

Taking flight...

WILLOWBROOK SENIOR GYMNAST Cassidy McFarlane (right) performs on the balance beam during last week's IHSA sectional at Wheaton Warrenville South High School. McFarlane qualified for the Feb. 11 sectional with her strong scores one week earlier at the Glenbard North Regional. In addition to qualifying for the sectional in the balance beam event, she qualified to compete on the uneven bars and in the all-around competition. McFarlane placed 21st in the all-around scoring at the sectional with a score of 33.75. She placed 16th on the uneven bars and 22nd on the balance beam.

Photo by Chris Fox

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VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

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Longtime village employee marks final week on the job

by Chris Fox

This is Marlon Hummell's final week as Villa Park's superintendent of parks, buildings, grounds and fleet operations. Hummell, who has worked for the village for the last 18 years, will leave the position on Friday.

"I'm really proud to have worked for Villa Park," said Hummell last week in his office at 42 W. Home Ave., just west of Villa Park Village Hall. "This was not an easy decision to leave."

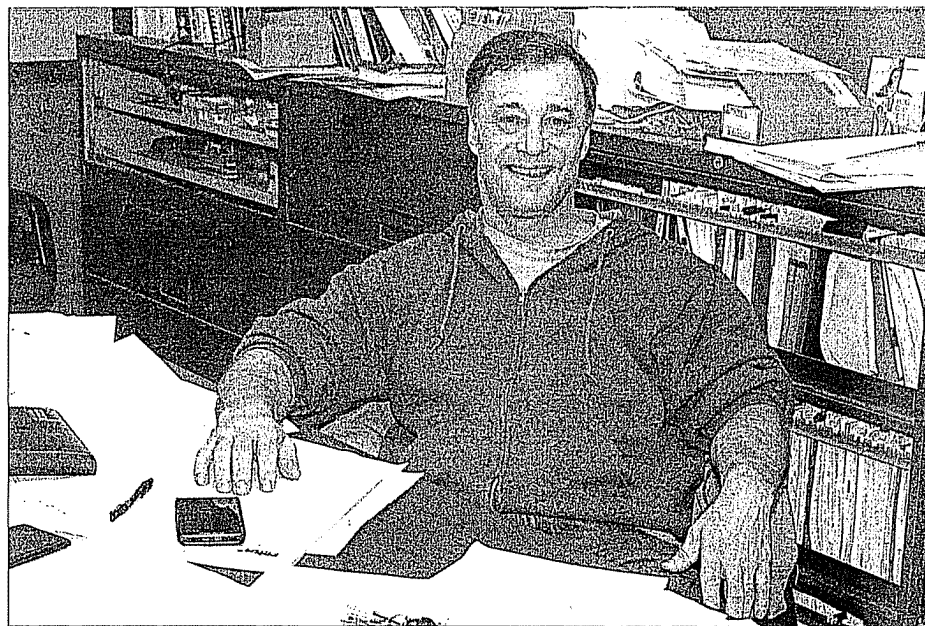
In describing his position, Hummell said he works with a staff of 11 full-time employees, as well as three seasonal workers and a couple of part-time student employees.

"We maintain roughly 125 acres of grounds in the village," said Hummell of his staff's responsibilities, which include maintenance of parks, as well as the grass medians in the center of North Avenue and the areas around the Illinois Prairie Path and the Great Western Trail. Hummell and his crew also maintain the village's two public pools and the baseball and soccer fields outside of Jackson and Jefferson middle schools.

"We're a support staff for all departments in the village," added Hummell, who noted he and his team also handle snow-plowing operations in the parking lots of all village buildings—including the police and fire departments, the village hall and the Iowa Community Center. Hummell's team also plows the parking lot at Villa Park's Metro station and the sidewalks around the village's park sites. The village's public works department handles snow-plowing of Villa Park's streets.

"We work hand in hand with every village department," said Hummell, whose crew helped to install the electronic sign outside of Villa Park Fire Station No. 3 at 1440 S. Ardmore Ave. Hummell's staff recently finished painting the garages of the village's two fire stations and the interior of the Iowa Community Center.

"We uphold all the recreational activities, programs and special events in the village," said Hummell in describing some of his staff's other duties. "We handle setups and takedowns for all events in Villa Park."



A man for all seasons...

Photo by Chris Fox

MARLON HUMMELL (above) will leave his position as Villa Park's superintendent of parks, buildings, grounds and fleet operations at the end of the week. Hummell has worked for the Village of Villa Park since 1995. He began his career with the Bensenville Park District in 1975. He worked in Franklin Park and Glen Ellyn before coming to Villa Park. Hummell is pictured at his desk at 42 W. Home Ave.

Whether it's plowing snow, cutting grass, planting trees or spraying to control weeds near railroad tracks, Hummell and his team have their share of responsibilities around the year, and around the clock.

"There is no such thing as nine to five in this position," said Hummell, who was on call 24/7 for the first 17 of his 18 years in Villa Park. "We started alternating in the last year. They allowed somebody else to come on, so this is the first year I've had a break from that."

The schedule of Hummell and his crew expands whenever extreme weather conditions strike the village.

"We've been through them all—blizzards, storms, several floods," said Hummell, who said he recently logged a 29-hour shift during one of this winter's snowstorms. "You don't go home. You just stay and make sure everything gets done. That's what we do. In times of emergency we step up to the plate and we take care of it."

Hummell said that he has dealt with criticism and questions from residents by not taking things personally.

"Everybody wonders how you deal with the complaints," he said. "I don't look at them as complaints. They're concerns from our residents, and we deal with them promptly. You just make sure everybody is treated fairly, and you try to get all the work done."

Hummell grew up in Bensenville and (Continued on the next page)

Frosty Festival takes place Friday evening at North School

School District 45's North School will host its annual Frosty Festival from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21. The PTA-sponsored event will be held at the school, which is located at 150 W. Sunset in Villa Park. The volunteers who help to present Frosty Festival include North School staff members, teachers, parents, alumni and other community organizations.

The Frosty Festival is open to the public. Admission is free, but tickets to play games are 25 cents. Games include a quarterback toss, lollipop pull, Bozo buckets and other carnival style games. There are games geared for both preschoolers and older children. Participants in the games have a chance to win Frosty bucks that can be cashed in at the redemption center for prizes. One of the

games gives players an opportunity to win a goldfish. The goldfish are donated by a local pet store.

All children attending the event must be accompanied by an adult.

North School second-graders will provide entertainment with a choral performance at 6:30 p.m. Frosty the Snowman will make a special appearance at the festival, which will also include a bake sale and a silent auction. The silent auction will feature themed baskets donated by each grade level at North School.

There will be refreshments sold for between one to six tickets. Patrons can enjoy hot dogs, nachos, chips, popcorn and drinks.

For more information, contact North School at 630-516-7790.

Village board approves deal to inspect one of Villa Park's wells

The Villa Park Village Board voted unanimously during its Feb. 10 meeting to approve a contract proposal to spend \$40,000 to inspect a problem at one of the village's two wells.

Board members voted to approve a contract proposal from Layne Christiansen to remove and inspect the pump at the village well located at 528 N. Princeton Ave.

The well is one of two wells the village maintains to be used as an emergency water supply if the DuPage Water Commission fails to provide Lake Michigan water.

According to a memo issued from village staff to board members, the village operates its wells on a monthly basis. During a recent test of the well on North Princeton, village staff noted that the well's pumping capacity had dropped off considerably. The pump is at a depth of about 1,400 feet below the ground.

Layne Christiansen will reportedly pull the well pump, evaluate the cause of the

drop in the pump's capacity and determine if it can be repaired. If repairs are not feasible, the pump will be abandoned.

According to Villa Park Public Works Director Vydas Juskelis, if the pump is repairable, the repair cost could be approximately \$20,000. He said replacing the well could cost between \$80,000 and \$100,000. According to information in the staff memo to village board members, Layne Christiansen estimated that the cost for proper abandonment of the well would be \$25,000.

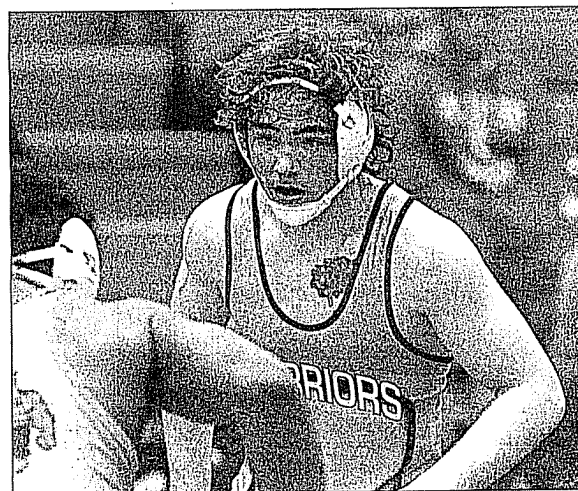
"Whether we keep it or abandon it, we have to pull it either way," said Juskelis during the meeting.

Juskelis told the board that it was uncertain if the water in the well meets current quality standards. If it does not, the water would require additional treatment.

Juskelis also noted that the village's other well was capable of supplying water to the entire village.

Questions? Comments?

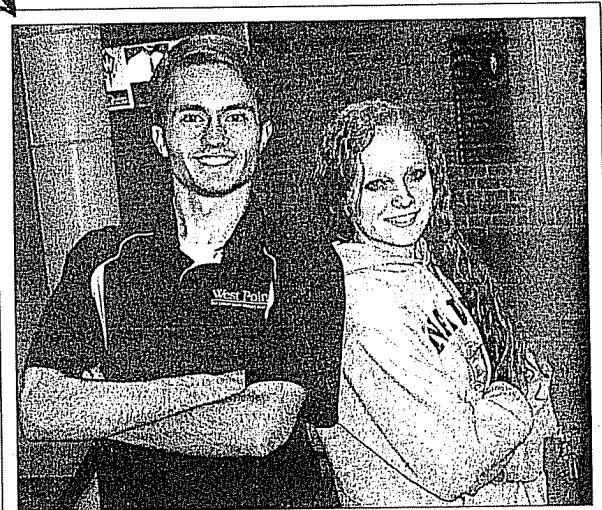
E-MAIL THE VILLA PARK REVIEW AT
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State qualifier...

Photo by Chris Fox

WILLOWBROOK SENIOR WRESTLER Jake Kroeger (above) will compete in this week's IHSA Class 3A individual state meet in Champaign. Kroeger, a Villa Park resident, qualified for the state meet with his fourth-place finish in the 182-pound weight class of the individual sectional that took place Friday and Saturday at Leyden High School in Franklin Park. The top four finishers in each weight level at the sectional qualified for the state meet. Kroeger won three of five matches at the sectional to improve his overall season record to 21-6. The above photo shows Kroeger competing at the individual regional at Glenbard East on Feb. 8. Kroeger earned a second-place finish at the regional. One other Willowbrook wrestler, sophomore Matt Rowland, earned a trip to Champaign with his second-place finish in the sectional's 152-pound division. Rowland will head to the state meet with a



Heading to military academies...

WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL seniors Rocky Dubinas and Molly Kuenstler (above, l. to r.) have made commitments to attend military academies later this year. Dubinas will attend the United States Military Academy, West Point. Kuenstler will become a member of the United States Naval Academy in July. Dubinas plans to study international relations at West Point. His goal is to spend 20 years in the military before pursuing a career in politics. Growing up, Dubinas had conversations with his father, Gus, who stated he wished he had attended a military academy. Those discussions with his father inspired Dubinas to apply to West Point. Kuenstler first visited the U.S. Naval Academy eight years ago, when she was in fourth grade. She returned last summer to attend a seminar and became serious about attending the academy. She applied and was accepted. Kuenstler plans to study chemistry with the hopes of pursuing a career as a naval doctor. A standout swimmer with the Willowbrook/Addison Trail girls team, Kuenstler has qualified for the IHSA state girls meet. She has also been a longtime member of the Villa Park Mariners swim team. She plans to compete on the naval academy's swim team.

Lou Manfredini to speak at Kiwanis Club's March 8 fundraiser

Lou Manfredini, WGN Radio's "Mr. Fix It" and co-owner of Villa Park Ace Hardware, will be the guest speaker at the Kiwanis Club Eliminate Project fundraiser on Saturday, March 8, from 11 a.m. to noon at Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 2801, located at 29 E. St. Charles Road.

Audience members will have an opportunity to hear "Mr. Fix It" and to get answers to personal home-repair questions.

The Kiwanis Club will also provide updated information on its Eliminate Project and the work being done by Kiwanis and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to eliminate maternal and neo-natal tetanus in poverty areas around the world.

The cost of \$10 per person includes lunch. Tickets will be available at the door.

For more information, contact the Kiwanis Club at 630-247-9064 or visit its Web site at www.kiwanisclubofvillapark.org.



LOU MANFREDINI

Hummell...

(Continued from the previous page)

graduated from Fenton High School in 1977. He began his career while still in high school, in 1975, working part-time for the Bensenville Park District. He worked there until 1982, when he became a superintendent of parks and buildings in Franklin Park. In 1989, he moved on to Glen Ellyn to work in a similar position. He came to Villa Park in 1995 to work as the superintendent of parks, buildings and grounds. About two years ago, when the village consolidated positions, he took on the added responsibility of fleet operations.

"I'm in charge of the maintenance and repairs of all the village's cars, trucks and equipment," Hummell said in describing his role with the village's fleet of about 80 vehicles, including all police and fire vehicles, as well as about 40 other pieces of machinery.

The 55-year-old Hummell isn't retiring. He said he accepted an opportunity to serve as a superintendent overseeing several crews for a private construction firm. Moving to that new position will allow him to spend more time with his family. His parents live in Bensenville, as do his grandchildren, a 3-year-old granddaughter and a 6-month-old grandson.

While he won't miss being on call 24 hours a day, and the late-night responses to severe

weather, Hummell will miss his co-workers.

"One thing I've been blessed with is a great staff," he said. "They are hard-working and dedicated. They get it done."

Hummell said he will also miss working with the many village residents and organizations he has dealt with over the last 18 years. Hummell, who lives in Villa Park, has volunteered his time to a variety of projects.

"I said yes to anything I could help with," stated Hummell. "I've worked with Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Eagle Scouts, Girl Scouts, the VFW, the historical commission, the community pride commission, the junior women's club, on and on and on. I did that all on my own time. I just felt I should invest myself in the community that I work for."

Interestingly, a man who has spent a great deal of his career maintaining land enjoys living in an apartment in the village.

"No headaches," Hummell said. "I love my apartment. I don't have to cut grass. I don't have to worry about maintenance."

Hummell said he is looking forward to more free time, including time enjoying special Villa Park village events like Summerfest and Oktoberfest without having to work at them.

"I was happy when I came, and I'm happy now," he said. "I feel like I'm leaving on a good note. I've helped a lot of people and a lot of organizations."

Sports

**LOMBARDIAN
VILLA PARK REVIEW**

Wrestlers earn trips to the individual state meet

Five members of the Glenbard East wrestling team will compete in the IHSA Class 3A individual state meet, which begins on Thursday in Champaign. The Rams earned the state-meet berths with top-four finishes in the respective weight classes at the Leyden Sectional, which took place Friday and Saturday. Seven Rams participated in the sectional after earning top-three finishes at the Glenbard East Regional on Feb. 8. All five Rams who are heading to Champaign this week also wrestled at last season's individual state meet.

Junior D'Andre Johnson of the Rams won the sectional title in the 285-pound weight class. Johnson opened the sectional with a 5-4 decision over Schaumburg senior Matt Zolper. He earned a third-period pin in his semifinal match and pinned Addison Trail senior Bobby Carson in the second period of the sectional final. Johnson improved his season record to 43-2 with his three victories at the sectional.

Seniors Carlos Fuentes and Josh Martin both earned second-place finishes at the sectional. Competing in the 106-pound division, Fuentes won three matches at Leyden, including a 2-1 decision over Niles North junior Hernandez Abraham in the semifinal round. Oak Park/River Forest freshman Juy Renteria defeated Fuentes 18-6 in the sectional championship match. Fuentes will enter the individual state meet with a season record of 40-5.

Martin claimed his runner-up finish in the sectional's 145-pound division. Like Fuentes, Martin won three straight matches to advance to

the championship bout, where he lost to an Oak Park/River Forest opponent. Larry Early beat Martin 18-5 in the 145-pound final. Martin's season record now stands at 32-4.

Senior Dayton Olson earned his state-meet berth with a third-place showing in the 126-pound weight class. Olson, who won an individual championship at the regional, opened the sectional with a victory on a first-period pin. He lost his next match but responded with two wins, including a 9-4 decision in the third-place match. Olson completed the sectional with a season record of 40-4.

Senior Anfernee Rodgers qualified for the individual state meet by finishing fourth in the sectional's 120-pound weight division. Rodgers lost an 8-5 overtime decision in his opening match at the sectional. He then won two straight matches to set up a match with Conant's Danny Madonia. The winner would clinch a top-four spot in the division and earn a trip to Champaign. Rodgers edged Madonia 10-8 in overtime. He closed out the sectional with a loss in the third-place match.

Both Willowbrook wrestlers who participated in the individual sectional at Leyden earned trips to the state meet in Champaign. Sophomore Matt Rowland battled his way to the state meet with a second-place showing in the sectional's 152-pound weight class. Rowland began the sectional with a first-period pin. He won his next match with a 6-3 decision to earn a spot in the semifinal round. Rowland scored a 4-3 victory in the semifinal to advance to the championship match, where he lost a 6-2 decision to Matthew Rundell of

Oak Park/River Forest. Rowland's season record stood at 42-4 at the end of the sectional.

Willowbrook senior Jake Kroeger advanced to the state meet with his fourth-place sectional finish in the 182-pound level. Kroeger won three of five matches at the sectional to improve his season record to 21-6.

There will be 16 competitors in each weight level at the individual state meet.

Montini wrestlers won nine titles at the IHSA Class 2A individual sectional that took place Friday and Saturday at Lakes Community High School in Lake Villa. The nine sectional champions will join three other Broncos at this week's Class 2A individual state meet in Champaign. The top four finishers in each of the sectional's 14 weight classes earned berths in the state meet.

The Broncos' nine champions at the individual sectional included: sophomore Dylan Duncan, who won the title at the 120-pound level; senior Kegan Calkins (126), junior Vince Turk (138), senior Chris Garcia (145), junior Luke Fortuna (152), junior Xavier Montalvo (170), senior Anthony Ferraro (195), senior Edgar Ruano (220) and junior Michael Johnson (285).

Garcia, Montalvo and Ferraro won championships at last season's individual state meet.

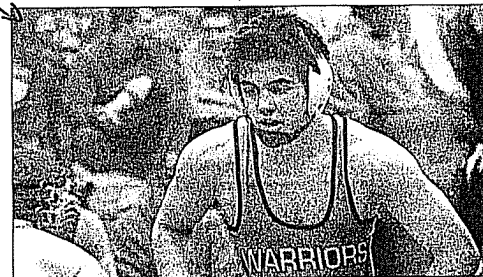
Sophomore Jimmy Pawelski qualified for the state meet with a third-place showing in the sectional's 106-pound weight class. Sophomore Caleb Fortuna delivered a third-place finish in the 132-pound division, while senior Derrick Curry placed second in the 182-pound division.



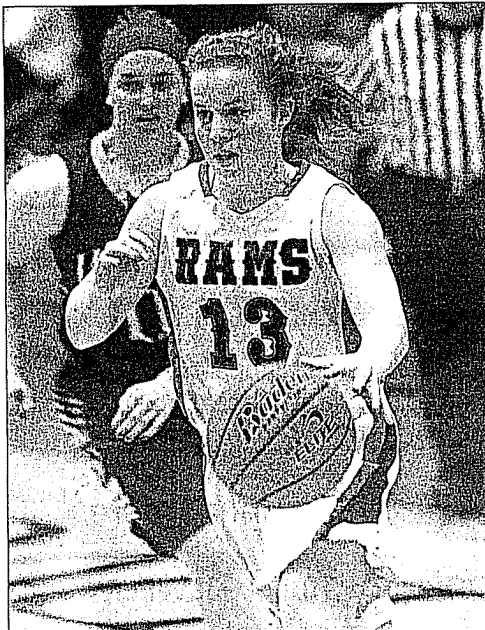
State qualifier...

Photos by Chris Fox

GLENBARD EAST JUNIOR D'Andre Johnson (above, top) won the individual title at the 285-pound weight class at the IHSA Class 3A wrestling sectional at Leyden High School's east campus in Franklin Park. Johnson won three straight matches at the sectional, which took place Friday and Saturday. He will be one of five Rams to compete in this week's individual state meet in Champaign. The above photo shows Johnson during his victory in the Feb. 8 championship match of the Glenbard East Regional. The top four wrestlers in each of the sectional's weight levels qualified for the state meet. Willowbrook sophomore Matt Rowland (below, also pictured at the Glenbard East Regional) advanced to the state meet with his second-place finish in the Leyden Sectional's 152-pound weight class.



Rams defeat Lake Park in regular-season finale



Leading scorer...

SENIOR ELIE DONOVAN (above) of the Glenbard East girls basketball team connected on five 3-point shots to help the Rams to Saturday's 49-43 DuPage Valley Conference victory over Lake Park. Donovan scored a team-high 15 points for the Rams in their final game of the regular season. Junior Allison Hansen added 14 points. The Rams finished the regular season with an overall record of 7-16 and a conference record of 5-9.

The Glenbard East girls basketball team closed out the regular season with Saturday afternoon's 49-43 victory over Lake Park in Lombard. The Rams and Lancers were tied at 32-32 at the end of the third quarter. Glenbard East pulled away in the closing minutes to earn the win in the program's final game in the DuPage Valley Conference. The Rams will move from the DVC to the Upstate Eight Conference next season.

"I thought our kids played with a lot of effort and heart," said Glenbard East coach Don Finnie following Saturday's win. "We continued to get better and better as the game progressed."

Glenbard East completed the regular season with an overall record of 7-16 and a DVC record of 5-9. The Rams will begin the IHSA Class 4A post-season with this week's home game at the Glenbard East Regional. A win over Schaumburg would place the Rams into a regional semifinal battle against Wheaton Warrenville South—the No. 1 seed in the Addison Trail Sectional. Wheaton Warrenville South defeated the Rams 58-33 in Thursday's conference meeting in Wheaton.

Lake Park held a 21-16 halftime lead over the Rams in Saturday's regular-season finale, but senior Elie Donovan's pair of 3-point shots helped Glenbard East even the score at 32-32 by the end of the period: Donovan hit a 3-pointer midway through the quarter to cut the Lancers' lead to 26-25. Seconds later, senior Taj Key made a steal and passed to junior Allison Hansen for a layup that

gave the Rams a 27-26 lead. Sophomore Amanda Chlebek then made a pair of free throws to push Glenbard East's lead to 29-26. The Lancers proceeded to score six straight points to grab a 32-29 advantage. Donovan sank a 3-point shot as the third-quarter buzzer sounded to tie the game.

Lake Park scored a basket to take a 34-33 lead early in the fourth quarter. The Rams never trailed after taking a 35-34 lead on Hansen's field goal with 6:55 to play. Sophomore Ashley Brown's basket extended the lead to 37-34. Hansen and Key added field goals to move the Rams' lead to 41-36. Donovan's fifth 3-point shot of the game pushed Glenbard East's lead to 44-36 with 4:20 remaining. Hansen's pair of free throws at the 2:18 mark completed a 9-0 run and gave the Rams a 46-36 lead.

The Lancers made a 7-0 run to cut the lead to 46-43 with 1:06 to play. Glenbard East missed eight free-throw attempts during the final quarter, but one free throw from Brown with 45.2 seconds left and a pair of free throws from Hansen with 12.4 seconds to play helped the Rams close out the victory.

Donovan provided a team-leading 15 points with her five 3-point shots. Hansen added 14 points, while Key scored seven points. Sophomore Brasia Solid added six points.

The Rams honored their four seniors—Donovan, Key, Keyara Allen and Caitlin Kunradt—before Saturday's game.

Glenbard East waged another close DuPage Conference battle on its

home court earlier in the week. Wheaton North earned a 40-34 win over the Rams on Feb. 11. The game was tied at 26-26 at the end of the third quarter.

Hansen scored a team-high 12 points. Junior Rachael Leifheide delivered eight points.

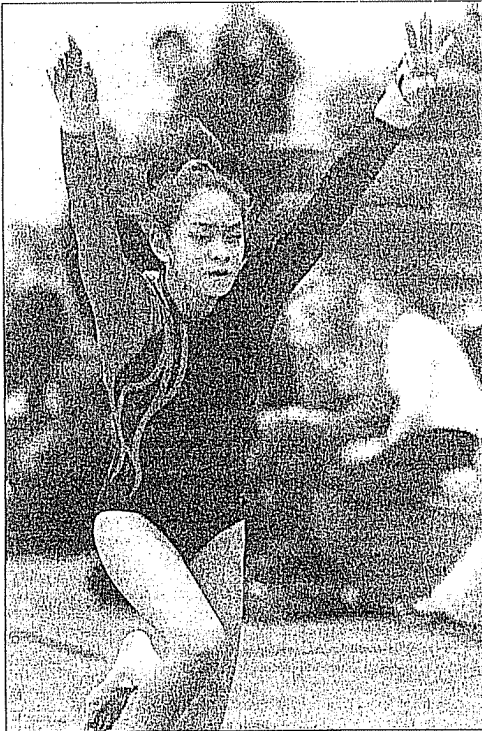
"We played one of our best games of the season," said Finnie of the contest against Wheaton North, which is the No. 4 seed in the Addison Trail Sectional. (The Rams are the No. 18 seed in the same sectional.) "Our defense was phenomenal."

Willowbrook

The Warriors closed out the regular season with a 59-46 loss at Downers Grove North on Feb. 12. The West Suburban Conference crossover contest featured the champions of the conference's Gold and Silver divisions. Willowbrook, which won the Gold title with a perfect 12-0 league record, finished the regular season with an overall record of 22-4.

Senior Molly Krawczykowski scored a team-leading 15 points for the Warriors, who trailed the Trojans 29-19 at halftime and 51-33 after three quarters. Senior Lauren Carroll added seven points, while junior Sam Schmidt provided four points and a team-leading nine rebounds.

Willowbrook, the No. 6 seed in the IHSA Class 4A Addison Trail Sectional, will open the post-season with this week's game against St. Charles East at the Batavia Regional. The Warriors will need to win two games to claim the regional title and advance to the sectional in Addison.



Sectional qualifiers...

GLENBARD EAST FRESHMAN Veronika Srey (above) approaches the vault during last week's IHSA girls gymnastics sectional at Wheaton Warrenville South High School. Srey advanced to the Feb. 11 sectional with her strong performance one week earlier at the Geneva Regional. She earned top-five finishes in the regional's vault, uneven bars and all-around competition to automatically qualify for the sectional in those events. She also earned an at-large berth in the sectional's balance beam competition. Srey tied for 18th on the vault at the sectional with an average score of 9.075. She placed 14th in the uneven bars competition with her average score of 8.525. Srey wound up 15th in the all-around competition with a score of 34.5 (9.075 on vault, 8.525 on the uneven bars, 8.0 on the balance beam and 8.9 in floor exercises). Her score of 8.0 on the beam was good for 25th place. Willowbrook senior Cassidy McFarlane (below, left) and Glenbard East senior Karen Sebbby (below, right) also qualified for the sectional's all-around competition. The photos below show both gymnasts during their floor exercises portions of the all-around competition. McFarlane, who qualified for the sectional with her strong scores at the Glenbard North Regional, finished 21st in the sectional's all-around standings with a score of 33.75. Sebbby placed 27th with a score of 32.90. In addition to qualifying for the sectional's all-around competition, McFarlane and Sebbby both qualified to compete in the uneven bars event. McFarlane finished 16th in the uneven bars (8.45), while Sebbby (8.40) was 17th. McFarlane also earned 22nd place on the balance beam (8.325).



GE bowlers go to state

Glenbard East seniors Karla Bowden and Hannah Mackie qualified as individuals for this week's IHSA girls bowling state meet in Rockford. Bowden and Mackie earned their berths with their performances at Saturday's Leyden Sectional, which took place at Brunswick Zone in River Grove.

Bowden rolled a six-game sectional score of 1,355 (an average of 225.83 per game), while Mackie turned in a six-game total of 1,304 (217.33 per game). The sectional's top five bowlers who did not play on state-meet qualifying teams advanced to the state meet as individuals. Bowden bowled the top score of all five of the sectional's advancing individuals, while Mackie turned in the third-best score of that group.

The Rams qualified for the state meet as a team during each of the previous three seasons. They won IHSA sectional titles in 2012 and 2013. They advanced to the 2011 state meet following a second-place sectional finish. The program's streak of three straight trips to the state meet ended with this season's seventh-place finish at the Hinsdale South Regional on Feb. 8. The top four teams at the regional advanced to the sectional. The top four team's at each of the state's six sectionals advanced to the state meet.



Senior standout...

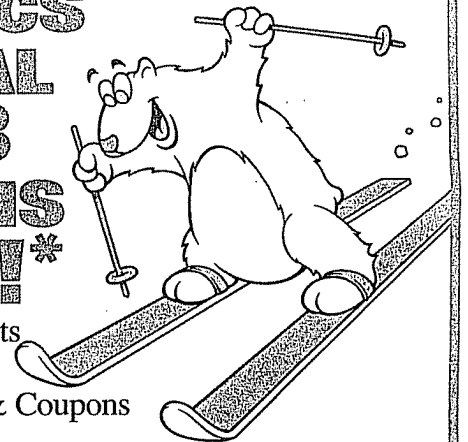
Photos by Chris Fox

GLENBARD EAST SENIOR Taj Key (above) drives toward the hoop during Saturday's girls basketball game against Lake Park. Key scored seven points to help the Rams to a 49-43 DuPage Valley Conference victory over the Lancers in Lombard. The Rams honored Key and the team's three other seniors—Keyara Allen, Elie Donovan and Caitlin Kamradt—before the game, which marked the end of the regular season. The Rams will open the post-season on their home court; they are playing in this week's IHSA Class 4A Glenbard East Regional.

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Village Board moves closer to implementing Storm Water fee

Single family homes to pay \$5.45 per month

By Paul DelGuidice
For The Villa Park Independent

VILLA PARK — Wrestling with the problem of paying for infrastructure repairs, maintenance and improvements, Villa Park staff has proposed adding a Storm Water Utility to property owner's water bills. The Village Board of Trustees discussed the proposal during a Committee-of-the-Whole meeting on Monday, Feb. 10 at

Village Hall.

"We have a storm water fund now," said Village Director of Public Works Vydis Juskelis, "but it's only source of funding is through off-set credits."

Off-set credits are a mechanism where developers wishing to build in Villa Park pay a fee in lieu of constructing required drainage structures on their property such as detention basins, permeable brick pavers or 'green' roofs. The fund received about \$50,000 last year, most of which went

See FEE, Page 4

Crossing guard struck by car Possible road rage incident

By Paul DelGuidice
For The Villa Park Independent

VILLA PARK — Crossing Guard Bill Nolden had just finished guiding students through the intersection of Plymouth and Yale on the north side of Villa Park when an apparently enraged motorist struck him at about 7:50 a.m. on Wednesday, February 12.

"The kids had safely crossed but I still had my sign up and was turning to walk to the curb when he revved his engine and drove right at me," Nolden told the Independent in an exclusive

interview.

Nolden, who has been a crossing guard for three years, was wearing an orange safety vest and holding a large red 'STOP' sign.

"He [the driver] definitely saw me and, in my opinion, intentionally tried to run me over," he said.

A school bus driver and another motorist went to Nolden's assistance. He had been struck with a glancing blow to his hip, causing him to spin around and fall. Paramedics and police were called to the scene.

"I am sore, but nothing was broken," he said. "I'm lucky. I

See GUARD, Page 13



courtesy photo

Willowbrook male staff face hair-raising experience!

"Elvis" was front and center in this picture of last year's Willowbrook Facial Hair February participants. During the month of February, 27 male staff members at Willowbrook are growing facial hair to collect donations for the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of District 88 All Youth. Throughout the past seven years, Facial Hair February has collected more than \$21,000 for the American Cancer Society. See story inside this issue.

INSIDE

Police Reports.....6 Sports.....22-23
Viewpoint.....8 Classifieds.....27-28

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courtesy photo

Willowbrook inducts Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2014

Pictured are Willowbrook Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2014 inductees. They were honored during a dinner Feb. 13 at The Carlisle in Lombard, as well as during a boys basketball game Feb. 14.

WBHS names new members of Athletic Hall of Fame

VILLA PARK — On Feb. 13, Willowbrook inducted members into its Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2014 during a dinner at The Carlisle in Lombard.

The 2014 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees are members of the 1998 Illinois High

School Association (IHSA) State Champions Girls Badminton Team, Richard Scorza (class of 1966), Andy Preuss (class of 1975), Roy Sparks (class of 1982), Timothy Daly (class of 2000), Trammel Smith (class of 2002) and Chuck Rossetti (coach).

To see the program from the event, which includes information about the 2014 inductees and past inductees, visit dupage88.net/site/public/files/?item=1393

The 2014 inductees also were recognized during a boys basketball game Feb. 14.

• FEE Continued from page 1

toward the Village's backyard flooding program, designed to help residents with yard flooding to pay for back-flow valves.

The Storm Water Utility, as proposed, would charge single family homes a fee of \$5.45 per month (\$65.40 annually) added directly to the existing water bill where possible. Commercial property owners, defined as every other structure except single family homes, would pay a multiple of the standard fee based on 3,000 square feet per 'Equivalent Residential Unit' or ERU.

"We found that most residential lots have around 3,000 square feet of impervious area," Juskelis said. "To keep things simple, we use that number for the ERU."

Trustee Bob Taglia noted that many Villa Park residents, particularly senior citizens, rely on fixed incomes and additional fees could sorely impact their personal budgets.

"I would like to see some sort of exemption or reduction for [senior] residents who qualify," Taglia said.

Juskelis stressed that the

Storm Water Utility cost for residences would be a flat \$5.45 per month, even if the impervious area of an individual's lot was more or less than 3,000 square feet. The Director admitted it would take a considerable amount of staff time and work to calculate ERU's for all the commercial property in Villa Park, including government facilities. No property would be exempt from the fee, but credits up to 50% of the cost could be earned for having detention basins and other run-off mitigating measures. If a commercial property was determined to have 9,000 square feet of impermeable land, the fee would be \$16.35 monthly, for example. Initial estimates peg the total gross revenue from the Storm Water Utility fee at \$900,000 annually.

School District 88, which includes Willowbrook High School, and the grade schools in town would qualify for this 50% discount, based on the open grassy athletic fields and existing detention areas already in place at those locations.

"I would like to see more (discounts) for businesses, schools and churches that take steps to lower their run-off," Trustee Chris Aiello stated.

Village staff has sent a brochure to the 20 commercial property owners who would face the highest fees from the Storm Water Utility. According to Juskelis, he received "only a handful" of inquiries. Just two persons attended a scheduled informational meeting.

"We have heard some opposition in the community to the utility, but very little feedback overall," Juskelis said.

The Storm Water Utility fee is designed to help pay for flood mitigation efforts, continued storm/waste water sewer separation and infrastructure maintenance. The money would also go toward constructing recommended storm water mitigation measures as identified by the three new studies commissioned by the Board on flooding in Villa Park.

The studies were prompted by the April 2013 storms where nine inches of rain fell within a 30-hour period caused street

flooding, sewer back-ups and inundated residential areas throughout town.

One particularly hard hit area was the 800 block of South Michigan. A resident from that area addressed the Board on Monday, saying the photo on display at Village Hall "didn't show the full impact of the problems in that area."

"I have a fence in my backyard that is five feet high," he said, "I have pictures showing the fence sticking out just one foot above the water. That is four feet of water. Something has to be done."

The resident went on to say he had taken some measures on his own, at his own expense.

If moved forward by the Village Board (as expected), Village President Deborah Bullwinkel requested staff get the word out to residents via the Village web site, messages on the water/trash bill post cards and posting a draft copy of the Ordinance.

"We can't put up with residents constantly being flooded," Trustee Al Bulthuis said.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, February 20 Elmhurst Hospital Foundation's Chef Fest

The Elmhurst Memorial Hospital Foundation will hold its 14th annual Chef Fest at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace. A cash bar reception will be held from 5:30-6:30 p.m. followed by food tasting until 9 p.m. Tickets: \$65 each; tables of ten available. For tickets and information, visit emhfoundation.org/events/chef-fest/cfm or call (331) 221-0388.

Thursday-Sunday, February 20-23 47th annual Elmhurst College Jazz Festival

The Elmhurst College Jazz Festival will celebrate its 47th year at Hammerschmidt Chapel. Featured performers include The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra; Ryan Truesdell and the Gil Evans Project; and Andy Martin, Bobby Shew and Gary Smulyan with the Elmhurst College Jazz Band. Tickets range from \$10-\$35. Weekend package tickets available. Info: (630) 617-5534 or visit elmhurst.edu/jazzfeste

Friday, February 21 • FUN-DAYS at Iowa Community Center

From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Center, kids ages 4-6 are invited to bring a sack lunch and enjoy an afternoon of themed-based fun with activities such as crafts, music, and pretend

play. Weather permitting the kids will venture outside to enjoy the new playground and Iowa Community Center grounds. Fee: \$13. Info: call (630) 834-8970 or visit vprd.org

• VPRD Princess Ball

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! From 6:30-8:30 p.m., young ladies and their favorite dad-date are invited to the Princess Ball at the "Iowa Center Castle," 338 N. Iowa. Be treated like royalty, enjoy dancing, get your nails polished, enjoy pizza and pasta. A very special guest Princess will stop by. Receive a keepsake photo taken in an old-fashioned photo booth. Tickets: \$33 per couple, \$11 each additional daughter. Wrist corsages can be ordered at time of registration; available for pick up at the Ball.

Saturday, February 22 St. Alexander's "Knight in Paradise" dinner dance

From 6 p.m.-midnight, St. Alexander School will host its annual dinner dance and auction at the Diplomat West to honor former Attorney General Jim Ryan, a St. Alexander alumnus. Tickets: \$75 includes dinner, dancing, open bar. Tickets and info: 630-834-3787 or stasecretary@gmail.com

Saturday, March 1 Library presents "Nate the Great"

From 2-3 p.m., come watch Nate the Great, the sharpest kid detective ever, solve his neighborhood's mysteries at

the Villa Park Library. Performed by the Children's Theater of Western Springs, Nate, his friends, and his faithful dog, Sludge, come to life, from the Nate the Great series by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat. No registration needed. Info: vppl.info or 630-834-1176.

Thursday, March 6 Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fundraiser breakfast

The Villa Park Chamber of Commerce's Scholarship Fundraiser Breakfast Buffet, hosted by Willowbrook High School, will be held from 8-9 a.m. Thursday, March 6 at the high school, 1250 S. Ardmore Ave. (Park in the South Lot and enter Door 4). Cost: \$25 per person. For more info and to RSVP: Call (630) 941-9133 or email vpchamber@sbcglobal.net

Ongoing events...

Clothing drive for homeless vets

Until the end of February, a collection is being taken for more than 1,000 homeless veterans and for the Proffitt Apartments for veterans' transitional housing in the Chicago area. Items can be dropped off at Pure Ambiance Salon, 5 W. Park Blvd, #3, Villa Park, until the end of February. Info: (630) 935-5482.

Early childhood classes

Now through March, Parks & Rec offers classes for toddlers and preschoolers at the Iowa Center, 338 N. Iowa Ave. Toddlers ages 18-36 months

with a parent can choose from these classes: Exploring Toddler, Color Wheel, Alphabet Art, Little Chefs and Little Scientists. Fees vary class-to-class. Info: (630) 834-8525 or vprd.org.

Your Place for Seniors

Area seniors are invited to "Your Place" at the Community Rec Bldg., 320 E. Wildwood, to play Pinochle, bridge, canasta, a board game or whatever game is being played. Hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; and, Tuesdays from 1-2:30 p.m. (NOTE: "Your Place" does not meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month.) Info: (630) 834-8525.

VPRD's Reader's Theater Group

Would you like to perform without having to memorize scripts or lyrics? Join the Readers' Theatre Group each Monday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Community Rec. Building, 320 E. Wildwood. Free; no registration needed. Info: Jenny Casale at 630-834-8525.

VFW Bingo

The Villa Park VFW hosts Bingo every Tuesday from 5:30-10 p.m.

Clubs and organizations are welcome to send entries for this column to: QuestPublishing@aol.com. Please include a phone number or e-mail address to contact for information.

Chamber Scholarship Breakfast Buffet March 6

VILLA PARK — The Villa Park Chamber of Commerce's Scholarship Fundraiser Breakfast Buffet, hosted by Willowbrook High School, will be held from 8-9 a.m. Thursday, March 6 at the high school, 1250 S. Ardmore Ave. (Park in the South Lot and enter Door 4)

Doors open at 8 a.m., with breakfast and musical entertainment beginning at 8:15. Remarks will be given at 8:30, and the program concludes at 8:45. There are optional tours of the high school that begin at 9.

Cost is \$25 per person; additional donations are accepted and appreciated. The entire donation will be used for the chamber's Scholarship Fund, which is close to reaching its \$3,000 goal.

To RSVP, call (630) 941-9133 or email vpchamber@sbcglobal.net

RSVPs also can be sent to: Villa Park Chamber, 10 W. Park, Villa Park 60181. Please include the business name, a contact name, a phone number and an email address, how many will be attending and the total amount enclosed.

Library presents 'The Adventures of Nate the Great'

VILLA PARK — On March 1 from 2-3 p.m., come watch Nate, the sharpest kid detective ever, solve his neighborhood's mysteries at the Villa Park Public Library. This touring show, performed by the Children's Theater of Western Springs, brings Nate, his friends and his faithful dog, Sludge, to life, from the Nate the Great series by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat. Put on your detective hat and witness Nate solving mysteries, while always remembering to leave his mother a note and to wear his galoshes!

Sponsored by the Youth Services Department, no registration is needed for this program. For more information, visit vppl.info or call 630-834-1176.

VPRD COMING EVENTS...

Mom & Son Date Night coming in March

VILLA PARK — Villa Park Parks and Recreation Dept. will be holding a Mom and Son Date Night at Enchanted Castle on Friday, March 20 from 5:30-9 p.m. Young men and their special date are invited to enjoy an exciting evening of unlimited fun. All the boys and dates will receive a wristband to use the go-carts, bumper cars, play Laser tag, miniature golf and more. Game tokens can be purchased at a special discount of \$4 for a roll or 20. Couples will also enjoy a pizza dinner. The fee is \$30 per couple/\$15 each additional son.

Register for spring soccer Feb. 26 or March 1

Parks and Recreation is holding in-person registration for the spring soccer season on Wednesday, February 26, 4-7 pm and Saturday, March 1, 10 am - 1 pm at the Iowa Community Center. In-person registration gives you a discount on registration fees and allows for practice/friend requests. You can also purchase jerseys, volunteer to coach and meet other kids, parents and coaches. The fee during in-person registration is \$47; \$57 starting March 3. The spring soccer season features a seven game season, with games on Saturdays beginning April 5. Teams practice one day per week, are co-rec and determined on a random basis. The U 12 and U 14 divisions practice two days per week and are part of the Mid Suburban Soccer League which includes teams from Addison, Glendale Heights, Itasca, Medinah, Roselle and Wood Dale.

Nerf Wars come to Iowa Center on Mar. 7

Attention kids ages 11-14: Are your parents mad because you broke another one of their

expensive trinkets with your Nerf toy? Come out to Nerf Wars at the Iowa Community Center, 338 N. Iowa, on Friday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m. and take part in this single elimination tournament where teams of four will battle it out to see who will be the Nerf Wars champion. Register as a team of four or as an individual to be placed on a team. All participants should bring their own Nerf Guns and labeled Nerf Darts. The fee is \$10 per team/\$5 individuals.

Swim lessons available with Addison Park Dist.

Parks and Recreation offers indoor swim lessons in cooperation with the Addison Park District. The next session runs March 1-22. Classes are available on Saturdays and Tuesday and Thursday evenings for swimmers with all levels of swim experience. Lessons are held at the Club Fitness Indoor Pool, 1776 W. Centennial Place in Addison. Swim lesson participants have the option to purchase a Club Fitness Junior Membership for \$55; the first session fee is the member rate and all other sessions taken within the one-year membership are paid at the member rate. If a membership is not purchased the class fee is the non-member rate. To see the full schedule of lessons and for fees visit vprd.org or call 630-834-8970.

Babysitting class Mondays in March

This Babysitting class will teach kids ages 11 and older the basics of child care and how to prevent and handle emergencies at home. First Aid and CPR for infants and children will also be reviewed. The class will meet Mondays, March 3-24, 6-8 pm. The fee is \$39. Sign up at vprd.org or call 630-834-8970.

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Durbin announces nominees for Service Academies

**Addison resident
Ekaterin Gjonaj
nominated to
attend West Point**

SPRINGFIELD — Addison resident Ekaterin Gjonaj, daughter of Jani and Eldira Gjoni, is on the list of students named by U.S. Senator Dick Durbin whom he has nominated to attend the four of the nation's service academies. Gjonaj was nominated to attend the Military Academy at West Point.

"I am proud to nominate these outstanding young men and women to our nation's service academies," Durbin said. "They have the promise to become the leaders of their generation. This year's nominees will serve our country with integrity and make their families and communities proud."

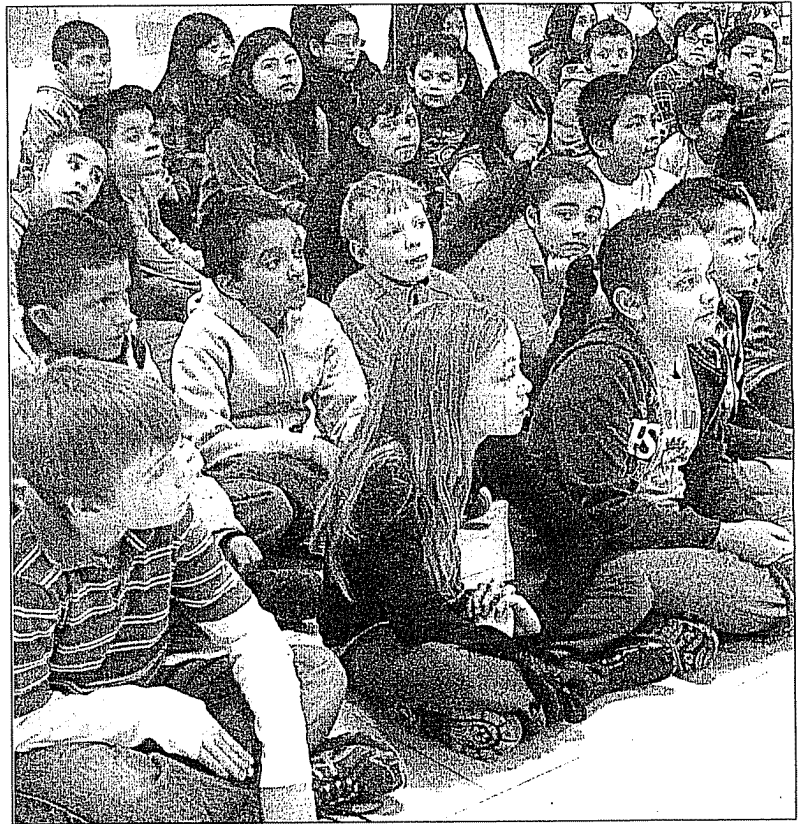
The academies include U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York. Everyone who wishes to attend a service academy must secure a nomination from one of a few sources, including a U.S. Senator. Prospective students at the service academies must apply for a nomination and demonstrate exceptional academic

achievement and good moral character.

U.S. Senators are allowed a maximum of five appointees at a given service academy at any time—except for the Merchant Marine Academy, which is based on a state quota. Senator Durbin is allowed to nominate 10 candidates for each vacancy and does so by selecting nominees for admission on a competitive basis. The service academies will each choose one nominee for each vacancy and offer him or her an appointment.

The nominees were chosen by Durbin's Service Academy Selection Committee, a nonpartisan board that meets annually in December to review applicants.

Other nominees of Senator Durbin's in the Independent readership area include: Rokas Dubinas, Oakbrook Terrace, son of Gus Bahramis and Vita Doubinene, nominated to attend the Military Academy at West Point; Paige N. Ramirez, Wood Dale, daughter of Michael and Deborah, nominated to attend the Air Force Academy; John F. Toohey, Elmhurst, son of Sean Toohey and Anne Toohey, nominated to attend the Air Force Academy; Thomas F. Guinan, Elmhurst, son of Thomas and Margaret Guinan, nominated to attend the Naval Academy.



courtesy photo

Fullerton 3rd graders listen to Mayor Veenstra

These 3rd graders at Fullerton School listened patiently on Tuesday, February 11 when Mayor Richard Veenstra came to the school to talk about what a mayor does and why he decided to run for the position. Veenstra also talked about the work that is being done to make Addison a place where people want to continue to live. Mayor Veenstra also answered questions submitted by the students. More photos inside this issue.

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Two Willowbrook students to attend military academies

**Advice to fellow students:
Follow your dream, passion;
don't let others influence you**

VILLA PARK — When Willowbrook senior Molly Kuenstler visited the United States Naval Academy in fourth grade, she never imagined she would step back onto that campus as a student eight years later.

"The first time I was at the academy, my dad joked I should go there for college because I'm a swimmer," she said.

But after attending a seminar this past summer, Molly became serious about the academy. She applied and was accepted, and she will become a member of the United States Naval Academy in July. At the academy, Molly will compete on the swim team and will study chemistry in hopes of pursuing a career as a naval doctor.

"I've always wanted to do something bigger than myself and be part of a team," Molly said of why she joined the academy. "I love the maturity, camaraderie and atmosphere of the academy."

Although Molly knows the training will be difficult, she's up for the challenge and has the support of her family and

friends.

"I hope to become a better leader and learn to take responsibility for myself and others," she said.

And Molly isn't the only Willowbrook student who will join the military this summer. Senior Rocky Dubinas will study international relations at the United States Military Academy, West Point.

Rocky grew up with his father, Gus, sharing how much he wished he had attended a military academy, and those conversations inspired Rocky to apply to West Point. He said he plans to have a 20-year career in the military and then go into politics.

"West Point will develop me into a better leader on my path to becoming a politician," Rocky said. "If I can lead a military, I can lead civilians."

Rocky added he knows joining the military is a long commitment (with four years of school and then five years dedicated to the military), but he's looking forward to the journey.

Rocky and Molly shared some advice for students who are considering applying to a military academy.

"Sign up early, and attend a summer seminar," they said. "If it's your dream and passion to attend a military academy, go for it. Don't let others influence your decision."



photo provided

Artist to exhibit drawings inspired by College's Particle Accelerator

ELMHURST — Rebecca Wolfram's exhibition *Gilgamesh: A Drawing Installation* will feature large mixed-media drawings that depict scenes from the ancient Sumerian epic of *Gilgamesh*.

Gilgamesh is this year's Women's History Month Exhibition at Elmhurst College and will be shown from March 1-29 in the Barbara A. Kieft Accelerator ArtSpace. An artist's reception will be held on Tuesday, March 4 from 4:30-6:30 p.m., with the artist's talk at 5 p.m.

Wolfram's theme was inspired by the Kevatron particle accelerator that is housed in the Accelerator ArtSpace. While an obvious contrast exists between the extreme antiquity of the epic poem and the modern world represented by the accelerator, there are ways in which the two exemplify some of the same concepts. Both, Wolfram feels, attempt to answer the big questions about the future of the universe.

"The Elmhurst College Accelerator holds a fascination for almost every artist I have ever taken to the ArtSpace," said Suellen Rocca, curator and director of exhibits for the College. "Rebecca Wolfram was so inspired by the Kevatron machine that she has spent the last six months creating a completely new body of work for this exhibition. Comprising a series of 6-foot-high drawings, her work combines the influences of science and literature. I eagerly anticipate seeing Wolfram's vision come alive in this very special exhibition."

The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public. For more information, call (630) 617-3390.

Two Willowbrook students to attend military academies

Pictured are Willowbrook seniors Rocky Dubinas and Molly Kuenstler. Kuenstler will attend the United States Naval Academy starting this summer. Dubinas will attend the United States Military Academy, West Point.

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State title No. 3 for TCD's prep Culinary Team

Young culinarians cook up a third straight ProStart championship for Technology Center of DuPage

ADDISON — A sea bass, a chicken, and a mousse — that's the menu that sealed the third straight ProStart state championship for the culinary team from Technology Center of DuPage (TCD) in Addison.

The team competed Feb. 8 and 13 at the annual Illinois ProStart® Student Invitational for high school culinarians, hosted by the Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (IRAEEF) at Kendall College in Chicago.

The champion culinary team includes: Kristy Fogle, a senior; Mary Hoare, a junior; Courtney O'Neal, a senior; and Julio Valeriano, a senior. Jacob Stellmach, another senior, is the team alternate. Their first place state win includes thousands of dollars in scholarship awards. As the state champ, the TCD team has the honor of competing as "Team Illinois" in the culinary competition at the National ProStart® Invitational, May 3-5 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



The state champ culinary team from Technology Center of DuPage in Addison is all smiles at the trophy presentation at the 2014 Illinois ProStart Student Invitational, Feb. 8 at Kendall College. They were joined by Kathy Summers, director of the competition host, Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. Continuing left to right, front: Mary Hoare, Kristy Fogle, and Courtney O'Neal; and back, alternate Jacob Stellmach, Julio Valeriano, and TCD instructors Chef Matt Barker and Chef Kyle Neuner.

All team members are enrolled in TCD's Culinary, Pastry Arts & Hospitality Man-

agement program as an elective part of their respective high schools. Technology Center of

DuPage (www.tcdupage.org) offers 20 advanced career and technical education electives

to DuPage area juniors and seniors through a partnership among 14 high school districts.



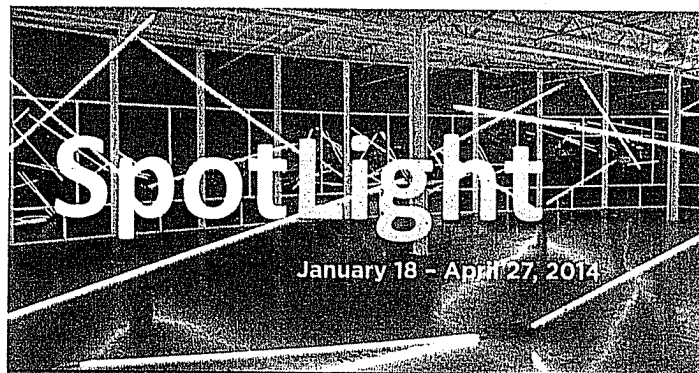
Team TCD poses before the start of the competition: Courtney O'Neal, Kristy Fogle, Mary Hoare, and Julio Valeriano.



courtesy photos

Two Addison Trail students participate in ILMEA state conference

Pictured are Addison Trail seniors Morgan Pirtle (left) and Julia Rowley. Pirtle was named to the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) All-State Honors Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and Rowley was named to the ILMEA All-State Honors Band for baritone saxophone. They performed with other students during the ILMEA conference Jan. 22 through 25.



» Artist Talks & Workshops

Friday, February 21, 6:30 pm
Artist Talk: Jason Peot

Friday, March 14, 6:30 pm
Artist Talk: Dana Major

Friday, April 4, 6:30 pm
Artist Talk: Daniel Miller

Friday, April 11, 6:30 pm
Artist Talk: Dana Carter

Friday, April 25, 6:30 pm
Artist Talk: Jan Tichy

Saturday February 22, 10:30am
Family Workshop
with Artist Monika Wulfers

Saturday March 8, 10:30am
Tracing Cast Shadows Workshop
with Artist Paola Cabal

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Facial Hair February under way among Willowbrook staff

Annual effort hopes to raise \$5,000 for ACS

VILLA PARK — The 7th annual Facial Hair February is under way at Willowbrook.

Twenty-seven male staff members at the school have put down their razors for the month of February to raise money for the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of District 88 All Youth, which will take place March 15 through 16 at Willowbrook.

The Facial Hair February winner will be chosen by students through donations. The staff member with the most money raised will be announced as the winner.

"I'm proud to say that through the past seven years, Facial Hair February has collected more than \$21,000 for the American Cancer Society," said Ryan Bazon, Facial Hair February coordinator. "This year, our goal is to raise \$5,000. That shouldn't be too hard, as we surpassed that amount last year."

The 27 participants in this year's Facial Hair February are Ryan Bazon, James Bolsinger, Steve Bridges, Earl Buckley, Christopher Carr, Matthew Clapper, Matt Cochran, Eduardo Delacruz, Erik Engel, John Epple, Benjamin Fenske, John Fouser, Nick Hildreth, Andrew Isaacson, James Kedvesh, Brett Maguire, Peter Montgomery, Jeremy Pack, Anthony Panatera, Michael Phillips, Bradley Schmit, Matt Scott, Gary Strzelczyk, Reed Sundberg, Neil Wahlgren, Matt Zaucha and Joshua Zwart.


Those who are interested in making a donation to the American Cancer Society in honor of Facial Hair February can contact Bazon at rbazon@dupage88.net or 630-782-3022. Donations also can be mailed to Willowbrook at 1250 S. Ardmore Ave. Villa Park, IL 60181 C/O Ryan Bazon.

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Teen wins scholarship for volunteer work

By MARI GRIGALIUNAS
mrigaliunas@shawmedia.com

ADDISON – Addison Trail High School senior Genesis Garcia, 17, resembles one of her favorite heroines, the Little Mermaid, in more ways than just her fiery red hair.

Independent and resourceful like Ariel, Garcia's leadership at school recently won her the Violet Richardson Award from Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago, which honors girls who donate their time and energy to service projects.

"I can't do any sport at all," Garcia said. "Everyone can have a special talent."

As president of Key Club and Best Buddies, a member of the Superintendent Student Advisory Board and a mentor to freshman students, Garcia demonstrates how many opportunities students can find to succeed outside of athletics.

Senior year brings many decisions for high school students about their life after graduation, but Garcia makes a special effort to assist freshman students through a tutoring program called Second Helping and a mentoring program.

"That was the whole reason we moved to Addison was because my parents wanted me to get a better education," Garcia explained about her transition not only to high school, but from Chicago to Addison.

"It's a drastic change going from middle school to high school," she said.

Besides doing so much herself, she also motivates others



Addison Trail student Genesis Garcia of Addison works Wednesday with Best Buddies group member Johnny Rodriguez of Addison at Addison Trail High School.

to get involved, including her younger brother, Dalvin.

"Whether he liked it or not, I always dragged him along," said Garcia, referring to how she's encouraged her 16-year-old sophomore brother to be part of her various endeavors.

Dalvin has autism and inspired Garcia to join Best Buddies, which creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships between people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those without disabilities.

"I think that both students learn from each other," Garcia said.

Dalvin is involved in the theater club and enjoys art just like his sister and father. The Garcia brother-sister team also are involved in Addison Trail's upcoming International Dance Festival.

"We let anyone in the school who wants to, join," Garcia said.

Her list of activities goes on from her participation in LADIES, which raises funds and awareness for breast cancer each year through a Go Pink or Go Home project, to her involvement in year-long projects such as Teen Safe Driving and the Health and Wellness Program.

"She puts all of her effort into everything she does," said Shannon Lange, a Key Club sponsor and Garcia's freshman physical education teacher.

As part of the Superintendent Student Advisory Board, Garcia also is involved in larger projects that expand beyond the Addison Trail community. "We're trying to see how we can tackle the heroin problem in DuPage County right now," Garcia said.

The group of students, two from each grade level, offer their input to District 88 Superintendent Scott Helton. She said some ideas have involved bringing high school mentors

More about Garcia

Age: 17
Residence: Addison
Hobbies: Painting, baking, volunteering
Future career: Psychologist specializing in art therapy

into middle schools to talk about the dangers of heroin.

Growing up, Garcia was always encouraged to pursue a prestigious career such as medicine or law by her mother's Guatemalan side of the family, she said, but her more laidback Mexican father supports her artistic side.

"Those two different environments and ideas have shaped me as a person," Garcia said.

Not one to settle for choosing one opportunity over the other when she's capable of doing both, Garcia plans to study psychology, specifically art therapy.

While she's still waiting to hear back from a few schools before she chooses a college, she's thankful for the Violet Richardson Award to help fund her studies.

The local level award results in a \$250 scholarship, but Garcia could win larger awards if her application proceeds through other levels of Soroptimist International to the ultimate \$2,500 scholarship with a matching donation to a charity of her choice.

"She's given a lot of herself," said Diane Kegley, president of Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago.

YOUR WEEKEND FORECAST

Source: National Weather Service

Friday
High: 31
Low: 19



Wind gusts up to 45 mph

Saturday
High: 31
Low: 13



Mostly sunny and windy

Sunday
High: 23
Low: 7



Cooler, a few stray clouds

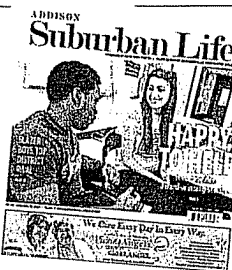
ON THE COVER

Addison Trail student Genesis Garcia of Addison on Wednesday interacts with Best Buddies group member Ricardo Betts of Addison.

Erica Benson - ebenson@shawmedia.com



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Happy Meals raise money



The Rev. Scott McCawley (right) poses with Ronald McDonald on Feb. 6 during Holy Family's McTeachers Night. Teachers took over the McDonald's on York Road in Elmhurst to serve students and families to raise money for the school.

Photo provided

Village of Addison positions open

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

ADDISON – The Village of Addison is seeking applicants for three open positions.

The police department is looking for a part-time clerk typist and a 911 dispatcher. The clerk typist position requires two years general clerical experience among other skills and a maximum of 25 hours of work a week. The starting pay is \$20.72 an hour with a benefit package. Applications are due by 5 p.m. March 4.

The 911 dispatcher position requires applicants are capable of obtaining CPR and matron certifications to be maintained on an annual basis along with specified skills. Dispatchers may be required to work unexpected overtime and during emergencies. The starting pay is \$25.50. Full-time dispatchers will receive a benefit package and work 40 hours a week plus any required overtime. Applications are due by 5 p.m. Feb. 28. The village is also looking for a superintendent of environmental services in the Public Works Department. Candidates should have six years experience in wastewater treatment operation and maintenance, including two years in an advanced supervisory capacity at a treatment plant. The starting salary is \$86,415 with a benefit package. Applications are due by 5 p.m. Feb. 28.

Detailed information about each position, requirements and the application process are available at addisonadvantage.org.

NEWS BRIEFS

Indian Trail reopens after water main break

ADDISON – Indian Trail Junior High School reopened Wednesday after a water main break closed the school Tuesday.

District 4 Facilities Engineering Manager Abe Singh said an 8-inch water main line that had settled broke in the school parking lot.

The building was not damaged, but some asphalt will need to be repaired in the spring.

Singh explained that the extreme cold has pushed frost deep in the ground and probably put pressure on the weak spot of the water main.

"It's my understanding that there have been quite a few as of late," Singh said about water

main breaks in town.

AT students named to All-State ensembles

ADDISON – Two Addison Trail High School students participated in the Illinois Music Education Association state conference in Peoria from Jan. 22 to 25.

Senior Morgan Pirtle was named to the All-State Honors Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and senior Julia Rowley was named to the All-State Honors Band for baritone saxophone.

Addison Trail Choir Director Mark Corey, who also is the Illinois Music Education Association president-elect, conducted the final piece during the finale Jan. 25. That piece, titled "The Battle Hymn of the

Republic," included all students who were selected to perform at the state conference.

USA, Mexico soccer all-stars coming to Odeum

VILLA PARK – The World Cup is still a few months off, but soccer fans can quench their thirst for the game this weekend.

The Odeum, 1033 North Villa Ave., Villa Park, will host the USA vs. Mexico Clash of the All Stars at 8:30 p.m. Saturday.

Some of the biggest legends of soccer will participate in the game between two rivals.

Team Mexico is coached by Illinois Soccer Hall of Fame member Tony Dallas, and includes such players as: Javier Berrum, Guadalupe Castañeda, Joel Del Toro, Missael Espinoza, Carlos Hernández, Matador Luis Hernández, Daniel Osorno, Ramón Ramírez, Armando Sánchez, and Gabriel Sotelo.

Players on team USA include: Rafael Amaya, Marcelo Balboa, Paul Caligiuri, Ante Cop, Dino Delevski, Thomas Dooley, Adnan Ejupovic, Jeff Kraft, Roy Lassiter, Novi Marojevic, and Todd Short.

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OPINIONS

■ LAST WEEK'S WEB POLL QUESTION: What time of day do you feel most productive?

48 PERCENT: Morning
25 PERCENT: Afternoon
15 PERCENT: Late at night
12 PERCENT: Evening

■ THIS WEEK'S WEB POLL QUESTION: How would you enjoy a nice, warm day in February? Vote online at mysuburbanlife.com.

Monkeys trained to be helping hands

My friend, Angel, told me the other day, "I want a monkey." I asked what he was talking about and he proceeded to tell me the story of Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers (monkeyhelpers.org), a nonprofit agency from Cambridge, Mass.

Capuchin monkeys are trained from birth to perform small tasks to help people with spinal injuries or, like Angel, who suffer from muscular dystrophy. Angel's disease has weakened him to a point where he has lost his ability to walk, struggles to sit up without help, and can barely lift his arms to open a drawer. What he can do, once he makes it to his wheelchair, is type on a computer. Via computer, Angel is taking classes online to become a medical coder for insurance companies. He also has a small computer repair business where he installs software for customers and fixes monitors, keyboards and CPUs.

What he has difficulty doing is turning pages, scratching itches, retrieving dropped objects and repositioning his legs on a wheelchair. A pair of helping hands, even from a monkey, would be great benefit to Angel.

After reading their website, I learned that the 6- to 8-pound monkeys attend Monkey College for about three to five years where they are trained in an increasing complexity of tasks. They first start in a cubicle with a trainer to learn how to be rewarded for accomplishing a task. The first reward is a ringing bell followed by a lick of peanut butter. At the end of "cubicle" training, the reward has become a verbal praise like "good boy/girl."

The next phase of training involves more complex tasks like opening bottles or turning on lights using a laser pointer to direct their action. The monkeys are also introduced to wheelchairs in this phase. The last training room is a home-like room called the "apartment." It contains real appliances, TVs and electronics that the monkeys learn to operate with instruction.

It is a fascinating concept, and Angel has already sent his first application to be considered for a trial run with the monkey. My thought, however, is "who is going to take care of the monkey?" With one caretaker already helping Angel, will there be double-duty, literally, with taking care of the monkey also? I hope not, and his mother supports the idea of a helper monkey in the house.

Bruce Flowers is the marketing coordinator for Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Association.



COMMUNITY VOICE

Bruce Flowers



Photo provided
State Sen. Tom Cullerton (left), D-Villa Park, on Feb. 7 speaks with Addison Trail seniors Jose Cobos (center) and Leonardo Flores about an online simulation program called The Stock Market Game.



The smart money is on these Addison Trail High School students. The Stock Market Game administered by Econ Illinois aims to help students learn financial literacy. About 70 economic students at Addison Trail are participating in the 15-week competition that started earlier this month.



A threatening email to leaders at Chamberlain College of Nursing in Addison prompted the school to cancel classes Feb. 10. The email suggested there would be several explosions set off at unspecified locations throughout the day. The good news is all of the DeVry Education Group's Chicago-area campuses were inspected and nothing was found.

Write to us

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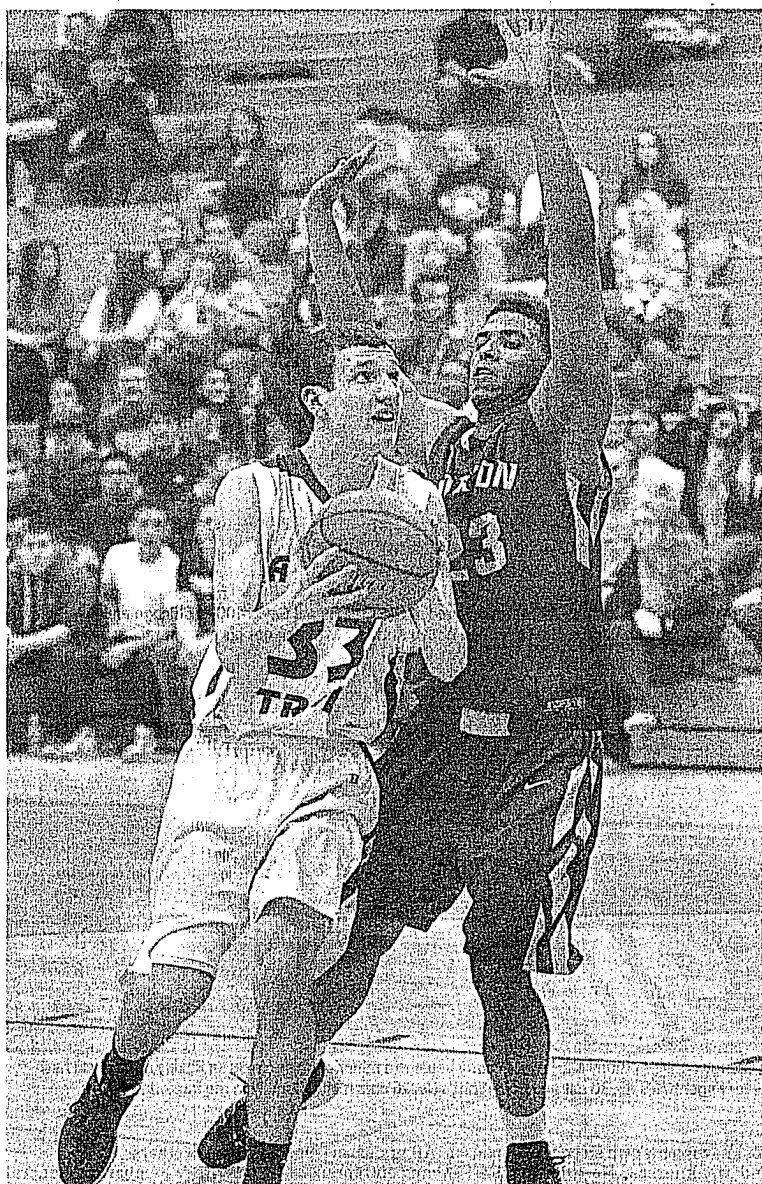
SPORTS

Comments?
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25

SPORTS

NED • Friday, February 21, 2014 • mysuburbanlife.com • ADP Suburban Life



Bill Ackerman - backerman@shawmedia.com
Addison Trail's Joe Kurucar drives to the basket during a Jan. 24 home game against Morton. Kurucar's improved outside shooting has been an added element for AT's offense.

Kurucar coming on Addison Trail senior's improved shooting helps Blazers' offense

By DAN SANTAROMITA
dsantaromita@shawmedia.com

VILLA PARK – Being a good 3-point shooter takes practice, and a lot of it.

Addison Trail's Joe Kurucar has put in the practice time to become a top shooter, and it has paid off for the Blazers this season.

Kurucar's latest strong performance was a 16-point outburst at Willowbrook on Tuesday. His team-high point total helped the Blazers to a 48-39 win against their District 88 rivals.

"Joe can shoot," AT coach Brendan Lyons said. "He's started to develop [the rest of his game] a little bit. He had a couple nice moves to the basket [against Willowbrook]."

The 6-foot-3 senior guard has a long frame but doesn't play much in the paint. Instead, he uses his height advantage over most guards to help him get a better look at the basket from the perimeter.

Kurucar hasn't always been a shoot-first type of player, but he has worked hard to develop that part of his game.

"When I was little I used to drive a lot, but from like freshman year on I just started shooting," Kurucar said. "Every day in summer I would shoot. I just go out there and shoot."

In addition to Kurucar's 16 points, Joe Villasenor scored 13 for the Blazers (11-14, 6-4 West Suburban Gold). Both players stepped up in the scoring category while leading scorer James Pupillo was held to just four points and left the game in the fourth quarter after taking an elbow that gave him a bloody nose.

Next game

Who: Addison Trail at Morton
What: West Suburban Gold boys basketball
Where: 2423 Austin Blvd., Cicero
When: 7:30 p.m. Friday

"Joe can shoot. He's started to develop [the rest of his game] a little bit. He had a couple nice moves to the basket [against Willowbrook]."

Brendan Lyons
Addison Trail coach

After dropping many close games earlier in the season, the Blazers weren't concerned with style points against the Warriors. All that mattered was the win.

"I don't know if I would exactly call it entertaining from a spectator standpoint, but two teams were battling out there," Lyons said. "At least we came out with the 'W' after the game. You try to stress the positive."

The Blazers have won the last four games they've played in that have been decided by single digits. This is after the team had already lost four games by two points or less this season.

"At the beginning of the year we lost a lot of those close games, but we're sticking in them now," Kurucar said.

Suburban Life ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



**D'ANDRE
JOHNSON**

Glenbard East
Junior | Wrestling

Why Johnson was selected:

Johnson won the Leyden sectional at 285 pounds to earn his second straight trip to the state tournament.

Glenbard East junior wrestler D'Andre Johnson was one of five Rams to qualify for the state tournament from the Leyden sectional last weekend, but was the only one to win the sectional title. After pinning Addison Trail's Bobby Carson in the final, Johnson leaped into coach Kevin Carlson's arms in excitement. The 285-pound Johnson, the Oak Trust Credit Union Athlete of the Week for the second time, talked with Suburban Life sports reporter Dan Santaromita after winning the sectional title.

What made you jump into your coach's arms after winning the sectional championship match?

I almost didn't make it

[to state] last year. Being in that match to get to the third place match and almost not winning but then winning, I jumped into his arms last year, too.

It was so exciting to get this far and do something.

Everyone is usually happy just to qualify for state, but does it mean more to win the sectional?

It puts me in a better place than it did last year. With me taking fourth last year and having to face the No. 1 kid in state [Hinsdale Central's Brian Allen], now I'm in a better spot to meet him later.

What is your goal at state?

My goal is to win and I'm going to do anything to do it. I think I got a pretty good shot.

This Athlete of the Week is brought to you by



Rocha, Carson share 'great experience'

By DAN SANTAROMITA
dsantaromita@shawmedia.com

Addison Trail wrestlers at state

NAME	YEAR	WEIGHT CLASS	RECORD
Niko Rocha	senior	170 pounds	35-3
Bobby Carson	senior	285	33-4

FRANKLIN PARK - Last year wrestler Niko Rocha went to state as Addison Trail's lone representative.

This year he has a roommate. Rocha and fellow senior Bobby Carson both qualified for the state tournament from the Leyden sectional on Saturday. The competition at state began Thursday at the State Farm Center in Champaign and continues through Saturday for the finalists.

"It's great, especially because we're actually real close," Carson said. "He's like my cousin, almost. We do everything together so that's going to be a great experience having him with me."

Both Blazer wrestlers made the sectional final of their weight classes before being defeated. Rocha lost to Davonte Mahomes of Oak Park-River Forest at 170 pounds for the second week in a row. Car-

son was pinned by Glenbard East's D'Andre Johnson at 285. Last year, Rocha won his first match at state before losing the next two. He is hoping that experience will help him this time around.

"I'm not going to be so nervous again," Rocha said. "I already know how it feels to come out of the tunnel and to wrestle. I think I'm pretty good this year and I'll wrestle really well."

Last year, Carson won a regional title and made it to the sectional semifinals, giving himself two chances to pick up the decisive victory that would have sent him to state. This year he didn't win a regional, but left no doubt about qualifying for state by making the sectional final.

"I'm real excited," Carson said. "Last year, I choked at the sectional, so this is a big thing for me. I was predicted to win it last year and I didn't even place. For me to come and get second this year is great for me."

Rocha and Carson have the same goal: place at state. Both entered Thursday's first round at state with impressive records, giving them reason for optimism.

"I'm pretty sure I can place this year," Rocha said. "My teachers were telling me that if I don't take top four, they're going to fail me."

"I think that heavyweight is pretty even," Carson said. "I think anyone has a shot of winning it this year. It's a real close weight."

PREP ROUNDUP

AT duo heads to gymnastics state meet

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

Addison Trail freshman gymnast Kennedy O'Neill will be competing at state in the uneven parallel bars and floor exercise after earning at-large berths. She will be joined by teammate Casey Boksha, who was an automatic qualifier on floor exercise.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Addison Trail

The Blazers' season came to an end after a 55-26 loss to Elk Grove in a regional quarterfinal Monday. AT got 10 points from senior Katie Dziabis.

Willowbrook

The Warriors advanced to Thursday's regional final by beating St. Charles East 58-56. Josie Zabran led Willowbrook with 21 points. Olivia Domin had 17 points. Willowbrook took on Batavia in the final.

GIRLS BOWLING

Addison Trail

Senior Megan Schmelter qualified for state with a 1,237 series at the Leyden sectional.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Montini

Matt Brachmann's 31 points and 19 rebounds led the Broncos to a 66-55 victory against Guerin on Feb. 14.

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