

VILLA PARK REVIEW

240 N. West Avenue
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Main Phone 630.834-8244
Fax 630.834-0800

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Administration:

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Advertising:

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Willowbrook named a winner in Samsung contest

Willowbrook math and Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher Josh Zwart's Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Principles of Engineering class (pictured) has been named as a state winner in the 2019-20 Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest. According to Samsung, the nationwide contest is designed to boost interest and proficiency in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), and challenges public school teachers and students in grades 6-12 to show how STEM can be applied to help improve their local communities. As a state winner, Willowbrook will receive \$15,000 in technology and classroom materials. The students in Zwart's class will also create a three-minute demonstration video to compete for a chance to increase the prize amount to \$50,000 and become a national finalist. The competition involved completing an application and an activity plan. The 27 Willowbrook students in the class focused their project on vaping and used the PLTW Engineering Design Process to help solve the problem of student vaping.

District 45 board places \$30 million referendum on ballot in March 17 election

Residents invited to attend upcoming informational town halls and open houses

STAFF REPORT

The District 45 Board of Education recently decided to place a \$30 million referendum question on the ballot in the upcoming general primary election on March 17. The board approved the placement of the question on the ballot during its Dec. 16 meeting.

The district is inviting residents to attend upcoming town halls and open houses to learn more about the referendum and the district's recently adopted 10-year master facility plan.

The question voters will consider on the March 17 ballot asks the following:

"Shall the Board of Education of School District Number 45, DuPage County, Illinois, build and equip a new early childhood center, improve the sites of, build and equip additions to and alter, repair and equip existing school buildings, including installing school safety, security and technology improvements, making improvements to science labs and music rooms and renovating other instructional spaces, constructing

improvements necessary to accommodate full-day kindergarten, increasing parking and improving drop-off zones, and issue bonds of said School District to the amount of \$30,000,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?"

If voters approve the referendum, the owner of a district home with a market value of \$240,000 will reportedly pay about \$170 in additional property taxes per year.

The district's schools include two Villa Park middle schools—Jackson Middle School and Jefferson Middle School—as well as six elementary schools—Ardmore, North, Schafer, Stevenson, Westmore and York Center. Ardmore and North schools are located in Villa Park, Schafer, Stevenson, Westmore and York Center schools are in Lombard.

To put the question on the March 17 ballot, the board had to adopt a resolution no later than Dec. 30, and file that resolution with the DuPage County Clerk no later than Jan. 9.

At its meeting on Dec. 9, the District 45 board approved the inclusion of an early childhood center, full-day kindergarten and classroom modernization as part of its 10-year master facility plan.

According to information provided by the district, which is available on its website (www.d45.org), the 10-year master facility plan calls for \$58.8 million in improvements.

Those improvements include full-day kindergarten and the construction of a centralized early childhood center. Full-day kindergarten and the proposed early childhood center carry a projected cost of \$24.8 million. That proposed center would be constructed just south of the existing school building at Jackson Middle School.

The district's early childhood program currently has classes at Ardmore, Stevenson and Schafer schools.

Other elements of the 10-year master facility plan include flexible classrooms (\$5.2 million), technology improvements (\$1.8 million), upgrades in toilets, lighting, flooring and painting (\$11 million), safety upgrades (\$8.4 million), improvements to spaces including offices, gymnasiums and multi-purpose rooms (\$4 million) and \$2 million in various infrastructure work (roofing, tuck-pointing, windows, doors and parking lots).

According to the district, a \$30

million referendum is necessary to complete the \$58.8 million in improvements in a timely manner.

"As educational needs evolve and state and federal mandates increase, we are reaching the end of our ability to meet our needs without a referendum," according to a portion of a statement on the district's website.

According to the district, without a successful referendum, it would take more than 20 years to implement the proposed upgrades—and those upgrades would not include the construction of an early childhood center.

If the referendum passes in March, full-day kindergarten and the new childhood center could be ready by August of 2022. If the referendum were to pass in November of 2020, full-day kindergarten and the new early childhood center could be ready one year later, in August 2023.

A consulting firm hired by the district—EOSullivan Consulting, LLC—recently issued its analysis and suggested that the district place the question on the ballot in the March election.

"District 45 is surprisingly well

See REFERENDUM, Page 7

Illinois economy grew slowly in 3rd quarter 2019

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The Illinois economy grew at a slower pace than most neighboring states and the nation as a whole during the third quarter of 2019, according to new figures released Jan. 10.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, which tracks state-by-state economic trends, said overall, the state's economy grew at a modest annualized rate of 1.4 percent, well below the national rate of 2.1 percent.

Illinois ranked 41st in the nation for GDP growth during the quarter, according to the data. Texas showed the fastest-growing economy, at nearly 4 percent, while Delaware came in last with no measurable growth.

The bureau measures the gross domestic product, or GDP, for each state. That's the total value of goods produced and services provided during a given period.

The biggest area of growth during the third quarter came from the professional, scientific, and technical services category, which accounted for nearly 9 percent of Illinois' GDP during the quarter.

That sector grew at an annualized rate of 5.8 percent, which translates to nearly \$1 billion in economic activity compared to the previous quarter.

That sector was closely followed by nondurable goods manufacturing, which accounted for 6.3 percent of the Illinois economy during the quarter.

That sector grew at a rate of 7.7 percent, or \$961 million.

That was not the case with the manufacturing of durable goods, which are generally products that do not wear out quickly and can be used over an extended period of time, such as household appliances, vehicles and furniture. That sector, which makes up about 6.3 percent of Illinois GDP, shrank by a little less than 1 percent.

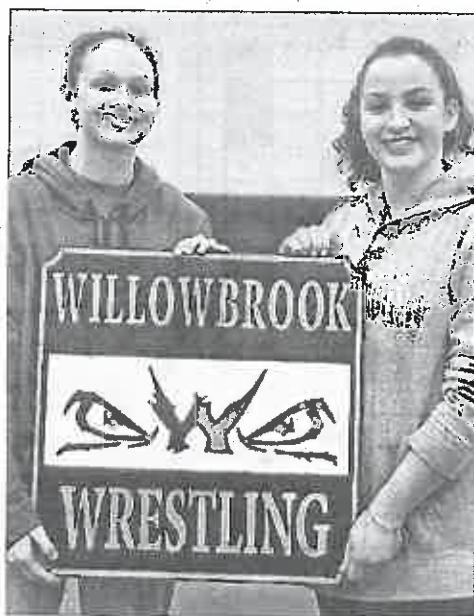
The retail industry posted a good quarter, growing at an annual rate of 7.3 percent, or about \$750 million. Retail accounts for a little more than 5 percent of Illinois' GDP.

But the growth in those areas was offset by steep declines in the finance and insurance sector, which shrank by more than 6.5 percent. That sec-

tor makes up nearly 9 percent of the state's economy, so the decline there translated to more than \$1.1 billion in economic activity.

The utilities sector also saw a sharp decline—more than 15 percent. But that sector accounts for less than 2 percent of the state's GDP so the decline translated to only about \$518 million in economic output.

Those trends were fairly consistent with national averages, BEA said. Declines in the finance and insurance industries were reported in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, while leading contributors to the nation's GDP growth included nondurable goods manufacturing; retail trade; and professional, scientific, and technical services.



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Individual champions

Willowbrook Juniors Samantha Williams (left) and Gabi Caruso (right) both won individual championships at Saturday's Homewood-Flossmoor Girls Wrestling Festival. Williams and Caruso earned three victories each in their respective divisions. Williams pinned all three of her opponents in the 131-140 level. Caruso, who competed in the 144-157 division, also delivered pins in all three of her matches.

Warriors return to action with convincing win

Victory over Downers Grove South kicks off second half of the conference season

Playing its first game in two weeks, Willowbrook's girls basketball team defeated Downers Grove South 44-25 in Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference game in Villa Park.

The Warriors, who opened the second half of West Suburban Gold play with Saturday's win, improved to 11-7 overall and 6-1 in the conference.

Willowbrook had not played since its fourth-place finish at Wheaton North's holiday tournament, which ended on Dec. 28. Willowbrook coach Terry Harrell gave the team the following week off. The Warriors returned to practice on Monday, Jan. 6.

"We had a dead quarter in the first quarter," said Harrell after Saturday's game. "We ran our offense really well. We just missed a lot of layups. We looked rusty in the first quarter, but we executed our plays well."

Willowbrook led the Mustangs 8-7 after one quarter and 18-13 at halftime. The Warriors' lead grew to 33-19 by the end of the third quarter. Willowbrook limited the Mustangs to single-digit outputs in all four quarters.

"We played solid defense the entire game," said Harrell after Saturday's game. He noted that the Warriors earned a 50-48 overtime win at Downers Grove South in the first meeting of the West Suburban Gold season on Dec. 10.

Junior Stephanie Dasbach scored 12 points and pulled down 17 rebounds for the Warriors. Junior Abbey Spada added nine points, which included a basket and a 3-point shot early in the fourth quarter. Junior Annemarie Knudsen and senior K'Aliya Herron provided eight and seven points, respectively.

Through 18 games, Dasbach averaged 14.6 points and 12.8 rebounds per game, while Herron averaged 13.2 points and 6.8 rebounds per contest.

The Warriors' schedule this week includes conference games at Hinsdale South and Leyden, as well as Friday's non-conference home game against Glenbard East.

Willowbrook will play on its home court on Monday, Jan. 20, facing Wheaton North in the Coach Kipp's Hoopfest event.

See photos on page 18.

Dispensaries report smoot rollout of legalized pot

Despite minor glitches, first-day sales top \$3.1 million

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The first day of legal sales of recreational marijuana in Illinois went "extraordinarily well," according to one industry representative, with total sales on Jan. 1 of nearly \$3.2 million.

"I just I cannot express the gratitude from the dispensary operators to our customers about their courtesy and civility and patience. It was really a lovely, very successful rollout, I think, on the first day," Pamela Althoff, executive director of the Cannabis Business Association of Illinois, said in an interview Jan. 2.

On New Year's Day, Illinois became the 11th state to allow legal sales of recreational marijuana to adults. As the clock ticked down to midnight on New Year's Eve, many dispensaries were reporting long lines outside their stores, in some cases stretching around their block.

The much-anticipated event was made possible by passage of a new law during the 2019 legislative session, the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, which legalized the sale, possession and use of marijuana for people 21 and older.

Former state Sen. Toi Hutchinson, an architect of that law who now serves as Gov. J.B. Pritzker's senior advisor for cannabis control, reported during a news conference Thursday that dispensaries across the state conducted 77,128 transactions on Jan. 1, with sales totaling more than \$3.1 million.

That happened despite a few snags on the opening day of sales, Althoff said.

First, she said, there were glitches in the software that dispensaries use at the point of sale, which contributed to long wait times. Previously, dispensaries were allowed to sell only to qualified medical patients, but now they must keep close track of both medical and recreational sales, which are taxed differently.

Adjustments made by the software company to address that change, Althoff said, caused a few problems.

"There were a few glitches, not everywhere, but in a few of the dispensaries," she said. "... But my understanding is that they were rapidly corrected. But it did add to some of the wait times that people experienced."

In addition, she said, many dispensary operators had made design changes to their stores to accommodate a larger retail clientele, but state officials had not yet inspected all of those changes and some dispensaries were unable to open for recreational sales on Jan. 1.

And then there were issues of supply. Under the new law, Althoff said, medical dispensaries, which were the first to receive licenses for recreational sales, are required to keep a

30-day supply of marijuana products for their medical customers, leaving only a limited amount of inventory available for recreational customers.

She said supply shortages are expected to continue until April or May, when cultivation centers that have been licensed to grow recreational marijuana reap their first crop.

Meanwhile, state officials remain busy implementing other parts of the bill. On Tuesday, Dec. 31, Pritzker issued 11,017 pardons that will lead to the expungement of records for people with low-level marijuana convictions. Eventually, Pritzker's office said, more than 700,000 criminal records will be expunged under the new law.

Thursday, Jan. 2, marked the deadline for people to submit applications for the next wave of dispensary

licenses. As many as 75 new licenses will be issued May 1, with priority being given to "social equity" applicants—people with previous marijuana convictions, their families, people from areas of the state with high crime or child poverty rate.

A share of the revenue the receives from recreational marijuana sales is earmarked for the "Restore, Reinvest, and Renew" program to fund community projects in neighborhoods that, in Hutchinson's words, "have been hardest hit by war on drugs."

Other revenue is earmarked for a Cannabis Business Development Fund that will provide grants to low-interest loans to social equity applicants to help pay part of startup cost of launching a marijuana-related business.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

District 88's Best for December

Willowbrook senior Ayesha Baig (right) was named the school's December recipient of the 88's Best award. Baig, who is pictured with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause (left), was recognized during the District 88 Board of Education meeting on Dec. 16. The district's board and administration created the 88's Best award to honor students for their achievements in and out of the classroom. Baig has consistently pursued the most rigorous courses available at Willowbrook. When she graduates, she will have completed 14 Advanced Placement (AP) college-level courses. Baig has been named to the District Honor Roll each semester of her high school career. She is an AP Scholar with Distinction, a State Scholar and an inductee of Willowbrook's National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, World Language Honor Society and Civitas—the school's special studies honor society. Outside of the classroom, Baig is a member of the girls track and field team, the math team (where she is a state qualifier), Scholastic Bowl and the theater department's technical crew. Baig is also the vice president of the Kappa Club. Baig, who has applied to the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, plans to pursue a degree in medicine.

SPORTS

JAN. 16, 2020

Warriors win one of three non-conference battles

Team closes week with a 6-11 record

The Willowbrook boys basketball team won one of three non-conference games last week.

The Warriors began the week with a 51-50 loss at Sandburg on Jan. 7. One night later, Willowbrook beat Proviso West 81-73 in Villa Park. The Warriors finished the week with Saturday's 65-58 loss at Mundelein.

The Warriors' overall record at the end of the week stood at 6-11.

Willowbrook trailed Sandburg 28-24 at halftime. The Warriors took a 38-34 lead by the end of the third quarter. The lead swung back and forth during the closing minute of the fourth quarter. Trailing by one point, the Warriors went to the free-throw line with less than one second to play. Willowbrook missed both free throws.

Sophomore Sean Paige scored 14 points and grabbed eight rebounds for the Warriors. Senior Everett Stubblefield, who made a pair of 3-point shots, added 12 points. Senior Sam Tumilty, who connected on three shots from 3-point range, scored 11 points. Senior Isaac Gaines contributed seven points.

Willowbrook held a 38-29 halftime lead over Proviso West in the Jan. 8 contest in Villa Park. Senior Deandre Holliday helped the Warriors to a 58-45 lead by the end of the third quarter.

Holliday's steal and driving layup gave Willowbrook a 55-43 lead with about 20 seconds left in the period. Moments later, after Proviso West scored a basket, Holliday fired and sank a 3-point shot as the buzzer sounded to give the Warriors a 13-point lead.

Holliday scored eight of his 17 points during the third quarter. He provided his second 3-point shot of the night during the fourth quarter. Holliday also grabbed eight rebounds during the victory.

Stubblefield scored a team-leading 21 points in the win over Proviso West. He made eight baskets, including one shot from 3-point range. Stubblefield made four of five free-throw attempts during the fourth quarter.

Paige made seven of 11 field-goal attempts and sank four of five free throws to provide 18 points. Paige also recorded 13 rebounds.

Tumilty sank three 3-point shots—one in each of the first three quarters. He added three baskets in the fourth quarter on the way to a 17-point output.

The Warriors trailed Mundelein 26-14 after one quarter of Saturday's game. Willowbrook outscored the Mustangs 16-3 in the second quarter to take a 30-29 halftime lead. The Warriors held a 46-43 lead after three

quarters, but Mundelein delivered a 22-12 surge during the final eight minutes.

Stubblefield made 11 of 21 shots, including two of five attempts from 3-point range, and scored a team-leading 24 points. Tumilty provided 13 points, while Paige scored seven points.

Willowbrook's schedule this week includes conference games against Hinsdale South and Downers Grove South. The Warriors will play games this Saturday and Monday at Lake Zurich's Martin Luther King holiday tournament.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS/ROCK VALLEY PRESS

Willowbrook's boys basketball team defeated Proviso West 81-73 in last week's non-conference game in Villa Park. Senior Everett Stubblefield (No. 3-above) scored a team-leading 24 points in the victory. Seniors Deandre Holliday (No. 1-left) and Sam Tumilty (No. 5-below) both contributed 17 points. Sophomore Sean Paige (not pictured) scored 18 points and pulled down 13 rebounds. The Jan. 8 victory over Proviso West gave Willowbrook an overall season record of 6-10. The Warriors fell to 6-11 with Saturday's non-conference loss at Mundelein.

Addison Trail wrestlers gearing up for stretch run

Cadre of Blazer competitors garnering state attention

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail wrestling team is making its preparations for the upcoming IHSA Class 3A state series.

The Blazers were 8-5 overall through their first 13 dual matches, but coach Mike Rosengrant stressed the competition level in those contests will work wonders for his group in the upcoming weeks.

"Four of those five losses are to really high-ranked teams," he said. "We lost to the No. 3 team in the state, the No. 6 team and to the No. 4 team. So three teams in the top 10 are in those five losses."

"We wrestle a tough schedule and hopefully are guys will be battle-tested and keep getting better and be ready for the postseason. We are focusing on that, getting guys ready for

the state series."

Through early last week Rosengrant noted five Addison Trail wrestlers appeared in the state ranking.

At one point, Jake Matthews ranked No. 6 at 152 pounds, dropped to honorable mention status after a loss to the No. 6-ranked wrestler at 145.

"But Jake beat the No. 7-ranked guy at 152 and beat him pretty good," Rosengrant said. "He had a break-out for two weeks and that was his first match back, and it was the first time he cut down to 145."

Nick Skamra was ranked eight 182 pounds, while Adam Skrzy (113 pounds), John Asiuras (120) and Xavier Sierra (220) were all ranked in the honorable mention category, their respective weight classes.

"We are focusing on improvement and that's it," said Rosengrant. "Guys are getting better and buying into the style of wrestling we are preaching."

See WRESTLING Page 1



Willowbrook girls gymnastics team notches season-high score

Addison Trail senior
Fiernuga bowls well
at Oswego East invite

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls gymnastics team registered a season-high score in a 126.55-118.9 West Suburban Gold Conference victory at Hinsdale South on Jan. 9.

Coach Deanna Zuchowski noted it was Willowbrook's high score dating back the last few years.

Willowbrook freshman Sarah Ball won the vault with a score of 8.7. Sophomore Tess Placek and senior Karli Wilson tied for fifth with scores of 8.4.

Sophomore Bella Naumovsky

won the bars competition with an 8.7. Junior Alexis Fitzgerald took third at 7.5.

Naumovsky tied for first on beam with an 8.9, while junior Riley Wieringa was third at 7.7 and Fitzgerald was fourth at 7.6.

Naumovsky won the floor exercise with a score of 8.6. Ball took second at 8.3.

Placek took third in the all-around scoring with a 29.8 score. Wieringa was fourth at 29.6.

Willowbrook won the JV1 meet 97.9 to 65.4. Freshman Hanna Mitrick tied for first on the vault for Willowbrook at 8.2. She also was tops on bars at 6.8, won the beam at 7.5 and was first on floor at 7.3. Mitrick also won the all-around at 29.8.

Freshman Molly Morris tied for

first with Mitrick on vault at 8.2. She was second on bars at 6.1 and second on floor at 6.7. Freshman Dima Elagha was second on beam at 6.3. Morris was second in the all-around at 27.2.

Addison Trail bowling

The Addison Trail girls bowling team was sixth at the Dec. 21 Oswego East Wolves Invitational. The Blazers rolled a 4,729 six-game series and had an 859 high game.

Addison Trail senior Kasey Fiernuga finished 17th with a 1,025 series. She had high games of 191, 190 and 189.

Senior Yuli Macias was 20th at 996. She had a high game of 236 right after the lunch break. Sophomore Sarah Soucie took 24th with a 947 series that included a 180 high game. Freshman Kylie Fiernuga was 37th at 777 (for five games). She had high games of 182 and 180.

The Addison Trail JV team took seventh in the JV invite at Oswego

East. Brit Nakhammouane was 18th with an 805 series with a high game of 159. She also had a 157 game.

Willowbrook bowling

The Willowbrook bowling team took 24th at the Cougar Holiday Bowling Invite hosted by Plainfield South on Dec. 28.

The Warriors finished with a 4,675 pinfall and had a high game of 882. Senior Makaylah Jones led the Warriors with a 32nd place finish at 1,102. She had high games of 237 and 192. Senior Maddie Brown rolled a 928 series with a 179 high game.

Willowbrook also entered its JV team in the tournament and it finished 30th in the field.

Senior Victoria Salazar led the Warriors' JV team with an 83rd-place finish. She had a 971 series with a 197 high game.

Sophomore Kaile Scholtens rolled an 899 series with a 178 high game.

Addison Trail-Willowbrook boys swimming

The Addison Trail-Willowbrook boys swimming team was in action at the 14th annual York Invite on Dec. 21.

Michal Niemirski was 17th in the 100 with a time of 55.71. Sean Pienkos was 19th in the 200 at 2:06.88. Pienkos was 18th in the 500 at 5:43.24.

Conor Craddock was 13th in the backstroke at 1:03.89. Marco Chaidze was 17th in the butterfly at 1:03.16.

AT-Willowbrook was 12th in the 200 relay with Craddock, Chaidze, Matthew Burrow and Niemirski swimming 1:40.49.

AT-Willowbrook was 14th in the 400 relay with Craddock, Pienkos, Niemirski and Chaidze swimming 3:48.95.

Craddock, Burrow, Chaidze and Niemirski combined to go 1:54.99 and take 11th place in the medley relay at York.

Wrestling (Continued from page 16)

We are starting to see some gains. We know what they need to do to reach those state-level goals and we are in there working on those things."

At the recent Prospect tournament, John Assurance won his weight class, while Skamra took third, and Skrzypek and Sierra each took third.

Addison Trail also wrestled in the prestigious Dvorak tournament.

"It's the toughest in-season tournament in the state," said Rosengrant. "It's nationally known as a tough tournament and a good indicator for potential."

Assurance, Rosengrant pointed out, lost to two ranked wrestlers in close matches. Skrzypek lost at Dvorak in the "blood" round (the round needed to win in order to place).

"Nick had two losses to the No. 4 and No. 6 ranked guys and he was one win away from placing," said Rosengrant.

Skamra took sixth in his weight class at Dvorak, while Sierra won his blood round match at 220 but then had to medically default and took eighth.

"We had two kids place," said Rosengrant. "Overall, it was a good tournament for these guys."

Heading into last week, Skrzypek had 19 wins (19-3), while Skamra had 16 wins. Assurance had 15 and Sierra had 14.

"Adam is having a great year," said Rosengrant. "Nick is having a great year. All of those guys are doing well. Jake is doing well but his stats aren't where the others are because he missed some time. Those five guys, everyone of them has the potential to go downstate and maybe place. They are right there with the best guys in the state."

Addison Trail heads to the Batavia tournament this weekend.

"We have Geneva and Batavia tournaments back to back," Rosengrant said. "Those are tough tournaments where we will see teams in our regional and we'll see state-ranked guys. The next couple weeks we'll have a good idea where guys are at."

"We are at the Willowbrook regional that will be really tough. There are no easy regionals, but this one is tough. Montini is the No. 1 team in the state and right away that makes it tough. We know we have to work on a few little things. I really think we have guys who can make noise in the postseason."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

S	P	R	A	G		A	L	I		S	T	O	A	
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Warriors return to action with convincing win

Willowbrook's girls basketball team moved to 11-7 overall and 6-1 in the West Suburban Gold Conference with Saturday's 44-25 win over Downers Grove South in Villa Park. Junior Stephanie Dasbach (pictured at right) scored 12 points and grabbed 17 rebounds for the Warriors. Junior Abbey Spada (No. 4-left) provided nine points. Saturday's game marked Willowbrook's first contest in 14 days. The Warriors have a busy schedule this week. In addition to playing two conference games, they will tangle with neighborhood rival Glenbard East this Friday in Villa Park.

CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing



ON STAGE

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