

State qualifiers...

A DISTRICT 45 TEAM of students primarily from Jefferson Middle School (right) advanced to next month's Destination Imagination (DI) state finals at Northern Illinois University. The team qualified for the state event after its performance at Saturday's regional tournament at Hadley Junior High School in Glen Ellyn. The students on the team (pictured left to right) are: (front row) Lizzy McBride, Mia McBride and Gabrielle Giltono; (back row) Sara Fitzgibbon, Stephanie Dasbach, Dyani Malec and Sandy Orizaba. Mia McBride attends Schafer School. The six other students on the team attend Jefferson Middle School. The parent team managers are Mrs. Teresa McBride (far left) and Mrs. Heather Giltono (far right). The team received a first-place trophy and medals in its level of competition at the regional event. The Destination Imagination program inspires students to work together to develop solutions to specific challenges. The pictured team, known as "The Manly Lobsters," selected the improvisation challenge—the Improv Games. The particular challenge involved spontaneity and storytelling. The team presented three improv sketches at the regional event. One other District 45 team—a team from Westmore School—advanced to the state finals.

Photo by Jon Morgan



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VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

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Manager presents highlights in state of the village

by Chris Fox

The Village of Villa Park held its annual state of the village event on Thursday night in the auditorium of Willowbrook High School. Villa Park Village Manager Rich Keehner was the main speaker during the presentation, which lasted less than 90 minutes. A total of about 40 people, including village staff members, attended the event.

"The purpose tonight is just to kind of highlight our past accomplishments," stated Villa Park Village President Deborah Bullwinkel at the beginning of the presentation. "It's been a very busy year. We are expecting 2015 to be even busier with what we have on our docket."

Three of the five trustees on the Villa Park Village Board joined Bullwinkel in attending the event. Albert Bulthuis, Robert Taglia and Robert Wagner attended the presentation, while trustees Chris Aiello and Donald Kase did not.

"There are positive things we're looking forward to, but we're also looking forward to some negative things," stated Keehner early in his remarks. Keehner then referred to Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner's recent proposal to reduce Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF)

revenue by 50 percent. Municipalities including Villa Park currently receive 8 percent of total state income tax collections. Rauner's proposal calls for municipalities to receive 4 percent of those collections. According to the Illinois Municipal League (IML), municipalities received \$97 per person from the LGDF. Villa Park, with a population of nearly 22,000, reportedly received about \$2.1 million in LGDF revenues during Municipal Fiscal Year 2015 (May of 2014 to April of 2015). Keehner stated the governor's proposal to reduce LGDF revenue would cut Villa Park's take by \$1.1 million during the upcoming fiscal year (May of 2015 to April of 2016). The IML released figures for the upcoming fiscal year that would provide municipalities with LGDF revenues of \$99 per person. Under that estimate, the village would receive nearly \$2.2 million from the fund.

The village's current fiscal year budget (2014-15) anticipated nearly \$37.2 million in total revenues. That was the figure included in Keehner's letter to village board members in submitting the annual budget plan to the village board in April 2014. Keehner also noted in the letter that the general corporate fund, which is

the largest fund in the village's budget, was expecting about \$19.5 million in revenue.

The manager said later in his presentation that the village staff had submitted a balanced budget for the upcoming 2015-16 fiscal year to the village board. The board is scheduled to vote to adopt the budget at its April 12 meeting.

Keehner's presentation also referred to the village's adopt-a-hydrant program, which gives residents and businesses an opportunity to adopt and paint a Villa Park fire hydrant. Keehner said there are close to 1,200 hydrants in the village. About 250 have been adopted and painted.

Keehner also mentioned the village's electronic waste program, noting that the village's contractor recently instituted a charge of 14 cents per pound. That charge caused the village to eliminate its 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week dropoff center to a once-a-month

dropoff of electronic waste that's limited to village residents. Keehner said that when the village had its 24/7 dropoff program, hotels and motels would discard several televisions at the site. Other non-residents would reportedly also discard large numbers of items.

The village manager also touched on the referendum approved by Villa Park voters in the election of November 2014. The referendum, approved by about 71 percent of voters, allowed the village to borrow up to \$23 million to pay for road repairs. The village sold nearly \$10 million in bonds at the end of 2014, shortly after voters approved the referendum. The village sold nearly \$10 million more in bonds at the beginning of this year.

"Those bonds have been sold, they're now deposited at BMO Harris and Inland Bank," said Keehner, who added that the resident

(Continued on the next page)

Willowbrook music department presents four upcoming concerts

The Willowbrook High School music department will present three concerts during March and one race concert in April. All four of the concerts will begin at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium.

The first of the upcoming concerts takes place Thursday, March 5, and will feature performances from the symphonic wind ensemble, symphonic band, chamber band and percussion ensemble. The concert concert of Tuesday, March 10, will include Willowbrook's concert, trombe and beginning mixed chamber.

The orchestra concert on March 12 will feature the symphonic and chamber ensembles, as well as the guitar ensemble and beginning guitar groups. The April 9 concert includes the jazz band, jazz combo and the Contemporary

show choir.

Admission to each of the four concerts is \$3 for adults and \$2 for senior citizens and students. Student passes and senior citizen gold cards will be accepted for each event. Admission is free to children 12 and under who are accompanied by an adult.

Members of the community can support Willowbrook's music program by becoming a music booster. To print an application, visit www.willowbrookmusicboosters.weebly.com. Another way to support to music program is by ordering from Market Day. The Market Day concert number for the school's music boosters is 6251. Additionally, shoppers at GE's stores can mention the Willowbrook High School Music Boosters at checkout.



Installation dinner...

Photo by Steve Spoden

THE VILLA PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE held its annual installation and member recognition dinner on Feb. 25 at Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 2801. The above photo from the event shows the chamber's board of directors pledging the oath of office. Pictured on the far right is Ray "Doc" Hensley, a past chamber president who administered the oath. Pictured from left to right are: director Sarah Strobel, Speedstar; director Jean Hockelsmith, School Dist. 45; Secretary Dani Brink, School Dist. 88; director Lori Murray, Inland Bank; chamber president Jon Zaley, Odeum Expo Center; director Jeff Stulglin, Park Blvd. Tavern; director Dan Thomas, Villa Park VFW Post No. 2801, and chamber vice president Rae Rupp Srch, Villa Park Kiwanis Club.

Medicare fraud package praised

U.S. Rep. Peter Roskam (R-IL) and U.S. Rep. John Carney (D-DE) on Feb. 26 released the following statements after the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee's markup and subsequent passage of the Protecting Integrity of Medicare Act (PIMA), a bipartisan Medicare fraud package that includes the Roskam-Carney Preventing and Reducing Improper Medicare and Medicaid Expenditures (PRIME) Act of 2015.

"Every year that passes without addressing rampant Medicare fraud costs taxpayers billions and depletes the quality of this critical program for the American seniors who depend upon it for their healthcare," said Roskam. "I'm proud that key provisions of my PRIME Act are included in this bipartisan package to root out deficiencies that leave Medicare vulnerable to scams and fraud. These common sense reforms are necessary to ensure Medicare dollars can go to providing important health services, not lining the pockets of crooks.

"Congressman Carney has been a tremendous partner in the effort to develop these thoughtful reforms, and I want to thank him for his leadership on this issue and commitment to making government work better for the American people."

"The PRIME Act will strengthen Medicare and protect seniors by ensuring that resources go to those who need them, not criminals looking to take advantage of the system," said Carney. "In this Congress, it's not easy to find areas where Democrats and Republicans agree, but fighting waste, fraud, and abuse while saving billions of taxpayer dollars just makes sense. It's very encouraging that the Ways and Means Committee included our bill in their efforts."

"On behalf of the nearly 38 million AARP members and the millions of Americans with Medicare, we applaud the introduction and markup of the Protecting Integrity of Medicare Act of 2015 (PIMA)," said AARP Senior Vice President Joyce Rogers. "This important, bipartisan legislation, which includes sections of the PRIME Act AARP endorses, would positively impact older Americans by curbing waste, fraud and abuse in the Medicare program. AARP is committed to improving the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of our nation's health care system, including Medicare, and we share this bill's intent to do so."

"PIMA, which includes provisions of the NCHC-endorsed

PRIME Act, provides the tools necessary to fight the \$60 billion in fraud and abuse that impacts Medicare beneficiaries every year," said National Coalition on Health Care (NCHC) President and CEO John Rother. "We'll need bipartisan legislative efforts like this if we are going to face up to the rising cost of health care."

"AMAC is pleased to see a strong showing of bipartisan support for a resource critical to older Americans—Medicare. The passage of the 'Protecting Integrity in Medicare Act (PIMA)' and the inclusion of provisions of the 'PRIME Act,' is an important, positive step in strengthening Medicare for both current and future beneficiaries," said Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) President Dan Weber. "As a result of rampant waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare, seniors have unnecessarily suffered at the hand of administrative carelessness and criminals taking advantage of the system. PIMA rightly addresses these concerns and will work to phase out the broken 'Pay and Chase' system. The simple, common sense fixes set forth in PIMA will not only put Medicare on a more stable fiscal path, but they will go a long way in protecting this important benefit for rightful beneficiaries and will save taxpayers billions of dollars."

"Taxpayers will be encouraged to see the many vital oversight provisions of the Protecting Integrity in Medicare Act (PIMA) pass through committee with bipartisan support," said National Taxpayers Union (NTU) President Pete Sepp. "The legislation includes the critical taxpayer protections against Medicare waste of the PRIME Act. Over time, these no-brainer measures will help prevent costly improper payments through better data management. While further reforms are still needed to ensure the long-term fiscal health and sustainability of Medicare, the House should swiftly approve the measure to improve the stewardship

of this troubled program."

Highlights of the PRIME Act in the Ways and Means Medicare Fraud Package include:

- Phasing out the antiquated "Pay-and-Chase" system that pays out even suspicious Medicare claims. By better incentivizing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), who are the first line of defense against fraudulent claims we can save taxpayers billions of dollars.
- Requiring that HHS enhance the Medicare-Medicaid, or Medi-Medi program in order to ensure federally-run Medicare and state-run Medicaid share information on fraudsters, so if a provider or beneficiary is found to be abusing one system, they are also barred from the other.
- Linking contract payments to accuracy goals for Medicare contractors and defines penalties for not meeting those goals, ensuring processors have skin in the game and actively work to verify claims before sending taxpayer dollars out the door.
- Building on the Senior Medicare Patrol program by requiring Medicare officials to improve outreach so more of our nation's seniors are aware of the fight against waste and fraud, and also expanding the program to include Medicaid beneficiaries.



Photos by Steve Spoden

Members recognized

THE VILLA PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE recognized six of its long-time members for their notable anniversaries as chamber members and one as the Business of the Year during the Feb. 25 Member Recognition and Installation Dinner. In the top photo, Pioneer Garden and Feed's Sue and Ron Leston (l.) received a certificate for their 50 year membership from chamber President Jon Zaley and Executive Director Alesia Bailey. In the second photo, School Dist. 45 also celebrated 50 years with the chamber. Dist. Superintendent Anthony Palmisano (r.) is pictured with Zaley and his certificate. Celebrating 40-year memberships were AAA Overhead Door and the Village of Villa Park. In the third photo, Zaley is pictured with AAA Overhead Door's (l. to r.) Frank Sylvester, Kathy Soukup, Angela Taylor and Jeff McArdle. In the fourth photo, Zaley also presents a certificate to Village of Villa Park representatives. Also recognized were Boulevard Coin, a 35 year member, and Hamann International, a 20 year member. In the bottom photo, the chamber board of directors announced that G.M. Smith & Sons Realtors was the chamber's 2015 Business of the year Award winner. Cathie Smith of the long-time business was recognized "for her dedication to her community, her customers, to charity and the chamber."

COMING Events

'A NUN ON THE BUS' AT ELMHURST COLLEGE

Sister Simone Campbell, a religious leader, attorney and poet with extensive experience in public policy and advocacy for systemic change, will tell her inspiring story of social justice advocacy rooted in faith when she presents "A Nun on the Bus" Thursday, March 5 at Elmhurst College. Campbell's talk will begin at 7 p.m. in Hammerschmidt Memorial Chapel, 190 Prospect Ave., Elmhurst. Campbell will be available to sign books after the lecture. Admission is \$10 for the general public and free for Elmhurst College students, faculty, staff and alumni. Tickets are available by visiting www.elmhurst.edu/tix. For more information, call 630-617-3390.

SIDEKICKS DANCE MARCH 6

Sidekicks will hold a dance on Friday, March 6, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1165 Westmore-Meyers Road in Lombard. Al Krol will cue the rounds starting at 8 p.m. and Tom Davis will call the squares 8:30-10:30 p.m. A banner is available. For more information, call 630-627-2437, 630-832-3545 or 847-961-5495.

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Celebration...

Photo by Chris Fox

THE MONTINI SIDELINE erupts after a fourth-quarter basket by senior Rainey Kuykendall during Monday's IHSA Class 3A girls basketball super-sectional game against Antioch. The above photo shows (left to right) freshman Aaliyah Patty, freshman Ilyse Pitts, junior Amy Bukovsky, junior Emily Cochran and head coach Jason Nichols. The Broncos beat Antioch 61-44 to advance to the state semifinals.



Junior Rams win tournament...

THE JUNIOR RAMS' SEVENTH-GRADE girls basketball team (above) won the championship at the recent Glen Ellyn Invitational. The Junior Rams won all four of their games at the event. They defeated St. Petronille of Glen Ellyn 20-11 in the championship game. Members of the team (pictured left to right) are: (front row) Katie Thomas, Brenna Netzley, Makailey Shaykin, Morgan Peterson and Melissa Castillejo; (back row) Lisa Stranski, Nicole Dallas, Hannah Simek, Erin Carver, Megan High and Jillian O'Brien. The team's coaches are Dave High (far left) and Jim O'Brien (far right). The Junior Rams are a feeder program for Glenbard East High School.

Warriors' winning streak snapped by Red Devils

The Willowbrook boys basketball team's 15-game winning streak ended with last week's 57-47 loss at Hinsdale Central in the regular-season finale for both teams. The Feb. 25 loss to the Red Devils was the Warriors' first setback since they dropped a 64-53 decision to Leyden in the Dec. 27 championship game of Glenbard West's holiday tournament.

Willowbrook tied off 10 straight victories at January and five more wins in February until last week's loss. These 15 wins included eight West Suburban Gold Conference victories, which gave the Warriors a share of the West Suburban Gold Conference title with Morton. Both teams completed the conference season with 9-3 records. Willowbrook and Morton split their head-to-head series. The Mustangs defeated the Warriors 92-70 on Nov. 17. Willowbrook avenged that loss with an 80-78 win over

Morton on Feb. 6 in Villa Park. Willowbrook completed the regular season with an overall record of 21-7.

Junior Carlos Meyers scored a team-high 10 points in last week's loss to the Red Devils. Seniors Chris Roycroft and Kyle Rushing each made six rebounds. Sophomore Alonzo Verge—Willowbrook's leading scorer—did not play.

The Warriors might not have to wait long for a rematch with Hinsdale Central. The two teams could meet in Friday's IHSA Class 4A regional championship game at Downers Grove South High School. The Warriors will open post-season play with tonight's regional semifinal contest against Downers Grove North. A win over the Trojans would propel the Warriors into the regional title game against either Hinsdale Central or Hinsdale South.

Broncos win...

(Continued from the previous page)

South 34-31 in a sectional semifinal on Feb. 24. Kuykendall scored a team-leading 10 points in the victory over the Raiders. Two days later, Montini beat Marshall 54-45 in Thursday's sectional final. Bambule scored 18 points in that contest, which Nichols described as his team's best game of the season.

If the Broncos can win their next two games, they will earn the program's fifth state title in six seasons. Montini won three straight Class 3A state championships from 2010 to 2012. The Broncos won the third-place trophy in 2013 before claiming the top prize one year ago.

Bogdan and Kuykendall—the only seniors on this year's team—are both four-year varsity players. While they have been on state-championship teams before, they didn't have a

leadership role. They spent their first three seasons at Montini playing with 2014 graduates Kelly Karlis, Sara Ross and Kateri Stone. Those three standouts all moved on to play at the Division I level.

"It's different not playing with Kateri, Kelly and Sara," Kuykendall said after Monday's win. "A lot of people thought we weren't going to be as good [this season] because we lost three D-1 kids."

"They [Bogdan and Kuykendall] were with those girls [Karlis, Ross and Stone] for three years; now they're standing on their own," said Nichols of this year's senior duo. "That's rewarding as a coach."

"He [Nichols] always talks about having a new identity [each season]," said Bambule, who was a member of last year's championship team. "We're building that for ourselves."

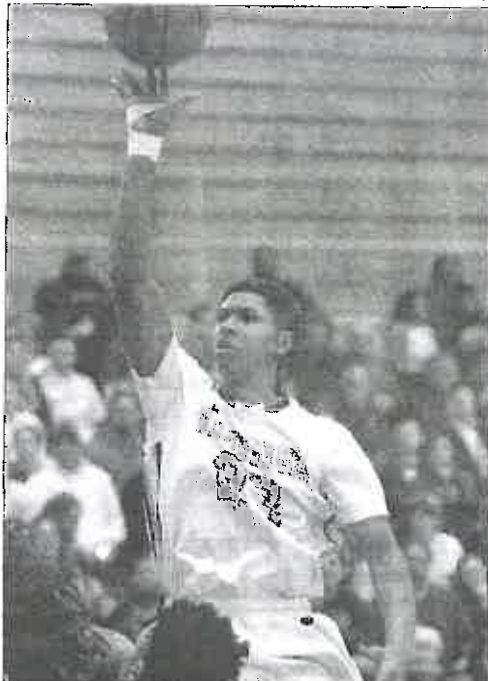
Experience may be a factor in the environment of the state semifinals,

but Nichols noted that some of Montini's veteran teams have struggled at Redbird Arena.

"You get in that arena—anything's possible," said Nichols, who noted the Broncos' rough performance in last season's semifinal round. Montini beat Burlington Central 34-26 in the semifinals and defeated Joliet Catholic 57-44 in the title game.

Nichols said this season's Broncos have a chip on their shoulder because so many people thought they wouldn't be as strong as last year's group. The team's current post-season run shows that the determined Broncos are going to fight for another championship this weekend.

"I think our team lives for the playoffs," said Bogdan. "We love it. You see how badly everyone wants to win. Even when things aren't going our way, I think we can get back into games because of how badly we want to win."



It's playoff time...

File photo by Chris Fox

SENIOR KYLE RUSHING and his teammates on the Willowbrook boys basketball team will begin post-season play tonight at the IHSA Class 4A Downers Grove South Regional. The Warriors will face Downers Grove North. If Willowbrook wins, it will advance to Friday's regional final against either Hinsdale Central or Hinsdale South. The Warriors completed the regular season with a 57-47 loss at Hinsdale Central on Feb. 25. The Red Devils snapped Willowbrook's 15-game winning streak. The Warriors finished the regular season with an overall record of 21-7 and a West Suburban Gold Conference mark of 9-3. Willowbrook shared the conference championship with Morton. The above photo shows Rushing during Willowbrook's Feb. 17 conference victory over Proviso West.

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Willowbrook to celebrate 2015 Brook Olympics

Willowbrook students show their Warrior Pride during a previous Brook Olympics at the school. This year's event will take place from March 9-13. The Brook Olympics were created to help initiate tradition and a sense of class spirit at Willowbrook. See story inside this issue.

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Villa Park company celebrates 70 years in business

Riggs Brothers remodels facility where auto, marine, aviation interiors are repaired

By Dee Longfellow
For The Villa Park Independent

You spend a good portion of your life with the products made and repaired by Riggs Brothers, but you likely don't even realize it. While we all spend money and time making sure our cars are in good shape and in top running condition, we often ignore the part we look at every single day -- the interior.

Riggs Brothers, located at 220 E. St. Charles Road in Villa Park, is currently celebrating 70 years in the business of making and repairing auto interiors. Common problems the craftsmen at Riggs Brothers encounter include tears or burns in the upholstery.

"If you tear your upholstery or get a cigarette burn, we can fix that type of thing," said Bobbi Jo Celli, marketing manager for the company. "We also work on marine canvas for boats and upholstery in airplanes, too."

The Villa Park location is the main headquarters for the business, but Riggs Bros. has facilities in Naperville, St. Charles and Downers Grove as well. The store was in the midst of remodeling at the time the Independent stopped in for a visit, but it is expected to be done sometime this spring.

"A lot of people get tears in the upholstery of their car and just sort of live with it," Celli said. "But you wouldn't go around with a dent in your car and 'just live with it,' you'd get it fixed."

There are many things Riggs Bros. can do, such as re-section the seat to replace the affected piece of leather or upholstery. Using the highest quality vinyl, leather, and upholstery grade fabrics, the craftsmen at Riggs Bros.



Pictured are the owner-operators of Riggs Brothers, located at 220 E. St. Charles Road in Villa Park, which is currently celebrating 70 years in the business of restoring auto, marine, and aviation interiors. Using high quality vinyl, leather, and upholstery grade fabrics installed by skilled craftsmen, four generations of Riggs have helped customers increase and enhance the value of their cars, boats, and airplanes.

photo provided

can take the piece out that is damaged, replace it, and treat the area so that you'd never know it had been tampered with. They can also repair or replace the foam inside the seat if necessary.

"People are keeping their cars longer these days," Celli said. "You get better return on your investment at trade-in time if you have a car that looks nice and feels comfortable to sit in."

Considering the bitter cold Illinoisans have dealt with this winter, it might be time to consider another product Riggs Bros. offers -- heated seats.

"We call it our 'Toasty Buns' winter special," Celli laughed. "We can install heated seats that can make you comfortable even before the heater kicks in."

In the summer months, the company installs or repairs sun roofs in automo-

biles.

Another service available at Riggs Bros. is window-tinting.

"This is something many companies do, but not well," Celli said. "We do it by hand, not by machine, so we know it can last a lifetime. Plus, tinted windows block 99% of harmful UV rays, which saves your upholstery because the leather won't crack or fade."

"We've Got You Covered" is the motto of the company, meaning they can repair or custom-make covers for patio furniture, grills, sunshades and more, in addition to small aircraft interiors, boats, marine and recreational vehicles.

A family business

The Villa Park store goes back three generations in the Riggs family. The

shop was built by Harold Riggs, grandfather of the current owners/operators, in October of 1962. Harold's son Robert is the second generation to run the business, which is now operated by his sons. Over the years, the company has grown into a solid, thriving auto trim and marine canvas business.

A unique thing about the Villa Park location is that, up until November 1, 2014, it was owned and operated as a franchise by Bill Kiefer, who recently retired after 50 years. Bill's retirement has allowed all four west suburban stores to act as one core group, owned and operated by John and Jim, the third generation of the Riggs brothers.

To learn more about Riggs Bros., visit riggsbros.com or find them on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

Willowbrook preps for annual Brook Olympics celebration

VILLA PARK — Willowbrook is gearing up for the 2015 Brook Olympics, which will take place from March 9

to 13. During the annual Brook Olympics, classes go head to head in a weeklong series of

events and challenges, with the hope of their class being named the champion. For every event that takes place, a gold medal

earns three points, a silver medal earns two points and a bronze medal earns one point. A culminating assembly will take place on March 13. The Brook Olympics, a vision of teacher and coach Matt Scott, were created to help initiate tradition and a sense of class spirit and pride at Willowbrook.

Not only do the Brook Olympics bring tradition, spirit and pride to Willowbrook, they also support the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of District 88 All Youth. This year's relay event will take place on March 14 at Willowbrook to raise money for the society. There also is Facial Hair February, where this year more than 20 male faculty and staff members gave up shaving for the month of February to raise money for the Ameri-

can Cancer Society. Participants collected donations from friends, family members, students and colleagues. A bracket will be used for students to determine the winners of Facial Hair February, and those winners will be announced during the assembly on March 13.

Willowbrook's Blue Crew also invites students and staff members to participate in Spirit Dress Days during the Brook Olympics. The schedule is:

Monday, March 9:
Neon Day
Tuesday, March 10:
Trucker Tuesday
Wednesday, March 11:
Generations Day
Thursday, March 12:
Hawaiian Day
Friday, March 13:
Class Colors Day

Senator Cullerton named vice-chairman of Local Government Committee

Appointment comes on heels of Rauner's proposed cuts to local government funds

SPRINGFIELD — State Senator Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park) will serve as vice-chairman of the Illinois Senate's Local Government Committee.

"Our units of local government are expected to provide services ranging from police and fire keeping us safe to fixing potholes and keeping streets clear in the winter," he said. "I understand the tough balance between providing basic services, meeting standards and balancing budgets. I'm excited to use my background as the

former Village President of Villa Park to tackle issues that directly affect municipalities."

Last week, Governor Bruce Rauner's proposed budget included a 50 percent cut to state funding to cities and villages.

"The governor's proposal to slash local government funds means cuts in services to our communities and increases in property taxes as our local mayors attempt to provide needed services to residents," said Cullerton. "I expect his proposed cuts will raise interesting debates and obstacles as local officials anticipate devastating cuts to funding."

Cullerton also serves on the Appropriations II, Labor, State Government & Veterans Affairs, Transportation, Energy and Public Utilities Committees.

5K planned in memory of WBHS student

VILLA PARK — All are invited to attend a fundraiser in memory of Willowbrook student Emilio Perez, whose life was lost much too soon on March 8, 2014, about one year ago.

The event, called "Whistle While You Walk/Run 5K For Emilio," will begin at 8 a.m. take place on April 26 beginning at 8 a.m. at Willowbrook High School. The entry fee is \$25 for adults, and kids 12 years old and younger are free. Proceeds will go to the Emilio Perez Scholarship Fund, which benefits Willowbrook seniors. To register visit emilioperez-foundation.com.



EMILIO PEREZ

Willowbrook plans program for incoming freshmen

VILLA PARK — Members of the class of 2019, it's time to register for Willowbrook's "Progress: Basic Training," an orientation program for incoming freshmen.

The program will take place during the week of Aug. 3 to 7 from 9 to 11 a.m. each day at Willowbrook. There also will be a parent meeting on Aug. 4 starting at 7 p.m.

During the "Progress" sessions, students will become acquainted with the school's surroundings, expectations and diversity. The program will be run by a team of Willowbrook teachers from various backgrounds and disciplines, who will assist students in making a smooth transition from junior high / middle school to high school.

The fee for participation is \$60 and registration is limited to the first 150 students. To sign up, visit dupage88.net/site/public/files/?item=2079. For more information, contact Jim White at jwhite@dupage88.net or call 630-782-2861.



The Villa Park Chamber of Commerce 2015 Officers and Directors have some fun wearing their "superhero hats" during the installation and awards dinner. all photos by Paul DelGuidice

Villa Park Chamber of Commerce holds annual installation dinner

By Dee Longfellow
For The Villa Park Independent

VILLA PARK — On Wednesday, Feb. 25, there were 90 guests who attended the Villa Park Chamber of Commerce annual installation dinner and awards banquet at the Villa Park VFW. Among the highlights was the presentation of the Business of the Year, which was bestowed upon Cathie Smith of G.M. Smith & Son Realtors for her dedication to her community, her customers, to charity and the Chamber of Commerce.

While every business in attendance received a "shout-out," some were given special recognition because of celebrating a milestone in their Chamber membership, including:

- 40 years of membership for AAA Overhead Door, and the Village of Villa Park;
- 35 Years of membership for Boulevard Coin & Jewelry;
- 20 years of membership for Jalaine Hamann.

- 40 years of membership for AAA Overhead Door, and the Village of Villa Park;
 - 35 Years of membership for Boulevard Coin & Jewelry;
 - 20 years of membership for Jalaine Hamann.
- The new Board of Directors for the Chamber was also installed during the evening.



Pioneer Feed received a certificate of appreciation for its 50 years of membership in the Villa Park Chamber of Commerce. The award was given at the Chamber's installation and awards banquet, held at the VFW Post #2801 on Wednesday, Feb. 25

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, March 7 Safe boating certification class

Beginning March 7, the Chicago Sail & Power Squadron, a unit of the not-for-profit United States Power Squadrons, is offering a three-session safe boating class at the Standard Bank and Trust Company at Roosevelt and Ardmore in Villa Park, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on the Saturdays of March 7, 14 and 21. At the end, students who pass an examination will earn a Safe Boating Certificate, now required for powerboat operators. For more information, contact Dick Spurr at spurrboat@comcast.net or call 630-205-0399.

630-834-8191.

Wednesday, March 11 Quarterly S.A.L.T. meeting

The Villa Park Police Department has announced that the next scheduled quarterly meeting for S.A.L.T. (Seniors And Law Enforcement Together) will be held at 11 a.m. at the Wildwood Community Center located at 320 E. Wildwood Ave. Residents and guests are invited to arrive at 10:30 a.m. to gather and enjoy some coffee, pastries, and fellowship prior to the presentation. For more information, call 630-834-7447.

Sunday, April 26 5K in memory of Emilio Perez

All are invited to attend "Whistle While You Walk/Run 5K For Emilio," a fundraiser in memory of Willowbrook student Emilio Perez, whose life was lost much too soon on March 8, 2014. The race steps off from Willowbrook High School at 8 a.m. Entry fees: \$25 for adults, kids 12 years old and younger are free. Proceeds

benefit the Emilio Perez Scholarship Fund. To register visit emilioperezfoundation.com.

Ongoing events

• **VFW Friday Night Fish Fry**
From 5:30-8 p.m. every Friday evening, the Villa Park VFW Post #2801, 39 E. St. Charles Road, holds its Fish Fry. Menu includes fried shrimp, fish/shrimp combos, beef/sausage sandwiches, combos and hot dogs.

• Widows or Widowers meeting

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

• Electronic items disposal

From 9 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday of every month, the village of Villa Park has coordinated with Roy Strom, the village's waste hauler, to offer E-Waste "the right way"— a convenient, cost free

drop-off electronic disposal solution. The drop-off site has been relocated to the Village Hall parking lot, located at 20 S. Ardmore Ave. Info: (630) 592-6052.

• Indoor Walking Group

Now that the weather has turned colder, stop by the Iowa Community Center gymnasium for your daily walk. Indoor walking is available Monday-Friday from 7-9 a.m. Free drop-in program, no registration required.

• Villa Park Men's Garden Club meetings

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

• Your Place for Seniors

Area seniors are invited to "Your Place" at the Community Rec Building, 320 E. Wildwood, to play Pinochle, bridge, canasta, a board game or whatever game is being played. Hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; and, Tuesdays from 1-2:30 p.m. (NOTE:

"Your Place" does not meet on the second Thursday of the month.) Info: (630) 834-8525.

• VPRD's Reader's Theater Group

Join the Readers' Theatre Group each Monday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Community Rec Building, 320 E. Wildwood. Free; no registration needed. Info: Jenny Casale at (630) 834-8525.

• Senior Concerns Commission

The Senior Concerns Commission meets the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at Village Hall, 20 S. Ardmore Ave. Free and open to the public. Seniors and those interested in issues related to seniors are invited. Info: call 630-592-6052.

• VFW Bingo

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

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

SPORTS

MARCH 5, 2015 • 16

Addison Trail boys basketball team downs Lane Tech on Senior Night

Blazers opened postseason play earlier this week

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail boys basketball team went 1-2 during a recent three-game stretch.

The Blazers lost 51-35 at West Suburban Conference Gold Division co-champion Morton and also dropped a 48-33 conference game to Hinsdale South. Addison Trail then recorded a 45-34 non-conference win over Lane Tech at home on Senior Night.

"It's kind of the good and the bad," said Addison Trail coach Brendan Lyons. "The good news is we are getting back to the way we need to defend in order to be successful in the state series. We're giving up 45 to 50 points and you expect to be successful and win

those games when you do that. The bad news is we could not find the basket in the first two games. In the Lane Tech game we put up 31 points in the first half. We were leading 31-16 and then only scored 14 points in the second half. We have to be more efficient on the offensive end. Against Lane Tech we did enough things in the second half to win, especially on the defensive end. We could have done better with our shooting in the second half. We have to get better shots."

Lyons said the improvement on the defensive end came as a result of looking at previous outputs.

"Our guys looked at the numbers we were giving up in our losses and we were allowing 78, 68 and 66 points in some games," he said. "We were putting up 60 and 70 points but that's not our style. We're not an up-and-down team. We have to be opportunistic and grind out

games. Guys took that to heart and hopefully the message has been well-received and it continues on."

Lyons also is encouraged by the contributions the team has received throughout the roster.

"To be honest there hasn't been one stand out," he said. "We have had solid efforts from a lot of different guys from Taylor White and Matt Gontarek on both ends of the floor. Jack Kalbas is a sophomore who is playing better. He was our leading scorer against Morton with 12 points and then had his first start against Hinsdale. He's a nice weapon to have. Eric Grygo is another guy who has started a lot for us. He had seven offensive rebounds against Morton and really was a factor for us. A lot of kids are seeing a lot of minutes."

Lyons also cited strong recent play from senior Jimu Mathew. "He's a kid who has stuck with it and really worked hard. He's

put together some good junior-varsity games for us. He started on senior night and had five points early on and hit a 3-pointer. He did some nice things that will warrant more playing time moving forward. You like to see that. Hopefully he can build on that."

Addison Trail was 15-10 overall through its first 25 games.

"Fifteen is more wins than we've had in a long time here," said Lyons. "It's not all about the wins with us, it's about seeing kids get better and develop and invest in themselves. These guys have been very good at that."

Addison Trail opened play

earlier in the week at the Class 4A Proviso West regional. The Blazers faced Metea Valley in one regional semifinal. If Addison Trail defeated Metea it will play for the regional championship Friday night against either Glenbard East (No. 17 sectional seed), Proviso West (No. 15 sectional seed) or top sectional seed Lyons Township. Addison Trail is the No. 9 sectional seed, while Metea Valley is the No. 8 seed.

"We're happy with our sectional seed," said Lyons. "If we win our first game we get to play for the regional championship and that's definitely where we want to be."

Willowbrook boys basketball team earns share of conference title

Warriors enjoy recent 15-game winning streak; First league title since 1972

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Heading into the new year, the Willowbrook boys basketball team stood at 6-6 overall and 1-3 in West Suburban Conference Gold Division play.

What a difference a new calendar year makes.

The Warriors entered this week's Class 4A state playoffs with a 21-7 overall record and had won 15 of their last 16 games to close out the regular season.

Willowbrook also won its final eight WSC Gold games to earn a share of the conference title with Morton. Both teams finished with 9-3 records.

It was Willowbrook's first boys' basketball conference title since 1972.

In recent action, the Warriors downed Proviso East and Leyden to close out conference play and lost to Hinsdale Central in the West Suburban Conference crossover position game.

"The guys are competing," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins. "They are playing

really hard, especially on the defensive end of the floor. That's allowed us to create some easy baskets."

Coming out of the Christmas tournament, Willowbrook sat at .500.

"We took nine or 10 days off. We had a long stretch there between the end of the Christmas tournament and our next game," said Perkins. "We got the guys to regroup during that time. And then we started to click on all cylinders. We were rejuvenated and we started to pay more focus to the defensive end of the floor."

Perkins said the conference title has special meaning. "It's the first time since 1972, that's a pretty big accomplishment," he said. "It's great for the guys and it's very cool for the school. We played to packed houses at home the last two or three games. It's a fun time for Willowbrook basketball."

The Warriors continue to get key contributions from the likes of Alonzo Verge Jr., Jake Bruns, Kyle Rushing, Kevin Miller, Micah Williams and Chris Roycroft.

"We've had a lot of key guys helping out during that winning streak," said Perkins.

Verge Jr. headed into the



Perfection

The Villa Park Recreation Department fifth/sixth grade Spurs basketball team recently completed their season with a perfect 10-0 record. "They worked very hard together as a team and the hard work paid off. If you play as a team it doesn't matter how talented you are you can do well. I'm very proud of all the kids I hope to see them all continue to play. Thanks for a great year," said Coach Bill Jeensen. Pictured: Brian Jensen, Sergio Ayala, Christian Cassaneda, Andrew Hasler, Noah Iftner, Owen Pierce, Isaac Sobieszcyk, Owen Thornton and

Addison Trail-Willowbrook boys swimming team finishes season on strong note

Team turns in numerous all-conference performances at WSC Gold meet

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail-Willowbrook boys swimming team wrapped up the 2014-2015 season with a pair of strong performances.

The squad wrapped up West Suburban Conference Gold Division action with a number of swimmers earning all-conference honors at the league meet. AT-Willowbrook also competed in the York sectional meet.

"We had a good end to the

season," said Addison Trail-Willowbrook coach Neil Wahlgren. "The conference meet was real good for us. We had a bunch of different all-conference guys and then at the sectional we did well. Everybody dropped a good amount of time."

At the conference meet, Willowbrook's Ethan Wallace earned all-conference honors in the 50 and 100 freestyle events and was part of the 200 and 400 free relay teams that also earned all-conference status. Wallace was second in both the 50 and 100 and was part of the second-place 400 relay team and the third-place 200 relay team.

Josh Qwak (Willowbrook) earned all-conference honors as part of the 200 and 400 relay teams. Zach Thompson (Willowbrook) was all-confer-

ence in the 100 backstroke and as part of the 400 relay team. Patrick Florey was all-conference in the 200, while Addison Trail students Nick Obrzut (200 and 400 relay teams) and Saul Rivera (diving) also were named all-conference.

The success extended to the frosh-soph level where Mikey Strycharz won the 500 frosh-soph conference title, while Jacob Grygo was second in the event.

"We had a great conference meet," said Wahlgren. "Both days at conference and sectionals the guys swam really well. We saw improvements. We have a young team. Seven of the 12 guys on varsity are freshmen. They gained experience from the beginning of the year to now. It's been awesome to see that overall improvement. It shows in their

times. They have dropped a lot of time throughout the year.

Wahlgren is excited about the program's prospects going forward.

"We will be very strong next year," he said. "We will be able to build on this. All of our swimmers are coming back next year and only three of them will be seniors."

At the York sectional, Wallace finished 13th in the 50 with a time of 22.54. Kwak was 18th.

Wallace took 12th in the 100 with a time of 49.84. Kwak was 18th. Thompson was 19th in the 200, while Obrzut was 21st.

Grygo was 20th in the 500, while Strycharz was 21st. Thompson placed 13th in the backstroke at 58.71. Burke Parent was 22nd.

Jake Roucka was 21st in the

breaststroke, while Grygo was 23rd. Paul Jez took 22nd in the butterfly while Obrzut was 23rd.

Roucka took 20th in the 200 IM, while Jez was 23rd. Rivera placed 16th in the diving competition.

AT-Willowbrook was seventh in the 200 relay at 1:35.98. That team featured Obrzut, Florey, Kwak and Wallace. The team was ninth in the 400 relay with a time of 3:29.70. That group included Thompson, Obrzut, Kwak and Wallace.

AT-Willowbrook was 11th in the 200 medley relay with a time of 1:53.75. Team members included Thompson, Roucka, Jez and Florey.

AT-Willowbrook finished 10th in the sectional team standings.

IC Catholic Prep girls basketball team finishes fourth in state

Knights make second state finals appearance in a row

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Not too many high school basketball teams can say they made the state finals two years in a row.

The IC Catholic Prep girls basketball team sure can.

The Knights finished fourth in Class 2A for the second year in a row this past weekend. IC lost to Breese Central in the state semifinals and to Bloomington Central Catholic in the third-place game at Redbird Arena on the campus

of Illinois State University in Normal.

IC finished the season with a 20-13 record.

In a 50-41 overtime loss in the state semifinals to Breese Central, IC led 11-6 after the first quarter and 21-15 at halftime. Both teams scored 12 points in the third quarter and Breese forced overtime after outscoring the Knights 14-8 in the fourth quarter. Breese outscored IC 9-0 in overtime. The game featured five lead changes and four ties. IC held the lead for more than 23 minutes of the game. IC led by as many as 11 points in the second half.

Anjella Farmer led the Knights with 15 points on the strength of 6-for-9 shooting.

She also had nine rebounds. Senior Erin Maloney added 11 points (4-for-7 shooting) to go with six rebounds, five assists and four steals. Tess Reardon had five points, while freshman Claire Gibler had five rebounds and three blocked shots.

In the state third-place game, IC lost 51-29 to nearby Bloomington Central Catholic.

IC trailed 6-4 after the first quarter and 26-13 at halftime. Bloomington outscored IC 20-9 in the second quarter, 15-11 in the third and 10-5 in the fourth quarter. IC was

stung by 25 turnovers.

Farmer led the Knights with 11 points on 4-for-8 shooting. She also went 3-for-4 from the free-throw line. Gibler added 10 rebounds and three blocks. Chiara Gaudio had eight points, while Reardon had three assists.

The Knights advanced downstate after a 42-29 win over Seton Academy in the Class 2A River Forest super-sectional at Concordia University. IC also defeated Seton Academy in 2014 to earn a trip downstate.

Gibler led the Knights with

15 points (two 3-pointers) and five rebounds. Gaudio had 13 points, while Farmer finished with nine points. Maloney, who was named to the IHSA all-state academic honorable mention team, had six points, five rebounds three steals and three assists.

IC came into the state finals having won eight of its last nine games. The Knights have not had a losing season under fifth-year coach Aubree Schuett, who is now 93-59 with two fourth-place state finishes in her tenure at the school.

• TITLE

Continued from page 16

playoffs averaging a team-high 23.4 points per game. Bruns was averaging 9.0 points, while Roycroft and Rushing were the team's leading rebounders. Williams was cited for his strong defensive play.

"Micah is our go-to guy to shut down the opposition's best perimeter player," said Perkins.

Willowbrook recently scored a 96-94 win over Proviso East where Verge Jr. had 41 points.

"The Proviso game was up and down and a couple of guys got hot on both teams," said Perkins. "It was an exciting game. Alonzo has been very big for us."

Willowbrook earned the No. 5 seed in the Class 4A East Aurora sectional. The Warriors opened play earlier this week in the Downers Grove South regional. If Willowbrook won its opener on Wednesday it will play for the regional title Friday night at Downers South.

"We feel confident heading into the playoffs," said Perkins late last week. "The guys have been playing well. We know everything is heightened in the playoffs. We'll see how the guys respond to this environment."

Alright folks, the weather is never going to change. It's going to stay cold all year, so lets go bowling at either Stardust Bowl or Fox Bowl! The sport of bowling has changed dramatically in the past 20 years. The bowling balls are colorful and you can even buy one that scented like chocolate, strawberry and more. The bowling balls are now made to hook more or made not to hook depending on the individual and how much you want to improve. There are more high school and colleges that have started bowling teams and colleges are offering bowling

scholarships. If you think bowling isn't a tough sport, you should talk to Jerome Bettis: Hall of Fame football, Chris Paul: NBA All Star, and Al Ostrowski: former college coach.

Here's the Don of Sports Tips:

1. Take lessons from a professional
2. Buy your own ball
3. Have your ball drilled for a semi or full fingertip grip
4. Join a team or go bowling Friday or Saturday night for special rates

To contact Don call: 630-530-7061

The Don of A New Day in Sports



DON FIGARELLI

AT comes up short against Metea Valley

By **MATT LE CREN**
editorial@shawmedia.com

HILLSIDE - A season that began with great promise ended with a thud for Addison Trail's boys basketball team on Wednesday.

The Blazers, who started the season 10-1, lost 68-44 against Metea Valley in a semifinal game at the Class 4A Proviso West regional.

AT finished with a 15-12 record, while Metea (17-12), which started 6-11, takes a nine-game winning streak into Friday's regional final against a top-seeded Lyons Township squad.

"We knew that they were playing well coming in and we were going to have to defensively play one of our better games against them because they just have so many weapons," Addison Trail coach Brendan Lyons said. "But we've been offensively challenged the last two weeks and not putting up a lot of points."

The Blazers went ahead 6-0 and led for most of the first quarter before cold shooting and turnovers began to turn the tide in favor of the Mustangs, who used a 9-0 run bridging halftime to take a 33-22 lead.

AT was within eight points when junior center Eric Grygo went to the bench with his third foul and the Mustangs extended their lead to 19 in his absence. Grygo finished with a team-high 12 points, eight rebounds and three steals.

"Eric started all year for us as a junior and had some really good games early on," Lyons said. "He kind of plateaued a little bit in the middle of the year but never lost his



Bill Ackerman - backerman@shawmedia.com
Addison Trail's Eric Grygo goes up for a shot Wednesday during a regional semifinal playoff game against Metea Valley at Proviso West. Grygo scored 12 points, but the Blazers lost to end the season.

work ethic."

Dei'Ron Delarosa and Ron Edwards each scored 15 points to lead Metea, which forced 20 turnovers and held

the Blazers to 15-for-58 shooting.

Taylor White had nine points and Jaavion Bradley seven points and 10 rebounds for Addison Trail.

Lady Knights net trophy in return to state finals

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

NORMAL - IC Catholic's return trip to state didn't produce any better results than it did last year.

The Lady Knights competed in the Class 2A state semifinals during the weekend and settled for fourth place for the second year in a row.

IC lost 50-41 against Breese Central in overtime in a state semifinal before losing 51-29 against Bloomington Central Catholic in the third-place game. In the semifinal, the Knights led by six points heading into the fourth quarter and then failed to score in the overtime.

"These kids always give everything they have and I could not be prouder of their efforts," coach Aubree Schuett said. "The program is losing

four great kids. There's 171 teams in 2A and we're fourth. That's incredible. It's an incredible accomplishment and that was my last message to them. There's absolutely nothing to hang your heads about."

The four seniors, Gabby Curran, Erin Maloney, Chiara Gaudio and Lindsay Montoya, depart the program having played big parts in winning IC's first two state trophies in girls basketball. IC finished the season with a 20-13 record with a schedule against larger enrollment schools with the move to the Metro Suburban West.

Freshman Clair Gibler and junior Anjella Farmer were the Knights' top two leading scorers so there will be talent back for another run next year. Sophomore guard Tess Reardon also started for the Knights.

Class 2A semifinal

Breese Central 50, IC Catholic 41 (OT)

IC LEADERS

- Anjella Farmer: 15 points, 9 rebounds
- Erin Maloney: 11 points, 6 rebounds, 5 assists

Class 2A third-place game

Bloomington Central Catholic 51, IC Catholic 29

IC LEADERS

- Farmer: 11 points
- Chiara Gaudio: 8 points, 6 rebounds
- Claire Gibler: 2 points, 10 rebounds

PREP ROUNDUP

Davidson's big night puts Timothy into regional final

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

ELMHURST - When Timothy Christian hosted the 3-point shootout at its Class 3A regional on Tuesday, Joe Davidson struggled.

In Wednesday's regional semifinal, Davidson reversed the trend and made several big shots.

The sophomore drained five 3-pointers and finished with a game-high 22 points in the Trojans' 52-46 home win against Westinghouse.

"The first one went in so I kept shooting," Davidson said. "Joe Bishop and Ben Lodewyk did a great job driving in and they'd kick it out to me so I had wide open looks and I just hit them."

Davidson opened the game with a 3-pointer, sank a buzzer-beater before halftime to give the Trojans a 22-18 lead at the break and made three more tying or go-ahead 3-pointers in the second half.

"Joe Davidson was just on fire," TC coach Jack LeGrand said. "We did our 3-point shooting contest yesterday and he struggled in that. He came out here and saved them all for today."

Timothy (15-11), the No. 11 seed in the sectional, advanced to today's 7 p.m. regional final against No. 3-seed North Lawndale.

In addition to Davidson's 22 points, senior Riley Chapman scored 12 points. Robert McGivney contributed six points and 10 rebounds.

BOYS BASKETBALL IC Catholic

The Knights lost 41-40 against St. Edward on Feb. 27 in a Class 2 regional final at Lisle to end the season. It was the fourth time this season the Green Wave beat IC Catholic, and three of those games were decided by four points or less.

Troy Burrows was IC's only player to score in double figures with 15 points. The Knights finished the season with a 15-14 record.

BOYS SWIMMING York

Sophomore Pete Barabolak was York's only representative in the state swimming and diving meet over the weekend at New Trier. Barabolak placed 15th in the diving preliminaries.