

VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

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WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL
D. SANK
1233 S. ARDMORE AVE.
VILLA PARK, IL 60081-3305
#283
ELABORATE



Holiday concert at Willowbrook

Willowbrook High School's music department presented two holiday concerts last week. Members of the school's treble choir (below) and concert choir (left) are pictured during the Dec. 6 event in the school auditorium. The holiday concert also included performances from the school's guitar ensemble, symphony orchestra and chamber orchestra. The second concert of the week, which took place Dec. 8, featured performances from Willowbrook's jazz band musicians.

CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park Review



Village board plans to approve library board's referendum proposal

By Chris Fox
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW
STAFF REPORTER

Villa Park Village Board members unanimously voiced their approval last week of the Villa Park Library Board's proposal to place a referendum question on the ballot in the election of April 4, 2017.

The question will ask village voters to approve the borrowing of up to \$10.6 million to pay for renovation and expansion of the library, which is located at 305 S. Ardmore Ave. The library board's plans to place the question on the ballot in the upcoming election require authorization from the village board.

The seven members of the village board

indicated their support for placing the referendum on the ballot during their Dec. 5 meeting. Board members voted unanimously to formally place the library board's proposal on the agenda for the upcoming village board meeting on Dec. 19. The deadline to place the question on the April 4 ballot is Jan. 26, 2017.

According to information provided by the village and the library board, the question on the ballot would state:

"Shall bonds in an amount not to exceed \$10,600,000 be issued by the Village of Villa Park, DuPage County, Illinois, for the purpose of paying costs of remodeling, improving and acquiring library materials such as books, periodicals, films and recordings, electronic data,

and storage facilities therefor, and paying expenses, incidentals thereto, said bonds bearing at a rate not to exceed 6% per annum?"

Villa Park Library Director Sandra Hill and longtime library board member Pat Hubbard delivered a presentation during the Dec. 5 village board meeting.

"The quality of life is enhanced by a strong library," said Hubbard. "Libraries are community centers, destinations and economic assets with a wide variety of expected services that may not be offered by other agencies."

Hill noted that the library building was built in 1969 and remodeled in 1997. A facility analysis of the building that was completed in March 2015 indicated about \$5.3 million in

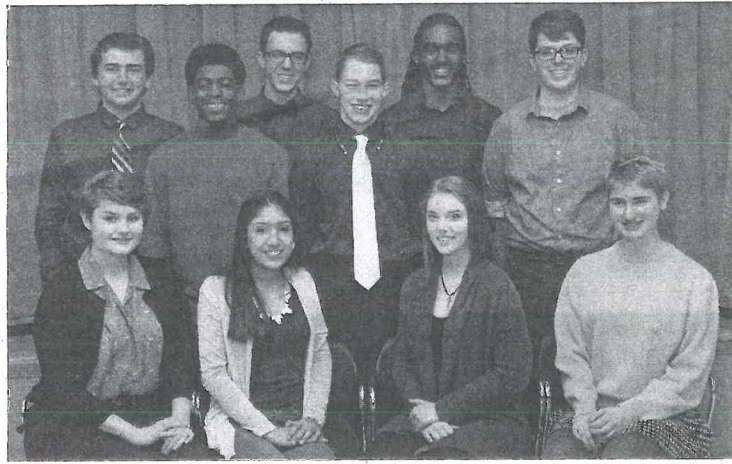
necessary repair costs over the ensuing five years. Those costs would not provide any additional services or increase existing space to the library, which occupies about 24,500 square feet.

Hill said that if the referendum is approved, the owner of a Villa Park home valued at \$200,000 would see a tax increase of \$7.48 per month, or nearly \$90 per year.

If voters approve the proposal to borrow \$10.6 million, the money would have to be repaid over the following 20 years.

"Addressing one issue is not possible without addressing others," said Hill, who said the

See PROPOSAL, Page 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

Willowbrook honors Outstanding Students

Ten Willowbrook High School students were recognized as Outstanding Students during a Dec. 8 breakfast held in their honor. In order to be chosen for the school's Outstanding Students award, students must demonstrate extraordinary achievement and outstanding effort, as well as commendable attitude and motivation. Additionally, the recognized students must maintain a continuous exemplary performance and show the ability to overcome obstacles. Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause joined Assistant Principal Doug Wildes in welcoming the students and their family members to the breakfast. The students were nominated for the award by a staff member from one of the school's various departments. Each of the award-winning students received a certificate of honor. Those honored students (pictured left to right) included: (front row) senior Beatrice Zilius (art), junior Olivia Ründgren (career and technical education), sophomore Marisol Magana (world languages) and freshman Chloe Devens (English); (back row) junior Noah Kamm (science), junior Marquay Smith (physical education), sophomore Jack Nilles (social studies), senior Zachary Zeffiro (learning services), senior Plarie Easley (math) and senior Matt Sulla (music).

Fire chief credits early detection for minimizing damage during recent incident

By Chris Fox
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW
STAFF REPORTER

Villa Park Fire Chief Ron Rakosnik said a recent fire that started in an apartment building the night before Thanksgiving highlights the importance of early detection.

"It could have been much worse," said Rakosnik, speaking outside of last week's Villa Park Village Board meeting on Dec. 5. The fire started shortly after 11 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 23, in a second-floor apartment at 334 S. Ardmore Ave. The apartment is located above the Villa Park office of Illinois State Sen. Tom Cullerton.

According to Rakosnik, a resident of one of the second-floor units left the apartment while leaving a lit candle inside. The candle caused a fire that activated a smoke alarm in the hallway of the building.

"That alarm in the hallway is tied to the fire department," said Rakosnik. "As soon as it's activated, we're aware of it within 10 seconds."

Rakosnik said that engines from both of Villa Park's fire stations responded to the scene. Additionally, a resident of a neighboring unit called to report the fire. The resident's call upgraded the incident to a general alarm, which brought in departments from neighboring municipalities—Lombard, Elmhurst, York Center and Oakbrook Terrace—to provide assistance.

The chief said that firefighters arrived at the apartment building, kicked in the door to the residence with the lit candle, extinguished the fire and ventilated the building.

"Early detection, early notification, early extinguishment," said Rakosnik. "It was textbook."

Rakosnik stated that while the apartment building has a smoke alarm tied directly to the fire department, it was helpful that a resident called to report the fire.

"People think that when an alarm goes off, the fire department is on the way," he said. "Everything worked as it was supposed to work, but sometimes there can be a glitch. We always tell people to follow up with a phone call."

The residents who lived in the other units of the building were able to return to their apartments a few hours after the fire was reported. The unit where the fire originated sustained minimal damage, Rakosnik said.

Cullerton, who visited the scene on the night of the fire, said his office on the first floor of the building sustained minor water damage.

"The fire department was all over it," said Cullerton several days after the incident. "They extinguished it fast. We were very glad with how fast the response was. Thank you to the men and women of the Villa Park Fire Department."



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

Pride commission presents decorating awards

The Villa Park Community Pride Commission presented its fall/Halloween decorating awards at the Villa Park Village Board meeting on Dec. 5. The commission presented its awards to Jerry Spearman (pictured) and Allen Sterwalt in recognition of their fall decorations at their residence on the 100 block of West Rand Road. The commission, which considers homeowners for the award after receiving nominations from residents, also honored Paul Meyers II for the decorations at his home on the 600 block of South Cornell Avenue. Tina Janopoulos nominated Spearman and Sterwalt for the award, while Diane Blair and Hosanna Korynecky nominated Meyers.

Two skating rinks are open in Villa Park

The Villa Park Parks and Recreation department announced last week that ice skating is now available at Cortesi Veterans Memorial Park, located at 318 E. Kenilworth Ave., and at Jefferson Park (just east of Jefferson Pool), 341 N. Harvard Ave. Both rinks offer family skating. The

rink at Jefferson Park also accommodates hockey players.

All skaters should dress for the cold weather, as there are no shelters or restroom facilities at either location.

The parks and recreation department owns two sets of "pond goals"

and one set of "mini-mite" goals available for weekend rental at \$10 per set for a Friday pickup and a Monday return. Residents who borrow one of the sets must leave a copy of their driver's license or state identification. For more information, call 630-834-8970.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

Knights of Columbus presents check to village

The Knights of Columbus, Father John Barrett Council No. 8365, presented a \$2,250 check to Villa Park first responders at the Villa Park Village Board meeting on Dec. 5. The local council, which includes members of the village's two Catholic parishes—St. Alexander and St. John the Apostle—raised the \$2,250 during a recent fundraising breakfast that attracted hundreds of people. The money will be used to purchase an automated external defibrillator (AED) that will be deployed in the village. Villa Park Fire Chief Ron Rakosnik stated after the presentation the village is preparing to order several AED units, including the one covered by the Knights of Columbus council's donation. The units will be deployed at several sites throughout the village, including Villa Park Village Hall, Sugar Creek Golf Course and the village's two public pools. The units will also be placed in Villa Park police squad vehicles. The local Knights of Columbus council was named in honor Fr. John Barrett—a former pastor of St. Alexander—shortly after he passed away in 2014. The council will hold its next fundraising breakfast in the St. Alexander gymnasium on Jan. 15, 2017.

Proposal (Continued from front page)

library building's roof is near the end of its service life. The facility analysis completed last year also called for replacements to the building's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system. The library's electrical power distribution system is reportedly also at the end of its service life. Additionally, the library's incoming water main is undersized based on current state code, and the building does not have a sprinkler system.

The library board contracted with Williams Architects of Itasca to address the needs for repairs and to evaluate the options for expansion. The firm's conceptual plan for expansion calls for a two-level addition of about 9,300 square feet. The entire project to renovate and expand the facility would be completed around the beginning of 2020.

Hill said the library held nine open houses recently to ask residents for their input on what they would like to see in an expanded and renovated building. The community input was a factor in the conceptual design for the updated library.

"We've made every effort to keep the costs down and provide the most return on the community's investment," said Hill, who added that the library would be open as much as possible during the proposed renovation and expansion, which would reportedly take place in three phases, with the first phase including the addition to the property. The addition would relocate the library's main entrance to the north side of the building and include an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant elevator located next to the main stairwell.

Hill said that any renovation would require the building to adhere with current codes, and adhering to current codes would reduce the facility's already-cramped public space.

"We already have space constraints," said Hill. "If we did a renovation it would take away more space."

Hill noted that the library board has been involved in discussions with St. Alexander Parish and the Diocese of Joliet to complete a property swap. The diocese owns a vacant lot just north of the property, while the library owns two pieces of property north of that vacant lot.

The proposed property swap and expansion plans would give the library 55 parking spaces as opposed to its current 40 spaces, said Hill, who stated that there were more than 200,000 visitors to the library during

its last fiscal year, which ended on April 30.

The \$10.6 million figure reportedly includes about \$6.9 million for renovation and construction, about \$1 million in site construction, approximately \$960,000 for professional services and nearly \$745,000 for furniture, shelving and equipment.

Villa Park Village President Deborah Bullwinkel stated that while she joined other board members in allowing the proposal to go on the ballot, she was concerned about the village's overall borrowing capability.

"I totally support bringing this to the people to let them vote," Bullwinkel said. "My biggest concern is the price tag. This gets us really close to the edge."

Villa Park Village Manager Rich

Keehner noted during the Dec. 5 meeting that in the past, the village had a debt capacity of \$55 million. Keehner said the decline in equalized assessed values of real estate in the village in recent years had lowered that figure to about \$43.5 million.

"Right now, the village has about \$33 million of bonds outstanding, including road bonds," said Keehner, who referred to the voter-approved referendum of 2014 that allowed the village to borrow \$23 million to pay for road repairs. The village has already issued \$19 million of bonds related to that referendum, with another \$4 million to issue.

"Now's the time to look at expansion," said Villa Park Trustee Albert Bulthuis. "You are cramped there. It's a good plan you have here. Let it go to the voters. Let the community decide."

Sports

LOMBARDIAN
VILLA PARK REVIEW

Pair of conference wins propels Warriors to 7-0 overall

By Chris Fox
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW
STAFF REPORTER

The Willowbrook boys basketball team moved to 7-0 overall and 3-0 in West Suburban Gold Conference play following Friday's 74-51 victory over Addison Trail in Villa Park. The Warriors held a 37-24 halftime lead over their District 88 rival in the battle, which took place in front of spirited student sections from both schools. Willowbrook maintained a double-digit lead throughout the second half.

Four Willowbrook players scored at least 10 points against the visiting Blazers. Junior Marshawn Phillips, who made all three of his 3-point attempts, led the offensive attack with 17 points. Junior Ethan Schuemer added 12 points, while junior Sikander Zafar and senior Ryan King provided 11 and 10 points, respectively. "My team is very unselfish," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins after the victory. "If one guy doesn't have it going, we've got guys who can pick each other up. The best teams are the ones that don't depend on one person."

Zafar matched Phillips by making all three of his attempts from 3-point range. King converted both of his 3-point shots. Sophomore Matas Masys sank two of four tries from outside the 3-point arc. Willowbrook made 11 of 15 shots from 3-point territory.

Senior Freddie Clay, who made his only 3-point attempt, finished the night with five points and a team-leading 10 assists.

"Everybody's important for our team," said Phillips after the Warriors' win over the Blazers. "There's going to be a different guy every night."

Masys delivered both of his successful 3-point attempts during the third quarter. His first long-range bumpd the Warriors' lead to 42-



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Seniors Freddie Clay (No. 22) and Ryan King (No. 3) helped the Willowbrook boys basketball team to Friday's 74-51 victory over Addison Trail in Villa Park. The Warriors improved to 7-0 overall and 3-0 in West Suburban Gold Conference play. Clay scored five points and handed out a team-high 10 assists. King, who made a pair of 3-point shots, contributed 10 points. Willowbrook's season continues with this Friday's conference game at Hinsdale South.

24. His next 3-pointer increased the team's cushion to 47-27. Addison Trail proceeded to reel off eight straight points to cut Willowbrook's

lead to 47-35. King then sank a 3-point shot to begin the Warriors' own eight-point run that rebuilt the lead to 55-35 by the end of the third



quarter. The feisty Blazers reduced Willowbrook's edge to 59-44 in the final period before the Warriors closed the game with a 15-7 run.

Willowbrook posted an 11-19 record last season. While the young Warriors had a losing record, they played in several close games and gained valuable experience. Schuemer, Zafar and Masys are three of the underclass players who played significant minutes last season.

"Our guys are used to being in tight games because we were in a ton last season," said Perkins. "All these guys are like veterans now. We're an experienced group and we still don't have a lot of seniors."

Three days before beating Addi-

son Trail, Willowbrook played its first conference road game of the season. The Warriors beat Morton 64-52 in Cicero. Willowbrook raced to a 16-4 lead after one quarter and a 30-12 edge at halftime.

Schuemer turned in a dominant game against the Mustangs, piling up 28 points and 15 rebounds. Schuemer made all 12 of his free-throw attempts.

Phillips added 13 points in the Dec. 6 win at Morton. Masys and Zafar contributed seven and six points, respectively.

The Warriors will try to improve to 8-0 overall when they travel to Darien for this Friday's conference game against Hinsdale South.

Rams lose conference opener to South Elgin

By Chris Fox
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW
STAFF REPORTER

Glenbard East's girls basketball team began its Upstate Eight Valley Conference season with a 38-24 loss to South Elgin on Dec. 8 in Lombard. The setback moved the Rams' overall season record to 2-5.

The Storm held a 22-6 lead midway through the second quarter before the Rams rallied to cut South Elgin's advantage to 22-15 by halftime. Junior Briana Raysby scored seven of the Rams' 11 second-period points to spark Glenbard East's comeback.

"They're a young ball club and they're all learning to play at the varsity level. They have a lot of good things happening for them."

**— Don Finnie,
Glenbard East coach**

Trailing 30-20 at the end of the third quarter, Glenbard East cut South Elgin's lead to 30-24 following baskets by juniors Sommer Dolinski and Faith Davies. The Storm held the Rams scoreless for the game's final six minutes.

Raysby led the Rams in scoring with 13 points. Dolinski and Davies scored five and four points, respectively.

"This is a team that's building," said Glenbard East coach Don Finnie after the game. "They're a young ball club and they're all learning to play at the varsity level. They have a lot of good things happening for them."

Two days before facing South Elgin, Glenbard East suffered a 51-50 non-conference loss at Plainfield South. Down 44-34 at the end of the third quarter, the Rams clawed back

into contention in the fourth period. Junior Sam Dooley's 3-point shot with about 20 seconds to play tied the Dec. 6 game at 50-50. Plainfield South made one free throw in the closing seconds to account for the winning point.

Raysby, who missed most of her

team's November games because of injury, poured in a team-leading 15 points. Junior Mattie Pusateri, who made all four of her free-throw attempts in the fourth quarter, scored 10 points. Davies scored nine points, while Dolinski and Dooley each scored eight points.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

The Glenbard East girls basketball team opened its Upstate Eight Valley Conference season with a 38-24 loss to South Elgin on Dec. 8 in Lombard. Junior Briana Raysby (No. 20) led the Rams in scoring with 13 points. Junior Faith Davies (No. 13) added four points. Raysby scored a team-high 15 points in the Rams' previous game—a 51-50 loss at Plainfield South on Dec. 6. Junior Mattie Pusateri scored 10 points against Plainfield South. Davies contributed nine points.

PREP ROUNDUP

Reed leads IC boys past Fenton

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

ELMHURST – After suffering its first loss of the season, IC Catholic's boys basketball team rebounded with a 53-51 win against Fenton in a Metro Suburban Blue conference game Dec. 13.

Austin Reed scored a team-high 18 points with 13 coming in the second half after he battled through foul trouble in the first half. He scored eight straight at one point in the third quarter, and assisted on Alex Meurer's bucket that started an 8-0 surge and gave IC the lead for good.

Meurer tallied 12 points and junior forward Amari Reed added 10 for the Knights, who improved to 7-1 overall and 2-1 in MSB play before a Dec. 16 conference game at Glenbard South.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Montini

The Broncos came into the game 6-1, but in their toughest test to date they fell 71-55 against nonconference foe Benet on Dec. 13.

Jayston Williams tallied 12 of his team-high 18 points in the first quarter as Montini got out to a 17-10 lead, but Benet dominated the rest of the way.

Montini is back in action on Dec. 16 at Loyola.

Timothy Christian

The Trojans jumped out to an early lead and rode that advantage to a 66-47 win against Elmwood Park on Dec. 10.

Timothy led 38-25 at the half and all 12 players saw action in the game. Brandon Orange led the way with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Jonny Strube scored 18 points and Joey Davidson had 14. Ty Merrick scored four points and a team-high five assists as TC notched 20 assists in the game.

TC improved to 6-1 and 2-1 in Metro Suburban Red play on the season before a game at Ridgewood on Dec. 16.

Willowbrook

An amazing start to the season

continued for the Warriors as they rolled past District 88 rival Addison Trail 74-51 on Dec. 9.

Marshawn Phillips (15 points), Ethan Schuemer (12 points), Sikander Zafar (11 points) and Ryan King (10 points) reached double figures and 12 players scored as the Warriors improved to 7-0 overall and 3-0 in the West Suburban Gold before a Dec. 16 game at Hinsdale South.

Michael Williams had 23 points, Jack Kalbas added 12 points and Colton Noel finished with 10 points as the Blazers slipped to 5-2.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Timothy Christian

A solid all-around team effort helped the Trojans extend their winning streak Dec. 10 to three straight wins a 63-25 victory against Westmont.

Jordyn Strube led the scoring with 12 points. Olivia Schuringa scored nine points, Allison Zeilstra and Emily DeBoer had eight points each, and Ava Venema and Tyra Hopson scored six points apiece in the non-conference win.

Timothy (6-3) is back in action at Walther Christian on Dec. 17.

Willowbrook

Hanna Konrath finished with 12 points, CeCe Lizasuain added nine points and Katelyn McCann and Knudtson had eight points apiece, but the Warriors fell 44-40 on Dec. 13 against Addison Trail.

AT was led by Jasmin Mehmeti's 12 points.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

York

Sydney Hill placed fifth on bars with a score of 8.6 for the Dukes' best finish at the Hersey invite Dec. 10.

Gillian Berg was 13th in the all-around (31.9) with a high score of 8.4 on vault as York placed fifth as a team with a 127.7 team score.

Suburban Life ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



**NICK
TRAPANI**

**YORK
Senior | Basketball**

Why Nick Trapani was selected:

Trapani scored all of his team-high 15 points on five 3-pointers in the second half of a 61-59 loss Dec. 13 against Oak Park-River Forest.

A lefty with a quick release, Nick Trapani is a dangerous long-distance shooter. He showed just how dangerous he can be as he poured in 15 points in the second half of a West Suburban Silver game against Oak Park-River Forest that wasn't decided until the waning seconds. Trapani, the Suburban Life Athlete of the Week sponsored by Gracik Makinney Real Estate Group, spoke with sports editor Jason Rossi about his second half against OPRF, working on his shot, and more. Here's an edited transcript:

Rossi: What allowed you to find your touch in the second half against OPRF?

Trapani: My teammates were giving me good screens to help me get open and they were getting me the ball, so all credit to them.

Rossi: You've got such a quick release on your shot. How much have you worked on that?

Trapani: I've been working on that

ever since I can remember. My parents told me I've been working on that since I was a toddler. To be a shooter it's important to have a quick release so the defender can't get out on you, so that's always something I take pride in.

Rossi: What did you learn playing against OPRF that could help you the next time you play them?

Trapani: They're a great team and they have great athletes. They're really big and they're really good at rebounding, so we gotta box out on the rebounds.

Rossi: Are you guys excited to play Downers Grove North [Dec. 16] and then host the Tosh tournament?

Trapani: [Downers North] is a great team, but we're a great team as well so it'll be a good game. I look forward to the Tosh. It's a great tournament, so hopefully we can get the two-peat going.

This Athlete of the Week is brought to you by

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St. Charles East shoots past Glenbard South

By JOHN LEMON
jlemon@dailyherald.com

Girls basketball

It took St. Charles East a quarter to get the pace it wanted Thursday night against Glenbard South. Once the Saints got out and ran, the Raiders couldn't catch up.

After scoring just 6 points in the opening quarter, St. Charles East put 22 on the scoreboard in the second and 25 more in the third. The Saints broke open the non-conference matchup of Top 20 teams, winning 59-44.

Five-foot-4 senior guard Matissa Urso caught fire

meshing and knowing when someone is hot."

No. 17 Glenbard South (5-3) went to the second quarter tied 6-6 before quickly and repeatedly getting burned by Urso. She scored the Saints' first 12 points of the second quarter on a trio of 3-point baskets and a three-point play, putting the Saints up 18-11.

After Maggie Bair's basket got the Raiders back within 23-19, Sara Rosenfeldt assisted Rose Stackhouse on a backdoor cut, then Nicole Jordan hit a 3 at the buzzer for a 28-19 halftime lead.

"They started fumbling and played our game. We're small this year, but we have speed and can run the floor. We all get along really well and it helps everyone's confidence

a layup on a fastbreak, making it 40-25.

By the time the quarter ended, this time with Urso driving and kicking out to Munroe for a long jumper, the Saints had hit 9 of 15 shots, outscored the Raiders 25-9, and built a 53-28 advantage.

"We had a great third quarter," Saints coach Lori Drum-

tra said. "We knew Glenbard South had a very methodical half-court offense and you kind of have to force the pace a little and we didn't do that at first."

Munroe scored 14 points

and Rosenfeldt had 13 as the Saints won their sixth straight.

"I'm very pleased with how they have responded," Drumtra said. "I'm pleased with how they seem to pick up steam as the game wears on instead of having a lull. We really haven't had that. It really does start with Sam. That's how we go."

Sarah Cohen led the Raiders with 17 points, Bair had 13 and Ally Daca 9.

"We have the ability but tonight we let a team that was strong and had good shooters completely take ourselves out of the game," Kasperek said.

Lisle comeback bid falls short vs. Plano

By STAN GOFF

Daily Herald Correspondent

Girls basketball

You couldn't blame the Lisle girls basketball team if it had packed up its bags after the first half Thursday night and just decided to skip the final two quarters.

While visiting Plano and star MaKayli Vann came out hot, the host Lions came out as cold as the weather on this December night. Lisle missed its first 15 shots and went 2 for 29 from the floor while falling behind 23-9 at the half.

But the Lions did indeed come out for the second half and came out strong, battling back to within 43-37 with more than a minute left to play before eventually falling 45-37. In the end the slow start coupled with a 21-point 19-rebound effort by MaKayli Vann was just too much for Lisle (8-5, 3-3) to overcome in the Interstate Eight Conference contest.

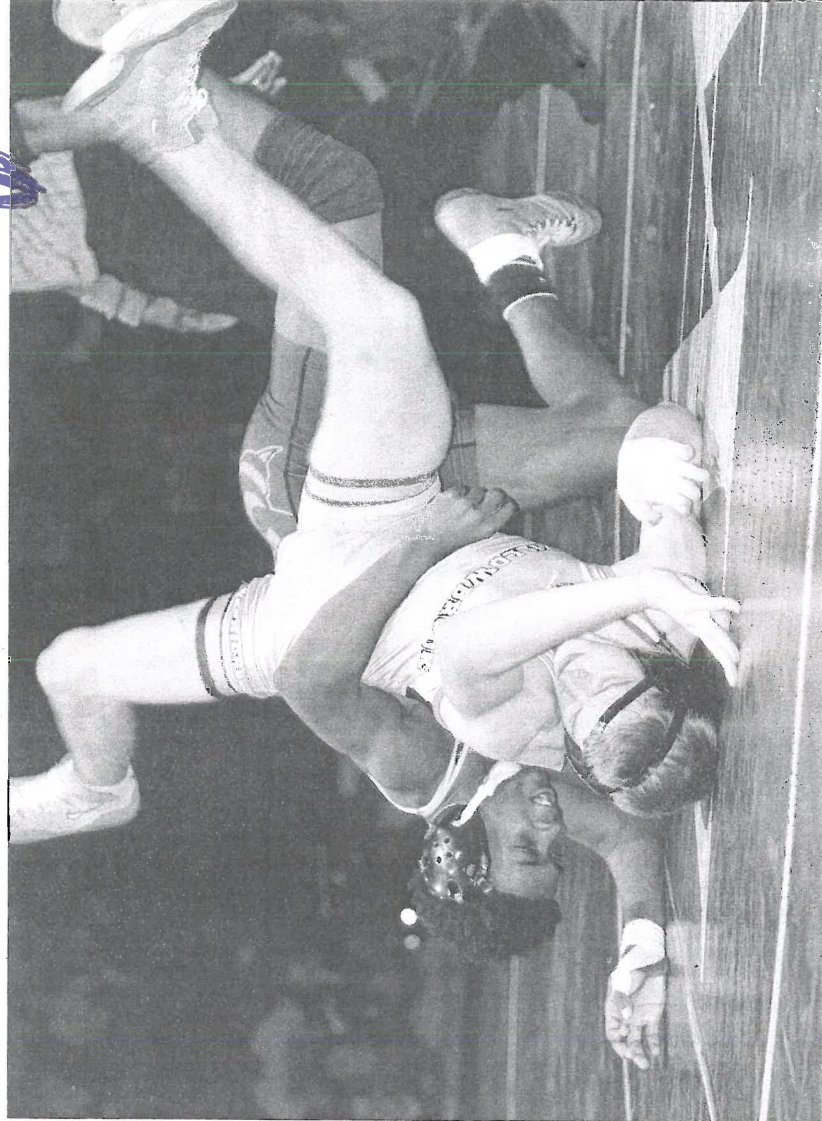
"We're too good a shooting team to be down for too

the first half and 16 points, but Lisle played a box-and-one in the second half and slowed her down a bit. But Plano's Demetra Phylactos stepped up with a trio of 3-pointers and 11 points in the third quarter to help the visitors take a 34-22 lead into the final quarter.

Lisle's Nicole Cyranoski tallied 11 of her team-leading 14 points in the second half and the offense of Mackenzie Weaver and TyAnn LeGrand-Melton along with Abbey Kretman's rebounding also helped spark the comeback.

Kretman, a 5-foot-9 senior, finished with 6 points, 14 rebounds and 2 steals in the game. She admitted the first half was a struggle, but she and her teammates knew they could at least make things interesting over the final two quarters.

"It was tough," Kretman



PHOTOS BY PAUL MICHNA/pmichna@dailyherald.com
Renwick Williams of Hinsdale South and Willowbrook's Zack Zeffiro, foreground, compete in the 126-pound match in a West Suburban Gold meet Thursday in Villa Park. The teams wrestled on the stage in Willowbrook's auditorium. The Warriors won 36-33.

Elmhurst College launches virtual campus tour

Prospective students can virtually explore the campus anytime via the College's website

Elmhurst College has partnered with YouVisit, LLC to build a virtual tour of the College's scenic campus, giving prospective students and other visitors the opportunity to explore the campus from anywhere, on any device.

The campus walking tour is accessible at elmhurst.edu/virtual-tour, and allows visitors to obtain more information about, as well as apply to, Elmhurst College.

The tour currently is available in English and Vietnamese, to engage global audiences.

"Whether you take the tour instead of—or in addition to—visiting us in person, you're going to get a great sense of what it's like to be on our beautiful campus," said Timothy Ricordati, interim dean of admission.

"What's more, the tour will show

you how close you are to downtown Elmhurst and to all of the opportunities offered by the City of Chicago."

YouVisit equips colleges and universities across the country with virtual tours on three key platforms—Facebook, mobile (Android, iPhone and iPad), and college and university websites—and provides students with a realistic perspective of what it is like to live and study at the school.

"Elmhurst College has an idyllic campus situated near a bustling, global city," said YouVisit's Marketing Director Gordon Meyer.

"We expect the new virtual experience to cultivate widespread interest as even more prospective students around the country, and the world, are introduced to the College's offerings."

County Health Department to train for new NARCAN spray

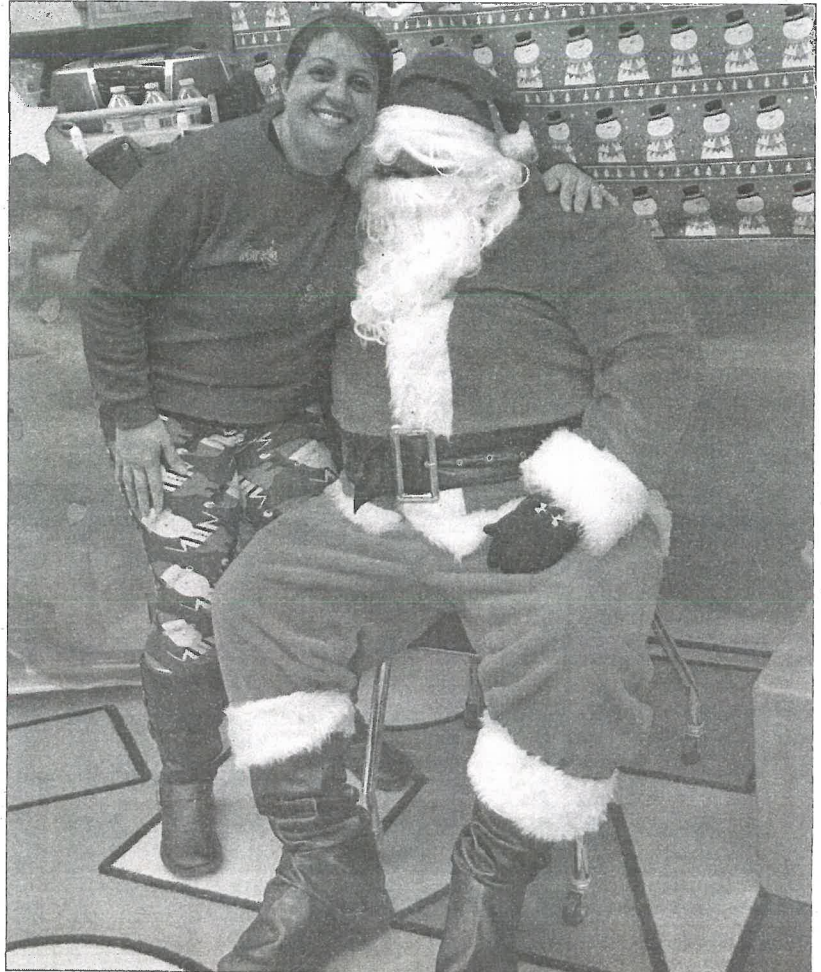
The DuPage County Health Department was scheduled to hold a training session on the use of the new Naloxone Hydrochloride (NARCAN) atomizer spray for new and existing DuPage NARCAN Program (DNP) staff on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016.

NARCAN is a ready-to-use, needle-free, 4 mg concentrated dose of naloxone in a single spray for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose. Police officers within and outside DuPage

County have been trained by the DNP to meet the needs of our local and regional law enforcement partners.

With nearly 50 registrants, this is the largest training class to date.

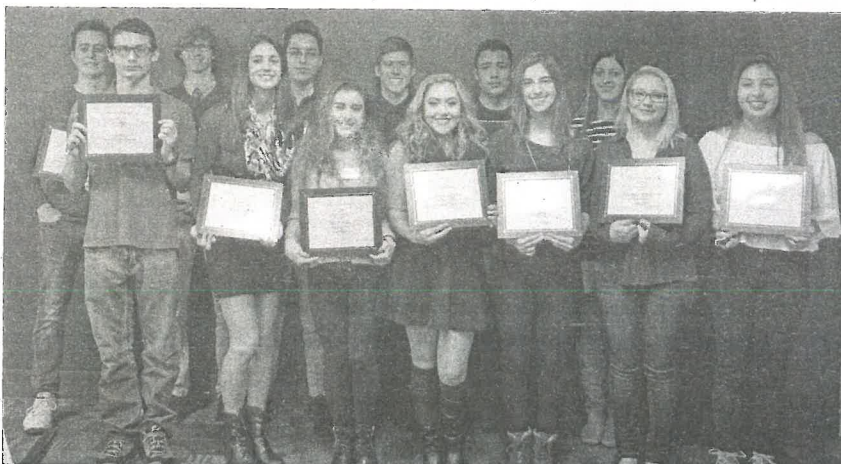
The DNP has developed a customized program to train officers in the use of NARCAN and supplies the product to first responders. All aspects of the DNP have been approved under the authority of the Illinois Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA).



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

Posing with Santa

Teachers—including Ms. Emma Paladino pictured here—posed for their own picture with Santa Claus on Thursday, Dec. 8 at the Addison Early Learning Center's (AELC) Winter Celebration. The evening's fun included Christmas activities and tasty snacks but Santa was by far the star of the show.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

ATHS announces student of First Semester

Pictured are the Addison Trail students who were named as Students of First Semester on Dec. 6.

Addison Trail recognizes Students of First Semester

Each semester, Addison Trail departments establish criteria that guide the nomination of a student who displays Blazer Pride to receive Student of the Semester recognition.

On Dec. 6, the Students of First Semester for the 2016-17 school year were presented during a breakfast in their honor by the staff members who nominated them.

Those students are: art, senior Michelle Wachniak; CTE business, senior Sarah Hoda; CTE family and consumer, senior Julissa Reynoso; CTE industry and technology, senior Kevin Tucker; English, senior Jacob McAloon; literacy, sophomore Iovany Blancas; math, senior Marie Baumgartner; music, senior Christopher Lodzinski; physical education, junior Adal Sanabria; science, junior Katarina Surjanec;

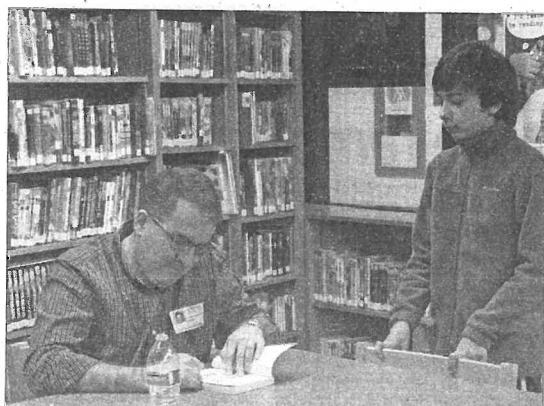
social studies, junior Tanvir Dhillon; and world languages, junior Berenice Berumen.

Hospital

(Continued from front page)

The selection of Top Hospitals is based on the results of the 2016 Leapfrog Hospital Survey.

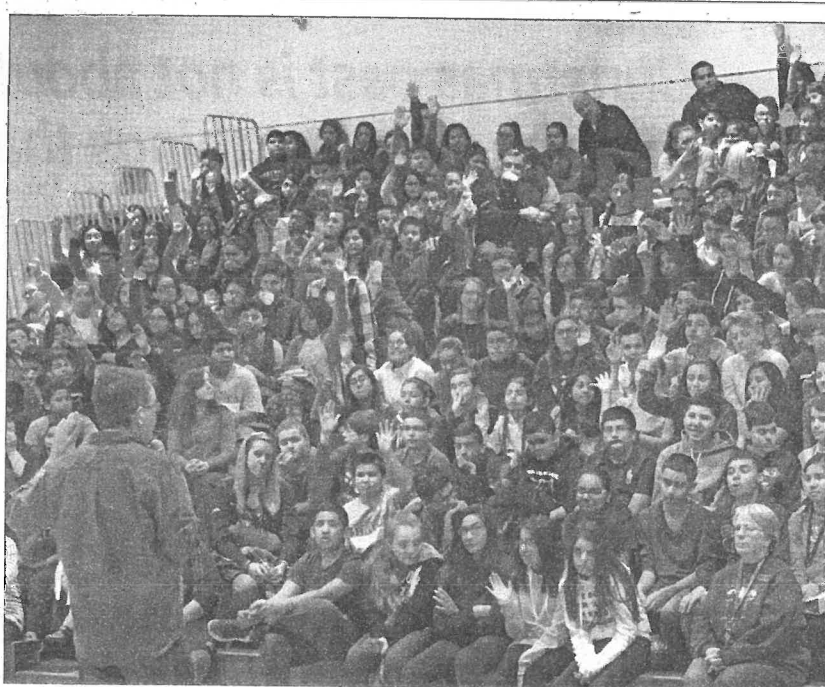
"Being acknowledged as a Top Hospital is an incredible feat achieved by less than three percent of hospitals nationwide," said Leah Binder, President & CEO, The Leapfrog Group. "With this honor, Elmhurst Hospital has established its commitment to safer and higher quality care. Providing this level of care to patients in requires motivation and drive from every team member. I congratulate the board, staff and clinicians, whose efforts made this honor possible."



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Addison Independent

Author for teens visits Indian Trail

Author Jordan Sonnenblick holds an assembly (right) for a group of students at Indian Trail Junior High School on Tuesday, Dec. 6, talking about his books and his motivation for writing. Between assemblies, he spent time in the school library signing books for students and visiting with students during lunch. Sonnenblick writes books about kids and teenagers. His titles include *Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie*, *Dodger and Me*, and *Falling over Side-ways*. Between assemblies, Sonnenblick signed books (above) for students like this one when he visited Indian Trail Junior High School on Dec. 6.



Women's Club of Addison collects gifts for those in need

Members of the Addison Women's Club arrived at The Empress early this month carrying gifts to donate to those in need in our local area. More than 60 gifts were collected. These

will be combined with donated gifts from other churches and charitable organizations in Addison and will be distributed by Addison Switchboard to those who might not otherwise

receive gifts during this Christmas season.

Because the Women's Club of Addison focuses on supporting charitable causes and endeavors to promote

camaraderie among its members, the Holiday Party is a favorite. Members shared a meal together amid holiday decorations and songs of the season.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Addison Independent

Pictured are Addison Trail seniors Ryan Cabildo (left) and Alexia Vargas, who have been named as All-State Musicians by the Illinois Music Education Association.

AT sends two to ILMEA All-State

Two Addison Trail students have been named as All-State Musicians by the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA).

As All-State Musicians, they will perform during the Illinois Music Education Conference, which will take place from Jan. 26 to 28, 2017, at Peoria Civic Center. Those students are seniors Ryan Cabildo (Concert Band) and Alexia Vargas (Chorus).

Those students auditioned in October and were selected as All-District Musicians. They have now received state-level recognition and will re-audition at the conference for placement within their respective ensemble.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

Addison Women's Club President Diane Cozzi and Club member Pat Tinman show off the many gifts collected for Addison Switchboard.

SPORTS

DECEMBER 15, 2016 • 16

Addison Trail girls basketball team off to strong 5-2 start

Blazers win first two conference games against Hinsdale South and Morton

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail girls basketball team got itself off on the right foot in West Suburban Conference Gold Division play.

The Blazers won their first two conference games against Hinsdale South and Morton and lost to Proviso East to go 2-1 through three WSC Gold contests.

Addison Trail coach Rob Schader was pleased with the team's defensive performance in a 39-33 win at

Hinsdale South. "We were up by 12 in the first half against Hinsdale," he said. "We really played well in the first half. And then we didn't play that good in the second half and only had two field goals. But we still beat them. We played very well defensively."

The Blazers then scored a 52-46 win over Morton on 'Pack the Place' night at Addison Trail.

While Addison Trail lost by 24 to Proviso East, Schader saw positives. "We played very well," he said. "That's the best we've played over

there since I have been the coach. We were losing by six at halftime and by 14 at the end of the third quarter. They had a sophomore kid who scored 23 points and another girl who was very good and she had 23. I thought we played well, but they hurt us bad on the boards. They had 27 offensive rebounds."

Addison Trail was 5-2 overall through its first seven games.

Schader lauded the play of a host of players, first the trio of Alyssa Pham, Marie Baumgartner and Diamond Pi-

kulyk.

"Alyssa is playing very well," said Schader. "She is commanding the floor. She's running the show and doing a nice job. Marie is playing good defense and is hitting 3s. Diamond has done a phenomenal job rebounding and scoring."

The coach also cited strong play from Jasmin Mehmeti, Nicci Scorza, Diana Graciano and Vincenza Zaccaro.

"Jasmin and Nicci also are playing well and Diana and Vincenza are do-

ing a great job coming off the bench," said Schader.

Addison Trail has a busy schedule this week with contests against Larkin, Willowbrook and Downers Grove South.

The Blazers will play in the Lisle Christmas tournament after the holiday.

"We have some pretty tough games coming up," said Schader. "We'll see how we do. We have four games (within a week). It's a tough stretch. We'll see how we do. So far, so good."

Willowbrook boys basketball now 7-0 after victory over Addison Trail

Warriors also sport 3-0 conference mark; Schuemer drops 28 and 15 against Morton

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook boys basketball team is on a major roll out of the gates.

The Warriors were 7-0 through late last week after notching recent West Suburban Conference Gold Division victories against Proviso East, Morton and District 88 neighbor Addison Trail.

Willowbrook started conference play with a 59-53 win at home against Proviso East.

"We were up by 16 points with two minutes to play," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins. "The game definitely wasn't that close. It was a solid team win overall. We did a very good job keeping them out of the paint and running them off the 3-point line. Defensively we were solid holding Proviso East to 53 points. That's pretty good. We also took care of the ball very well. They are well-known for their full-court pressure. We only had eight turnovers the entire game. We did an impressive job with the ball."

Ethan Schuemer led the Warriors with a double-double, notching 14 points and 17 rebounds. Marshawn Phillips added 13 points, while Matas Masys had 12 points.

Willowbrook then recorded a 64-52 win on the road at Morton. "We came out in the first half and got up 30-12," Perkins noted. "It was a good solid team win."

Schuemer led the Warriors with 28 points and 15 rebounds. He also shot 12-for-12 from the free-throw line.

"Ethan was phenomenal," said Perkins. "Ethan has been very consistent for us, but we've had other guys step up as well."

Phillips added 13 points.

"We shot well and were aggressive as a team," said Perkins. "We shot 27 free throws and made 21 of them. I was really pleased about that."

Willowbrook then downed Addison Trail 74-51 to move to 3-0 in conference. "We shot the ball really well," said Perkins. "We made 11 of 15 three-pointers."

Willowbrook also again enjoyed balanced scoring with Phillips leading the way at 17 points. Schuemer had 12 points, while Sikandar Zafar had 11 points and Ryan King finished with 10 points.

"We had good pressure. We forced Addison Trail to commit 18 turnovers," said Perkins. "We also shot the ball well."

Perkins is pleased with what he's seen so far, but cautions the calendar still reads December. "We are the first team to three wins in the conference, but it's still early in the year," he said. "We're seven games in so far and so far we've done well. The guys are still buying in and continuing to improve. Those are big reasons to be pleased at this point. We know it's a long season and we have to be prepared for what teams throw at us. We're off to a hot start and that's resulted in added publicity. People are talking about us. It's a different approach mentally for the guys. Teams are coming for us and we have to be ready to face everybody's best game."

Willowbrook won two of the first three conference games at home and downed Morton on the road. The Warriors' final contest before the Glenbard West Christmas tournament is Friday at Hinsdale South.

"We're making good progress," said Perkins. "The kids are starting to find their niche and their roles. We're seven games in and doing well. Our depth right now is what is separating us from a lot of teams. We're able to go deep and have different guys produce on the court."

IC Catholic Prep wrestling team making strides

Bianchini, Vargas both off to hot starts for Knights

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

In the early going, there's been no shortage of positivity coming out of the IC Catholic Prep wrestling camp.

While the Knights were 2-4 through their first six dual meets of the season, numerous individual accomplishments have first-year coach Randy Spaulding pleased.

"We're 2-4, but improving now that we have a fuller lineup due to our state-champion football team finishing its season," he said.

On the individual front, Joey Bianchini and Victor Vargas both were 6-0 through mid-week. Bianchini wrestles at 120 pounds, while Vargas is at 220. All six of Vargas' wins were via pinfall. Frank Jaeger was 2-1 at 126 and freshmen Cortes Draper (170) and Larry Chavez (195) both won their first varsity contests.

IC Catholic Prep finished ninth in the Metro Suburban Conference last year and took third at the Class 1A Lisle regional.

Bianchini and Vargas are the team co-captains. Bianchini, a junior, started the season ranked No. 2 in the state in Class 1A at 113 pounds by Illinois Matmen. Bianchini is a two-time state qualifier and took second at 106 last year. He also is a returning conference, regional and sectional champion.

As the first state wrestling qualifier and medalist in school history, Bianchini brought a 70-9 career record into this season. He went 42-2 last season and has a chance to threaten the 100-win mark this season as a junior.

Vargas is new to IC Catholic Prep. He's a returning Class 2A regional champion and went 10-6 last year.

Other returning wrestlers include sophomores Joe Bigane (152) and Kemon Reese (170). Bigane was fourth at conference and regionals last year. Reese was fourth at regionals as well.

"All our wrestlers have quickly learned many new skills, definitely outpacing and exceeding our coaches' expectations."

— Randy Spaulding,
IC wrestling coach

Key newcomers to the team include Vargas, Jaeger, Chris Johnson (Sr., 220) and Quinn Bigane (Jr., 160).

Spaulding has plenty of talent to work with in the wrestling room this season. "Our roster has more than doubled over last year, which has led to more depth," he said. "Although we have many first-time wrestlers, most are multi-sport athletes, and understand the basic fundamentals of the sport. We have many football players from our undefeated state-championship team who are eager to carry over their success onto the mat. Even the few kids who only wrestle do compete in the international wrestling styles in the off-season. All our kids are intelligent and come to practice focused, ready to learn and compete. This makes coaching and teaching wrestling easy. Our staff is comprised of coaches who all care about the kids and have had great success at all levels of wrestling."

Spaulding said the learning part of the sport thus far has been impressive. "All our wrestlers have quickly learned many new skills, definitely outpacing and exceeding our coaches' expectations," he said. "Everyone on this team has the ability to turn some heads as the season goes on and we believe that definitely will start to happen."

Spaulding said goals this season include improving on its conference finish and making some noise in the postseason.

"We're determined to improve on our ninth-place finish in the conference from last season," he said. "We are determined to win our regional as a team and qualify as many wrestlers as possible to sectionals and the state finals."

Willowbrook wrestling to host match in school auditorium

Warriors girls bowling team competes against Downers South; Soriano stars in JV match

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook wrestling team is adding a bit of a twist to today's match against Hinsdale South.

The Warriors will host, for the first time in the history of the school, a wrestling meet on the stage in the high-school auditorium.

The varsity meet begins at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15.

Willowbrook girls bowling

The Willowbrook girls bowling team dropped a recent 2,934-2,697 West Suburban Conference match to Downers Grove South at Brunswick Zone.

Senior Jordan Tiberi led the Warriors with a high series of 535. Dana Sassenick had a 527 series with a high game of 204.

Willowbrook's JV team dropped

a 2,210-2,136 match to Downers South. Betsy Soriano led Willowbrook with a 477 high series and a high game of 191. Soriano had the high series for all JV bowlers as well as the high game.

Willowbrook girls basketball

The Willowbrook girls basketball team lost 54-26 to Downers Grove South in West Suburban Conference Gold Division action.

Katelyn McCann led the Warriors with nine points and shot 4-for-7 from the field.

She also had two steals. Hannah Konrath added seven points, three rebounds and three steals. CeCe Lizasuin had three points and eight rebounds.

Shannon Knudtson had five rebounds and Grace Chantos finished with two steals.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
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