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VOL. 16 • NO. 7

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Conference champion

Sophomore Bella Naumovsky (center) of the Willowbrook girls gymnastics team won the first-place medal in the uneven bars competition during Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet in Villa Park. Naumovsky, who is pictured on the awards stand, won the uneven bars title with her score of 9.25. Naumovsky joined the Willowbrook team this season. She did not compete for the Warriors during her freshman year, when she was sidelined by an injury. The Warriors finished second to the Downers Grove co-op team in the team standings of Saturday's conference

meet. Willowbrook posted a team score of 130.925 in the meet. Up until earlier this month, the Warriors had not reached the 130-point mark in a team meet in 12 years. Saturday's performance gave Willowbrook its third straight output of at least 130 points. The Warriors reached the 130-point total in their Jan. 23 win over Morton, and in their Jan. 29 victory over Layden. The Warriors are competing in this week's IHSA Lake Park Regional in Roselle. See the sports section for more about Willowbrook's girls gymnastics team.

CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

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The Villa Park Review is published every Thursday by Rock Valley Publishing LLC, 240 N. West Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126.

Display Advertising:
630.834-8355

Classified Advertising:
630.834-8244

News:
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Subscriptions:
The Villa Park Review is mailed to the 60181 zip code areas for \$45.00 yearly. Out-of-area mail subscriptions are \$60.00 yearly. For home delivery information call 630.834-8244.

Reprints:
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Postmaster: Please send address changes to:

THE VILLA PARK REVIEW
240 N. West Avenue,
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 11am-3pm



GOP pushing for greater financial disclosure by state lawmakers, property tax reform

By Rebecca Anzel
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Remodeling how Illinois' political districts are drawn is the key to addressing the "dark cloud" of ethical violations hovering over state government, House Republican leaders said Jan. 28.

Communities are grouped "primarily for political advantage," Dixon Republican Rep. Tom Demmer said, restricting residents' ability to hold their legislators accountable.

"These political entrenchments—these situations in which politicians pick their voters instead of voters picking their politicians—had a chilling impact on our ability to debate the important issues of the day here in Springfield," he added.

One of those is redistricting reform, an issue the House Republican caucus is prioritizing this session and has supported for years. It will "stop" the culture that enabled unscrupulous behavior by some lawmakers over the past year and "devastated the state," Minority Leader Jim Durkin, from Western Springs, said.

Villa Park Democratic Sen. Tom Cullerton was formally accused by a federal grand jury of collecting a salary as well as health and pension benefits from a labor union for work he did not do. He has pleaded not guilty.

Federal officials charged former Rep. Luis Arroyo, a Chicago Democrat, with bribery, charges that led him to relinquish his post.

And former Sen. Martin Sandoval, a Democrat from Chicago, pleaded guilty to federal bribery and tax evasion charges in a federal court in Chicago on Tuesday. He resigned effective Jan. 1.

Changing the method by which political maps are drawn "is probably

the most important way we can clean up corruption and the culture that has created this horrible situation in Illinois," Durkin said.

All 44 House GOP members support a constitutional amendment that would remove politicians from deciding the boundaries of districts in favor of an 11-member commission tasked with drawing maps in a "fair, above-board way," Demmer said. It would affect boundaries of districts drawn after the 2020 census.

"The proposal for fair maps has been out there for years, and it's one of the most thoroughly discussed issues we've seen," he said.

House Republicans are also pushing for legislation reforming lawmaker behavior. Rep. Grant Wehri, from Naperville, said those "common sense measures" include prohibiting representatives and senators from being lobbyists while in office, preventing them from immediately becoming lobbyists after leaving their post and increasing the economic interest information legislators have to disclose.

"If the Democrats finally wanted to get serious on holding themselves accountable, and do what's right for the people of Illinois, let's move these pieces of legislation," he said.

Durkin appeared to put the success of those changes, and others, on Gov. JB Pritzker.

"I think as leader of the party, he can get his members in line. That includes the [House] speaker [Chicago Democrat Michael Madigan] and also the president of the Senate [Oak Park Democrat Don Harmon]...," he said.

His caucus is also planning to combat the "skyrocketing cost of property taxes" in Illinois, Rep. Dan Brady, R-Bloomington, said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing
Joseph Knudtson receives Holy Communion during Montini Catholic's Catholic Schools Week Mass on Jan. 27.

Montini Catholic students celebrate 46th annual Catholic Schools Week

Montini Catholic High School in Lombard celebrated the beginning of Catholic Schools Week (now entering its 46th anniversary year) with a special Mass Jan. 27.

As with every year, students began their week-long celebration by focusing on the value of Catholic education and to acknowledge and thank the community, friends and family members for recognizing this value.

Celebrating the Mass with the students this year was Father Chris Lankford from SS. Peter & Paul Parish in Naperville.

National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which this year was Jan. 26-Feb. 1.

The theme this year is "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed." The theme encompasses the

core products and values that can be found in Catholic schools across the country. Through various events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, communities and the nation.

"Montini Catholic is unique because we are a Catholic school," said Principal Kevin Beime. "In attending a Catholic school, you are among the less than 9 percent of students in the country who can share and live their faith in school by celebrating our Gospel values and standing up for what we believe in."

"The world around us is an increasingly difficult place to navigate," he added. "You are part of something bigger than just a school community. We are called to act with more compassion, to be more inclusive, to look out for the interests of others—not just ourselves, to fight injustice."

Willowbrook presents 'Arsenic and Old Lace' this week Each performance begins at 7 p.m.

Willowbrook High School will present its winter play—"Arsenic and Old Lace"—this week. The three performances will take place tonight, Thursday, Feb. 6, as well as Friday, Feb. 7 and Saturday, Feb. 8. Each presentation will begin at 7 p.m. in the school's Doris White Auditorium.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the door. Tickets cost \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and children 12 and older and \$3 for those with an Activity Pass. Admission is free with a District 88 Senior Gold Card and for children younger than 12 years old.

For more information, contact director Sara Corkery at scorkery@dupage88.net.

Montini Catholic names first semester High Honor Roll students from Villa Park

Montini Catholic High School recently announced students making High Honor Roll (4.25 and above)* for the First Semester 2019-2020 School Year. (*based on a 4.0 weighted grade scale)

The following lists students from Villa Park only:

Class of 2020/Seniors

Nelson; Zeb—Jackson Middle School Villa Park
Parente; Conrad—Jackson Middle School Villa Park

Class of 2022/Sophomores

Parente; Mackenzie—Jackson Middle School Villa Park

Beware of Social Security phone and email scams Scammers may threaten you and demand immediate payment

The Village of Villa Park cautions residents to be aware of Social Security phone and email scams. According to information provided by the village and the Social Security Administration (SSA), Social Security scams have skyrocketed in the last year.

The SSA stated that telephone and email scammers who pretend to be government employees contact potential victims. The scammers may threaten you and demand immediate payment to avoid arrest or other legal action. Do not be fooled.

According to the SSA, if you receive a suspicious call, hang up. Do not give any money or personal information, and report the scam at oig.ssa.gov.

The SSA warns that Caller ID information or documents sent by email may look official, but they are not. The scammers will claim there is a problem with your Social Security number or account. The scammers may threaten to suspend your Social Security number. Additionally, they may demand immediate payment from you. They may ask you to pay a fine with cash, retail gift cards, wire transfers or pre-paid debit cards.

The SSA may call you in some situations, but it will never threaten you, demand immediate payment, suspend your Social Security number or require payment by cash, gift card, wire transfers or pre-paid debit card.

For more information, visit oig.ssa.gov/scam.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook gives send-off to ILMEA All-State musicians

Willowbrook High School held a state send-off celebration last week for seven students who were named as All-State musicians by the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) earlier in the school year. The students joined other All-State musicians to perform during the Illinois Music Education Conference, which took place in Peoria from Jan. 29 to Feb. 1. The students earned their All-State honors after auditioning in October and being selected as All-District musicians. They then received All-State recognition. Pictured left to right are: senior Emma Staunton (Honors Chorus, Alto II), senior Kevin Valois Gomez, sophomore Daniela Trimper (Band, Alto Sax), junior Jenna Meola (Honors Chorus, Soprano II), senior Emma Clamesla (Honors Chorus, Alto I), junior Connor Staunton (Band, Bass Trombone) and junior Anna Tymoszenko (All-State Chorus, Alto II). Valois Gomez was named as an honoree in this year's ILMEA Composition Contest, which is part of the Illinois Music Education Conference. While in Peoria, he had an opportunity to attend the All-State Composition Workshop.

•Calendar (Continued from page 9)

18th-21st century are on display. Museum admission is free. The group will stop for lunch at an Evanston restaurant after the tour. We'll celebrate Fat Tuesday on Feb. 25 and head to Sawa's buffet for the famous buffet, including Fat Tuesday's traditional "Panczkis" for dessert. After lunch we'll have time for a Target run at a nearby store. Call 630-834-8525 with questions on these trips and to find out about all the exciting trips coming up.

Library offers free Essentrics® classes Feb. 8, March 14

The Villa Park Public Library is pleased to offer Essentrics® classes on Saturdays, Feb. 8 and March 14 from 11 a.m. until noon. Presented by Essentrics® instructor Lisa Sawczuk, this slow-paced 50-minute workout can restore movement in joints and flexibility in muscles, relieve pain, and stimulate cells to help increase energy and boost the immune system. This free program is great for all ages and fitness levels. Attendees should wear comfortable clothing and bring an exercise mat or large towel for floor work. All participants will be asked to sign a waiver. Registration is required for each session. Info: visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Library hosting storytimes at Oakbrook Terrace Park District Feb. 10, March 9

The Villa Park Public Library will hold Rhythm & Rhyme at the Oakbrook Terrace Park District on Mondays, Feb. 10 and March 9 from 11:30

a.m. to noon. Young children exploring their world and their adults can enjoy stories, music and movement. Sessions will be held at 15325 Ardmore Ave. in Oakbrook Terrace. Registration is not required. Info: visit the Library's website at www.vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Library presents Storytimes at Whole Foods Market Feb. 21, March 20

The Villa Park Public Library will hold Community Storytime at Whole Foods Elmhurst on Fridays, Feb. 21, and March 20 from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Children of all ages and their adults can join Library staff as they tell stories and bring their enthusiasm for reading to share with all. Whole Foods Market is located at 215 S. Route 83 in Elmhurst. Registration is not required. Info: visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Library's Great Decisions foreign policy discussion group Feb. 17, March 16

The Villa Park Public Library is pleased to introduce its Great Decisions discussion group in 2020. Great Decisions highlights eight critical foreign policy challenges facing Americans each year. Supported by the Foreign Policy Association, it involves citizens in the foreign policy making process. In this monthly discussion, participants will read the relevant chapter in the briefing book, which is available for checkout at the Library. A moderator will lead the discussion based on the readings and show a correspond-

ing video. Upcoming sessions will be held on Mondays, Feb. 17 and March 16 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Registration is required for each session. For more information including discussion topics, visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Sensory Storytime Feb. 12, March 11

The Villa Park Public Library will hold Sensory Storytime on Wednesdays, Feb. 12 and March 11 from 11:11:30 a.m. This program is designed for children with special needs and varied learning levels and abilities. We will engage the senses through stories, music, activities and movement, as well as social interaction. It is open to children of all ages, accompanied by an adult. Siblings are also welcome. Registration is required for each session.

Info: visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Library presents Saturday morning storytimes in February, March

The Villa Park Public Library is pleased to present Marvelous Mornings on the first and third Saturdays of every month. Young children of all ages and their adults can enjoy stories, songs and activities, including a "make-and-take" project to enjoy together. Sessions will be held at the library on Saturdays, Feb. 15, and March 7 and 21 from 11-11:45 a.m. Registration is not required. Info: visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Pu

Warriors defeat Addison Trail

Willowbrook's girls basketball team defeated Addison Trail 14-12 overall on Friday in Addison. The Warriors improved to 14-12 overall 8-3 in the West Suburban Gold Conference. Senior K'Allyah H. provided 12 points, six rebounds and four steals. Junior Olivia bleazczyk (No. 21-above) scored nine points. See story on page 1.

College news

U of Iowa student earns degree in December

In December, more than 1,800 University of Iowa undergraduate, graduate, and professional students participated in graduation ceremonies. Among them was Eunice Assem of Villa Park, who received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

Resident named to Fall Dean's List

Villa Park resident Messina Trimper was named to the Fall 2019 University of Kentucky College of Arts and Sciences Dean's List. During this Messina's academic major was Neuroscience.

Resident makes Dean's List at U of Iowa

More than 6,100 undergraduate students at the University of Iowa named to the dean's list for the 2019 fall semester. Among them was Park resident Kevin Cavazos, who is majoring Business Direct Administration at the UI's Tippie College of Business.

Monmouth names locals to Dean's List

Villa Park residents Kaitlyn Fox and Ditta Montesinos were named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2019 semester at Monmouth College.

SPORTS

FEB. 6, 2020

Blazers catch fire to knock off Warriors

Carlson's 43-point outburst leads Addison Trail to its first conference win

Nearly two months ago, the Willowbrook boys basketball team cruised to a 23-point win over Addison Trail. The Blazers came to play in Friday's West Suburban Gold Conference rematch. They stunned the Warriors 77-70 to pick up their first conference win of the season.

Friday's loss sent Willowbrook to 9-15 overall and 3-5 in conference play.

Addison Trail senior A.J. Carlson erupted for 43 points in Friday's win over the Warriors. Carlson scored 17 points in the third quarter. He made four 3-point shots during the period. He hit three of those 3-point bombs during the first one minute and 20 seconds of the second half. His third 3-pointer of the quarter gave the Blazers a 38-29 lead with 6:40 remaining in the period. Carlson also scored an inside basket during his burst at the start of the second half.

Carlson's fourth 3-point shot of the third quarter gave the Blazers a 41-29 lead with about 5:55 to play in the period.

Addison Trail led the Warriors 27-26 at halftime. Carlson's third-quarter fireworks helped the Blazers to a 52-45 lead by the end of the period.

"Carlson got hot; he definitely had a career night," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins after the game. "He's their best player. He really took over in the second half."

Willowbrook trailed the Blazers 45-31 in the middle of the third

quarter. A quick rally that included a 3-point shot from sophomore Cory Baker and a steal and basket by senior Everett Stubblefield cut the lead to 46-38. Sophomore Sean Paige's basket off a pass from senior Sam Tumilty trimmed the lead to 46-40 with about three minutes remaining in the quarter.

Perkins noted the Warriors' shooting struggles during the game. Willowbrook made four of 25 shots from 3-point range. The Warriors connected on 10 of 26 shots from the free-throw line.

"We had to fight and claw to get ourselves back in the game," said Perkins, whose team jumped out to an early 8-0 lead. The Blazers tied the score at 12-12 by the end of the first quarter. "In spite of Carlson having his best night, if we shoot decent from the line, we still would have pulled this one out. We weren't able to sustain any momentum. They would foul us and we would go to the line. If we don't get the free-throw line figured out, it's going to be a short playoff run."

Stubblefield fouled out with 1:52 to play in the game. The Blazers held a 68-60 advantage when Stubblefield exited the game. The Warriors kept fighting in the closing minutes; senior Deandre Holliday sank a 3-point shot to cut Addison Trail's lead to 71-65 with about 1:26 to play. Senior Brenton Jones provided a driving basket to cut the lead to 71-67 with about 1:05 remaining. Addison Trail junior Robert Roszkiewicz helped to seal his team's victory with a 3-point play that raised the Blazers' lead to 74-67 with about 45 seconds to play.

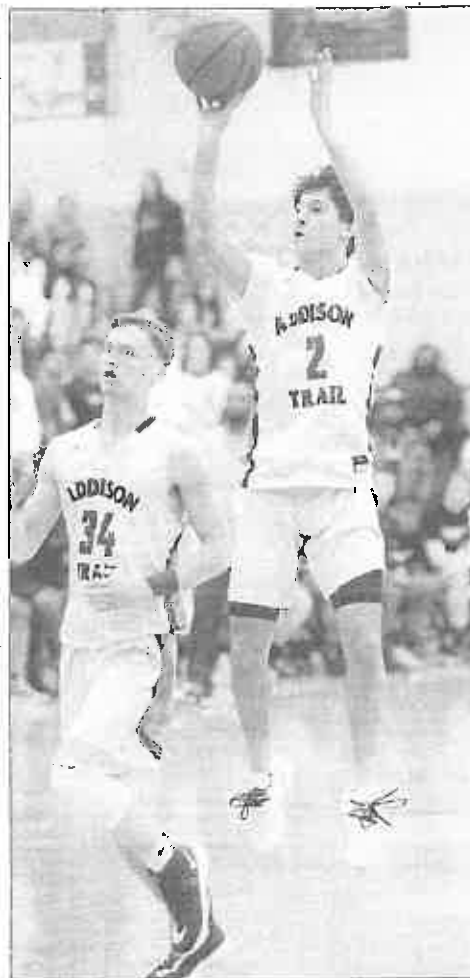
Roszkiewicz finished the game with 14 points.

Carlson added to his 17-point output in the third quarter with 12 more points in the fourth quarter. He made three baskets and six free throws during the final period.

Addison Trail's student fans flooded the court at the end of Friday's contest to celebrate the Blazers' victory in the opening game of a boys/girls doubleheader between District 88 rivals. Willowbrook's girls team defeated the Blazers 51-22 in the evening's second game.

Stubblefield scored a team-leading 17 points for Willowbrook. Tumilty added 10 points. Paige scored eight points, while Baker and senior Isaac Gaines both provided seven points. Senior Sam Bruns made a pair of shots from 3-point range to contribute six points. Holliday also scored six points.

The Warriors' season continues with this Friday's conference game at Morton.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley

Senior A.J. Carlson (No. 2) of the Addison Trail boys basketball team scored 43 points to lead the Blazers to Friday's 77-70 victory over Willowbrook. Carlson is pictured while launching his third 3-point shot of the third quarter. The shot gave the Blazers a 38-29 lead with 6:40 left in the period. Carlson scored points in the first one minute and 20 seconds of the second half. The Blazers, who earned their first West Suburban Gold Conference victory of the season on Friday, held a 27-26 halftime lead. Carlson scored 17 points in the third quarter. He added 12 more points in the fourth period. He made 13 field goals, including five 3-pointers during the game. He also connected on 12 of 18 shots from the free-throw line. Junior Robert Roszkiewicz (No. 34), who is near center in the photo, provided 14 points in Friday's victory.

The Willowbrook boys basketball team dropped to 9-15 overall and 3-5 in the West Suburban Gold Conference following Friday's 77-70 loss at Addison Trail. The Warriors defeated the Blazers 65-42 in Villa Park in the teams' first conference meeting of the season on Dec. 6. Senior Everett Stubblefield (No. 3-above left) scored a team-leading 17 points for Willowbrook before fouling out of Friday's game. Senior Sam Bruns (No. 11-above right) connected on a pair of 3-point shots to provide six points.

Willowbrook girls gymnastics team places second at conference meet

Naumovsky wins the uneven bars title; Wieringa and Wilson lauded for their efforts this season

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls gymnastics team finished second in Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet in Villa Park.

Willowbrook turned in a score of 130.925 at the varsity level of the six-team meet. The Downers Grove co-op team won the meet title with

its score of 141.50.

Willowbrook sophomore Bella Naumovsky captured the conference meet's title on the uneven bars with her score of 9.25. Senior Karli Wilson of the Warriors placed 13th in the event with a 7.425.

"I was pretty nervous," said Naumovsky in describing her uneven bars routine at Saturday's meet. "I was working really hard at practice to get through my routine. It was a pretty great experience. I was hoping to get in the top three. Once I got first, I was really happy."

Naumovsky said she had been executing her uneven bars routine very well in practices, but she was unable to transfer those performances to competition.

"I've been hitting them spot-on in practice," she said. "Then I got to meets, and I messed up a couple of times. That really got me upset and made me move forward and finish up my routine."

Naumovsky added that the uneven bars competition is now her favorite event.

"It was the balance beam, but since I've been doing really well on bars, that's my favorite now," she said.

Sophomore Tess Placek finished fourth on the vault with a score of 9.1, while junior Maeve Costello (8.8) placed seventh.

Naumovsky took fourth on beam at 8.65, and Placek tied for seventh at 8.475.

Naumovsky was fifth on floor exercises (8.75). Freshman Sarah Ball tied for ninth (8.425).

Placek finished seventh in the all-around scoring at 33.050. Junior Riley Wieringa claimed 11th (30.425) in the all-around standings.

Willowbrook coach Deanna Zuchowski noted after Saturday's conference meet that the Warriors have reached the 130-point mark in each of their last three meets. Willowbrook's 130.25-point output in its Jan. 23 win over Morton marked the program's first score above the 130-point mark in 12 years.

"The girls are working super-hard," said Zuchowski after the conference meet.

Naumovsky did not begin competing with the Willowbrook team until January. Naumovsky, who previously participated in club gymnastics, was injured during her freshman year. She was sidelined after undergoing hip surgery. She suffered the injury while competing in club gymnastics.

"I decided to go into high school gymnastics," said Naumovsky after Saturday's conference meet. "It's easier on my body and it's a lot more fun than club gymnastics. It's so fun, and it has a great atmosphere."

Zuchowski said Naumovsky has been a welcome addition to the Willowbrook team.

"I couldn't be more impressed," said Zuchowski. "She's really meshed well with the team, and she pushes the team to do better."

Willowbrook's notable performers from Saturday's junior varsity conference meet included freshman Hanna Mitrick, who won the first-

place medal in the vault competition with her score of 8.525. Mitrick placed fourth on the balance beam (7.6), sixth on the uneven bars (7.1), sixth in floor exercises (7.45) and third in the all-around standings (30.675).

Freshman Molly Morris of Willowbrook finished fourth in the junior varsity meet's all-around standings with her score of 29.1. Morris placed third in floor exercises with her score of 7.775. Freshman Dima Elagha of the Warriors finished sixth in the meet's all-around competition with her total of 24.25.

On Jan. 29, the Warriors squared off against Leyden in a WSC Gold dual meet in Villa Park. The Warriors earned a 133.3-122.45 win.

Placek posted the first-place score on the balance beam with a 9.0, while Naumovsky was second at 8.6. Placek also finished first on the vault (8.9). Ball placed third at 8.6.

Naumovsky won the bars competition with her score of 8.95, while Ball placed third at 7.6. Naumovsky won the floor exercises competition with a score of 8.8, while Placek and junior Alexis Fitzgerald were right behind her with identical scores of 8.75. Ball's floor exercises routine received a score of 8.55.

Placek won the all-around competition in the meet against Leyden with her total of 34.150.

Mitrick won all four individual events and the all-around title in the junior varsity meet to lead Willowbrook to a 108-3-102.7 win. Mitrick won the vault with an 8.5, took first on bars at 7.3, won the beam at 8.7 and scored a 7.4 on floor to win that event. She finished at 31.9 and in first place for the all-around. Morris provided an all-around score of 28.8. Zuchowski took time to laud the efforts of Wieringa and Wilson, in particular, for their efforts throughout the season.

Zuchowski deemed Wieringa as "the hardest worker I have witnessed in the last few years."

"Riley's hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed," she added. "The girls are now looking to her as a leader. She is ready before practice, is usually the last one in the gym and pushed everyone to do their best. Riley is a quiet energy in the gym and her presence is known."

Zuchowski explained Wilson has overcome several obstacles this season.

"Karli has had a tough season," the coach noted. "She had a bout with the flu and injuries throughout the season. Even with these challenges, she continues to be a leader and captain of this team. Karli makes sure everyone is ready at the beginning of practice and doesn't let anyone leave before coming together as a team at the end of practice. She has been on the team the last four years and has shaped the team to what it is today."

The Warriors competed in the Lake Park Regional earlier this week. Willowbrook gymnasts hope to advance to the Glenbard South Sectional on Feb. 10.

-Chris Fox contributed to this report.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Junior Stephanie Dasbach (No. 30) led Willowbrook to the victory over its District 88 rival by providing 18 points, 19 rebounds and five blocked shots.

Warriors pound Addison Trail 51-22

Dasbach delivers 18 points, 19 rebounds in a dominant performance

The Willowbrook girls basketball team improved to 14-12 overall and 8-3 in the West Suburban Gold Conference with Friday night's 51-22 victory at Addison Trail.

Junior Stephanie Dasbach led the Warriors to the victory with a superb all-around effort. Dasbach scored 18 points and pulled down 19 rebounds. She also blocked five Addison Trail shots.

"Stephanie played like a beast today," said Willowbrook coach Terry Harrell after Friday's win, which followed the boys game between the Warriors and Blazers in Addison. "She's been big for us in our last few games. She's still getting better."

Willowbrook led the Blazers 12-8 after one quarter and 24-12 at halftime. The lead grew to 38-18 by the end of the third quarter.

Dasbach scored nine points in each half. She made five field goals during the game and sank eight of nine shots from the free-throw line.

Senior K'Aliya Herron provided 12 points, six rebounds and four steals. Junior Olivia Sobieszczyk made four baskets, including one

shot from 3-point range, to contribute nine points. Senior Khaylah Richey scored five points, while junior Annemarie Knudtson supplied four points, four rebounds and eight assists.

"The girls played well today," added Harrell. "I like the way we're playing. Everybody's contributing."

Three days before playing Addison Trail, the Warriors dropped a 49-42 decision to Maine South in a non-conference game in Villa Park. Dasbach scored 14 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Knudtson scored 12 points, while Herron tallied 10 points.

The Warriors trailed Maine South 30-23 at halftime. Willowbrook cut the Hawks' lead to 36-34 by the end of the third quarter.

Willowbrook made just seven of its 24 free-throw attempts against Maine South.

"When you have a bad night at the free-throw line, you pay for it," said Harrell.

The Warriors will complete the conference season with this Friday's home game against Morton.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing
Sophomore Tess Placek of the Willowbrook girls gymnastics team performs on the balance beam during last week's meet against Leyden. Placek won first-place honors on the beam in the Jan. 29 meet with her score of 9.0. She also posted the meet's top score on the vault with an 8.9. Placek claimed the meet's all-around title with her score of 34.150. Placek and the Warriors earned a second-place finish in the team results of Saturday's six-team West Suburban Gold Conference Meet. Placek finished fourth on the vault and tied for seventh on the balance beam at the conference meet, which took place at Willowbrook. She claimed eighth in the all-around standings with her total score of 33.050.

Addison Trail boys basketball team uses off time to reset for home stretch

Dietz cited for strong play

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

With high school basketball teams in the thick of their schedules at this time of the season, there usually isn't a lot of time to stop, pause and breathe.

The Addison Trail boys basketball team bucked that trend recently with a nine-day stretch from Jan. 15-Jan. 23, when it had no games.

The off period came at an opportune time, coach Brendan Lyons noted.

"It was a nice little break," Lyons said. "We had some things moved around and because of that had that time off from games. It was a time to get away a little bit and do some fun things with the team. We also were able to get healthy and we able to change a few things."

Lyons noted the team did several

team-bonding outings, including going to the Ronald McDonald House near Loyola University Medical Center. "We cooked food for the kids and families there," he said.

The team also enjoyed a bowling outing during its down time. "We had a little fun team competition," he said. "The time off was good. We had some guys with some nagging injuries who were able to get a good, little break."

Lyons said his squad, which has struggled when it comes to the win column this year, remains as dogged as ever in its quest to continue to improve. "The guys have stayed positive," he said. "Our first two practices out of that break were good."

The Blazers continue to be led by the likes of senior A.J. Carlson and junior Robert Roszkiewicz. Lyons also applauded the play of junior Easton Dietz.

"He's really starting to play well," said Lyons. "He had a couple good JV games and earned some playing time. He's not putting up big numbers, but has showed good growth

and has done that throughout the year. It's good that we are getting some underclass guys some opportunities. It's good for this year and it should pay off for us next year. He's a guy who has stepped up his game."

Coming out of their nine-day break, the Blazers lost to West Suburban Conference Gold Division leader Hinsdale South, 61-28 on Jan. 24, and also dropped a non-conference contest to Wheaton Academy, 59-26, on Jan. 28.

"We got crushed," said Lyons. "They [Hinsdale South] are undefeated in the league and had a 20-2 record. They came out and shot it very well. They blitzed us in the first half. We were down 25 at the half. We never were in it. They took us out of what we wanted to do. We felt confident in the plan that we had going into the game but it never materialized."

Addison Trail will make up for its lack of recent games with a busy finish to the end of the regular season.

"We are stacked up with a lot of games with three games (last week)

and three games (this week)," Lyons said. "We don't mind stacking the back end of the schedule with games."

The Blazers snapped a nine-game losing streak on Friday, surprising Willowbrook, 77-70, in a West Sub-

urban Gold matchup (see stor Sports).

This week's schedule incl conference games against Mc (Feb. 4) and Leyden (Friday), as as Saturday's non-conference g against Elk Grove.

Addison Trail girls gymnasts place third at conference mee

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail girls gymnastics team competed in Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet at Willowbrook High School in Villa Park.

The Blazers finished third in the meet's team standings with their total of 127.175 points.

On the uneven bars, Maddie Mucciante placed third with her score of 8.35, while Francesca Scarbaggio had an 8.2, which tied her for sixth.

On the balance beam, Mucciante tied for seventh (8.475), while Delaney Gregory finished 11th with a 7.90.

Scarbaggio posted an eighth-place finish in floor exercises (8.55), while Gregory scored 8.35 and finished 12th. Mucciante placed 13th with an 8.25.

On the vault, Scarbaggio finished 10th with an 8.5, while Gregory had an 8.25 (tied for 14th). Mucciante finished with an 8.1 and Alexis Theodore had an 8.05.

Mucciante was Addison Trail's top finisher in the all-around standings, finishing sixth with her total of 33.175. Scarbaggio (32.8) placed eighth in the all-around competition, while Gregory (31.65) took ninth.

At the JV level, Mahi Patel placed 10th on the vault (7.7). Patel led the Blazers on the balance beam with her seventh-place score of 6.55, while Natalie Rojo tied for eighth with a 6.4.

Patel was Addison Trail's top performer in floor exercises; her score of

6.675 earned 19th place. Rojo placed 12th with her score of 6.35.

Patel led the Blazers in the all-around standings with her seventh-place finish at 23.975. Emily Villarreal (22.85) placed eighth in the all-around competition.

Addison Trail is competing in week's IHSA Lake Park Region Rosselle.

Myers at Roosevelt

Former Willowbrook boys korbball player Matt Myers is a sophomore forward on the Roosevelt University (Chicago) men's basketball team.

To start the week, Myers was on the team in scoring at 10.8 per game. He was shooting from the field (93 of 204) and 17 three-pointers to his credit, shooting at a .644 clip from the line.

Myers, whose hometown is dison, also was fourth on the team rebounding at 3.8 per game and among the team leaders in assists blocked shots (13) and was second steals with 19.

In a recent loss to Holy Cross, ers had 13 points and three rebounds. In a win against Governors State, ers hit for 19 points and made a pair to go with six rebounds, four as and two steals.

In a win against Cardinal St. Myers had 12 points, made 3-pointers and grabbed three rebounds.

Willowbrook cheerleading program hold winter youth camp Feb. 10-13

The Willowbrook High School cheerleading program will hold its winter youth camp for children in kindergarten through eighth grade from Monday, Feb. 10, through Thursday, Feb. 13.

The camp will meet daily from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the high school.

Campers will learn cheers, dances, motions and jumps from Willowbrook's varsity cheerleaders.

The registration fee is \$40 per

camper. Registration will be available on the first day of the camp. A parent must be present to fill out a waiver.

To register in advance call Willowbrook's athletic office at 630-3426. For more information, send email to ghombik@dupage88.net

All campers are invited to compete at halftime of Willowbrook's varsity boys basketball game on Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Sudoku Puzzle Answers

3	5	4	8	2	9	7	6	1
2	7	6	5	1	3	4	9	8
9	8	1	4	7	6	2	5	3
4	2	3	7	8	5	6	1	9
6	1	8	3	9	4	5	2	7
5	9	7	1	6	2	8	3	4
8	4	9	2	5	1	3	7	6
7	6	5	9	3	8	1	4	2
1	3	2	6	4	7	9	8	5



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Addison INDEPENDENT



VOL. 17 • NO. 6

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THURSDAY, JAN. 30, 2020

Schools receive library grants from Jesse White

*Districts #4, #88
among recipients*

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has awarded more than \$1.2 million in FY 2020 School District Library Grant Program awards to 684 public school districts. More than 1.5 million Illinois students served by school library programs will benefit from the grants.

"As a former public school teacher and administrator, I know our school libraries are very important in helping students learn and prepare themselves for the future," White said. "Illinois was the first state to implement a school district grant program, and I'm pleased that we can continue to provide school libraries with some of the financial resources they need to produce well-educated students."

From FY 2020 appropriations approved by the General Assembly and



THE INDEPENDENT
Your Hometown Newspaper
240 N. West Avenue
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Main Phone 708.834-8244
Fax 630.834-0900

The Independent is published every Thursday by Rock Valley Publishing, LLC, 240 N. West Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126.

Display Advertising:
630.834-8355

Classified Advertising:
630.834-8244

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Subscriptions:
The Independent is mailed to the 80101, 80108 and 80181 zip code areas for \$15.95 yearly. Out-of-area mail subscriptions are \$29.95 yearly. For home delivery information call 630.834-8244.

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Addison Trail to present winter musical

On Feb. 6, 7 and 8, the Addison Trail Theatre Department will perform "Rock of Ages (High School Edition)" at the school, 213 N. Lombard Rd. Curtain times are 7 p.m., as well as a 2 p.m. performance on Saturday.

The District 88 community is invited to step back into the '80s and rock out as the school presents its winter musical, "Rock of Ages (High School Edition)" by Chris D'Arienzo, adapted by Samuel French, Inc. The show is set in Hollywood in the 1980s — when ripped jeans, big hair and rock and roll music filled the streets. But that's all about to end when developers come into town with plans to turn the area into a strip mall.

Rocker Stacey Jaxx (played by junior Ryan Ficarra), aspiring rock star Drew Boley (senior Cole Parent), small-town girl Sherrie Christian (senior Teagan Whitaker) and their friends must come together to save the area — and the answer might just

be in the '80s music itself.

"The '80s is a fun time period to feature, and I hope audience members relive their youth and rock out," said Anna McSweeney, theatre director. "The set creates a rock concert feel, so it's an exciting environment."

McSweeney added she chose "Rock of Ages (High School Edition)" because it allows a variety of students to be featured in lead roles. Ficarra said the musical has something for everyone.

"Those who experienced the '80s can reminisce about those years, and those who didn't live through that time period can learn something new about that era," he said.

Whitaker said the production is a lighthearted comedy.

"It's a musical within a musical," she said. "The story has lots of subplots and doesn't take itself too seriously."

Junior Isabel Aramburu, who plays Lonny Barnett, added the pro-

duction showcases the trends, influences and importance of the '80s.

Tickets, available at the door, are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and children ages 3-12; \$3 with an Activity Pass; free with a District 88 Senior Gold Card.

For more information, call 630-628-3365.

Between the two performances on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 4 to 6:15 p.m., the Teacher-Parent Organization (TPO) will hold its annual Spaghetti Dinner.

Lettermen's Club hosts Pack the Place Friday

From Jan. 27 to 31, the Addison Trail Lettermen's Club has been celebrating Pack the Place Spirit Week.

Early in the week, students were invited to wear various kinds of gear including pajamas, hats, and beach attire for Hawaiian Day Thursday, Jan. 30 or Jersey Day, in preparation for Friday, Jan. 31, which will be Black Wear/Without Day. There will be dancing to music provided by a DJ during lunch period.

Pack the Place basketball games begin at 6 p.m., when the AT Varsity boys basketball team will play, followed by Varsity girls team at 7:30 p.m. All AT students, parents/guardians, staff members, alumni, community members and fans are invited to attend to cheer on the Blazers.

From 4 to 7:30 p.m., the Addison Trail Blazers will host a Winter Dance Class for girls in kindergarten through eighth grade. Participants will perform that evening during halftime of the two Pack the Place basketball games. During the clinic, dancers will work on pose and dance techniques, enjoy crafts and have pizza. The fee for the clinic is \$38. Register at the door (4:30-5 p.m.), and make checks payable to ATHS. For questions or more information, contact Lori Lynn at Lynn@athshs.net or Bambi Spiloto at Spiloto@athshs.net.

On Saturday, Feb. 1 from 7-10 p.m., Winterfest will take place at the school.

Addison Trail invited to Evanston Township Jazz Festival

Features Rajiv Halimi Quintet, The Brian Gephart Group

The 17th annual Evanston Township High School (ETHS) Jazz Festival is set for Saturday, Feb. 15, and will feature an evening concert by Chicago's Rajiv Halimi Quintet. ETHS' own Jazz Ensemble will open the concert in the main auditorium led by Matthew Bufis, director of Bands. The festival's noontime concert will feature the Brian Gephart Group. Halimi and bandmates also will give attendees a special presentation.

"The growth of this event has been fantastic for the student musicians and for the school," Bufis said. "Middle and high school musicians from across Chicagoland get a chance to challenge themselves in many ways. There is the musical selection they've prepared, but they also are challenged by distinguished clinicians and observe some of the best jazz artists that keep the genre evolving."

Throughout the day, 13 jazz ensembles from seven schools large and small, including Addison Trail, will join ETHS's nine bands and combos.

The adjudicators and clinicians are world-class professional musicians, university professors and educators who will share their expertise with each group during a 30-minute clinic following its performance.

Ticket information

Tickets for the evening show in the school's main auditorium are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students with ID and senior citizens.

They can be purchased by calling (847) 424-7848 or clicking ETHS-Jazz.com. Proceeds benefit jazz education at ETHS.

Featured performers

Rajiv Halimi is a saxophonist, com-

poser, and educator from Chicago. Internationally, Rajiv has performed at venues and festivals in Canada, Poland, Belize, and Taiwan. Nationally, Rajiv has performed and/or recorded with many great musicians: Jennifer Hudson, Chance The Rapper, Cory Henry, Von Freeman, Mike Stern, Martha Reeves, Bob Mintzer, The Four Tops, and others. A highlight of Rajiv's recording career came in 2016 when he contributed saxophone parts to the composition "Finish Line" by Chance The Rapper for his project "Coloring Book," which won the 2017 Grammy Award for "Best Rap Album." Rajiv's debut album, "Foundation," was released in August 2015.

The Brian Gephart Group has been a leading ensemble for many years in the Chicago area. They have performed all over Chicagoland and the Midwest. Gephart plays with a rotating pool of super talented jazz musicians, performing a combination of his original compositions, jazz standards, and jazz versions of popular music. The primary group consists of Gephart on tenor and soprano saxophones, Karl Montzka on piano, Mike Aronopol on bass and Tim Davis on drums.

Participating schools

- Addison Trail High School, Addison.
- Lyons Township High School, Western Springs.
- Grayslake North High School, Grayslake.
- Lincoln-Way Central High School, New Lenox.
- Lakes Community High School, Lake Villa.
- Music Institute of Chicago, Winnetka.
- Nichols Middle School, Evanston.

Students win awards at Elmhurst College art show

The results are in from Elmhurst College's 21st Annual High School Art Exhibition, and Addison Trail students were among those recognized and honored for their talent and work.

The exhibit is on display now through place from Jan. 11 to 26 in the Founders Lounge of the Frick Center on the campus of Elmhurst College. Showcased are hundreds of paintings, prints, sculptures, videos and computer art and works in other media created by students from 10 Chicago-area high schools.

Following are the special honors bestowed on the students of Addison

Trail:

Special Award/Scholarship was earned by senior Paulina Stachura for ceramics.

Judge's Choice was awarded to junior Sara Wallis, graphic design; senior Diego Torres, photography; senior Denica Martinez Lopez, cartoon drawing; and senior Kiersten Lee, ceramics.

The Award for Excellence was given to senior Fabian Hernandez, drawing; sophomore Octavio Alvarado, acrylic painting; and senior Paulina Stachura, ceramics.

The Award for Distinction was presented to sophomore Christopher Flores, graphic design; and senior Kiersten Lee, ceramic sculpture.

Honorable Mention was awarded to junior Victoria Ramon, pastel drawing; senior Anahi Estrada, acrylic painting; freshman Ruby Noriega, photography; and junior Diego Lopez, drawing.

First blood drive of 2020

On Saturday, Feb. 1 from 1-6 p.m., the first Blood Drive of 2020 will take place at St. Joseph Church at 330 E. Fullerton in the lower hall. All are encouraged to donate. You must present a photo I.D. Before donating, please eat well and stay hydrated. Wear something that allows easy access to your arm. For an appointment or more information, call Judy Sopha at 630-440-2640.

College news

Resident named to Fall Dean's List

Addison native Lauren Stamatoopoulos was named to the Fall 2019 University of Kentucky College of Arts & Sciences Dean's List. During this term, Lauren's academic major was Mathematical Economics.

Natives make Dean's list at U of Iowa

More than 6,100 undergraduate students at the University of Iowa were named to the dean's list for the 2019 fall semester. Among them were the following Addison residents: Gianluca Grima, who is majoring in Marketing at the Tippie College of Business; and, Gianna Saril, whose major is Therapeutic Recreation at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.