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February 26, 2015

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Welcoming freshmen, Paying It Forward

Pictured is the CORE team of Addison Trail student leaders who helped run the school's annual Pay It Forward event on Feb. 14 to welcome incoming freshmen. Also pictured are volunteer teacher leaders who coordinated the event. Full story inside this issue. photo provided

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Superintendent's Student Leadership Team provides youth insight

ADDISON/VILLA PARK — On Feb. 13, about 25 students from Addison Trail and Willowbrook attended a Superintendent's Student Leadership Team meeting.

During that meeting, the students spoke with District 88 Superintendent Dr. Scott Helton, Addison Trail Principal Adam Cibulka and Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause about what is going well in the district and what could be improved from their perspective. They also reviewed the calendar for the 2015-16 school year with the administrators.

Later in the meeting, Willow-

brook Social Worker Erik Engel led the students in an exercise to think about how District 88 student leaders could partner with the elementary school districts that feed into the District's high schools. The students discussed with the administrators some ways they could mentor the younger students on topics such as substance abuse and healthy relationships.

Helton meets with the Superintendent's Student Leadership Team throughout the school year to gather feedback from the students and to hear firsthand how they feel about District 88.

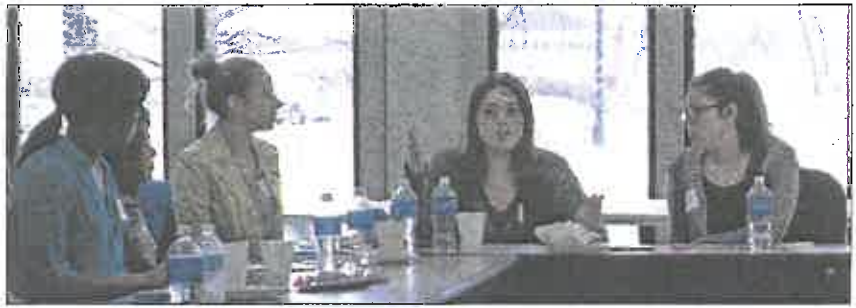


photo provided

Addison Trail senior Stephanie Diaz (second from right) speaks with her peers during the District 88 Superintendent's Student Leadership Team meeting on Feb. 13. The event offered administrators a rare chance to learn how the youth really feel about their school and the District.

District 88 takes part in African-American History Month

ADDISON/VILLA PARK — Throughout the month of February, Addison Trail and Willowbrook students and staff have been recognizing African-American History Month through various events and learning opportunities.

For example, District 88 students, staff and administrators were able to enjoy a viewing of the movie "Selma" as part of African-American History Month. Several local officials and legislators joined the group for that viewing including Addison Police Department

Director of Police Timothy "Bill" Hayden, Addison Mayor Rich Veenstra, State Rep. Deb Conroy (D-46th District) and State Rep. Kathy Willis (D-77th District), and District 88 Superintendent Dr. Scott Helton.

At Addison Trail, a PowerPoint presentation that shares the history, accomplishments and contributions of African-Americans is being displayed throughout the month. At Willowbrook, information about the history, accomplishments and contributions of African-

Americans is being shared with students and staff during Monday announcements throughout February.

Students from both high schools will participate in the Black Student Leadership Conference on Feb. 24 at College of DuPage to learn leadership skills and to learn about the college admission process and pursuing a career. In addition, Addison Trail students will attend the Black Women's Expo from March 27-29 at McCormick Place in Chicago.

From Feb. 9-13, Willow-

brook held Spirit Week to celebrate African-American History Month.

Both schools designed T-shirts to promote African-American History Month.

DuPage County praised for obesity prevention efforts

DU PAGE COUNTY — The FORWARD initiative, a program of the DuPage County Health Department, is one of only 11 counties and cities nationwide to be highlighted for its obesity prevention accomplishments on the Rob-

ert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) website.

Launched in 2009, FORWARD has been the key driver of the County's efforts to create healthier communities and has

See OBESITY, Page 6

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Kazoos make the news

Stone School 2nd graders performed the song "Under the Sea," on kazoos at their Musical Literacy Showcase on Thursday, February 19. Full story and more photos inside this issue.

The good news is... U.S. economy still best in world

Senior economist brings good news

By Dee Longfellow
For The Independent

While recovery from the "Great Recession," ending in June of 2009, has been slower than desired, the U.S. economy remains the world's best and 2014 closed out better than projected, according to William A. Strauss, senior economist and economic advisor in the Economic Research Department at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

Strauss served as keynote speaker at the 13th Annual Economic Outlook Luncheon held at the Hilton/Oak Brook Hills Resort and Conference Center in Westmont on February 25. It was attended by a record 340 businesspeople from Elmhurst and 11 other West suburban chambers of commerce.

By the numbers

Strauss shared the following statistics:

- America's economy, or Gross Domestic Product (GDP), expanded by 2.5% in 2014 and 3% in the Midwest, compared to the historical average of 3% growth. The Fed forecasts GDP growth at 2.9% in 2015; 2.8% in 2016; and slightly less in 2017.

- Since the economy bottomed out in 2008-09, annual growth has averaged only 2.3%, compared to 4.9% and 4.3% following the recessions of 1981-82 and 1974-75, respectively. The economy has grown 14% since 2009, compared to the 30% growth over the five years following 1982.

- After losing 8.7 million jobs from Dec. 2007 through Feb. 2010, America's workforce has added more than 11 million new jobs, including 3.2 million in 2014—a 2%

growth compared to the 1% need. Some three million workers, or 4% of the labor force, are employed only part-time when full-time is wanted or needed.

- The unemployment rate, which has dropped 4.3% since the October of 2009 high, has fallen to 5.7%. It is expected to return to the historical norm of 5.2% by 2017, if not 2016. Still, 30% of those unemployed have been out of work for six months or longer.

- The labor force has dropped by 3% to the lowest level since 1977, with retiring baby boomers accounting for half to two-thirds of that figure. Those age 55 and older comprise a growing percentage of the employed and 20% of those age 65 and older are still working. However, four million workers who "didn't just drop out" have stopped looking for employment, Strauss said.

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI), interest rates and rate of inflation all are expected to remain below historical norms at around 2%. The Federal lending rate, which is expected to increase slightly up in 2016, will remain below historical norms of 3.5% to 4%.

- With only 5% of the earth's population, U.S. manufacturing accounts for 24% of the world's production, compared to 25% in 1970, with China a distant second at 16%. Manufacturing has recaptured 116% of its production loss, averaging 4.9% growth annually, but only 38.2% of its jobs loss due to increased worker productivity and technology gains.

- While still well below historical norms, housing starts totaled 1.2 million in 2014 compared to a projection of 1.1 million in

2014, but were still below the historical norms of 1.4 to 1.5 million.

- The stock market has set records highs and has grown at a rate comparable to the 1990s.

Pay It Forward event welcomes incoming freshmen to AT

ADDISON — On Feb. 14, Addison Trail hosted its annual Pay It Forward event to welcome incoming freshmen.

About 300 students participated in this year's event, which was themed "The Hunger Games." Incoming freshmen spent the day with Addison Trail students and staff, learning what it means to be an Addison Trail Blazer. The day included various leadership workshops, speakers, team-building exercises and activities to help students understand what it means to "Pay It Forward" in high school and in life. A CORE team of high school student leaders led Pay It Forward. Volunteer teacher leaders were present to assist with the team-building exercises and to answer questions throughout the day.

Pay It Forward gives eighth-grade students an opportunity to build a foundation at Addison Trail before they even step into the building as freshmen. The event concluded with a reflection period and a dance, where students were able to celebrate their work.

For more information, contact Rob Schader at rschader@dupage88.net or 630-628-3328.

SPORTS

FEBRUARY 26, 2015 • 7

Addison Trail boys basketball team gettig ready for home stretch

Blazers earn No. 9 seed at East Aurora sectional

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail boys basketball team was rewarded for its improvement this season.

The Blazers earned a Top 10 seed in the upcoming Class 4A East Aurora sectional. Addison Trail is the No. 9 seed in the 22-team field.

In recent action, Addison

Trail dropped a pair of West Suburban Conference Gold Division games to Proviso East. The Blazers lost 68-66 on the road (a makeup game due to weather) and 69-60 at home.

"It was two different games in a sense," said Addison Trail coach Brendan Lyons. "In the one game we were down by 20 at halftime after playing the worst half of basketball of the season and then we had a great third quarter and came back and cut it to five, but we didn't have enough left to finish it off. In the other game, it was tied with 30 second left and we

gave up an offensive rebound put-back with four seconds left and that was the difference. We played well for the most part in both games. But against a team like Proviso that is very aggressive defensively with pressing from baseline to baseline you have to take care of the basketball and rebound and have a great tempo. We didn't get to that point in both games. We had too many turnovers and we gave up too many offensive rebounds."

Jaavion Bradley led Addison Trail in one of the Proviso games with 23 points. Taylor

White was the Blazers' leading scorer in the other game with 18 points.

"We're getting good contributions collectively as a group," said Lyons. "When we are playing well we get really good team efforts. We continue to play solidly."

Lyons also lauded the play of Dante Frontier and sophomore Jack Kalbas.

"Donte had two solid games against Proviso," said Lyons. "Jack played well and gave us a lot of good energy."

The two losses put Addison Trail at 14-8 overall.

"I like this group," said Lyons. "The big thing is we need to get back to playing better defense in the half court. We've played a lot of close games early in the year that we won with good defense. The differences in our wins and losses have not been by wide margins. The guys understand we have to do that. It's just a question of going back to that and getting a couple of breaks to go our way."

Addison Trail played its West Suburban Conference cross-over game earlier this week.

Willowbrook's Rowland and Jessen finish second at state wrestling

Fenton's Alfaro fourth; Addison Trail's Jastrzebski strong at state bowling finals

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook wrestling program's long list of accomplishments over the years just got a little larger.

Willowbrook junior Matt Rowland and freshman teammate Jack Jessen each took second in their respective weight classes at the recent Class 3A state finals in Champaign.

Rowland, wrestling in the 152-pound division, won his first match 9-4 over Hinsdale Central's Juwan Edmond and then scored a 6-1 victory over Wheeling's Munkhtulga Zuunbayan. In the semifinals Rowland was a 5-0 winner over Alton's Nicholas DeLoach.

In the finals, Rowland dropped a 9-3 decision to familiar foe Walter White Jr. of Oak Park-River Forest.

Rowland finished the season with a 50-4 record.

At 170 pounds, Jessen won his first match via fall in 2:58 over Highland Park's John Ciancio. He then scored an 8-3 win over Sandburg's Brian Krawowski. In the semifinals, Jessen downed

Belleville East's Matthew Striegel 7-4. Jessen then dropped a 5-4 match to Marmion's Riley DeMoss in the 170-pound state championship match.

Jessen finished the year 52-4.

Addison Trail wrestling

Addison Trail senior Anthony Metallo went 1-2 at the Class 3A state wrestling finals in Champaign.

Wrestling in the 145-pound division, Metallo opened with a pinfall win in 5:05 over Marmion's Michael Callahan. He then lost 7-3 to Crystal Lake South's Eric Barone. In the consolation bracket, Metallo dropped a match by fall in 5:59 to Yorkville's Brody Sharp.

Metallo finished the season 38-10.

Fenton wrestling

Fenton senior Juan Alfaro placed fourth at 170 pounds at the recent Class 2A state wrestling finals in Champaign.

Alfaro started off with a 6-3 win over Champaign Central's Trystan Schoonover. He then pinned Lemont's John Polk in 5:38.

Alfaro then lost 13-2 to Troy Triad's Cole Witzig in the semifinals.

Alfaro came back to score a 5-4 win over Geneseo's Cole Hunzeker in the consolation bracket and then lost via pinfall in the third-place match to Oak Forest's Patrick Kristin.

Senior Antoine Bess wrestled at 120

pounds and lost via fall in 1:56 to Washington's Elijah Oliver in his first match and then lost via major decision to Oak Forest's Alan Durham. Bess finished the year 32-11.

Willowbrook girls gymnastics

Willowbrook senior Tamara Mendez competed in two individual events and the all-around competition at the recent IHSA state gymnastics finals at Palatine High School.

Mendez placed 33rd on beam with a score of 7.825 and took 34th on the vault with a 9.200.

In the all-around competition, Mendez was 32nd with a score of 33.425. She earned a 9.200 on vault, a 9.125 on beam, a 7.8250 on beam and a 7.2750 on floor exercise.

Addison Trail girls bowling

Addison Trail senior Amanda Jastrzebski finished 44th at the IHSA state girls bowling finals at Cherry Bowl Lanes outside of Rockford.

Jastrzebski found herself tied for 41st place after the first day of competition. She rolled a 1,242 series that included a 661 effort (203, 245 and 213 games) and a 581 (203, 206 and 172 games).

On the final day, she rolled games of 182, 178 and 194 for a 554 and then came back in the final session with games of 224, 223 and 214 for a 661.

Jastrzebski finished with a total score of 2,457 and averaged nearly 205 pins a game for the tournament.

Willowbrook girls basketball

The Willowbrook girls basketball team lost a 51-35 decision to Hoffman Estates in Class 4A regional play recently.

Hoffman Estates led 15-11 after the first quarter and 26-18 at halftime.

Michala Giammarrino led the Warriors in scoring with 10 points (1 three-pointer). Sam Schmidt had six points and nine rebounds, while Breonna Brown added six points. Sidney Planz had five points, Kalya Konrath had seven rebounds and Cheyenne Brunig had two steals.

Addison Trail girls basketball

The Addison Trail girls basketball team dropped a 49-28 decision to Elk Grove at the Class 4A Addison Trail regional.

Addison Trail's Kelly Delawder advanced to the sectional portion of the Class 4A state 3-pointing shooting contest.

Fenton girls basketball

The Fenton girls basketball team lost 40-26 to Glenbard North in quarterfinal action of the Class 4A St. Charles North regional.

Addison Trail's O'Neill 12th on beam at state gymnastics

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Addison Trail sophomore girls gymnast Kennedy O'Neill finished her season with a bang.

O'Neill earned a state medal on beam by placing 12th in the event at the IHSA state finals at Palatine High School.

O'Neill finished with a score of 7.90 on beam on the final day of competition. She advanced

to the finals after tying for 10th place with a 9.075 in the preliminary round.

O'Neill also placed 27th on bars with an 8.80 and took 24th in the all-around competition with a 36.00 score. In the all-around she scored 9.275 on vault, 8.800 on bars, 9.075 on beam and 8.850 on floor exercise (total average score of 9.00).

"With beam this year I've mostly stayed clean and stayed on the beam," said O'Neill earlier last week. "I've made sure that I have good form and good presentation and show everything off on beam."

O'Neill added that she increased her skill level on the bars. "I worked hard over the summer and increased my skill difficulty," she said. "That has

paid off a lot this year. I do some things that not a lot of people do. It was weird at first learning it, but once I got it and mastered the skill it wasn't hard at all. A lot of times people will gasp when they watch because they aren't used to it. It's an eye-opener and not a lot of people are used to it."

O'Neill has been competing in gymnastics for the better

part of a decade, starting off in a park district program.

"My parents put me in there," she explained. "I tried every other sport and gymnastics is what stuck with me."

O'Neill did club gymnastics up until she entered Addison Trail.

"I just decided to do high

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Staying focused

Fenton senior Antoine Bess ends season at state tournament

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Fenton senior wrestler Antoine Bess said a focused mind can lead to big things in the sport.

"You have to keep your mind focused and that's something I've improved on a lot," he said. "It's a really huge part of wrestling. Wrestling is a great sport where anybody can be good. It doesn't matter how big or fast you are, as long as you have that successful mentality. You must

have the proper mindset."

Confidence also plays a big role.

"That's part of it too," he said. "I feel like every match I've had I've gained more confidence regardless if I won or lost."

Bess has combined the mental side with an improved technical game this season. That helped land him a spot in the Class 2A state finals tournament this past weekend in Champaign.

Bess also takes pride in the level of his conditioning on the mat.

"My conditioning is probably the best thing I have," he said. "Because of my conditioning I can wrestle for a long time. Wrestling is a very taxing sport. I feel like I can go on forever out there. You can't get gassed out there."

Bess started wrestling in high school. He wrestled his first year at Elk Grove High School.

"One of my friends bet me I couldn't do it (wrestle)," he said. "I had to prove him wrong. He said I wasn't cut out for it. I ended up doing well with it."

Bess would like to wrestle in college and would like to study exercise science/kinesiology.

Getting to the state tournament was a crowning achievement for Bess.

"Not making it last year was heart-breaking. I lost in the sectionals," he said. "I was downtrodden the whole summer. It motivated me for this year. Getting there means a lot to me. It's something I've worked on for the past four years. This makes up for last year. This means so much to me and to the Fenton program."

Addison Trail's Metallo finishes strong

Senior wrestler competes in Class 3A state finals

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Addison Trail senior wrestler Anthony Metallo saved the best for last.

Metallo wrapped up his high school wrestling career this past weekend in Champaign with his first appearance in the Class 3A state finals.

"Making it down there

means a lot," he said earlier last week. "I've been working every year trying to make it and have come up short before. I finally did it."

Metallo, who was 36-6 heading into the tournament with 23 pinfall wins, said he's noticed an overall uptick in all parts of his wrestling game.

"Pretty much everything has improved," he said. "I have more of a mental focus. The mental approach to wrestling is very important. You can be physical and have it all there,

but once you start doubting yourself, that takes away from everything. I try and go out there and do whatever it takes. I'm very determined. I go out there every time and wrestle like it's my last match."

Metallo cited his performance in the Class 3A sectional several weeks ago as one of his favorite achievements.

"In the sectional tournament I pinned three kids in a row to make it to state," he said.

Metallo has been wrestling

since he was six or seven years old. He had been playing in the Addison Cowboys football program when he noticed a flier for wrestling.

"I said I'd try it. Why not?" he said. "I fell in love with the sport. I love the individual part of it. You don't have to worry about anybody else out there but yourself. When you beat someone one-on-one it feels great because you did it."

Metallo, who also played four years of football at Addi-

son Trail, said he would like to play football in college and is looking into the University of Wisconsin-Platteville as a possible destination.

Metallo added the experiences he had in football and wrestling at Addison Trail will stick with him for many years to come.

"Our school has the greatest coaches," he said. "They have taught me so many different things. I've learned so many different life lessons through my years here."

Immediate impact

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Willowbrook freshman Jack Jessen was a known commodity on the wrestling circuit before he ever stepped foot onto a high school mat.

Jessen has enjoyed tremendous success at the youth national level (earning four national titles) and continued that into his first high school

season where he qualified for the Class 3A state finals tournament at 170 pounds.

"I've gotten better at learning moves and getting smoother with my shots," he said earlier last week. "I work hard at escaping. I feel I can get away from anyone. I believe in myself."

Jessen said he's most comfortable when he's wrestling on his feet. "I do a lot of hand

fighting and go for a lot of shots. I have a lot of offense," he said. "I feel very comfortable on my feet. I like being on offense on my feet."

Wrestling is nothing new for Jessen, who has been involved with the sport since he was five in the Villa Park Young Warriors program.

"I love the competitiveness of everything," he said. "It's you and the other guy on the mat. It's a good combat sport that I've fallen in love with for years."

Jessen downplayed the earlier success he's had or any notion of what might be around the corner for him.

"I'm still trying to realize my potential," he said. "The experience I've had has helped me tremendously with my technique and my mental game. I've become stronger because of it and I'm calmer. I go out there and I do my thing. I'm not distracted by the stage I'm on or the crowd. I don't see it as pressure. I'm only a freshman. I'm just trying to make something happen."

Jessen said wrestling kids

three grade levels higher doesn't bother him. "I don't see age," he said. "You see kids getting bumped up all the time in age divisions. I've been wrestling older guys for a while."

Jessen said his rise to success could not have happened without the support he's received.

"I have received a lot of support and there is a big family

environment around here," he said. "That also has been a big help."

Jessen was excited that he attained one of his major goals.

"My goal was to get downstate this year," he said. "Anything I do down there is icing on the cake. Looking back I could have never imagined myself being in this spot. And I still have three more years to improve."

• GYMNASTICS

Continued from page 7

school gymnastics," she said. "There was a lot less stress involved and it gave me time to do other things such as track (O'Neill competed in the 100, 200, triple jump and long jump last year as a freshman) and dance."

O'Neill also is a standout in the classroom where she has a 4.5 grade-point average. She doesn't mind the busy schedule she has between academics and extra curricular activities.

"Club gymnastics taught me how to manage my time," she said. "I'm very good at doing

that. I plan everything out so I can make time for everything."

O'Neill noted having the experience of being in the state meet as a freshman has helped as well.

"It gives me more confidence," she said. "Going in I know what to expect. Last year I had no idea what to expect. I'm very happy with what has happened. My goal was to make it downstate all four years. To qualify this year, I was so excited. It shows the hard work is paying off and that is very exciting."

Willowbrook freshman Jack Jessen has quickly made a name for himself in high school wrestling



Addison Trail to host International Fest Week, Dance Show Case

ADDISON — From March 3-6, Addison Trail will celebrate International Fest Week.

Throughout the week, students will enjoy programs and presentations about cultures from throughout the world —

including some presentations by their classmates.

On March 6 at 7 p.m., about 150 students will take the stage for the International Dance Show, which will feature 18 different dances representing

18 countries.

"It never ceases to amaze me how unified the students become through participating in the International Dance Show," said Lily De La Torre, a co-sponsor of the event. "They realize you don't have to be from a certain country to show passion for a dance from that country. The diversity of the dances brings the students together and unifies them."

Each piece has a student leader in charge of the music, choreography and costumes for the dance. Seniors Gabriella Papas and Brandee Samiow, co-leaders of the Mongolian

Traditional Dance, said the best part was how it gets students to learn about different cultures.

Junior Sangeetha Nair is the leader of the Indian Traditional Dance and has participated in that dance since her freshman year.

"I really enjoy representing my heritage," she said. "I have been a dancer for 10 years, so I love performing on stage."

She said what makes the International Dance Show unique is it features dances from different countries on one stage from the perspective of students.

"Audience members can

expect a rocking performance from India," Nair smiled.

Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and children, \$3 with an Activity Pass and are free with a District 88 Senior Gold Card. For tickets or more information, contact International Dance Show co-sponsors Annette Severino (aseverino@dupage88.net or 630-458-4508) or Lily De La Torre (ldelatorre@dupage88.net or 630-458-4165). A portion of the proceeds from this year's event will be donated to ChildrenUP, a charity that helps students in northern Uganda be advocates for their education.



photo provided

Addison Trail senior Gabriella Papas (left) and sophomore Monica Valdez rehearse their dances for the school's upcoming International Dance Show. The show is part of International Fest Week at Addison Trail and will take place on March 6. It will feature 18 dances that represent 18 countries.



all photos provided

The students in Ms. Mundle's class danced to the story of "Little Red Riding Hood."

District 4 preparing for kindergarten registration

ADDISON — Addison School District 4 will be holding kindergarten registration for the 2015-16 school year for children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2015. Registration for all kindergarten students will take place Army Trail School, 346 Army Trail Blvd., on the following days:

- Friday, March 6, 8-11 a.m. and 12-3 p.m.
- Thursday, March 19, 4-7 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 8, 4-7 p.m.

Registration packets are now 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 will

be screened at registration 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.

All kindergarten classes will be full-day classes in 2015-16. Kindergarten classes will be housed in all of District 4's elementary school buildings—Ardmore, Army Trail, Fullerton, Lake Park, Lincoln, Stone, and Wesley Schools—for the first time since 1992. Providing kindergarten classes in every 'home' school has necessitated a redrawing of elementary school attendance boundaries. The new attendance boundaries can be found at asd4.org.

For more information, call 630-458-2500.



Musical Showcase performed by second graders at Stone

ADDISON — Stone School second graders performed song and dance as part of their Musical/Literacy Showcase on Thursday, February 19. The students sang a variety of songs related to favorite stories, including "Beauty & the Beast," "You've Got a Friend in Me," and "Under the Sea."

The students also demonstrated dance steps that they have learned through a program led by Kelly Stokes of the Salt Creek Ballet. Stokes had visited the second grade music classes over a period of seven weeks to help the students visualize and act out parts of different fairy tales and folk tales, while learning ballet movements and listening to musical masterworks.

The students in Ms. Mundle's class danced to part of the story of "Little Red Riding Hood," while Mrs. Dorta's class portrayed the story of "Puss in Boots."

Left: The students also demonstrated dance steps that they have learned through a program led by Kelly Stokes of the Salt Creek Ballet.

Addison Trail sends three students to state tournaments

ADDISON — On Feb. 18, Addison Trail hosted a State sendoff celebration for sophomore Kennedy O'Neill and senior Anthony Metallo.

O'Neill was to compete in the IHSA Girls Gymnastics State Meet on Feb. 20 and 21 at Palatine High School. She was to perform in the all-around, bars and beam events.

Metallo was scheduled to attend the IHSA Boys Wrestling State Tournament, which took place from Feb. 19-21 in Champaign. He was to compete in the 145-pound division.

On Feb. 19, Addison Trail hosted a State sendoff celebration for senior Amanda Jastrzebski. Jastrzebski was to take part in the IHSA Girls Bowling State Tournament on Feb. 20 and 21 in Rockford. Her high score is 290.



ANTHONY METALLO



KENNEDY O'NEILL



AMANDA JASTRZEBSKI

ADDISON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Monday, March 2

Church hosts "One Hour with Jesus"

From 10-11 a.m., Addison Aglow invites residents to join in praise and worship for "One Hour With Jesus" at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church at 1213 W. Army Trail Blvd., Addison, between Mill and Lombard Rds. Come early at 9:30 a.m. to join in prayer. At this time babysitting is not available. Info: aglow.org

Thursday, March 5

March meeting features local author

At 7 p.m., at Addison Village Hall, the Women's Club of Addison will welcome Jamie Freveletti—author, trial attorney, martial artist, runner and Chicago resident—who will address Club members at the meeting. The Women's Club of Addison meets the first Thursday of each month at 7pm at the Addison Village Hall. Guests are welcome.

Saturday, March 14

Experimenting in Watercolor

Sponsored by the Addison Art Guild, "Experimenting in Watercolor" with Suzane Hetzel will be held from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Addison Trail art department, 213 N. Lombard Road. To register, call 630-250-9407.

Saturday, April 11

Making Spring Sing with Colored Pencil

Sponsored by the Addison Art Guild, "Making Spring Sing with Colored Pencil" with Peggy McGahan will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Addison Trail art department, 213 N. Lombard Road. Pre-registration is necessary. Info: call 630-250-9407.

Ongoing events...

• ACA student art show

The Addison Center for the Arts is presenting an art exhibition by Addison School District 4 art students now through Friday, Feb. 27 in its Gallery at 213 N. Lombard Road, Addison, inside Addison Trail High School. Enter door #4. Gallery hours are Wednesday-Saturday from 1-4 p.m. To arrange a private showing, call 630-458-4500 or addisoncenterforthearts.com.

• Armendariz watercolor exhibit opens March 4

Opening March 4, the Addison Center for the Arts will showcase "Essense: Old Yankee Stadium," a watercolor exhibit by artist Tony Armendariz. It will remain through March 28. An artist reception will be Friday, March 13, 2015 from 7 - 9 p.m. Info: 630-458-4500 or addisoncenterforthearts.com.

• Addison Park District open gym

The Park District will be having an open gym for all ages from 3-5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and from 6-10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays at the Centennial Rec Center gymnasium. Fees: \$2.50 for children in eighth grade and younger on regular days, or \$4 for extended days and weekends; \$3 for ages high school and older on regular days, or \$5 on extended days and weekends. Info: go to addison-parks.org or call 630-233-7275.

• Widows or Widowers (W.O.W.) meet each month

Widows or Widowers (W.O.W.) of the Western Suburbs will meet on the third Thursday of each month and has a variety of social activities. The meetings are

held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 537 S. York Road, Elmhurst, starting at 6:30 p.m. Admission: \$5. Info: (630) 620-4060 or wow.cfsites.org.

• Active Adults Senior Club

Adults, ages 55 or better, are invited to Park District's Active Adults Senior Club on Tuesdays from 12-2 p.m. at Community Rec Center, 120 E. Oak Street. For more information, contact Teresa Grodsky at (630) 233-7275, option #2.

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



photo provided

Practicing pliés

These Stone School 2nd graders learned dance steps from Kelly Stokes of the Salt Creek Ballet, who met with them over a period of seven weeks to teach the steps and the accompanying music.

Choir concert...

WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL'S music department presented a choir concert last week in the school auditorium. The March 10 concert featured performances from the beginning mixed chorus, the treble choir and the concert choir. The photo on the right shows members of the concert choir during the final song of the night—an African folk song entitled "Dubula." The song, arranged by Stephen Hatfield, is about a mother trying to rock her baby to sleep. The nearby birds wake up the baby, so the mother scares the birds away to allow her baby to sleep. The concert choir performed under the direction of choral director and music department chair Karyn Wolcott. The Willowbrook music department's next concert will take place on Thursday, April 9, in the auditorium. That event, which will begin at 7 p.m., will include performances from the jazz band, jazz combo and CenterStage show choir.

Photo by Chris Fox



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VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

Vol. 56 No. 11

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Price 60¢

Candidates for Villa Park Village Board take part in forum

The Villa Park Junior Women's Club (VPJWC) held a candidates forum at Villa Park Village Hall on March 11. The participants in the forum included candidates running for seats on the Villa Park Village Board in the April 7 election. Lizzie Roscoe of the VPJWC moderated the forum, which featured questions submitted by village residents. The club provided the questions to the candidates before the forum to allow the candidates to prepare their answers.

The portion of the forum that included the candidates for the village board lasted a little more than an hour. Three of the candidates running for the three available four-year terms on the board took part in the event, as did all three candidates who are running to fill the remaining two years of a seat on the board. That seat became vacant when Trustee John Davis resigned for medical reasons in October. All six of the candidates who participated in the forum answered six questions.

The forum's participants included the three incumbent board members who are seeking four more years on the board—Trustee Chris Aiello, Trustee Albert Bulthuis and Trustee Donald Kase. Bulthuis, who was first elected to the board in 2007 and re-elected in 2011, is seeking his third term. Aiello and Kase are both running for their second full terms on the board. The three men were the only candidates for three available seats on the board in the 2011 election. This year's race for three full terms on the board includes one challenger—Bradley Phillips—who did not attend last week's forum. Reached by e-mail on Monday, Phillips stated he cancelled his appearance after experiencing pain following a doctor's appointment on the morning of the forum. Phillips contacted the VPJWC before the event to inform the club that he would not be attending the forum.

The three candidates who are running to serve the remaining two years of the seat vacated by Davis are Diane Blair-Sherlock, Nick Cuzzone and Catherine Sewell.

The portion of the forum featuring the six residents running for the village board began with introductory remarks from each candidate. Aiello noted that he's lived in Villa Park for most of his life. Bulthuis stated that he has lived in the village since 1987, while Kase mentioned that he has lived in the village for 44 years.

(Continued on the next page)



Discussing the issues...

Photos by Chris Fox

THREE CURRENT MEMBERS of the Villa Park Village Board participated in the March 11 candidates forum. The above photo shows (left to right) trustees Chris Aiello, Albert Bulthuis and Donald Kase. The three incumbent trustees are joining challenger Bradley Phillips in running for three available full terms on the village board in the April 7 election. Phillips did not attend the forum, citing pain he experienced following a doctor's appointment. Bulthuis was first elected to the board in 2007. He was re-elected to another term in 2011. Aiello and Kase were both elected to their first four-year terms in 2011. The three trustees did not face any other opposition in the race for three available seats in the 2011 election.



Three candidates seek one seat on the board...

IN ADDITION TO FEATURING three candidates for three full terms on the Villa Park Village Board, last week's candidates forum at Villa Park Village Hall included the three candidates running for a two-year term on the board. Those three candidates (pictured above, left to right) in the election of April 7 are Diane Blair-Sherlock, Nick Cuzzone and Catherine Sewell. The three residents are running to fill the remaining two years of the term vacated by former Trustee John Davis, who resigned for medical reasons last fall.



photo provided

Seven AT students qualify for BPA National Conference

Pictured are the Addison Trail students who have qualified for the Business Professionals of America (BPA) National Leadership Conference, which will take place from May 6 to 10 in Anaheim, Calif. They are (top row, from left) junior Alex DeLaRosa, senior Franc De Guzman, senior Joanna Villalobos, senior Julia Dziabis, junior Kamila Tychonowicz, (bottom row, from left) sophomore Leslie Tolentino and senior Maggie Sumbulla.



Celebrate Easter with the Addison Park District

Plans announced for Breakfast with the Bunny, Egg Hunts

ADDISON — Hop over to Community Park Saturday morning, March 28, for the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast.

The Addison Kiwanis Club is sponsoring this free, All-you-can-eat pancake breakfast which will include sausage and a choice of milk, orange juice or coffee. Breakfast is served from 8-11:30 a.m. inside Community Rec Center, 120 E. Oak Street. Donations to Addison Kiwanis Club are gladly

accepted at the door. Egg Hunts planned for the little ones

After hiding more than 5000 candy and toy-filled eggs outdoors at Community Park, the Easter Bunny will be available for photos with children of all ages from 8:30 – 10 a.m., following the breakfast. Then, all are invited to line up outside for the Easter Egg Hunt, which begins promptly at 10:30 a.m., ending just moments later. Bring a camera for memorable photos and children should bring their own Easter Basket to collect the eggs.

Illinois leads the nation in grant reform

Grant Accountability and Transparency Act passes on March 3

SPRINGFIELD — Grant reform is finally a reality, as lawmakers announced the implementation plan of the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) on March 3 in Springfield. After years of fiscal mismanagement, lawmakers from both parties came together to create a national model that implements uniform guidelines and standards to increase transparency and accountability in the administration of federal and state grants, according to Senator Pamela Althoff (R-McHenry).

"This legislation strengthens accountability and transparency for the funding of

programs provided by and through the State of Illinois, which accounts for approximately 72% of the total General Revenue fund budget," she said.

House Bill 2747, or GATA, was the product of the Illinois Single Audit Commission created in July 2013 under House Bill 2, sponsored by Sen. Althoff to develop a coordinated, non-redundant process for oversight of grant recipients.

This Commission was a response to several reports of waste and abuse in recent grant programs—most scathing of them being former Governor Pat Quinn's \$50 million Neighborhood Recovery Initiative (NRI) that was proposed in 2010 as a way to "combat violence" in Chicago; however, the grant money was not directed to many of Chicago's most dangerous neighborhoods, Quinn relied on Chicago alderman when picking what organizations would receive money, and there is no evidence that it was effective in preventing violence.

The lack of accountability and transparency in the NRI program is just one example of how taxpayer dollars were spent irresponsibly. As a member of the Commission, Sen. Althoff worked extensively with her legislative colleagues Sen. Dan Kotowski (D-Park Ridge), Rep. Patti Bellock (R-Hinsdale) and other Commission members such as

Carol Kraus from the Illinois Department of Human Services to develop legislation that would address inefficiencies and fraud in the administration of federal and state grants.

In the Illinois State Budget there are 462 individual grant appropriations, ranging from \$400.00 to \$4.5 billion. The Illinois Single Audit Commission concluded that of the estimated \$45 billion in total grant appropriations, 6 percent of total revenues are lost to fraud, waste and abuse. GATA addresses current policy by focusing on program outcomes, reducing costly redundant administrative burden, increasing efficiency, establishing uniform guidelines, optimizing resources and assisting grantees in implementation.

"Illinois is the only state in the country that has adopted legislation that requires a comprehensive set of standards that enforces accountability and transparency throughout the entire grant process," said Sen. Althoff. "In the words of Carol Kraus, 'GATA improves the integrity of the financial management and operation of State and Federal pass-through grant programs.'"

The Grant Accountability and Transparency Unit is working with the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) to adopt rules for Federal and Federal pass-through grants by July 1, 2015.

Tweens, teens can enjoy Flashlight Hunt

New for 2015, the Addison Park District will host a Tweens and Teens Flashlight Egg Hunt on Friday, March 27 at 8 p.m. at Centennial Park, 1776 W. Centennial Place. This egg hunt includes a golden egg, which contains an extra special surprise. Participants must bring their own flashlight. There is a nominal participation fee for this event and early registration is recommended.

For more information or to register, visit addisonparks.org.

County offers incentives for developers to 'build green'

WHEATON — The DuPage County Board approved an incentive program to encourage developers and property owners to "build green" projects throughout the County. Following the approval of these incentives by the Stormwater Management, Environmental, Economic Development and Development Committees, members voted unanimously to implement a list of incentives that reduce permitting time and costs for projects that qualify under standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council.

"These incentives will help us conserve natural resources, reduce environmental impacts, develop sustainability initiatives and promote economic oppor-

tunity for residents throughout DuPage," said Tonia Khouri, chair of DuPage County's Economic Development Committee.

The new Green Building Incentive Program enables private sector developers or property owners who implement green design standards into their projects to receive the following incentives:

1. Expedited Building Permit Review (25% time reduction)
2. Expedited Stormwater Review for both Incorporated and Unincorporated projects (25% time reduction)
3. Reduction of Building Permit, Zoning and Plat application fees (10% fee reduction)

4. Expedited Zoning (ZBA) and Plat process

All types of construction and development projects that meet the USGBC criteria for Platinum or Gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification would qualify for the incentives.

Applicants do not actually have to register or certify their projects with the USGBC, but simply demonstrate that their projects would qualify. Applicants should submit a request for program consideration at the time of permit submittal.

For more information, contact the Regulatory Services Division at (630) 407-6700 or visit dupageco.org/greenbuildingincentive/.

Willis joins with Attorney General to protect consumers against identity theft

SPRINGFIELD — In an effort to protect consumers from identity theft due to data breaches at major companies, state Rep. Kathleen Willis (D-Addison) has joined colleagues in Springfield and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan in sponsoring legislation to strengthen security requirements for websites and major storers of personal financial information.

"I am proud to support this legislation because as technology advances, we need to make sure consumers' personal information is protected against hackers and other criminals," said Willis. "This legislation is a good step to make sure that tougher measures are in place to help protect our citizens."

Under the proposed legislation, any company that collects data and experiences a breach of security will be required to notify the Attorney General's Office immediately, or must issue notice to the media. The new law would also require data collectors to maintain stronger security measures to ensure personal information is better protected against hackers. Finally, the bill requires that operators of a website that collects personal information online must post their privacy policy for consumers to review before submitting any personal information.

"As we hear more and more stories of major retailers experiencing data breaches where millions of people's financial information is stolen, it is vital that we are being proactive in protecting our financial security," said Willis. "I'm proud to be working on this legislation with the Attorney Generals' office because consumers deserve to know that action is being taken to keep their personal and financial information secure."

Kathleen Willis is serving her second term in the Illinois General Assembly as State Representative of the 77th District, which includes O'Hare Airport and portions of Addison, Bellwood, Bensenville, Franklin Park, Maywood, Melrose Park, Northlake, Stone Park, and Wood Dale.

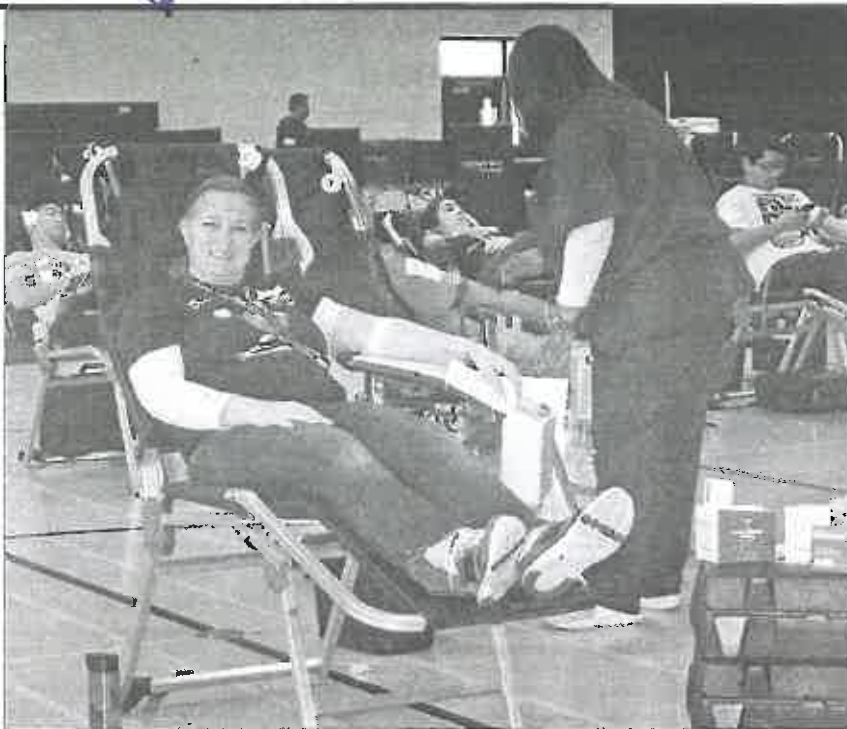


photo provided

Addison Trail hosts blood drive for LifeSource

On March 11, 207 Addison Trail students and staff members participated in a blood drive at the school. Pictured above is science teacher Carolyn Erwin. According to the American Red Cross, one unit of blood can help three people. For more information, visit lifesource.org.



all photos provided

Pictured are floral arrangements created by local florists and Addison Trail students that were raffled off during Addison Trail's annual Flower Show on March 10.

Top left: Addison Trail senior Yanet Gutierrez and senior Edward McCormick showcase their arrangement.

Top middle: Senior Gabriella Papas (left) and senior Gabriela Hernandez share information about their arrangement.

Top right: Senior Rosalind Macho (left) and senior Bianca Aldana raffie off their arrangement.

Left: Junior Alexander Bennici shows his arrangement to audience members.



Addison Trail hosts 43rd annual Flower Show

ADDISON — On March 10, more than 100 people filled the auditorium at Addison Trail to enjoy the school's 43rd annual Flower Show. The event showcased the talents of local florists and Addison Trail Horticulture Club students, and about 60 flower arrangements were raffled off. Students walked around the room displaying the flowers, and proceeds from the show will benefit the Addison Trail horticulture program.

Addison Park District spring break camps

The following camps are being sponsored by the Addison Park District. For more information, call the Park District at 630-233-7275 or go online to: addisonparks.org

Spring break camp

The Park District is sponsoring a spring break camp for ages 3 to fifth grade. There will be five fun-filled days of parties, field trips, games, sports, crafts and fun in the sun.

Participants need to bring a sack lunch and a drink each day. Field trip schedules are now available at the registration offices. Children must be potty-trained.

The fee is \$170 for the week for residents; \$190 for non-residents.

Each trip originates from the Centennial Rec Center. A trip to Xtreme Trampolines in Carol Stream will be held Monday, March. Departure time is 12:30 p.m. and the return time is 3 p.m.

On Tuesday, March 31, there will be a trip to the Picture Show movie theater in Bloomingdale. Departure time is 11 a.m. and the return time is 2:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 1, there will be a trip to Legoland in Schaumburg. Departure time is 12 noon and the return time is

4 p.m.

From 1:30-3:30 p.m., there will be a swim at the Club Fitness Pool at the Centennial Rec Center.

On Friday, April 3, there will be a trip to Pump It Up in Elmhurst. Departure time is 9:30 a.m. and the return time is 1:30 p.m.

A Day Off Fun Day will be held on Monday, April 6 at Enchanted Castle. Departure time is 9 a.m. and the return time is 1 p.m.

Nature camp

A week-long camp all about nature for ages 5-12 will be held each day from 1-2 p.m. Monday through Friday, March 30-April 3, at the Army Trail Nature Center, 270 N. Lombard Road. There is a fee of \$59 for residents, \$69 for non-residents.

Have fun going on nature walks around a pond or on walking trails. Doing creative projects such as art prints, bug-BINGO, making a bug home, making a bug out of rocks and more also will take place.

Enjoy being outdoors looking for insects and animal prints while discovering all that nature has to offer. In case of inclement weather, the camp will meet at the Centennial Rec Center.



photos provided

AT host International Dance Show

On March 6, more than 300 people attended Addison Trail's International Dance Show, performed by Addison Trail students, pictured here. The event featured 18 dances that represented 18 countries. The show raised about \$2,800, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to ChildrenUP, a charity that helps students in northern Uganda be advocates for their education.



all photos provided

Annual POPS Concert takes place at ATHS

On March 7, Addison Trail presented its annual POPS Concert, which featured performances by the school's music groups. About 400 people attended the event, and proceeds will go to the Music Booster Scholarship Fund for Addison Trail seniors, as well as other Music Booster Club initiatives to benefit students. The evening also included a split-the-pot, raffle prizes and dinner before the concert.

ADDISON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Friday, March 27

Flashlight Egg Hunt for Teens and Tweens

Beginning at 8 p.m., teens and tweens are invited to Centennial Park, 1776 W. Centennial Place, for a Flashlight Egg Hunt in the dark! One golden egg containing a special surprise will be hidden among the others for one lucky winner. There is a nominal fee to participate. Info or to register: 630-233-7275 or addisonparks.org.

Saturday, March 28

Park District Easter Breakfast, Egg Hunts

From 8-11:30 a.m., the Addison Kiwanis Club will host a free All-U-Can-Eat breakfast at the Community Rec Center, 120 E. Oak St. The event is free, but the Kiwanis would gladly accept donations.

After the breakfast, youngsters are invited outdoors for an Egg Hunt beginning promptly at 10:30 a.m. Bring your own Easter Basket to collect eggs and don't forget the camera. Info: 630-233-7275 or addisonparks.org.

Sunday, March 29

Celebrity basketball game fundraiser

From 2-5 p.m. at Army Trail School in Addison, there will be a celebrity fundraiser basketball game featuring former pros. Those invited include Ronnie Bull and Robin Earl, former players for the Chicago Bears; Willie Roy from the world of pro soccer; and, Harry Theodore and Joe Welkome, elected officials

considered the "Addison All Stars." Tickets are \$10 each. For tickets and information, call Don Figarelli at 630-530-7061.

Monday March 30-Friday April 3

Addison Park District spring break camp

The Park District is sponsoring a spring break camp for ages 3 through fifth grade. Each day, kids will take a trip departing from the Centennial Rec Center on the following schedule:

Monday, March 30: Xtreme Trampolines in Carol Stream;

Tuesday, March 31: Picture Show Movie Theater in Bloomingdale;

Wednesday, April 1: Legoland in Schaumburg;

Thursday, April 2: swimming at the Club Fitness Pool at the Centennial Rec Center;

Friday, April 3: Pump It Up in Elmhurst.

On Monday, April 6, there will be a trip to Enchanted Castle in Lombard.

Participants need to bring a sack lunch and a drink each day. Children must be potty-trained. Fee: \$170 for the week for residents; \$190 for non-residents. Info: 630-233-7275 or addisonparks.org.

Addison Park District nature camp

A week-long camp all about nature for ages 5-12 sponsored by the Addison Park District will be held every day from 1-2 p.m. Monday through Friday, March 30-April 3, at the Army Trail Nature Center,

Arts Alive comes to Indian Trail School

ADDISON — Another session of Arts Alive: An After School Program is coming to Indian Trail Junior High School for students in grades 6, 7 and 8. They will have a chance to explore Theatre and Visual Arts by participating in workshops taught by professional working artists. Funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the DuPage Community Foundation and the Addison Center for the Arts, the program is coordinated by Sue Bortko, team art teacher at IT and Annette Leiber from the ACA.

Workshops will include:

• Theatre with Tony Pagaleo

Students will be writing a script for a play or a film using improvisation. Students will be taught several acting and improv techniques.

• Designer Batik with Lynn Reising

Students will be doing and ancient Indonesian fabric dyeing technique. Batik uses wax and dye to create awesome patterns and design on fabric. Students will create a fabulous bandanna using wax, dye and fabric using their creative design ideas.

• Fun with Oil Pastels with Jan Duntelman

Students will be shown step by step on how to paint a beautiful painting. Mistakes are easily corrected with oil pastels with beautiful results.

• Graphic Fashion Design with Megan Czervionke

Students who like to draw will

enjoy fashion/graphic designing. This printmaking workshop will have students making their own T-shirts. They will draw a design of their own creation, learn how to use heat-transferring technology and learn printmaking techniques.

For more information, contact ACA at 630-458-4500.



photo provided

This student dabs off some excess as she works with pastels, as part of Arts Alive. The workshop on pastels was taught by local artist Jan Duntelman. Arts Alive is partly funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

270 N. Lombard Road. There is a fee of \$59 for residents, \$69 for non-residents. In case of inclement weather, the camp will meet at the Centennial Rec Center. Info: call 630-233-7275 or go online to: addisonparks.org.

Thursday, April 9

Addison's own "Antiques Roadshow"

The Women's Club of Addison will host a fundraiser called "The Addison Antiques Roadshow" with John Leonard, professional antique dealer and local expert. Members and guests will enjoy dinner at Venuti's, appraisal of selected antique pieces by John Leonard, and raffle drawings for free prizes. Tickets are \$55 per person. (Time to be announced.) For information, call Cindy at 630-628-6036.

Saturday, April 11

Making Spring Sing with Colored Pencil

Sponsored by the Addison Art Guild, "Making Spring Sing with Colored Pencil" with Peggy McGahan will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Addison Trail art department, 213 N. Lombard Road. Pre-registration is necessary. Info: call 630-250-9407.

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

SPORTS

MARCH 19, 2015 • 22

No quit Addison Trail's Stephanie Messina has plenty to be proud of after coming back from two knee surgeries

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

To say Addison Trail senior girls basketball player Stephanie Messina is determined might be the understatement of the year.

Messina battled her way back from two ACL tears in her left knee in the span of two years. Her determination and work ethic got her back on the court this season where she was a consistent contributor to coach Rob Schader's Blazers squad.

Messina tore her first ACL in December of her sophomore year.

"It was in a game. We were going into halftime and I was on a fast break and cut wrong and tore it," she explained.

That injury put her out of action for six months.

In the late winter of her junior year, Messina tore the ACL in the same left knee.

"The second time it was an open gym and I was playing with some of the boys," she said. "I jumped and tore it again. The next day was our last game of the year."

But this time, Messina came back even quicker. She was cleared to resume athletic activities in just four months.

"I did the rehab every day for two hours and that helped me get back into it," she said. "I knew that my senior year would maybe be the last time I ever play. I wanted to get back in the gym as quickly as possible. I wanted to come into my senior season strong."

While Messina missed the majority of summer activities this past season, she was ready to roll once regular practices and games started.

"I was still able to do ball handling and some passing and some of the easy, basic stuff," she said.

The thought of throwing in the towel after the second injury never crossed Messina's mind.

"No. I wasn't going to quit," she said. "I knew I had suffered the same injury previously so I thought I could come back even stronger the second time and prove people wrong. I wanted to come back stronger after that second one."

Messina said being cleared to play the second time was one of the happier days she's had.

"I was so excited when I got that release form," she said. "I can't explain how happy I was. I was ready for the season."

Messina admits this past season brought with it some adjustments after the second injury.

"I do think that because I tore the ACL the second time, it slowed me down a little bit," she said. "I was a lot more cautious with the things I did, but

overall I was happy with how I played. This was the last time I was going to be able to play with my teammates."

Messina, who played varsity volleyball her sophomore and junior years but missed her senior season while she was recovering from the second knee injury, has her eyes set squarely on the future.

She's going to study elementary education and minor in special education at Arizona State University. Messina's family has a house in Arizona and her late grandfather used to live there.

"I'm used to the area and I love the weather," she said. "I can see myself there. It's a great place to be. I

love working with kids. I've coached the past couple of years with the Addison Girls Sports Club and the junior high where I went (Indian Trail) and with the Junior Blazers travel

team."

Messina is leaving the door open to coaching more in the future. "That's something that looks good in my future," she said. "When my career gets to that point, that's something that is in my goals."

Before heading to Arizona Messina is looking forward to spending time with family and friends.

"With the time I want to hang out with them and enjoy the time," she said.

Looking back, Messina said she has plenty to be proud of.

"They say the normal time to come back from an ACL tear is about nine months," she said. "I got back the first time in six months and in four months after the second time. I didn't know if I could come back after doing it two times, but I did. It was a big achievement."

Plenty of positives

Veteran coach Anderson lauds team's effort this past season

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Fenton girls basketball team's W-L record might not seem like much to an observer.

The Bison finished 7-22 overall and went 0-12 in their first year in the Metro Subur-

ban Conference West Division.

But that doesn't mean longtime coach Tim Anderson wasn't happy with what he saw.

"Success means different things to different people," he said. "We had a successful season. I've been doing this a

long time and I was very much at peace with the satisfaction I had with this season. I am so proud of these girls. They rose to the challenge this year. Many times our performance did not match the effort these girls put into it. That's OK. If it was the other way around, over the course of a season you will have all kinds of issues come out.

"I never questioned their effort and dedication and resolve. I couldn't be happier with the effort part of it. We were all in agreement that if the performance part of it was close to the effort at times, we would have been a little more successful in terms of wins and losses. But we were successful. They kept working hard every day and I am so proud of them for that. This is a wonderful group of kids that stuck together through a tough year."

Anderson noted the team's schedule this season was vastly different than ones of season's past.

"We played a very tough schedule," he said. "It was one none of us were used to. I

was proud of the way the girls handled it. Next year we will know what we are facing. It was a very interesting year in terms of a lot of changes and adjustments to the new conference and new division. Look at a team like IC (Catholic Prep). They finished fourth or fifth in our conference and came within a basket of making the state championship game in Class 2A. Our conference is tough game in and game out."

Anderson said one contributing factor to the conference's competitiveness was the abundance of senior contributors on each team.

"It was kind of senior-dominated," he said. "If you look at the all-conference list, the majority of kids are seniors. And then you have Riverside-Brookfield, whose three all-conference players were sophomores. They are probably the team to beat next year."

Senior Dana Fritz earned all-Metro Suburban Conference West Division honors. She also was named the team co-MVP with Jessica Bango.

"Dana had a very nice year for

us," said Anderson. "She did an outstanding job and deserves to be all-conference and deserves to be our co-MVP."

Anderson also lauded Bango's contributions.

"Jessica wound up playing all five positions for us at one time or another," he said. "She was by far our most versatile player. She's one you have to have in there. There were times where she would bring the ball up for us and other times she was out there playing the '5'. To me that's what most valuable means. She's only a junior I'm looking forward to watching her play next year."

Fenton will return five players from this year's team.

"Our next job is to take the five girls coming back and the girls who are working their way up from the under levels and get them ready," said Anderson. "I'm excited for the future here."

Fenton graduates seniors Fritz, Val Andrews (team's leading rebounder this season), Bianca Valadez, Daisy Mora.

See EFFORT, Page 27



2015 REGISTRATION DAY—SATURDAY, March 21st!

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Boys and Girls ages 7-14 New registrants need two copies of their birth certificate.

Now offering Flag Football and Mini Cheer for ages 5-7!

Only \$25.00 deposit due at registration to secure a spot on a team. Players and cheerleaders must be present at registration for equipment and uniform sizing.

**March 21, 2015
9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at
Willowbrook High School
1250 S. Ardmore Ave,
Villa Park**

Call Jean Taylor for more details 630-542-8452.

ADDISON

Suburban Life

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ADDISON
MAYOR VISITS
TRAINING
FACILITY

PAGE 2

FACE OFF

Candidates talk issues
ahead of April 7
local elections

PAGES 4, B2, 2



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ADDISON Suburban Life

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ON THE COVER

The DuPage High School District 88 Board of Education election is one of many contested races in the area.
Ryan Berry for Shaw Media



2015 ELECTION CANDIDATES

Early voting starts March 23. Election day is April 7.



Responses have been received for special.

View your ballot online, and election calendar for complete details.

DUPAGE HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 88

What are the most pressing issues facing DuPage High School District 88? I believe that the most pressing issues are maintaining the high standards and accomplishments of the district while being faced with less-certain state funds with no decrease in unfunded mandates and being able to pay teachers well enough to both keep and attract truly gifted teachers.

What specific experience makes you a good fit for the DuPage High School District 88 Board of Education? I have assisted teachers and administrators in creating environments for student success in a wide variety of settings, from rural to suburban to urban. I have helped schools decrease negative school behaviors while increasing academic achievement. I have been in education for 17 years and have worked with a variety of districts as a consultant for almost eight years.



Jan Donovan
Villa Park

What are the most pressing issues facing DuPage High School District 88? Using the money of our district wisely to get the most benefit for our students and stay with in our budget.

What specific experience makes you a good fit for the DuPage High School District 88 Board of Education? I have been a previous member of the District 88 board and I can operate as part of a team. I have been endorsed by the Daily Herald newspaper.



Timothy Gillen
Villa Park

What are the most pressing issues facing DuPage High School District 88? I feel the issues facing DuPage High School District 88 are over-testing, lack of state finance, unfunded mandates.

What specific experience makes you a good fit for the DuPage High School District 88 Board of Education? I believe very strongly that every child should be able to get a good education that would allow them to be successful in the future, whether they want to go to a four-year university or receive vocational experience. I work well with others and have strong communication skills.



Blanca Jessen
Villa Park

What are the most pressing issues facing DuPage High School District 88? I believe that the looming cost shift of pensions, reduced funding from the state and unfunded mandates will be the most pressing issues to run our district. To cover these costs while also covering our current costs will make it more challenging for us, but we still want rigorous and enriching courses for our students to be successful beyond high school. We know that many of the programs and interventions we have in place are working for the betterment of our students and cannot be slashed to balance a budget. So we will have to look where we can to save money in order to keep these in place.

What specific experience makes you a good fit for the DuPage High School District 88 Board of Education? I have been on the District 88 board for the past eight years and have gained invaluable experience while serving on different committees. One of those is the financial committee that oversaw negotiations with the various union and nonunion entities that now have contracts aligned with the CPI. I am on the technology committee that works on keeping the district as technologically current as our budget allows. I am also the board representative for the Willowbrook Citizens Advisory Council, so this keeps me abreast of the wants and needs of the students, parents and community.



Sharon Kucik
Villa Park

What are the most pressing issues facing DuPage High School District 88? I think the impending decisions to be made in Springfield will present the district with the greatest challenges. The possible changes to the school funding and the pension cost shift will directly impact the district. The district will have to face those challenges while still providing a high-quality education to the students within the district.

What specific experience makes you a good fit for the DuPage High School District 88 Board of Education?

I have been a member of the Addison community for 48 years. I have a strong commitment to the community and its members. I am an Addison Trail graduate as well as my four children, which has given me a strong understanding of the district and its goals. I have been a board member for the past four years. As a member, I have had the opportunity to expand my knowledge of the district. I am a member of several board committees and have attended board member training. Working for a local municipality has given me experience and understanding of how successful organizations should function.



Lisa Lullo
Addison

Mayor, state rep. visit Addison training facility

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

ADDISON - Addison Mayor Rich Veenstra and state Rep. Deb Conroy, D-Villa Park, recently toured the Symbol Training Institute in Addison.

Established in 2005, Symbol's Addison facility was created as a way to meet the demand for a skills-training pipeline for the manufacturing industry.

"The manufacturing facilities in our area often tell me that they have open jobs; however, they cannot find qualified candidates with proper training," Conroy stated in a news release. "Facilities like Symbol help fill that gap and can connect manufacturing facilities with individuals who have the training necessary to begin a prosperous and rewarding career in manufacturing."

The Symbol Training Institute pro-

vides education and hands-on training in programming, setup and operation of computerized numerical control machines, according to its website.

The facility recently earned accreditation from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills, the release stated.

The institute has another location in Skokie.

To learn more, visit symboltraining.edu.

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Rose, Skinner join teams in NCAA DI hoops tourney

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

The NCAA men's and women's basketball tournaments bring some of the best young athletes to the national stage. This year's tournaments have plenty of local talent on display.

MEN

Division I

Frank Kaminsky

College: Wisconsin

High school: Benet (Lisle)

An All-American and contender for every conceivable player of the year trophy, Kaminsky's stock has sky-rocketed since Wisconsin's tourney run last year. The 7-foot Lisle native has not disappointed in his senior season, racking up 18.4 points per game, while averaging 8.1 rebounds and 1.6 blocks. The No. 1-seed Badgers tip off the tourney at 8:20 p.m. Friday.

Charlie Rose

College: Iowa

High school: York

The former York standout walked on to the Iowa men's basketball team his first season at the school. He appeared in seven regular season games this season and converted the only field goal he attempted, a 3-pointer against North Dakota State. The Hawkeyes face Davidson at 6:20 p.m. Friday.

Lee Skinner

College: Wofford

High school: Glenbard East

Skinner is Wofford's third-leading scorer, averaging 10 points per game, and is tied for the lead in rebounds with 5.8 boards per game. The Lombard native led the way in the Southern Conference championship victory against Furman, recording 17 points, three rebounds and two assists. The Terriers played Arkansas on Thursday to start the tourney.



Photo provided by Steve Woltmann/North Central College Athletics

Anita Sterling (No. 35) battles for position in a game this season against Hope College. The North Central College sophomore played in 26 games this season as the Cardinals made the NCAA Division III tournament.

Division III

Connor VanderBrug

College: Calvin College

High school: Timothy Christian

A standout for Timothy Christian

last year, the Calvin freshman made an immediate impact for the Knights. He played in all 29 games and finished third on the team with 9.5 points per game while also hauling in 3.7 re-

bounds per contest. The Knights finished the season with a 22-7 record and lost 81-69 against Mount Union in second round of the NCAA Division III tournament.

WOMEN

Division I

Whitney Holloway

College: Notre Dame

High school: Montini

A senior, Holloway has seen action in 15 games this season and has contributed 13 points, 10 assists, 10 rebounds and two steals.

Kelly Karlis

College: Ohio

High school: Montini

A freshman for the Bobcats, Karlis made an impact in limited minutes. In eight games played, she shot 51 percent from the field and averaged 6.1 points and nearly three rebounds per game. No. 14-seed Ohio starts tournament play at 5:30 p.m. Saturday against Arizona State.

Jasmine Lumpkin

College: Texas A&M

High school: Montini

Lumpkin, who began her collegiate career this season at Michigan State University, transferred to A&M in January but is not eligible to play for the Aggies this year. She had started 14 of the first 15 games for the Spartans and was averaging 5.5 points and 4.2 rebounds a game.

Division III

Anita Sterling

College: North Central

High school: Willowbrook

Sterling played in 26 games this season and averaged 6.0 points and 4.2 rebounds per contest. The sophomore hit 27 3-pointers and shot nearly 80 percent from the free-throw line and added 29 steals.

Elmhurst's Favia wins wrestling tourney title at Tulsa Nationals

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

ELMHURST - Joey Favia would have had a hard time making weight after the Tulsa Nationals youth wrestling meet.

That's because the Elmhurst wrestler brought home some extra hardware from the prestigious national tournament in January.

Favia was the national champion in Division I (six years old and under) in

the 61- to 70-pound weight class in what is one of the most challenging youth tournaments in the country. He took home a huge eagle trophy and a gold medal for his winning effort.

The tourney had more than 6,000 wrestlers from 40 states enter, and Favia was one of a select few to win a championship.

Favia wrestles for Gomez Academy and attends Emerson Elementary school in Elmhurst.



Elmhurst's Joey Favia captures the gold medal and eagle trophy at the Tulsa Nationals youth wrestling tournament in January. Favia won in Division I, 61 to 70 pounds.

Photo provided

Meet SLM's all-area boys basketball team

The boys basketball season finishes up with the Class 3A and 4A state

finals on Saturday. That makes now the perfect time to honor the best

players from local schools with the 2015 all-area team.



Jaavion Bradley

■ **SCHOOL:** Addison Trail
 ■ **YEAR:** Senior
 ■ **IMPACT:** Bradley proved he is more than just a standout football player. The 6-foot-3 guard showed an all-around game, averaging 6.8 points, 4.1 rebounds and team-highs in assists (2.3) and steals (1.6) per game, and was named all-conference in the West Suburban Gold.



Jake Bruns

■ **SCHOOL:** Willowbrook
 ■ **YEAR:** Senior
 ■ **IMPACT:** Alonzo Verge Jr. led the Warriors' improvement this season, but he needed another scorer to take Willowbrook to another level. Bruns stepped up to become a deadly outside shooter and a key senior presence in the Warriors' shared title in the West Suburban Gold.



Troy Burrows

■ **SCHOOL:** IC Catholic
 ■ **YEAR:** Junior
 ■ **IMPACT:** When Rhashaun Epting left the team in January, the Knights needed someone to step up as the team's leading scorer. Burrows did just that, averaging 13.6 points per game and 2.1 assists per game to help IC advance to the regional championship game.



Mike Finley

■ **SCHOOL:** Glenbard East
 ■ **YEAR:** Sophomore
 ■ **IMPACT:** Finley used the experience he gained as a freshman on varsity to turn into a more consistent player as a sophomore. He averaged 11 points and 5.5 rebounds per game and was honorable mention all-conference in the Upstate Eight Valley.



Terrance Lakes

■ **SCHOOL:** Glenbard East
 ■ **YEAR:** Junior
 ■ **IMPACT:** The point guard took control of the Rams' offense and had a well-rounded game on both offense and defense. Lakes averaged about seven points, three assists, three rebounds and two steals per game.



Luke Libert

■ **SCHOOL:** York
 ■ **YEAR:** Senior
 ■ **IMPACT:** Libert, a two-year varsity starter, was a steady senior presence on a team that had few seniors. The point guard ran the offense for the Dukes and emerged as the leader of the team, helping York win its third straight regional title.



Will Lyles

■ **SCHOOL:** IC Catholic
 ■ **YEAR:** Junior
 ■ **IMPACT:** Lyles showed great improvement from last year when he was used as a bench player for the Knights. The 6-foot-3 junior averaged 9.5 points, 4.9 rebounds and 1.5 blocks per game while shooting 48 percent from the field.



Robert McGivney

■ **SCHOOL:** Timothy Christian
 ■ **YEAR:** Senior
 ■ **IMPACT:** The 6-foot-6 post player took his game to another level and led the Trojans in points (9.8), rebounds (8.5) and blocks (2.3) per game. He also shot 50 percent from the field and was a big reason the Trojans shared the Metro Suburban East title.



Jayvon Thomas

■ **SCHOOL:** York
 ■ **YEAR:** Senior
 ■ **IMPACT:** The All-Area MVP was one of the best pure scorers in the area with the ability to make a jump shot or drive to the basket seemingly at will. He averaged 18.8 points per game to lead the Dukes this season.



Alonzo Verge Jr.

■ **SCHOOL:** Willowbrook
 ■ **YEAR:** Sophomore
 ■ **IMPACT:** Verge exploded on the scene to be one of the state's breakout players. Before missing the last two games to cut his and Willowbrook's storybook season short, he was the top scorer in the area. Verge averaged 23.4 points, nearly five rebounds, four steals and three assists per game.



Taylor White

■ **SCHOOL:** Addison Trail
 ■ **YEAR:** Senior
 ■ **IMPACT:** In his third year on the Blazers' varsity team, White became a team leader and helped Addison Trail win 15 games. White, a 6-foot-2 guard, averaged a little more than 12 points per game, a team high, this season and was all-conference in the West Suburban Gold.



Honorable mention

■ **ADDISON TRAIL:** Matt Gontarek and Eric Grygo
 ■ **GLENBARD EAST:** Jack Grigat and Patrick Peterkin
 ■ **IC CATHOLIC:** Austin Reed and Jordan Rowell
 ■ **MONTINI:** Michael Mooney
 ■ **TIMOTHY CHRISTIAN:** Joe Davidson and Ben Lodewyk
 ■ **WILLOWBROOK:** Chris Roycroft and Kyle Rushing
 ■ **YORK:** Ryan Camp and Jack Julian

Willowbrook alumnus honored by Princeton University

**Jack Robertson,
a senior, accepts
Moses Taylor
Pyne Honor Prize**

VILLA PARK — Willowbrook alumnus Jake Robertson has always had a passion for academics and a desire to continue his education.

But he never could have imagined that drive would lead him to the path of success he's on today.

Robertson, class of 2011, is a senior at Princeton University and recently received the university's Moses Taylor Pyne Honor Prize. It is Princeton's highest general distinction, awarded to an undergraduate who displays excellent scholarship, strength of character and

effective leadership. Professors put forth names of prestigious students, and the committee gathers more information about those nominees. Robertson was one of two recipients this year and received a monetary award as well.

"I was blindsided," Robertson said. "There are no words to describe what it means to me to be recognized by Princeton. Being at this campus has really changed my life, and I'm extremely grateful and honored."

Robertson is majoring in Slavic languages and literatures and is pursuing certificates in theater and Russian, East European and Eurasian studies. He received the Pyne Prize during an awards ceremony on Feb. 21, which was Alumni Day.



photo provided by Alumni Association of Princeton University
Pictured is Willowbrook alumnus Jake Robertson (class of 2011), who recently received Princeton University's Moses Taylor Pyne Honor Prize.

As an award recipient, he had the opportunity to address the audience, which included his friends, family as well as Queen Noor of Jordan. To watch Rob-

ertson's speech, visit tinyurl.com/pnad555.

"During my speech, I reflected on what I've accomplished at Princeton and how I've grown from the day I first stepped foot on campus into the man I am today," he said. "I also shared the experiences and opportunities I've had and thanked all those who have supported me."

During his time at Princeton, Robertson has been involved with the theater program; has written for the Princeton Triangle Club; has been the Artistic Director of Princeton's Quipfire! Improv Comedy; and has been a co-host and writer for "All-Nighter," Princeton's late-night talk show.

Next up is a trip this fall to Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where he has been accepted into the Master's program for acting.

Knowing he hasn't achieved this level of success on his own, Robertson thanks his parents for their love and support. He added the staff and positive environment at Willowbrook also helped him thrive. While at Willowbrook, he received the "District 88's Best award," was president of the National Honor Society, was vice president of the Thespian Society and ranked in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) State Tournament in speech two years in a row.

"Willowbrook has amazing facilities, especially if you're willing to take advantage of them," he said. "I learned to seize every opportunity I could, and the guidance I received helped me grow. The teachers challenged me, but they were always there to mentor me as well."

• CAPSULES

Continued from page 5

• During the Formal Agenda portion of Monday's meeting, Village President Deborah Bullwinkel appointed Finance Director Kevin Wachtel to the Fire Pension Board.

• During the Consent Agenda portion of Monday's meeting, the Board approved eight items.

a) Bill listing dated March 9, 2015 in the amount of \$404,522;

b) Minutes of the Village Committee of the Whole meeting of February 23, 2015;

c) Minutes of the Village Formal Board Meeting of February 23, 2015.

d) This item was moved to a separate vote because Trustee Chris Aiello, Don Kase and Bob Taglia had a conflict of interest. The item was passed in a separate vote.

e) The first and final reading of an ordinance amending the number of Class I liquor licenses from nine to ten. This was pursuant to a request by Allegra Banquets, 237 W. St. Charles Rd. (formerly Villa Nova), to sell alcohol for consumption at tables or the bar on premises.

f) A resolution approving an intergovernmental agreement between Villa Park and Milton Township. This resolution was needed to allow Villa Park volunteers to train for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) at the extensive program offered by Milton Township.

g) A resolution authorizing a software license agreement with Harris Computer Corporation for CityView Software program. At a cost of \$51,500, this software will allow creation and tracking of a master address and parcel identifica-

tion database. The software will also include a code enforcement module and a mobile access module.

h) A resolution authorizing participation in the 2015 ComEd Green Region Grant Program for Prairie Path tree replacement. The resolution was needed to allow Villa Park to apply for a \$10,000 grant from ComEd for tree replacement. If awarded, the Village would need to match the grant.

i) A resolution authorizing an engineering agreement with Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers for the Twin Lakes Street Improvement Program and Sidewalk Installation Project. This allows the Village to hire Baxter & Woodman to design the improvements needed for streets in the area bordered by Armitage Ave, North Ave, Harvard Ave. and Ardmore Ave. The agreement is at a cost not to exceed \$111,500. The proposal would be funded from the recently issued street repair bonds.

• The first and final reading of an ordinance was passed, approving a recapture agreement for sanitary sewer usage related to the property at 50 East Hill St. The property owner paid the cost of sewer installation in 2005. When the two adjoining properties get connected to this sewer, the ordinance provides for those property owners to pay \$9,652 each. Trustees Chris Aiello, Don Kase and Bob Taglia abstained. The measure passed with 'yes' votes from Village President Deborah Bullwinkel and Trustees Bob Wagner and Al Bulthuis.

Outstanding teacher, students recognized at WBHS

VILLA PARK — On March 12, 11 Willowbrook students were recognized as Outstanding Students during a breakfast in their honor.

To be chosen for that award, students must demonstrate extraordinary achievement, outstanding effort, commendable attitude and motivation, ability to overcome obstacles and continuous exemplary performance.

During the event, Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause and Assistant Principal Doug Wildes welcomed the students, their families and the staff members who nominated them. The students were then recognized and given a certificate in honor of their efforts.

The Outstanding Students include: Art: senior Mika Cabudol; Career and Technical Education (CTE): senior Brian Kraabel; English: sophomore Emily Kreiman; Learning services: senior Kristen Freke; Literacy: junior Meharu Nisa; Math: senior Kelli Wysoglad; Music: senior Alex Lapinski; Physical education: senior Allison Kelley; Science: sophomore Mustafa Ali; Social studies: junior Tera Wilson; and, World languages: senior Vanessa Zaldivar.

English Department Chair named Outstanding Teacher

Also on March 12, Willowbrook English Department Chair and teacher Brett Blair received the Outstanding Teacher award, presented by Willowbrook junior Galen Bergsten. To earn the Outstanding Teacher award, a staff member must treat teaching as a passion — not just a job, create a positive learning environment where students feel encouraged and supported,



photos provided
Willowbrook English Department Chair and teacher Brett Blair (right) receives the Outstanding Teacher award on March 12. He was presented by Willowbrook junior Galen Bergsten (left).

use a variety of strategies to engage students, be willing to offer extra support when needed, provide prompt and effective feedback to students on their learning and relate to and understand the viewpoints and perspectives of students.



Pictured at left are the Willowbrook students who were recognized as Outstanding Students during a breakfast in their honor on March 12. They are (back row, from left) sophomore Mustafa Ali, senior Brian Kraabel, senior Alex Lapinski, (middle row, from left) senior Mika Cabudol, senior Kelli Wysoglad, junior Tera Wilson, junior Meharu Nisa, (front row, from left) sophomore Emily Kreiman, senior Vanessa Zaldivar, senior Kristen Freke and senior Allison Kelley.



photos provided

Seven Willowbrook students qualify for BPA National Leadership Conference



Pictured above are sophomore Habib Hassan and senior Avery Kirchner.

Pictured are the Willowbrook students who have qualified for the Business Professionals of America (BPA) National Leadership Conference, which will take place from May 6 to 10 in Anaheim, Calif. They are (top row, from left) senior Atif Siddiqui, senior Rafay Siddiq, senior Abdulaziz Ahmed, sophomore Mustafa Ali, senior Christian Somora.



photo provided

VPRD news, coming events

Indoor swimming lessons begin April 4

VILLA PARK — The Parks and Recreation Department is offering indoor swim lessons in cooperation with the Addison Park District. The next session starts April 4. Classes are available on Saturdays and Tuesday and Thursday evenings for swimmers with all levels of swim experience.

Register with the Recreation Department; lessons are held at the Club Fitness Indoor Pool, 1776 W. Centennial Place in Addison. Swim lesson participants have the option to purchase a Club Fitness Junior Membership for \$55; the first session fee is the member rate and all other sessions taken within the one-year membership are paid at the member rate. If a membership is not purchased the class fee is the non-member rate.

For a full schedule of lessons and fees, visit vprd.org or call 630-834-8970.

Frozen Fun Monday on day-off school

Villa Park Recreation is offering a special program called Frozen Fun on Monday, April 6 from 1-3 p.m. at the Iowa Community Center, 338 N. Iowa. Kids ages 4-12 can spend their day off of school having Frozen Fun building marshmallow snowmen and making a reindeer craft and "Let it Go" and come dressed as your favor-

ite princess or character from the Frozen movie. The fee is \$10/\$8; pre-registration is required.

Cruisin' Connoisseurs Trips

If you are looking for a new dining experience but never seem to know where to go and you don't want to dine alone then join the Villa Park Parks and Recreation for its Cruisin' Connoisseurs trips offered in cooperation with York Center Park District.

On Friday, March 27, the group will head to Peggy Kinnane's Irish Restaurant and Pub in Arlington Heights. They are famous for Irish Whiskey Chicken Pesto Pasta, Fish N' Chips and all day Irish Fry Breakfast.

On Friday, April 17, participants will go to Mago Grill & Cantina in South Barrington for a taste treat featuring Mexico's heritage. You can choose from a menu full of authentic favorites of freshly smashed guacamole, seafood cervichés, savory salsas, fresh salads and more.

Trips depart at 10:15 a.m. from the Community Recreation Building, 320 E. Wildwood, Villa Park and return at about 2 p.m.

The transportation-only fee is \$8 resident/\$10 non-resident. Guests pay their own check. Call 630-834-8525 for registration information or JCasale@invillapark.com.

Willowbrook hosts sendoff celebration for DECA state finalists

Pictured are the Willowbrook students who competed in the DECA State competition from March 12-14. On March 12, the high school hosted a sendoff celebration for the students as well as DECA sponsor Laura Lopez. The 24 students who qualified for state are (listed alphabetically, not as pictured): junior Amos Cabudol, freshman Maria Luz Alcala, junior Sally Nijim, freshman Catherine Carey, senior Anthony Pauletti, senior Michael Roby II, junior Kyle Ezell, junior Jackson Bell, junior Matthew Langer, senior Asra Mubeen, senior Benish Siddiqui, senior Marie Crowe, junior Selina Zeiss, sophomore Anthony Clampt, sophomore Haley Warren, junior Zachary Boehm, junior Ian Patete, senior Tyler Rusnak, junior Julia Smith, junior Filjo Abraham, junior Henry Dahl, senior Joseph Draus, senior Giselle Carter and senior Farheen Fatima.

VILLA PARK COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sunday, March 22

St. Pius X St. Joseph's Table

From 1-3 p.m., St. Pius X Church is hosting a St. Joseph's Table Pot Luck in the social center, 601 S. Westmore in Lombard. Suggested donation is \$5 per person, \$20 per family of 4+, or whatever is affordable. Donations benefit St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. Info: (630) 627-4526.

Thursday, March 26

Egg Coloring class

From 3-4 p.m., the Villa Park Parks & Rec Dept will hold an egg coloring class at the Iowa Center. Use different materials and dyes to make colorful eggs to take home for an egg hunt. Fee: \$10 each/\$8 addl. siblings. Info: 630-834-8970 or vprd.org.

Wednesday, April 1

Baking with the Bunny

From 1-3 p.m., kids ages 4-12 are invited to the Iowa Center to bake goodies, play games, decorate cookies and visit with the Bunny. Fee: \$14 each/\$12 per additional siblings. Info: 630-834-8970 or vprd.org.

Saturday, April 4

Lunch with the Bunny

At 11:30 a.m., there will be a lunch catered by

Michael Anthony's at the Iowa Center, followed by an egg hunt on the outdoor grounds. Fee: \$9 per child for both lunch and egg hunt. Parents attending with their child and not having lunch are free; parents having lunch pay \$5 each. At the egg hunt, a special prize will be awarded in each age group to the child who finds the golden egg. Age brackets are younger than age 2; ages 2-4; ages 5-7; and ages 8-and-older. Parents may assist children ages 4 and younger. Info: 630-834-8970 or vprd.org.

Sunday, April 26

5K in memory of Emilio Perez

All are invited to attend "Whistle While You Walk/Run 5K For Emilio," a fundraiser in memory of Willowbrook student Emilio Perez, whose life was lost much too soon on March 8, 2014. The race steps off from Willowbrook High School at 8 a.m. Entry fees: \$25 for adults, kids 12 years old and younger are free. Proceeds benefit the Emilio Perez Scholarship Fund. To register visit emilioperezfoundation.com.

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

SPORTS

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No quit Addison Trail's Stephanie Messina has plenty to be proud of after coming back from two knee surgeries

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

To say Addison Trail senior girls basketball player Stephanie Messina is determined might be the understatement of the year.

Messina battled her way back from two ACL tears in her left knee in the span of two years. Her determination and work ethic got her back on the court this season where she was a consistent contributor to coach Rob Schader's Blazers squad.

Messina tore her first ACL in December of her sophomore year.

"It was in a game. We were going into halftime and I was on a fast break and cut wrong and tore it," she explained.

That injury put her out of action for six months.

In the late winter of her junior year, Messina tore the ACL in the same left knee.

"The second time it was an open gym and I was playing with some of the boys," she said. "I jumped and tore it again. The next day was our last game of the year."

But this time, Messina came back even quicker. She was cleared to resume athletic activities in just four months.

"I did the rehab every day for two hours and that helped me get back into it," she said. "I knew that my senior year would maybe be the last time I ever play. I wanted to get back in the gym as quickly as possible. I wanted to come into my senior season strong."

While Messina missed the majority of summer activities this past season, she was ready to roll once regular practices and games started.

"I was still able to do ball handling and some passing and some of the easy, basic stuff," she said.

The thought of throwing in the towel after the second injury never crossed Messina's mind.

"No. I wasn't going to quit," she said. "I knew I had suffered the same injury previously so I thought I could come back even stronger the second time and prove people wrong. I wanted to come back stronger after that second one."

Messina said being cleared to play the second time was one of the happier days she's had.

"I was so excited when I got that release form," she said. "I can't explain how happy I was. I was ready for the season."

Messina admits this past season brought with it some adjustments after the second injury.

"I do think that because I tore the ACL the second time, it slowed me down a little bit," she said. "I was a lot more cautious with the things I did, but

overall I was happy with how I played. This was the last time I was going to be able to play with my teammates."

Messina, who played varsity volleyball her sophomore and junior years but missed her senior season while she was recovering from the second knee injury, has her eyes set squarely on the future.

She's going to study elementary education and minor in special education at Arizona State University. Messina's family has a house in Arizona and her late grandfather used to live there.

"I'm used to the area and I love the weather," she said. "I can see myself there. It's a great place to be. I

love working with kids. I've coached the past couple of years with the Addison Girls Sports Club and the junior high where I went (Indian Trail) and with the Junior Blazers travel

team."

Messina is leaving the door open to coaching more in the future. "That's something that looks good in my future," she said. "When my career gets to that point, that's something that is in my goals."

Before heading to Arizona, Messina is looking forward to spending time with family and friends.

"With the time I want to hang out with them and enjoy the time," she said.

Looking back, Messina said she has plenty to be proud of.

"They say the normal time to come back from an ACL tear is about nine months," she said. "I got back the first time in six months and in four months after the second time. I didn't know if I could come back after doing it two times, but I did. It was a big achievement."

Plenty of positives

Veteran coach Anderson lauds team's effort this past season

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Fenton girls basketball team's W-L record might not seem like much to an observer.

The Bison finished 7-22 overall and went 0-12 in their first year in the Metro Sub-

urban Conference West Division.

But that doesn't mean longtime coach Tim Anderson wasn't happy with what he saw.

"Success means different things to different people," he said. "We had a successful season. I've been doing this a

long time and I was very much at peace with the satisfaction I had with this season. I am so proud of these girls. They rose to the challenge this year. Many times our performance did not match the effort these girls put into it. That's OK. If it was the other way around, over the course of a season you will have all kinds of issues come out.

"I never questioned their effort and dedication and resolve. I couldn't be happier with the effort part of it. We were all in agreement that if the performance part of it was close to the effort at times, we would have been a little more successful in terms of wins and losses. But we were successful. They kept working hard every day and I am so proud of them for that. This is a wonderful group of kids that stuck together through a tough year."

Anderson noted the team's schedule this season was vastly different than ones of season's past.

"We played a very tough schedule," he said. "It was one of none of us were used to. I

was proud of the way the girls handled it. Next year we will know what we are facing. It was a very interesting year in terms of a lot of changes and adjustments to the new conference and new division. Look at a team like IC (Catholic Prep). They finished fourth or fifth in our conference and came within a basket of making the state championship game in Class 2A. Our conference is tough game in and game out."

Anderson said one contributing factor to the conference's competitiveness was the abundance of senior contributors on each team.

"It was kind of senior-dominated," he said. "If you look at the all-conference list, the majority of kids are seniors. And then you have Riverside-Brookfield, whose three all-conference players were sophomores. They are probably the team to beat next year."

Senior Dana Fritz earned all-Metro Suburban Conference West Division honors. She also was named the team co-MVP with Jessica Bango.

"Dana had a very nice year for

us," said Anderson. "She did an outstanding job and deserves to be all-conference and deserves to be our co-MVP."

Anderson also lauded Bango's contributions.


"Jessica wound up playing all five positions for us at one time or another," he said. "She was by far our most versatile player. She's one you have to have in there. There were times where she would bring the ball up for us and other times she was out there playing the '5.' To me that's what most valuable means. She's only a junior. I'm looking forward to watching her play next year."

Fenton will return five players from this year's team.

"Our next job is to take the five girls coming back and the girls who are working their way up from the under levels and get them ready," said Anderson. "I'm excited for the future here."

Fenton graduates seniors Fritz, Val Andrews (team's leading rebounder this season), Bianca Valadez, Daisy Mora,

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2015 REGISTRATION DAY—SATURDAY, March 21st!

COME PLAY WITH CHAMPIONS!

Boys and Girls ages 7-14 New registrants need two copies of their birth certificate.

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**March 21, 2015
9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at
Willowbrook High School
1250 S. Ardmore Ave,
Villa Park**

Call Jean Taylor for more details 630-542-8452.