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THURSDAY, JAN. 8, 2026

Warriors win title at holiday tournament



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

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Willowbrook's boys basketball team won the championship at the IC Catholic Prep/Westmont Classic last week. The Warriors won four straight games at Westmont High School to win the title at the 16-team event. After beating Winnebago 68-66 in overtime in a semifinal contest on Dec. 29, Willowbrook rallied to defeat IC Catholic Prep 52-45 in the tournament's championship game on Dec. 30. The Warriors, who are pictured with their first-place plaque, moved their overall season record to 6-8 with their four straight wins at the holiday tournament. Willowbrook improved to 7-8 with Saturday's 72-66 victory over Wheeling at the West Suburban Conference/Mid-Suburban League Challenge at Glenbard West High School.

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Police Reports

The Villa Park Police Department recently reported the following arrests and citations. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a conviction, and that suspects are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Persons charged with domestic battery are not named in order to protect the privacy of victims. Juveniles age 17 or younger are not named.

Dec. 31

Alex Machado, 30, of Villa Park, was charged with unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting or obstructing a police officer at a gas station in the 1-100 block of W. St. Charles at 8:10 a.m. Machado was transported to the DuPage County Jail.

A complainant at a business in the 300 block of S. Ardmore reported one of their slot machines was damaged.

A complainant in the 600 block of N. 2nd reported being a victim of fraud.

Dec. 30

Michael Rzenca, 44, of Des Plaines, turned himself in for an original complaint and warrant for theft related to an incident that allegedly occurred June 16, 2025, in the 200 block of W. St. Charles.

A complainant at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83 reported at 3:43 p.m. that a subject had attempted to remove items from the store without paying full retail value. The items were recovered and the subject was trespassing from the property.

A complainant in the 600 block of S. Riverside reported they were being threatened on social media. The threats reportedly came after the complainant made a comment on social media.

A complainant at a pharmacy in the 200 block of E. Roosevelt reported at 6:24 p.m. that three suspects removed bottles of alcohol from display shelves and left without paying for them.

Dec. 29

A complainant in the 200 block of S. Villa reported at 2:54 p.m. that one of their vehicle's windows had been broken, and that several items had been removed from the vehicle.

A complainant in the 1-100 block of E. Sunset reported that a subject is harassing them via telephone.

Dec. 28

Steven Sanchez, 39, of Lombard, was charged with DUI, leaving the scene of an accident involving damage to an attended vehicle, no insurance, and driving too fast

for conditions or failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident in the 100 block of N. 3rd at 1:29 p.m.

A complainant in the 300 block of N. Princeton reported at 2:52 a.m. that a subject had battered them.

Dec. 27

A 24-year-old Villa Park man was charged with two counts of domestic battery in the 600 block of N. Wisconsin at 7:45 p.m. He was transported to the DuPage County Jail.

A complainant at a bar and grill in the 300 block of W. St. Charles reported at 1 a.m. that subjects were causing a disturbance.

A complainant in the 300 block of W. Division reported at 5:19 p.m. that a subject had taken items after being asked to leave. The items did not belong to the subject.

Dec. 26

Richard J. Dutch, 43, of Milwaukee, was charged with retail theft at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83.

A complainant in the 400 block of S. Yale reported that a subject damaged a tire on their vehicle.

A complainant in the 200 block of W. Division reported that their vehicle's tires were damaged by a subject.

A complainant at a store in the 300 block of N. Ardmore reported at 5:04 p.m. that a subject removed merchandise from display shelves and left without paying.

A complainant in the 300 block of N. Illinois reported that a subject is harassing them via telephone.

A complainant in the 300 block of N. Princeton reported that a subject battered them. The complainant did not wish to sign complaints.

Dec. 24

Complainants at a gas station/restaurant in the 1-100 block of W. St. Charles reported at 11:08 a.m. that a subject removed merchandise from display shelves and attempted to leave without paying.

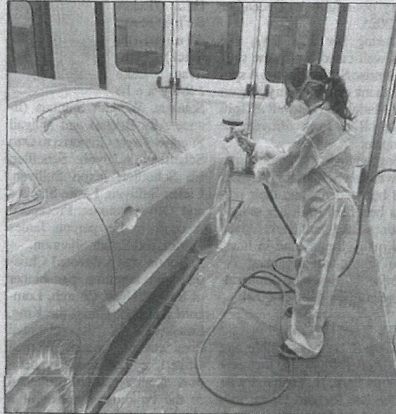
A complainant in the 1-100 block of W. Adams reported that a subject battered them. The complainant did not wish to sign complaints.

Dec. 23

A complainant at a fitness center in the 300 block of W. North reported that his green school bag, which contained his wallet and car keys, was stolen from a locker.

Officers responded to reports of shots fired near N. Third and W. Elm at 10:41 p.m. Property damage was reported. An investigation is ongoing.

Willowbrook senior recognized as a TCD Student of the Month



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

During its Dec. 18 meeting, the DuPage Area Occupational Education System (DAOES) Board of Directors named Willowbrook High School senior Jordyn Turnquist (pictured) as a Technology Center of DuPage (TCD) Student of the Month for December. Turnquist is a student in TCD's Auto Body program. She was nominated for the honor by TCD instructors Tim Horak and Erem Holloway. "[Turnquist] is a natural leader in the shop," Horak and Holloway stated in their nomination of Turnquist. "She consistently takes initiative, steps up without hesitation and encourages her classmates to stay engaged and involved. She is determined, driven and never afraid to tackle challenges head-on. When something needs to be done, she is the first to volunteer and the last to give up. Above all, she demonstrates a genuine passion for Auto Body and painting. Her eagerness to learn, paired with her strong work ethic, sets a high standard for her peers and contributes greatly to the positive culture of our program."

Arizona man accused of stealing iPhones from Naperville Apple store

DuPage County State Attorney Robert Berlin and Naperville Chief of Police Jason Arres recently announced that an Arizona man has been charged with stealing multiple cellphones from the Naperville Apple Store located at 120 W. Jefferson Ave. Khyree Mosley, 24, of Chandler, Arizona, was re-

leased on his own recognition on Jan. 2, after being charged with one count of burglary (Class 2 felony), one count of retail theft (Class 3 felony) and one count of misdemeanor fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer. It is alleged that on Jan. 1, at approximately 4:25 p.m., Mosley entered the Apple

Store, selected three iPhone 17 Pro Max 1TB phones and left the store without paying for the merchandise. It is further alleged that Mosley fled the scene in a white Chevrolet Equinox, and when a Naperville police officer, driving a fully marked police SUV with activated emergency lights, signaled for him to

stop, Mosley instead refused to stop and fled. At approximately 9 p.m., officers with the Minooka Police Department located Mosley and took him into custody. The next court date Mosley is scheduled for Feb. 11, in front of Judge Margaret O'Connell.

Joliet man charged with posting a video threatening a Westmont Porsche warehouse

DuPage County State Attorney Robert Berlin and Westmont Chief of Police Brian Gruen announced last week Judge Anthony Coco granted the state's motion to detain pre-trial a Joliet man accused of posting a video threatening a Westmont Porsche warehouse.

Devan Sheard, 32, appeared in court on Dec. 30, and was charged with one count of dis-

orderly conduct—false bomb threat (Class 3 felony).

On Dec. 28, at approximately 1:33 p.m., Westmont police responded to the Napleton Porsche warehouse, located in the 700 block of Burr Oak Drive, after receiving a phone call alerting them to a YouTube video, allegedly created by Sheard, in which he is seen discussing planting improvised explosive devices (IEDs)

inside the vehicles. It is alleged that in the video, Sheard, a former employee at the business, is seen approaching multiple cars with their hoods up and states, "should I hide the IED over here?" It is further alleged that at one point in the video, Sheard sets the camera down and states, "I'm planting the IED as we speak" and then later in the video he states, "I did plant the IED in one of these

vehicles" and "If I'm going to go out, I'm going to go out with a bang!"

The Westmont and DuPage County Sheriff's Bomb Squads searched the warehouse, as well as Sheard's residence, and found no bomb-making materials.

Sheard's next court appearance is scheduled for Jan. 26, in front of Judge Daniel Guerin.

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Warriors capture title at the ICCP/Westmont Christmas Classic

After rallying to beat Winnebago in the semifinal round, Willowbrook delivers another come-from-behind effort to beat IC Catholic Prep in the championship game

The Willowbrook boys basketball team won the championship at the 16-team IC Catholic Prep/Westmont Christmas Classic last week.

The Warriors, who advanced to the semifinals of the tournament with victories over Providence St. Mel (on Dec. 26) and Aurora Central Catholic (on Dec. 27), faced Winnebago in a semifinal contest on Monday, Dec. 29. Willowbrook defeated Winnebago 68-66 in overtime to advance to the tournament's championship contest on Dec. 30. The Warriors faced IC Catholic Prep in the title matchup.

Willowbrook trailed the Knights 30-19 with a little more than one minute left in the third quarter of the championship game, which took place at Westmont High School. The Warriors reduced IC Catholic Prep's lead to 32-25 by the end of the third quarter. Willowbrook took the lead in the middle of the fourth quarter and pulled away to earn a 52-45 victory and win the title.

After starting their season with a 2-8 record, Warriors reel off five consecutive victories

After winning four straight games and claiming the championship plaque at the IC Catholic Prep/Westmont Christmas Classic, Willowbrook raised its overall season record to 6-8. The Warriors moved to 7-8, and picked up their fifth consecutive victory, when they beat Wheeling 72-66 on Saturday at Glenbard West High School in Glen Ellyn. That game was one of the day's 11 contests in the West Suburban Conference/Mid-Suburban League Challenge. Five of the games were played at Glenbard West, while the other six were played at Addison Trail High School.

The Warriors began their eventful week with their exciting overtime win over Winnebago in Westmont on Monday, Dec. 29. The Indians took an early 7-0 lead, but the Warriors cut that lead to 9-8 by the end of the first quarter. Willowbrook owned a 25-22 halftime lead, but Winnebago went on a run in the third quarter and held a 43-31 lead late in the period. The Indians led the Warriors 45-36 at the end of the third quarter.

Willowbrook rallied in the fourth quarter and pulled ahead of the Indians, taking a 56-53 lead. Winnebago then scored five straight points to claim a 58-56 lead. Senior

Otis Powell of the Warriors made two free throws with 6.3 seconds left in regulation to even the score at 58-58. The two teams were deadlocked at 58-58 at the end of regulation, forcing a 4-minute overtime period.

Senior Jory Crocker made a 3-point shot to give the Warriors a 64-63 lead with 1:40 left in overtime. Crocker added a free throw later in the overtime to push the lead to 65-63. Junior JJ Miulli sank two free throws with 36.8 seconds to play to give Willowbrook a 67-63 lead.

The Indians cut the lead to 67-66 before senior Jaylen Griffin made one of two free throws with 7.2 seconds on the clock. Winnebago missed an inside shot in the closing seconds. After the ball went out of bounds, and no time on the clock, it appeared the game was over. But the officials put half a second back on the clock. The Indians inbounded the ball and attempted a 3-point shot; the shot sailed over the hoop, and Willowbrook earned the 68-66 victory and advanced to the championship game.

Powell scored a team-leading 24 points in last week's win over Winnebago. Griffin provided 19 points, while Miulli scored 11 points. Crocker supplied 10 points. Juniors Dylan Borkowski and Michael Garner contributed two points each.

Willowbrook produces another second-half rally in its win over the Knights in the holiday tournament's title contest

The Warriors faced another double-digit deficit in the Dec. 30 championship game against IC Catholic Prep. Borkowski caught a deflected ball out of the air and made an off-balance shot at the third-quarter buzzer to reduce the Knights' lead to 32-25. Powell delivered a three-point play early in the fourth quarter to slice the lead to 32-28. A 3-point basket from senior Antwan Walker narrowed the Knights' advantage to 34-31.

A driving basket from Miulli gave the Warriors a 39-38 lead with about 3:45 left in the game. Miulli connected on a baseline shot to raise Willowbrook's lead to 41-38 with 3:05 to play. Seconds later, Miulli made a steal and passed the ball to Griffin for a layup that extended the lead to 43-38.

The Warriors made their second-half surge against IC Catholic Prep after unleashing full-court defensive



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS: Rock Valley Publishing

Juniors Dylan Borkowski (No. 22) of the Willowbrook boys basketball team is pictured while shooting and making a basket during the fourth quarter of the Warriors' Dec. 30 battle against IC Catholic Prep in the championship game of the ICCP/Westmont Christmas Classic. Borkowski's basket cut the Knights' lead to 38-37 with about 4:20 to play. Junior JJ Miulli (No. 25) of the Warriors is pictured while driving to the hoop to score the basket that gave Willowbrook a 39-38 lead with about 3:45 remaining. The Warriors went on to beat IC Catholic Prep 52-45 to win the tournament title. Senior Otis Powell (No. 2) scored a team-leading 20 points for Willowbrook in the championship game. After winning four straight games at the holiday tournament, the Warriors moved their winning streak to five with Saturday's 72-66 victory over Wheeling at the WSC/MSL Challenge at Glenbard West High School. Willowbrook raised its overall season record to 7-8 with Saturday's win.

pressure that forced multiple turnovers and prevented the Knights from running their usual offense.

"With four games in five days, I was trying to hold off as long as I could before we tried to speed the game up," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins after the Warriors' victory in the championship game. "It worked out today. I feel like we lost some close ones early in the season, and now we're starting to win some close ones. We won a close one last night [against Winnebago]. We won a close one today, and hopefully we can continue to build off of that."

The Knights cut the Warriors' lead to 43-41 with 1:40 remaining, but a basket from Powell and two free throws from Griffin pushed the lead back up to 47-41. Griffin made four of six free throws in the last 40 seconds.

Powell scored 20 points and pulled down 10 rebounds in Willowbrook's victory over IC Catholic Prep in the tournament's championship game. Griffin scored 10 points, while Miulli and Crocker contributed seven and six points,



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Members of the Willowbrook girls gymnastics team are pictured after their victory at last month's Leyden Eagle Invite. Pictured left to right (standing) are: sophomore Rebekah Brown, sophomore Ella Paulsen, junior Lillian Macias, sophomore Olivia Oskiewicz, freshman Brooklynn Stratton, junior Macy Morris and junior Farrah Beavers; seated (middle) is senior Cecilia Brown.

Warriors win team title at the Leyden Eagle Invite

Stratton turns in a first-place score in floor exercises and wins the all-around title; Macias delivers the invite's top score on the vault

The Willowbrook girls gymnastics team won the championship plaque at last month's Leyden Eagle Invite. The Warriors won the event's team title with their total score of 127. Naperville North (121.35) finished second in the five-team competition, while Leyden (117.75) placed third.

Willowbrook freshman Brooklynn Stratton won the all-around championship at the Dec. 13 invite with her score of 33.3. Stratton won the individual title in floor exercises with her score of 8.55. She earned second-place finishes on the vault (8.55) and the uneven bars (8.0), and delivered a third-place score of 8.2 on the balance beam.

Junior Lillian Macias of the Warriors won the first-place medal on the vault (8.8) and added a fourth-place score of 8.1 on the balance beam.

Willowbrook sophomore Ella Paulsen placed sixth in the all-around standings with her total of 30.9. Paulsen finished third on the vault (8.5), sixth in floor exercises (7.85), tied for seventh on the uneven bars (7.2), and landed in ninth place on the balance beam (7.35).

Junior Macy Morris of the Warriors finished seventh in the invite's all-around standings with her score of 30.4. She finished seventh on the

balance beam (7.7) and eighth in floor exercises (7.7).

Willowbrook sophomore Rebekah Brown contributed a ninth-place score of 29.7 in the invite's all-around standings. She placed sixth on the balance beam (7.75) and tied for 10th on the vault (8.15).

Junior Farrah Beavers provided the Warriors with a fourth-place finish on the uneven bars (7.75).

Hinsdale South beats Willowbrook in a dual meet between conference rivals

The Warriors faced West Suburban Gold Conference rival Hinsdale South in a dual meet at Hinsdale South on Dec. 18. The Hornets outscored Willowbrook 139.25 to 123.8 in the team competition.

Macias placed second on the vault (9.0) in the meet against Hinsdale South. Stratton finished fourth on the balance beam (8.45), fifth in floor exercises (8.55) and fourth in the all-around standings (32.35). Paulsen placed fifth on the vault (8.4). She also finished fifth in the all-around standings with her total of 30.55.

Warriors finish second to the Blazers at Addison Trail's invite

The Warriors competed at the five-team Addison Trail Winter Tumbleland Invite on

Dec. 20. Addison Trail won the invite's team title with its score of 125.425. Willowbrook earned a second-place score of 121.55. York (120.45), Leyden (119.85) and Morton (103.95) placed third, fourth, and fifth, respectively.

Macias won the first-place medal on the vault (8.75) at the invite at Addison Trail. Stratton won the individual title in floor exercises with her first-place score of 8.5. Stratton finished third in the all-around standings with her score of 31.8.

Addison Trail senior Mia Trombatore won the all-around title with her score of 31.975. Trombatore finished first on the uneven bars (8.0), fourth in floor exercises (8.075) and seventh on the balance beam (7.55).

Senior Gaby Trejo of the Blazers placed fourth in the all-around standings (30.85). Addison Trail sophomore Izabela Hernandez posted a fifth-place score of 30.8 in the all-around competition. Trejo finished third on the balance beam (7.8) and fifth in floor exercises (8.05). Hernandez placed second in floor exercises (8.15) and sixth on the balance beam (7.6).

Willowbrook's season continues tonight—Jan. 8—with a home meet against conference rival Leyden.

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Supporting the Rams

Glenbard East's boys basketball team had the support of a large student section during last week's semifinal game against Saint Ignatius at York High School's Jack Tosh Holiday Classic. A few of the Rams' student fans are pictured during the second half of the Dec. 30 contest. Saint Ignatius defeated Glenbard East 62-52. Saint Ignatius won the event's championship game on Dec. 31. The Rams won the tournament's third-place contest, which took place just before the title game.

Suburban Life

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



OJ POWELL

Willowbrook, senior, basketball

Powell scored 25 points in a win over Wheeling and in the process, passed Everett Stubbiefield III as Willowbrook's all-time leading scorer with 1,451 points and counting.

He was voted the Athlete of the Week in an online vote. Glenbard West basketball's Elle Noble, Benet basketball's Jayden Wright and Glenbard East's Jacob Marnowski were other nominees.

Here is Powell's Q&A with Sports Editor Joshua Weigel.

What did breaking the scoring record mean to you? Did you know you were getting closer? How did you score those points?

Powell: Breaking the scoring record meant a lot to me because I am the number one player (leader) in Willowbrook scoring history. I didn't know I was close. I just played my game. I scored those points with determination, skills and heart.

Your team is coming off winning a tournament at Christmas. What's winning that tournament mean? What were keys to winning it?

Powell: Winning the tournament meant a lot to me and my teammates because we were coming off a losing streak and then made a huge comeback going undefeated and ended up winning the tournament. I was excited for me and my team and coach. The keys to winning were being a team and my coaches and lots of water.

What are some season goals the rest of the way?

Powell: Some season goals are to win regional and go further and make more of Willowbrook history.

You play three sports which not many do. How do you balance the three and what has motivated you to keep doing all three?

Powell: Playing three sports is hard. It takes a mental toll on you and me doing it for all four years was exhausting but what keeps me motivated is those who wish they could be in my situation and not take this for granted.

Do you know your plans beyond high school? Do you plan to play sports and which one?

Powell: I'm undecided on the sport I want to play in college but I will be really soon I don't have a set plan yet due to me playing three sports.

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BOYS BASKETBALL: GLENBARD WEST 43, SCHAUMBURG 41

Josh Abushanab's layup at buzzer gives victory to Glenbard West

By COLE SHEETS

Shaw Local News Network correspondent

Josh Abushanab scored 17 points, including a game-winning layup with time expiring, as Glenbard West defeated Schaumburg 43-41 on Jan. 8 as part of the Mid-Suburban League vs. West Suburban Conference Challenge in Glen Ellyn.

The Hilltoppers (6-8) led the entire game. They took a 10-point advantage into the locker room at halftime and entered the fourth quarter up nine points. A determined Saxons squad chipped away at that lead throughout the final period and tied the game with five seconds remaining to set the stage for Abushanab's heroics.

"Coach kind of just told us to take what they give us and they gave us over the top," Abushanab said. "And when I saw I had the over the top, it was just open space, so I just kind of worked my magic from there and I just went to the hoop and got the layup."

It was a game-deciding moment for Abushanab. The senior had been giving the Saxons (8-7) fits all game long as part of the Hilltoppers' 1-3-1 zone scheme.

"It's a hard defense to prepare for," Schaumburg coach Jason Tucker said. "That's a great 1-3-1." The Hilltoppers used their length and kept their hands active to force the Saxons outside and push their offense to the perimeter.

"It's just effort," Glenbard West coach Jason Opoka said. "We break down our defense all the time and it's about tips, deflections and steals to create offensive opportunities."

Abushanab got one of those opportunities early when he tipped a Schaumburg pass, stole the ball and converted with a dunk on the other end to extend the Hilltoppers' lead to 18-11 with 5:04 to play in the second quarter.

He got another fast-break opportunity with 6:19 to play in the third quarter. The 6-foot-5 standout again deflected a pass and took it the length of the floor, this time laying it in to give Glenbard West a 31-19 lead.

The stern defensive approach

made it difficult for the Saxons to battle back for most of the day.

"Jason (Opoka) does a phenomenal job with that 1-3-1. So it takes a while to adjust to it. I thought we did a better job in the second half and had a chance to win," Tucker said.

As the game wore on, Schaumburg senior guard Tony Horton started to find space inside more consistently. Horton scored seven of his 11 points in the second half, and he created several second-chance opportunities for Saxons big man Cam Anderson to clean up.

Anderson led Schaumburg with 15 points and was a consistent presence on the glass.

"We needed to penetrate more in that zone, and I thought we did a better job in the second half," Tucker said. "I thought if we'd done that the first half we would have won the game."

Horton stole a Hilltoppers pass and laid it in to cut into the lead with just over seven minutes remaining.

He then slid a pass to teammate Ray Black, who scored through contact and converted an and-one opportunity to make the lead a mere two points with four minutes to play.

"Hats off to Schaumburg; they picked up their intensity. They didn't stop. They kept fighting. And they made it difficult for us," Opoka said. "The game got physical, and we didn't match the physicality. ... They got confidence, and they played a heck of a game."

Saxons senior Aiden Patterson nailed a midrange jumper to cut the lead to just one at the 2:54 mark.

Schaumburg then forced the Hilltoppers into a shot-clock violation before Anderson tossed in a game-tying putback bucket with 4.9 seconds to play.

From there it was all Abushanab as the Hilltoppers lobbed him a pass near midcourt and he ran past a flurry of Saxons on his way to the game-winning layup.

"We know teams are going to double him. We know teams are gonna run at him. He's got to be a facilitator, he's got to be willing to share it, but also he's so talented," Opoka said.