

Band concert...

THE WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL music department presented a winter band concert on Thursday night in the school auditorium. The concert featured performances from the percussion methods and the wind ensemble, as well as a combined performance from members of the symphonic band and the freshman band. The photo on the right shows members of the wind ensemble, which performed five pieces to close out the concert. Willowbrook will present an orchestra concert on Thursday, March 12, in the auditorium. The concert, which will begin at 7 p.m., will include the symphony and chamber orchestras, as well as the guitar ensemble and beginning guitar groups. The school's upcoming concert on Thursday, April 9, will feature the jazz band, jazz combo and the CenterStage show choir. That concert will also begin at 7 p.m. Admission to each of the upcoming concerts is \$3 for adults and \$2 for senior citizens and students. Student passes and senior citizen/guid cards will be accepted for each concert. Admission is free for children 12 and under who are accompanied by an adult.

Photo by Chris Fox



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VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

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Villa Park police provide assistance during robbery spree

by Bonnie MacKay

Lombard police had their hands full during the early morning hours of March 4 as they were called to three armed robberies within 30 minutes.

However, the unusual events of the night did not start in Lombard, but in Villa Park, where a few minutes earlier police responded for an attempted armed robbery in the 100 block of West Washington, which is near the Lombard boundary line.

According to Villa Park Police Detective Dan McCann, a 49-year-old man was standing in his driveway at about 11:55 p.m. on March 3, when he was approached by a male subject.

"He [allegedly] pointed what appeared to be a gun at him," McCann said.

The subject reportedly shouted, "Get on the floor," at the resident, the detective related, adding that he reportedly told the 49-year-old to "get on the floor" a second time.

"At this point, the resident asked, 'What floor?' and the male subject got into a vehicle, which was described as a dark-colored four-door, which left westbound on Washington," McCann said.

Just a short time later, at about one minute after midnight, an armed robbery was reported in the 300 block of South Lodge Lane in Lombard, just blocks from where the Villa Park attempted armed robbery had been reported.

While investigating the incident on South Lodge, Lombard Police Detective Sgt. John Malatia said, officers were advised that two individuals had just exited a residence and were walking to a vehicle in the driveway.

The sergeant related that a vehicle

apparently pulled up to the curb and two people exited the vehicle.

"They [allegedly] gave a command 'to get on the ground,'" Malatia said, adding that one of the subjects allegedly had a gun.

A purse and cell phone were taken in this incident, according to Malatia, who added that the subjects fled.

While on the scene on South Lodge, a second armed robbery was reported in Lombard at about 12:11 a.m. Once again, the victims were just a few blocks away from the earlier armed robbery. Officers responded to the 100 block of East Madison and learned a male and female subject reportedly had just been robbed.

According to Malatia, the female subject was walking out to a vehicle and the male was exiting the house as she had forgotten her backpack.

"A vehicle pulls up, driver's side to the curb, [reportedly] blocking the driveway," Malatia said, adding that two subjects exited the vehicle, one allegedly with a gun in his hand.

Both of the subjects reportedly were ordered to the ground and were told to turn over their property.

Since Lombard and Villa Park police share the same radio frequency, officers on both departments were aware of the armed robberies reported in each village.

Additionally, witnesses were able to provide a description of the subjects, the vehicle and a partial plate number.

According to McCann, as Lombard worked the two crime scenes, Villa Park officers canvassed the area of the attempted armed

robbery and assisted Lombard officers.

A Villa Park officer, monitoring traffic near Westmore and Woodrow, observed a vehicle matching the description of the subject vehicle, McCann related. The officer called for back-up and followed the vehicle.

Once back-up arrived, officers conducted a

felony stop of the vehicle near Maple and Westmore. The three occupants of the vehicle were taken into custody without incident, he said.

McCann said Villa Park officers did a cursory search of the vehicle and noticed two

(Continued on the next page)



Liliac princesses...

Photo by Steve Spaden

THE FIVE MEMBERS of Lombard's 2015 Liliac Court are pictured on Sunday at the General Federation of Women's Club (GFWC) Illinois Lombard Junior Women's Club's clubhouse in Eastgate Shopping Center. The five young women were selected from a field of 19 contestants. The preliminary judging was held on Saturday at Sunset Knoll Recreation Center. The princesses (pictured left to right) are: (front row) Leslie Schmuldt and Alexandra Lyons; (standing) Martha Venchus, Erin Millett and Kristina Marzullo. Three of the princesses (Lyons, Schmuldt and Venchus) attend Glenbard East High School. Millett attends Glenbard South High School. Marzullo is a junior at Willowbrook High School.

Villa Park Junior Women's Club holds candidates forum tonight

The Villa Park Junior Women's Club (VPIWC) will conduct a candidates forum tonight—Wednesday, March 11 at 7 p.m. at Villa Park Village Hall, located at 40 S. Ardmore Ave.

Candidates running for seats on the Villa Park Village Board, the District 45 School Board and the Villa Park Library Board have been invited to attend the forum, which will include questions submitted by residents.



Meeting includes highlights about 2015-16 fiscal year

Monday night's Villa Park Village Board meeting included a budget presentation about the village's budget for its upcoming fiscal year. Villa Park's 2015-16 fiscal year begins on May 1. The village board will have to adopt an ordinance approving a budget before the start of the fiscal year. The board is expected to vote on the proposed budget at its April 13 meeting.

Village finance director Kevin Wachtel delivered the presentation at Monday's meeting. Village manager Rich Keebler also made comments about the village's financial status.

According to Wachtel, Villa Park's 2015-16 total revenues for all of its funds will be more than \$80 million. A presentation at a board meeting earlier this year stated that the village has 26 distinct funds. The largest of those funds is the corporate fund, which is also referred to as the general fund. Wachtel said the corporate fund accounts for about 47 percent of all of the village's revenues.

Wachtel said the village's largest areas of revenues come from service charges, including water and sewer payments, as well as garbage collection fees. Property taxes and sales taxes are also significant sources of revenues, he stated.

Wachtel noted that 10 years ago interest income accounted for about \$220,000, which amounted to about 8 percent of the corporate fund's total revenue. Interest income is pegged at near zero percent (approximately \$10,000) in the upcoming fiscal year.

On the expenditure side, Wachtel said that the budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year will include about \$49.5 million in expenses. That figure includes over \$10 million—or about 19 percent of all expenditures—budgeted in the street improvement fund. The \$10 million of planned spending in the street improvement fund includes about \$9.5 million in bond proceeds related to last year's voter approval of a referendum to borrow up to \$23 million to be used for road repairs. Shortly after voters approved the referendum in November 2014, the village sold nearly \$18 million in bonds. The village sold nearly \$10 million more in bonds at the beginning of 2015.

Wachtel said that contractual costs account for about 40 percent of village expenditures, while salaries and wages make up about 27 percent of expenses. He also stated that the corporate fund will have a projected balance of about \$7.7 million at the end of the current fiscal year (April 30, 2015). The amount of \$7.7 million translates into a fund balance of about 141 days, or enough money to cover village expenses for that period (about \$54,000 per day).

"Our target goal is 90 days," said Wachtel, who related that the corporate fund's balance has increased from a low of 52 days at the end of the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Wachtel said that the village is projected to end its 2015-16 fiscal year with a

corporate fund balance of about 134 days. The corporate fund, which has a balanced budget for the upcoming fiscal year, is expected to include about \$21.1 million in revenue and about \$19.4 million in operating expenses. Additionally, there will be about \$1.05 million in capital transfers from the corporate fund to other village funds, including funds that are related to the purchase of new equipment, including police squad cars. (The village has plans to buy these new squad cars during the upcoming fiscal year.) Another amount—nearly \$700,000—will be moved from the corporate fund to other funds so that those funds can maintain their operations. Those transfers include monies to assist the village's parks and recreation commission, including the costs of running the village's two public pools.

Keebler commented on Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner's recent proposal to reduce Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) revenues 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 57 percent from the LGDF. Villa Park, with a population of nearly 22,000, reportedly receives about \$2.1 million in LGDF revenues during Municipal Fiscal Year 2015 (May of 2014 to April of 2015). Keebler said that if Rauner's proposal is enacted, the village's LGDF revenue, which was expected to be about \$2.2 million in the upcoming fiscal year, will be cut in half to \$1.1 million.

"If they take away 50 percent of our LGDF, it's on a permanent basis," said Keebler, who said that the village would have to consider a broad-based structural change to its budget if the governor's proposal is enacted. Keebler stated that one of the structural changes could be the reduction in the village's contributions to police and fire pensions. He said the village currently funds those pensions well above the required levels. Keebler said that about half of the village's entire property tax revenues currently go to those pensions.

"Gov. Rauner is proposing to take 50 percent of our income tax away," said Keebler, who stated that the village's current share of LGDF revenues account for about 11 percent of the revenue of the village's general fund. Keebler also said that the village has 22 fewer full-time employee positions than it did in 2008. The village recently announced it has 136 full-time employees. He also said the village currently employs 37 sworn police officers and 25 firefighters.

"It's not going to be easy, it's going to be very difficult," said Keebler in referring to the possible reduction in tax revenue. The manager said the village will continue to focus on maintaining the level of services it's currently providing. He also said the village should try to maintain its current balance in its corporate fund.

Dist. 45 holds presentation at Jefferson Middle School on Thursday

The School District 45 Parent Teacher Association Council and the DuPage East Region of PTAs are holding an informational presentation on Vision 20/20 on Thursday, March 12. The presentation will begin at 7 p.m. at Jefferson Middle School, located at 255 W. Vermont St., Villa Park. Illinois Principals Association Director Jason Leidy will be the speaker for the evening.

The event will provide information about Vision 20/20's policy platform. According to a news release provided by District 45, "the vision is the result of input from over 3,000 key stakeholders, discussion with field experts and a review of current literature on best practices. Vision 20/20 asks not just for state action, but also for local action and the support of educators across the state to fulfill

the promise of public education. We are all part of the system and need to work in partnership to conquer these challenges to create meaningful and lasting change."

In addition to the Illinois Principals Association, those collaborating on Vision 20/20 include the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA), the Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASBO), the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS), the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) and Superintendent's Commission for the Study of Demographics and Diversity (SCSDD).

For more information, contact Linda Coeppert, DuPage East Region Director at lcoeppert@illinoisptas.org.

Police...

(Continued from the previous page)

smart phones in the vehicle, one of which had the battery removed.

"That was probably so it could not be tracked," he explained.

In the meantime, Lombard officers were faced with the report of a possible third armed robbery this time on the south side of the village. As it turned out, this was not an armed robbery, but an aggravated assault, according to police records.

At about 12:33 a.m., officers responded to 907 S. Lincoln, after a complainant advised of a male subject knocking on his door.

According to police reports, when the complainant answered the door, the subject allegedly displayed a handgun and threatened him, before fleeing from the scene on foot.

Anthony Luterio, 27, and Melissa Ledezma, 36, both of Wheaton, were charged with aggravated assault in the incident on South Lincoln. They were charged and released.

Because Lombard police were so busy with the armed robbery calls and had manpower issues due to the fact that a couple of officers had been injured that night, Malatia said that Villa Park police, as well as DuPage County Sheriff's deputies, helped handle calls in the village.

"We had assistance from Villa Park for several hours and officers from dayshift came

in early to help," Malatia related.

"The assistance from Villa Park was invaluable," the Lombard detective said. "If their officer didn't recognize the car, who knows if we would have caught them. Without the assistance of Villa Park and DuPage County that night, we would have been in trouble."

Lombard investigators did a show-up with all the victims, who identified all three of the individuals reportedly involved in the armed robberies.

A replica gun was recovered from the vehicle.

"This gun looks and feels and weighs like a real handgun," Malatia explained. "It is made of metal and functions like a real handgun."

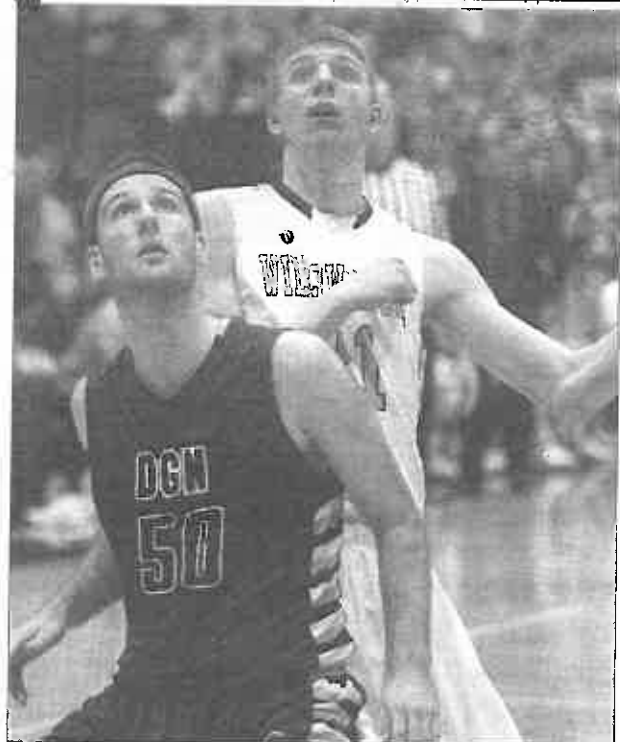
Lombard police charged Victor Vega, 22, of Villa Park, and Jesse Loucks, 20, of Lombard, with aggravated robbery. As of press time, Vega was being held at the DuPage County Jail in lieu of \$250,000 bond. Loucks, also at DuPage County Jail, was being held in lieu of \$200,000 bond.

A third subject, a 17-year-old juvenile from Westchester, will have aggravated robbery charges direct filed through the juvenile system. He was transported to Kane County Juvenile Detention.

Charges in the Villa Park attempted armed robbery are pending.

Anyone with information on any of the robberies is asked to contact Lombard police at 630-873-4400.

Questions? Comments?
E-MAIL THE VILLA PARK REVIEW AT
vpreview@lbvpr.com



Warriors' season ends...

Photo by Chris Fox

WILLOWBROOK SENIOR Chris Foycroft (above, right) and Downers Grove North junior Matthew Mahke watch a free throw during the first half of last week's boys basketball playoff game. Downers Grove North defeated Willowbrook 65-52 in the IHSA Class 4A regional semifinal game at Downers Grove South High School on March 4. The Trojans, who took a 10-0 lead at the start of the game, maintained the lead for the rest of the night. Foycroft scored 10 points and made a team-leading nine rebounds for the Warriors, who finished the season with an overall record of 21-8. Senior Jake Bruns was Willowbrook's leading scorer with 21 points. The Warriors' record stood at 6-6 at the end of December. The team then won 15 straight games before losing their regular-season finale to Hinsdale Central on Feb. 25. Willowbrook went 9-3 in West Suburban Gold Conference play and shared the conference title with Morton. The Warriors had never finished first in the WSGC in boys basketball since joining the conference in 1986. The school's boys basketball program last won a conference title 42 years ago, when it played in the Des Plaines Valley League. The 1972-73 Willowbrook squad earned a share of the DPVJL title with East Leyden. The 2014-15 Warriors also tied the boys basketball program's record for victories in a season. The 1971-72 team also won 21 games.

Sports

LOMBARDIAN VILLA PARK REVIEW

Broncos earn the third-place trophy in Normal

The Montini girls basketball team has made seven trips to the IHSA Class 3A state semifinals during the last eight seasons. In each of those seven visits to Normal, the Broncos have closed out their season with a victory. Four of those victories came in the championship game, while the three other wins were in the third-place game. This season's downstate appearance ended with the Broncos hoisting the third-place trophy.

Montini closed out the 2014-15 season with Saturday's 63-40 win over Chicago's Bogan High School in the IHSA Class 3A third-place game at Illinois State University's Redbird Arena.

The Broncos' hopes for a second straight state championship ended one day earlier with Friday's 58-44 loss to the Morton Potters in a semifinal game. The Potters of downstate Morton, which is located about 10 miles southeast of Peoria and less than 30 miles from Redbird Arena, won the state title on Saturday. They defeated Rochester 47-37 in the championship game, which took place after the third-place contest. Morton completed its season with an overall record of 33-3.

The Broncos, who struggled in the third quarter of Friday's game against Morton, erupted in the third quarter of Saturday's meeting with Bogan. Montini, which held a 26-24 halftime lead over Bogan, outscored the Bengals 26-5 in the third period. Sophomore Kaylee Bambule rained in three 3-point shots in a 90-second span early in the period to help the Broncos build a 39-27 lead. Sophomore Nikki Oppenheimer added two more 3-pointers in the period, including a long-range shot that began Montini's 8-run to close out the period. Freshman Ilyse Pitts finished the third-quarter scoring with a 3-point shot that gave the Broncos

a 52-29 lead with one quarter to play. Montini's lead never dropped below 19 points during the final period.

"If we're hitting shots, we're good," said Montini coach Jason Nichols after Saturday's win. The Broncos made 11 of 30 shots from beyond the 3-point arc against Bogan. They made five of 18 attempts from 3-point range against Morton.

Bambule, who made five 3-point shots during Saturday's game, scored a team-high 17 points. Oppenheimer, who drained three shots from 3-point range, added 11 points. Junior Tiara Wallace, provided eight points, while senior Rainey Kuykendall contributed seven points and 10 rebounds.

Montini earned its first third-place Class 3A finish under Nichols in 2008. Two years later, the Broncos began a run of three straight Class 3A state championships (2010, 2011 and 2012). Montini settled for another third-place trophy in 2013 before winning the state title one year ago.

Montini's two seniors on this season's team—Kelsey Bogdan and Kuykendall—closed out their Montini careers on Saturday. Both girls spent four seasons on the varsity and were members of two state champion teams and a pair of third-place teams.

"This game definitely meant a lot to me," said Bogdan after scoring three points in Saturday's game. Bogdan, who will attend Harvard University, started all eight of Montini's games at Redbird Arena over the last four seasons.

"I feel like I've played here forever," she said. "It's going to be weird not being on Montini anymore."

"It does hurt waking up the next morning, knowing we're not playing for a championship," said Kuykendall, who has not decided on what college she will attend. "But this



Finishing on a winning note...

Photos by Chris Fox

THE MONTINI GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM (above) won the third-place trophy at the IHSA Class 3A state tournament. The Broncos defeated Chicago's Bogan High School 63-40 in Saturday's third-place game at Redbird Arena in Normal. Montini, which won the state title last season, lost 58-44 to Morton in Friday's semifinal game in Normal. Morton went on to beat Rochester 47-37 in Saturday's championship game. Montini, which won five post-season games to advance to the state semifinals, completed the season with an overall record of 31-6. The Broncos have made six straight trips to the Class 3A semifinals, winning four titles and earning a pair of third-place trophies.

is our last year, and we did not want to go out losing two games in a row."

Nichols said after Saturday's game that several people did not expect the Broncos to make a sixth straight trip downstate this season after losing three Division I-bound players from the 2013-14 team to graduation.

"We are a good team, and these

girls [Bogdan and Kuykendall] are a big part of it."

Montini's quest for another state title faded after a rough third quarter in Friday's semifinal against Morton. The Potters, who held a 23-19 halftime lead, outscored the Broncos 19-9 in the third period to build a 42-28 advantage with eight minutes to play. The Potters did not score a field

goal during the final period, but they did make 16 free throws to help close out the victory. Morton made 20 of 28 free throws in the second half and 23 of 31 foul shots throughout the game. Chandler Ryan made 13 of 13 attempts. The Broncos shot only two free throws in the game. Kuykendall made one of two attempts during the first quarter.

Warriors lose playoff opener

Willowbrook's boys basketball season came to an abrupt end last week. The Warriors opened the IHSA Class 4A post-season with a 65-52 loss to Downers Grove North in a regional semifinal game at Downers Grove South High School on March 4. The Warriors, who won 15 straight games before losing their regular-season finale to Hinsdale Central on Feb. 25, finished the season with an overall record of 21-8.

The Warriors played last week's post-season game without their leading scorer—sophomore Aleczo Verge. He sat on the bench and was not in uniform. Willowbrook head coach Chris Perkins stated that Verge missed the game because of a family issue.

Downers Grove North jumped out to a 10-0 lead over the Warriors and maintained a lead for the rest of the night. The Trojans, who made all three of their 3-point attempts in the opening period, held a 24-14 lead at the end of the first quarter and a 40-26 lead at halftime. Their lead swelled to 51-23 by the end of the third quarter.

"We played even in the rest of the first half," said Perkins of the Warriors' play after falling behind 10-0. "The third quarter is what really hurt us. We only managed to score five points."

Perkins noted that the Warriors made 16 of 57 shots in last week's loss. The Trojans converted 20 of 37 shots from the field.

"It was just one of those nights," said Perkins. "We weren't able to get the ball to drop. Our guys played hard. Downers Grove North played well and knocked down a lot

of shots."

The Trojans season ended with Friday's 53-38 loss to Hinsdale Central in the regional final.

Senior Jake Bruns closed out his Willowbrook career by scoring a team-leading 21 points. Bruns connected on eight of 12 field-goal attempts, including three of four shots from 3-point range.

Senior Chris Roycroft scored 10 points and grabbed a team-leading nine rebounds in his final game as a Warrior. Roycroft made eight of nine shots from the free-throw line

Senior Micah Williams and junior Billy Dejanan each scored six points for Willowbrook.

The Warriors' exciting season featured a 15-game winning streak that ran from the beginning of January to late February and included eight West Suburban Gold Conference victories. Willowbrook shared the conference title with Merron, both schools had 9-3 WSGC records. Willowbrook's boys basketball program had never won a WSGC title since joining the conference in 1986.



Taking aim from long range...

SOPHOMORE KAYLEE BAMBULE (above) of the Montini girls basketball team launches a 3-point shot during the third quarter of Saturday's IHSA Class 3A third-place game at Redbird Arena in Normal. Bambule made five 3-point shots and scored a team-high 17 points to help the Broncos to a 63-40 victory over Bogan in the third-place contest. Bambule connected on three attempts from 3-point range during the third quarter, when the Broncos outscored the Bengals 26-5. Montini completed the 2014-15 season with an overall record of 31-6. Pictured on the left of the above picture is Montini head coach Jason Nichols, who just finished his 15th season with the Broncos. Montini has won four state titles and claimed three third-place trophies since 2008.



Final game as a Warrior...

WILLOWBROOK SENIOR Jake Bruns (above) drives toward the hoop during the second quarter of last week's IHSA Class 4A boys basketball playoff game against Downers Grove North. The Trojans defeated the Warriors 65-52 in the March 4 regional semifinal contest at Downers Grove South High School. Bruns scored a team-leading 21 points for Willowbrook, which finished the season with an overall record of 21-8. Senior Chris Roycroft added 10 points and nine rebounds



photo provided

AT students enjoy Civic Orchestra performance

On March 4, Veinte Cuerdas, which means 20 strings, a string quintet comprised of members of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, performed for students in Addison Trail's Chamber Orchestra. The performance was part of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago's Citizen Musician Fellowship program. Students took notes on techniques used to produce the music and were later able to ask questions of the musicians.

Author with local ties joins book discussion group

Jamie Freveletti attends Addison Women's Club gathering

ADDISON — Jamie Freveletti — author, trial attorney, martial artist, runner and Chicago resident — spoke to the members of the Women's Club of Addison on March 5. Members of the Women's Club were delighted to hear her speak about her career as an author. Her first book the thriller "Running From the Devil" has been translated into three languages and was an international best-seller.

Members of the Women's Club Book Discussion Group enjoyed reading her original book last year. Freveletti has also written "Running Dark" and "The Ninth Day." Recently the group read and discussed "The Janus Reprisal" that Freveletti wrote at the request of the Estate of Robert Ludlum (Jason Bourne) to continue the Covert One series. Other titles in that series that Freveletti has written include "Dead Asleep" and "The Geneva Strategy."

Freveletti, who spent some of her formative years in Addison, spoke about the process she uses in writing and how her talent for writing fits into her busy lifestyle. The Women's Club of Addison meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Addison Village Hall. Guests are welcome.

State Rep. Willis to host Town Hall meeting at Addison Library

ADDISON — State Rep. Kathleen Willis (D-Addison) announced that she will be hosting a public town hall meeting on Monday, March 16 at 6 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, located at 4 Friendship Plaza in Addison.

"As the Legislature continues the 99th General Assembly session, it is important to me that I am in close communication with the residents I represent," said Willis. "This town hall meeting will give me an opportunity to listen to the concerns of residents and for me to provide an update on the ideas being debated in Springfield."

Since taking office, Willis has hosted numerous town hall meetings throughout the district in an effort to remain in contact with residents regarding important issues. This event is open to the public and will cover issues related to the Illinois state budget, education, and vital state services. Residents will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding issues they feel need to be addressed and are urged to call Willis' constituent service office with any inquiries regarding the event at (708) 562-6970.

"Maintaining a strong line of communication is vitally important in order to keep residents advised of

important legislation being considered under the Capitol dome," said Willis. "There will be a lot of very difficult decisions that I have to make this session about how to prioritize state spending, and I am looking forward to a robust conversation about our state budget challenges and other issues at my upcoming town hall meeting."

Kathleen Willis is serving her second term in the Illinois General Assembly as State Representative of the 77th District, which includes O'Hare Airport and portions of Addison, Bellwood, Bensenville, Franklin Park, Maywood, Melrose Park, Northlake, Stone Park, and Wood Dale.

ADDISON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Saturday, March 14
Experimenting in Watercolor**

Sponsored by the Addison Art Guild, "Experimenting in Watercolor" with Suzane Hetzel will be held from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Addison Trail art department, 213 N. Lombard Road. To register, call 630-250-9407.

**Saturday, April 11
Making Spring Sing with Colored Pencil**

Sponsored by the Addison Art Guild, "Making Spring Sing with Colored Pencil" with Peggy McGahan will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at

the Addison Trail art department, 213 N. Lombard Road. Pre-registration is necessary. Info: call 630-250-9407.

**Ongoing events
• Armendariz watercolor exhibit now open**

The Addison Center for the Arts is showcasing "Essense: Old Yankee Stadium," a watercolor exhibit by artist Tony Armendariz. It will remain through March 28. An artist reception will be held from 7-9 p.m. Friday, March 13.

Info: 630-458-4500 or addisoncenterforthearts.com.

• Addison Park District open gym

The Park District will be having an open gym for all ages from 3-5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and from 6-10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays at the Centennial Rec Center gymnasium. Fees: \$2.50 for children in eighth grade and younger on regular days, or \$4 for extended days and weekends; \$3 for ages high school and older on regular days, or \$5 on extended days and weekends. Info: go to addisonparks.org or call 630-233-7275.

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Local artist's mural honors Park Place residents

Who loved being a housewife, and she enjoys gardening; Art was a surgeon, tennis player, and golfer.

These facts are posted in a freshly painted mural in the Gilead, the memory care area at Park Place Health and Wellness Center. The mural, painted by local artist Donna Castellanos, shares details about the 20 Gilead residents — details about

who they were and who they are, details they themselves might not always remember. This information helps visitors and other families learn more about each resident. A quote at the bottom reads, "Time passes ... memories fade ... but the heart never forgets."

The idea for the mural came from the life enrichment staff — there was a large open wall near the entrance to the area,

and they wanted to use it for something meaningful. Health and Wellness Center Life Enrichment Director Kathy Groenendyk had a vision for a tree, because over time, the residents and their families become like one large family.

"From when we opened (in 2012), I wanted to put something on that wall, and somehow, the vision of a Gilead family tree came up," Groenendyk said. "We wanted something beautiful, something that tells about the residents — they are all unique, and we wanted to show family and other visitors what they have done."

Families were present at the dedication of the mural, which took place during a family get-together in January. The party and dedication were attended even by a couple whose relative has passed away — they still come back to visit other Gilead residents, evidence of the family ties created in the unit.

Castellanos was also present at the dedication ceremony in January.

"It was Donna's style and work that brought the mural to life," said Park Place of Elmhurst Life Enrichment Director Lisa Stoik, who has worked with the artist in the past.

The last few years, Castellanos has been at Park Place for art workshops, where she and the residents create ornaments, which Castellanos then sells at Art in the Park (an annual event at Wilder Park). The profits benefit charitable organiza-

tions, such as the Emergency Clothes Closet in Oak Forest or the United Community Concerns Association, a food bank in Elmhurst.

Castellanos, who was born and raised in Elmhurst, teaches at the Elmhurst Art Museum and shows her current work at Elmhurst's Flight 112, where she is also the art director/curator.

"She's a great artist — very talented and very giving," Stoik said.

The gift she gave Park Place will continue to bless staff, residents, and their families for years to come.

Reminder: Illinois 5Essentials Survey still open

New extended deadline is March 20

ADDISON / VILLA PARK — District 88 stakeholders, it's time to give your input and complete the Illinois 5Essentials Survey.

The survey is an opportunity for teachers, parents/guardians and students in sixth through twelfth grade to weigh in on questions related to leadership, collaboration, family involvement, instruction and the school environment. At least 50 percent of students and teachers (and 20 percent of parents/guardians) at each school must fill out the survey to have enough data to generate a school-level report. Responses will be kept confidential and will not be linked to any individual.

The survey provides a comprehensive assessment of school organizational culture with reports to help focus school improvement in the following five areas or "essentials."

- Effective leaders
- Collaborative teachers
- Involved families
- Supportive environment
- Ambitious instruction

The deadline to complete the survey has been extended to March 20, and you can access the survey at survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois. For more information, contact 5Essentials Client Services at 1-866-440-1874 or 5essentials@uchicago.edu.

Addison Trail students to compete in SkillsUSA State competition

ADDISON — Sixteen Addison Trail students have qualified to compete in the Illinois SkillsUSA State Leadership Conference and Champion-

ships, which will take place from April 23 to 26 at Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield. Addison Trail Career and Technical Educa-

tion (CTE) teacher Keith Santini is the AT's SkillsUSA Sponsor.

Students who have qualified are junior Alexander Dudka,

junior Nicholas Stamatopoulos, freshman Ali Thompson, sophomore Vanesa Canchola, sophomore Lizbeth Herrera, junior Dinorah Cantu, sopho-

more Jose Chavez, senior Amarilis Reyes, senior Angel Vazquez, senior Harmanpreet Singh, senior Thomas Baughman, junior Salvatore Dugo, junior Abraar Ahmed, senior Eduardo Valdez, senior Luis Flores and sophomore Anthony DiSilvestro.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA helps each student excel through providing educational programs, events and competitions that support CTE in the classroom.

District 4 begins back-to-school registration

ADDISON — A total of 91 future District 4 kindergartners were registered for the 2015-16 school year on the first day of kindergarten registration.

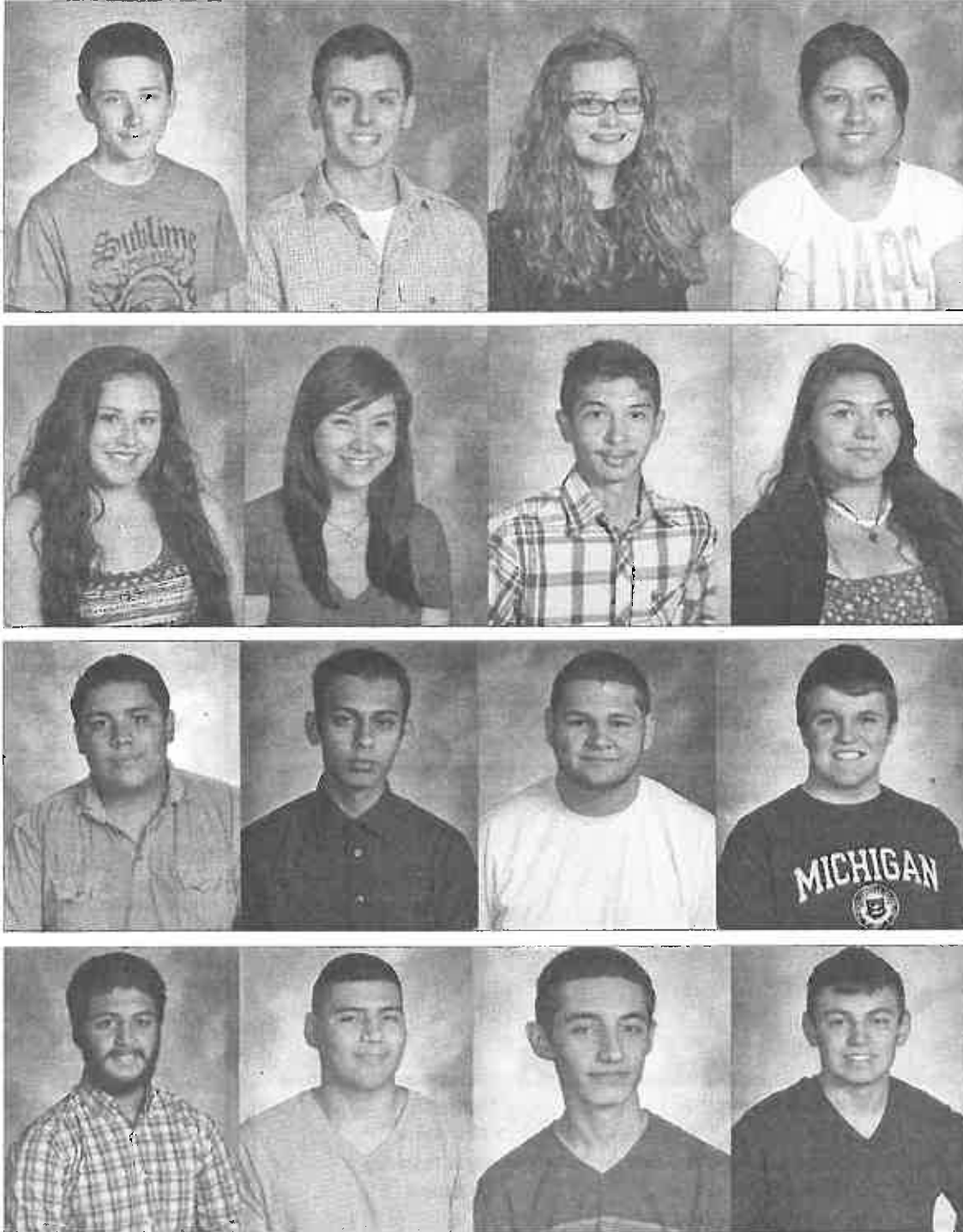
Two more registration dates are scheduled at Army Trail School, 346 Army Trail Blvd., on the evenings of Thursday, March 19 and Wednesday, April 8 from 4-7 p.m. Parents are asked to pick up a registration packet in advance so they have time to read and complete the paperwork before coming to register. Packets are available in all District 4 school offices and at the District Administration Center, 222 N. Kennedy Dr, Door 18. Packets are also available on the District 4 website at asd4.org.

Students whose primary language is not English should come to registration with their parents so they can be screened for their language skills. Screening is used to determine the proper class placement for the students in the upcoming year. (kreg3-6-15p)

Dist. 4, AECC plan Kindergarten University

This year, District 4 and the Addison Early Childhood Collaborative (AECC) will be sponsoring a Kindergarten University program for parents of incoming kindergartners. Two sessions are scheduled to be held at Indian Trail Junior High—on Friday, May 1 from 1-3 p.m.; and Tuesday, May 5 from 6-8 p.m. The program is intended to give parents information about what they and their children need to know in order to be ready for kindergarten in fall.

The first day of school for District 4's 2015-16 kindergartners will be Thursday, August 27, 2015.



all photos provided

Pictured are the Addison Trail students who have qualified to compete in the Illinois SkillsUSA State Leadership Conference and Championships. They are (top row, from left) junior Alexander Dudka, junior Nicholas Stamatopoulos, freshman Ali Thompson, sophomore Vanesa Canchola, (second row, from left) sophomore Lizbeth Herrera, junior Dinorah Cantu, sophomore Jose Chavez, senior Amarilis Reyes, (third row, from left) senior Angel Vazquez, senior Harmanpreet Singh, senior Thomas Baughman, junior Salvatore Dugo, (bottom row, from left) junior Abraar Ahmed, senior Eduardo Valdez, senior Luis Flores and sophomore Anthony DiSilvestro. The championships will take place from April 23 to 26.

SPORTS

MARCH 12, 2015 • 16

Addison Trail boys basketball team loses to Metea Valley

Blazers show more improvements this season; post 15 wins

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

ADDISON — The Addison Trail boys basketball team concluded its 2014-2015 season after a 68-44 loss to Metea Valley in semifinal action of the Class 4A Proviso West regional in Hillside.

The Blazers were the No. 9 seed in the East Aurora sectional. Metea Valley was the No. 8 seed.

"Metea is a good team," said Addison Trail coach Brendan Lyons. "They came in with nine wins in a row. We knew we had to play a half-court game

against them and we had that most of the first half. We trailed by only seven in the second half, but they pulled away from us and we had to pick up our full-court game and try to create things. That didn't play to our advantage and they were able to pull away late."

Eric Grygo led the Blazers with 12 points.

"The effort was good from our guys. The guys competed," said Lyons. "But we had them credited with 14 offensive rebounds and we had 20 turnovers. That's too many turnovers. We couldn't finish. We had some good shots inside. We shot around 20 percent in the first half (4-for-19 from 2-point range). I really liked our effort and competitiveness but our execution could have been better."

Addison Trail finished the season 15-12 overall and 4-8 in West Suburban Conference Gold Division action.

"We took a big step forward this year," said Lyons. "We are continuing to trend upward as a program. All our levels were competitive again and the varsity program set some high levels of expectations for the guys next year. We're finishing in the top half of the conference more times than not and we play some top competition. We're competing with these good teams now and I definitely hope that continues."

Lyons said he believes the 15 wins are the most for an Addison Trail boys basketball team since 2001.

"Midway through the year the expectation level changed and then we kind of hit a wall late in the year," he said. "The expectation levels are still high.

We'd like to surpass what we did this year."

Addison Trail graduates seniors Taylor White, Matt Gontarek, Jaavion Bradley, Dante Frazier, Tyler White, Joe Nasti and Jinu Mathew from this year's team.

"I'm definitely proud of the seniors," said Lyons. "There are seven of them and they've all done some great things since they've been here. That group contributed to us getting better this year. They are great role models. We also have six guys coming back that all saw playing time and have had success at the lower levels."

Taylor White and Bradley earned all-West Suburban Conference Gold Division honors. Frontier, Mathew, Nasti and Gontarek were named to the all-WSC academic team.

Baumgartner named all-conference for Addison Trail girls cagers

Blazers' coach Schader excited about future

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

ADDISON — The Addison Trail girls basketball team's leading scorer was rewarded for her efforts recently.

Senior Rachel Baumgartner was named to the all-West Suburban Conference Gold Division team. She led the Blazers in scoring at 9.9 points per game and pulled in 5.4 rebounds a contest.

"It's well-deserved," said Addison Trail coach Rob Schader. "She's been great for us. She's the third Baumgartner sister to come through the program and they keep getting better and better (Baumgartner's younger sister also is in the program). She really helped us. She's a great athlete. She plays three sports (cross country, basketball and softball). She's a true competitor and loves all sports. She works extremely hard at everything she does. We will miss her next year."

Addison Trail finished the 2014-2015 season 4-25 overall and 1-11 in WSC Gold play.

"We only averaged 35 points a game," said Schader. "You

can't win a lot of games doing that. We did play very well defensively, especially from Christmas on. The kids played hard, but we couldn't put the ball in the hoop at times. They fought to the end and did a very nice job."

In addition to Baumgartner, the Blazers graduate seniors Kelly Delawder, Nina Beltrano, Alex DiSilvio and Stephanie Messina.

"The seniors worked hard in this program," said Schader.

Schader lauded Messina's efforts in particular. She played this year after enduring a pair of knee injuries.

"Steph was our most improved player by far," said Schader. "She was amazing. She tore her ACL sophomore year and tore it again junior year before the playoffs. That was early February last year and she was ready to go in August. To have two ACL tears and come back like that is amazing. She did a phenomenal job."

Addison Trail's sophomore team went 17-8 this season and posted a 9-3 record in WSC Gold play.

"We're excited about the future," said Schader. "We have some talented kids coming up from the sophomore team that will help us and we have kids

coming back from this year's varsity team that will help us. The sophomore group, most of those kids are only in their third year of playing basketball and they still are getting better and learning every day. There are some good athletes in that group that have developed as basketball players."

Junior Maria Koulogeorgas is one of the Blazers' returning players. She was second on the team in scoring this year. Tegan Graff and Nicole Pudlo also are among those returning.

"Maria did a great job for us," said Schader. "There were games where she had 16 to 18 points. She played really

well. Tegan Graff played for us as a sophomore. She's a hard-working kid that keeps getting better. Nicole Pudlo is another kid who tore an ACL and now she's back to form. She's a guard who can shoot and she finished the season strong. We have some good kids coming back."



photo courtesy of Gina Orzak

Fast lane

Willowbrook senior Molly Hill recently placed first in the 100 backstroke for the Elmhurst Swim Team at the regional meet in Elgin.

Willowbrook boys basketball team drops regional game to Downers North

Warriors finish season with 21 victories

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook boys basketball team saw its season come to a conclusion after a 65-52 loss to Metea Valley in semifinal action of the Class 4A Downers Grove South regional.

Willowbrook was the No. 5 seed in the East Aurora sectional. Downers North, which lost to Hinsdale Central in the regional final, was the No. 12 seed.

"Downers Grove North started off hot and got off to a 10-0 lead," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins. "I called a time out and got the guys settled. We played almost even after that for the rest of the first half."

Willowbrook was limited to five points in the third quarter. "The third quarter hurt us," said Perkins. "The game got away from us. We didn't shoot

the ball particularly well." Willowbrook shot 16-for-52 in the game.

"Downers Grove North is a good overall team," said Perkins. "At this time of the year, everybody is a good team. We lost to a 17-win team there. I was proud of our kids. There was no quit in them. They fought all the way to the end."

Jake Bruns led the Warriors with 21 points. Chris Roycroft added 10 points. Willowbrook played the game without leading scorer Alonzo Verge Jr.

Willowbrook finished the year 21-8 overall and won its first conference title since 1972.

"We had a great year. We won 21 games, we took second at the Thanksgiving tournament, second at Christmas and second at the Martin Luther King tournament and we won our first conference championship since 1972," said Perkins. "Overall, it was a very successful season. The kids have a lot to be proud of."

Willowbrook graduates six seniors from this year's roster. That group includes

Bruns, Kyle Rushing, Roycroft, Devin Ramsey, Andrew Kanelos and Micah Williams.

"The seniors really helped us this year," said Perkins. "We'll have seven or eight

guys coming back and the sophomore team won 10 or 12 games this year. They have some pieces that will help us for next year. Hopefully we can build off this year.

I'm very pleased with what we did. We had a 180-degree turnaround from last year. We built a lot of excitement and hopefully we can do even more next year."

The Don of A New Day in Sports

March Madness is coming soon

March Madness comes to Addison on Sunday, March 29 at 2 p.m. The Don of Sports celebrities will play a basketball game against members of non-profit organizations in Addison.

The organizations include the Add-ons Girls Sports Program; the Addison Switchboard; Knights of Columbus; Addison Rec Club; and the Addison Park District Foundation. Proceeds will benefit these not-for-profit organizations.

Some celebrities scheduled are Ronnie Bull and Robin

Earl who played for the Chicago Bears, Billy Leagans from the L.A. Rams and Gene Hiser who played for the Sox and Cubs. The Addison Allstars will feature Susan and Alexis Positano, Chuck Salvo, Ernie Flores, Corey Little, and Matt Thompson among others.

Don's Tips

1. Free Italian ice
2. Halftime entertainment
3. Free parking
4. It's all for fun

For ideas, suggestions or comments about this column, feel free to call Don at 630-530-7061.



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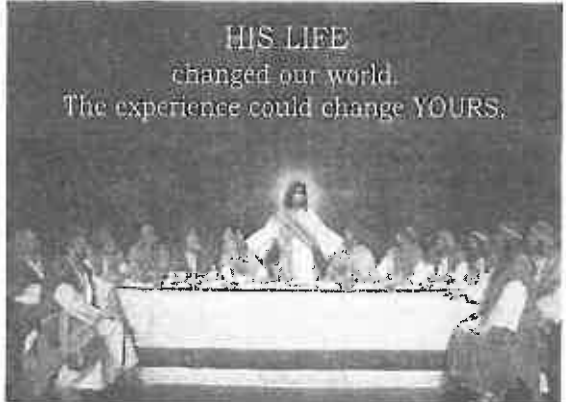
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