

Three subjects arrested in connection with area burglaries to businesses

by Bonnie MacKay

When a number of area police departments pooled their resources, they solved close to a dozen tobacco/cigarette business burglaries in the area.

According to Lombard Police Detective Jim Kohl, Lombard investigators were able to develop suspect information from two recent burglaries that occurred at the Mobil gas station, located at Main Street and North Avenue.

Police reports show that the front door of the business was shattered and cigarettes and cash were taken on Dec. 28, 2015. On Jan. 8, once again the reports show the front door was damaged and cigarettes were taken from the business.

Additionally, Villa Park police were investigating a burglary at Tobacco Plus, 345 E. North Ave., which occurred on Dec. 15, according to Villa Park Police Detective Dennis Campos.

"Information from that case assisted Lombard in developing suspect information," Campos said, adding that subjects broke the front window of the business and stole multiple cartons of cigarettes.

Campos related that investigators were able to use a video surveillance to develop the suspect information.

On Monday night, Jan. 25, a burglary occurred in Bensenville, according to Lombard Police Detective Lt. Cyndy

Velazquez.

"Just after the burglary in Bensenville, Elmhurst police pulled them over on a traffic stop," Kohl said.

Because the three subjects stopped by Elmhurst police were suspects in the Lombard burglaries, they were brought into the Lombard police station for interviews, Kohl related.

The detective explained that Lombard investigators were able to develop information and obtained a search warrant for the vehicle, where proceeds from the tobacco store burglary in Bensenville were located.

Bensenville police charged James K. Brunt, 55, Lisa L. Armstrong, 47, and Lynn L. Griffith, 48, all of Chicago, with burglary. They were transported to the DuPage County Jail in Wheaton, where as of press time, Brunt was being held in lieu of \$150,000 bond, Armstrong was being held in lieu of \$100,000 bond and Griffith was being held in lieu of \$200,000 bond.

"I am grateful for the hard work, commitment and tenacity of the detectives, especially Lombard Police detectives Kohl, Mike Harris and Jason Chudzinski, and all the other detectives for their assistance, and to Lombard Police Sgt. John Malatia for coordinating the investigation," said Velazquez.

Charges in both Lombard burglaries and the Villa Park burglary are pending.

Former substitute teacher at District 45 arrested in Cook County

A substitute teacher who worked in School District 45 as recently as 2009 was charged last week with criminal sexual assault of a child in Cook County.

Joseph Gurzejk of Westchester, was taken into custody on Jan. 26 by Cook County Sheriff's Police. Gurzejk was reportedly working as a substitute teacher at La Grange Highlands Elementary School on Jan. 25. According to a statement from the Cook County Sheriff's Office, authorities responded to a report that Gurzejk inappropriately touched a female student that day after class.

Gurzejk, 56, was charged with predatory criminal sexual assault of a child and aggravated criminal sexual abuse on Jan. 27. He appeared in bond court on Thursday at the Cook County Courthouse in Bridgeview. Judge Peter Felice set bond at \$750,000. Gurzejk's next court date is Feb. 24.

A statement issued by the Cook County

State's Attorney related that Gurzejk was teaching the victim's class when he hugged the child and asked her to stay after class. After the other students left the room, Gurzejk allegedly hugged the child again and began fondling the victim under her clothing.

The victim reportedly went to lunch and disclosed what had happened to a fellow student. After school, the victim reported the incident to school officials.

Gurzejk reportedly worked as a substitute teacher at La Grange Highlands Elementary School since 2004. He was a substitute teacher in District 45 schools from the 2004-05 school year until the 2008-09 school year. According to Jean Hockensmith, District 45's director of communications, Gurzejk went through both federal and state background checks as part of the hiring process.

Cook County Sheriff Thomas Dart asks anyone with additional information to call 708-865-4896.

District 45 offers screenings on Feb. 12; appointments needed

School District 45 will be conducting free developmental screenings on Friday, Feb. 12. The screenings are for children who will be 3 years of age as of Feb. 12. Children should live in the district, but not be currently enrolled in kindergarten.

Appointments are necessary for the free screenings. If you suspect your child has a disability, an appointment for screening can be made by calling Sharon Mallin at the District 45 office at 630-516-7318.

The screening process identifies how the

child is currently developing. Assessed areas include: speech and language, vision and hearing, motor skills, and cognitive development.

The screening is conducted by professional school staff in a variety of pleasant playroom situations. The screening takes approximately 60 to 120 minutes. Screening results will be shared with parents.

The screenings are offered in both English and Spanish.

Tickets available for annual fundraiser on Feb. 28 at Drury Lane

The District 88 Foundation invites members of the community to take part in the Partnership for Inspired Education (PIE) Foundation's 2016 fundraiser. The Feb. 28 event, which will begin at 2 p.m., will take place at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace and will include a performance of "Bye Bye Birdie." The fundraiser will also feature dinner, raffles and an auction of items including sports memorabilia, tickets to events, weekend getaway packages and jewelry.

Tickets for the event are \$68 each and can be purchased through the PIE Foundation's

Web site at www.piefoundation.org. For more information, contact Dani Brink, the district's director of community relations, at 630-530-3989, or at dbrink@dupage88.net.

The District 88 Foundation is a member of the PIE Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that serves public school students in District 88, Addison Elementary School District 4, School District 45 and Salt Creek School District 48. Founded in 2009, the PIE Foundation is designed to be the foundation that supports a long-term partnership with the community, businesses and schools.

Police department invites residents to attend SALT meeting on Feb. 10

The Villa Park Police Department has announced that the upcoming quarterly meeting for Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10, at the Wildwood Community Center, 320 E. Wildwood Ave. Residents and guests are invited to arrive at

10:30 a.m. to enjoy coffee, pastries and fellowship before the presentation.

The meeting will include a presentation by Dr. Luke Stringer of the Pain and Wellness Group. The Villa Park Senior Concerns Commission will sponsor a light lunch for all guests immediately after the meeting.

Villa Park residents invited to State of the Village on Feb. 25

The Village of Villa Park invites residents to attend the annual State of the Village address on Thursday, Feb. 25. The presentation will begin at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of Willowbrook High School, 1250 S. Ardmore Ave.

According to information provided by the village, the presentation is an opportunity to review the accomplishments of the last year. Those accomplishments include the approval of a new parks and

recreation master plan and the acquisition of a new, grant-funded fire engine.

In addition to reviewing the past year, the village's Feb. 25 presentation will feature an overview of items on this year's agenda, including continued street improvements and the completion of renovations at Cortesi Veterans Memorial Park.

The address will include information about current projects in each village department.

Villa Park Warriors to hold 2016 registration on Saturday

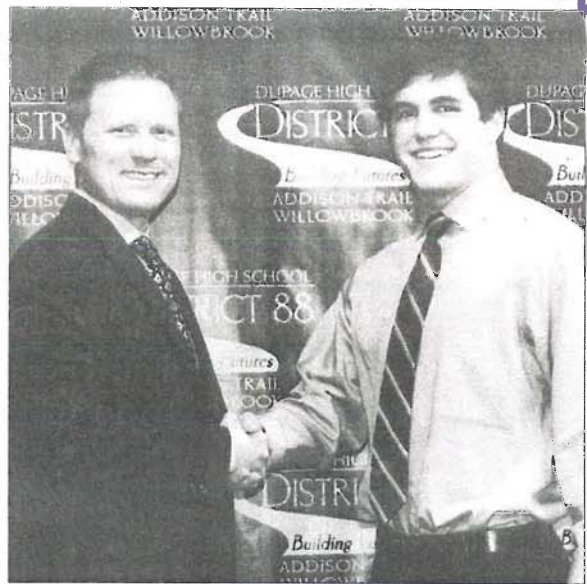
The Villa Park Warriors Youth Football and Cheer organization will hold registration for the 2016 season on Saturday, Feb. 6, and Saturday, Feb. 20. Each registration session will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Willowbrook High School, 1250 S. Ardmore Ave. Registration will take place in the lower level, near the weight room.

Registration is open to boys and girls ages 5-14 (kindergarten through eighth grade). Tackle football is available for ages 7-14 and flag football is available to children ages 5-7. Competitive cheerleading is available for students in fourth, fifth and sixth grade. Non-competitive cheerleading

is offered for children in kindergarten through fourth grade.

The early registration fee for tackle football and competition cheer is \$225 per child, with a minimum \$25 non-refundable deposit due at registration. After the early registration, the fee is \$250. The fee for flag football and non-competitive cheer is \$100.

New participants must bring two copies of their birth certificate. For more information, visit the Warriors' Web site at www.villaparkwarriors.com, or contact Sheri Lyons at 630-290-5474 for football and Jean Taylor at 630-542-8452 for cheerleading.



District 88's Best...

WILLOWBROOK SENIOR Matt Rowland (above, right) is his school's recipient of the District 88's Best honor. Rowland, who is pictured with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause, was recognized at the District 88 Board of Education's Jan. 25 meeting. The board created the District 88's Best award to highlight the success of students at the district's two schools—Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools. The honor recognizes nine students from each school during the school year for their accomplishments inside and outside the classroom. Rowland is a member of Willowbrook's Math Honor Society and a recipient of his school's Outstanding Freshman and Human Relations awards. He has also volunteered for local charities and helped to implement Willowbrook's annual school-wide barbecue for students. Outside the classroom, Rowland excels as a wrestler. As a junior, he earned a second-place finish in his weight division at the 2015 IHSA Class 3A individual state meet. As a sophomore, he claimed a fifth-place finish at the individual state meet. Rowland has not lost a match in a West Suburban Gold Conference dual meet throughout his high school career. Earlier this season, Rowland broke the school record for wrestling victories—he had 167 wins as of last week. He will compete in the IHSA Class 3A individual regional at Downers Grove South High School as he tries to qualify for another individual state meet. Rowland has accepted a scholarship to continue his education and wrestling career at the University of North Carolina. He plans to major in business.

Sports

LOMBARDIAN VILLA PARK REVIEW

Buzzer beater in Lombard; four OTs in Villa Park

The Glenbard East and Willowbrook boys basketball teams produced some memorable finishes in their respective Friday night home victories. The Rams trailed South Elgin with 1.4 seconds to play before winning on a last-second shot in Lombard. The Warriors earned an equally wild victory in Villa Park by outlasting District 88 rival Addison Trail in a quadruple-overtime battle.

Sophomore Kenny Adams was the hero of Glenbard East's 54-53 Upstate Eight Valley Conference win over the visiting Storm. The Rams trailed South Elgin 53-52 with 1.4 seconds to play when Adams caught an inbounds pass from junior Michael Finley and launched a midrange shot as the buzzer sounded. The shot rattled around the rim and fell through to give the Rams the victory and trigger a boisterous midcourt celebration.

Adams wasn't even in the game when South Elgin sank two free throws to take its 53-52 lead with two seconds to play. The Rams then inbounded the ball to half court and called a time out with 1.4 seconds remaining. Adams then checked into the game. He wasn't Finley's primary option on the inbounds throw.

"We were trying to get it to [senior] Zach Walsh," explained Glenbard East head coach Scott Miller of the final play.

"They believe in me," said Adams of his teammates. "Coach put me in for a reason. I just took what they gave me."

Adams bobbed the ball as he caught Finley's pass and turned toward the basket. The shot left his hands within a fraction of a second of the buzzer.

The last-second heroics from Adams helped Glenbard East improve to 14-9 overall and 5-1 in the conference.

Friday's win marked the Rams' second dramatic win over South Elgin this season. Glenbard East trailed the Storm by 20 points at halftime of the Dec. 11 game in South Elgin but stormed back to win 75-73 in

overtime. Walsh drained a 3-point shot at the end of regulation to tie the score and send that game to overtime.

Glenbard East held a 34-27 halftime lead over the Storm in Friday's rematch, but the Rams went cold in the third quarter, when they scored only three points. South Elgin held a 38-37 lead with one quarter to play. The lead changed hands six times during the first four minutes of the final period before South Elgin made a 3-point shot to take a 48-45 lead with about 3:50 to play.

Finley scored the game's next four points, including a 3-point play that gave the Rams a 49-48 lead with under two minutes to play. The Storm regained the lead, but a 3-point shot by Walsh gave the Rams a 52-50 edge with about 55 seconds remaining.

South Elgin made three free throws in the final minute, including a pair of shots with two seconds to play. The Rams then inbounded the ball to half court and called a time out to set up the final play.

Finley finished with a team-high 19 points, including eight points in the fourth quarter. Senior Terrence Lakes added 15 points, while Walsh scored eight points. Adams, who made a 3-point shot in the first half, provided five points.

Glenbard East earned another dramatic victory earlier in the week when it edged Downers Grove North by two points in overtime. Lakes drove to the hoop to score the winning basket at the end of the overtime period.

The Rams' season continues with Saturday afternoon's non-conference home game against Hinsdale Central. Glenbard East and the Red Devils will tip off at 4 p.m.

Willowbrook

The Warriors avenged a pair of West Suburban Gold Conference losses when they beat Addison Trail and Hinsdale South on Friday and Saturday in Villa Park. Willowbrook beat Addison Trail 85-82 in quadruple overtime on Friday. Less than 24 hours later, the Warriors returned to their home court and posted a 72-69



A thrilling win for the Rams...

Photos by Chris Fox

SOPHOMORE KENNY ADAMS (above, left) scored the winning basket for Glenbard East's boys basketball team in Friday's game against South Elgin. The above photo shows Adams catching an inbounds pass in the closing moments of the game. The Storm held a 53-52 lead with 1.4 seconds to play, but Adams caught an inbounds pass from junior Michael Finley and fired a game-winning shot as time expired to give the Rams a 54-53 Upstate Eight Valley Conference victory in Lombard. Senior Terrence Lakes (center) scored 15 points for the Rams. Finley scored a team-leading 19 points. Lakes scored a last-second winning basket in Glenbard East's previous game, a two-point overtime victory at Downers Grove North on Jan. 26.

win over Hinsdale South.

The two weekend wins gave the Warriors a three-game winning streak and moved the team to 10-12 overall and 3-5 in the conference.

Willowbrook held a 28-19 halftime lead over the Blazers in Friday's game. Addison Trail trimmed the Warriors' lead to 44-40 by the end of the third quarter. The Blazers held a lead late in regulation, but a last-second basket by sophomore Ethan Schuemer tied the score at 56-56 and sent the game into a four-minute overtime period.

The teams were tied at 62-62 after the first overtime; 67-67 after the second and 75-75 after the third.

Addison Trail scored the first points of the first three overtimes. The Warriors opened the scoring in the final overtime.

Six Warriors contributed double-digit scoring efforts in the win, which avenged a loss at Addison Trail in the conference opener on Dec. 5. Schuemer and sophomore Sikander Zafar both scored 16 points. Senior Kevin Miller, junior Freddie Clay and sophomore Matt Myers contributed 12 points each. Senior Billy Degnan added 10 points. Miller provided four 3-point shots, while Degnan sank three shots from 3-point range.

In addition to leading their team in scoring, Schuemer and Zafar shared

the rebounding load for Willowbrook. Zafar snared 15 rebounds, while Schuemer grabbed 14 rebounds.

The four-overtime shootout on Friday could have been a convenient excuse for a sluggish performance on Saturday. The Warriors, however, played with energy against the Hornets. Willowbrook was motivated to gain revenge for a 22-point loss at Hinsdale South in December.

The Warriors held a 37-35 halftime lead over the Hornets. Hinsdale South rallied to take a 56-53 lead by the end of the third quarter.

Clay finished the night with a team-leading 20 points. Schuemer provided 15 points and 11 rebounds. Miller scored 10 points, while Degnan and freshman Matas Masys scored nine and eight points, respectively.

"We're turning a corner," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins on Saturday in describing the Warriors' noticeable improvement in the second half of the conference season. "The guys are gaining experience, and it's starting to show. I think it's a combination of things. They're more confident, and a lot of it has to do with experience. We were losing close games like these earlier in the season. We've been in these situations so many times that now our guys are able to hold their composure at the end of the game."

The Warriors opened their three-game winning streak with a 51-44 non-conference win at Hoffman Estates on Jan. 26. Willowbrook trailed the Hawks 28-18 at halftime but rallied to tie the score at 35-35 by the end of the third period.

Degnan led the Warriors in scoring with 17 points. He made six of nine field-goal attempts, including two of five shots from 3-point range. Clay, who made seven of 12 shots, added 15 points.

Willowbrook will continue its season with this Friday's conference game at Morton.

High scorer...

JOSIE ZABRAN (right) of the Willowbrook girls basketball team turned in the highest-scoring game of her varsity career when she poured in 25 points in last week's West Suburban Gold Conference game at Hinsdale South. Zabrán made 11 of 19 shots from the field and sank three of five free-throw attempts in the Jan. 27 game. The Hornets edged Willowbrook 53-50. Zabrán, a senior, also made a team-high eight rebounds for the Warriors, who outscored the Hornets 17-12 in the fourth quarter. Juniors Milena Sogura and Grace Chantos added seven and six points, respectively. The Warriors suffered another narrow loss to a conference opponent one night later, falling 42-38 to Addison Trail on Thursday in Villa Park. Zabrán once again led the Warriors in scoring with 21 points. She made seven of 12 field-goal attempts and sank seven of 10 free throws. Senior Alyssa Spada added eight points, while senior Kalyn Konrath grabbed 10 rebounds. The loss to the Blazers dropped the Warriors to 7-17 overall and 3-8 in conference play.

File photo by Chris Fox



Making progress...

File photo by Chris Fox

JUNIOR FREDDIE CLAY (above) helped the Willowbrook boys basketball team to three straight wins last week. The Warriors began the week with a 51-44 non-conference victory at Hoffman Estates on Jan. 26. Three nights later, the Warriors earned an 85-82 quadruple-overtime victory over Addison Trail in a West Suburban Gold Conference game in Villa Park. Willowbrook won its third straight game when it beat conference rival Hinsdale South 72-69 on Saturday. Clay scored 15 points against Hoffman Estates. He had 12 points and 11 assists against Addison Trail and poured in 20 points against Hinsdale South.



Addison Trail Wrestling Head Coach Rob Serio (center) is surrounded by members of the wrestling team. During the Senior Night match on Jan. 22, the team wore pink T-shirts with the words "Team Serio" on the back to show their for their coach. courtesy photo

Addison Trail grapplers lend support to head coach

Serio focuses on students despite personal challenges

ADDISON — Since 2004, Rob Serio has led the Addison Trail Wrestling Team as Head Coach — and his focus has always been to support the stu-

dent-athletes to develop them into well-rounded and successful individuals. "Wrestling teaches you a strong work ethic, respect, dedication and what it

means to belong to a family," Serio said.

On Jan. 22, his team certainly showed that family aspect of the sport. Serio has overcome personal challenges this year, as he recently lost his mother-in-law, Rosemary Sparrow, to lung cancer. His wife, Tina, also was diagnosed with breast cancer in July and recently completed her treatment.

Addison Trail senior Karim Fuentes came up with the idea to have T-shirts made in support of Serio. During the Senior Night wrestling match on Jan.

22 against Hinsdale South High School, the Addison Trail Wrestling Team wore pink T-shirts with the words "Team Serio" on the back.

The players huddled around Serio before the match, and he thanked them each with a hug.

"We're a tightknit group," said Nick Pingel, freshmen/sophomore wrestling coach. "Serio goes above and beyond for these students — he's here day and night, and he helps with the youth wrestling programs as well. The team wanted to show their thanks and support of Serio during this difficult time."



Paczki Day
is coming
February 9th!

Delicious Fresh Paczki at Kuppie's Bakery
To reserve your favorite flavors call in your order.

KUPPIE'S BAKERY
42 S. Villa Avenue in Villa Park 2 Blocks West of Rt. 83
Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 6am-5pm • Sunday 7:30am-2pm • Closed Mondays
630-832-0929

ESO to hold annual Stanger auditions Feb. 13

Public invited to enjoy performance of young artists

ELMHURST — The public is invited to attend the 2016 Dr. Robert Stanger Young Artists Auditions on Saturday, Feb. 13, at Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church, 149 W. Brush Hill Rd. in Elmhurst. Hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1-2:30 p.m. Those attending this free event may come and go throughout the day. Everyone is invited to attend a luncheon at Park Place from 12-1 p.m. The fee for the luncheon is \$22 per person; reservations are due by February 3. Please call the ESO office at 630-941-0202.

The auditions provide an opportunity for outstanding high school instrumentalists to gain recognition for their

efforts and compete for the opportunity to perform a concerto movement with the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra. Three judges offer written comments to the participants, who come from throughout the western suburbs.

Conducted by the Elmhurst Symphony Association in cooperation with the Elmhurst Kiwanis Club and the former Auxiliary of the ESO through its Eunice B. Sidener Scholarship, the annual Stanger Auditions were started in honor of the late Dr. Robert C. Stanger, who was president of Elmhurst College, a Kiwanian, and president of the Elmhurst Symphony Association.

Monetary awards are given to the four top instrumentalists; the first-place winner will perform with the ESO during its 2016-17 season.

For more information call 630-941-0202 or visit elmhurstsymphony.org.

DuPage Narcan Program records 100th life saved

Coroner: Saving 100 in two years shows progress in fight against heroin

WHEATON — The DuPage Narcan Program (DNP) recently passed a milestone by recording the 100th life saved since officers began administering Narcan® in 2014. There were 32 lives saved in 2014, 61 saves last year and seven so far in 2016.

The DNP was organized in 2013 in response to the alarming number of DuPage County deaths attributed to opiate overdoses, such as heroin. Training individuals to use Narcan began late in 2013.

“Reaching 100 saves in just two years shows that the DNP is making progress against the heroin epidemic in DuPage County, and that is a credit to the officers on the street using Narcan and the partners supporting DNP,” said County Coroner Dr. Richard Jorgensen.

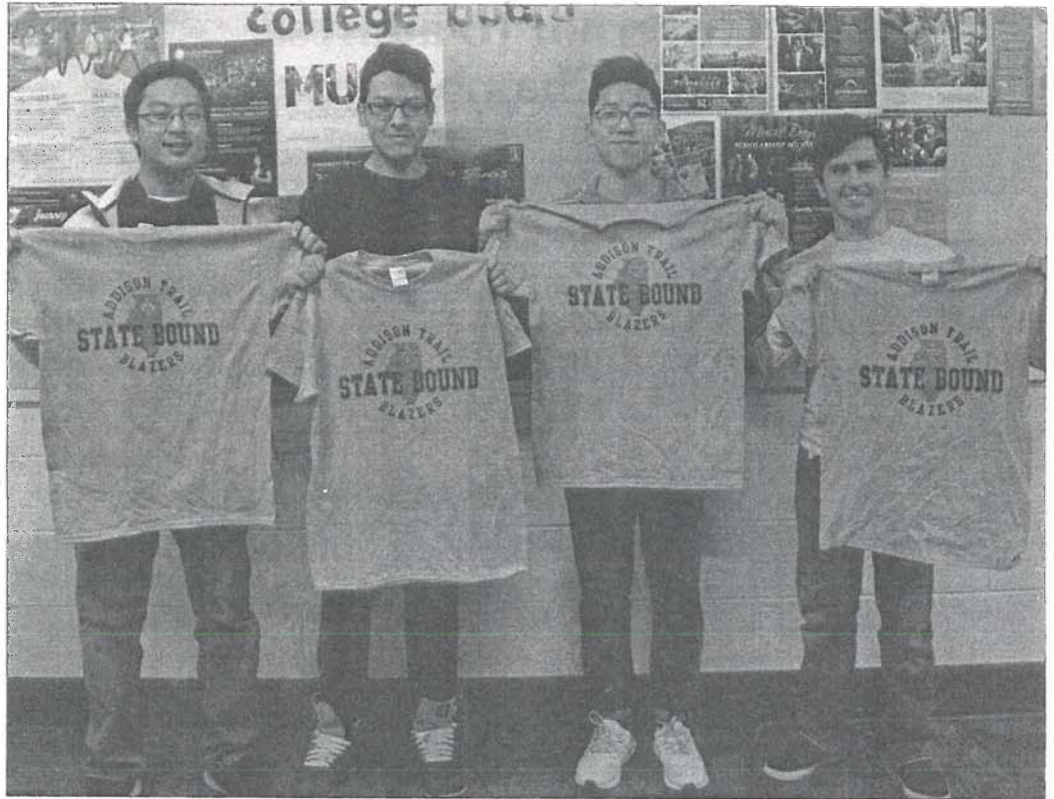
“Saving lives is our most important impact,” County Board Chairman Dan Cronin added. “We all agreed that even saving one life would make this program a success. The benefits are priceless to the families of the loved ones who have been saved.”

“One hundred lives is a remarkable accomplishment, but DNP is not resting on its laurels,” said Karen Ayala, executive director of the County Health Department. “This life-saving effort will continue, along with recovery assistance to those who have been saved so this cycle of drug abuse is broken.”

“Thanks to the DNP, 100 fewer funerals took place in DuPage County,” said County State’s Attorney Robert Berlin. “This success is directly attributable to the program’s many partners whose time and energy have literally provided those 100 individuals a second chance at life and saved their family and friends from a lifetime of pain and heartache.”

The DNP is a partnership among the DuPage County Police Chiefs Association, County Coroner Dr. Richard Jorgensen, County Sheriff John Zaruba, County State’s Attorney Robert Berlin, County Chairman Dan Cronin and the Health Department, which serves as DNP Project Director and Healthcare Professional.

Approximately 2,560 individuals (mostly police officers) have been trained to administer the inhalant Narcan to individuals who have overdosed. The DNP has received private contributions to help sustain this program.



Four AT students head to state music conference

courtesy photo

Pictured are the four Addison Trail students who will perform during the Illinois Music Education Association’s (ILMEA) Illinois Music Education Conference. They are (from left) junior Ryan Cabildo, senior JT Bonilla, senior Arthur Lee and senior Daniel Nowosad.



courtesy photos

Guitar Ensemble brings taste of high school to IT

Left: Dan O’Connell brought the Addison Trail High School Guitar Ensemble to Indian Trail Junior High School on Friday, Jan. 22 to perform for students in Mrs. Diehl’s general music classes. O’Connell shared information about the high school’s music program and classes that will be available to 8th graders when they start at ATHS next fall. The ensemble players introduced themselves and talked about the impact that guitar classes have had on them.

Ensemble comes to Indian Trail

Pictured at right are members of the Addison Trail Guitar Ensemble who recently performed for the 8th graders at Indian Trail Junior High to give them a taste of music programs available in high school.



SPORTS

Addison Trail boys basketball team splits pair of games

Blazers hold first 20 opponents to 47 points per game

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail boys basketball team split a pair of recent contests against Hinsdale South and Lane Tech.

The Blazers dropped a 48-44 West Suburban Conference Gold Division game to Hinsdale South.

"Hinsdale has a good team and I thought we had a really good effort against them," said Addison Trail coach Brendan

Lyons. "Turnovers hurt us a little, but defensively it was one of our better games of the year. We also had a good tempo offensively. They pulled away with about two-and-a-half minutes to play and we were able to cut it to four points with about 40 seconds left. I liked our energy and our defense."

Lyons also was pleased with how his team held Hinsdale South's star 6-foot-11-inch player to 12 points.

"He had no points in the first half," he said. "It was a good overall game for us. We just couldn't get shots to fall when we needed them to."

Addison Trail then downed Lane Tech 52-50 in overtime in non-conference action.

"It was a different setup for

us playing a Saturday night game," said Lyons. "I was worried about our energy coming off the Hinsdale South game. We didn't have the same burst."

Addison Trail led by 10 points with three minutes left. Lane Tech rallied and completed a 3-point play to take the lead with 14 seconds to play.

Addison Trail's Jack Kalbas hit two free throws to tie the game with six seconds left and send it to overtime.

"We got stops in the overtime when we needed them," said Lyons. "We had a couple of turnovers, a couple of defensive breakdowns and Lane Tech knocked down some shots and fortunes changed very quickly."

Ryan Zygowicz led the Blaz-

ers with 12 points in the Hinsdale South game. Colton Noel and Eric Grygo were cited for strong defensive games.

"They did a great job defensively," said Lyons. "I also really liked our energy on the glass."

Kalbas led Addison Trail with 17 points in the Lane Tech game.

"That was one of Jack's better games of the year," said Lyons. "He was really strong driving the ball to the basket."

Noel had nine points and nine rebounds. "He had back-to-back good performances," he said.

The split put Addison Trail at 11-9 overall and 2-3 in WSC Gold action.

"We took a step back to iden-

tify what team we need to be," said Lyons earlier last week. "In order to be successful we have to control the tempo, cycle through our offense and not turn the ball over, while playing multiple defenses."

Lyons noted Addison Trail was allowing 47 points per game through the first 20 contests.

"The last couple weeks we've done a good job of holding teams under 50 points," he said. "That's what we have to do to be successful. We don't have to be flashy. From the same standpoint, we know we can't get up and down with some of the teams we play. We know we have to grind it out on both ends. We're seeing that and it bodes well for us."

Addison Trail-Willowbrook boys swimming team places third at Shepard invite

Frosh-soph 200 free and 200 medley relay teams bring home titles

By Mike Miasma
Correspondent

Addison Trail-Willowbrook boys swimming coach Neil Wahlgren thought his team could have some success at the recent Shepard invitational.

He was right on the mark with his prediction after Addison Trail-Willowbrook placed third out of 11 teams there.

"We did a lot of different things well," said Wahlgren.

The Addison Trail-Willowbrook frosh-soph 200 freestyle and 200 medley relay teams won their respective races.

"I've been talking about how young this team is and these guys had a good opportunity to compete in this meet," said Wahlgren. "They won both relays and won both by a lot. It shows where our future is and it shows the swimmers how bright the future looks."

The winning frosh-soph 200 relay team included Mikey Strycharz (Addison Trail), Jacob Grygo (Addison Trail),

Evan Zimmerman (Addison Trail) and Jack Burns (Willowbrook).

The winning medley relay team was comprised of Zimmerman, Lucas Walsh (Addison Trail), Sam Ricchetti (Willowbrook) and Burns.

The Addison Trail 200 and 400 relay teams in the varsity races both placed third. The 400 team featured Ethan Wallace, Strycharz, Grygo and Burns, while the 200 team was comprised of Wallace, Strycharz, Grygo and Zimmerman.

Individually, Wallace took second in both the 50 and 100 races.

"This showed our guys what we are capable of doing," said Wahlgren. "It was a good meet and it was a lot of fun."

Addison Trail-Willowbrook also won a West Suburban Conference Gold Division meet at both levels against Morton.

"We had some good swims against Morton," said Wahlgren.

Addison Trail-Willowbrook is gearing up for Saturday's conference meet at Downers Grove South and the sectional meet two weeks after that at Lyons Township.

"I like where we are at right now," said Wahlgren. "Everybody is starting to get prepared

for conference and sectionals. We'll start to find out here what guys are going to be swimming at the end of the year. They've been training really hard toward that. They are excited that taper time is coming. They want to get to that end point and finish strong at the end of the season. All the pieces are coming together. We're still a young team. Our sectional lineup is going to be pretty young, but these guys are gaining important experience against other swimmers who are for the most part juniors and seniors. That experience is going to make us that much better next year and the year after."

Wahlgren said his team will be tested at both the conference and sectional meets.

"I think we have a chance to do pretty well at conference. We're excited about that," he said. "Our sectional is probably the best one in the state. Hinsdale Central won the state title last year and took second in the sectional and Lyons won the sectional last year. That kind of competition is going to make us that much better for next year and the year after. We're going to be going up against some of the top swimmers in the state. It's preparing us for the future."

Fenton wrestlers win Metro Suburban Conference tournament

Mencini wins second individual title in a row at 126 pounds

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The accolades continue to pile up for the Fenton wrestling team.

The Bison recently won the 11-team Metro Suburban Conference tournament with 243.5.

Fenton won the title by eliminating an 11-point deficit and wound up finishing eight points ahead of second-place Riverside-Brookfield.

Individually, Ryan Mencini won his second MSC tournament title at 126 pounds, while Daniel Warren pinned his Riverside-Brookfield opponent in the 138-pound final.

Nikko Castaneda used a last-second takedown to beat his Walther Christian opponent in the 160-pound final, while Dylan Butts earned a pinfall win in the 170-pound championship match.

Angel Nava placed second at 145 pounds, while Joe Garcia (220 pounds) and Isaiah Brock (285 pounds) also took second in their weight divisions.

Third-place conference fin-

ishers for Fenton included Manny Morales at 113 pounds, Sebastian Kaspar at 120 pounds, and Kacper Piskorz at 132 pounds.

Eddie Del Angel (152 pounds) and Victor Vargas (195) each won two matches in the tournament and placed fourth in their respective weight divisions.

"We had our most well-rounded tournament in recent years and received huge contributions from all 14 wrestlers," Fenton coach Brian Hastings said.

Fenton was 18-5 overall in dual meets through late last week. The Bison have won the MSC title four years in a row and seven times in the last nine seasons.

In earlier conference dual action, the Bison edged Riverside-Brookfield 38-29 in what Hastings called a "thriller."

Nava, Butts, Garcia and Brock had pinfall wins for Fenton against Riverside-Brookfield. Kaspar scored a key major-decision victory over his opponent, while Piskorz also scored a win and Castaneda recorded a last-second win.

Fenton is gearing up for hosting regionals on Saturday. "We are hoping to continue our strong season," said Hastings.

Blazers' girls basketball team defeats Willowbrook

Addison Trail girls gymnastics team records two wins

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail girls basketball team recently edged District 88 neighbor Willowbrook 42-38 in a West Suburban Conference Gold Division game in Villa Park.

Willowbrook led 14-12 after the first quarter, but Addison Trail used an 11-5 run in the second quarter to take a 23-19 lead into halftime. Willowbrook closed the advantage to 33-32 heading into the fourth quarter, but Addison Trail outscored the Warriors 9-6 in the final eight minutes.

Maria Koulogeorgas led the

Blazers with nine points. Nicolette Scorza added eight points, while Ismet Jasmin Mehmet had seven points and eight rebounds. Alyssa Pham had six points. Scorza also grabbed six rebounds. Diamond Pikulyk had four rebounds.

Addison Trail shot 41.5 percent from the field in the game.

Josie Zabran led Willowbrook with 21 points on 7 of 14 shooting from the field and 7-for-10 shooting from the free-throw line. She also had six rebounds. Alyssa Spada finished with eight points and five rebounds, while Kalyn Konrath had four points and a game-high 10 rebounds. Spada also had five assists. Konrath and Zabran each had two steals.

Addison Trail girls gymnastics

The Addison Trail girls gymnastics team recently recorded West Suburban Conference

Gold Division victories over Morton and Leyden.

"That's a positive for us moving forward," said Addison Trail coach Kyle Padera. "The team is coming together nicely at the end of the season."

Padera lauded the recent efforts of Kennedy O'Neill. "Kennedy of late has shown progressive willingness to lead and push her teammates," he said.

Addison Trail wrestling

The Addison Trail wrestling team has numerous individuals enjoying productive seasons on the mat.

Senior heavyweight Karim Fuentes was 26-2 through late last week. Freshman Guillermo was 15-10 at 106 pounds, while sophomore Mariano Chaidez was 15-15 at 120. Junior Andre Frontier was 13-9 at 145 pounds.

Youthful Fenton boys swimming team enjoying strong season

Bison have three top 10 finishes in invitationals

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Youth certainly isn't holding back the Fenton boys swimming team.

Head coach Al Pell and assistant coach Dan Hennebery have a roster of seven freshmen, two sophomores, two juniors and three seniors.

That group had a 3-2 record in dual meets through late last week and had invitational finishes of fourth, fifth and sixth place in fields of anywhere from eight to 16 teams.

"We have a young and developing team," said Pell.

Beyond the team place finishes, Fenton is making plenty of progress individually, Pell noted.

"I'm most impressed with the time drops and improvements our swimmers have achieved and the enthusiasm and dedication being displayed," he said.

Four Fenton freshmen on the team have lowered their times to only a few seconds off state-qualifying standards. That group includes Nik Fischer, Lucas Feddersen, Matt Janovsky and Conrad Oberski.

Pell added Fenton hasn't had a state qualifier in boys swimming in more than 10 years.

Pell also has been pleased with senior Cole Bush, the team's captain.

"Cole has shown good support and leadership that we will be losing to graduation along with seniors Michael Stewart and Alex Jordon," he said.

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DuPage Narcan Program records 100th life saved

Coroner: Saving 100 in two years shows progress in fight against heroin

WHEATON — The DuPage Narcan Program (DNP) recently passed a milestone by recording the 100th life saved since officers began administering Narcan® in 2014. There were 32 lives saved in 2014, 61 saves last year and seven so far in 2016.

The DNP was organized in 2013 in response to the alarming number of DuPage County deaths attributed to opiate overdoses, such as heroin. Training individuals to use Narcan began late in 2013.

“Reaching 100 saves in just two years shows that the DNP is making progress against the heroin epidemic in DuPage County, and that is a credit to the officers on the street using Narcan and the partners supporting DNP,” said County Coroner Dr. Richard Jorgensen.

“Saving lives is our most important impact,” County Board Chairman Dan Cronin added. “We all agreed that even saving one life would make this program a success. The benefits are priceless to the families of the loved ones who have been saved.”

“One hundred lives is a remarkable accomplishment, but DNP is not resting on its laurels,” said Karen Ayala, executive director of the County Health Department. “This life-saving effort will continue, along with recovery assistance to those who have been saved so this cycle of drug abuse is broken.”

“Thanks to the DNP, 100 fewer funerals took place in DuPage County,” said County State’s Attorney Robert Berlin. “This success is directly attributable to the program’s many partners whose time and energy have literally provided those 100 individuals a second chance at life and saved their family and friends from a lifetime of pain and heartache.”

The DNP is a partnership among the DuPage County Police Chiefs Association, County Coroner Dr. Richard Jorgensen, County Sheriff John Zaruba, County State’s Attorney Robert Berlin, County Chairman Dan Cronin and the Health Department, which serves as DNP Project Director and Healthcare Professional.

Approximately 2,560 individuals (mostly police officers) have been trained to administer the inhalant Narcan to individuals who have overdosed. The DNP has received private contributions to help sustain this program.

Conroy seeks signatures on petition endorsing SB 4382

VILLA PARK — Because hundreds of homebound seniors are being forced to go without delivered meals, state Rep. Deb Conroy, D-Villa Park, recently visited a senior center in the western suburbs to talk about her efforts to fund the Meals on Wheels program, which has faced substantial cutbacks due to the lack of a state budget.

“When people learn of the Meals on Wheels cutbacks, many are offering to help efforts to fund this life-saving program that provides food to home-bound seniors,” she said. “Seniors at the Glendale Heights Senior Center told me how important the Meals on Wheels program is to them, and I will continue working to gather support and petition signatures to properly fund the program.”

Conroy introduced House Bill 4382, a bill that would help ensure that seniors in DuPage County and across the state continue to receive the home-delivered meals that they rely on, after the DuPage Senior Citizens Council (DSCC) announced



photo provided
State Rep. Deb Conroy speaks with visitors at an area senior center as part of her efforts to gather support to pass House Bill 4382 and restore funding to Meals on Wheels.

that they would be cutting their community dining program and reducing their home-delivered meals from five to two meals per week, due to a lack of state funding. More than 1,000 people have signed online and paper petitions in support of the legislation.

To sign the online petition in support of the legislation for Meals on Wheels, visit: petitions.moveon.org/please-enact-hr-4382.

For a paper copy of the petition, call 630-415-3520 or email RepDebConroy@gmail.com.

Willowbrook hosts Author In The House

Farah Ahmedi shares journey from Afghanistan to Chicago

VILLA PARK — On Jan. 25, the Willowbrook Library Media Center hosted an Author in the House event and welcomed Farah Ahmedi, author of “The Other Side of the Sky.” Ahmedi visited the school with Alyce Litz, her friend and mentor.

“The Other Side of the Sky” is a memoir that shares Ahmedi’s journey from war to peace. It tells Ahmedi’s story of how she faced and overcame challenges and struggles as a refugee in Afghanistan and made her way to the Chicago suburbs and become a first-generation college graduate and mother of two.

“As a young girl in Afghanistan, (Ahmedi) always knew the power of education,” according to her web site. “She looked at the sky far above the walls of her family compound with awe and wonder at the multitude of stars. She looked up to her teacher and set the sky as her limit. One day on her way to school, she stepped on a landmine, and her life changed forever. (Ahmedi’s) story of loss, escape from her war-torn homeland and eventual journey to the United States is truly inspirational.”

After Ahmedi settled into her new American life, she started telling her incredible story of strength in the face of obstacles. In 2005, she won Good Morning America’s Story of My Life competition and subsequently had her memoir published.

During her time at Willowbrook, Ahmedi shared her story with students and encouraged them to enjoy life, never give up and work hard at their all-important education. Students also had an opportunity to ask Ahmedi questions about her experiences.

“The Other Side of the Sky” is available for purchase at Amazon.com



courtesy photo
Farah Ahmedi (right), author of “The Other Side of the Sky,” speaks with Willowbrook students during the school’s Author in the House event on Jan. 25. Pictured with her is Alyce Litz, her friend and mentor.



Pictured here with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause is senior Matt Rowland, who has been named the January recipient of 88's Best recognition.

courtesy photo

Matt Rowland named recipient of 88's Best award for January

VILLA PARK — Matt Rowland has been named as Willowbrook's January recipient of 88's Best recognition for his stellar involvement in extracurricular activities. Rowland, a senior, was recognized during the Jan. 25 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

As a student, Matt has consistently demonstrated high levels of performance and achievement, helping him earn membership into the Math Honor Society and recognition as a recipient of the Outstanding Freshman and Human Relations Awards. His contributions to Willowbrook and the greater community are evidenced by his leadership with the Warrior Code Committee and his organizing and implementing of the annual school-wide barbecue for students. Matt also has served as a role model to future Warriors by visiting local middle schools, volunteering for local charities and foundations and supporting his peers in the classroom.

But it is outside the classroom, specifically in wrestling, where one truly sees Matt's talents. He is a two-time State placer, earning a 5th-place and a 2nd-place finish, and he is the No. 1-ranked wrestler in Illinois in his weight division. Matt has been recognized as an All-Conference and an Academic All-Conference athlete each season, was a preseason USA Wrestling National Finalist and was named as a TribLocal Athlete of the Month.

Matt has not lost a Conference match throughout his high school career, and his only losses in the past three years have been to eventual State

champions. This season, Rowland has broken the all-time win record for Willowbrook Wrestling — he has 167 career wins, and that number is still increasing. He also holds the all-time takedown record for the school and continues to be recognized by his teammates as a Captain and team MVP.

"The amount of work he has put in to become the high-caliber athlete he has become is unmatched," said World Language teacher Cristy Hebreard. "It has been a great pleasure watching his high school career soar to such great heights. I know he is going to continue his amazing success at The University of North Carolina next year, and I cannot wait to watch."

Guidance Counselor Scott Forcash agreed. "Rowland's hard work and dedication have made him a leader among his peers," he said. "He is a hardworking student, who has always been focused on making the most of his high school experience. He has continued to challenge himself by taking classes that will prepare him for college and performs at a high level in the classroom. Rowland's accomplishments in wrestling are what have made him a persistent, determined and caring young man. But Rowland is not only an amazing athlete — he is an amazing role model as well."

Matt has accepted a scholarship to continue his education and wrestling career at The University of North Carolina. He plans to major in business and said wrestling will always be a part of his life as a competitor and eventually a coach.

Willowbrook to present winter play, 'To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday'

Performers offer their take on upcoming production

VILLA PARK — A new face has joined WillMaggie Kelly will make her directorial debut at the school when Willowbrook showcases its winter play, "To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday," from Feb. 11 to 13. But Kelly is no stranger to the stage, as she has directed several productions with local theatre groups.

"I've been an audience member here at Willowbrook for years, and I've always been impressed with the quality of the shows and the challenging material the school produces," she said. "I'm excited and honored to continue that tradition."

"To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday" is a drama that explores love and loss. It tells the story of David, who is struggling to move past the death of his wife, Gillian. He has alienated himself from his former life and has been neglecting his 16-year-old daughter, Rachel. As the second anniversary of Gillian's death approaches, his in-laws, Esther and Paul, make a drastic attempt to pull him

back to the land of the living. While the play deals with loss as an inevitable part of life, it also celebrates the enduring power of human relationships and the humor and love that is central to those bonds.

Kelly said the show contains adult themes and emotions and is intended for a PG-13 audience.

"I chose this play because I really wanted to show a story with strong female lead characters," she said. "I also wanted a script that would push the students to grow as actors, and this content certainly is challenging. The cast members have really stepped up and are doing a phenomenal job."

The play consists of a seven-person ensemble, and the cast has become a tightknit group.

"Our hope is audience members are moved in some way by this performance," said sophomore Bella Ledonne, who plays Gillian. "Everyone has been touched by grief, and we want them to connect with the relationships in the story and see themselves in our characters."

Senior Mariana Martens plays Esther, and she said one of the highlights has been working with Kelly.

"It's a great opportunity to

learn new techniques and to experience a new perspective," she said.

Martens added Kelly even had each actor write a biography about his or her character to develop the show.

Junior Anthony Clampit, who plays David, said each aspect of the production comes together to tell the story.

"Everything has a purpose — from the lighting and sound to the costumes and dialogue," Clampit said. "It all helps form the main theme of the play, which is dealing with loss. The message is to love the past, but don't hold on to it to the point where you can't move forward with life."

"To Gillian on Her 37th

Birthday" will be performed on Feb. 11, 12 and 13 at 7 p.m. at Willowbrook High School, 1250 So. Ardmore. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and children ages 12 to 17, \$3 with an Activity Pass and are free with a District 88 Senior Gold Card. To buy tickets visit, dupage88.net/site/public/files/?item=2702.



Junior Anthony Clampit (David) and sophomore Julia Cicero (Rachel) rehearse a scene from Willowbrook High School's winter play, "To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday."

courtesy photo

Willowbrook Key Club hosts annual Battle of the Bands

VILLA PARK — On Jan. 21, five bands competed in Willowbrook Key Club's annual Battle of the Bands event. Proceeds will benefit DuPage P.A.D.S.

The winning group was Fenced In, which is comprised of Willowbrook senior Meghan Foley, sophomore Caitlin Foley and senior Dominic Giase. As the top band, Fenced In will receive studio time to record a song at Coerce Recording in Villa Park.

Other participating bands were:

Thunder Elephant: WB senior Steven Ponce, senior John Campobasso and senior Ryan Setaram;

Cokeanul: WB senior Zachary Boehm, senior Noah Nagle and Taylor Bradfield (a student at Glenbard West High School);

Warrior Rockband: WB senior Matt Keenan, senior Henry McCarthy, junior Matt Sulla, junior David Stoffle, junior Emily Kreiman and junior Rylan Martins;

Land Lines: Boehm, Campobasso and senior David Chernov.



Pictured are the other four bands that took part in the WB Key Club's Battle of the Bands. (top left) Thunder Elephant; (middle left) Cokeanul; (bottom left) Warrior Rockband; and (above) Land Lines.



photos provided

On Jan. 21, five bands competed in Willowbrook Key Club's annual Battle of the Bands event. Pictured is the winning band Fenced In, a group comprised of (from left) senior Meghan Foley, sophomore Caitlin Foley and senior Dominic Giase.



WB Speech Team earns awards at recent tournament

VILLA PARK — On Jan. 23, the Willowbrook Speech Team competed in a tournament at John Hersey High School and finished in 9th place (out of 18 schools).

Below are the team's individual results from the tournament.

Dramatic Duet Acting: Junior Tim Wagner and sophomore Bella Ledonne, finalists; sophomore Julia Cicero and sophomore Kathleen Cicero, 4th place;

Improvisational Duet Acting: Senior Michael Bailey and junior Anthony Clampit, 6th place;

Humorous Interpretation: Sophomore Genevieve Corkery, 4th place;

Original Oratory: Senior Zaa-kirah Mujid, 3rd place;

Special Occasion Speaking: Clampit, 4th place.

OBITUARIES

Lorraine "Lolly" Torrence, 82

Lorraine E. "Lolly" Torrence, nee Hinrich, of Villa Park, passed away recently at the age of 82. Beloved wife of Kenneth, loving mother of Michael (Cynthia), Cindy (Mark) Klemp and the late Terry (Roxanne) and Sherry (Scott) Gelling, dear grandmother of nine, great grandmother of six. Visitation was held Sunday Jan 31, 2016, at Steuerle Funeral Home, 350 S. Ardmore Ave, Villa Park. Service and Interment private. Arrangements provided by Steuerle Funeral Home. Call (630) 832-4161 or visit steuerlefh.com for more information.

Salvatore J. Sperandeo, Sr., 88

Salvatore J. Sperandeo, Sr., formerly of Villa Park, passed away recently at the age of 88. Beloved husband of the late Connie, loving father of Michael (Yvonne), Carmelita (Frank) Chavez, Salvatore, Jr. (Gary Luehr) and the late Barbara Sperandeo Burns (survived by Jeff Burns). Dearest grandfather of seven, great-grandfather of 10, great-great-grandfather of two, dear uncle of many. Funeral service was held Saturday Jan 30, 2016 at Steuerle Funeral Home 350 S. Ardmore Ave, Villa Park. Private Entombment at Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Arrangements provided by Steuerle Funeral Home. Call (630) 832-4161 or visit steuerlefh.com for more information.

Library's Sunday movie schedule announced

VILLA PARK — There is a movie series that takes place at the Villa Park Public Library twice a month on Sundays through the spring. Admission is free and no registration is required, so please feel free to drop in.

Each film begins at 1:30 p.m. Refreshments are served (usually from Kuppies Bakery) or occasionally, one of the regulars brings homemade treats. There is always hot water for tea, hot chocolate, available, plus Coke, and other soft drinks. A discussion usually follows the film.

Upcoming titles include:

Feb. 14, 2016
Rope (1948) 80 min

Feb. 28, 2016
Next Stop Wonderland (1998) 96 min R

March 13, 2016
Tucker: A Man and his Dream (1988) 111 min PG

March 20, 2016
Snow Falling on Cedars (1999) 128 min PG-13

April 10, 2016
Capote (2005) 116 min R
April 24, 2016
Goin' South (1978) 106 min PG-13

May 1, 2016
Criminal (2004) 87 min R
May 15, 2016
Unbroken (2014) 137 min PG-13

COLLEGE

NEWS

Resident makes Dean's list

Addison resident Vanessa Spilotro has been named to the College of Art and Science's Dean's list at Loyola University in Chicago for the first semester of the 2015-16 academic year.

We want to print your news!
What's new with you and your grad?
Special awards and recognition, Dean's list, graduations, scholarships, further education at graduate or professional schools... send your college news to independent@rvpublishing.com or FAX to (630)350-7787.

• **CALENDAR**

Continued from page 7

ness Group. Guests invited as early as 10:30 a.m. for coffee, pastries, and fellowship. The Villa Park Senior Concerns Commission will sponsor lunch for attendees immediately following the presentation.

• **Magic Class**

From 4-4:45 p.m., kids ages 5-12 are invited to the Iowa Center for a Magic Class, to learn tricks with cards, ropes, coins, mind-reading and more from a professional magician. All materials provided; each participant gets a magic kit to take home. Pre-registration is required. Info: 630-834-8525 or go online to: vprd.org

Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 11 to 13

WBHS presents "To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday"

Beginning at 7 p.m. each evening, members of the Willowbrook drama department will perform its winter play, "To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday" at the high school, 1250 So. Ardmore. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and children ages 12 to 17, \$3 with an Activity Pass and are free with a District 88 Senior Gold Card. To buy tickets, go to dupage88.net/site/public/files/?item=2702

See MORE CALENDAR, Page 23

PUBLIC NOTICE

Continued from previous page

SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 40 NORTH, RANGE 10, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO SAID TAMARAC ASSESSMENT PLAT NO. 6 RECORDED JUNE 16, 1992 AS DOCUMENT R92-114233, IN DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

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PIN: 02-24-211-030

The person to contact regarding information regarding this property is: Sales Dept., The Wirbicki Law Group, 33 W. Monroe St., Suite 1140, Chicago, IL 60603. Any questions regarding this sale should refer to file number W15-1159. The terms of the sale are Cash. 10% at time of sale, with the balance due within 24 hours. The property is improved by: Single Family Home. The Property is not open for inspection prior to sale.

The real estate, together with all buildings and improvements thereon, and tenements, hereditament and appurtenances thereunto belonging shall be sold under such terms.

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6183392

(Published in the Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent & Villa Park Independent Feb. 4, 11 & 18, 2016)

233148

Willowbrook girls bowling team readies for postseason

Warriors receiving contributions from numerous young bowlers

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook girls bowling team recently wrapped up the West Suburban Conference regular season.

The Warriors dropped their final dual meet to Downers Grove North.

However, assistant coach

Kevin Allen continues to see improvements throughout the roster.

Sophomore Dana Sasenick was averaging 168 per game in conference matches through late last week. Her high game this season is a 239 and she has a high series of 554.

"Dana is having a great year," said Allen.

Sophomore Betsy Soriano also continues to improve. Allen noted Soriano had a recent stretch where she averaged 153 per game, 23 pins higher than her average.

"Betsy has been improving every week," said Allen.

Allen noted freshman Katie Pettinger has made strides with her technique and spare shooting. In a recent three-meet stretch, Pettinger averaged 149, which is 20 pins higher than her yearly average.

Allen also has been pleased with the team's approach to bowling strategy. "We're improving on shot-making," he said. "They are making sure their first shot is online and on target so if they miss anything it can be an easier spare."

Team chemistry also has been a big plus for the Warriors this season. "I like how

the team always is behind each other," said Allen. "The group always is pulling for one another to try and have the best score possible. Even when they are on different lanes they still are giving each other compliments."

Willowbrook competed in the Leyden invitational last weekend and will head to the Hinsdale South regional at Willowbrook Lanes in Darien Saturday to kick off the postseason.

"As a young team this year has gone well for us," said Allen. "The future looks very bright."

IC Catholic Prep competitive dance team qualifies for state again

Knights finish ninth in 1A; Made fourth state appearance in a row

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Senior leadership in any high-school sport is a valuable commodity.

And this year the IC Catholic Prep competitive dance team had that senior leadership in spades.

Of the nine dancers on the floor for the Knights, five are seniors. That senior leadership combined with a talented roster helped IC Catholic Prep qualify for this past weekend's IHSA state finals in Bloomington for a fourth year in a row. The Knights, who won the 2012 Team Dance Illinois lyrical state championship, finished ninth in this past weekend's Class 1A competition at US Cellular Coliseum. IC Catholic Prep placed eighth in prelims at state with an 84.06 and qualified for the final round of competition, where it ended in 9th with a score of 83.48.

Additionally, many of the dancers on this year's Knights squad had previous experience in the state meet. The Knights are led by senior team captains Claudia Koch, Maevae Gillette and Clare Ryan.

"This year we've been strong because of the large number of seniors we have," IC Catholic Prep coach Elyse Skalka said. "We have a small team with 11 dancers and nine on the floor. And then five of those nine on the floor are seniors. They have the experience throughout the years. That's helped them become strong leaders and they've helped show the under-

"This is because of coach Skalka. She puts in so much time, work and dedication."

— Maevae Gillette

classmen what they need to do to be strong competitors."

IC Catholic Prep's dance routine at state this year was called FIRE. The routine is performed to the song "Fire" by Dolce.

"It's a very technical jazz piece," said Skalka earlier last week. "It's high energy and it's quick and it incorporates a lot of technical skills. The past couple years we've done jazz, but this year is different. It's much more straight-forward and much more technical. The precision and synchronizing has to be there every time to get the impact from it. This year we have a pretty difficult turn sequence in there as a full team. This year we've been hitting it almost every competition. It's difficult to have every girl hit at the exact same time. Every girl in the routine has to be in unison to make it look the way it's supposed to look."

Gillette agreed with her coach's assessment on the routine.

"It's definitely the hardest dance that has been choreographed for us," she said. "It's

really upbeat and there is a lot of teamwork that has to go on. Individually you have to be so exact and almost perfect with every move. It's extremely difficult to get everyone in sync, but we've done a great job with it. We keep progressing."

Koch added: "I like how it's upbeat. We do so well with upbeat routines. It's an upbeat, sassy jazz routine. It gets us pumped up and it makes us stand out from the other teams."

Koch said the Knights have benefitted this year due to some of the girls having that previous postseason experience.

"This is our fourth year in the IHSA competition and we have more experience now," she said. "We know what they want and we have a routine that we think will do well at the state meet."

IC Catholic Prep's road to the state finals was an impressive one. The Knights won invitational titles at Mundelein, South Elgin and Plainfield and also took second out of 14 teams at the Eisenhower invitational and placed second at the Metro Suburban Conference meet, making it the top Class 1A team in the conference. The Knights advanced to state after a strong showing at the sectional competition.

At the conference meet, Koch, Gillette and Ryan earned all-conference accolades.

"It's been a difficult season," said Skalka. "A lot of other teams have upped their games. It hasn't been the easiest. The girls have worked hard to place first and second in these invitationals. The only team to beat us at the conference meet was Fenton and they are a Class 2A team. We've been able to compete against some high-level teams."

Skalka is no stranger to the

dance game. Skalka is a former member of Purdue University's dance team. She joined the Knights' coaching staff in 2010 and had led the team to the state meet every year. Assistant coach Riyona Abraham also has a long list of competitive dancing achievements.

"This is because of coach Skalka," said Gillette. "She puts in so much time, work and dedication. She's danced throughout our her life and knows what to do and how to coach. She knows so much and shares that knowledge with us and that helps us become better dancers."

Koch added: "we're even more excited because we did this for our coach. She's done so much for all of us. She makes us the best we can be."

Skalka added another key component to the team's success this season has been the unity throughout it.

"This team is special in the sense they all are close-knit," she said. "They trust each other and they get along with each other. The seniors lead by example and the underclassmen look up to those girls. This is a team that doesn't get nervous or stressed out. They go do it and have a great time performing and dancing. They don't freak out. They just go out there and do what they love to do and what they want to do."

Gillette said she couldn't ask for a better way to cap off her high school dance career.

"It's all I was hoping for this year," she said earlier last week. "It means a lot. This is probably the last time I will perform in a team competition. It's very special because I'm doing it with this team. It means even more because of that. This is my favorite team."