

Rough road...

THE PHOTO on the right, taken Tuesday morning, shows a portion of Park Boulevard just east of Villa Avenue. Villa Park Village Manager Rich Keehner singled out Park Boulevard as one of the village's worst roads during his comments at Monday night's village board meeting. The election of November 2014 will likely include a referendum question asking voters to approve a bond sale of about \$23 million to pay for road repairs. Four years ago, Villa Park voters rejected a referendum proposal to borrow \$27.5 million to pay for road repairs.

Photo by Chris Fox



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VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

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Price 60¢

Meetings include talk of road referendum in November

by Chris Fox

Last week's town hall meeting at Willowbrook High School and Monday's Villa Park Village Board meeting included discussion about the referendum that will likely be on the ballot in the November 2014 election. The referendum will ask Villa Park voters to approve a bond sale of approximately \$23 million to pay for road repairs in the village over the next five to seven years.

"We are forging forward with the bond referendum," said Villa Park Village Manager Rich Keehner during Monday's board meeting. "The question will be on the ballot in November."

Keehner added that village staff members will provide plenty of information about the referendum question over the next seven months. If voters approve the proposal to

borrow money to pay for road repairs, Keehner promised a transparent process while the repairs took place.

"We will be completely transparent if the bond referendum were to be approved," said Keehner, who stated the information regarding the schedule of which roads would be repaired would be posted on the village's Web site. "I think it's important to show everybody where the money goes."

Four years ago, Villa Park voters rejected a referendum proposal to borrow up to \$27.5 million to pay for road repairs. The proposal in the election of Feb. 2, 2010, failed by a margin of about 56 to 44 percent, with 2,340 "No" votes and 1,726 "Yes" votes. Voters rejected another referendum question in that same election to raise the village's sales tax from 7.75 to 8.25 percent. The increase, if approved,

would have reportedly generated an estimated \$15 million annually to pay for road maintenance and repairs. Seven months later, in the election of Nov. 2, 2010, Villa Park voters rejected another proposal to raise the sales tax to 8.25 percent. That proposal was rejected by a margin of about 53 to 47 percent, with 3,355 "No" votes and 3,014 "Yes" votes.

In November 2013, the village board approved an agreement to work with George K. Baum and Company, a Chicago-based investment banking firm that will provide assistance with preparing a road referendum question. If a referendum is not placed on the ballot, or if the referendum is not approved, George K. Baum and Company will absorb the costs of the preparation process, other than travel expenses. One element of the company's referendum preparation is the formation of a

panel of residents. The members of that panel will work to inform their fellow Villa Park residents about the referendum proposal.

The March 19 town hall meeting included a presentation from Vydas Juskelis, the village's public works director. Juskelis said that about one third of the 75 miles of roads in the village had been repaired in the last seven years. He added that the funding source for road repairs in the village is the motor fuel tax, which has generated about \$1.4 million annually in recent years. That amount is not enough, Juskelis said, to keep pace with the amount of repairs needed in the village. Juskelis, Keehner and Villa Park Village President Deborah Bullwinkel have noted in recent meetings that last year's reconstruction project of a few blocks of North Michigan Avenue cost nearly \$1 million.

(Continued on the next page)



Not a pretty picture...

Photo by Chris Fox

THE ABOVE PHOTO shows a close up look at a worn-out portion of Park Boulevard east of Villa Avenue. Villa Park Village Manager Rich Keehner said during Monday's village board meeting that Park Boulevard has deteriorated to such a point that the village will have to take some interim measures to repair it. Keehner said there will be a referendum on the ballot in the November election asking voters to approve a bond sale to pay for road repairs.

Eagle Scout...

PETER ALESSANDRI JR. of Villa Park (right) recently earned Eagle Scout status—the highest rank attainable in Boy Scouts of America. Scouts who earn the rank must earn at least 21 merit badges and complete an extensive community service project. Alessandri, who is a freshman at Willowbrook High School and a member of Boy Scout Troop 234 since he was in first grade, has earned more than 35 merit badges. For his Eagle Scout project, Alessandri built a reflector trail with information markers at Girl Scouts Camp Greene Wood in Woodridge. His project consisted of outlining a detailed plan, fundraising to support the project and managing the installation of the trail. Alessandri raised about \$600 in materials for the project. A majority of those materials were donated from local stores. Friends and family members supported the project by helping Alessandri dig 40 holes for the posts along the reflector trail. Alessandri plans to continue his involvement with Boy Scouts to earn more merit badges and assist his fellow scouts.



Roads...

(Continued from the previous page)

About 60 residents attended last week's town hall meeting, which also included discussion about storm water management in the village and the condition of Villa Park's two public pools. Both of those topics included similar themes—costly repairs are required, but it's uncertain how to pay for them.

In their closing remarks at the town hall meeting, which lasted about three hours, village board members thanked residents for their input. Trustee Albert Bullwinkel said the village board is trying to prioritize its projects. He said his top priority is storm water management and helping to prevent residents from having to deal with sewer backups and flooding. Trustee John Davis spoke of the need for road repairs.

"The biggest complaint I've ever gotten has always been about the roads," Davis said. "This village cannot afford to repair these roads. We can do two roads a year. I would hope people would seriously consider a referendum, I would be very willing to pay for

a road referendum and I live on a street that's a couple years old. That's not the point. I drive on other streets."

In mentioning a recent northbound drive on Summit Avenue, Davis said he had to veer into the southbound lane because the road was in such poor condition.

"One of the key components to having a successful town is having nice roads," added Davis. "It increases our business potential. It increases our residential values. It makes our town more inviting."

Bullwinkel, who will complete her first year as village president in May, noted that last week's event at Willowbrook was the second town hall meeting in the last several months. She said the town meetings, which feature comments and questions from residents, will continue.

"This is a board that not only cares, but wants to be aggressive," said Bullwinkel in addressing residents during her closing remarks. "We want to hear from you. We appreciate all the comments and concerns you've shared with us. We've received a lot of new insight."

Willowbrook's March concert series ends with Thursday's event

The Willowbrook High School Music Department's series of four winter concerts this month will conclude with Thursday night's concert, which will begin at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium.

The concert will include performances from Willowbrook's jazz band, jazz combo and Chamber Ensemble.

Admission to the concert is \$3 for adults and \$2 for senior citizens and students. Student passes and senior citizen gift certificates will be accepted for each event. Admission is free to children 12 and under who are accompanied by an adult.

Village's tree adoption program is open; spring deadline is May 1

The Village of Villa Park's Centennial Tree Adoption Program will allow residents to adopt trees that will be planted on public parkways throughout the village. The village will plant its first generation of adopted trees this spring and fall. The adoption program will help to mark the 100th anniversary of the village, which was founded in 1914.

Residents who are interested in adopting a tree can complete an application available on the village's Web site—www.mvillapark.com. Applications must be received by May 1 for the spring deadline and by Aug. 1 for the fall deadline.

The cost to adopt a tree is \$200 per tree, according to information included in the online

application form. The village will provide each tree, which will be installed under the direct supervision of the Villa Park Village Forestry Division.

The trees available for adoption include hackberry, sweet gum, Kentucky coffee, beech and tulip. Village staff will evaluate each applicant's property and determine what tree is best for each location.

Everyone is eligible to adopt a tree. If there isn't a suitable location in a resident's parkway, the resident could choose to adopt a tree at Sugar Creek Golf Course or at a village park.

For more information about the Villa Park Centennial Tree Adoption Program, call the village office at 630-834-3505.

Aiello votes against village budget, calling for more funding for roads

by Chris Fox

In what he described as a protest vote, Villa Park Trustee Chris Aiello voted against the first reading of an ordinance adopting an annual budget for the village's upcoming 2014-15 fiscal year during Monday's Villa Park Village Board meeting. Trustee Don Kase joined Aiello in voting against the ordinance, which passed by a 4-2 vote. Trustees John Davis, Robert Taglia and Robert Wagner joined Villa Park Village President Deborah Bullwinkel in voting to move the ordinance to the board's next meeting on April 14. Trustee Albert Bullwinkel was absent from Monday's meeting. The village board will make a final vote on the annual budget of approximately \$40 million at that meeting.

The draft of the budget for the village's fiscal year, which begins on May 1, was presented and discussed at three recent budget workshops starting in March, including the village board meeting on March 18. All three meetings were open to the public. A public hearing regarding the proposed budget will take place at 7-15 on April 14, right before the village board meeting.

Aiello prefaced his vote at Monday's meeting by stating that the village has to find a way to come up with more money to pay for road repairs in the village.

"I realize it's a very difficult thing," said Aiello on Monday. "What I want to see going forward at some point... we have to find a way, by getting staff more money or by reorganizing our services, to accept the fact that our town can't provide the services it's providing. We've got to get more money in our streets. There's no way we can't do this going forward. I'm willing to take heat for getting money into our coffers, and I'm willing to take heat for cutting services. I'm going to assume that this budget's going to pass, and I'm going to vote on the budget."

The village is legally required to submit a budget each fiscal year. When other board members and one of the village's attorneys pointed out there would be legal consequences for not passing a budget before the beginning of the fiscal year, Aiello noted that the budget could be amended with different spending items

and approved prior to May 1.

A short time later, during the reports of village trustees, Aiello stated he wanted to point out that the village needs to spend about \$6 million a year to repair its streets, but that there is only \$3 million to \$4 million for that purpose in the budget.

"We're not even close," said Aiello. "The dollars in this town are going to have to understand that if you want our streets to be up to what I hope you would expect, we're going to need to find more money for this budget, or we're going to need to get rid of some services. There is no other choice."

Village manager Rich Keckler addressed Aiello's comments a few minutes later during his report at the meeting.

"Capital improvements, including the roadways, amount for 15 to 23 percent of the total budget, depending on how you analyze it," said Keckler. "Quite honestly, being a Villa Park resident myself, I don't believe cutting services is the answer."

Keckler then noted the comments of several of the residents who attended the March 19 town hall meeting at Willowbrook High School. Two members of the village board—Aiello and Kase—did not attend that meeting.

"The residents in the audience were willing to pay more on their property taxes to correct the roads," Keckler said. "The residents were willing to pay more for storm water to correct the deficiencies. Some of the folks were more than willing to pay more for the pool."

Keckler noted that the submitted budget proposal for the 2014-15 fiscal year is a balanced budget with about 120 days of surplus revenue—nearly twice the amount of days of surplus revenue of the budget of 2013-11.

"Thirty days is the basic guideline," added Keckler. "If no cash is coming in, you'll be able to pay your bills for 90 days."

"In my mind, I want to bring it to a board," said Aiello of the village's budget after the meeting. "If it came down to it, I'd vote for the budget. In my mind, we've got to find a way to run the village with more money in the street budget."

Questions? Comments?
E-MAIL THE VILLA PARK REVIEW AT
vpreview@lbvpr.com



Willowbrook scientists qualify for state tournament...

WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL'S Science Olympiad Team (above) has qualified to participate in next month's state tournament. Coached by Willowbrook staff members Ben Fenske, Jim Kedvesh, Yvonne Tsagalis and Mike Warren, the team earned sixth-place honors out of 14 teams at a March 8 regional competition at College of DuPage. The sixth-place showing gave Willowbrook a berth in the state tournament, which will take place April 12 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "The Willowbrook Science Olympiad Team is only six years old, however, this is the second time the group has made it to State in the last three years," Fenske said. Science Olympiad is a national science competition, where students compete in 24 science-related events. Students typically compete in teams of two or three in events that include test taking, lab events and building. Students are allowed to compete in several events. "Our bid into the state tournament puts us in the top 48 high school teams in the state," said Fenske, who noted that the top two teams at the state meet will advance to the national tournament. For more information about Science Olympiad, visit <http://www.somc.org> or <http://www.illinoisolympiad.org>. The above photo shows Willowbrook's junior varsity and varsity Science Olympiad teams at the recent regional event at College of DuPage. Pictured left to right are: (front row) junior Sumeya Mchabcheb, junior Tasneem Azeem, junior Asra Mubeen, junior Haley Patel, junior Kelli Wysoglad, junior Abby Pakellis, junior Maimuna Nayyar, junior Shukan Shah, sophomore Stephaney Cheng, junior McKenna Mintz and senior Veronica Palma; (back row) senior Emily Gornick, senior Brandon Young, senior William Menzer, sophomore Kyle Ooley, senior Kevin Cheng, senior Chris Cheng, senior Kevin Monaco, senior Cesar Saucedo, junior Mike Rogalski, junior Avery Kirchner and junior Nicholas Carperos.

District 88 holds All-Youth Relay for Life

Event raises \$50,000; top team 'Making History' brings in \$8,000

ADDISON/VILLA PARK — On Saturday, March 15, about 300 students participated in this year's All Youth Relay For Life at District 88.

This year's event, which took place at Willowbrook High School, raised more than \$50,000 for the American Cancer Society (ACS). The team "Making H1Story" (yes, that spelling is correct) raised more than \$8,000, which was the highest amount raised by a team this year.

That total does not include funds raised from Facial Hair February, when 27 male staff

members at Willowbrook put down their razors for a month to raise money for ACS, or the Brook Olympics, where classes go head-to-head in a weeklong series of events and challenges to help initiate tradition and a sense of class spirit and pride at Willowbrook. The Brook

Olympics have been rescheduled for May 19 through 23.

Totals from Facial Hair February and the Brook Olympics will be shared as soon as they

are available. Donations are still being accepted and can be sent to c/o Kate Wilson, Willowbrook High School, 1250 S Ardmore Ave. Villa Park.

Elmhurst College to host free sessions on grad programs

ELMHURST — The School for Professional Studies at Elmhurst College will host two free information sessions on graduate programs on Monday evening, April 21, and Tuesday evening, April 22. Each session takes place in the Founders Lounge of the Frick Center and begins with registration at 5:30 p.m., followed by the program at 6.

At both sessions, Elmhurst faculty and staff will be on hand to talk about the College's graduate programs—their scope, curricula and class

schedules—as well as admission requirements and financial aid opportunities. Each session also will offer workshops on managing a work-life balance in graduate school and how to write a successful Statement of Purpose. General graduate program information will be given at both sessions, but information about specific programs will be offered on separate days.

On Monday, April 21, the programs discussed will

See GRAD, Page 8



Submitted photos

(Top left and top middle): Willowbrook senior Kaylee Kramer and Willowbrook sophomore Kristina Marzullo enjoy an obstacle course set up during the event. (Top right): Addison Trail senior Anna DiFronzo (left), Addison Trail junior Angela Pitello (center) and Addison Trail senior Carrie Castellano dance the night away. (Bottom left): Willowbrook junior Jake Bruns is crowned the winner, after raising \$146 during the "Ms. Relay" competition. (Bottom right): Pictured is the team Making H1Story, which raised more than \$8,000 for Relay — the highest amount raised by a team this year.

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SPORTS



courtesy photo

Junior Warriors travel team earns championship
The 8th grade junior Warriors travel basketball team recently won the silver north championship at the Geneva tournament. Back row (left to right): Coach Mike Quick, Kevon Dobbins, Neal Paxton, Sam Pelsor, Chris Diaz, Drew Krueger, Ethan Schumer, Kevon Dobbins, and Coach Nick Frega. Front row: John Taylor, Seth Quick, Buddy Martens, Demarkus Horton, Justin Ceh, and Matt Myers

DISTRICT 88 SPORTS REPORT

Addison Trail girls badminton team improved; Blazers boys gymnastics team features numerous event specialists

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Addison Trail girls badminton coach Eric Norberg is excited about his progress his team has made.

"We are a better team this year," he said. "We are stronger and deeper than we have been in the past. I am looking forward to seeing how we match up against our conference rivals."

Back for Addison Trail is junior co-captain Izy Kantor, who took third in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division last year at No. 1 singles.

Senior Amber Mell, the team MVP from a year ago, also is back, along with Alyssa Lombardo (No. 1 singles), co-captain Mary Kate Lemming (No. 1 doubles), Kat Bjornaj (No. 2 doubles) and Paola Ortega (No. 2 doubles).

Key newcomers include doubles players Dani Gonzalez and Rachel Schneider and first-year varsity players Megan Schmelter and Kinga Kaczowska.

"We have a lot of returning girls," said Norberg. "We work hard and we are more athletic than we have been in the past. We have a lot of depth and because of this our practice games are more competitive."

Norberg is especially pleased with how the team's upper part of the lineup is shaping up.

"Our singles and doubles from

1-3 are fighting for their spot for the state tournament," he said. "That makes for good competition and great games every day in practice."

Addison Trail boys gymnastics

The Addison Trail boys gymnastics team is coming off a 2013 season where it went 1-3 in West Suburban Conference Gold Division action.

Back for the Blazers are seniors Marco Martinez (all-around) and Akash Patel (all-around), along with juniors R.J. Infusino (rings) and Daniel Baeza (floor, vault, parallel bars). Baeza was a state qualifier on vault in 2012.

Top newcomers to the team include sophomores Marcus Rias (floor, rings, vault, parallel bars, horizontal bar) and Ruben Sanchez (rings, vault, parallel bars and horizontal bar).

"This year, we have a lot more specialists competing which allows them to focus more on a few events rather than competing as an all-rounder," noted Addison Trail coach Mike Galfi. "The skill sets of our specialists have really improved over the offseason."

Galfi said the team is excelling on floor exercise and on the vault.

"Floor and vault are some of our stronger events," said Galfi. "We have the potential for everyone on vault to compete a flipping tick (tsuks or handspring fronts). Our floor has improved dramatically

after a number of gymnasts joined the cheerleading squad in the off-season and worked every day on their tumbling. We are focused on our form and basics this year, trying to perform the cleanest skills efficiently and successfully."

Galfi added that Martinez has improved his skill set on every event.

Marco is an undisputed captain and has really dedicated himself to improving his own gymnastics and the abilities of his teammates."

Galfi said the team's goal is to compete for a conference title.

"With a healthy and full squad, I believe we will have a competitive squad in the West Suburban Gold," he said.

Willowbrook girls badminton

The Willowbrook girls badminton team, under the direction of coach Brandon Murphy, is coming off a 2013 season where it went 11-6-3 and took second place in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division with a 4-1 record. The Warriors went on to win a team sectional championship.

The Warriors are led by returning state qualifiers Amanda Wendt (senior, singles) and Brooke Bimber (junior, doubles).

Key newcomers include seniors Katherine Hinman, Janne Johnson and Becky Kielminski, as well as juniors Sydney Planz and Ally Kelley.

Willowbrook softball team loaded with power

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook softball team is in no danger of suffering a power shortage.

The Warriors belted more than 30 home runs last year and return a good chunk of that power.

Willowbrook is coming off a 2013 season where it went 23-9 overall and finished 9-3 in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division.

Back is junior shortstop Sam Schmidt, who earned all-conference honors for a second year in a row last year. She has verbally committed to Northern Illinois University.

Also back is junior two-year all-conference selection Erin Sporer (3B), along with 2013 all-conference picks Olivia Domin (senior, CF) and Alyssa Rensinger (junior, 1B). Juniors Delaney Pelsor (P) and Cheyenne Brung (2B) and sophomore Jordan Marczewski (RF) also are back.

Schmidt belted nine home runs last year. Rensinger had six, while Sporer had two and Brung, Marczewski and Domin each had one. Graduated Darian Pelsor hit the other 10 homers.

Key newcomers include junior catcher Alex Kassal and sophomore pitcher Zoe Dannenberg.

"We hit over 30 home runs as a team last year and still have a lot of power in our lineup," said Willowbrook coach Rachel Karos. "Hopefully we will continue to hit as well as last year and produce a lot of runs."

Karos said the team's defense has taken a major step forward.

"I believe this will be our best defensive year in a long time," she said. "We have made some switches defensively and hopefully it will help in decreasing errors this year."

Delaney Pelsor and Dannenberg give the Warriors two pitching options.

"I have two solid pitchers with varsity experience in Delaney and Zoe," said Karos. "They both are different and both have different strengths."

Karos said it's hard to pinpoint one main area of improvement because the team has taken steps forward in a variety of areas.


"It's hard to say. These girls worked hard in the off-season," she said. "They just seem to be better at everything."

Karos said there's a lot to like about this year's group.


"We have fun, we act like a family and we get work done," she said.

Karos said the team would like to be in the conference title conversation and be successful in the postseason.

"Hopefully we can be a conference contender, but we would love to win a regional title this year," said Karos, who added Downers Grove South is a team to keep an eye on in the West Suburban Gold.



Orthodontic UPDATE




by Jeffrey T. Boland
Licensed Orthodontic Specialist

YOU SHOULD HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE

It is unfortunate that many people feel they must cover a laugh or a smile because they are embarrassed by their crooked, crowded, or rotated teeth. Others may stifle their smiles due to malocclusions ("bad bites") such as crossbite or overjet. The good news, however, is that these problems can be corrected with orthodontic treatment at any age. Consequently, patients may experience a significant boost in confidence and self-esteem that translates into the improved social interaction that comes with a beautiful smile. You cannot put a dollar value on the improvement in the quality of life that a nice smile brings. No one should have to go through life with limitations on his or her ability to express happiness.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH 27 - APRIL 12

Thursday, March 27

• WBHS Jazz Band concert

Starting at 7 p.m., the Willowbrook High School Jazz Band, Jazz Combo and "CenterStage" will be performing at the high school Admission: Adults \$3, seniors and students \$2. Senior citizens' gold card and student passes are welcome. Children under 12 are free when accompanied by an adult. Info: (630) 816-1953.

• Combined Chamber luncheon on Affordable Health Care Act

Starting at 11:30 a.m., the Addison and Villa Park Chambers of Commerce, along with the Glendale Heights Chamber of Commerce, will be hosting a combined chamber luncheon at Dave & Buster's 1155 N. Swift Road. David Hass, Enroll DuPage Navigator at the DuPage County Health Department, will be speaking on, and providing information about, the Affordable Health Care Act. Admission: \$25 per person for chamber members, \$30 for non-members. Reservations are required by no later than Wednesday, March 19. Info: call (630) 543-4300.

or email: addisonchamber@sbcglobal.net

Sunday, April 6

• Age Well DuPage

From 1 to 4 p.m. in the Homeland Security Education Center, Room 1022, at the College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn, DuPage County invites the community to attend Age Well DuPage: Renew, Recharge, Reinvent, an event for adults 50-and-older. Price: Free. Info: contact Antonia Harlan from DuPage County Community Services at (630) 407-6500 or email: Antonia.Harlan@dupageco.org

Wednesday, April 9

• VPRD presents "Pizza with the Bunny"

From 5:30-6:30 p.m., kids ages 3-12 (ages 3-5 with parent) are invited for "Pizza with the Bunny" where they will make their own pizzas, play games, decorate cookies and visit with the Bunny. Fee: \$12/\$9 siblings. Register at: 630-834-8970 or vprd.org

Thursday, April 10

Beginning at 7 p.m. in the Founders Lounge of the

Elmhurst College Frick Center, Colm Tóibín, a celebrated author of seven novels and several acclaimed collections of stories and essays, will present a talk on "The Irish Literary Renaissance." Admission: \$10 for the general public and free for Elmhurst College students, faculty, staff and alumni. Tickets: visit elmhurst.edu/tix or call (630) 617-3390.

Saturday, April 12

• VPRD hosts "Lunch with the Bunny"

At 12 noon at the Community Rec Building, 320 E. Wildwood, all ages are invited to "Lunch with the Bunny." For \$8 per person (younger than age 1 are free), enjoy hot dogs, chips, drinks and desserts, along with a visit with the Bunny. After lunch, head outside (rain or shine) for an egg hunt by age group, where a special prize will be awarded to the child in each age group who finds the golden egg. Age groups will be divided as follows: younger than age 2, ages 2-4, ages 5-7, and, ages 8 and older. Parents may assist children ages 4 and younger. Register at: 630-834-8970 or vprd.org



courtesy photo

WBHS's Alessandri attains Eagle Scout

Pictured is Willowbrook freshman Peter Alessandri Jr., who recently earned Eagle Scout status, the highest rank attainable in Boy Scouts of America.

Willowbrook freshman attains Eagle Scout

VILLA PARK — Willowbrook freshman Peter Alessandri Jr. recently earned Eagle Scout status, the highest rank attainable in Boy Scouts of America.

Those who earn that rank earn at least 21 merit badges and demonstrate Scout Spirit through the Boy Scout Oath and Law, service and leadership, which includes organizing, planning and completing an extensive service project in the community.

Peter has been with Troop 234 since he was in first grade and has earned more than 37 merit badges. For his Eagle Scout project, Peter built a reflector trail with information markers at Girl Scouts Camp Greene Wood in Woodridge.

"I chose that project so campers would have an activity to do at night and have the ability to learn about the animals and the campgrounds from the information on the markers along the trail," he said.

The project consisted of outlining a detailed plan, fundraising to support the project and managing the installation of the reflector trail. Peter raised about \$600, and a majority of the materials were donated

from local stores.

"The project took about 386 hours to complete," he said. "I am especially grateful for my Eagle Scout Coach Dan Olson for his support throughout this project. I also am thankful for the help and support from my friends and family for coming out to help dig 40 holes for the posts I couldn't have completed this project without them!"

Peter Alessandri plans to continue with Boy Scouts to earn more merit badges and assist other Scouts.

WB Math Team takes third in division at NSML Conference

VILLA PARK — On March 6, the Willowbrook Math Team competed against 55 schools in the North Suburban Math League (NSML) Conference competition.

The senior team finished in 3rd place in their division. The team also won the candy bar competition for its division, which involved all WBHS students working as a group to answer more questions correctly than the other teams.



photo provided

Pictured are the junior varsity and varsity Willowbrook Science Olympiad Teams at the College of DuPage Regional competition. The students placed 6th out of 14 teams, earning them a bid to the state tournament on April 12. Members are (front row, from left): Sumeya Mchabcheb, Tasneem Azeem, Asra Mubeen, Haley Patel, Kelli Wysoglad, Abby Pakeltis, Maimuna Nayyar, Shukan Shah, Stephaney Cheng, McKenna Mintz, Veronica Palma; (back row, from left): Emily Gornick, Brandon Young, William Menzer, Kyle Ooley, Kevin Cheng, Chris Cheng, Kevin Monaco, Cesar Saucedo, Mike Rogalski, Avery Kirchner and Nicholas Carperos.

WBHS Science Olympiad team heads to State

VILLA PARK — The Willowbrook Science Olympiad Team has qualified for the State tournament.

Coached by Willowbrook staff members Ben Fenske, Jim Kedvesh, Yvonne Tsagalis and Mike Warren, the team recently took home 6th place at the Regional competition. That earned them a bid to the 2014 State tournament, which will take place on April 12 at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"The Willowbrook Science

Olympiad Team is only six years old, however, this is the second time the group has made it to State in the last three years," Fenske said.

The team is currently made up of eight seniors, 12 juniors and two sophomores.

Science Olympiad is a national science competition, where students compete in 24 science-related events. Students typically compete in teams of two or three in events that include test taking (anatomy, and physi-

ology, dynamic planet), lab events (forensics, chemistry lab) and building (elastic launch glider, bungee drop). Students are allowed to compete in several events.

"Our bid into the State tournament puts us in the top 48 high school teams in the state," Fenske said. "The top two teams at State advance to the National tournament."

For more information, visit sounc.org or illinoisolympiad.org

ADDISON Suburban Life

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COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT



Photo provided

Showing off their skills

Addison Trail High School senior Antonio Vargas (from left), junior Carlos Rodriguez, junior Luis Flores, junior Harmanpreet Singh, senior Miguel Garcia Sanchez, senior Sam Ramos, sophomore Salvatore Dugo and junior Anthony Modica (not pictured) are competing at the SkillsUSA State Finals through Saturday at Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield. Dugo, Sanchez, Vargas and Flores qualified for the automotive event; Singh, Ramos and Rodriguez qualified for the principles of technology event, and Modica qualified in technical math.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Community Voice	10
Education	18
Go Guide	21
Obituaries	14
Opinion	10
Planet Life	19
Police Reports	9
Sound Off	11
Sports	26

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Rep. Duckworth visits Addison Trail



Photos provided

ABOVE: U.S. Rep. Tammy Duckworth shows her Addison Trail Blazer pride by displaying a T-shirt students gave her when she visited the school March 28. **RIGHT:** Duckworth talks to Addison Trail High School students about her career in politics and military experience.

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

ADDISON – U.S. Rep. Tammy Duckworth, D-Schaumburg, visited Addison Trail High School on March 28 to speak with students.

Duckworth, an Iraq veteran, talked about her path to working in politics, legislation and projects she's working on

and her military experience.

A former assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Duckworth moved to Illinois to pursue her doctorate in political science from Northern Illinois University.

After her speech, Duckworth answered questions from students.



► YOUR WEEKEND FORECAST

Source: National Weather Service



Shows likely and windy

Friday
High: 46
Low: 31



Sunny and breezy

Saturday
High: 48
Low: 33



Mostly sunny and warmer

Sunday
High: 54
Low: 37

► ON THE COVER

Families cheer on youngsters as they race to fill their bags at Addison Park District's annual egg hunt at Community Park.

Photo provided



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Man held on murder charges in Bensenville shooting

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

BENSENVILLE – A Chicago man has been charged with murder in the January slaying of a Bensenville store clerk.

Stephan Russell, 20, of 3503 W. Armitage Ave., Chicago, appeared in court March 28, where Judge Daniel Guerin ordered he be held without bond for murder, according to a DuPage County State's Attorney's Office news release.

Russell was arrested March 20 and held on \$2.5 million bond until March 28 on



**Kenneth
Bardlett**



**Tremayne
Davis**



**Stephan
Russell**

harassment of a witness and intimidation charges, the release stated. His next court appearance is scheduled for April 22.

Russell and two accomplices – Kenneth Bardlett, 20, of

49th Avenue, Bellwood, and Tremayne Davis, 23, of 1417 N. Lotus Ave., Chicago – allegedly drove to the Sam's Tobacco and Foodmart store in Bensenville on Jan. 10, according to the release. Bardlett and Russell encountered an employee, Hussein Saghir, outside the store, preparing to close for the evening.

Davis allegedly waited in

the vehicle, and a brief altercation broke out between Russell, Bardlett and Saghir, the release stated. Russell allegedly shot and killed Saghir before fleeing the scene with his accomplices, according to the release.

On March 27, Bardlett pleaded guilty to aggravated battery with a firearm as part of a plea agreement. He now is required to cooperate and testify truthfully in the case against his co-defendants, the release stated.

Bardlett's next court ap-

pearance is a status hearing scheduled for Sept. 25, but no sentencing date has been set.

Davis was charged with first-degree murder and attempted armed robbery Feb. 23 and held on \$2.5 million bond, according to the release. His next court appearance is scheduled for April 16 in front of Judge Daniel P. Guerin.

An ongoing investigation led by the Bensenville Police Department, Major Crimes Task Force and State's Attorney's Office led authorities to the men.

Addison Trail Science Olympiad team qualifies for state

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

ADDISON – The Addison Trail High School Science Olympiad team will compete at the state tournament.

The team finished in second place in the Northern Illinois Regional Science Olympiad on March 15 at Rock

Valley College. That earned the team a bid to the 2014 State tournament.

Science Olympiad is a national science competition, where students compete in 24 science-related events. Students typically compete in teams of two or three in events that include test taking (anat-

omy and physiology, dynamic planet), lab events (forensics, chemistry lab) and building (elastic launch glider, bungee drop).

The tournament will take place April 12 at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Addison Trail Science

Olympiad Team members are:

• **Varsity:** Justin Paul, Anthony Pham, Emily Rosenquist, AJ Szczodrowski, Mario Macedo, Sid Lee, Jason Sechan, Franc De Guzman, Jerold Macaya, Julia Dziabis, Lili Linares, Raymond Loi, Robert Raniszewski and Michal Silezin

• **Junior varsity:** Blake Johnson, Kiana Ongbueco, Ernie Berrum, George Koulogorgas, Jay Patel, Steven Abraham, Adrian Kominowski, Alex Dudka, Tracy Pham, Isabelle Hernandez, Jonathan Loi, Jenny Linares, Lucy Bustamante, Larry Nuehring and Jeremy Sechan



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OPINIONS

■ LAST WEEK'S WEB POLL QUESTION: How do you prefer to watch movies?

33 PERCENT: In the theater
31 PERCENT: Movies on TV
19 PERCENT: Renting
17 PERCENT: Streaming

■ THIS WEEK'S WEB POLL QUESTION: What's the No. 1 thing you look for in a new job? Vote online at mysuburbanlife.com.

Student event leads upcoming happenings

Hooray! The calendar tells us it is finally spring, and we're all hoping that weather conditions from now on will prove it. Finally we can look forward to the return of green grass, spring flowers and the next few months of activities that will bring us outdoors more to enjoy the lack of snow and cold.

One of my favorite spring events is the Addison Chamber of Commerce Annual Student Honors Banquet, which will be held at The Empress Banquets here in Addison on Tuesday, April 22. Each year we recognize the top 30 graduating students from Addison Trail High School. ACCI members attend and sponsor the students as their guests, all of whom are presented with certificates of merit.

Scholarship applications were sent to those students along with their invitation, and copies were made available to all the AHS graduates through the school guidance office. Every year after reviewing the applications, I am more and more convinced that the future of this country is going to be in great hands. It's a true pleasure to honor them and wish them well as they pursue their dreams.

Some of the other upcoming events in the next few months include our April 24 luncheon meeting at Alta Villa Banquets, when our guest speaker Dan Cronin will address attendees on economic development, a combined multichamber progressive luncheon April 30, and a special multichamber luncheon meeting May 23 at Alta Villa Banquets where our keynote speaker will be U.S. Rep. Tammy Duckworth. Reservations are required for these events, they are open to members and nonmembers as well as the public.

We also are introducing our First Annual Road Rally – a fun and challenging evening where teams of four persons a car compete for "bragging rights" and a traveling trophy as the first team to follow the clues from location to location and reach the final destination for dinner and beverages! The date, May 17, 2014 – beginning at 6 p.m. We're seeking participants and sponsors – members and nonmembers are invited – preregistration and payment is required.

For information about any of these events or information on how to become a member, please contact our office at 630-543-4300 or by email at addisonchamber@sbcglobal.net. To be added to our email list to receive notices about these and all of our upcoming events, please visit our website www.addisonchamber.org and click on the link to add your email address.

Bernadette LaRocca is the executive director at the Addison Chamber of Commerce.



COMMUNITY VOICE
Bernadette LaRocca



Photo provided
 Nominated by Addison Trail High School Principal Adam Cibulka (left), sophomore Allison Galvan shows off the President's Volunteer Service Award she received in recognition of her commitment to giving back to the community.



Addison Trail sophomore Allison Galvan started volunteering at the Addison Community Switchboard helping organize food pantry and clothing programs to fulfill service hours for her Confirmation. Then she continued serving long after she'd met the requirement. For giving up her holiday and summer breaks, she's been honored with the President's Volunteer Service Award. Way to go, Allison.



Thumbs up to Addison Trail students who donated blood at a recent LifeSource blood drive on campus. The organization, which serves the Chicago region, needs 1,000 donors a day to ensure adequate supply.

Write to us

We want to hear from you. Letters must be no more than 300 words. They must include your first and last name, town and a phone number for verification. We may edit them for clarity, accuracy and style. Email letters to letters@mysuburbanlife.com. The deadline is 4 p.m. Thursday for the following week's paper.

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SPORTS

Comments?

Contact Sports Editor Jason Rossi,
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BASEBALL PREVIEW

Defense, pitching strengths for Addison Trail

By DAN SANTAROMITA

dsantaromita@shawmedia.com

ADDISON - Michael Kennedy is new to Addison Trail baseball as the varsity coach, but he has plenty of familiarity with his players.

This is Kennedy's 10th year at AT and he coached the current senior class as freshmen and sophomores.

That senior class features a number of players with varsity experience. Fresh off a solid season for the Blazers' basketball team, Joe Kurucar will be AT's ace on the mound and a key outfielder.

"He returns the most experience on the mound and he hit well last year," Kennedy said.

Senior Frank Amato also will be a key part of the team's rotation.

"I think our defense is going to really be our strong suit," Kennedy said. "It's going to have to be. And we return about 100 innings on the mound. I think our defense and our experience is really going to help us out."

Seniors Joe Amato, Nate Mueller and Zack Dowz give the Blazers a solid core of returners. Amato and Mueller man the infield while Dowz is a big bat and solid outfielder.

"We mix them with some very athletic juniors," Kennedy said. "I think we are set up to have some success."

Addison Trail Blazers

Coach: Michael Kennedy

2013 record: 11-25

Top players:

Frank Amato	sr.	P/OF
Joe Amato	sr.	IF
Zack Dowz	sr.	OF
Joe Kurucar	sr.	P/OF
Nate Mueller	sr.	IF



Addison Trail's Christian Grabowski delivers a pitch during Tuesday's game against Glenbard East at Plunkett Park in Elmhurst. The Blazers have a strong senior core returning this spring.

Mark Busch - mbusch@shawmedia.com

Suburban Life

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



JESSICA CONENNA
IC Catholic
Junior | Softball

Why Conenna was selected:

From March 27 to 29, Conenna started all three games and gave up three runs in 12 innings while striking out 19 and was 6-for-8 at the plate.

IC Catholic junior pitcher Jessica Conenna helped the Knights win three games in a row last weekend with contributions as both a hitter and pitcher. The Northern Illinois recruit started all three games as a pitcher and was 6-for-8 with two doubles and four RBIs at the plate. The Knights entered Thursday's game against Proviso West with a 5-0 record. Conenna, this week's Oak Trust Credit Union Athlete of the Week, talked with Suburban Life sports reporter Dan Santaromita about the team's hot start, her college commitment and the team's goal for the season.

Santaromita: Did you expect the team to get off to such a winning start?

Conenna: We expected to go 5-0. We're playing teams we know we can beat. We just

wanted to get the feel of it.

Santaromita: What are your expectations this season?

Conenna: We want to make a deep run in the playoffs. We have a lot of core people back, so we hope to go further than last year.

Santaromita: What made you want to commit to Northern Illinois?

Conenna: I knew I wanted to stay close to home, and it's only an hour drive away. I was at a camp in Peoria where a ton of Division I schools were at. Coach [Christina] Sutcliffe helped me with my pitching. I was assigned to her team when we played games. She has so much energy and she brings so much intensity to games. I wanted to go where the coach was a pitcher, and she was.

This Athlete of the Week is brought to you by



►► PREP ROUNDUP

Blazers bested in conference soccer opener

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

Addison Trail's girls soccer team lost to Morton 4-1 in the West Suburban Gold opener for both teams on Tuesday.

SOFTBALL Addison Trail

The Blazers fell to Riverside Brookfield 7-6 on Monday. Tuesday they beat Glenbard East 11-2, but lost to Elgin 4-0 later in the day.

Glenbard East

The Rams beat Hinsdale South 7-1 in the season opener on Monday. That was followed by losses to Addison Trail (11-2) and South Elgin (5-1) later in the week.

Willowbrook

West Chicago topped the Warriors in the season opener on Monday, winning 3-2. Delaney Pelsor struck out seven Wildcats in the loss.

Montini

The Broncos knocked off Lake Park 4-0 Tuesday thanks to a strong pitching outing from Lauren Trojnar. Trojnar gave up just four hits. Montini scored all the runs in the fourth inning.

A day later, Montini was no-hit by Lockport in a 4-0 loss.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL Addison Trail

The Blazers defeated St.



Erica Benson • ebenson@shawmedia.com

Addison Trail's Susy Ochoa stops a shot during Tuesday's game against Morton. The Blazers lost 4-1 in their first conference game of the season.

Patrick 25-10, 25-23 in the season opener on March 27. Alex Dickmann had nine kills and Marco Parisi had five digs and three aces for AT.

BOYS TENNIS Willowbrook

The Warriors swept Riverside Brookfield 7-0 in the season opener on March 28.

BADMINTON Glenbard East/Willowbrook

The Rams and Warriors tied for first at a quad hosted by Willowbrook on Monday. Both teams totaled 20 points to beat out Oak Forest and Bolingbrook.

BOYS GYMNASTICS Addison Trail

The Blazers were ninth out

of 21 teams at the Vic Avigliano Invitational at Rolling Meadows. Sal Palazzolo was sixth on rings and Alfredo Torres placed sixth on vault.

Glenbard East

The Rams tied for 15th out of 21 teams at the Vic Avigliano Invitational at Rolling Meadows.

Willowbrook

The Warriors scored 126.75 points to take eighth out of 11 teams at the Ralph Krupke Invitational at Lake Park on Friday. Colton Bach was ninth in the all-around.

GIRLS LACROSSE Montini

The Broncos headed into spring break with a decisive 21-4 win over Marist on March 28.

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COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT



Photo provided

Students donate pints of life

Addison Trail High School sophomore Selena Velasco (from left), sophomore Zyrena Santos and senior Lucas Garrett enjoy a snack after donating blood during a schoolwide blood drive March 20 for LifeSource. LifeSource is responsible for donor recruitment, blood collection, component manufacturing, testing and product management in the Chicago region. The organization must see 1,000 donors each day to ensure an adequate blood supply for area hospital patients. To learn more, visit www.lifesource.org.

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Community Voice	10
Go Guide	26
Obituaries	19
Opinion	10
Plant Life	24
Police Reports	9
Sound Off	11
Sports	29

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Nominated
by AT Prin-
cipal Adam
Cibulka (left),
sophomore
Allison Galvan
shows off the
President's
Volunteer
Service Award
she received.

Photo provided

AT sophomore receives volunteer service award

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

ADDISON – Addison Trail High School sophomore Allison Galvan received the President's Volunteer Service Award

The award recognizes Americans who have volunteered significant amounts of time to serve their communities and country. It is granted by The Prudential Spirit of

Community Awards program on behalf of President Barack Obama, according to a District 88 news release.

The program, sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, recognizes middle and high school students throughout the U.S. for

See AWARD, page 7



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Here come the brides

Addison Wedding & Special Event Expo returns

By MARI GRIGALIUNAS
mgrigaliunas@shawmedia.com

ADDISON – Those excited to celebrate the arrival of spring will find help with whatever event they have planned at this weekend's Wedding & Special Event Expo.

Some of the same vendors from 2013's inaugural event will return, and they will be joined by newcomers as well, said Bernadette "Dee" LaRocca, executive director of the Addison Chamber of Commerce and Industry. One comment LaRocca heard repeatedly after last year was appreciation for the location, Alta Villa Banquets.

"They enjoyed the venue for sure," LaRocca said.

Alta Villa will again host the expo, which features a variety of vendors, from skin care and cosmetics to flowers and formal wear.

Vegas-style entertainer Vito Zatto will perform at the free event. In addition, three fashion shows will exhibit formal wear, mother-of-the-bride styles and wedding gowns.

With 25 years of experience, Alta Villa's event coordinator Cheryl Hoest said she's seen many changes over the years, but she still gives all of her brides-to-be the same advice.

"The biggest thing I still tell the bride is don't stress the small stuff," Hoest said. "Just enjoy the day. It's yours."

One advantage many of today's brides have is the wealth of information and guides, she said. There are friends, family, magazines and now the Inter-



Photo provided

The 2013 Wedding & Special Event Expo sponsored by the Addison Chamber of Commerce and Industry showcased formal fashions for weddings and other special occasions.

net, all with plenty of wedding planning ideas and tips.

"Most brides don't get as intimidated as they used to," Hoest said.

But even with seemingly endless resources, some wedding traditions haven't changed, she said.

"June is still the bride's month," Hoest said.

She suggests traditional brides looking for a summer wedding begin planning a year to 15 months in advance – not only to secure a venue, but because a grand wedding requires time to plan.

On the other hand, Hoest said those looking for a simple or off-season wedding could probably spend six or even

four months planning a less expensive wedding.

Alta Villa hosts more than just wedding receptions. Owner Enzo Grisi is celebrating 50 years in the event business, and some families have hired his services for two generations.

No matter what the event, Hoest cautions people to spend a little extra on quality services like photography and entertainment for celebrations.

"The world is turning and becoming really great and hi-tech, but not everybody has

talent," Hoest said.

The camera phone gives many false confidence in the ease of taking quality photos. Hoest understands that everyone has their own budget and price is important, but she considers photography a "get what you pay for" item.

"Those are one-in-a-lifetime moments," she said.

A disc jockey can be just as important of an investment. Once the introductions are over, the fate of the party lies with the DJ. Hoest has witnessed impressive equipment

if you go

What: Wedding & Special Event Expo

When: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday

Where: Alta Villa Banquets, 430 N. Addison Road
Cost: Free

Vendors

Sea Sisters Travel, D's Flowers & Gifts N More, Alta Villa, Lena Lee Photography, Vito Zatto, The Ladies Room, HealthSource of Villa Park, Arbonne, The Copy Guy, Sam's Club, American Family Insurance, Anthony's Formalwear, Costco Wholesale, Elegant Embroidery by Anne, It Works!, Mary Kay Cosmetics and ReMax Destiny

fall flat because of a DJ's lack of personality.

"It's his world, and he can destroy you as much as he can give you a good party," Hoest said.

Regardless of what type of celebration her clients choose – be it simple or extravagant, with bold or subtle decor – Hoest's favorite part is seeing her couples walk in together.

"To me, still, the most classic time no matter how they do it ... is when they're introduced," Hoest said.

• AWARD

Continued from page 6

outstanding volunteer service.

Addison Trail Principal Adam Cibulka nominated Galvan for the President's Volunteer Service Award this fall.

For the last two years, Galvan has volunteered during her holiday and summer breaks at the Addison Community Switchboard, where she helps organize the food pantry

and clothing programs. Galvan said she started working there to fulfill service hours for her Confirmation and never left, according to the release.

Galvan was surprised and proud to receive the President's Volunteer Service Award for her efforts, she said. She hopes her work inspires other students to get involved.

In the future, Galvan wants to attend Western Illinois University and become a judge.

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OPINIONS

■ LAST WEEK'S WEB POLL QUESTION: When do you think spring will finally arrive?

34 PERCENT: End of April

29 PERCENT: May

27 PERCENT: Early April

10 PERCENT: End of March

■ THIS WEEK'S WEB POLL QUESTION:

How do you prefer to watch movies?

Vote online at

mysuburbanlife.com.

District 88 remains focused on students

At District 88, we're committed to being open and honest with our stakeholders to provide them with accurate information about the district. Two areas you might hear about are the finances/financial ratings of school districts and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers assessments.

Finances/financial ratings:

It is estimated 62 percent of school districts in Illinois are now deficit-spending, including affluent schools. That deficit spending has been caused by a challenging economy and the corresponding decline of district property values, or EAV, since 2008. This has led the financial rating of many school districts to decrease, but District 88 is listed at the second-highest financial level for the second year in a row, which is referred to as "Review."

Three questions we get asked frequently are, "Where is District 88's year-to-date budget in terms of revenue and expenditures?" "Why is my property tax bill increasing when my property value is declining?" and "Why is District 88 in deficit-spending?" District 88 Chief Financial Officer Ed Hoster answers those questions at tinyurl.com/k4ns287.

PARCC assessments: At District 88, preparing students for college and career is our focus and goal. Addison Trail and Willowbrook continue to implement the new, rigorous Common Core State Standards that have been adopted by Illinois and many states throughout the U.S. The Illinois State Board of Education also plans to change the state assessment program to match the new Common Core State Standards, and full implementation of those assessments is intended for the 2014-15 school year. Illinois' current state assessment, the Prairie State Achievement Exam, involves a full ACT and the ACT WorkKeys test at grade 11. District 88 is in favor of including the ACT in the state assessment because of its value to students for college entry. Area superintendents and I drafted a position statement and recommendations that have been shared with State Superintendent Dr. Chris Koch, and we also have had discussions with State Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia, D-Aurora, and State Sen. Daniel Biss, D-Evanston. To see the full proposal, go to <https://dupage88.net/site/public/files/?item=1450>.

There are challenges ahead in public education, but we remain focused on our mission to work for the continuous improvement of student achievement. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact me at 630-530-3960 or shelton@dupage88.net. Thank you for your continued support of District 88.

Dr. Scott Helton is the superintendent for DuPage High School District 88.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Scott Helton



Photo provided

The Bensenville Park District's fifth- and sixth-grade girls basketball team recently completed an undefeated championship season.



The Bensenville Park District's fifth- and sixth-grade girls basketball squad is no stranger to success, but the team's latest season took that to a new level. The team of 10 girls compiled a perfect 30-0 record in claiming their third consecutive championship. There's no sign of any arrogance or bragging among these girls, either, who talked about teamwork and playing together when they spoke to Suburban Life recently.



Coming up on April 12 is School District 4's 9th annual Family Fun Fair, and it looks like the Educational Foundation for Excellence, which organizes the event at Indian Trail Junior High School, has lots in store. There will be music, food and free games for kids, and the entry fee is just \$1. Proceeds benefit the foundation.

Write to us

We want to hear from you. Letters must be no more than 300 words. They must include your first and last name, town and a phone number for verification. We may edit them for clarity, accuracy and style. E-mail letters to letters@mysuburbanlife.com. The deadline is 4 p.m. Thursday for the following week's paper.

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Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.
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Comments?

Contact Sports Editor Jason Rossi, jrossi@shawmedia.com or 630-427-6271

TOP 6 MEMORABLE MOMENTS FOR AT, WILLOWBOOK WINTER SPORTS

Spotlighting highlights for area schools

By DAN SANTAROMITA

dsantaromita@shawmedia.com

As the snow continues to melt, spring sports are starting to take center stage. The two District 88 schools, Addison Trail and Willowbrook, had a number of standout athletes and accomplishments during the winter sports season, so before spring kicks into full gear, here's a last look back at those winter successes, in no particular order.

1. Willowbrook girls basketball wins first conference title since 1996

After coming up one game short of sharing the West Suburban Gold title a year ago, Willowbrook girls basketball made no mistakes in the Gold this season.

The Warriors went 12-0 in conference play to win the outright conference title for the first time since 1996. Willowbrook finished the season 23-5 after losing in a regional final.

Senior Molly Krawczykowski led the team in scoring and was key to the team's success. Fellow seniors Olivia Domin, Melissa Rader and Lauren Carroll were also main contributors.

"This group of seniors is the winningest group of seniors in Willowbrook in 18 years," Harrell said. "In their two years on varsity they've won 45 games."

2. Carson, Gomez represent AT wrestling at state

Two Addison Trail senior wrestlers and two best friends, Bobby Carson and Niko Rocha, got to share a trip to Champaign as state qualifiers.

Rocha was returning for his second trip to state while Carson was making his debut on high school wrestling's biggest stage.

Carson won his first match



Bill Ackerman file photo

Willowbrook's Molly Krawczykowski (left) and Olivia Domin pressure Morton's Shannon Fricke in a game this season. The Warriors went undefeated in the West Suburban Gold for their first conference title since 1996.

and another in the wrestling backs to finish 2-2 at state in the 285-pound division. Rocha was 0-2 at 170 pounds to finish 35-5 on the season.

"It's great, especially because we're actually real close," Carson said of going to state with Rocha. "He's like my cousin, almost. We do everything together."

3. Rowland takes first steps to matching brother

Willowbrook sophomore wrestler Matt Rowland is trying to at least match the impressive accomplishments of his older brother, Dan. Dan was second in state a year ago and this winter Matt showed he can be as

good or better.

Matt Rowland was fifth at 152 pounds at the state tournament to earn an all-state medal. He was 46-6 on the season.

"It feels pretty good," Rowland said at state. "It's a good way to end my coach's career because he's retiring after this season. And to go out with a win is great."

He was joined at state by senior Jake Kroeger, who went 1-2 at 182 pounds.

4. Exciting wins for Addison Trail boys basketball

It was an up and down season for Addison Trail boys basketball, but the Blazers definitely had some memorable ups.

In their own pre-holiday tournament, the Blazers knocked off then-undefeated Stagg and later won against conference foe Morton, both in home games. The win over Morton was especially impressive because after that loss the Mustangs won 13 games in a row and made a sectional final.

Seniors James Pupillo, Joe Kurucar, Ronald Duling and Joe Villasenor led AT to an 11-18 season. Pupillo was named special mention all-state by the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association, but sat out the playoffs with an injury.

"I can't say enough about our seniors," coach Brendan Lyons said. "They put in more

than any group that I've had."

5. Blazer pair compete at state gymnastics

Freshman Kennedy O'Neill and junior Casey Boksha represented Addison Trail at the girls gymnastics state meet this season.

O'Neill was 27th on floor exercise and tied for 34th on the uneven bars. Boksha tied for 28th on floor.

6. Schmelter bowls at state

Addison Trail senior Meghan Schmelter qualified for state bowling and was able to crack the top 100. She finished 89th with an average score of 187.8, for a six-game total of 1,127.

SOFTBALL PREVIEWS

Montini, Willowbrook looking for repeat strong seasons

By DAN SANTAROMITA
dsantaromita@shawmedia.com

Softball teams are forced to deal with the fickle March weather at the beginning of the season, but the first scheduled games started last weekend for teams lucky enough to find an indoor or turf field. Here's a look at what the area teams should look like in the season ahead.

Addison Trail Blazers

Coach: Mark Olson

2013 record: 11-19

Top players:

Danielle Ciaglia	sr.	IF
Crystal Marinelli	sr.	IF
Ari Renc	jr.	OF

Outlook: Three all-conference returners should lead the Blazers this season. Senior infielders Crystal Marinelli and Danielle Ciaglia and junior outfielder Ari Renc make up the core of a team hoping to improve on a 4-8 record in the West Suburban Gold.

Juniors Kelly Delawder, Alex DiSilvio and Rachel Baumgartner and sophomore Carla Muell are also returning starters.

"[We] return seven starters from last season, including all three all-conference players and the top three hitters in Marinelli, Renc and Ciaglia," coach Mark Olson said. "We're expecting strong seasons offensively and defensively from Delawder, DiSilvio, Muell and Baumgartner."

Despite all the returners, many of the key players on the team are still younger. Senior Cori Cooney will play at catcher to join Ciaglia and Marinelli as senior starters.

Glenbard East Rams

Coach: Nikki Simpson

2013 record: 9-19

Top players:

Dana Camp	sr.	1B
Grace Miller	sr.	P
Carissa Slobodecki	sr.	OF
Kelli Tyler	sr.	C/IF

Outlook: First-year coach Nikki Simpson is trying to change the culture around Glenbard East softball and is implementing some of the philosophies that has made her alma mater,



Shaw Media file photo

Addison Trail's Danielle Ciaglia tags out a baserunner in a game last season. Ciaglia is one of three returning all-conference players that will boost the Blazers this spring.

Glenbard South, a power program. Simpson is fresh off a four-year career at the University of Illinois and wants to get the Rams to focus on small ball.

"Small ball is definitely important to the game," Simpson said. "It depends on the situation and the team we're playing. We do have some good hitters, and we do have some speedy runners, too."

Seniors Dana Camp (first baseman), Grace Miller (pitcher), and outfielders Carissa Slobodecki and Kelli Tyler give the team a veteran core. Sophomores DoniBrooke Ross (shortstop), Marissa West (second baseman) and Kailey Lyons (center fielder) represent the future of the program.

"It's definitely going to set us up for the future, which I'm excited about," Simpson said.

Simpson's focus is on getting excitement back in the program.

"Coaching is definitely different than playing," Simpson said. "Sometimes I wish I could play. I just want to give the girls the knowledge I've learned."

Montini Broncos

Coach: Richie Costante

2013 record: 27-11, regional champs

Top players:

Isabell Alexander	so.	OF
Cristina Barrett	sr.	SS
Morganne Evans	jr.	3B
Sara Ross	sr.	1B
Alyssa Sciafani	so.	C
Lauren Trojnar	jr.	P

Outlook: With five returning all-state players and nine returners in total, Montini looks to be a dangerous team in Class 3A this season.

Two-time all-state pitcher Lauren Trojnar is back for her junior year in the circle. Hitters Sara Ross, Cristina Barrett, Alyssa Sciafani and Isabell Alexander also were all-state selections last year.

Other returners include Morganne Evans and Emily Lezcano. Evans will move from right field, where she played the last two seasons, to third base.

Coach Richie Costante expects the team to start just

two seniors and three juniors with the rest being sophomores. However, all of those players have at least a year of varsity experience.

"This is the first year that we don't have a freshman starting since I've been here," Costante said. "That's a good thing. Every girl that's starting on the field has been on varsity since their freshman year. We still might be young in terms of sophomores and juniors, but they all have experience."

As for the seniors, Barrett is headed to play for Western Illinois. Ross is bound for IUPUI to continue her basketball career. Despite basketball being her priority and future focus, Ross still came out for one more year of softball, with some flexibility coming from the Montini coaching staff.

Costante is putting an emphasis on the conference season.

"We want to win conference, which we haven't done in the past three years," Costante said. "We have to get past the St. Francis jinx."

Willowbrook Warriors

Coach: Rachel Karos

2013 record: 23-9

Top players:

Zoe Dannenberg	so.	P
Olivia Domin	sr.	CF
Alyssa Rensing	jr.	1B
Delaney Pelsor	jr.	P
Sam Schmidt	jr.	SS

Outlook: Armed with talented juniors Alyssa Rensing and Sam Schmidt and a number of returners, Willowbrook is hoping for another strong season.

The Warriors will have to replace Darian Pelsor, who was the team's ace and a top hitter last year. However, her junior sister Delaney returns in the circle along with Montini transfer Zoe Dannenberg, who was on the Broncos' varsity last year.

Schmidt, a Northern Illinois commit, and Rensing give the Warriors a pair of powerful bats in the middle of the lineup. The team doesn't feature many seniors but still has plenty of experience from the younger returning players.

Suburban Life

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



BRITTANY PAGANUCCI
Glenbard East
Sophomore | Soccer

Why Paganucci was selected:

Paganucci scored three goals and had three assists in the Rams' four victories en route to the final of the Windy City Classic.

Glenbard East sophomore forward Brittany Paganucci is off to a hot start to the season. She was first to convert a penalty kick in the semifinal of the Windy City Classic against Fenwick on Wednesday and had three goals and three assists in the first four games of the tournament. The Rams next play Lincoln-Way North in the tournament final at Toyota Park Saturday at noon. Paganucci, this week's the Oak Trust Credit Union Athlete of the Week, talked with Suburban Life sports reporter Dan Santaromita about her key penalty kick, making the final and the team's early success.

Have you practiced penalties much in preparation for this

tournament?

We've been practicing it so I knew what I was doing and where my placement is.

How are you feeling about the team's hot start?

It's really exciting, especially coming out in the very beginning because we have a couple new players. It's different playing with them and I have a new forward playing up top with me so it's different, but I'm getting used to it.

What's the transition been like becoming more of the team's go-to forward?

It's more my responsibility to make sure we're organized and to stay calm and not to make silly fouls up top to get us in trouble.

This Athlete of the Week is brought to you by



►► PREP ROUNDUP

AT's Conrad captures title at WSG meet

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

Addison Trail's Darrion Conrad won the 200-meter dash at the West Suburban Gold indoor meet. Ronald Duling tied Willowbrook's Josan Murphy for second in the high jump. Luis Eugenio, Matt Oliva, Juan Valdez and Luis Miranda were also second in the 4x800-meter relay to help the Blazers place fifth overall.

BOYS INDOOR TRACK Glenbard East

Jack Peters won the 800-meter run at the DuPage Valley Conference indoor meet. Peters teamed with Maurice McGee, Vince Booth and Drew Mikel to take third in the 4x400-meter relay. East was sixth overall.

Willowbrook

Jake Bloemke won the 55-meter dash and was second in the 400 at the West Suburban Gold indoor meet. Devin Childress won the 55-meter low hurdles and was second in the 55 high hurdles. The Warriors were second in the conference.

GIRLS INDOOR TRACK Willowbrook

Molly Krawczykowski won the 800-meter run and was second in the 400 at the West Suburban Gold indoor meet. Taylor Burton won the 300-meter dash and was second in the 200. Jada Stills also won shot

put. The Warriors were third in the team standings

Addison Trail

Maria Dugo, Kim Schonder, Jamie Borscha and Yulisa Vivero teamed up to help the Blazers take second in the 4 x 200-meter relay at the West Suburban Gold indoor meet. AT was sixth in the team standings, but were second at the frosh/soph level thanks to strong meets from Lauren Kroll, Ajah Morgan, Kennedy O'Neill and Alyssa Viera. Kroll ran winning times in the 55-meter dash and the 200 dash that were faster than the winning varsity times.

GIRLS SOCCER Glenbard East

The Rams advanced to the final of the Windy City Classic by defeating Fenwick on Wednesday. The host Rams won 2-0 in penalty kicks after a scoreless game. Brittany Paganucci and Kelly Ravenscraft converted the penalties. Haley Lydon had the shutout during regular play and then Sierra Dana came in for the shootout. Dana made saves on Fenwick's first two attempts and the Friars next two attempts hit the crossbar. East will play Lincoln-Way North in the final Saturday at noon at Toyota Park.

Willowbrook

The Warriors made the semifinals of the Windy City

Classic. Willowbrook defeated Romeoville (4-0), Queen of Peace (1-0) and Morton (2-0) before falling to Lincoln-Way North 1-0 Wednesday at Glenbard East.

Addison Trail

After beating Mt. Assisi 7-2 in the first round of the Windy City Classic the Blazers lost to Glenbard East 7-0. Providence beat the Blazers 3-0 in a consolation match.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL Glenbard East/ Willowbrook

The Rams knocked off their neighboring rivals 31-29, 25-20 on Wednesday despite eight kills each from Willowbrook's Ben Wozniak and Ryan Wakely.

GIRLS LACROSSE Montini

In a matchup of two of the state's top programs, New Trier defeated the Broncos 14-7 on Wednesday.

BADMINTON Willowbrook

The Warriors were third out of 10 teams at the Shepard Invite on Saturday and then defeated Glenbard North 12-3 on Tuesday.

Glenbard East

The Rams tied for fourth out of 10 teams at the Hinsdale South Invite on Saturday.

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A COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION



Cantigny spring golf clinics in full swing

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

The Cantigny Golf Academy, in partnership with Callaway Golf Fitness, is hosting a series of 'Spring Training' workshops to help golfers tune up for the season ahead.

The Academy's series of Tuesday evening workshops are presented by Dr. Paul Callaway, Cantigny Golf Academy director of golf fitness, and run from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. every Tuesday through April. Classes are limited to the first 25 golfers who preregister by calling 630-567-7572.

• **April 1:** Golf Fitness Spring Training: Getting Your Body and Swing Ready for the Season

• **April 8:** How Your Current Fitness Program May Be Hurting Your Swing.

• **April 15:** Golf Fitness Secrets to Stop Your Slice Once and For All.

• **April 22:** Power Mind, Power Body, Power Swing.

• **April 29:** The 7 Essential Golf Fitness Exercises Every Golfer Should Know.

The cost per workshop is \$10 for juniors under the age of 18 and accompanied by an adult, \$20 for adults, and \$30 for couples.

Payment is cash only at the door, and the fee includes a copy of Dr. Callaway's e-book, "The Secret to Achieving Your Ideal Golf Swing."

» SPORTS BRIEFS

NAYS to host spring basketball tournaments

North American Youth Sports will host two youth basketball tournaments in the area this spring.

There will be NAYS tournaments at Elmhurst College from April 25 to 27 and at Romeoville High School from May 2 to 4.

The cost to enter each tournament is \$160 per team and guarantees each squad a minimum of three games. The entry deadline for the Elmhurst tournament is April 4 and the entry deadline for the Romeoville event is April 11.

Each tournament will have 12 divisions:

- Fourth and fifth grade boys and girls
- Sixth grade boys and girls
- Seventh grade boys and girls
- Eighth grade boys and girls
- Ninth and 10th grade boys and girls
- Eleventh and 12th grade boys and girls

Go to www.northamericanyouthsports.org for more information.

Chicago Bears youth camps coming to area

Several non-contact football camps run by the Chicago Bears and led by professional coaches will make stops in the suburbs this summer.

The five-day camps will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and are for kids ages 6 to 14. There will be comprehensive skills camps for kids ages 6 to 14 and accelerated skills camps for kids ages 9 to 14.

The camps cost \$399 with a \$95 deposit required.

Dates and locations of local camps are:

• **Carol Stream:** Fountain View Recreation Center, June 23 to 27

• **Elmhurst:** Faganal Hall at Elmhurst College, June 23 to 27

• **Naperville:** All Saints Catholic Academy, June 23 to 27

• **Geneva:** Geneva Middle School North, July 21 to 25

• **Glen Ellyn:** Park View Elementary School, July 21 to 25

Visit www.BearsCamps.com for information or to register.

— Suburban Life Media

Junior Warriors cap season with tourney title



Photo provided

The Junior Warriors travel basketball team enjoyed a season full of successes this winter. The squad, comprised of eighth graders, went 15-4 in the Silver North division during the regular season in the DuPage Youth Travel Basketball League, then captured first place in the DYTBL Silver A tournament in Geneva on March 1 and 2. The Warriors defeated Bartlett and Western Spring to reach the tourney finals, then defeated the Knights for the title. Members of the team are (front row, from left): John Taylor, Seth Quick, Buddy Martens, Demarkus Horton, Justin Ceh, Matt Myers, (back row) coach Mike Quick, Kevon Dobbins, Neal Paxton, Sam Pelsor, Chris Diaz, Drew Krueger, Ethan Schumer, Kevon Dobbins, and coach Nick Frega.

TOP 3 WINTER SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS FOR IC AND TIMOTHY

Teams find success in winter sports

By DAN SANTAROMITA
dsantaromita@shawmedia.com

As the snow continues to melt, spring sports are starting to take center stage. The two private high schools in Elmhurst, IC Catholic and Timothy Christian, each had standout athletes and accomplishments during the winter sports season. Before spring kicks into full gear, here's a last look back at those winter successes for the Knights and Trojans, in no particular order.

1. IC girls basketball nearly matches volleyball, gets to state

Following the lead of the girls volleyball team, the IC Catholic girls basketball went to state. The Knights won the first state trophy in program history by taking fourth place in Class 2A.

Senior forward Rory Manion, who also starred for the volleyball team in its Class 2A state title, was key to the team's success along with senior guard Grace Vitek. The Knights won all four sectional games by 19 points or more and then escaped with a 40-38 win over Seton Academy in the supersectional.

"This has been our goal all season," Vitek said of making state. "Me, Abby [Radaha] and Rory have played together since freshman year and we've been



Bill Ackerman file photo

Timothy Christian's Connor VanderBrug goes up for a reverse layup in a game this season. The senior was a major force for the Trojans and was named Metro Suburban Conference MVP.

dreaming of getting to state, so it's a dream come true."

2. VanderBrug dominates for Timothy boys

Not many basketball players have the all-around game that Connor VanderBrug displayed this winter for Timothy Christian boys basketball.

The Trojan senior is 6-foot-6 and played all five positions on the floor at different times this season. He averaged 21.6 points, 8.7 rebounds and 2.1 blocks per game. Despite being

a big forward, he still had shooting range, displayed by his 38 percent shooting from 3-point range, and ballhandling skills.

He leaves Timothy as one of the program's top scorers of all-time and will play for Calvm College next year.

"He was a problem for people because he's so versatile," TC coach Jack LeGrand said. "We put him at every position. He stepped up to the challenge. Connor is one of the best players we've had."

3. IC boys snap regional jinx

Each of the last two years IC boys basketball has lost a regional final by two points. This year, the Knights got over the hump.

They knocked off Aurora Christian in the regional final, winning on the road, and went one game further to make a Class 2A sectional final. It was as far as any IC team has gone.

The team went 23-7 on the season and won IC's first regional since 2008.

Sophomore Rhashaun Epting was the Suburban Christian Gold Player of the Year after averaging 19.2 points and 7.8 rebounds per game.

"We were excited to win the regional and get the monkey off our back after losing the last two by two points each," coach T.J. Tyrrell said.

Congresswoman Duckworth visits Addison Trail

ADDISON — On March 28, U.S. Representative for Illinois's 8th congressional district Tammy Duckworth paid a visit to Addison Trail High School. In an address to the students, Congresswoman Duckworth talked about her military experience, the projects she's currently working on and how she became interested in politics and legislation.

An Iraq War veteran and former Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Duckworth attended the University of Hawaii, then George Washington University, where she earned a Master's degree in international affairs. After a move to Illinois, the Congresswoman earned a Ph.D. in political science at Northern Illinois University (NIU), where she worked in the School of Nursing researching public health and environmental causes of cancer. Later she worked for Rotary Clubs International, managing Clubs in the Asia-Pacific region.

In 2004, Duckworth was deployed to Iraq as a Black Hawk helicopter pilot for the Illinois Army National Guard. One of the first army women to fly combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Duckworth's helicopter was hit by an RPG on November 12, 2004, resulting in the loss of her legs and partial use of her right arm. She was awarded a Purple Heart for her injuries.

After her speech, Duckworth answered questions from students.



On March 28, U.S. Representative for Illinois's 8th congressional district Tammy Duckworth visited Addison Trail to speak with students. Top left: Duckworth shows her Addison Trail Blazer Pride by displaying a T-shirt the students gave her. Top right: Duckworth speaks with District 88 Superintendent Dr. Scott Helton (center) and Addison Trail Principal Adam Cibulka. Bottom left and right: Duckworth talks to Addison Trail students.

photos provided

Edward-Elmhurst Healthcare offers midwifery for moms-to-be

Midwives available at Elmhurst Clinic, Addison facility

ELMHURST — As a result of the merger between Edward Hospital and Elmhurst Memorial Healthcare, midwife services are available for moms-to-be in the communities served by Edward. Midwifery and Women's Health of Elmhurst Clinic's midwife practice offers care to low-risk women and provides deliveries at Elmhurst Memorial Hospital.

"Midwives are advanced practice nurses (APNs) who are nationally certified and licensed by their state," said Shirley Moore, CNM, MSN, APN, certified nurse midwife at the Elmhurst Clinic. "They are specialists in low-risk pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum and women's health. Midwives support women's choices, cul-

tural preferences and unique needs while working with a mutual understanding and respect to deliver the care all women deserve. Midwifery care supports the patient in having a natural, personalized experience with alternative comfort measures, such as hydrotherapy and warm water immersion for labor and birth."

Moore stressed that the health of the mother and baby are of the utmost importance. In the event complications arise, midwives work with obstetricians/gynecologists and medical staff to ensure mother and baby are safe and healthy throughout the delivery process.

Elmhurst Clinic midwife services include:

- Annual exams: Pap smear, HPV testing, infection testing/treatment
- Breast examination/mammography referral
- Preconception counseling

and pregnancy planning

- Comprehensive prenatal care
- Testing, ultrasound and childbirth preparation, including alternative medicine options and referral
- Birth care: Continuous support during active labor
- Breastfeeding support
- Family planning
- Menopausal care

Most women are good candidates for midwifery. Those who have diabetes, heart conditions, are prone to seizures or have other high-risk factors are discouraged from pursuing midwifery as an option during pregnancy and for delivery.

Elmhurst Clinic midwives see patients at the following locations:

- Midwifery and Women's Health of Elmhurst Clinic, 1200 S. York St., Elmhurst,
- 303 W. Lake St. in Addison;

- 1100 Lake St. in Oak Park.

The midwives deliver babies at Elmhurst Memorial Hospital, 155 E. Brush Hill Rd. in Elmhurst.

For more information, visit elmhurstclinic.org/specialties/midwifery or emhc.org/services/family-birthing-center or call (331) 221-9009.

AECC holds second meeting

Purpose is to assure comprehensive early childhood experiences

ADDISON — The Addison Early Childhood Collaborative (AECC) held its second annual breakfast meeting on Wednesday, March 26 at the Addison Public Library. The Collaborative, which is comprised of 15 member agencies, was formed in 2012 with the goal of ensuring coordinated and comprehensive quality early childhood experiences for Addison's families with young children.

After a welcome by District 4 Assistant Superintendent Chuck Wartman, he spoke about the history of the Collaborative,

highlighting the group's efforts to provide information and services for families this past year through two resource fairs and the publication of a Resource Guide for families, which is available at asd4.org/docs/earlychildhoodguide.pdf.

The Collaborative is also working to provide presentations at day care centers, schools, the Henry Hyde Center, the park district, and library complete with educational materials for families thanks to

See AECC, Page 10

ADDISON INDEPENDENT

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 14

PUBLISHED BY ROCK VALLEY PUBLISHING LLC

April 3, 2014

**INDOOR
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Saturday April 5, 2014
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

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Serenity House plans 2014 gala fundraiser

ADDISON — Serenity House Counseling Services will host their annual Gala fundraiser on Saturday, April 5 at the Empress Banquets, 200 East Lake Street in Addison. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7, followed by dancing with music by local DJ Bobby Brandolino. Tickets are \$100 per person or a table of 10 for \$1,000. All proceeds will go towards the support of residential and outpatient treatment services for individuals recovering from substance use disorders.

"Serenity House is pleased to have as this year's keynote speaker our very own DuPage

County State's Attorney Robert Berlin," said Serenity House President Lisa Labiak. "[His] efforts to promote awareness of the growing heroin epidemic in DuPage County have led to greater education and community involvement."

Proceeds from the evening will support the mission of Serenity House and help sustain the vital recovery services we provide for individuals and families within our communities."

Dozens of silent auctions items, jewelry, specialty gift baskets, weekend getaways, and a chance to win two tickets

for travel anywhere in the Continental United States, courtesy of Southwest Airlines, will also be available during a special Gala Raffle. Winner need not be present to win and tickets can also be purchased online for \$20 each at serenityhouse.com.

Please make checks payable to Serenity House Foundation, 891 S. Rohlwing Road, Addison, IL, 60101 or visit serenityhouse.com to make reservations online with your credit card. For more information, contact Lisa Snipes at (630) 620-6616 ext. 129.

Founded in 1985, Serenity House remains the only facility of its kind located in DuPage County providing comprehensive substance abuse treatment to adult men and women in extended residential care, recovery home, and outpatient services.

ATHS Science Olympiad Team qualifies for state tournament

ADDISON — The Addison Trail Science Olympiad Team has qualified to attend the State tournament on April 12 at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The team finished in second place in the Northern Illinois Regional Science Olympiad on March 15 at Rock Valley College, which earned them a bid to the 2014 state tournament.

Addison Trail Science Olympiad Team members include:

Varsity: Justin Paul, Anthony Pham, Emily Rosenquist, AJ Szczodrowski, Mario Macedo, Sid Lee, Jason Sechan, Franc De Guzman, Jerold Macaya, Julia Dziabis, Lili Linares, Raymond Loi, Robert Raniszewski and

Michal Silezin.

Junior varsity: Blake Johnson, Kiana Ongbueco, Ernie Berrum, George Koulogorgas, Jay Patel, Steven Abraham, Adrian Kominowski, Alex Dudka, Tracy Pham, Isabelle Hernandez, Jonathan Loi, Jenny Linares, Lucy Bustamante, Larry Nuehring and Jeremy Sechan.

Science Olympiad is a national science competition, where students compete in 24 science-related events, which include test taking (anatomy and physiology, dynamic planet), lab events (forensics, chemistry lab) and building (elastic launch glider, bungee drop). For more information, visit illinoisolympiad.org.



photo by Paul DelGuidice

Spring spuds for the Switchboard

A load of about 2,000 pounds of fresh potatoes was destined for the Addison Community Switchboard on Saturday, March 29. Members of the Calvary United Methodist Church in Villa Park helped load a truck with spuds during its annual "Potato Drop." A total of 42 tons of the tubers were distributed to food pantries throughout the Chicago area.

INSIDE:

Police Reports..... 4, 6 Legals.....20, 23
Sports 18 Classifieds.....21-22

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Willowbrook hosts third annual College and Career Awareness Week

VILLA PARK — From March 24 to 28, the Willowbrook Guidance Department hosted its 3rd annual College & Career Awareness Week to help prepare students for their post-high school lives.

During the week, students had the opportunity to attend a variety of seminars, workshops and events the Guidance Department coordinated to bring awareness and knowledge to all students about their various post-high school options. Events included a College Fair, a Military Fair and a Career/Vocational Fair.



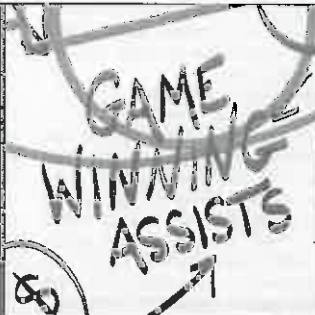
Photos provided

Student talks with DePaul representative

Willowbrook junior Matt Buhr speaks with a representative from DePaul University during Willowbrook's College Fair on March 26. The fair was part of the Willowbrook Guidance Department's 3rd annual College & Career Awareness Week.



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College and Career Week comes to WBHS

Pictured are the more than 60 colleges and universities that attended Willowbrook's College Fair on March 26 to meet with students and parents/guardians.

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32A	C&K Electronics Electronic Repairs & Sales	128	Aaron's Furniture
36	O'Reilly Auto Parts	134	Professional Center: Addison Green Meadows, Inc. Management Office
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42	Smiletown Dental	Ste. #214	CDR Construction
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ATHS performance of '12 Angry Jurors' opens April 10

ADDISON — It's not easy to stand alone and raise your voice when it differs from what's popular — but sometimes that voice is exactly what needs to be heard.

That's the message of Addison Trail's spring play, "12 Angry Jurors," which will take place April 10-12. The play depicts a jury that must consider a homicide trial. At the beginning, they have a nearly unanimous decision of guilty, with a single dissenter, who throughout the play sows a seed of reasonable doubt. These 12 then move to the jury room, where they become acquainted with the personalities of their peers and discover the importance of not always agreeing with the status quo.

"I chose this show because it's an ensemble-based performance, so it allows more of our students to be on stage," said Director Anna Jakubka. "The theme and tone of the play also balance out our season well, as it's a more serious show."

Jakubka said "12 Angry Jurors" will take place in-the-round in Addison Trail's Black Box Theatre, which means audience members will be able to surround the stage and sit on all three sides. She added the powerful message of the play is told through dialogue, rather than movement.

Addison Trail senior Brenda Sybolt plays Juror No. 8, who at first is the only one to question the defendant's guilt.

"I consider my character to be a voice of reason," she said.

"She makes people think about the other side of the situation. This character is usually portrayed by a male actor, so I'm thrilled we're bringing a female perspective to the show."

Senior Maggie O'Brien plays Juror No. 7, one of the toughest jurors to convince of the defendant's possible innocence.

"This play opens your mind and makes you see how one person can change the mindset of a room full of people — including your own," she said.

Senior Alex Ramirez agreed. "I hope the audience sees how one voice alone can make a difference and change an outcome," he said. Alex plays Juror No. 10, a character known for his bigoted viewpoints.

He added this will be the last time he and the other seniors take the stage at Addison Trail. Alex said being involved with theatre has shaped who he has become.

"I've learned to look at life from so many different perspectives through the various shows we've done and all the characters I've portrayed," he said. "It has been an amazing experience."

"12 Angry Jurors"
When: 7 p.m. April 10 through 12 (also a 2 p.m. performance on April 12)

Where: Addison Trail, 213 N. Lombard Road in Addison

Tickets: Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students, \$3 with an Activity Pass and are free with a District 88 Senior Gold Card. For tickets and information, call 630-628-3365.



The cast of Addison Trail's spring play, "12 Angry Jurors," rehearses a pivotal scene in the show. Juror No. 1 (portrayed by Addison Trail junior Michael Amadeo, standing) asks the jurors to raise their hand if they think the defendant is guilty. All but one does. Juror No. 8 (portrayed by Addison Trail senior Brenda Sybolt, left) is the only dissenter, who throughout the play sows a seed of reasonable doubt and forces the other jurors to open their minds to different perspectives.

District 4 to hold registration for Ks

ADDISON — Addison School District 4 will be holding its final kindergarten registration event for the 2014-15 school year. The event will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 4-7 p.m. All children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2014 should register for kindergarten at this time.

Registration packets are

available in all District 4 school offices and at the District Administration Center, 222 N. Kennedy Dr., Door 18. Parents should pick up packets in advance so they have time to read and complete the required paperwork before coming to register.

All students whose primary language is not English should come to register with their parents. At registration, the

students will be screened to determine proper class placement for the upcoming year.

State law requires that students attend school in the district in which they reside. At the time of registration, parents/guardians must prove residency by providing materials documenting residency and showing current address.

For more information, visit asd4.org or call 630-458-2500.



Anxious kids lined up with their moms at last year's kindergarten registration for District 4 schools. This year's event takes place Wednesday, April 9 from 4-7 p.m. at Army Trail School. Packets should be picked up at the administration center at 222 No. Kennedy Drive, Door 18. For more information, call 630-458-2500 or visit asd4.org.

• AECC

Continued from page 3

a grant from the DuPage Community Foundation.

Superintendent John Langton shared news about District 4's current plans to build a new Early Childhood Learning Center adjacent to Ardmore School and to implement full day kindergarten classes for the 2015-16 school year.

Easter Seals Referral Coordinator Michael Krupka shared information about Easter Seals DuPage and Fox Valley and the work that they do to support families with a variety of needs.

The keynote presentation, Building Language Every Day, was given by Pat Chamberlain of the Erickson Institute, who spoke about the importance of language in building a strong foundation for later academic

success.

Current AECC members include Addison School District 4, YWCA CCR&R, DuPage ROE Parents As Teachers, Easter Seals DuPage, Maria Arellano Home Day Care, Positive Parenting DuPage, PACT INC/CFC #5, Family Focus DuPage, DuPage County Health Department, KinderCare (Addison), Addison Public Library, Teen Parent Connection, Metropolitan Family Services, La Pinata Home Day Care and DuPage Children's Museum. Agency representatives included administrators, principals, and teacher. The Village of Addison, Addison Park District and North East DuPage Special Recreation Association (NEDSRA) also participated in the meeting.

Addison Trail names March recipient of 88's Best recognition

DISON — Kacper Mierzejewski has been named as Addison Trail's March recipient of 88's Best recognition for his service work. Mierzejewski, a senior, was recognized during the March 24 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

Kacper has committed himself to serving Addison Trail and the community, whether it's through working as vice president of INTERACT Club, vice president of Key Club, co-president of Environmental Club, being a core member of Pay It Forward or being involved with many other service organizations.

As a role model for his peers, Kacper's service to Addison Trail begins in the classroom. In the two years he has been at Addison Trail, Kacper has challenged himself to take some of the most rigorous courses. He has enrolled in five Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses and three honors courses.

Outside of class, he has provided key leadership in many school organizations. He serves as a leader in INTERACT Club, Key Club, Environmental Club, Polish Club, Psychology Club and Pay It Forward.

"Mierzejewski is a transfer student who immediately became involved at Addison Trail by joining multiple clubs, including INTERACT Club," said Jorge de Leon, Addison Trail social worker and INTERACT Club co-sponsor. "He has taken on a leadership role in the club. Within a very short time, he has accomplished not only a

great deal of services, but he has inspired his classmates to follow suit. This has been a very successful two years for the club thanks to Mierzejewski's leadership, hard work, consistency and commitment.

"Besides helping organize events and fundraisers, Mierzejewski is responsible for coordinating students to volunteer at the homeless shelter, PADS. Mierzejewski also has volunteered at other fundraising events, including Salvation Army Bell Ringing, the Spaghetti Dinner and buckthorn cleanup in the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Mierzejewski is the poster child of service for Addison Trail!"

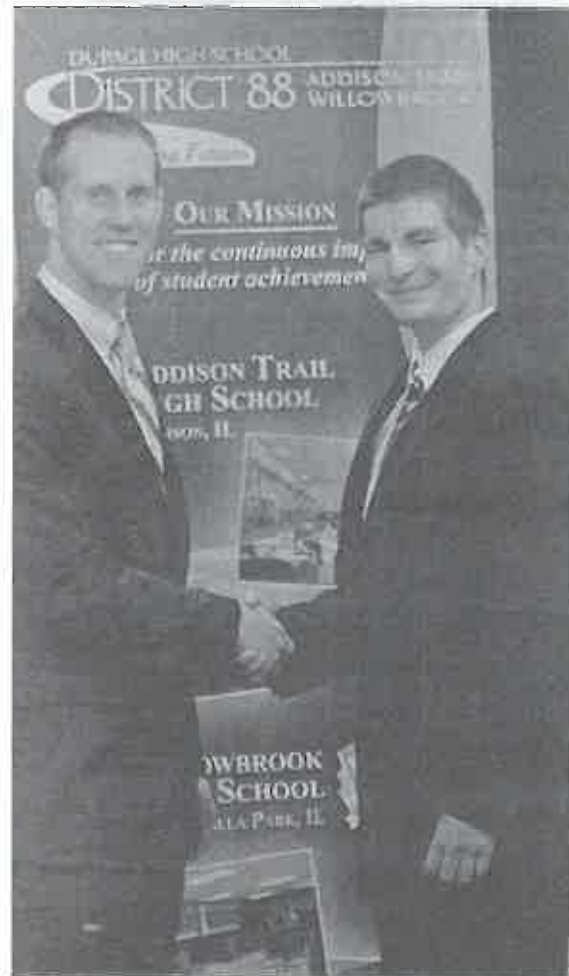
Mierzejewski also has been active in community service projects and organizations. He has helped with Feed My Starving Children, Northern Illinois Food Bank, PADS homeless shelter, the Addison recycling event, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, the Centennial Park Cleanup, the Salt Creek Cleanup, the

Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast and tutoring at Lincoln Elementary School.

"When I transferred to Addison Trail after my sophomore year, I wanted to make a change from sports," Kacper said. "Sports were not making me happy, and I wanted to find ways to volunteer and help others. Once I got to Addison Trail, I immediately began looking into all the clubs offered at the school as a way to meet new people and to help others."

Since his family immigrated to the U.S. 12 years ago, Kacper has watched his parents work long hours and make tremendous sacrifices for his family. He pushes himself academically and volunteers because he knows how much his parents have sacrificed to give him those opportunities.

Kacper plans to study at College of DuPage for two years and then transfer to a four-year college or university, where he plans to enter the medical field.



courtesy photo

red here with Addison Trail Principal Adam Cibulka is Kacper Mierzejewski who has been named as ATHS's March recipient of 88's Best recognition.



Pictured are Addison Trail seniors Bret Novak (left) and Justin Paul, who have qualified for the DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC).

Two Addison Trail seniors to compete at DECA International Career Development Conference

Addison Trail seniors Bret Novak and Justin Paul have qualified for the DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in the Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making competitive event.

DECA is a competitive club that prepares future leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management, and the ICDC will take place May 3 through 6 at Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

At the conference, about 16,000 high school students, advisors, businesspersons and alumni gather for several days of DECA excitement. Most participants at the ICDC compete in one of DECA's competitive events. The top competitors in each event are recognized for their outstanding achievements. Along with the competitive events, many students and advisors participate in a variety of leadership and career-advancing academies.



photo provided

Send-off as eight head to SkillsUSA State finals

March 27, Addison Trail hosted a send-off celebration for eight students who qualified for SkillsUSA State finals April 3 - 5 in Springfield. Pictured are (from left) Antonio Vargas, Luis Flores, Harmanpreet Singh, Miguel Garcia Sanchez, Sam Ramos and store Dugo. (Not pictured: Anthony Modica.) Singh, Ramos and Rodriguez qualified in robotics; Modica in technical math; and Dugo, Garcia Sanchez, Vargas and Ramos in automotive. The four automotive competitors were each awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for having earned a trip to State.

Willowbrook boys volleyball team starts season with victory

Wozniak lone senior returner for Warriors

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook boys volleyball team opened the 2014 season with a 25-8, 25-14 non-conference victory over Elgin Larkin.

Anthony Acitelli had three

digs. Liam Atkins had three solo blocks and one kill. Mike Ernst had one kill. Kristian Johansen had two solo blocks. Tommy King had one ace, eight assists and two digs. Avery Kirchner had one solo block and one assist. Ryan Wakely had five kills, one ace and one dig. Ben Wozniak had two kills, two solo blocks, three aces and five digs.

"It was a good way to start the season," said Willowbrook

coach Ryan Bazon. "The kids got acclimated to playing together. It was nice to get that first win under our belt. You are never going to complain about that. We'll get back in the gym and work on some things. We're young and we're going to have to work on things after every match."

The Warriors also dropped a 31-29, 25-20 non-conference match to Glenbard East.

Acitelli had one assist and 12 digs. Atkins had one kill and four solo blocks. Ernst had two kills and three solo blocks. King had 16 assists and one dig. Kirchner had two kills, four solo blocks and five digs. Wakely had eight kills, one solo block and one dig. Wozniak had eight kills, one solo block, one ace and eight digs.

Willowbrook is coming off a 2013 season where it went

26-11 and took second in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division with a 5-1 mark. Willowbrook finished behind state-champion Downers Grove South in conference play.

The Warriors graduated 11 players from last year's team and return only senior Wozniak from that group. Wozniak is a 6-1 outside hitter.

"We have one senior and 11 juniors," said Bazon. "It's nice having Ben back with that varsity experience."

Wakely will provide help on the outside.

"Ryan has the chance to be a fantastic player," said Bazon. "He has a lot of raw talent."

King takes over at the setting position.

"Tommy is replacing a two-year varsity starter and he will be one of the leaders on the court," said Bazon.

Acitelli will provide help on the defensive front from his libero position.

Bazon noted some members of the team play on The Hitmen club team in the off-season, which features a mixture of Willowbrook, Glenbard East and Glenbard West players.

"They all play year-round," he said. "There is a calmness with each other on the court already which is nice to see. They are a young group right now. They go out and they love the game and they have no fear. One of their really strong points is their volleyball knowledge. They are easily coachable and they are athletic as well."

Bazon said getting more varsity match reps under the team's belt is of critical importance.

"The speed of the game at the varsity level vs. the junior-varsity level is much different," he said. "They need that varsity experience. We need to see how they respond to adversity. Then we can get in the gym and fix what we see in matches."

Bazon said another plus is the fact the group has been in the program and witnessed the success of previous varsity teams.

"The seniors that graduated last year had 52 wins over the last two years," said Bazon. "These juniors have seen that since they were freshmen. Hopefully they continue to grow with the successes we've had over the last three years. I expect that they will continue to grow."



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**Elmhurst Memorial
Healthcare**

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

"We're itching to get out and get a barometer of how we are doing," said Olson. "It's been tough with the weather. I think this group has a lot of potential. There are a lot of untangles going into it. Can we do it done defensively? We need to make plays on a consistent basis. I think we have the ability to score and put pressure on teams, but the key is we have to pick up the ball. I want to see these girls be successful because they have put in so much hard work."

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