

ADDISON

Suburban Life

YOUR NEW ADDISON PRESS | ALSO SERVING BENSENVILLE AND WOOD DALE

FILMMAKERS SEEK
AREA BASEBALL
PLAYERS

PAGE 21



TEENS AND TRUCKS

Trucking company looks to save lives through high school events

PAGE 2



FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2015 | \$1.50 | MYSUBURBANLIFE.COM/ADDISON

We Care Every Day In Every Way.

America's Choice in Homecare.
Visiting Angels
TRUSTED HOME CARE SERVICES

630.89.ANGEL
www.VisitingAngels.com/EL

Bathing Assistance
Dressing Assistance
Grooming • Assistance with Walking
Medication Reminders • Errands
Shopping • Light Housekeeping
Meal Preparation • Friendly Companionship
Flexible Hourly Care
Respite Care for Families • Live-In Care

Each Visiting Angels agency is independently owned and operated.

ADDISON Suburban Life

Addison Suburban Life is the successor publication to the Addison Press.

Also serving Bensenville and Wood Dale.

Suburban Life Media
mysurbarbanlife.com/addison

Call: 630-368-1100
Newsroom fax: 630-969-0228
1101 W. 31st St., Suite 100, Downers Grove, IL 60515
Missed delivery & customer service: 630-368-1144

MEET THE NEWS TEAM



Mary Beth Versaci, news editor
630-427-6249
mversaci@shawmedia.com

Nathan Lurz, reporter
630-427-6264
nlurz@shawmedia.com

Jason Rossi, sports editor
630-427-6271
jrossi@shawmedia.com

Administration

Laura Burke, general manager
630-427-6213, llurke@shawmedia.com

Bill Korbel, local sales manager
630-427-6230, bkorbel@shawmedia.com

Dave Lemery, editor
630-427-6250, dlemery@shawmedia.com

Alex Soutier, web editor
630-427-6247, asoutier@shawmedia.com

To place an ad:

Display: 630-427-6230
Legal notice: 630-427-6275
publicnotice@mysurbarbanlife.com

Classified:

Service Directory: 630-427-6238
Recruitment & General Classified: 877-264-2527

General information

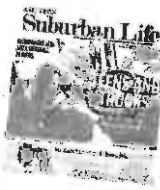
Addison Suburban Life (USPS #739-390) is published weekly and delivered to homes by Shaw Media, 1101 W. 31st St., Suite 100, Downers Grove, IL 60515. Periodical postage paid at Downers Grove, IL, and at additional mailing offices. Refund policy: Subscribers may cancel subscriptions within 45 days of first delivery. Refunds will be prorated. No refunds after 45 days. Postmaster: Send address corrections to Shaw Media, 1101 W. 31st St., Suite 100, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

Subscription rates

Single copy \$1.50
Delivery (annual) \$40/\$79 out of area

ON THE COVER

Addison Trail High School student Jacky Soto climbs behind the wheel of a semitrailer Wednesday during ProDrivers' Teens and Trucks program at the school.



Erica Benson - ebenson@shawmedia.com



Erica Benson - ebenson@shawmedia.com

Addison Trail High School student Anthony Metallo checks out the view from the seat of a semitrailer Wednesday during a safe-driving event at the school.

Event educates students on safe driving

By AIMEE BARROWS
editorial@mysurbarbanlife.com

ADDISON – Jacky Soto, 16, recently got her driver's permit and hasn't even driven on the highway yet. But the Addison Trail High School sophomore got an important lesson Wednesday about sharing the road with semitrailers.

"It's a really good program, especially for new drivers like me," she said. "Now I know what to expect when driving around big trucks, and it's good to know their perspective and where you should be – for my safety and their safety, too."

The Teens and Trucks program is run by ProDrivers, a national company with an office in Geneva. It was brought to both DuPage High School District 88 schools for the first time ever this week, stopping at Willowbrook High School in Villa Park on Tuesday and Addison Trail on Wednesday. The program's goal is to educate young drivers on the risks of driving around semitrailers.

While attending the program, teens actually got to sit in the driver's seat of an 18-wheeler that was parked in the school's lot. There they were able to see what a truck driver can see and, more importantly, what he or she can't see, said Jim Smith, director of safety at ProDrivers.

"Once they come in from the parking lot, we have a program inside

where we talk about distracted driving, wearing seat belts and drinking and driving," Smith explained. "But probably the most eye-opening thing for the students is sitting in that driver's seat."

Mike Haussman, Willowbrook's driver education coordinator, said he wanted to bring the program to his school because it provides important information to student drivers.

"We like to bring in outside resources if it's going to be helpful to our students," Haussman said. "You always hear about kids getting into wrecks with trucks, and if we can give them more information to prevent a crash, then we're going to do it."

One important selling point of the Teens and Trucks program is the fact that they bring a semitrailer for the students to sit in, Haussman said.

"We just don't have the resources to bring in a truck, so this is a great opportunity for the kids," he said. "I hope they got a better understanding of the challenges of driving around trucks and the challenges truck drivers face. If the program can save one person's life with the information, then it's worth it."

Addison Trail senior Anthony Metallo was able to sit in the truck during Wednesday's presentation. He said the program "definitely" helps him as a driver, and he plans to drive more carefully now.

"You get to see what it's like for a truck driver, and some of the things they explained were blind spots and speeding in front of trucks, which I've seen people do, and I've probably done it, too," he said.

Smith developed the program about five years ago. He said the company's CEO knew of a young driver who died in an accident involving a semitrailer and wanted to do something to help prevent similar tragedies.

Smith said he thinks most kids are unaware of truck drivers' blind spots, how long it takes a truck to stop and the dangers of cutting off a semi.

"We tell kids not to linger in a truck's blind spot and not to follow too closely," Smith said.

He said statistics show that 75 percent of accidents involving a semitrailer are the car's fault.

"These semi drivers are professionals; this is what they do for a living," Smith said. "So we want to change the behavior of young drivers and also reflect a positive image for our industry."

Smith has worked in the trucking industry for more than 20 years and said working on this program is the most gratifying thing he's done professionally.

"We'll never know the lives we've saved, but we know we've definitely saved some," he said. "I know we touch these kids' lives, and we are making an impact."

Pitching leads turnaround for Blazers baseball



SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

ADDISON – As the postseason nears, Addison Trail's baseball team may be playing its best ball of the season.

The Blazers entered Thursday's series finale against Proviso East having won eight of the previous 11 games after a 3-13 start to the season. AT has won three straight West Suburban Gold series, including Proviso East.

Pitching has led the way during AT's run of conference victories. In the three-game set against Hinsdale South, the Blazers allowed eight runs and won two out of three. In a sweep of Morton to start May, AT allowed seven runs. In the first two games against Proviso East, the Blazers had a 7-0 shutout plus a 12-1 victory.

Pitchers Nick Villasenor, Joey Zucchero and Nick Fugarino have strung together quality starts in recent games.

Villasenor, a sophomore, has 55 strikeouts against 14 walks with a 1.51 ERA. Zucchero, a senior, held Proviso East to one hit and no runs in five innings Wednesday. Fugarino, a junior, last started against Morton and gave up three hits and a run in a complete game May 4.

The pitching trio has led the Blazers' improvement, but the offense also let loose against Proviso East. Mike Rybarczyk was 3 for 4 with two triples, two RBIs and two runs scored in Tuesday's 12-1 win. Jake Atiyeh and Angelo Feola each had two hits. On Wednesday, Feola, Eric Gilliam and Cosme Garcia had two hits each.

Addison Trail's Angelo Feola takes a cut April 23 in a game against York. Strong pitching has helped the Blazers turn things around after a rocky start to the season.

Erica Benson • ebenson@shawmedia.com

PREP ROUNDUP

York's Sam Bode bags six state gymnastics berths

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

York senior gymnast Sam Bode was second in the all-around at the Glenbard West sectional and qualified for state in all six events May 8.

His all-around total of 50.35 was the 10th-best state qualifying score. York was fourth at the sectional with a 131.8 team score.

Competition in individual events at state are scheduled to start at 6 p.m. Saturday.

BOYS GYMNASTICS

Addison Trail

Seven different Blazers qualified for state from the Glenbard West sectional. Overall, AT was third in the sectional with a score of 139.2.

Individual qualifiers were Alfredo Torres (floor), Anthony Gamino (pommel horse), R.J. Infusino (rings), Marcus Rias (vault, parallel bars), Daniel Baeza (vault, floor), Alex Kominowski (floor, high bar) and Ruben Sanchez (parallel bars, high bar).

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

York

The Dukes improved to 21-9 overall and finished 5-1 in the West Suburban Silver after defeating Oak Park-River Forest 25-21, 25-17 Tuesday.

Addison Trail

The Blazers took a seven-match

winning streak into Thursday's match against Benet after winning the York Invite on Saturday and beating Leyden in a West Suburban Gold match Tuesday.

At York, the Blazers defeated Wheaton North 25-17, 25-23, Oak Forest 25-19, 25-15 and Rolling Meadows 25-27, 25-15, 15-10 in pool play May 8.

Joey Nasti had 23 assists and Alex Dickmann had 12 kills and four aces in the Blazers' 25-19, 21-25, 15-13 semi-final win against Metea on Saturday. Dickmann again reached double-digit kills in the final with 10 as the Blazers knocked off Minooka 23-25, 25-23, 15-13 for the title.

Jack Vrchota had six kills in the 25-14, 25-9 win against Leyden.

BADMINTON

York

Emily Spoolstra and Hannah Spoolstra won the doubles draw at York's sectional.

Fellow seniors Laurel Chamberlin and Caroline Klenc were second in doubles and junior Julia Dierksheide qualified for state in singles as York won the sectional.

Addison Trail

Izy Kantor took third and Alyssa Lombardo was fourth in singles at the Maine South sectional.

Both players advanced to the state tournament.

BOYS TENNIS

York

The Dukes placed third out of eight teams at the Rockford Christian Invite on Saturday and then lost to Hinsdale South on Tuesday. Brendan Peterson won 7-6 (4), 6-4 at No. 1 singles and then teamed up with Alex Riddle to win 4-6, 6-2, (11-9) at No. 2 doubles.

BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

IC Catholic

Andy Oliver, Luke Calles, Luke Ricobene and Aaron Taylor teamed up to win the 4x100-meter and the 4x200 relays at the Carlin Nalley Invitational on Saturday at Bolingbrook. Individually, Jordan Rowell placed second in the long jump and Philip Roberto took third in the 800. IC was sixth out of 12 teams in the Class 1A division.

Timothy Christian

Xavier Ross' third-place finish in the triple jump at the Carlin Nalley Invitational at Bolingbrook on Saturday was TC's best showing.

GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

York

Abby Waltz won the conference title in the pole vault at the West Suburban Silver meet Saturday. Shante Dansby took second in the 200-meter dash. The 4x200 and 4x800 relays each took third and York was sixth overall.

IC Catholic

Kiersten King won the 200-meter dash to claim IC's only conference title at the Metro Suburban West meet Saturday. King was also a part of the 4x100 and 4x200 relays which placed third. The 4x400 relay also placed third. Miko Eguia took second in the 800.

Addison Trail

Lauren Kroll won the 100-meter dash and the 200 at the West Suburban Gold meet May 7. Alyssa Viera was the runner-up in the discus. Kim Schonder took third in the 100-meter hurdles and Briceyda Vivero was third in the 300 hurdles. The Blazers won the 4x100 relay and placed second in the 4x200. AT placed fourth.

GIRLS WATER POLO

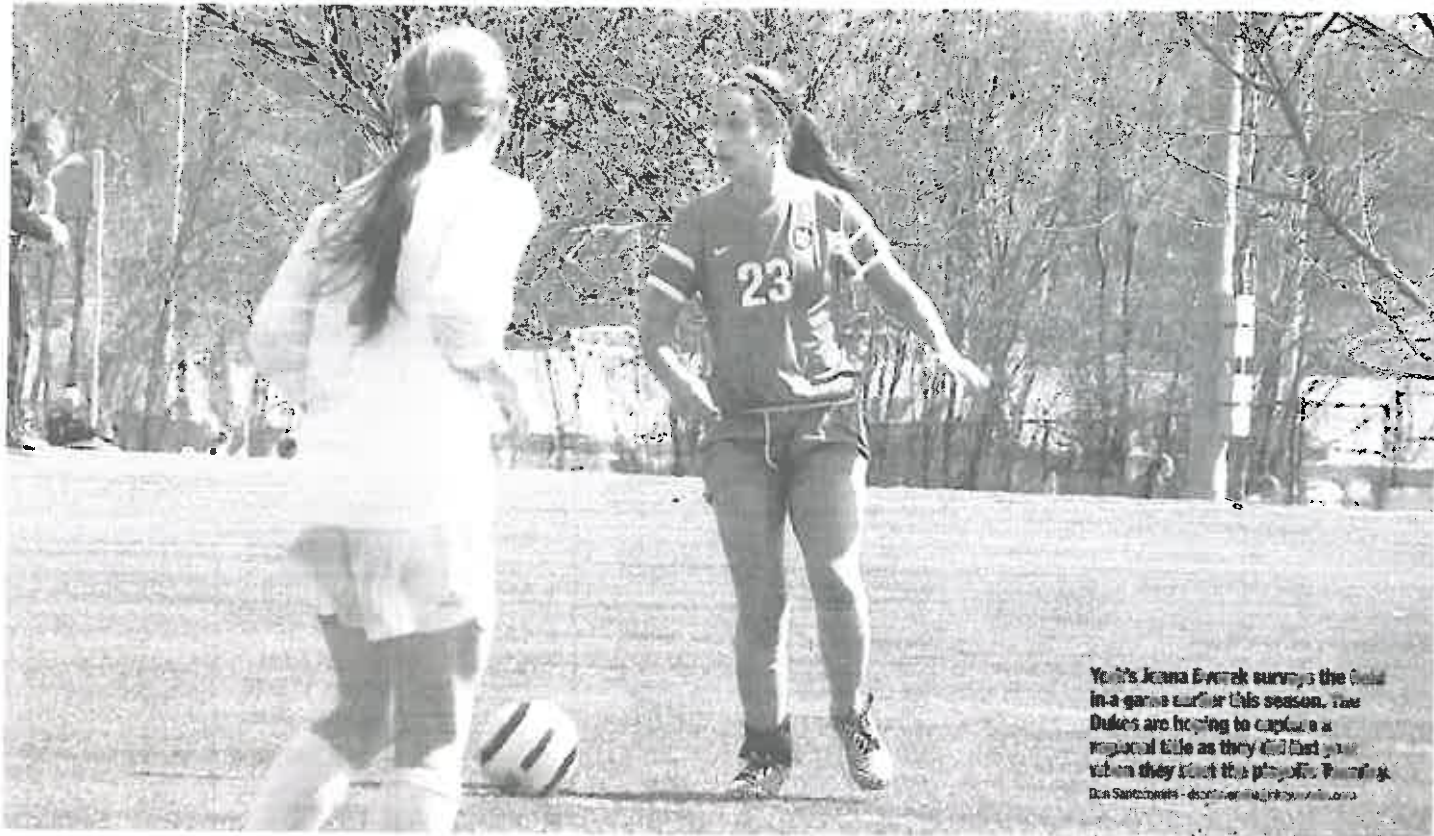
York

The Dukes beat Whitney Young 11-5 in a sectional quarterfinal at Fenwick on Wednesday. York will play Oak Park-River Forest tonight.

BASEBALL

York

Kyle Coughlin was 5 for 5 with two doubles, a triple, seven RBIs and three runs in a 23-1 win against Proviso West on Tuesday. Cole Miller struck out nine and gave up an unearned run in five innings on the mound. The Dukes also beat Proviso West 9-4 Wednesday.



York's Jana Dvork surveys the field in a game earlier this season. The Dukes are hoping to capture a regional title as they did last year when they won the playoffs. Patrick De Santis/Staff - December 14, 2014

York, IC, TC set sights on regional titles

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

With the first kickoff of the season, high school girls soccer teams started on the path of potentially making it to the state finals. IC Catholic and Timothy play in Class 1A regional finals this weekend. York starts the postseason next week while Addison Trail kicks off today.

Addison Trail

Regional: Bartlett
Sectional: Schaumburg
Sectional seed: No. 17
First match: 6 p.m. today at No. 16 Elk Grove

Outlook: After a tough regular season, the Blazers enter the postseason as the No. 17 seed in a Class 3A sectional. AT opens at Elk Grove in a regional quarterfinal tonight. The winner advances to face top seed St. Charles East in a Bartlett regional semifinal Tuesday.

IC Catholic

Regional: IC Catholic
Sectional: IC Catholic
Regional seed: No. 1

Next match: 11 a.m. Saturday vs. No. 3 Noble Street Charter

Outlook: The Knights opened the playoffs with a 9-0 win against Wells in a regional semifinal Tuesday and take on Noble Street Charter, which beat Holy Trinity 1-0 in the other semifinal, for the regional title.

IC is in search of its third straight regional title. If the Knights win Saturday they can then focus on winning a third straight sectional.

The other top regional seeds in the IC Catholic sectional are DePaul College Prep, Guerin and Latin. The Knights' only meeting with any of those teams came against Guerin, a 5-1 IC win April 17.

The Knights were tested by the move to the Metro Suburban West, which features four Class 2A schools, this season. IC went 1-5 in the league and is 13-6-1 overall.

Timothy Christian

Regional: Timothy Christian
Sectional: Lisle
Regional seed: No. 1
Next match: 6 p.m. today vs. No. 3. Rauner Prep

Outlook: The Trojans picked up a comfortable 9-0 win against Phoenix Military Academy in a regional semifinal to start the postseason Tuesday.

Toni Paterno had three goals and an assist, Grace Miller scored twice and had one assist, Maddie Schaafsma had two goals, Ellie Wiener had three assists, Megan Middel scored a goal and had an assist, and Sienna Paterno also scored. Juliana Stremmer, Wiener and Heather Kocol split time in goal for the shutout. Wiener made TC's only save.

Next up is a regional final against Rauner Prep. The Trojans have lost a regional final each of the past three seasons but have the benefit of being the top seed and host this time around. TC last won a regional in 2009.

If the Trojans advance to the sectional hosted by Lisle they will play the winner of St. Joseph and Westmont in a sectional semifinal. Timothy, which is 9-7-1 on the season, beat Westmont 4-0 May 2.

York

Regional: Trinity
Sectional: Hinsdale Central
Sectional seed: No. 5

First match: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday vs. No. 12 Trinity

Outlook: For the second year in a row the Dukes have received the No. 5 seed in a sectional. That didn't stop them from winning a regional last year.

York opens at regional host Trinity and would likely get a rematch with No. 4 Downers Grove North in a regional final. The Trojans beat the Dukes 1-0 in penalty kicks in a conference match April 21.

Seniors Alyssa Kovatchis and Jessica Bianchi have led a dangerous attack for the Dukes, with Madison Casey, Jenna Lundgren and Carys Hund also playing big roles in the midfield.

Before losing 1-0 against Hinsdale Central on Tuesday, the Dukes had won five matches in a row, scoring three goals or more in each. York entered Thursday's regular season finale against Downers Grove South with a 10-5-2 record and finished 3-3 in the West Suburban Silver. Three of those five losses came in penalty kicks.

If York wins the regional they would likely see a rematch with top sectional seed and host Hinsdale Central.

Warriors capture a sectional title...

THE WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL boys gymnastics team won the first-place plaque at Saturday's IHSA sectional competition at Hoffman Estates High School. The Warriors won the title at the nine-team sectional with an overall team score of 148.4. Schaumburg finished second with a score of 142.8. The sectional victory propels the Warriors to this week's competition at the IHSA state meet at Hinsdale Central High School. Willowbrook will be one of eight teams in this Friday's team competition in Hinsdale. The individual events will be contested this Saturday. The Warriors have not advanced to the boys state gymnastics meet as a team in 24 years. Willowbrook earned a sixth-place finish at the 1991 state meet. Members of the team (pictured left to right) are: sophomore Bailey Heppner, sophomore Matt Barrantes, junior Ricky Saldana, junior Joey Egan, senior Keawe Winstead, senior Bret Golz, freshman Adam Sousa (holding the plaque), sophomore Zack Zelfiro, senior Marquise Washington, junior Ian Patete and sophomore Dylan Leska. Sousa was the sectional champion in the floor exercises, the parallel bars and the all-around competition. Winstead, who was second in the all-around scoring, won the sectional title on the high bar.



VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

Vol. 56 No. 19

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Price 60¢

Trustees begin fresh terms on the Villa Park Village Board

The Villa Park Village Board welcomed its newest member to the dais during Monday night's brief meeting. Nick Cuzzone joined the board following the swearing-in ceremony near the beginning of the meeting. Cuzzone's term runs for the next two years. He won a three-way race last month to serve the remaining two years of the term held by former Villa Park Trustee John Davis, who resigned from his seat because of medical reasons in October 2014. The seat remained vacant until Monday.

Three incumbent members of the board were sworn in to new four-year terms during

Monday's meeting. Trustees Chris Aiello, Albert Bulthuis and Don Kase each won full terms on the board during last month's election, which also included challenger Bradley Phillips.

Bulthuis, who was elected to the board in 2007 and re-elected in 2011, was sworn in to his third term. Aiello and Kase are both beginning their second full terms on the board.

Aiello, Bulthuis, Cuzzone and Kase join Trustee Robert Taglia, Trustee Robert Wagner and Villa Park Village President Deborah Bullwinkel on the board. The board will hold its next meeting on June 8.



On the board...

Photos by Chris Fox

FOUR MEMBERS OF the Villa Park Village Board were sworn in to office during Monday's board meeting. The above photo shows (left to right) trustees Albert Bulthuis, Chris Aiello, Don Kase and Nick Cuzzone. Aiello, Bulthuis and Kase were all re-elected to four-year terms on the board in the election of April 7. Cuzzone was elected last month to serve the next two years of the seat vacated last year by former Trustee John Davis. The photo below shows Cuzzone taking the oath of office from DuPage County Circuit Judge Robert Kleeman, who administered the swearing-in of the four trustees.



Warriors sweep a doubleheader...

WILLOWBROOK SENIOR Chris Roycroft (above) fires a pitch during the second game of Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference baseball doubleheader against Hinsdale South. Roycroft struck out 10 batters and allowed two hits over seven innings to lead the Warriors to a 5-1 victory in Villa Park. Willowbrook beat the visiting Hornets 2-1 in Saturday's first game. The two wins gave the Warriors an overall record of 19-8 and a conference mark of 10-4. Senior Mike Petruzzi had two hits and drove in one run in the second game. Senior Trey Jones went 1-for-3 and drove in two runs. Junior Cam Zunkel pitched six strong innings for the Warriors in Saturday's opening game. He gave up seven hits, one run and didn't allow any walks while recording five strikeouts. Junior Matt Garbacz pitched a scoreless seventh inning for Willowbrook and earned the win when the Warriors pushed across the winning run in the bottom of the inning. Junior Kyle Martyniuk reached base on a leadoff single. Senior Oland Watkins pinch-ran for Martyniuk and advanced to second base on a sacrifice bunt by junior Mark Mollitor. Watkins moved to third base on a balk and scored the winning run on a one-out single by sophomore Kyle Ferguson. Willowbrook scored its first run of the opening game when Petruzzi singled to lead off the bottom of the first inning and scored on a sacrifice fly by Jones.

Mama Squash Market to hold informational meeting on Sunday

Mama Squash Market, a full-service cooperative grocery store coming to Villa Park, will hold an owners meeting and volunteer orientation from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, at Josephine's Martini and Wine Bar, 207 S. Villa Ave., Villa Park.

The event will feature a presentation (from 2-3 p.m.) to current and future owners about the progress Mama Squash Market has made since incorporating in August 2014. The second hour (from 3-4 p.m.) will provide an orientation to volunteers in an effort to spread the word more broadly about the store.

Mama Squash's mission is to create a community-owned, full-service store providing nutritious, locally produced food, education, jobs and a nurturing environment to promote healthy lifestyles.

There will be a cash bar and healthy snacks. For more information about Mama Squash Market, visit www.mamasquash.com.

Dist. 45 offers free screenings on May 22; appointments required

School District 45 will conduct free developmental screenings for children on Friday, May 22. Children must be 3 years of age by the date of the screening. They should live in the district, but not be currently enrolled in kindergarten.

Appointments are necessary for the free screenings. Parents who suspect their child has a disability can make an appointment by calling Sharon Mallin at the District 45 office at 630-516-7318.

The screening process identifies how the

child is currently developing. Assessed areas include: speech and language, vision and hearing, motor skills and cognitive development.

The screening is conducted by professional school staff in a variety of pleasant playroom situations.

Each screening takes approximately 60 to 120 minutes. Screening results are shared with parents.

The screenings are offered in both English and Spanish.

Villa Park VFW holds Memorial Day ceremony on May 25

Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 2801 will hold its annual Memorial Day service beginning at noon on Monday, May 25. The post is located at 39 E. St. Charles Road.

Steuere Funeral Home will provide a balloon release in honor of all Villa Park veterans who have passed away during the last year. All post members who have passed away will also be honored.

A light lunch will be served after the brief ceremony.



Superhero Hustle...

Photo by Chris Fox

EASTER SEALS DUPAGE AND FOX VALLEY'S 12th annual Run for the Kids: Superhero Hustle 5-kilometer run/2-mile walk event on May 2 raised nearly \$60,000. The run/walk began and ended in front of the Easter Seals DuPage and Fox Valley facility at 830 S. Addison Ave., Villa Park. Participants were encouraged to dress as their favorite superhero in the run/walk, which attracted its largest-ever turnout—more than 500 people. Minutes after the conclusion of the run/walk, several children took part in a brief sprint in the facility's parking lot. The above photo from that race shows (left to right) Cooper Coulter and Jane Skattum. Proceeds from the event benefited the mission of Easter Seals DuPage and Fox Valley, which is to enable infants, children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum independence and to provide support for the families who love and care for them. Easter Seals DuPage and Fox Valley is one of the largest pediatric outpatient rehabilitation centers in the nation, serving nearly 3,200 infants, children and adults each year. For more information about Easter Seals DuPage and Fox Valley, visit www.eastersealsdvr.org.



District 88's Best...

WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL senior Nicholas Eufrazio (above, left) is his school's recipient of the District 88's Best award for the month of May. Eufrazio, who is pictured with Willowbrook Assistant Principal Sam Bentsen, was recognized at the District 88 Board of Education meeting on May 4. Each month of the school year, the board of education presents the District 88's Best award to students from each of the district's two schools—Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools. The award recognizes students for their achievements both inside and outside the classroom. When he graduates from Willowbrook next month, Eufrazio will have taken eight Advanced Placement (AP) courses and 12 honors courses. He holds an academic rank within the top 2 percent of the school's Class of 2015. Eufrazio is an inductee of the National English Honor Society, the Math Honor Society, the World Languages Honor Society and Willowbrook's social studies honor society (Civitas). Additionally, Eufrazio is an Illinois State Scholar and a recipient of the Presidential Physical Fitness Award. Eufrazio is a four-year member of Willowbrook's football team. He's also spent four seasons on the boys track and field team, of which he is currently a co-captain. He has served as a New Beginnings mentor during his junior and senior years to help Willowbrook's incoming freshmen, and he is a member of the school's Economics Challenge Team. Eufrazio plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he intends to pursue a major in accounting.

Questions? Comments?

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



Warriors in action...

Photos by Chris Fox

JUNIOR SAMANTHA WOZNIAK (above, left) and senior Natalie Wolski (right) of the Willowbrook girls soccer team are pictured during Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference match against Hinsdale South. The visiting Hornets defeated the Warriors 3-1 in Villa Park. Willowbrook trailed the Hornets 3-0 at halftime. Wozniak scored the Warriors' goal midway through the second half. The loss moved Willowbrook's record to 9-11 overall and 3-2 in the conference. The Warriors earned a conference win earlier in the week, beating Addison Trail 7-3 on May 5 in Villa Park. Wolski and senior Jessica Budig had two goals apiece for the Warriors in their senior night victory over the Blazers. Senior Jamie Colella also scored for Willowbrook, which held a 5-2 lead at halftime. Wozniak and sophomore Valentina Poggi each scored one goal. The Warriors' week also included Thursday's 2-0 conference loss at Morton. Willowbrook will complete its regular season with this week's WSGC match at Downers Grove South. The Warriors will open the post-season with a May 19 match against Fenwick at the IHSA Class 3A Lyons Township Regional.

Sports

LOMBARDIAN VILLA PARK REVIEW

Warriors' sectional win clinches trip to state finals

Willowbrook's boys gymnastics team earned the program's first berth in the IHSA state meet in 24 years when it captured the championship at Saturday's nine-team sectional at Hoffman Estates High School. The Warriors earned a team score of 148.4 at the sectional. Schaumburg claimed

second with its score of 142.8. Willowbrook will join seven other programs at this Friday's team competition at the state meet at Hinsdale Central High School. The state's five sectional champions and the three teams with the next-best sectional scores secured berths in the

state finals. The individual event competitions at the state meet will take place this Saturday.

Willowbrook posted the third-best sectional score of the eight teams that advanced to the state meet. The Wheaton co-op team won a sectional title with a score of 153.15. Stevenson won a sectional title with a score of 152.3.

Freshman standout Adam Sousa joined seniors Keawe Winstead and Bret Golz in leading Willowbrook to the sectional title. Sousa won individual titles in two events, finishing first in the floor exercises (with a score of 9.3) and on the parallel bars (8.55). He earned second place on the high bar and tied for second on the vault. Sousa won the sectional's all-around championship with his combined score of 50.85 on six events.

Winstead delivered a first-place finish on the high bar (7.9) to lead Willowbrook's sweep of the top three scores in that event. Sousa placed second with a 7.6, while Golz wound up third with a 7.5. Winstead turned in a second-place score for his routine on the pommel horse (8.8) and tied for second on the still rings (8.2). He also placed fourth on the parallel bars (8.15). Winstead finished second to Sousa in the all-around scoring with his total of 50.15.

Gymnasts who earned top-five finishes at the sectional automatically advanced to the individual state meet in that particular event.

"We had some rough patches, but we just kept grinding the whole night," said Willowbrook coach Jeff Wronkiewicz at the end of Saturday's meet. "This [the sectional] was probably going to be more nerve-racking [than the state meet]. Once you get to state, you're there. You just go out and do your job."

The Warriors set a new program record for a team score in any meet with their first-place performance at their previous event—the West Suburban Gold Conference Meet at Leyden on May 1. Willowbrook turned in a score of 149.2 at that meet to break a school record that had stood for 32 years. The 1983 Warriors held the school record with a meet score of 147.5.



Quite a trio... Gymnastics photos by Chris Fox

WILLOWBROOK GYMNASTS (left to right) Adam Sousa, Keawe Winstead and Bret Golz smile during the awards ceremony at Saturday's Hoffman Estates Sectional. The above photo shows the three Warriors during the presentation of the high bar awards. Winstead won the event with a score of 7.9. Sousa placed second with a 7.6, while Golz (7.5) finished third. The three Warriors led their team to the sectional title, which clinched the program's first appearance at the team state finals in 24 years. The photo below shows Winstead during his routine on the still rings. He tied for second in that event. "It's very exciting," said Winstead of the team's upcoming trip to the state meet. Winstead has qualified as an individual for each of the last three state meets. This year, he will also compete in the team competition, which takes place this Friday. "Our goal is to go in there, do the best we can and try to take home a nice trophy and make a little history at Willowbrook."



Fantastic freshman...

WILLOWBROOK FRESHMAN Adam Sousa (above) approaches the vault during Saturday's Hoffman Estates Sectional. Sousa tied for second on the vault with a score of 9.3. He won sectional titles in the floor exercises (9.3) and on the parallel bars (8.55) and turned in a second-place score on the high bar. Sousa won the all-around championship at the sectional with his total score of 50.85.



Rams win conference title...

SENIOR NICK SYMONDS (above) of the Glenbard East boys volleyball team sends the ball over the net during last week's Upstate Eight Valley Conference match against South Elgin. The Rams defeated South Elgin 25-15, 25-19 on May 5 in Lombard to clinch the conference championship. The victory over the Storm gave Glenbard East an overall record of 22-3 and a final conference record of 6-0. The conference title marked Glenbard East's first Upstate Eight Valley Conference athletic championship since joining the league at the beginning of the 2014-15 school year. "Our goal is always to win whatever conference we're in," said Glenbard East coach Marci Maier, who guided the Rams to the DuPage Valley Conference title in 2008. "We played well enough tonight. Can we play a lot better? I hope so." Symonds provided a team-leading nine kills against South Elgin. He also had eight digs and served a pair of aces. Junior Tyler Greene connected for seven kills, while senior Andrew Hurlburt doled out 21 assists. Senior Ben Symonds made 13 digs and served two aces. The Rams, who improved to 23-3 with Thursday's 25-18, 25-17 win over St. Charles North of the Upstate Eight River Conference, will play in this week's Willowbrook invitational. Glenbard East will begin the IHSA post-season at its own regional on May 26.



Firebirds' U-12 Spurs team takes second...

THE FIREBIRDS SOCCER CLUB'S U-12 SPURS boys team (above) earned a second-place finish in its level at the Hawks Cup tournament, which took place in Oak Brook over the weekend. Playing in the Gold Division, the Spurs defeated three opponents to advance to the tournament's championship match. The Spurs picked up a pair of wins on Saturday, beating the Chicago Edge 4-2 and shutting out FC Barrington 2-0. They continued their winning streak with Sunday's 5-1 victory over Thunder SC. The Chicago Kickers edged the Spurs 1-0 in Sunday's first-place contest. Members of the Firebirds' Spurs team (pictured left to right) are: (front row) Graham D., Sean F., Jack O., Collin R., Louie E., Ean V. and Carlos O.; (back row) Coach Ed Flores, Abdullah N., Stephen G., Kyle H., Ben H., Anthony F. and Thomas E. Not pictured is Coach Chris Riley.



STEUERLE FUNERAL HOME LTD., 350 S. Ardmore Ave., Villa Park, is celebrating 63 years of service to Villa Park and the surrounding suburbs. Pre-need, cremation, and veteran benefit information available. Funeral director/owner Henry Ebeling and director Brian Tokar are at your service 24 hours a day. Locally-owned Steuerle Funeral Home continues to serve families in their time of need with caring, quality service. We are proud to be independent and family owned serving the community since 1952. Cremation, pre-arrangement and prices are available at all times. Stop in and see: Kim Ebeling; Henry Ebeling, director and owner; Brian Tokar, director; and Nancy Prust, secretary. Not pictured is Sandy Osborne, evening staff. The phone number is 630-832-4161. Visit our Web site at: www.steuerlefh.com.



VILLA PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 10 W. Park Blvd., Villa Park. Our office is located in the Ardmore train station, built in 1910 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Villa Park Chamber was founded in 1948. Our motto is Shop Villa Park first. Pictured are: Executive Director Alesia Bailey; Director Sarah Strobel, Speedtex; Director Jeff Stulgin, Park Blvd. Tavern; President Jon Zaley, Odeum Expo Center; Vice President Rae Rupp Srch, Villa Park Kiwanis Club; Secretary Dani Brink, School Dist. 88; Director Lori Murry, Inland Bank; and Director Dan Thomas, Villa Park VFW Post No. 2801. Our phone number is 630-941-9133, or visit our Web site at www.villaparkchamber.org.



BOB GOLDIN STATE FARM INSURANCE, 819 E. St. Charles Road, Lombard, celebrates 46 years serving the insurance needs of local businesses and residents. A member of both the Lombard and Villa Park chambers of commerce, Bob has provided active support to many local community organizations. We were named 2014 Business of the Year by the Villa Park Chamber of Commerce. "We care, and you are the boss is our motto," says Bob. Stop by and see the State Farm "good neighbors" Chris Goldin, Bob Goldin, Lucy Wellman and Linda Johnson. Not pictured is Joan Goldin. The phone number is 630-620-8400. "God bless America."

Celebrating 55 years

1960 2015

VILLA PARK REVIEW
NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN



Creating communities celebrating the lives of seniors.

A Service of CNN and Money Magazine

2400 South Finley Road,
Lombard
630.691.4007

First row, l. to r.-Lea Anne Randell, Teresa Novelli, Martha Klima-Gamble, Blaire Goldstein (Executive Director); second row, l. to r.-Beverly Carino, Bob Rouse; right side, l. to r.-Chip Dell, Jo Ann Finlon, Elliot Triplet, Lynn Siler and Lori Honeycutt.

BEACON HILL | 
A LIFESPACE COMMUNITY SM

Columns | updated: 5/13/2015 9:15 PM

Retirement calls Willowbrook's piece of American history



Dave Oberhelman

Rich Rentner doesn't teach contemporary American history at Willowbrook. Rich Rentner is contemporary American history.

A member of the Greatest Generation, he heard about the Pearl Harbor bombing over the radio -- when radio was king -- though he was too young by two months to participate in the Allies' invasion of Okinawa in World War II.

After joining the Army at 18, Rentner saw Nagasaki after it was bombed. Part of the occupation forces in Japan he was there, in the room, with Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Japanese Gen. Hidecki Tojo in the 1946 war crimes trial in Tokyo.

"I stood about 40 feet from Tojo," Rentner said. "I took a picture 10 feet away from MacArthur."

Rentner drove automobiles with wooden running boards lining the chassis. Cars had angular vent windows you could push open and closed.

Earlier, before his senior year at Oak Park-River Forest High School, basketball rules had been changed to allow a player to draw five personal fouls instead of four. Known as "Dick" Rentner back then he remembers one game, an experiment, in which one referee officiated on the court and two others viewed the action from a platform above each basket.

And they call it progress.

Rentner depicted himself as a hardworking "average Joe" on the court yet the 6-foot-2 forward earned a basketball scholarship to DePaul. He played for the legendary Ray Meyer and with George Mikan, the 6-foot-10 center who later, with the Minneapolis Lakers, had the same effect on professional basketball that three decades earlier Red Grange had on football.

"George was really a top guy," said Rentner, who scrimmaged daily with the 21-3 Blue Demons and got in three games, 0 for 1 from the foul line. "So was Ray Meyer."

After the Army he attended Loyola and graduated with a marketing degree in 1950. Once out of school he played a little softball with 1953 Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Lattner, the Fenwick grad from Oak Park.

"I've been very fortunate to be in contact with a lot of fellas who were real successful throughout my lifetime, as well as others not as notable," Rentner said. "I feel very blessed during my lifetime, as well as having a good family and good health."

We bring all this up not merely to detail Rentner's 20th century travelogue but to note that at age 88 he'll be retiring after 33 years as a student supervisor at Willowbrook. He worked all but the last several weeks on parking lot detail before moving inside as a hall monitor.

Since arriving at Willowbrook in 1983 after helping his father at the family's six-bay auto service station, Rentner has worked concessions, run the scoreboard and done the announcing for various levels of Warriors soccer, wrestling, basketball and football.

"I wish I had gotten into the classroom, but I was already 56," said the 61-year Elmhurst resident. He wanted to stay in Oak Park but didn't like the 33 percent down payment and 15-year mortgage.

Rentner was 56 but young at heart. He and his late wife of 57 years, Nancy, had six children, who have produced 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

With all those kids and having been involved in Little League in Elmhurst, Rich Rentner got out of "something I didn't want to do" and got into education and prep sports as best he could.

"I like kids and I think it's the future of America, and I figured I'll do what I can do over there," he said. "I enjoy kids. They come in as young people, young sons and daughters, and in four years they leave as young women and young men. They start their adult life.

"If you can be a little influence on them as they go through that, I enjoy that. You hope you can be a good, positive influence."

Willowbrook students haven't changed all that much over the years, he said. A little more conservative but very respectful.

"At the school here we're very diversified and we don't have that many problems," he said.

Rentner offers a vague "I guess it's time" when asked why he's retiring from his supervisor role. He's sure he'll miss it, but to soften the blow he plans to return to the press box during football and soccer games again next school year.

He's seen and done a lot in his life -- and he's not through yet.

"I enjoy seeing the success of the kids and the effort that's put in, the dedication of the programs, stuff like that," Rentner said. "It's the future."

Step Up to the Plate

Five years ago Wheaton Warrenville South baseball coach Tim Brylka suffered a severe double whammy.

In March 2010 one of his best friends, a teammate both at WW South and Millikin, Brian Schnurstein was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis -- ALS. A month later an uncle, Len Kunka, died from the incurable disease.

With the help of Julie Sharpe of the ALS Foundation's Greater Chicago Chapter, Brylka debuted the first of his DuPage Valley Conference Step Up to the Plate fundraising events.

"With Brian and then my uncle, when Julie called me it just made sense to do something," Brylka said.

This Sunday the fifth annual ALS event occurs at crisp Lee Pfund Stadium, the former Legion field northwest of the intersection of Gary Avenue and Geneva Road in Carol Stream.

The tripleheader starts at 11 a.m. with a junior varsity game between WW South against Wheaton North, followed by Naperville Central-Lake Park varsity at 1:30 p.m. and WW South-Glenbard North at 4 p.m.

"It's different being on a Sunday, but I think it'll be good because people will be able to come, hopefully," Brylka said.

Once there fans can get a crack at raffle items and Kane County Cougars-like activities concocted by Brylka's marketing class -- hot dog-eating contest, water balloon toss, races around the bases and the like.

"Just some fun little things," Brylka said.

Of course this is serious. Brylka, who also helps organize the Swingin' for Schnur charity golf event each summer, has raised around \$22,000 for the ALS Foundation Greater Chicago Chapter with this baseball fundraiser.

He noted that last summer's ALS Ice Bucket Challenge phenomenon was a huge boost for patients overall. Specific to Brian and Lindsay Schnurstein, their 2014 drive on the You Caring website sought \$3,100 for a power generator for their home in Portage, Michigan; Brian cannot breathe on his own and a power outage could be fatal. By the end of the donation period, the family had received \$22,323 donated by more than 300 supporters.

Schnurstein cannot breathe on his own nor eat on his own, yet remarkably he does what work he can flat on his back for his loyal employer, the Stryker Corporation in Kalamazoo.

"Truly amazing," Brylka said.

So are friends like Brylka for lining up events like Step Up to the Plate.

"It gives the high school kids an understanding of what it means, putting other people before yourself," he said.

doberhelman@dailyherald.com

Follow Dave on Twitter @doberhelman1