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VOL. 18 • NO. 9

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THURSDAY, FEB. 17, 2022



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

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A huge win for the Warriors

Willowbrook's boys basketball team defeated Proviso East 79-77 in Saturday night's West Suburban Gold Conference game in Villa Park. The Warriors trailed the visiting Pirates by 12 points at one point in the third quarter. Willowbrook trimmed Proviso East's lead to 58-57 by the end of the third quarter. The Warriors held a 76-69 lead with 1:25 to play, but the Pirates made a late comeback and had a chance to send the game into overtime with a last-second shot. The shot from the baseline missed. An attempt at a tip-in rolled around the rim but did not fall through the hoop. Willowbrook's bolstered student section then flooded the court to join the players' victory celebration. The Warriors improved to 19-9 overall and 9-2 in conference play following Saturday's win. Proviso East's conference record dropped to 9-2. Willowbrook will complete its conference season with this week's home game against Addison Trail. For more about the Warriors, see Page 5.



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AAUW offers returning student scholarships for women

Deadline to submit applications is April 15

The AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch is offering three scholarships of \$3,000 each to women from the communities of Elmhurst, Addison, Bensenville, Berkeley, Northlake, Oak Brook, Oakbrook Terrace, or Villa Park who need financial assistance to continue education at the undergraduate or graduate level.

An applicant may be studying full or part time. Besides being from one of the above communities, the applicant must be continuing her education after completing at least 12 credit hours at an accredited college or university and be age 25 or older. The AAUW mission is to advance

equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research at both the national and local levels.

Funds for these scholarships come from the Used Book Sale that AAUW hosts each summer.

The 2021 Used Book Sale was so successful that the organization is pleased to be able to offer three scholarships this year.

Scholarship requirements as well as the application form for the scholarship can be found on the AAUW website: www.aauwelmhurst.org.

The application deadline is Friday, April 15.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Special seniors

Willowbrook High School's dance team performed during halftime of Saturday's boys basketball game against Proviso East. The performance highlighted the dance team's seniors. Pictured left to right are seniors Ava Cappitelli, Nelly Irion, Coco Bernardi, Sabrina Corso and Olivia Ehrhardt. On Jan. 29, Willowbrook's dance team earned a ninth-place finish in the Class 2A level of the IHSA competitive dance state meet in Bloomington.



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Warriors edge Proviso East 79-77 in a thriller

Willowbrook remains in the hunt for conference title

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook boys basketball team kept its hopes of winning the West Suburban Gold Conference title alive with Saturday night's thrilling 79-77 conference victory over Proviso East in Villa Park.

The Warriors needed to win the game to stay in the hunt for the conference title. Willowbrook improved its conference record to 9-2 with the victory, while Proviso East dropped to 9-2 in the West Suburban Gold standings. Morton, which beat Proviso East on Friday night, is also battling for the conference championship.

Willowbrook split its two conference series against Proviso East and Morton, losing to both teams on the road, but beating the Pirates and Mustangs in Villa Park. Proviso East split its two conference games against Morton.

The Warriors improved their overall season record to 19-9 with Saturday's win. One night before beating Proviso East, Willowbrook earned a 72-58 conference win at Leyden.

Saturday's win over the Pirates gave the Warriors a 14-1 record since the start of the new year. Willowbrook's only loss of 2022 is an 82-74 setback in a conference game at Proviso East on Jan. 21.

In addition to beating Willowbrook in January, the Pirates defeated the Warriors 75-60 in the championship game of St. Charles East High School's Thanksgiving tournament. Proviso East got off to a good start in its attempt to earn its third win of the season over Willowbrook. The Pirates led the Warriors 22-13 through one quarter of Saturday's game.

Willowbrook cut the Pirates' lead to 39-34 by halftime. A Proviso East player scored the final points of the first half by diving to the floor, grabbing a loose ball and making a shot while seated on the court.

The Pirates' lead grew to 48-36 with 5:40 left in the third quarter. A 3-point shot from Willowbrook senior Marquel Saleek reduced Proviso East's lead to 50-43. Saleek's driving basket dropped the lead to 52-49 with 2:20 left in the quarter. Senior Evan Stubblefield's layup sliced the Pirates' lead to 52-51.

An offensive rebound and basket from senior Alex Simmons gave the Warriors a 55-54 lead with 1:10 to play in the third quarter. The Pirates regained the lead and held a 58-57 advantage with eight minutes to play.

"When you play Proviso East, both teams are going to go on runs," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins after Saturday's game. "You've just got to continue to stick with it. The game goes so fast; the runs are bound to happen."

Willowbrook junior Isaac Sobieszczyk broke a 65-65 tie by sinking a 3-point shot with 4:55 remaining in the fourth quarter. About 20 seconds later, junior Joey Tumilty scored a basket to give the Warriors a 70-65 lead. An inside basket from senior Noah Campbell extended Willowbrook's lead to 74-66 with about



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park Review
Willowbrook's boys basketball team defeated Proviso East 79-77 in Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference game in Villa Park. The Warriors needed to win the game to have a chance to win or share the conference title. Senior Evan Stubblefield (above - No. 1) scored a team-leading 24 points for the Warriors in Saturday's win. Senior Marquel Saleek (right - No. 3) supplied 19 points. Junior Joey Tumilty (far right - No. 20) provided all five of his points during the fourth quarter. Willowbrook improved to 19-9 overall and 9-2 in conference play following Saturday's win over the Pirates. The Warriors have won 14 of 15 games since the start of the new year. Willowbrook is completing its conference season with this week's home game against Addison Trail.

three minutes to play.

Stubblefield made a pair of free throws to give the Warriors a 76-69 edge with 1:25 remaining. Seconds later, Proviso East delivered a three-point play to trim the lead to 76-72. Campbell sank two free throws to move Willowbrook's lead to 78-72 with 1:08 on the clock. Moments later, Campbell fouled out of the game. Saleek had already fouled out; he committed his fifth foul with 3:40 to play.

The Pirates produced a three-point play that cut the Warriors' lead to 78-75 with 46.2 seconds on the clock. A steal and basket from Proviso East dropped Willowbrook's lead to 78-77 with 16 seconds to play.

Tumilty made one of two free throws with 9.6 seconds to play to give the Warriors a 79-77 lead. The Pirates brought the ball down the court and called a time out with 5.6 seconds remaining. After inbounding the ball, Proviso East missed a baseline shot that could have tied the game. An attempted tip-in rolled around the rim but did not fall through the hoop. The Warriors then converged at the middle of the court to celebrate their exciting win. Willowbrook's student section poured onto the court to join in the celebration.

Stubblefield scored a team-leading



24 points for the Warriors in Saturday's exciting victory. He sank a pair of 3-point shots and converted all six of his attempts from the free-throw line. Stubblefield provided seven points during the fourth quarter by draining two baskets, including a shot from 3-point range, and a pair of free throws.

"Evan did it all tonight," said Perkins. "He was hitting threes, making plays. He was huge."

Saleek contributed 19 points, in-

cluding 13 points during the third quarter. Campbell provided 15 points. Sobieszczyk scored seven points. Tumilty delivered all five of his points during the fourth quarter. Simmons and senior Terrell Walker both scored four points. Senior Me'Kal Thompson scored one point with a fourth-quarter free throw.

Saleek made 12 of 14 free throws and scored 23 points in Friday's win at Leyden. Walker supplied 18 points, while Campbell scored 13



points for the Warriors, who led the Eagles 22-10 after one quarter and 38-19 at halftime.

The Warriors recently learned they will open the IHSA Class 4A post-season at the Glenbard West Regional. Willowbrook will face York in a regional semifinal game on Feb. 23. The winner of that contest will likely face Glenbard West in the regional final on Feb. 25. The highly regarded Hilltoppers are expected to contend for the Class 4A state title.

Willowbrook Warriors end regular season with a loss to Lyons Township

Both teams posted perfect 12-0 records during the conference season; Warriors won Gold title, while Lions claimed Silver championship

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls basketball team finished its regular season with last week's West Suburban Conference crossover game against Lyons Township at Addison Trail. The Lions defeated Willowbrook 61-48 in the matchup between the first-place teams in the conference's two divisions.

Willowbrook won the West Suburban Gold championship with a perfect 12-0 record during the regular season. Lyons Township claimed the West Suburban Silver title with an unblemished 12-0 record.

Willowbrook's overall season record fell to 21-5 following the Feb. 9 loss to Lyons Township. The Warriors will open the IHSA Class 4A post-season by hosting this week's regional in Villa Park. A win over Conant in a regional semifinal game would send Willowbrook to tonight's regional final, which would likely be played against St. Charles East.

The Warriors trailed the Lions 13-12 through one quarter of last week's battle at Addison Trail. Willowbrook outscored the Lions 24-16 in the second quarter to take a 36-29 halftime lead.

Lyons Township held the Warriors to seven points in the third quarter. The Lions led Willowbrook 46-43 at the end of the quarter. Lyons Township, which made four shots from 3-point range in the second half, expanded its lead during the fourth quarter.

Senior Sophie Sullivan scored a team-leading 16 points for the Warriors in the loss to the Lions. She made all six of her attempts from the free-throw line. Sophomore Elle Bruschuk provided 11 points, including a pair of 3-point shots.

Bruschuk also grabbed eight rebounds. Sophomore Calli Kenny supplied 10 points and eight rebounds. Freshman Hannah Kenny added nine points.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publish

Warriors compete at sectional

Willowbrook's girls gymnastics team competed in last week's Glenbard West Sectional in Glen Ellyn. The Warriors posted a sixth-place score of 136.85 in the event, which featured six teams. DeKalb won the sectional title with a score of 145.0. Glenbard West (143.675) finished second. Willowbrook senior Bella Naumovsky earned multiple individual berths in this week's IHSA state meet with her strong performances at the sectional. The top five finishers in each sectional event automatically qualified for the state meet, which will take place at Palatine High School. Naumovsky earned a second-place score of 9.375 on the uneven bars at the sectional. She delivered another second-place effort on the balance beam with her score of 9.25. Naumovsky is pictured (above, far right) during her balance beam routine. Naumovsky earned an individual state-meet berth on the vault by tying for fourth place with her score of 9.225.

Naumovsky also advanced to the state meet's all-around competition by producing a second-place all-around score of 36.575 at the sectional. Willowbrook senior Te Placek is pictured (above right) during her floor exercises routine. Placek earned 17th-place score of 8.825 for her performance. She finished 17th in the meet's all-around standings with her score of 33.4. Junior Sarah Ball of the Warriors is also pictured (above left) at the conclusion of her floor exercises routine at last week's sectional. Ball tied for 21st in the event with her score of 8.75. She placed 22nd in the all-around competition with her total of 32.15. Ball's all-around total included a 15th-place score 9.025 on the vault. Pictured (left to right) behind Ball at the end of her floor exercises routine are: junior Hanna Mitrick, sophomore Mia McBride, junior Molly Morris, Placek and Naumovsky.

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The Chicago cop who killed the young man with 16 bullets needs to face other murder charges. He shot him like a rabid animal. What some people don't get about Biden choosing a black woman is that there is still an undercurrent of racism in our country and somebody has to stop and do what is right. We need to continue to wear masks because the states around us do not have the dense population we have. Think about it—there is more space per person in every state around us. Our governor is stating that Illinois will not participate in limiting voters' rights like so many other states; it is not happening here and he will make sure of it.

I put the blame for what's happening in our schools regarding the temporary restraining order that invalidated the mask mandates squarely at the feet of JB Pritzker. Pritzker has insisted on these school mask mandates while schools in each of the states that border Illinois do not have such mandates. Our schools and teachers are caught in the middle of all this because of Pritzker. Having said that, it doesn't excuse the reports of harassment and disciplinary action I've heard going on inside schools, throughout the state, directed at students who have chosen not to wear masks in class. Our state representatives and senators have done nothing throughout this pandemic except go along with Pritzker's authoritarian mandates. Why do we have a state legislature at this point? There's the old adage "you get what you pay for." Well, in the case of Pritzker, you got what you voted for—an arrogant billionaire who's out of touch with average working families and their children.

Let me get this straight—there are people who have had three vaccinations, and they are wearing masks. These people think that despite that, they are at risk by being around people who aren't wearing masks. Does that make any sense? These people think vaccines and masking are effective, but they could get COVID from being around an unmasked person.

If you think Pritzker is "following the science" by lifting mask mandates at the end of February, but continuing to require masks in schools, you are beyond help.

As the left continues to hyperventilate over Joe Rogan and Donald Trump, it got me thinking. I'd love

to see a Trump-Rogan ticket in 2024 just to really drive the left, CNN and MSNBC nuts!

I find it amusing when regressive leftists accuse individuals, groups, organizations, certain politicians and the Republican Party itself of being a threat to "our democracy" if they happen to protest something the left supports, such as mask and vaccine mandates. The current trucker protests in Canada is a prime example. One of the left's interpretations of "our democracy" often means having so-called "independent fact-checkers" censor or take down opposing points of view on Twitter, YouTube and Facebook that don't fit their narrative. I'd be willing to bet these "independent fact-checkers" are all indoctrinated leftists.

Effective Feb. 28 the governor will lift the mask mandate, except for schools. So school-age people can go to church, out to dinner, a concert, a movie theater, a Bulls game or a party without a mask. But they have to wear a mask in school? Remember this is science, not politics. Teacher unions have nothing to do with this, right?

Who knew Biden's abysmal approval ratings were the cure to the pandemic? His ratings fall below 40 percent, and the restrictions are lifted. Follow the science!

What's the average age of public school teachers in our area? 35? Maybe 40? I know a lot of teachers in their 20s, and I'm not sure if there are any elderly teachers. Many of them seem to be retiring by age 60 these days. Most teachers are not in the high-risk age group for being affected by COVID-19. Why are some of them so afraid of unmasked kids? It seems like some teachers think they're playing Russian roulette by being around unmasked kids.

A good read is "The First Shots" by Brendan Borrell, from 2021, outlining an "unknown" virus in China, getting vaccines to the public and how scientists were scrambling to come up with a "treatment." Because the number of key players/bureaucracy/in-fighting (the president, politicians, scientists and doctors) and dollars spent is so mind-boggling, it is a wonder the vaccines were ever produced and made public so quickly. But the one thing that struck me right away was this: It was thought that for a vaccine to be really effective, there had to be a threshold of "herd im-

munity," which some people against vaccines believe is more necessary than a vaccine. However, "Vaccinating people was like thinning a forest to prevent wildfires." The problem was, the experts theorized, the more contagious the virus, the higher the threshold for herd immunity. They estimated 70 percent of the population needed to be vaccinated or have antibodies already. So, some people would have to get the virus to protect others. And this was before omicron, which is more contagious than the other variants. Thanks, anti-vaxxers, for making some of us the sacrificial lambs by getting the virus.

We're almost two years into a virus that's killed exactly zero children in DuPage County. This is not the first virus in history. Does any-

one think viruses don't circulate in schools? If you think wearing a blue napkin or a handkerchief over your face helps protect you from a virus, be my guest. But most of us are done with these useless mandates.

In the 1950s and '60s, Martin Luther King greatly helped to bring about racial integration, which has turned many things around. In Washington now, there is no attempt to integrate change into bipartisanship. The Senate and the House are pretty equal with left-wing Democrats and right-wing Republicans. It would be better if people had to alternate seats and sit next to a person of the other party. That way they could promote more independent opinions and exchange ideas. They are all Americans first.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS/Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors end regular season

Willowbrook's girls basketball team finished its regular season with last week's 61-48 loss to Lyons Township in a West Suburban Conference crossover game at Addison Trail. The Feb. 9 game between the Warriors and Lions featured the champions of the conference's Gold and Silver divisions. Willowbrook won the Gold championship with a perfect 12-0 record. Lyons Township posted a 12-0 record to win the Silver title. Senior Sophie Sullivan (above - No. 1) scored 16 points for the Warriors in last week's game against the Lions. Sophomore Elle Bruschuk (below - No. 33) added 11 points. The Warriors, who finished the regular season with an overall record of 21-5, opened the IHSA Class 4A post-season by hosting a regional contest this week. A win over Conant in the Feb. 14 regional semifinal contest would propel Willowbrook to tonight's regional final in Villa Park.



Warriors take sixth at Hinsdale South Sectional

Porro earns individual berth in the state meet

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls bowling team finished sixth in the team results of Saturday's 12-team IHSA Hinsdale South Sectional at Bowlero Lanes in Woodridge. The top five teams at each of the state's six sectionals advanced to the IHSA state meet, which will take place this week at the Cherry Bowl in Rockford.

York won the Hinsdale South Sectional's team title with its overall score of 5,746. Morton (5,444), Metea Valley (5,388) and Down Grove South (5,368) joined York qualifying for the state meet. Rear (5,224) placed fifth in the sections team standings, while Willowbrook landed in sixth place with its total 5,184.

Willowbrook sophomore Jacquelyn Porro earned an individual berth in this week's state meet by finishing among the top five individuals at the sectional who weren't members of state-qualifying teams. Porro rolled a six-game score of 1,161 at the sectional, which was good for eighth place overall in the event's individual standings. She placed third among all individual bowlers at the sectional who weren't part of a state-qualifying team.

Porro opened the sectional by rolling a 238 in her first game. She added scores of 190 and 150 in her next two games. Porro rolled scores of 180 both her fourth and fifth games of the sectional. She completed the event with a 223 in her sixth game.

Junior Brianna Smalling of Willowbrook rolled a six-game sectional total of 1,105 to finish 18th among individuals at the event. She placed eighth among the individuals who weren't members of state-qualifying teams. Smalling bowled her best game of the sectional in her open game, when she fired a 222. Sophomore Olivia Williams fired a six-game total of 1,019 for the Warriors to place 36th among all individuals at the sectional. Williams bowled a 223 in her fifth game of the sectional.

Choose DuPage releases economic indicators report

By Dee Longfellow
FOR THE INDEPENDENT

The economic development alliance known as Choose DuPage has recently issued its economic indicators report for 2021.

Beginning with unemployment, in Quarter 4, the unemployment rate in DuPage County dropped from 5.3% in the previous quarter to 3%. This is the lowest unemployment rate in northern Illinois. The rate for the state of Illinois is 4.3% and 3.7% for the entire United States.

Counties neighboring DuPage had the following rates of unemployment: Cook 5.0%, Lake 4.0%, Kane 4.4%, Kendall 3.3%, and Will 4.1%.

Unemployment insurance claims were relatively flat through most of 2019, making a small uptick at the end of the year after COVID-19 surfaced. In the year 2020, claims skyrocketed in March and April. In February of 2020, 1,823 claims were filed, but in March the number went

to 29,794 and in April to 36,813. The number of claims fell off over the next few months with 18,009 in May, 11,093 in June, 7,793 in July, 5,450 in August and 5,542 in September. The numbers began to spike again toward the end of the year and into 2021. Claims reached 15,615 in October, 16,533 in November and 33,862 in December. Then in 2021, there were 28,284 in January, 19,312 in February, and 13,093 in March, then leveled off more or less through the remainder of the year as follows: 3,528 in April, 5,449 in May, 7,637 in June, 4,532 in July, 4,203 in August, 1,849 in September, 1,474 in October, 2,168 in November, 3,043 in December.

Jobs and the workforce

DuPage County is home to nearly 90,000 businesses that are taking advantage of skilled and educated workforce. Together these companies represent 607,056 jobs across a

variety of industries. Total employment in 2021 was 607,056; the labor force size was 512,380. Top industry sectors are 1) health care and social assistance, 2) professional, scientific and technical services, 3) retail trade, and 4) manufacturing.

At the end of 2021, there were 71,524 job opportunities posted in DuPage County. Compared to the same time last year, this represents an increase of 30.44%. Top job openings by occupation were 1) retail sales, 2) stockers and order fillers, 3) registered nurses, 4) customer service representatives.

Office, industrial, retail vacancies

The office vacancy rate dropped to 16.3% at the end of Q4, down from 16.5% in the previous quarter. At this time last year, the office vacancy rate was 15%. Class-A office vacancy remained at 23.2% in Q4. At this time last year, Class-A office vacancy was

20.6%.

Leasing activity and sublet availability indicates what is happening short term in the market. Leasing activity, based on the number of deals closed, increased by 88% in Q4 compared to Q3. In total, there were 145 lease deals completed, compared to 77 last quarter and 136 at this time last year.

The sublease availability, or the amount of sublease space on the market, decreased in Q4 by 9.5% compared to Q3. This is a 7% increase compared to the same time last year.

The industrial vacancy rate dropped to 3.2% in Q4, compared to 3.5% in Q3. At this time last year, the rate was 5.3%. In Q4, there were 98 industrial/flex lease deals. Industrial vacancy is at a historic low for the county and asking rents are continuing to rise to their highest levels. Currently, there is a 3.4 million square feet of industrial space under

construction in DuPage.

The overall retail vacancy rate in Q4 rose to 7.8%, compared to 7.6% in the previous quarter. Last year, the rate in DuPage County was 7.5%.

The cost of living index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. The cost of living in DuPage County is 26.2% higher than the U.S. average and 17.1% higher than the State average. In Q4, the average annual salary rose to \$70,710 compared in \$69,987 in Q3. At this time last year, the average annual salary was \$66,481.

This information was drawn from the 2021 annual report from the Choose DuPage economic development alliance. Sources include the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, JobsEQ, CoStar, IDES, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Illinois Department of Employment Security. For a full copy of the report, visit choosedupage.com.

Elmhurst University, District 88 partner to offer social justice course

Elmhurst University and DuPage High School District 88 have teamed up to offer a college-level course on social justice topics to students from the district's two high schools.

Fifty-five students from Addison Trail High School in Addison and Willowbrook High School in Villa Park are enrolled in Explorations in Social Justice.

The multidisciplinary course introduces students to contemporary equity and social justice issues by

having them explore social movements and current events related to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and class; and discuss how those concepts influence relationships and understanding in the world today.

"One of our top priorities at District 88 is to create and sustain an inclusive environment through ongoing equity work," said Jean Barbanente, superintendent of DuPage High School District 88. "We know

equity is a journey, and we continue to look for ways to enhance this critical initiative and remove barriers to help all students achieve their goals. Our new course with Elmhurst University is a tremendous example."

The topics in the year-long course are viewed through a national lens but during the spring term, the course places a special emphasis on equity and social justice issues that affect the Chicago metropolitan area.

The students work in person every day with their high school teachers and then, twice a week they meet remotely from their classrooms with different Elmhurst University faculty members, who address topics like immigration, residential segregation, criminal justice, health care, educa-

tion and environmental racism.

Associate Professor of History Karen Benjamin is a strong advocate for the course's multidisciplinary approach.

"It gives students an opportunity to look at this huge concept of social justice from all of these different angles, to find where their own specific passion or interest lies," she said. "So, no matter what the next step is for them, they have a lot of different ways to think about things."

The course also gives students a sense of all the different majors available to them at Elmhurst University or somewhere else, Benjamin said.

"It allows them to blend this idea of care and concern for the world

with 'What am I going to do after I graduate from high school?'" she said.

Explorations in Social Justice is the latest of several Elmhurst University courses that are available to District 88 students. Others include college-level Algebra, Calculus III and English 105. All offer high school students the opportunity to experience the rigor of higher education and earn college-level credit while also connecting with Elmhurst University.

"We know our students continue to succeed inside the classroom and beyond because of these collaborations and we truly value and appreciate our strong partnership with Elmhurst University," Barbanente said.

Edward Jones Co. celebrates centennial anniversary

Financial services firm Edward Jones announces today the celebration of its centennial, marking a century of transformative growth and the positive impact it has made for its clients, colleagues, communities and society.

This year and beyond, Edward Jones' more than 50,000 colleagues will join in activities that celebrate this monumental milestone and set the stage for the continued growth of firm's impact in the next 100 years.

Throughout 2022, Edward Jones will celebrate its centennial across the communities it serves with vir-

tual and in-person events, connections to philanthropic and community efforts, and much more.

During the centennial celebration, the firm will initiate volunteer activities to achieve impact in the areas of partnering for lasting financial strength, promoting healthier futures and advancing inclusive growth. It will also expand on its efforts to foster economic inclusion in the communities it serves, actively collaborating with organizations to make meaningful progress that enables every community to thrive.

To learn more, visit centennial.EdwardJones.com.

Jesse White urges online license plate sticker renewal

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is reminding customers with license plate stickers expiring at the end of the month that they can renew online at ilsos.gov, print their receipt and keep that receipt in their vehicle to comply with Illinois law.

"This is a consumer friendly initiative that encourages online transactions with my office," said White. "Many customers visit our Driver Services facilities to buy their stickers the week before they are set to expire. I am reminding the public that they can make the same transaction online, and use their receipt as proof of up-to-date registration and compliance."

Motorists are allowed to drive without an up-to-date vehicle renewal sticker on their license plate as long as they have the receipt from the secretary of state showing that they bought the sticker before expiration. The receipt is valid for up to 30 days from the expiration of the previous registration sticker's date.

Last year, 209,844 customers purchased license plate renewal stickers during the last seven days in February. Of this total, 87,520 purchased their license plate sticker online.

White initiated Public Act 98-1103, which took effect Jan. 1, 2015, to further encourage online transactions.

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Mabutas competes at IHSA individual state meet

Willowbrook standout wins one match in Champaign; Addison Trail's Skamra wrestles in 2 matches

STAFF REPORT

Willowbrook senior Nick Mabutas competed at the IHSA Class 3A individual state wrestling meet,

which concluded on Saturday at the State Farm Center in Champaign.

Battling in the 170-pound weight

division, Mabutas won his first match in Champaign before suffering a loss in the quarterfinal round. Mabutas then suffered a narrow loss in the consolation round.

Mabutas finished the season with an overall record of 33-7.

Mabutas delivered a second-period pin in his first match at the state meet. That victory propelled Mabutas into the quarterfinal round. Mar-

nion Academy's Tyler Perry earned a second-period pin against Mabutas in the quarterfinal round.

Austin Stewart of Collinsville edged Mabutas 7-6 in a consolation-round match.

Mabutas earned his berth in the state meet with a third-place finish in the 170-pound weight class at the Conant Sectional on Feb. 12. He qualified for the sectional by winning

the 170-pound title at the Wheaton North Regional on Feb. 5.

Addison Trail junior Seth Skamra competed in the Class 3A individual state meet's 182-pound weight level. Skamra suffered a 9-2 loss in his first match in Champaign. He then lost a consolation-round match by a score of 15-7.

Skamra completed the season with a 25-10 record.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Blazers finish their season

Junior Elena Papanicolaou (No. 1) of the Addison Trail girls basketball team is pictured during last week's IHSA Class 4A regional semifinal against St. Charles North. The North Stars defeated the Blazers 52-44 in Addison. Papanicolaou sank a pair of 3-point shots during the second quarter of the Feb. 15 game.

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CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing



Campers take the floor

Willowbrook High School's cheerleading program held a week-long camp for girls in kindergarten through fifth grade during the week of Feb. 7. The 31 girls who took part in the camp performed during halftime of the Warriors' boys basketball game on Saturday, Feb. 12. Willowbrook's cheerleading program will conduct another week-long camp for kids this summer.

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THURSDAY, FEB. 24, 2022



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

Warriors win a share of the conference title

Willowbrook's boys basketball team clinched a share of the West Suburban Gold Conference title with last week's 77-57 conference win over Addison Trail in Villa Park. The Feb. 15 victory over the Blazers gave the Warriors a final conference record of 10-2. The Warriors are pictured after last week's win over Addison Trail. Willowbrook and Proviso East share the conference title; both teams posted 10-2 records in West

Suburban Gold play. The Warriors and Pirates split their conference series. Proviso East beat Willowbrook 82-74 in Maywood on Jan. 21. The Warriors defeated the Pirates 79-77 in Villa Park on Feb. 12. Willowbrook opens the IHSA post-season with this week's game against York at the Class 4A Glenbard West Regional. For more about Willowbrook, see Page 7.

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Warriors lose regional final to St. Charles East

Willowbrook posts a season record of 22-6

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls basketball team's 2021-22 season ended with a 49-46 loss to St. Charles East in last week's IHSA Class 4A regional final in Villa Park. The Fighting Saints held a 26-17 halftime lead over Willowbrook in the Feb. 17 contest. The Warriors mounted a comeback in the second half, and the teams were tied at 44-44 with about two minutes to play.

Willowbrook completed its season with an overall record of 22-6. That record includes a perfect 12-0 mark in West Suburban Gold Conference play.

St. Charles East, which improved to 20-6 with its win over Willowbrook, advanced to this week's Bartlett Sectional. The Fighting Saints battled Geneva in a sectional semifinal contest on Feb. 22. The winner of that game will play Wheaton North or Batavia in tonight's sectional final.

The Warriors opened the post-season with a 53-37 victory over Conant in a regional semifinal in Villa Park on Feb. 14.

Senior Sophie Sullivan scored a team-leading 17 points for Willowbrook in the regional final against St. Charles East. Sophomore Calli Kenny provided 16 points. Freshman Hannah Kenny added five points, while sophomore Elle Bruschkuk supplied four points and 10 rebounds. Junior Sara Stout added three points.

The Warriors trailed the Fighting Saints 48-46 in the game's closing seconds. Willowbrook missed an inside shot with less than 10 seconds to play. The Warriors then fouled St. Charles East with 4.1 seconds on the clock to force two free throws. The Fighting Saints missed the first free throw and made the second shot to raise their lead to 49-46.

Sullivan then drove down the court and launched a last-second 3-point attempt from near the half-court line that could have tied the game. The shot hit the rim and bounced away.

Willowbrook led St. Charles East 11-9 at the end of the first quarter. The Fighting Saints took a 26-17 halftime lead, but the Warriors reduced that lead to 39-34 by the end of the third quarter.

"I felt like we were still close enough at halftime to make a run on them," said Willowbrook coach Terry Harrell after the season-ending loss to St. Charles East. "We came out in the second half and put pressure on them."

The Warriors made 12 of 24 free-throw attempts during the regional final.

"We just didn't make enough free throws, and that's not us," said Harrell, who stated the Warriors made around 70 percent of their free throws during the season.

Sullivan scored 17 points in Willowbrook's win over Conant in the

regional semifinal. Calli Kenny provided 15 points. Hannah Kenny added eight points, while Bruschkuk scored six points. Junior Angie Liza-suain contributed five points for the Warriors, who made eight of 12 free throws in the game.

Willowbrook led Conant 18-6 through one quarter and 28-15 at halftime.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls basketball team finished its season with last week's 49-46 loss to St. Charles East in an IHSA Class 4A regional final in Villa Park. The Warriors finished the 2021-22 season with an overall record of 22-6. Willowbrook opened the post-season with a 53-37 victory over Conant in a regional semifinal on Feb. 14. Senior Sophie Sullivan (No. 1) scored 17 points in the win over Conant. Sophomore Calli Kenny (No. 15) provided 15 points. Sullivan and Kenny provided 17 and 16 points, respectively, in the regional final on Feb. 17. Sullivan is pictured (left) during the regional semifinal against Conant. Kenny is shown (above) during the regional final against the Fighting Saints. St. Charles East advanced to this week's Bartlett Sectional.

Warriors beat Blazers to clinch a share of conference title

Willowbrook posts conference record of 10-2 to share title with Proviso East

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook boys basketball team earned a share of the West Suburban Gold Conference title by beating Addison Trail 77-57 last week in Villa Park.

The Warriors finished their conference and regular season with the Feb. 15 win over the Blazers. Willowbrook improved its overall season record to 20-9 and completed its West Suburban Gold season with a 10-2 record.

The Warriors share the conference title with Proviso East, which also posted a West Suburban Gold record of 10-2. Morton had a chance to claim a share of the conference title, but it finished the season with a loss to Hinsdale South on Feb. 15. Morton completed the conference season with a 9-3 record.

Willowbrook poured in 29 first-quarter points in last week's game against Addison Trail. The Warriors led the Blazers 29-17 after one quarter and 45-30 at halftime. The Blazers cut the Warriors' lead to 56-44 by the end of the third quarter.

Senior Marquel Saleek scored a team-leading 27 points for the Warriors in last week's win over Addison Trail. Saleek scored 11 points in the first quarter. He added seven more points in the second quarter.

Junior Joey Tumilty connected on three shots from 3-point range during the first quarter. Tumilty scored 12 points in the opening quarter. He

drained another 3-point shot in the second quarter. Tumilty finished with 16 points.

Senior Noah Campbell provided 15 points, while junior Isaac Sobieszczyk supplied 11 points.

Seniors Jacob Daniels and Nathan Johnson both scored 13 points for Addison Trail. Freshman Luke Smith

scored 11 points.

The Warriors will open the IHSA Class 4A post-season with this week's game against York at the Glenbard West Regional. The winner of the regional semifinal between Willowbrook and York will likely meet Glenbard West in Friday's regional final.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's boys basketball team finished its regular season with last week's 77-57 West Suburban Gold Conference victory over Addison Trail in Villa Park. The Warriors completed the regular season with an overall record of 20-9. Willowbrook posted a conference record of 10-2. The Warriors claimed a share of the conference title. Proviso East also finished the season with a conference mark of 10-2. Senior Marquel Saleek (above right - No. 3) scored 27 points in Willowbrook's Feb. 15 win over Addison Trail. Junior Joey Tumilty (No. 20, pictured above left with Addison Trail senior Samuel Reno - No. 5), who made three shots from 3-point range in the first quarter, provided 16 points for the Warriors.