



Fenwick quarterback Kaden Cobb, the 2021 Suburban Life Football Player of the Year, runs past St. Ignatius defenders on a touchdown run during Fenwick's 28-20 win over St. Ignatius on Oct. 22. Cobb went on to lead Fenwick to the school's first state championship in football.

Daryl Oultag  
for Shaw Media

## Suburban Life announces All-Area football team

By BOB NARANG  
For Shaw Media

Here is the Suburban Life All-Area football team.

### First-Team Defense

**Sean Allison, Hinsdale Central, senior, linebacker/running back:** Racked up 76 tackles, including six stops for a loss, and an interception. Had 301 yards rushing and five touchdowns.

**Griffin Carr, Hinsdale South, junior, defensive end/offensive line:** The two-way starter compiled 63 tackles, including 11 sacks, and caused two fumbles.

**Jeff Coglianese, York, senior, linebacker:** Finished with 88 tackles, including 13 for a loss, and 4.5 sacks to go with one interception, a fumble recovery and six hurries.

**Ross Dansdill, Wheaton North, junior, linebacker:** Recorded 74.5 tackles to go with 12.5 stops for a loss and an interception.

**Fred Elftmann, Wheaton North, senior, linebacker:** Tallied 79 tackles and four sacks to go with an interception.

**Jimmy Liston, Fenwick, senior, center:** The Purdue recruit was a major factor behind Fenwick winning the Class 5A state title.

**Nick Mabutas, Willowbrook, senior, defensive back/wide receiver:** Ended with 112 tackles and six interceptions. Also had 29 receptions for 561 yards and six touchdowns.

**TJ McMillen, St. Francis, junior, defensive tackle/center:** Was a force on both ends of the ball, compiling 55 tackles and 12

tackles for a loss. McMillen recorded 41 pancakes while playing three positions on the offensive line.

**Matt Schagor, Glenbard East, senior, linebacker:** Recorded 97 tackles and two sacks, forced two fumbles and tallied two interceptions.

**Jackson McWhinney, Montini, senior, linebacker/offensive line:** Finished with 116 tackles, including seven for a loss.

**Connor Murphy, Glenbard South, senior, defensive tackle/offensive line:** Totaled 53 tackles and six sacks and forced two fumbles.

**Pierce Walsh, Benet, junior, wide receiver/defensive end:** Led the team with 27 receptions for 447 yards and three touchdowns to go with 26 tackles and two sacks.

### First-Team Offense

**Trevor Burnett, Glenbard South, senior, running back:** Rushed for 1,432 yards and 13 touchdowns to go with 228 yards receiving and three touchdowns en route to 1,951 all-purpose yards and 18 TDs.

**Mark Forcucci, Wheaton North, senior, quarterback:** The Holy Cross recruit passed for 2,149 yards and 24 touchdowns.

**Seth Kortenhoeven, Wheaton North, senior, wide receiver:** Caught 66 passes for 1,042 yards and seven touchdowns.

**Quentrell Harris, Nazareth, senior, wide receiver:** Caught 53 passes for 865 yards and nine touchdowns.

**Peter Johann, Wheaton Academy, senior, offensive line/defensive line:** Tallied 114 tackles to go with 10 tackles for a loss,

two interceptions and four sacks and was a three-year starter at center.

**Albert Kunickis, Lemont, senior, running back/kicker:** The Northwestern recruit ran for 1,593 yards and 22 touchdowns to go with 169 yards receiving and two TDs.

**Joey Pope, Glenbard West, junior, running back:** Compiled over 2,000 all-purpose yards in the regular season.

**Max Reese, Fenwick, senior, wide receiver:** Eastern Michigan recruit caught 68 passes for 1,112 yards and 13 touchdowns.

**Thomas Skokna, Hinsdale Central, senior, wide receiver:** In nine games, he had 35 receptions for 584 yards and six touchdowns along with 24 carries for 94 yards and four TDs. He returned two kickoffs for touchdowns and had a punt return TD.

**Chris Terek, Glenbard West, junior, offensive line:** Voted the top offensive lineman in the West Suburban Silver.

**Ethan Thulin, Downers Grove North, junior, wide receiver:** Had 45 receptions for 650 yards and seven touchdowns to go with 16 tackles, an interception for a touchdown and two punt returns for TDs.

**Reece Young, Wheaton Warrenville South, senior, defensive back/wide receiver:** Caught 14 passes for 286 yards and five touchdowns to go with 38 tackles and two interceptions and averaged 26.7 yards per kickoff return and netted 125 punt return yards.

### Honorable mention

Joey Antonietti, Lyons, senior,

quarterback; David Arana, Morton, senior, running back; Ryan Calcagno, St. Francis, senior, wide receiver/defensive back; Mike Carver, Montini, senior, running back/linebacker; Owen Cherry, Lyons, senior, safety; Adam Criter, St. Francis, senior, wide receiver/defensive back; Philip Dozier, Glenbard West, senior, defensive end; Jimmy Hohnstein, Wheaton Warrenville South, senior, offensive lineman/defensive lineman; Eddie Kasper, Wheaton Academy, senior, wide receiver/defensive back; Albert Kunickis, Lemont, senior, running back/kicker; Caleb Miller, Nazareth, junior, defensive back; Ryan Novak, Riverside-Brookfield, junior, running back/linebacker; KJ Parker, IC Catholic Prep, sophomore, wide receiver/defensive back; JT Pyle, Hinsdale Central, senior, linebacker; Eli Reed, Downers Grove South, senior, wide receiver; Antonio Richardson, IC Catholic Prep, senior, wide receiver/defensive end; Payton Salomon, Lemont, junior, quarterback; Pat Shadiid, Glenbard West, senior, linebacker; Everett Snyder, York, senior, defensive line; Matt Sommerdyke, Wheaton Warrenville South, senior, quarterback; Eddie Tuerk, Lyons, sophomore, defensive line; Joey Tumilty, Willowbrook, junior, wide receiver/defensive back; Diego Vela, Nazareth, senior, offensive line; Matt Vezza, York, junior, quarterback; CJ Zanieski, Riverside-Brookfield, senior, center/defensive end.

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THURSDAY, DEC. 9, 2021

## Thirty-seven Addison Trail seniors accepted to Elmhurst University

On Thursday, Dec. 2, 37 Addison Trail seniors received exciting news – they have been accepted to Elmhurst University.

The students were surprised with the announcement and a visit from Elmhurst University Senior Director of First-Year and International Admission Christine Grenier, Associate Director of First-Year Admission Megan Wajda, Victor E. Bluejay (Elmhurst University's mascot) and Bucky Blazer (Addison Trail's mascot). Grenier, Wajda and Addison Trail Guidance Counselor Shane Cole congratulated the seniors on being admitted to the university through its Early Action program and encouraged them to continue working hard to pursue their goals. To watch the presentation, click on the video above. To view photos from the event, see the gallery below.

The recipients (which included four legacy students) were awarded a combined \$768,000 a year in total scholarships. Each student also received a "Bluejay Box," which contained a letter of acceptance, a scholarship offer and more.

The students who were admitted are Andrea Aburto, Roohana Amin, Elijah Aquino, Samantha Bartosik, Monserrat Berrum, Christopher Bonilla, Angelina Camaci, Patrick Campbell, Joseph Carrizales, Jasmine Cosio, Octavio Estrada, Isabella Fernandez, Mia Fotopoulos, Marcos Garnica, Mia Giometti, Mateo Gomez, Emily Guevarra, Daniel Hernandez, Amaria Hunt, Will Keller, Alicia Lloveras, Isiah Look, Luis Luna-Banda, Lauren Macaraeg, Nayla Mahesh, Airam Mejia, Ariela Panos, Grace Prainito, Moncerat Reveles, Jaclyn Rivera, Frank Ruggieri, Peter Savinos, Celeste Servin, Jennifer Valdez and Marissa Zuechero.

(Photo inside this issue.)



DEE LONGFELLOW PHOTO Addison Independent

## Happy faces meet Mrs. and Mrs. Santa

On the evening of Friday, Dec. 3, residents, friends and neighbors gathered at the Addison Village Green behind Addison Village Hall to meet Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and kick off the holiday season with fun, music, food and outdoor activities for all to enjoy. More photos inside.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Headed for Elmhurst University

Pictured is a group of Addison Trail students surrounded by representatives of Elmhurst University after the group of 37 were accepted for admission in the fall of 2022.

## Truck technician receives national award

Andrew Matalis, an ASE-certified truck technician from Addison, was recently honored with a national achievement award as the Delco Remy/ASE M/H Truck Electrical/Electronic Systems Technician of the Year.

Forty-eight automotive professionals were recognized on Thursday, Nov. 18, at the Fall Board of Governors meeting of the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) held at the Scottsdale Resort and Spa in Scottsdale, Ariz.

The ASE annual awards spotlight top scorers on the ASE Certification tests from among the ranks of the approximately one-quarter million ASE Certified professionals nationwide.

Richard Gonzales, regional sales and service manager Western Region for Borg Warner; Mark Polke, chair of the ASE Board of Directors; and Timothy Zilke, ASE president & CEO, presented the award.

"Andrew, who works for Rush Truck Centers in Carol Stream, is one of the outstanding ASE certified professionals recognized annually by different segments of the automotive service and repair industry. Each of these elite technicians is presented with an industry-specific award recognizing their achievement," said Zilke.

"... We are proud to partner with Delco Remy to recognize Andrew's commitment to excellence in providing the very best in truck service and repair. This dedication is reflected in the talented professionals we recognize each year and Andrew represents the best of the best."

Thirty-two companies from both OEM and Aftermarket segments sponsored the individual technician recognition awards in the Auto, Truck, Collision, Parts and Service categories, along with awards for instructors.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Addison resident Andrew Matalis, an ASE Certified truck technician, was honored with a national achievement award as the Delco Remy/ASE M/H Truck Electrical/Electronic Systems Technician of the Year on Thursday, Nov. 18, at the fall meeting of the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) held in Scottsdale. With him are Tim Zilke (left) and Mark Polke.

## Addison Trail announces students of the first semester

On Nov. 30, the Students of First Semester for the 2021-22 school year were presented during an event in their honor by the staff members who nominated them. The honorees are: in art, junior Anabella Casucci; Career and Technical Education (CTE) business, senior Amalia Panos;

CTE family and consumer, senior Izabella Kopec; CTE industry and technology, junior Nicholas Towns;

English, senior Estevan Onorato; Literacy, freshman Valeria Martin Del Campo Avalos; math, freshman Rolman A. Rivera Ramos; music, senior Jennifer Diaz; physical education, freshmen Krishna Mistry and Aryan Shine; science, senior Joel Olvera Lopez; social studies, senior Yana Patel; student services, freshman Victor Beard; and, world languages, freshman Pablo Sosa.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Willowbrook Speech Team excels at tournament

The Willowbrook High School Speech Team competed in a recent tournament at Hoffman Estates High School. The team earned a fifth-place finish in the Nov. 20 competition, which featured teams from 24 schools. The tandem of freshmen Margaret Brennan and Evan Lundgren received first-place medals in the Dramatic Duet Acting category. Brennan also earned the fifth-place medal in Oratorical Dec-

lamation. Senior Katherine Wentworth placed fifth in Dramatic Interpretation, while senior Elizabeth Michael claimed fourth-place honors in Humorous Interpretation. Senior Emma Wrzeszcz received the sixth-place medal in Original Oratory. Senior Emily Maher won the sixth-place medal in Prose Reading, while sophomore Sean O'Brochta earned sixth-place honors in Special Occasion Speaking.

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# Montini Catholic in midst of 'Part 2' of season of giving

Students of Montini Catholic wrapped up this year's 25th anniversary Golden Gobbler Food Drive on Friday, Dec. 3, by helping to load up vehicles with food destined for the food pantry at Christ the King Parish.

"The students, alum, and staff worked extremely hard to make this year's Golden Gobbler great," said Alexis Johnson, Montini's student government director. "We collected over 4,000 food donations and over \$3,000 in gift cards and cash donations which will all go towards our 'adopted' families this year."

"Now that Gobbler has come to a close, which we consider 'Part 1' of our Season of Giving, our Adopt-a-Family, 'Part 2,' is just getting started," said Campus Minister Mike Blanchette. "Some of the food collected during Gobbler is allocated for families that are 'adopted' by Montini Catholic during the Christmas season."

**"The students, alum and staff worked extremely hard to make this year's Golden Gobbler great."**

**- Alexis Johnson,  
Montini's student  
government director**

Homerooms have already been busy shopping, donating, sorting and wrapping loads of Christmas cheer for area families.

Montini's traditional "Catholic Charities Adopt a Family" service program enables students to donate toys and gifts to families facing hardship during the holiday season or

throughout the year. During the beginning of December, students donate money through their homerooms, with each homeroom receiving a family for which to shop.

The students receive wish lists informing them of the number of family members, their gender, ages, and sizes. "Most of the wish lists include simple items many of us take for granted like gloves, boots, and warm hats," said Blanchette. "Our students really make a difference by lifting the spirits of families in need at the holiday time. Each year, Golden Gobbler and Adopt-a-Family remind us of what is important in life and there's no better time than the holidays to reflect on and share our many blessings."

Johnson and the entire Bronco student body agrees. "We are so happy to be able to provide these families and food pantries with the supplies that they need to create joyful holidays this year."

## Coming events

### Now through Saturday, Dec. 11 Small Business Saturday

Shop local this holiday season! Shoppers can pick up a Shop Small Passport from the Addison Public Library and from participating businesses. Shoppers will earn a stamp on their passport for each business they visit during the campaign. For every stamp you receive, you will be entered into a drawing to win a prize! We'll collect completed passports at the library or via email at communityengagement@addisonlibrary.org and choose prize winners on Dec. 13. Participating Addison businesses include Nardi's Pizza, AdvancedTech Cell Phone Repair, Shoeless Joe's Ale House & Grille, Symbol Training Institute, Rosati's Pizza, Flavor Frenzy, Muggs-N-Manor, Aurelio's Pizza, SCARCE and Addison Bank & Trust. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-543-3617.

### Friday, Dec. 10 Paths to family fun

From 10-11 a.m. at the Addison Public Library, which path will you take? Or will you see what all of them have to offer? Each path will lead you through our Children's Department to a place where you will find stories, songs, and crafts or other activities that we have chosen for you. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-543-3617.

### Monday, Dec. 13 Achieve inner peace through meditation

Starting at 7 p.m. on Zoom via the Addison Public Library, treat yourself to some special time to nourish

your mind and body. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-543-3617.

### Tuesday, Dec. 14 Book discussion: The Authenticity Project by Clare Pooley

The discussion begins at 7 p.m. at the Adult Programming Room of the Addison Public Library. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-543-3617.

### Wednesday, Dec. 15 Holiday classics story time

From 10-10:30 a.m. at the Addison Public Library, join us to celebrate all the holidays we find this time of year. We'll read some classic tales and create fun holiday crafts. Limit six participants. Registration is now open. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-543-3617.

### Thursday, Dec. 16 • Business law: Formation to contract negotiation

From 6:30-8 p.m. on Zoom via the Addison Public Library, navigating the legal maze is a major challenge for any business owner or leader. This workshop will address multiple legal matters faced by an entrepreneur. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-543-3617.

### • Calm and creative: Adult coloring night

Starting at 7 p.m. at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library, join us for an evening of coloring, just for adults. Pencils, coloring pages and markers will be provided or you can bring your own. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-543-3617.

### Friday, Dec. 17 Crafting for the community circle

From 10-11 a.m. at the Large Meeting Room of the Addison, join us for a crafting circle with a focus on donating to local organizations. Bring your current projects. Space is limited to 10 participants, so registration is required. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-543-3617.

### Ongoing events Creative Studio drop-in help

Need help with a Creative Studio project? Drop-in to get assistance from staff. Equipment and staff help will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis from 10 a.m.-noon Thursday, Dec. 16; 6-8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20; and 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-543-3617.

### Computer basics

Learn computer basics from 6-7 p.m. at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-543-3617.

### Heroes story time

From 10-10:30 a.m. at the Addison Public Library, join us for stories and activities about everyday heroes, superheroes, and more. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-543-3617.

Clubs and organizations are welcome to send entries for this column to: [news1@rvpublishing.com](mailto:news1@rvpublishing.com). Please include a phone number or e-mail address to contact for information.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Blazers battle the Warriors

The Addison Trail girls basketball team faced Willowbrook in last week's West Suburban Gold Conference contest. The visiting Warriors defeated the Blazers 59-41 in the Nov. 30 game in Addison. One photo (above) from the clash of District 88 rivals shows Addison Trail senior Mary Velez (No. 24) and Willowbrook junior Sara Stout (No. 22). Another photo (below) shows senior Gia Napoli (No. 2) of the Blazers. Napoli scored eight points while Velez contributed seven points. Seniors Quiana Birmingham and Juliana Nasti led Addison Trail in scoring with nine points each.



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CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Fun for all ages

Saturday's Joyful Traditions event in Villa Park attracted a sizable crowd, including several families with young children. This photo from the event shows Villa Park siblings (left to right) Kailyn and Natilie Wilma (ages 8 and 6) with Sammy Paws of the Villa Park Community F.U.N. (Focus on Unifying Neighbors) Commission.

## Thank you from the Villa Park Chamber of Commerce

Joyful Traditions was the biggest  
and best ever thanks to our local busi-  
nesses and volunteers.

We were so joyful to see the smiling  
faces, and the happiness we were able  
to bring to our Villa Park residents. Our  
local businesses are thankful for your  
patronage throughout the year and this  
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## Theft reported from collection boxes at Villa Park Post Office

*Boxes outside of post office have been  
removed; Villa Park Police report several  
complaints of fraud related to mail theft*

The collection boxes outside of the Villa Park Post Office were  
removed following the recent report of theft of mail from those boxes.

According to the Villa Park Police Department, an unknown  
subject(s) pried open two collection boxes outside of the post office,  
located at 1415 S. Ardmore Ave., sometime during the weekend of  
Nov. 20-21. The subject(s) reportedly took an unknown amount of  
mail from the collection boxes.

The Villa Park Police Department notified the U.S. Postal  
Inspection Service of the theft from the collection boxes. Theft of mail  
and tampering with collection boxes are federal offenses.

The collection boxes outside of the Lombard Post Office at 380 E.  
St. Charles Road were recently removed following similar reports of  
mail theft.

According to Villa Park Police Chief Michael Rivas, the Villa Park  
Police Department has received several recent reports related to mail  
fraud, including complaints of checks being "washed" to change both  
the payee and the dollar amount.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Brett honored as 88's Best for November

Willowbrook High School senior Brendan Brett was recently  
named his school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of  
November. Brett, who is a Villa Park resident, was recognized during  
the District 88 Board of Education's Nov. 15 meeting. He is pictured  
(right) at that meeting with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause. The  
88's Best honor recognizes students for their achievements in and  
out of the classroom. The award is presented to nine students at  
each of District 88's two schools—Willowbrook and Addison Trail—  
each school year. The board presented the 88's Best award to Brett  
in recognition of his highly improved performance during his time as  
a Willowbrook student. When he first entered Willowbrook, Brett was  
recommended for courses with multiple supports, but he scheduled  
his own meeting with the Department Head of Learning Services to  
emphasize that he wanted to be challenged. At the conclusion of his  
high school career, Brett will have completed eight Advanced Place-  
ment (AP)/college-level courses, as well as a multitude of honors  
courses and courses offering college credit. Brett has been named  
to Willowbrook's Distinction Honor Roll in each semester since the  
second semester of his freshman year. He's been recognized as  
an AP Scholar with honors, and he is an Inductee of Willowbrook's  
social studies honor society—Civitas. Brett is a member of Willow-  
brook's Key Club. He's also a member of MEDline, a club for students  
who are interested in pursuing a career in the medical field. Brett  
also volunteers at a local animal shelter. Brett's plans for the future  
include studying biochemistry and conducting scientific research or  
entering the medical field. He intends to apply to the University of  
Wisconsin-Madison, Loyola University Chicago, Marquette Univer-  
sity, Bradley University and the University of Michigan.

# Warriors win conference opener

## Solid second half leads team to a home victory over the Hornets

## STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook boys basketball team started its West Suburban Gold Conference season with Friday's 72-57 home win over Hinsdale South in Villa Park. The Warriors returned to their home court for Saturday night's non-conference game against Deerfield. The visitors outlasted Willowbrook 69-65 in a double-overtime battle.

Saturday's loss to Deerfield sent the Warriors' overall season record to 3-2.

Willowbrook delivered a strong second-half effort in Friday's conference victory, which took place in front of large and raucous student sections from both teams. The Warriors led Hinsdale South 29-26 at halftime. Willowbrook senior stand-out Marquel Saleek connected on a 3-point shot to provide the first score of the second half. His long-range basket gave the Warriors a 32-26 lead with less than seven minutes left in the third quarter.

Saleek scored to give Willowbrook a 38-28 lead later in the third period. Senior Noah Campbell added a basket off of a Hinsdale South turnover to push the lead to 40-28.

The Hornets went on a 9-2 run to cut the Warriors' lead to 42-37. Campbell drained a 3-point shot to give Willowbrook a 49-41 lead with about 30 seconds remaining in the third quarter. Senior Terrell Walker scored an inside basket in the closing seconds of the period to give the Warriors a 51-41 lead. Saleek assisted Walker's field goal at the end of the third quarter.

Campbell's jump shot in the opening seconds of the fourth quarter gave Willowbrook a 53-41 lead. Saleek's basket off of a pass from

junior Joey Tumilty raised the lead to 55-41. Campbell's 3-point shot boosted the Warriors' cushion to 58-43. Saleek's last basket of the night gave the Warriors a 68-48 lead with about 2:30 to play.

"We ended up forcing 28 turnovers in the game," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins after Friday's victory over Hinsdale South. "I thought that was the biggest difference for us."

Campbell, who sank four of eight 3-point attempts against the Hornets, scored a team-leading 26 points. Saleek, who made 11 of 16 shots from the field, provided 25 points. Walker contributed 11 points.

"Noah stepped up really big for us," said Perkins. "He got us going. Marquel does a good job of mixing it up with attacking the basket and his midrange game."

Campbell poured in 29 points in Saturday's double-overtime loss to Deerfield. He made 13 of 30 field-goal attempts, including three of 10 shots from 3-point territory. Saleek, who converted seven of 26 shots from the field and eight of nine free-throw attempts, provided 24 points.

Deerfield held a 13-9 lead after one quarter and a 29-21 edge at halftime. The Warriors trimmed Deerfield's lead to 43-38 by the end of the third quarter. The teams were tied at 59-59 at the end of regulation. Willowbrook and Deerfield were deadlocked at 63-63 following the first four-minute overtime period.

The Warriors' schedule this week includes three road games, including non-conference contests at Naperville Central and Lake Park. Willowbrook will finish the week with Saturday night's conference battle at Morton.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

**Willowbrook's boys basketball team played its first home game of the 2021-22 season on Friday night, when it opened its West Suburban Gold Conference season with a battle against Hinsdale South. The Warriors defeated the Hornets 72-57. Senior Noah Campbell (top right - No. 25) made four 3-point shots and scored a team-leading 26 points for Willowbrook. Campbell is pictured while launching and making a 3-point shot during the final minute of the third quarter. Senior Marquel Saleek (above - No. 3) provided 25 points during Friday's win.**



The above photo from the Warriors' victory over Hinsdale South shows senior Ryan Pegler (No. 23), who scored four points. The Warriors lost a 69-65 double-overtime decision to Deerfield in Saturday's non-conference game in Villa Park. Campbell scored 29 points, while Saleek supplied 24 points. Saturday's loss moved Willowbrook's overall season record to 3-2.

## Warriors begin conference season with two wins

*Team vaults to 7-0 overall with victories at Addison Trail and Proviso East*

## STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls basketball team improved its overall season record to 7-0 with last week's pair of West Suburban Gold Conference road victories.

The Warriors opened their conference schedule with a 59-41 win at Addison Trail on Nov. 30. Willowbrook moved to 7-0 overall and 2-0 in conference play following Saturday's 57-22 victory at Proviso East.

The Warriors' schedule this week includes a conference home contest against Leyden, a non-conference battle at Maine West and this Friday's conference matchup at Hinsdale South.

Willowbrook led Addison Trail 22-10 after one quarter and 33-22 at halftime of last week's game between conference and District 88 rivals.

Addison Trail delivered a 7-0 run at the start of the second half to cut the Warriors' lead to 33-29

with 5:35 left in the third quarter. Willowbrook responded by producing its own 6-0 run to take a 39-29 lead.

Junior Sara Stout started the run with a basket. Senior Sophie Sullivan then added two baskets to give the Warriors a 10-point lead. Sullivan drained a 3-point shot in the closing seconds of the third quarter to give Willowbrook a 42-31 lead with eight minutes to play.

Sophomore Calli Kenny scored five points during the first minute of the fourth quarter to extend the Warriors' lead to 47-31. About 20 seconds after making a 3-point shot, Kenny drove to the hoop for a layup.

A steal and basket by freshman Hannah Kenny raised Willowbrook's lead to 51-35 with about five minutes left in the game. A basket from sophomore Elle Bruschuk pushed the Warriors' advantage to 56-35 with less than four minutes to play.

Calli Kenny scored a team-leading 14 points for Willowbrook. Bruschuk had 13 points and 10 rebounds, while Sullivan contributed 12 points.

Junior Nina Nytko added eight points.

"Addison Trail played well," said Willowbrook coach Terry Harrell after the Warriors' win over the Blazers. "We expected that. We didn't respond well to it for about half of the game. Offensively, we made enough plays to win the game. Our defense has to get better."

Sullivan supplied a team-leading 18 points in Saturday's win at Proviso East.

Calli Kenny contributed 13 points, nine rebounds and four steals, while Bruschuk amassed 10 points, eight rebounds and 10 steals.

Hannah Kenny added nine points and seven rebounds. Stout scored seven points.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

**Sophomore Calli Kenny (No. 15) scored a team-high 14 points for the Warriors.**





I know the "don't touch my guns" crowd will disagree, but the killing of four students at Oxford High School in Michigan is yet another reason why stricter gun control is needed in this country. A 15-year-old never should have had access to a semi-automatic handgun under any circumstances.

I just heard about a cruise ship that came back to New Orleans and had 10 people aboard the ship who tested positive for COVID-19. This is out of more than 3,200 people who were on the ship. All 10 were asymptomatic. It's just another example of the media's obsession with COVID. Ten people having COVID out of more than 3,200 on board is obviously less than a one percent infection rate, but of course, the media jumps on it. Any celebrity, any athlete who tests positive for COVID, any jump in the rate of infection usually leads off the news. The Omicron variant has replaced the Delta variant as the new bogeyman. Is it any wonder why people are in a constant state of fear about COVID?

Regressive leftists trip over themselves to save lives and save everyone from COVID-19, but when it comes to saving the defenseless unborn from being aborted, well, that's

a different story.

DuPagePads is planning to buy a Red Roof Inn on Butterfield to help provide shelter for the homeless. Before anyone goes criticizing this, consider that the church shelters have had to close during the pandemic, leaving people out in the cold. And, there are many homeless people with children, so to all of you on Facebook I have seen calling them "beggars" and "crackheads," please don't paint all homeless people together with one brush until you know the facts. I don't give money to people standing on street corners, but I keep some snack crackers or other non-perishable food items in the car instead.

I hope more and more Illinois residents have a chance to travel outside of the state, even if it's just for a couple of hours. If you make it to Indiana or Wisconsin or Iowa, you might notice that most people in stores and restaurants aren't wearing masks. Masks are optional, not mandated, in many schools in those states. Did you watch any of the Rittenhouse trial in Kenosha, just over the Illinois border? Did you notice the people in the courtroom weren't wearing masks? Guess what? People aren't dropping from COVID-19 in neighboring states. People, doesn't

that make you wonder what we are doing in this state?

Since the Democrats have taken over Washington and Trump is out of office, I would like to hear how much better things are after 11 months of the Biden administration. Just think of how much better things are going to get with three more years. Now is the time for anti-Trumpers to blow their trumpets and wear their "I voted for Biden" hats in public.

Hi, Speak Out. Would it be disrespectful to hand people who are collecting money on the corners—disrupting traffic and risking their lives—job applications so they could take that time and actually work? Question: is it OK to recommend that they work? Just asking because they could better use that time working at a drive-through window and collecting money there. I hope this helps.

A lot of teachers seem to be pretty thin-skinned when faced with criticism. If parents don't like what's being taught to their children, those parents have a right to speak out. Some of the teachers I've heard have portrayed any criticism as a threat. That's pathetic.

Having grown up during World War II, I find it interesting that people will wear hats and shirts to support their sports team, yet they are afraid to wear anything that advertises what political party they support. I guess they are more concerned about sports than the country's future. Sports only drives up the price of what they advertise and is history tomorrow. Stand up, Americans, or your future will take a turn for the worse.

Some teachers who are used to indoctrinating children are upset that some parents are opening their eyes. Maybe the remote learning showed parents what is being taught in schools. Instead of focusing on

pushing an ideology, maybe more teachers and schools should focus on reading and math. There's a lot of room for improvement on those two subjects.

I am all for reducing the carbon footprint, but thinking about electric cars, besides the cost, it isn't that simple. There is the potential for

electricity overload, or what about getting stranded if the battery goes bad or loses its charge? It's like you can't carry a portable generator in the trunk, like you would a car. I think improving the hybrid model is a compromise, but again the more technology that goes into these vehicles, the more there is going wrong.

## Villa Park Library events

**Editor's note:** Unless otherwise indicated, information on each of the following events and programs can be found by visiting the library's website at [vppl.info](http://vppl.info) or by calling 630-834-1164.

### Tuesday, Dec. 14-Thursday, Dec. 16 Library extends hours for high school exam study sessions

It's that time of year—final exams are here. The Villa Park Public Library will hold *High School Exam Study Nights* from Tuesday, Dec. 14 through Thursday, Dec. 16 from 5 to 10 p.m. All high school students are invited to study at the library with free Wi-Fi, snacks, and therapy dogs! The library will stay open until 10 p.m. so students can stay later. A therapy dog will visit each night from 7 to 8 p.m., and snacks will be served at 8:15 p.m. Registration is not required, but capacity may be limited due to space.

### Wednesday, Dec. 15 Father Dominic returns with Christmas Cheer

The Villa Park Public Library is pleased to present *Christmas Morning Treats with Father Dominic* from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Father Dominic will demonstrate some quick breads that can easily be made on Christmas morning, including chocolate orange biscuit twists and shortcut stollen. This program will be held online via Zoom. Registration with a valid email address is required.

### Saturday, Dec. 18 In-person Marvelous Mornings story times return to Library

*Marvelous Mornings* story times are back in-person at the Villa Park Public Library. Young children of all ages and their adults are invited to enjoy stories, songs, and activities, including a "make and take" project to enjoy together. An upcoming session will be held at 11 a.m. Sessions will be held in person at the library. Masks are required. Registration is also required.

### Thursday, Dec. 22 Library hosting holiday matinee

The Villa Park Public Library will hold a holiday matinee for children of all ages at 1 p.m. Registration is not required. Face masks are required to enter the library by all individuals over age 2 who can medically tolerate it, regardless of vaccination status.

### Ongoing programs Library holding Teen Writing Contest

The Villa Park Public Library is holding a Teen Writing Contest: Short Stories in honor of NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month). All students in grades 6 through 12 are invited

to participate by submitting an original short story. The theme is: *LIGHT*. Participants are encouraged to interpret this in any way they wish. This is a wonderful opportunity for young writers to be creative and express their ideas! Winners will be announced December. For official contest details and rules, visit the library's website [vppl.info](http://vppl.info) or call 630-834-1164.

### Storytime at Oakbrook Terrace Park District Dec. 13

The Villa Park Public Library will hold *Rhythm & Rhyme Community Storytimes* outdoors at the Oakbrook Terrace Park District, located at 15325 Ardmore Ave. in Oakbrook Terrace. This drop-in program is for young children of all ages, accompanied by an adult. Upcoming sessions will be held Monday, Dec. 13 from 11:30 a.m.-noon. Storytimes will take place indoors in the event of inclement weather. The Oakbrook Terrace Park District requires masks while indoors regardless of vaccination status. Registration is not required.

### Weekly In-house story times at the Library

The Villa Park Public Library Youth Services Department is pleased to welcome youngsters back for weekly in-house story times. *Toddler Time* is being held on Mondays or Thursdays from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Walkers up to age 3 and their adults will enjoy stories, musical activities, rhyming games, and play. *Babies and Books* are being held Tuesdays or Thursdays from 9:30 to 10 a.m. Pre-walkers and their adults will get introduced to the world language and books through music and singing, stories and rhyme. *Preschool Storytime* is being held Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Designed for children ages 3 to 5 to attend independently, this is a lively program with imaginative stories and musical fun. All story times are being held in-person at the library. Masks are required.

### English language classes with People's Resource Center at the Library

Come to the library to learn or improve your English skills. The People's Resource Center is partnering with the Villa Park Public Library to present two weekly programs for English language learners. At the *Practical English Class*, students learn life skills and have the opportunity to improve English speaking, listening, reading, writing, vocabulary, and grammar. Sessions are held every Tuesday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Attendees at the *English Conversation Circle* have the opportunity to practice everyday conversations, improve pronunciation, and gain confidence speaking English in a relaxed environment.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Warriors defeat Blazers 59-41

Willowbrook's girls basketball team began its West Suburban Gold Conference season with last week's game at Addison Trail. The Warriors defeated the Blazers 59-41. Willowbrook improved its overall record to 6-0 with the Nov. 30 victory in Addison. Sophomore Elle Bruschuk (No. 33) scored 13 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.



Junior Nina Nytko (No. 21) contributed eight points. Willowbrook moved to 7-0 overall and 2-0 in conference play following Saturday's 57-22 win at Proviso East.