first lead of the game at 51-50 with 12 seconds left to go in overtime. Addison Trail called timeout and drew up a

play designed to go to Jaavon Bradley.

"Jaavon went coast to coast and ended up with a three-point play with four seconds left," said Addison Trail coach Brendan Lyons.

Lyons lauded the team's defensive efforts through the first three quarters of the game.

"We played great defense for the first three quarters," said Lyons. "We led 29-17 going into the fourth quarter and then allowed 26 points in the fourth quarter. The fourth quarter was tough, but overall it was a good defensive effort."

The Blazers also dropped a 76-73 overtime WSC Gold game to District 88 neighbor Willowbrook.

Addison Trail had five players hit double digits in scor-

ing, led by White who had 21 points.

Eric Grygo, Bradley, Matt Gontarek and Ryan Zygowicz each had 10 points.

White hit a 3-pointer with six seconds left in regulation to tie the game.

"We were up by four points early in the overtime," said Lyons. "We couldn't contain Alonzo Verge Jr. (Willowbrook sophomore). He had 44 against us. He is very good and he's only a sophomore, which is the scary part. We didn't do a good job defensively. We had some chances in overtime to build the lead and didn't. We also turned the ball over 24 times. That's too many turnovers."

After playing a game against Willowbrook that went into overtime and lasted into the

10 p.m. hour, the Blazers came back the next day to score a 55-34 non-conference win over Chicago Lakeview.

Zach Novak came off the bench to lead the Blazers in scoring with 14 points.

"Zach gave us a good spark," said Lyons.

Addison Trail also took six charges in the game. "That was good to see," said Lyons. "We played good defense."

Lyons was impressed with how his team responded coming off the tough Willowbrook loss.

"It was a nice bounce-back game," he said. "We knew we would be tired. Our game against Willowbrook went until 10:15 p.m. and we played overtime and then came back and had a JV game in the morning."

This was a survival game for us and we did well. We were up 21-7 at halftime."

Addison Trail moved to 14-5 overall with the win. The Blazers are 4-3 in conference play.

"Our guys compete hard and they play hard. You never have to question effort," said Lyons.

"Now we're starting to play teams that we've played before. We have to take better care of the ball and get back to playing the defense that won us a lot of games early on in the season. We can't let teams get to 60 and 70 points and we can't turn the ball over 15-plus times. If we can make the improvements and keep playing the defense we are capable of, we'll be fine."

Addison Trail wrestling team wins West Suburban Gold

Metallo breaks 100 career win barrier

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Make it three in a row for the Addison Trail wrestling team.

The Blazers scored a recent 33-15 win over Morton to secure the West Suburban Conference Gold Division championship. Addison Trail will share the title with Downers Grove South—both teams finished 5-1 in conference play. However, Addison Trail beat Downers Grove South in the head-to-head conference dual.

Addison Trail now has won three conference titles in a row.

The Blazers capped the regular season by going 2-1 in a quadrangular with Burlington Central, Glenbard East and Geneva. The Blazers finished the regular season with a 17-5 overall record.

Addison Trail defeated Burlington Central 48-23 and downed Geneva 50-21, but lost to Glenbard East 43-24.

"It wasn't a very good performance for us against Glenbard East," said Addison Trail coach Rob Serio.

Still, the Blazers have enjoyed another highly successful regular season with the 17 wins and the conference title to its credit.

"The kids are practicing very hard," said Serio. "Our conditioning is great. We're beating other teams with conditioning. We're still going later in the matches."

Addison Trail also has nine wrestlers who will bring 20-win seasons into the IHSA postseason next weekend.

"We have some good depth," said Serio. "The kids are doing their jobs."

Serio had an inkling at the beginning of the season that further success was possible.

"At the end of last season I said we can win the conference again," he said. "But the dual meets will be 29-28 or 31-30. Everything would be close, but I thought these kids could do it. It happened. It's really crazy. We stayed healthy and nothing fell apart. We meshed together and these guys did exactly what I thought would happen. That Morton meet really impressed me. We told each kid what their job was in that meet and every kid did their job. It was one of those things where everything fell into place."

Senior Anthony Metallo will bring a 31-4 record into the regional Saturday. He's helped the team at 145 and 152 pounds this season.

"Anthony Metallo has been on fire lately," said Serio. "He's wrestled very well. He's wrestled at 145 or 152. He does what we ask of him for the team. He's been great all year."

Metallo went over the 100-win barrier for his career in a recent match.

"That's probably the third kid to do that since I was coaching," said Serio. "That's a big accomplishment. Not too many kids can start when they are freshmen. Anthony walked right in here and started."

Serio also cited recent strong wrestling from 126-pounder Jaime Valdez, senior 113-pounder Mike Huynh, heavyweight Karim Fuentes, 170-pounder Larry Thomas and 160-pounder Brandon Webb.

"Jaime has been doing a great job and Mike has been awesome as well," said Serio. "Karim is doing well and Larry Thomas has really been coming on strong toward the end here. Brandon Webb is doing a great job, too."

Valdez and Fuentes each finished the regular season with 29-7 records. Huynh finished

27-6. Thomas ended the regular season at 22-13, while Jorge Arellano (138 pounds) was 21-13 and Justin Valentin (120 pounds) was 21-14. Webb was 20-10, while senior Eddie Valdez was 20-12. Sophomore Billy Hawkins was 16-7 at 106.

"In going through the records you don't usually see a team with nine guys who have 20

or more wins," said Serio. "I guess everything with this team makes sense now."

Addison Trail competes in the Class 3A Leyden regional Saturday.

"It's a very tough regional, but I think we can get some guys out," said Serio. "We're going to focus this week on working hard and staying healthy."

Verge Jr. keys Willowbrook cagers winning streak

Sophomore sets single-game scoring record in victory over Montini

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook boys basketball team is on fire.

And so is sophomore Alonzo Verge Jr. The Warriors recently went to District 88 neighbor Addison Trail and scored a three-point overtime victory to extend its winning streak to nine games in a row.

Since playing in the Sterling tournament, the Warriors defeated Leyden in overtime, downed Proviso East and then scored the win over Addison Trail.

"We've been playing well," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins.

Verge Jr., who established a new school single-game scoring record with 45 points in a game earlier this year against Montini, struck for 44 points against Addison Trail. He also had 35 points against Proviso East and 25 points against Leyden.

"Alonzo carried us against Addison Trail," said Perkins. "He's been on a tear. He's creating out there. He's a special kind of player. He's making plays for us. He fills what the team needs and he tries to contribute like that."

Perkins added the team has seen an uptick with its defensive play of late. "Our defense is getting us some easy baskets," he said. "We're creating turnovers and getting into the open court."

"He's been on a tear. He's making plays for us. He fills what the team needs and he tries to contribute like that."

— Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins

Verge Jr.'s play has made other teams take notice.

"Other teams' defenses are gearing up and trying to take him out of his game," said Perkins. "That's opened up the floor for other players to find a rhythm. We're able to get some easy looks. Every team is keying on him. We've seen every kind of look they can throw at him."

Perkins added Jake Bruns, Kyle Rushing, Chris Roycroft and Michah Williams have been playing at high levels.

"Those guys and Alonzo have really been spearheading a lot of our success," he said.

Willowbrook improved to 15-6 overall and 4-3 in West Suburban Conference Gold Division play after the Addison Trail win.

"We still have a month to go before the playoffs, but we are playing better," said Perkins. "There still is a lot of room for improvement. We can get even better and get more consistent."

Willowbrook played Hoffman Estates Tuesday in a non-conference game and will host Morton in WSC Gold action Friday on Hall of Fame night.

PUBLIC NOTICE

F12120502
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DUPAGE COUNTY
WHEATON, ILLINOIS
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Plaintiff,
vs.
Sandra Falco; Michael Falco; Unknown
Owners and Non-Record Claimants
Defendants.

13 CH 281
Property Address: 720 North Lombard
Road, Addison, Illinois 60101

NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE

Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above-entitled cause on November 21, 2013, I, Sheriff, John E. Zaruba of DuPage County, Illinois, will hold a sale on February 26, 2015, commencing at 10AM, at the DuPage County Sheriff's Office, 501 North County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187, to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following described real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said decree, to-wit:

LOT 2 IN FOURTH ADDITION TO GREEN RIDGE, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 40 NORTH, RANGE 11, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MAY 5, 1971 AS DOCUMENT R71-18410, IN DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 720 North Lombard Road, Addison, Illinois 60101
P.L.N.: 03-19-401-009

First Lien Position; Single-Family Residence; Judgment Amount \$257,904.27

IN ACCORDANCE WITH 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) AND (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), AND 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE PURCHASER OF THE PROPERTY, OTHER THAN A MORTGAGEE, SHALL PAY THE ASSESSMENTS AND LEGAL FEES REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (g)(1) AND (g)(4) OF SECTION 9 AND THE ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (g-1) OF SECTION 18.5 OF THE ILLINOIS CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT.

The property will not be open for inspection.

Terms of Sale: CASH - 10% down at the time of sale and the balance due within 24 hours of the sale. All payments for the amount bid shall be in certified funds payable to the Sheriff of DuPage County.

The person to contact for information regarding this property is:

Steven J. Lindberg at FREEDMAN ANSELMO LINDBERG LLC 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563 (866)402-8661. For bidding instructions, visit www.fal-illinois.com 24 hours prior to sale.

This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

FREEDMAN ANSELMO LINDBERG LLC

1771 W. Diehl Rd., Ste 150
Naperville, IL 60563-4947
630-453-6960 866-402-8661
630-428-4620 (fax)

1642538

(Published in the Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent & Villa Park Independent Jan. 29, Feb. 5 & 12, 2015)
192574

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DUPAGE COUNTY
WHEATON, ILLINOIS

FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE
ASSOCIATION
PLAINTIFF
VS

CALOGERO GAZZANO; ISABELLA
GAZZANO; HARRIS EXTERIORS INC.;
DEFENDANTS

11 CH 2185
1333 NORTH TALLY HO DRIVE
ADDISON, IL 60101

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO
JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE
UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE ACT

THIS DOCUMENT IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT ON A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by said Court in the above entitled cause on December 16, 2014, DUPAGE COUNTY SHERIFF in DU PAGE County, Illinois, will on March 17, 2015, in 501 North County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187, at 10:00 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of DU PAGE, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

LOT 50 IN CARON'S FOXDALE OF ADDISON PHASE II, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF SECTION 18, TOWNSHIP 40 NORTH, RANGE 11, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED SEPTEMBER 8, 1983 AS DOCUMENT R83-63789, IN DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

TAX NO. 03-18-404-015 COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1333 NORTH TALLY HO DRIVE ADDISON, IL 60101 Description of Improvements: 2 STORY HOME WITH ATTACHED GARAGE. The Judgment amount was \$429,549.86. Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 25% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For Information: Visit our website at <http://service.atty-pierce.com>. Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - Pierce & Associates, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 North Dearborn, Chicago, Illinois 60602. Tel. No. (312) 372-2060. Please refer to file #PA1102989

Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale.
1642688

(Published in the Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent & Villa Park Independent Feb. 5, 12 & 19, 2015)
192787



Cheers fill Addison Trail's auditorium as those in attendance show their support for Dobrosavljevic.

AT alum wins big at weight loss effort

ADDISON — Addison Trail announced last week that alumnus Toma Dobrosavljevic (class of 1999) is this season's winner of "The Biggest Loser," NBC's competitive weight-loss

TV show.

Dobrosavljevic was announced as the winner during the show's season finale on Jan. 29. When the season premiered on Sept. 11, he weighed

336 pounds. According to Us Weekly, he has dropped 171 pounds and now weighs 165 pounds.



photos provided

Addison Trail alumnus Toma Dobrosavljevic (class of 1999) has been named as this season's winner of "The Biggest Loser," NBC's competitive weight-loss TV show. Earlier in the season, about 100 family members, friends and fans of Dobrosavljevic gathered at Addison Trail to watch him compete. Dobrosavljevic's girlfriend, Jamie McGowan (left), and his sister Marija Mihajlovic show their support.



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**Dobrosavljevic
named
'The
Biggest Loser'
on NBC
television show**

The theme of this season was "The Biggest Loser: Glory Days." Dobrosavljevic played football, volleyball, baseball, tennis, basketball and soccer in high school, according to his biography on "The Biggest Loser" website. His life changed dramatically nine years ago, when his father died prematurely at age 54. He moved home to care for his mother, and he began to gain weight while trying to help his family deal with the devastating loss. But he had promised his father he would lose weight and he has achieved that goal.

As the winner, Dobrosavljevic was awarded \$250,000.

"I feel incredible," he said in the Us Weekly article. "It's so mind-boggling and overwhelming. I look in the mirror and I still have a hard time recognizing myself. Knowing that I've lost, in the last year, over 200 pounds, it's just amazing ... to get to where I'm at, I've lost an entire person and a little bit more. It's unbelievable."

See the full Us Weekly article at tinyurl.com/pr4wgfiv.



Supporters sign a poster for Dobrosavljevic.

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Injuries taking toll on Willowbrook girls basketball team

Leading scorer Zabran sidelined; Warriors defeat Addison Trail

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook girls basketball team is feeling the effects of a recent rash of injuries.

The Warriors have been playing shorthanded after injuries to Josie Zabran, Alyssa Ressinger and key bench player Alyssa Spada. Zabran, the team's leading scorer and rebounder, has been sidelined since suffering a head injury against Proviso East, while Ressinger and Spada both have knee injuries, coach Terry Harrell said.

"We've had a lot of injuries," he said. "It's been rough. We're a little shorthanded right now and we've had to adjust our lineup to going with one forward and four guards. We're trying to run a little different system. If we had opened the year running something of this nature we would be fine, but it's a big adjustment and we're still working on it."

Willowbrook (10-15 overall) scored a recent seven-point win over District 88 neighbor Addison Trail.

"We were up by 20 points at one point," said Harrell. "We only have seven girls left in the rotation. We were kind of getting tired at the end."

In earlier action, the Warriors lost 50-34 to Hinsdale South in West Suburban Conference Silver Division play and suffered

a 42-35 non-conference loss to Glenbard East. Both Zabran and Ressinger were injured in a conference loss to Proviso East.

"That game went from being one where it was difficult to matchup with a team like that to our worst loss of the season," said Harrell. "It's been kind of a tumultuous time. It hasn't been a good month."

Michala Giammarrino had 16 points in the win over Addison Trail.

"Michala stepped up for us against Addison Trail," said Harrell.

Sam Schmidt had 12 points, seven rebounds, three blocks and two steals.

In a 42-36 loss to Glenbard East, Willowbrook trailed 18-13 at halftime and 33-29 heading into the fourth quarter.

Cheyenne Brunig led the Warriors with 12 points and three steals. Ressinger had nine points and nine rebounds. Schmidt had three assists.

In a 50-34 WSC Gold loss to Hinsdale South, Willowbrook trailed 12-8 after the first quarter and 22-13 at halftime.

Schmidt had eight points and seven rebounds. Breonna Brown and Kelsee McGowan each scored seven points. Kalyn Konrath had six rebounds. Giammarrino added three assists, three steals and four points.

The win over Addison Trail put Willowbrook at 6-5 in conference play. Willowbrook closes out conference play Friday at Morton.

"The girls have bonded together and are playing hard," said Harrell.

Fenton wrestlers win Metro Suburban Conference tournament

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Fenton wrestling team continued its strong season by winning the Metro Suburban Conference title in convincing fashion.

Fenton finished first with 279 points. Riverside-Brookfield was second with 196 points, while Walther Christian took third with 177 points.

Individual MSC champions for Fenton were Corey Muniz (106 pounds), Antoine Bess (120), Ryan Mencini (126), Angel Nava (138), Grayson Kaspar (152) and Juan Alfaro (182).

MSC runners-up for the Bison were Oscar Ledezma (145), Joe Oweina (160), Dylan Butts (170) and Isaiah Brock (285).

Ivan Rodriguez (195) and Rodrigo Castaneda (220) took third. Dominik Roztocki (132) took fourth and Manny Morales (113) placed fifth.

"Overall, I was really pleased that we had solid contributions from all 14 wrestlers," said Fenton coach Brian Hastings. "We have to continue to work on scoring points and keeping pressure on our opponents."

In other recent action, Fenton scored a 52-15 win over Elmwood Park. Morales (120), Ledezma (145) and Nikko Castaneda (160) were among the winners for the Bison.

Fenton also recorded an 84-0 win over IC Catholic Prep. Muniz (106), Nava (138), Ledezma (145), Kaspar (152), Oweina (160), Butts (170), Alfaro (182) and Brock (285) each had pinfall victories.

The two wins pushed Fenton's dual meet mark to 16-4 overall.

Addison Trail girls gymnastics

The Addison Trail girls gymnastics team recently earned its highest score of the season, a 133.25 at the Neuqua Valley invitational.

At Neuqua Valley, Casey Boksha took second on floor with a 9.3 and Kennedy O'Neill placed fifth on floor with a 9.05. O'Neill also was third on beam with a 9.4 and third in the all-around scoring with a 36.30.

"Our team has become very strong on floor and beam," said Addison Trail coach Brandi Kisse. "We have been focusing on vault and bars the last two weeks. They are doing a great job of staying focused and trying to work some new skills to show at regionals."

Kisse said the team continues to work hard in practice. "The team's dedication right now is amazing," she said. "They work the entire two-and-a-half to three hours of practice and rarely, if

ever, miss a practice. They know it is crunch time with the big meets coming up and they are working hard for it."

Freshman Sydney Zaprzal has been a recent bright spot for the Blazers. "Sydney is a freshman on the team this year who was forced to take a couple years off because of an injury," said Kisse. "It's been a slow recovery on certain events for her, but every day she improves on something. She is getting her

strength and confidence back and it is showing in her routines and her attitude during practices. I am very excited for what the rest of her high school career will bring her."

Addison Trail competed in the Geneva regional earlier this week.

"We are hoping to advance a few girls to sectionals and then see where that takes us toward the end of the season," said Kisse.

REAL ESTATE

F12120502

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DUPAGE COUNTY - WHEATON, ILLINOIS
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Plaintiff,

vs.
Sandra Falco; Michael Falco; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants.
Defendants.

Property Address: 720 North Lombard Road, Addison, Illinois 60101

NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE
Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above-entitled cause on November 21, 2013, I, Sheriff John E. Zaruba of DuPage County, Illinois, will hold a sale on February 26, 2015, commencing at 10AM, at the DuPage County Sheriff's Office, 501 North County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187, to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following described real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said decree, to-wit:
Commonly known as: 720 North Lombard Road, Addison, Illinois 60101
P.I.N.: 03-19-401-009

First Lien Position; Single-Family Residence; Judgment Amount \$257,904.27
IN ACCORDANCE WITH 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) AND (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), AND 765 ILCS 605/16.5(g)-1), YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE PURCHASER OF THE PROPERTY, OTHER THAN A MORTGAGEE, SHALL PAY THE ASSESSMENTS AND LEGAL FEES REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (g)(1) AND (g)(4) OF SECTION 9 AND THE ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (g)-1 OF SECTION 18.5 OF THE ILLINOIS CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT.

The property will not be open for inspection.
Terms of Sale: CASH - 10% down at the time of sale and the balance due within 24 hours of the sale. All payments for the amount bid shall be in certified funds payable to the Sheriff of DuPage County.

The person to contact for information regarding this property is:
Steven J. Lindberg at FREEDMAN ANSELMO LINDBERG LLC 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563 (866)402-8661. For bidding instructions, visit www.falilinois.com 24 hours prior to sale.

This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
FREEDMAN ANSELMO LINDBERG LLC
1771 W. Diehl Rd., Ste 150
Naperville, IL 60563-4947
630-453-8980 666-402-8661
630-428-4620 (fax)
642538

(Published in the Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent & Villa Park Independent Jan. 29, Feb. 5 & 12, 2015)
192575

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DUPAGE COUNTY - WHEATON, ILLINOIS
FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION
PLAINTIFF
VS
CALOGERO GAZZANO; ISABELLA GAZZA-

NO: HARRIS EXTERIORS INC.; DEFENDANTS 11 CH 2185

1333 NORTH TALLY HO DRIVE
ADDISON, IL 60101
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT

"THIS DOCUMENT IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT ON A DEBT, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE." PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by said Court in the above entitled cause on December 16, 2014, DUPAGE COUNTY SHERIFF IN DU PAGE County, Illinois, will on March 17, 2015, in 501 North County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187, at 10:00 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of DU PAGE, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

TAX NO. 03-18-404-015 COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1333 NORTH TALLY HO DRIVE ADDISON, IL 60101 Description of Improvements: 2 STORY HOME WITH ATTACHED GARAGE The Judgment amount was \$429,549.86. Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 25% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGEE (HOMEOWNER) YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAWS. For Information: Visit our website at <http://service.ally-pierce.com>. Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - Pierce & Associates, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 North Dearborn, Chicago, Illinois 60602 Tel. No. (312) 372-2060. Please refer to file #FA1102398 Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale.
642688

(Published in the Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent & Villa Park Independent Feb. 5, 12 & 19, 2015)
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ON THE COVER

Addison elected officials Dave Williams (clockwise, from top left), Rich Veenstra, Donna Craft Cain, Mike Super, Joe Welkome and Lisa Knauf participate in the annual Shape of Addison town hall meeting at Addison Village Hall (background).

Photos provided; Erica Benson: ebenson@shawmedia.com



Shape of Addison highlights feats, future

By AIMEE BARROWS
editorial@shawmedia.com

ADDISON – Addison leaders shared their agencies' 2014 accomplishments and 2015 plans at the village's seventh annual Shape of Addison town hall meeting Jan. 22.

Here are a few highlights from each of the six taxing bodies represented at the meeting:

Village of Addison

The village celebrated its 130th anniversary in 2014, and Mayor Rich Veenstra said there's renewed interest in industrial, commercial and residential development.

Video gaming added \$74,000 to tax revenues in 2014, and it will help support community events, Veenstra said. There are several commercial developments in the works for 2015. Businesses, including Chick-fil-A and Buffalo Wild Wings, are interested in Centennial Plaza, and the Taco Bell building will be torn down and rebuilt as a Popeye's Chicken. ATI Physical Therapy will take over the vacant KFC building, and Caputo's will be upgraded and expanded in 2015.

William Ryan Homes will build 60 single-family homes on the old golf course property, with a price point of \$400,000 to \$600,000. Groundbreaking will begin this spring.

The \$4.2 million Swift Road resurfacing project and the Route 53 IDOT project were completed in 2014.

Quote of note: "We're expanding our use of technology to Facebook, Twitter, as well as our e-newsletter. We also have a Code Red system to reach the community with messages that are essential to health and safety," Mayor Rich Veenstra said.

Addison School District 4

The district expanded full-day kinder-

garten to all seven elementary schools. Construction began on the Addison Early Learning Center in December, and it's expected to open in August. The center will serve children ages 3 to 5.

The district continues to align their curriculum to national Common Core standards and continues to work on teacher development programs.

Quote of note: "We've completed roof repairs, improved security and maintained reasonable class sizes and stayed within budget," Board of Education President Dave Williams said.

DuPage High School District 88

The graduation rate at Addison Trail High School is 90 percent, which is above the state level. Students from the 2014 graduating class are attending colleges in 16 states and Canada.

The district continues to work to create a safe environment for students and staff and holds safety drills throughout the year. Last spring, the District 88 foundation gave grants to staff to develop instructional opportunities that benefit students, and more grants may be possible this year.

Quote of note: "Our goal is to help each student reach his or her potential, and we monitor growth throughout the year," Board of Education President Donna Craft Cain said.

Addison Fire Protection District

The three-year renovation project of the Fire Protection District headquarters at 10 S. Addison Road is almost complete. The 30-year-old building's codes were updated and repaired, the parking lot was expanded and a new emergency exit driveway to serve the west side of the building was built, which is expected to save three minutes of response time.

Quote of note: "Three minutes may not seem like a long time but can make the difference between life and death in

a medical emergency. A fire can also double in size every minute," Board of Trustees President Mike Super said.

Addison Park District

The Park District won the Illinois Distinguished Accredited Agency Award in 2014, an honor that only 45 park districts in the state have. The award recognizes park districts for offering high-quality programs.

Community Park has been undergoing renovations in 2014. The ballfields and walking path were updated, and a new playground and volleyball area were added. The project should be completed this year. In 2016, the Park District will renovate the rec center.

Quote of note: "For the past few years we've had park pride, where residents come out and help us with sprucing up of the parks, pull weeds, planting and mulching. We estimate it saves us 2,500 man hours of work," Board of Commissioners Vice President Joe Welkome said.

Addison Public Library

The library continues to see attendance grow, and they've added several new programs for children in 2014, including a baby summer reading program.

Teen use has greatly increased, and the library has expanded their teen area. They added a teen librarian, and some staff have undergone additional training to better communicate and engage their teenage patrons.

The library plans to continue expanding adult programming in 2015, including an online dating class this month.

Quote of note: "This isn't the library you remember as a kid. It's an engaging place, a community gathering place. We have a cafe that's staffed by special education students, so stop in and get some coffee," Board of Trustees President Lisa Knauf said.

Addison native honors father, wins 'The Biggest Loser'

By MARY BETH VERSACI
mversaci@shawmedia.com

ADDISON – Addison native Toma Dobrosavljevic was the big winner on the Jan. 29 finale of the latest season of NBC's "The Biggest Loser."

Dobrosavljevic, who competed in several sports at Addison Trail High School and now lives in Bloomingdale, lost 171 pounds to win the show, which featured athletes, including former Olympians, this season.

Dobrosavljevic, 33, auditioned for the show as a way to fulfill a promise he made to his father, who was diagnosed with multiple myeloma leukemia at age 54.

When his dad got sick, Dobrosavlje-

vic told him he would get healthy again after becoming less active and gaining weight when he started working full time. But after his dad died, Dobrosavljevic moved in with his mom to help as the family coped with their devastating loss, and he continued to gain weight.

"I kept my promise to my dad. It's been nine years since he passed and I can finally say tonight, mission accomplished," Dobrosavljevic said during the finale.

When Dobrosavljevic started the show, he weighed 336 pounds.

He showed off his trim, 165-pound



Toma Dobrosavljevic

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figure during the finale and shared how his time on "The Biggest Loser" has impacted his life since losing his dad.

"I didn't dream anymore, I didn't believe in myself, and I had a really hard time seeing my future," Dobrosavljevic said. "I feel absolutely amazing now. Now I can dream. The world is mine, and there's nothing I can't do, and I'm looking forward to the future. Regardless of what's there, I'm ready for it."

BREAKOUT PLAYERS

Boys basketball players create impact for teams

By DAN SANTAROMITA
dsantaromita@shawmedia.com

Each basketball season players graduate and leave openings for new players to step into the following year. Some varsity newcomers make an impact right away and some returners earn bigger roles. Here's a list of some such breakout players from York, Glenbard East, Willowbrook and other area schools:

Mike Finley

School: Glenbard East

Class: Sophomore

Position: Guard

Impact: Finley was on varsity last year and started for a young Glenbard East squad. The Rams have more experience and have seen more success this winter, and Finley has been a big part of that. He has become a more consistent player, arguably the most reliable player in the lineup.

Matt Gontarek

School: Addison Trail

Class: Senior

Position: Guard

Impact: Gontarek started a number of games for the Blazers last year, so the ability he offered the team was no secret entering the season. However, he's been a steadying force for a much improved Addison Trail squad as a veteran senior leader.

Will Lyles

School: IC Catholic

Class: Junior

Position: Forward

Impact: Lyles was on varsity last year, but has taken a bigger role in a young Knights' roster. As an athletic 6-foot-4 forward, Lyles is a tough player to match up with and coach T.J. Tyrrell called him the hardest working player on the team. He is averaging 10.3 points and 4.7 rebounds per game.

Robert McGivney

School: Timothy Christian

Class: Senior

Position: Center

Impact: At 6-foot-6, McGivney gives the Trojans a legitimate force inside. He was a contributor last year, but this season he is Timothy's lone true post player and when he is on the court he is a difference maker for the Trojans.

Jayvon Thomas

School: York

Class: Senior

Position: Guard

Impact: Anyone who watched enough York games last season probably isn't



Bill Ackerman - backerman@shawmedia.com

IC Catholic's Will Lyles saves a loose ball Jan. 23 in a game against Timothy Christian. Lyles is a veteran leader on a young Knights team this season.



Erica Benson - ebenson@shawmedia.com

York's Jayvon Thomas goes up for a rebound Jan. 23 in a game against Hinsdale Central. A role player last year, Thomas has emerged as the Dukes' leading scorer this season.

surprised by what Thomas is doing this season. As a junior, Thomas was a key reserve on a senior-laden squad but took over a few games when the Dukes needed him to. This season, the Dukes need him to take over every game and he often delivers as one of the highest scorers in the area.

Alonzo Verge Jr.

School: Willowbrook

Class: Sophomore

Position: Guard

Impact: Verge isn't just a breakout player in the area, he is one of the biggest breakout players in the state. He came



Bill Ackerman - backerman@shawmedia.com

Timothy Christian's Robert McGivney (left) drives the baseline Jan. 23 in a game against IC Catholic. McGivney has provided a post presence for the Trojans this season.

to Willowbrook's team this season as a highly touted sophomore with no varsity experience. His talent meant the lack of experience didn't matter. A prolific scorer already recruited by several Division I programs, Verge has even gone off for more than 40 points twice in January.

WRESTLING POSTSEASON PREVIEW

Wrestlers start road to state

By DAN SANTAROMITA

dsantaromita@shawmedia.com

The high school wrestling state finals start Feb. 19, but first come regional meets Saturday. Here's the postseason outlook as area schools York, IC Catholic and Addison Trail start on the road to state:

Addison Trail

Class: 3A

Regional: Leyden

Sectional: Glenbard North

Outlook: The Blazers shared the West Suburban Gold title with Downers Grove South after beating Morton in a dual meet Jan. 29. AT may not have the top level standouts of last year's team, but the Blazers showed a balanced lineup in winning conference.

Senior Anthony Metallo (145 pounds) and junior Karim Fuentes (285) had success in some of the Blazers' tough tournaments this season. Metallo won a title at Glenbard West in January and placed in the top three at three other tournaments.

Mike Huynh (113), Jaime Valdez (126) and Eddie Valdez (220) also have had solid seasons for the Blazers.

AT is stuck with nationally ranked Oak Park-River Forest in the regional along with strong teams in Wheaton North and Glenbard East, so sectional spots will be tough to come by.

IC Catholic

Class: 1A

Regional: Lisle

Sectional: Wilmington

Outlook: The Knights got four wrestlers to sectionals last year and could match that number this season.

Freshman Joe Bianchini (103 pounds) is having a strong year, including a third-place finish at the Metro Suburban Conference meet. Junior Brendan O'Brian moved up to 145 pounds after qualifying for sectionals at 132 pounds last year.

York

Class: 3A

Regional: Leyden

Sectional: Glenbard North

Outlook: Considering the tough competition at the Leyden regional, sectional spots will be hard to come by but the Dukes have a handful of wrestlers that enter with hopes of moving on.

Oak Park-River Forest is ranked nationally and expects to get a wrestler through at every weight class, according to York coach Terry Clarke. As a result, one-third of the sectional spots may already be spoken for.

"Our regional is really loaded with talent," Clarke said. "It's probably the most difficult regional in 3A."

York doesn't have any sectional qualifiers back from last year, although senior Taylor Hoffman was one match away. He is 32-7 at 145 pounds. His brother Austin, a sophomore, also has a chance at 120 pounds.

Juniors Michael Ordenez (32-6 at 138) and Tom Helton (28-8 at 285) hope to get through after strong regular seasons. Steven Burg missed the first half of the season because of injury but could contend at 195 pounds. Clarke mentioned Mark Bernard (220) and Connor Costello (113) as candidates to advance as well.

"I think this team has really progressed," Clarke said while crediting assistant coaches Mike DiNovo, Rob Kichka, Don Kasper, Colin Tovey and Jim Nudera.

Verge, Warriors get best of Blazers squad

By DAVE OWEN

editorial@mysuburbanlife.com

ADDISON - Before the weekend blizzard hit, Alonzo Verge Jr. continued to storm through West Suburban Gold foes.

The Willowbrook sophomore's 19 points Saturday, including the late game-winning 3-pointer, keyed a 64-63 win against Hinsdale South, but his performance in a 76-73 overtime win against Addison Trail the previous night was a highlight film.

Verge's 44 points, eight rebounds and six steals stole the show, and his blocked shot of an AT 3-point attempt at the buzzer was the fitting finale.

"My teammates always get me going and keep my confidence up," said Verge, who was just shy of his career-high of 45. "I try to lift them up, and

they always come through for me and trust me with the ball so I try to make as much positive happen as I can."

Verge's positive 20-point third quarter helped Willowbrook (16-6, 5-3) turn a 47-38 deficit with 2:22 left in the quarter into a 50-47 lead after three.

After a driving layup by Ryan Zygowicz put Addison Trail ahead 73-71 with 1:10 left in overtime, a 5-0 Willowbrook run to close the game included a steal and layup by Verge that put the Warriors up 75-73 with 40 seconds left.

"When somebody starts feeling confident and they're a good player to begin with, it really is hard to stop that momentum," Addison Trail coach Brendan Lyons said. "He's very tough to defend, but I'm disappointed with our team defense."

Jake Bruns (12 points) and Chris Roycroft (nine points, eight rebounds) were two key supporting players for Willowbrook.

Addison Trail (14-5, 4-3) rode its balance: Taylor White (21 points, seven rebounds) and Zygowicz (12 points) led the way, and adding 10 points each were Jaavion Bradley, Dante Frontier and Eric Grygo.

An ankle injury with 6:52 left in regulation knocked Bradley from the game for good, but White's 3-pointer with 10 seconds left forced overtime tied at 67-67.

"Jaavion brings so much," Lyons said. "Offensively he's really starting to find his game. It was definitely a loss."

"I was proud of the guys stepping up and tying it to force overtime, but four or five key plays stick out."

PREP ROUNDUP



Erica Benson - ebenson@shawmedia.com

IC Catholic's Leslie Montoya (left) fights for possession of the ball Jan. 9 in a game against Glenbard South. The Knights start postseason play Wednesday.

IC girls looking strong heading to postseason

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

IC Catholic's girls basketball team picked up three wins in a row starting Jan. 29 with a 44-19 victory against Fenton. On Saturday, IC beat Chicago Christian 44-34 and topped host St. Edward 37-25 on Tuesday.

IC closed the regular season Thursday against Glenbard South and is now heading into the Class 2A playoffs. The Knights host the sectional but travel to Walther Christian for the regional first. IC earned the top seed in the six-team regional and will play the winner of Westminster Christian and Willows Academy at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

BOYS BASKETBALL

York

After losing 55-41 against Lyons Township on Jan. 30, the Dukes salvaged a split of the weekend by beating Mooseheart 62-45 Saturday at Batavia's Night of Hoops.

IC Catholic

The Knights beat Chicago Christian 50-38 Saturday, but lost to St. Edward in overtime Wednesday. IC lost 61-57 to St. Edward, which was the Knights' third loss to St. Edward this season.

Timothy Christian

The Trojans traveled to Illinois Christian for the Vikings' homecoming and came away with a 62-57 victory Jan. 30, Illinois' first loss in the Metro

Suburban East this season.

Riley Chapman led Timothy with 17 points. Robert McGivney had a double-double with 11 points and 12 rebounds, and Ben Lodewyk (12 points) and Joe Davidson (10 points) also scored in double figures.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

York

Before the Dukes hosted a regional Thursday, they competed in the West Suburban Silver meet Saturday and placed sixth with a score of 121.8.

Addison Trail

Kennedy O'Neill automatically advanced in the all-around and three events from the Geneva regional Wednesday. O'Neill was third in the all-around, third on floor and fifth on the uneven bars and vault.

CHEERLEADING

York

The Dukes placed fifth in the large team division of the Rolling Meadows sectional to qualify for state. They perform their state preliminary routine at 3:30 p.m. Friday at U.S. Cellular Coliseum in Bloomington.

Timothy Christian

The Trojans took fourth place in the medium team division of the Rolling Meadows sectional to book a place in the state tournament. The squad will compete in the state preliminary at 12:55 p.m. today.