

Villa Park REVIEW

also serving OAKBROOK TERRACE

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CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

Happy Warriors

Willowbrook High School's boys basketball team defeated Glenbard East 88-63 in Saturday afternoon's non-conference game in Lombard. The Warriors raised their overall season record to 6-13 with the road win over their nearby rival. Senior Stanton

Turner of Willowbrook made three fourth-quarter field goals to provide six points in Saturday's victory over the Rams. Some of the Warriors' players and fans are pictured while celebrating one of Turner's baskets. For more about the Warriors, see page 8.

INSIDE:

Police Reports.....	4	Puzzles.....	18
Viewpoint.....	6	Classifieds.....	19



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Villa Park juvenile accused of threatening school violence

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Villa Park Chief of Police Michael Rivas have announced that a 13-year-old male Villa Park resident has been accused of threatening another juvenile and his family.

The juvenile appeared at a detention hearing where Judge Demetrios Panoushis ordered that he be detained until at least his next court appearance. He has been charged with two counts of disorderly conduct, a Class 4 felony.

On Jan. 17, the Villa Park Police Department became aware of an alleged threat made by a juvenile directed at the victim and the victim's family. It is alleged that during a Snapchat group video, a verbal argument between the juvenile and the victim escalated at which time the juvenile made threatening statements such as he is going to "bring a gun to school ... and going to finish what he started," knowing that the victim's mother stays at the house he's "going to spray the house" and knowing that the victim's younger brother goes to the YMCA after school he would "get him there." An investigation into the matter led authorities to the juvenile who was taken into custody later that day.

"My office takes any threat of violence directed at a school extremely seriously and anyone suspected of such behavior will be investigated and charged accordingly, regardless of the accused's age," Berlin said.

"Threats are not harmless jokes or an excuse to blow off steam during an argument, they have a chilling effect on the victims, particularly young victims. I thank the Villa Park Police Department for their quick response and thorough investigation in this case."

"We have seen an alarming increase in the number of threats made that end up being school related," Rivas said. "We take all school threats seriously and we will investigate all such incidents vigorously and completely. Schools should be safe spaces where students are free to learn and grow without the fear of violence. The policing community in DuPage County is well trained in Restorative Justice."

"The threat of violence does not always work in a Restorative Model as victims of violence need to know there is full accountability for the actions of the alleged accuser. We thank the school system for putting trust in the Villa Park Police Department to handle such a serious matter. We would also like to thank the actions of our Villa Park Detectives as well as DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and his office for their collaborative work in this incident."

The juvenile's next court appearance is scheduled for Feb. 9 in front of Judge Panoushis.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Volunteering to help others

Members of Willowbrook High School's Tri-M (Modern Music Masters) Honor Society recently demonstrated their commitment to giving back and helping others. Last week, 21 Tri-M members volunteered at Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg. The students helped pack over 31,000 meals, which will feed 86 children for a year.

State Rep. Blair-Sherlock seeks input from constituents

State Rep. Diane Blair-Sherlock, D-Villa Park, is urging community members to reach out to her office with any bill ideas they may have for the new legislative session.

"Going forward into the 103rd General Assembly, I am committed to working alongside my community to pass meaningful legislation that will serve our district and state," Blair-Sherlock said. "In order to do so, I must first hear about the issues that trouble our community." "It is important that I listen to all members of our community,

especially the most vulnerable, to gain an understanding of their insightful perspectives on issues they face that may be unbeknownst to others."

As the 2023 session is steadily approaching, community members are welcome to submit suggestions of bill ideas and or any feedback to Blair-Sherlock's constituent office by email at StateRep46@gmail.com or attend her monthly district meeting held on Zoom. Click on the registration link <http://bit.ly/3QOAJrw> to sign up.

"As I begin my first term in office

representing the 43rd District in Springfield, I plan on advancing the interest of our community, all while keeping in mind our shared values and objectives," Blair-Sherlock said. "That is why I urge you to share any bill ideas you may have, no matter how small or big they may be. Please remember that your voices are what keep our democracy functioning."

Editor's note: This was submitted by the office of State Rep. Diane Blair-Sherlock.

Bill guaranteeing workers five days of paid leave will head to governor

By Nika Schoonover
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A bill that would guarantee a minimum of 40 hours of paid leave per year for all Illinois workers passed both chambers of the General Assembly recently and will soon head to Gov. JB Pritzker, who says he will sign it.

Under Senate Bill 208, workers begin to earn paid leave on their first day at a rate of one hour of leave for every 40 hours worked, up to 40 hours of paid leave for the year. They can begin using their leave after 90 days, although an employer may allow them to use it sooner.

Once signed, the measure would take effect on Jan. 1, 2024.

"Paid leave for all is about the dignity of work," said Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth, D-Peoria, a lead sponsor on the bill. "It's about humanizing and honoring the realities that we know that adult workers have in our daily lives and providing a space for folks to just do what it is that we all have the luxury and are so blessed to do."

Republicans who opposed the bill

said it would be bad for small businesses, criticizing the legislation for raising costs.

"My ultimate concern is that we, in this body, we pass millions and millions and millions of dollars of incentives for large corporations," Rep. C.D. Davidsmeyer, R-Jacksonville, said on the House floor. "And, on the other hand, we pass mandates on small businesses—and I know this isn't just for small businesses. It's the mom and pops that have 5, 10, maybe 13 employees, that this has a significant impact on their budgets."

Gordon-Booth pushed back on that argument.

"The idea that we have to play this zero-sum game of you either support business or you support employees, I refuse to accept that is our reality," she said. "I believe that we can show and have shown with this negotiation that you can support employees, all the while supporting employers by providing the consistency and the implementation of a policy such as this."

Under the law, workplaces would still be able to require their employees to provide notice before taking paid time off. If the paid leave is not used by the end of the year, it carries over.

The bill is supported by workers' rights groups and unions including Women Employed, the Chicago Urban League and the Service Employees International Union.

Gordon-Booth said the measure had been under negotiation since 2019, and multiple key business groups had come to a point of supporting the measure or taking a neutral stance on it.

While the measure received a few Republican votes in the House, it passed the Senate with only Democratic support.

The bill still needs approval from Pritzker, who expressed his support in a statement.

"Working families face enough challenges without the concern of losing a day's pay when life gets in the way. I'm looking forward to signing this legislation and giving a safety net to hard-working Illinoisans," he said.

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Two Warriors turn in strong efforts at boys bowling sectional

Jarrett and Prindahl both fall short in their quests for state-meet berths

STAFF REPORT

Two Willowbrook boys bowlers competed as individuals in Saturday's IC Catholic Prep Sectional at Bowlero in Glendale Heights. The two Warriors—seniors Henry Jarrett and Dylan Prindahl—did not qualify for this week's IHSA state meet in downstate Fairview Heights, near St. Louis.

The IC Catholic Prep Sectional's top seven individuals who weren't members of state-qualifying teams advanced to the state meet.

Jarrett and Prindahl narrowly missed securing individual state-meet berths. Jarrett finished 17th among all individuals at the sectional, while Prindahl placed 18th. The sectional featured more than 100 bowlers.

Jarrett fired a six-game sectional total of 1,299. He opened the event by rolling a 226 in his first game. He then shot a 179 in his second game before bowling a 253 in his third game. Jarrett delivered his best game of the sectional—a 268—in his fourth game. He wrapped up the sectional with a 159 in his fifth game, followed by a 212 in his sixth game.

The bowler who secured the seventh individual state-meet berth at the IC Catholic Prep Sectional bowled a six-game total of 1,311.

Prindahl turned in his best game of the sectional in his opening game, when he rolled a 257. He then bowled scores of 194 and 169 in his next two games. Prindahl fired a 217 in his fourth game. He posted a 253 in his fifth game before completing the sectional with a 186 in his sixth game.

Jarrett and Prindahl advanced to the sectional with their strong efforts at the Naperville Central Regional at Liste Lanes on Jan. 14.

Warriors secure first conference victory

After beating the Hornets and losing to the Blazers, Willowbrook ends week with a non-conference win at Glenbard East

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook boys basketball team earned its first West Suburban Gold Conference victory of the season last week. The Warriors, who lost their first four conference games of the season, improved to 1-4 in West Suburban Gold action with a 67-56 win at Hinsdale South on Jan. 17.

Willowbrook fell to 1-5 in conference play following Friday's 58-56 loss at Addison Trail. The Warriors finished their week with Saturday's convincing 88-63 non-conference win at Glenbard East in Lombard.

Willowbrook moved its overall season record to 6-13 with Saturday's win over the Rams.

The Warriors held a 15-10 lead through one quarter of last week's win at Hinsdale South. Willowbrook outscored the Hornets 22-11 in the second quarter to build a 37-21 halftime lead. The Hornets rallied to cut the Warriors' lead to 51-42 by the end of the third quarter.

Senior Noah Campbell scored a team-high 21 points for the Warriors in last week's conference victory over Hinsdale South. Campbell made six field goals, including one shot from behind the 3-point line. He also sank all eight of his attempts from the free-throw line.

Senior Isaac Sobieszczyk provided 15 points and 15 rebounds in Willowbrook's win over the Hornets. Sobieszczyk sank seven of nine free throws for the Warriors, who made 17 of 19 free throws during the game.

Junior Kenyon Rhodes made four of seven attempts from 3-point range to provide 12 points for the Warriors

in their victory at Hinsdale South. Senior Joey Tunility added nine points, while seniors Luke Davis and Tyler Royal contributed five points each.

Willowbrook struggled to make shots in Friday evening's conference battle at District '88 rival Addison Trail. The Warriors made four of 24 shots from 3-point range. Willowbrook sank eight of 18 attempts from the free-throw line.

The Warriors led the Blazers 15-13 after one quarter and 27-26 at halftime. The two teams were tied at 41-41 at the end of the third quarter.

Trailing 58-56 in the game's closing seconds, the Warriors missed a 3-point attempt. Willowbrook grabbed the offensive rebound and attempted and missed an inside shot that could have sent the game into overtime. Some Warriors fans wanted a foul called on the Blazers on Willowbrook's last-second shot, but the officials did not oblige.

Campbell scored a team-leading 21 points for the Warriors in Friday's loss in Addison. He made eight of 23 field-goal attempts, sinking one of nine shots from 3-point range. Campbell converted four of six shots from the free-throw line.

Sobieszczyk scored 10 points and grabbed 15 rebounds in Friday's loss. Davis contributed eight points. Tunility and junior Andrew Ciesinski scored six points each.

Senior Joey Morales scored 20 points and snared 10 rebounds to lead Addison Trail to Friday's win over Willowbrook. Sophomore Luke

See VICTORY, Page 17

Warriors beat the Blazers before losing to York and Hinsdale South

Willowbrook avenges an overtime loss at Addison Trail in December

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls basketball team won one of three games last week. The Warriors, who played all three contests on their home court, opened the week with a 55-32 West Suburban Gold Conference victory over Addison Trail on Jan. 17. One night later, the Warriors lost 62-31 to York in a non-conference contest. Willowbrook finished its week with Saturday's 43-37 conference loss to Hinsdale South.

The Warriors ended the week with an overall season record of 11-11 and a conference mark of 6-3.

Willowbrook led Addison Trail 16-8 through one quarter of last week's battle. The Warriors pushed their lead to 30-17 by halftime. Willowbrook's lead grew to 43-24 by the end of the third quarter.

Junior Elle Bruschuk scored 14 points and pulled down eight rebounds for the Warriors in last week's win over the Blazers. Seniors Nina Nytko and Sara Stout scored nine points each. Senior Rimón Kari added eight points.

Bruschuk made two of four 3-point attempts against Addison Trail. Nytko converted two of three shots from behind the 3-point line, while Kari sank two of six shots from 3-point range.

Sophomore Halle Ahrens scored five points for the Warriors in last week's win over the Blazers. Senior Yazmin Setaram and junior Tia Kelly contributed four points each.

Earlier in the season, the Warriors dropped a 46-44 overtime battle to the Blazers in the two teams' conference battle in Addison on Dec. 3.

Senior Elena Papanicolaou made three 3-point shots and scored a team-leading 13 points for the Blazers in last week's battle in Villa Park. Papanicolaou connected on six 3-point shots and scored 28 points to lead Addison Trail to its overtime win over the Warriors in December.

Willowbrook couldn't keep pace with York's talented team in last week's non-conference game in Villa Park. The Dukes led the Warriors 18-10 after one quarter. York outscored Willowbrook 19-4 in the second quarter to push its halftime lead to 37-14. The Dukes owned a 56-

See WARRIORS BEAT BLAZERS, Page 17



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS
Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls basketball team faced Hinsdale South in Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference game in Villa Park. The visiting Hornets edged the Warriors 43-37. Willowbrook dropped to 11-11 overall and 6-3 in conference play with the loss. Senior Rimón Kari (No. 30) scored eight points for the Warriors in Saturday's battle. Senior Sara Stout (No. 15) provided seven points for Willowbrook, which honored its seniors before the game. Willowbrook opened its conference season with an overtime loss at Hinsdale South on Nov. 29. The Warriors' season continues with four games this week.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors head to state meet

The Willowbrook High School dance team earned a berth in the upcoming IHSA competitive dance state meet with its performance at Saturday's Geneva Sectional. Competing in the sectional's 2A-2 level, the Warriors placed fifth in a field of 13 teams. Willowbrook earned a trip to the state meet by placing among the top six teams in its level. Whitney Young won the sectional title in sectional's 2A-2 division. DeKalb finished second, while Argo and Jones College Prep of Chicago placed third and fourth, respectively. Kenwood Academy of Chicago secured a state-meet berth with its sixth-place finish. The state meet takes place this Friday and Saturday at Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington. One year ago, Willowbrook finished ninth in its division at the 2022 IHSA state meet.



Rep. Bob Morgan, a Democrat from Deerfield and a supporter of the assault weapon ban, on a talk last week sarcastically accused gun shop owners of being "constitutional scholars." He also accused county sheriffs who said they will not enforce the law as being unconstitutional of "posturing," and that it is their duty to uphold the law. Oh, like law enforcement who aren't allowed to detain illegals who sneak into our country? Morgan said more needs to be done to prevent gun violence, like preventive mental health care, but if a gunman (or woman) doesn't think there is a problem or refuses help, there is not much the mental health system can do. He mentioned holding gun manufacturers responsible for crimes committed with their firearms, but that's like holding liquor manufacturers responsible if someone buys alcohol in a store, then drives drunk and injures or kills someone. The constitutionality issue needs to be settled in court. Someone bent on causing harm will find a way to get any kind of weapon, so these laws trying to be proactive are pretty ineffective.

Whether I agree with the gun registration legislation or not—and believe the constitutionality should be determined by the courts—the fact that the sheriffs are cherry-picking whether to uphold this law is disconcerting to me. I understand the rationale, but if or until the law is deemed unconstitutional and then revoked, it is their sworn duty to uphold that

law. That is why they are called officers "of the law." On the other hand, officers of the law are not able to uphold immigration laws that would either keep illegals from entering the country, or make sure they are sent back once here. Shaking my head.

Washington spends more time fighting the left against the right across the aisle than they do to our adversaries across the pond. Make them scramble the seating arrangement in the House and Senate and get rid of their gang mentality to work as a team for our country instead.

Last month, all but two Congressional Democrats voted against a bill that mandated medical care for infants born alive after a botched abortion. That is truly demented. What is wrong with you Democrats?

Tidy or trashy? Litter creates such a strong impression of a community. I pick up what I can on my daily walks, and usually find a public trash can nearby. Please look around you, and throw away the litter. This small act makes a big difference, and we all benefit.

Don't you wish the banks would keep the ATM machines full of money? I went to four of them today and all said "insufficient funds!"

Trump nicknamed the Select Committee as the Unselect Committee. To reciprocate his display of respect, I, with powers not presented to me by

any, earthly or heavenly entity, do hereby rename Trump, for now and evermore, as Unpresident Trump. God knows this name is more fitting.

I, for one, strongly support the DuPage County sheriff in his stand against an unconstitutional law that was implemented by uninformed politicians that like to grandstand. I am sorry and pray for those who lost loved ones in mass shootings, but we need to address mental illness before bans. You can take away arms from law-abiding citizens, but history will show you many adverse outcomes for the people. Divert money to streamlining and background checks in the purchase process instead of new bathrooms or warping a young child's mind. Criminals will not stop buying or shooting because of these bans.

Harry Truman: The buck stops here. Joe Biden: I have no idea how classified materials wound up in my house, and I don't know what those materials are.

It's almost funny to hear the hypocrisy of mayors of so-called sanctuary cities. They pat themselves on the back and say they welcome migrants who entered the country illegally. But when those migrants show up, these mayors whine that their resources are overwhelmed.

As the new year is beginning, I thought I'd share a quote I recently found accredited to Mark Twain. "It's easy to fool people, but it's almost impossible to convince peo-

ple they have been fooled." Here is another quote for an example: "The greatest fear in D.C. is that an executive branch, controlled by the establishment, will lead to the exposure of the corruption that has become the foundation of our government. This is the real reason Trump is under attack." Those in the most danger are compelled to encourage hate to anyone who's willing to believe and to stifle the speech of anyone who questions. A commentary was made on the news that Biden has not been hated like Trump. Why do you think this might be? Is he more lovable and honest? Are those who didn't vote for more tolerant of others or are they suppressed by the opposition? We need to start exposing ourselves to the information and decide for ourselves if we have been fooled. Then, believe what we must. Wouldn't it be a happier new year if logical thinkers and emotional reactionists could find common ground with neither being fooled?

This call is about the semi-automatic weapons ban in place. Pritzker and Lightfoot and the rest of the Democrats destroyed the city of Chicago. Crime is rampant. You take away our weapons and guess what? It's going to be like the city of Chicago out here. Now, if the Democrats get their way, the entire state of Illinois will be like Chicago; a war zone. And guess what? We're not going to have that. People, use your brains. You see something, say something. And stand behind your local police department and help them out. Because all the Democrats are going to do is

put us in a hole like they did with the economy. And look at Biden; he just got caught for the same thing Trump did with the missing records, so you Democrats, you're on your way. And by the way, on the topic of sanctuary cities: if you want them so badly, put them in your neighborhood. Oh, that's right. You don't want them. So now you're moving them to the suburbs, too. I don't understand Democrats and never will. Please don't vote for them again. Thank you.

Per the president's favorite phrase, "Guess what?" I'm guessing if politicians stop calling people racist, things might change. You can't keep picking a scab and expect anything to heal. Instead of using the "R" word, try results. Thank you.

Hello Sheriff Mendrick. Well, I guess we can't call you Old Law and Order anymore, right? Hey no matter what your party, if you're not going to enforce the law, then it's time for a change. Time for a new sheriff in town. Bye-bye.

Hi. In his first day in office, Biden said open the borders and everyone's welcome. Now they're taking American taxpayer dollars to pay for food, lodging and everything for the migrants. Does that seem right to you? Then they're talking about giving Social Security to the migrants. They didn't pay in. Why should they get money back? Our tax dollars are being poorly invested. And a second thing Biden did: he shut the Keystone Pipeline down. Thanks for the condition of the world we're in. Bye.

• Victory (Continued from page 8)

Smith, who made three 3-point shots, supplied 13 points. Senior Charles Little scored nine points. Senior Joey Verbena and junior Cesar Alvarez scored six points each for the Blazers, who improved to 1-6 in conference play with their win over the Warriors.

Willowbrook's offense was in high gear during Saturday's game at Glenbard East. Campbell, who was nursing an injury, did not play against the Rams. Sobieszczyk led the Warriors' offensive attack by scoring a career-high 31 points. Sobieszczyk scored 12 baskets and made all seven of his free-throw attempts in Saturday's win in Lombard. He scored 23 points during the first half. Sobieszczyk also grabbed 10 rebounds in the victory over the Rams.

Willowbrook led Glenbard East 23-16 after one quarter and 46-34 at halftime. The Warriors' lead grew to 68-46 by the end of the third quarter.

Davis made three 3-point shots and scored 20 points in Saturday's win. Rhodes drained four 3-point attempts and provided 16 points.

The Warriors' schedule this week includes a non-conference game at Hinsdale Central, along with this Friday's conference home game against Morton. Willowbrook will finish the week with Saturday's non-conference contest at Deerfield.

• Warriors beat Blazers

(Continued from page 8)

27 advantage at the end of the third quarter.

Stout scored a team-high 12 points for the Warriors in last week's loss to York. Nytko added nine points, while Kari contributed five points.

The Warriors led Hinsdale South 12-10 through one quarter of Saturday's conference game. The two teams were tied at 21-21 at halftime in the rematch of their Nov. 29 meeting in Darien. The Hornets won that battle, prevailing 60-53 in overtime in that contest, which was the conference opener for both teams.

Willowbrook and Hinsdale South were tied at 25-25 in the third quarter of Saturday's game. The Hornets then made a pair of 3-point shots to take a 31-25 lead. Hinsdale South added a 3-point play to extend its lead to 34-25. The Hornets led the Warriors 35-29 at the end of the third quarter.

Hinsdale South led Willowbrook 41-33 with less than three minutes to play. Baskets from Stout and Bruschuk reduced the Hornets' lead to 41-37 with less than two minutes remaining. The Hornets scored the game's final points by making a pair of free throws with 31.1 seconds on the clock.

Bruschuk scored a team-leading 10 points for the Warriors in Saturday's loss to the Hornets. She also provided nine rebounds. Kari scored eight points, while Stout and Nytko delivered seven points each. Senior Yazmin Setaram supplied four points.

The Warriors' season continues with this week's non-conference contests at Fenwick and Maine South, along with this Friday's conference clash at Morton. Willowbrook will finish the week with Saturday's non-conference home game against Libertyville.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's boys basketball team posted a convincing 88-63 non-conference victory over Glenbard East on Saturday in Lombard. The Warriors improved their overall season record to 6-13 with the win. Senior Isaac Sobieszczyk (No. 15) scored a career-high 31 points for Willowbrook in Saturday's win. He also provided 10 rebounds. Senior Tyler Royal (No. 3) of the Warriors is pictured while making an acrobatic basket during the third quarter. Royal scored four points in the game.