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VOL. 13 • NO. 12

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THURSDAY, March 17, 2016

Addison Trail earns NATEF and ASE accreditation

AT one of only two comprehensive high schools in U.S. to earn Master-level accreditation

ADDISON — For nearly a decade, Addison Trail Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher Keith Santini has continued to enhance the school's automotive program, with a goal to earn accreditation by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) and the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

Addison Trail recently earned that status — becoming one of only two comprehensive high schools in the U.S. to earn accreditation at the Master level. The other school is South Dade Senior High School in Florida, which is a career pathway high school. Only five high schools total in the U.S. have earned Master-level certification.

Nationally accepted standards of excellence in areas such as instruction, facilities and equipment were used to evaluate Addison Trail, and Santini said the certification process involved:

Working with and being evaluated by local auto shops to determine whether Addison Trail's automotive program is providing students with the skills to pursue a successful

career in the automotive field after they graduate

A two-day evaluation by NATEF and ASE that analyzed all aspects of the school's automotive department

To achieve Master-level status, Addison Trail students had to demonstrate they could complete more than 400 tasks

"This is great news for automotive-minded young people

and their parents," said Donald Seyfer, former NATEF Chair. "Because this program increases cooperation between local education and industry leaders, it gives added assurance that Addison Trail graduates will be employable entry-level technicians. As a result of the quality education provided by Addison

Trail, the motoring public will benefit, as better repair technicians will join the workforce."

Santini said he's thrilled Addison Trail has earned this accreditation.

"This certification is a huge asset to our community, to our

See NATEF, Page 3

AT holds send-off for Special Olympics Basketball Team

Pictured is the Addison Trail Special Olympics Basketball Team, which will compete in the State competition. They are pictured here with other players on the team, as well as coaches Jessica Sokolowski (back row, left) and Melissa Morales (back row, third from right). Addison Trail students who will participate at State include Junior Isabella Chadez, sophomore Guadalupe Garcia, senior Austin Vitello, sophomore George Pappas-Papaioannou, senior Aleks Iskali, senior Alejandro Bueno, sophomore Robert Vitello, sophomore Kayshaun Stanfill, senior Johnny Rodriguez and sophomore Rueben Chacko.

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NATEF

Continued from page 1

school and to our students," Santini said. "It was an involved process, and it means our program is meeting the highest industry standards to provide our students with a quality education that will prepare them to find employment after they graduate."

To see a video highlighting the automotive program at Addison Trail (along with other CTE programs at Addison Trail and Willowbrook), go to dupage88.net/site/public/files/?item=188

Police plans roadside safety checkpoint for eastbound Lake St.

ADDISON — The Addison Police Department will conduct a Roadside Safety Checkpoint for vehicles traveling eastbound Lake Street at Kennedy Drive from Friday, March 25 at 9 a.m. to Saturday, March 26 at 1 a.m.

Vehicles will be stopped in a pre-established, systematic fashion for a brief inspection of safety and driver violations. Police will check vehicle registrations, driver's licenses, proof of insurance, and driver sobriety in addition to vehicle safety violations.

Part of a state-wide coordinated effort to reduce drinking and driving, the purpose of conducting the Roadside Safety Checkpoint is to enhance the safety of the motoring public in the Village of Addison. For more information, call Sergeant Roger Saran at 630-543-3080.



Addison Trail Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher Keith Santini holds a plaque and stands by a poster certifying Addison Trail has been accredited by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) and the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

courtesy pi

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thurs.-Sat., March 17-19
AT performs "Charley's Aunt" as spring play

"Charley's Aunt" will be performed in the auditorium at Addison Trail High School, 213 No. Lombard Rd. Curtain times are 7 p.m. each evening, plus there will be a 2 p.m. matinee performance on Sat., Mar. 19. Tickets are \$7/adults, \$5/students and children ages 3-12; \$3 with an Activity Pass; free with a District 88 Senior Gold Card. To buy tickets, call 630-628-3365, or e-mail theatre88@gmail.com.

Wednesday, March 23
Ladies Night at the Golf Dome

From 7-9 p.m., ladies are invited to the Golf Dome, 880 W. Lake St., for an evening of pampering, instruction and indulgence. Your per-time fee includes: two hours of unlimited ball hitting, use of the short game area, PGA/LPGA or USGTF certified golf instruction, light appetizers and refreshments (soda, water or wine). Due to the popularity of these clinics, RSVP is requested. You must register by 12 noon two days prior to the event. Info: addisonparks.org or call 630-233-7275.

Thursday, April 14
Women's Club of Addison fundraiser

Beginning at 6 p.m., the Women's Club of Addison will hold its annual fundraiser at Empress Banquets on Lake St. The cash bar opens at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7. Guests will also enjoy Movie Bingo as well as free prize drawings. Reservations are due Monday, March 21. Info: contact Maureen at 630-628-9336 for ticket prices and other information.

Ongoing events
• ACA hosts photography of William North

Now through March 19, the Addison Center for the Arts is displaying "Simple Elegance: Photographs by William North," at its gallery located inside Addison Trail High School on the north side (enter Door #4). Free and open to the public, gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, from 1-4 p.m. Private showings are available by appointment. Info: 630-458-4500.

• 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 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 noon-2 p.m. at Community Rec Center, 120 E. Oak Street. For more information, contact Teresa Grodsky at (630) 233-7275, option #2.

• TOPS meetings held on Friday mornings

Remember TOPS? Take Pounds Sensibly. We're here helping and supporting people to lose weight. Our meetings are held on Friday mornings, Grace Lutheran Church 950 York Road, Bensenville. We meet from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Info: email Millie johnreiter@sbcglobal.net

• Theater arts program coming in July

The Addison Children's Theater and the Addison Center for the Arts will hold its annual theater arts program for children ages 8-14 from July 18-Aug. Includes development of acting and singing techniques as well as improvisational exercises, rehearsal techniques and stagecraft. Final performances of the play, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" are scheduled to take place on Aug. 5 & 6 at 3 p.m. Info: 630-458-4500 or see the Addison Park District summ brochure.

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

District 4 reminder:

Time for Kindergarten registration

ADDISON — Friday, March 11 was the first day for Addison School District 4's 2016-17 Kindergarten Registration. All children who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2016 should register now to begin kindergarten in August.

Two more registration dates are scheduled on Thursday, March 17 and Wednesday, April 6 from 4-7 p.m. Parents are encouraged to pick up a registration packet in advance in order to have time to complete forms and bring the proper documentation when they register. Packets are available at all ASD4 school offices or at the District Administration Center, 222 N. Kennedy Dr., door #18.

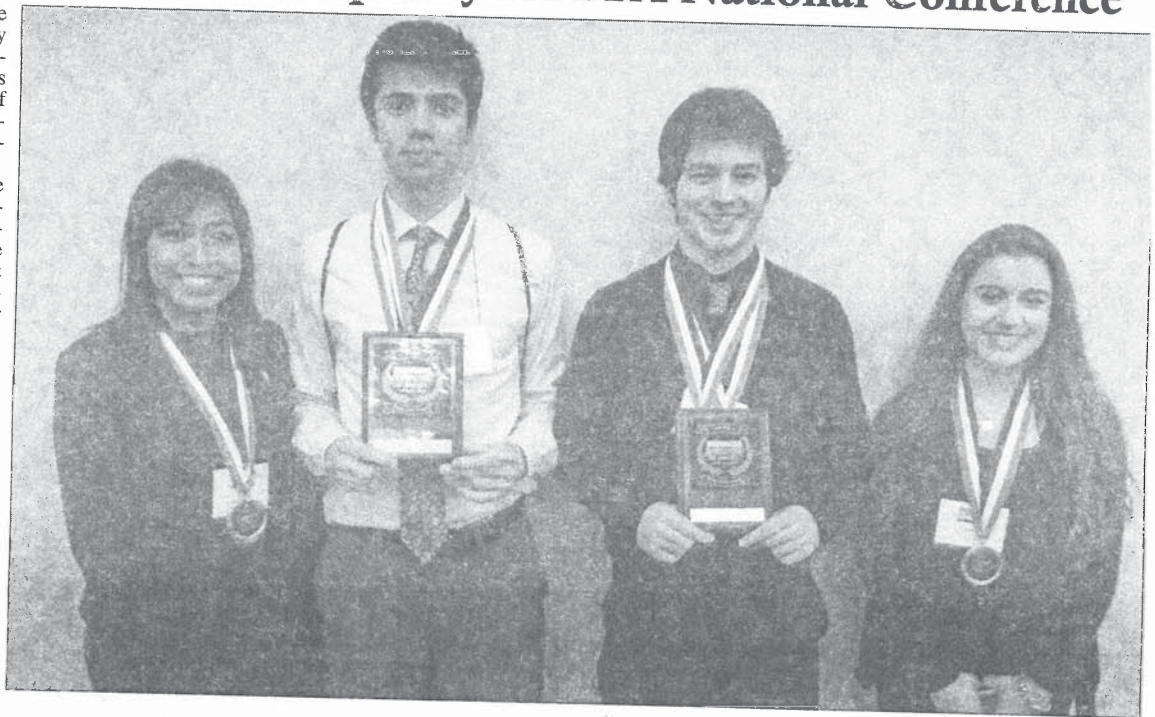
If a language other than English is spoken in the home, parents must bring their child to registration so the child can be screened for class placement.

Five Addison Trail students qualify for BPA National Conference

ADDISON — Twenty-one Addison Trail students recently competed in the State competition for Business Professionals of America (BPA), and five of those students qualified to compete in the 2016 National Leadership Conference.

The conference will take place from May 5 to 9 in Boston. Students who will compete are senior Antonino Conte (placed 3rd in Banking & Finance and 7th in Fundamental Accounting at State), senior Kevin Tumba (placed 3rd in Fundamental Word Processing and 6th in Fundamental Spreadsheet Applications at State), junior Sarah Hoda (placed 4th in Banking & Finance at State), junior Leslie Tolentino (placed 4th in Fundamental Spreadsheet Applications and 7th in Intermediate Word Processing at State) and junior Jonathon Loi (placed 3rd in Business Meeting Management and 3rd in Management Marketing Human Resources at State).

Also placing at State are senior Alex DelaRosa (5th place in Advanced Spreadsheet Applications), senior Maria Koulogeorgas (6th place in Intermediate Word Processing), senior Nicholas Fugarino (6th place in Interview Skills) and junior Max Dziabis (7th place in Fundamental Word Process-



Pictured are Addison Trail students who have qualified to compete in the 2016 National Leadership Conference for Business Professionals of America. They are (from left) junior Leslie Tolentino, senior Kevin Tumba, senior Antonino Conte and junior Sarah Hoda. Not pictured is junior Jonathon Loi. The conference will take place from May 5 to 9 in Boston.

courtesy photo

ing).

Jeff Laschinski, Addison Trail Career and Technical

Education (CTE) teacher and BPA Co-Sponsor, received the Ron Ciascko Outstanding

Advisor Award. As the recipient of that award, Laschinski was able to select a student to

receive a BPA Illinois Scholarship. Tolentino was named as the scholarship winner.

courtesy photo by Francis O'Byrne

Fire engulfs van in Villa Park

Villa Park resident Francis O'Byrne was on her way to a basketball game at about 12 noon on Saturday, March 5, when she saw this van engulfed in flames on the 100 block of W. Home Ave. The fire sweeping across the lot and away from the van indicates there was a flammable substance on the ground fed by the flaming vehicle. No further information was available at press time.



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E-mail:

Advertising Department:
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News Department:

Independent@rvpublishing.com

Classified Department:

Classifieds@rvpublishing.com

Administration:

Dee Longfellow
News Coordinator

Debra Hamilton
Advertising Director

Daisy Garcia
Special Sections Coordinator

Pete Cruger
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Advertising:

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photo provided

Pictured is a woodwind quartet performing at a school as part of the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra's community outreach program. This year's ensemble includes: Claudia Cryer, flute; Dianne Ryan, bassoon; Elizandro Garcia-Montoya, clarinet; and Andrew Nogal, oboe. The ensemble was enthusiastically received at each school.

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ESO community outreach visits nine schools

Schools in Villa Park, Bensenville among stops

ELMHURST — In January and February the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra's Community Outreach Program sponsored visits to nine elementary schools in the western suburbs—Hillside, Berkeley, Bensenville, Lombard, Villa Park, Willowbrook and Westmont—performing for more than 3,000 school children

during the visits. A generous grant from the JCS Fund of the DuPage Community Foundation helped fund the programs. This year's ensemble was a woodwind quartet of Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra members including: Claudia Cryer, flute; Dianne Ryan, bassoon; Elizandro Garcia-Montoya, clarinet; and Andrew Nogal, oboe. The ensemble was enthusiastically received at each school and developed a great rapport with the students, who interacted readily with the musicians and enthusiastically asked questions.

District 88 Board of Education approves 2016-17 school year calendar

ADDISON-VILLA PARK — During its March 7 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education approved the 2016-17 school year calendar.

Highlights include:

First day of classes: Aug. 17, 2016

Graduation: May 21, 2017

Last day of classes: May 26, 2017 (provided no emergency days are used)

Breaks:

Thanksgiving break: Nov.

23 - 25, 2016

Winter break: Dec. 26, 2016 - Jan. 6, 2017 (Dec. 23, 2016, is an Institute Day)

Spring break: March 27 - 31, 2017

Exams:

First-semester exams: Dec. 20 - 22, 2016

Second-semester exams: May 24 - 26, 2017

To see the full calendar, go to dupage88.net/site/public/files/?item=2778

SPORTS

MARCH 17, 2016 • 14

Willowbrook boys gymnastics team looking for more success

Warriors coming off fourth-place state finish

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Last year, the Willowbrook boys gymnastics team turned in a memorable performance, finishing fourth in the state.

The Warriors won the West Suburban Conference Gold Division championship behind all-arounders Adam Sousa, Keawe Winstead and Brett Golz, who combined to score nearly 150 points between them in the all-around competition. The Warriors went on to win the sectional (Sousa won the all-around) and finish fourth at state (148.55 team score) where Sousa was fourth in the all-around (51.70).

Winstead, now an assistant coach with the team, and Golz graduated, but highly talented sophomore Sousa returns for first-year Warriors head coach Caleb Strejc, an assistant on the staff last year and a former standout gymnast at York High School.

Sousa, in addition to the 51.70 he scored in the all-around at state, placed

fifth on horse, sixth on floor, sixth on parallel bars and eighth on high bar in the event finals.

"Adam is hoping to make a run at battling for the all-around title this year at state and going for high finishes on floor, vault, p-bars and high bar," said Strejc. "A second guy to keep an eye on is Bailey Heppner. It would be huge if we could count his scores for each event or at least four of the six and to be an effective all-arounder behind Adam."

Also back for the Warriors are seniors Ian Patete (floor, vault, high bar), Ricky Saldana (floor, rings, parallel bars, high bar) and Joey Eagan (horse), along with juniors Bailey Heppner (all-around), Zach Zeffiro (floor, vault) and Dylan Leska (vault, high bar).

"They will all contribute to our team score this year," said Strejc.

Newcomers to the team include junior Miguel Portilla (parallel bars, high bar) and sophomore Matthew Smith (rings, parallel bars, high bar).

"Our team's strongest event probably is the vault because it looks like it is where we have our most depth with three flipping vaults, and one good twisting vault that could score from the upper 8s to the mid-9s," the coach

noted. "Our overall strengths besides vault include the floor as well. Those will be our two highest-scoring events as a team. Following that, I think one of our strengths will be being able to have our second and third guys consistently score on rings and parallel bars close to the 7s."

Strejc has been impressed with Smith's potential. "He is an extremely hard worker and a quick learner who we hope to become one of our strong all-arounders this year and in the future," he said.

Strejc said the team is working hard at improving on horse and high bar. "Those naturally are two of the harder events to get guys scoring higher on," he pointed out. "We will need to focus a lot on that and have some guys who are specialists on those events."

Strejc likes the fact the Warriors return plenty of experience from last year's state team.

"I think another one of our strengths is we did make it to state last year and there is a lot of experience on our team with guys who were part of that and bring the intensity and drive to the rest of the team to want to make it as far as possible again this year," he said.

Fenton softball team filled with talented players

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Fenton softball team is not lacking players who logged significant at-bats last season.

The Bison return four players who batted .300 or greater from a 2015 team that won 16 games.

Top returning players include seniors Diana Pikul (3B, .529, 6 doubles, 4 triples, 15 RBI), Ellie Gonzales (SS, .386, 3 doubles, 4 triples, 1 homer, 17 RBI, 24 runs scored), Courtney Susmarski (1B, .306, 5 doubles, 21 RBI, 24 runs scored), Jocelyn Souvannas (P-2B, .306, 7 hit-by-pitch), Jill Mrugacz (OF, 29 runs scored, 16 stolen bases), Alex Stoklosa (C) and Clarissa Guevara (utility), along with juniors Jenna Geraci (P, 5 wins, 52 strikeouts) and Ellie Was-

See **SOFTBALL**, Page 16

Addison Trail baseball team excited about 2016 season

Top-of-rotation pitching, up-the-middle defense key strengths for Blazers

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Pitching and defense are two jewels every baseball team covets.

The Addison Trail baseball team feels it has components of both heading into the 2016 season. The Blazers are coming off a 2015 season where they went 13-18 overall and 9-9 in the competitive West Suburban Conference Gold Division.

The Blazers return the likes of seniors Robert Baughman (C), Cosme Garcia (3B), Angelo Feola (SS) and Nick Fugarino (CF-P) as well as junior pitcher Nick Villaseñor.

"We're coming back with Nick Villaseñor on the mound and he had a great

year as a sophomore," said Addison Trail coach Mike Kennedy. "We have some good experience at the top end of our rotation with him and Nick Fugarino. We will need guys to step up in the middle and back end of our rotation."

Villaseñor had a sub-1.50 ERA last year with more than 60 strikeouts. "Nick had a nice, low ERA and put up good, solid numbers," said Kennedy. "We're looking forward to seeing him pitch. He looks pretty strong right now."

Kennedy also likes the fact the middle of his defense is loaded with experience. "Angelo at shortstop brings us stability as a returning starter and Robert is behind the plate and you have Fugie (Nick Fugarino) in center and that gives us nice up-the-middle defense," he said.

Newcomers to the team include juniors Jack Kalbas (IF-P), Ricky Perez (OF-P), Dom Zumtano (OF-C), and sophomores Trevor Fulmer (1B-P) and Simon Marinelli (C-IF).

Kennedy said Fulmer is showing potential on the mound. "Trevor will be a nice pitcher, but he has to get acclimated to the varsity game," he said. "He's going to be a special baseball player, but the speed of the game at the varsity level is a little different and that takes time to get used to."

Offensively, Kennedy has seen a different group of hitters during practices. "I think our bats are going to surprise some people this year," said Kennedy. "A lot of our guys are swinging a good bat. They did a lot of work in the weight room in the off-season and they are seeing the dividends pay off there when they swing the bat."

Kennedy added the potential is there to improve on last year's mark. "Every coach goes into the season believing in their team," he said. "I think we have the potential here to be much better than last year. It's going to come down to how effective our pitching is and how we hit the ball and field the ball. Those

always are keys to success. If we go out and do those things we are going to be successful. If we don't throw strikes and we don't put the ball in play, we will struggle."

As usual, Addison Trail finds itself in a talent-rich WSC Gold Division.

"You always have to look at the usual suspects," Kennedy said. "Downers Grove South has a lot of experience and will be good. Willowbrook will be right there with Downers South and Hinsdale South returns a lot of guys and I expect them to be very good. Leyden has kids coming back and Morton is tough year in and year out. Proviso East is making strides lately, so the conference across the line is much better. We want to be up there with the top teams, but we know we have work to do to get there. Nobody is going to hand it to us. We have to go out and earn every bit of it."

Addison Trail is scheduled to open the season Friday on the road against Glenbard East in non-conference action.

Five WB students qualify for BPA National Conference

VILLA PARK — Ten Willowbrook students recently competed in the State competition for Business Professionals of America (BPA), and five of those students qualified to compete in the 2016 National Leadership Conference.

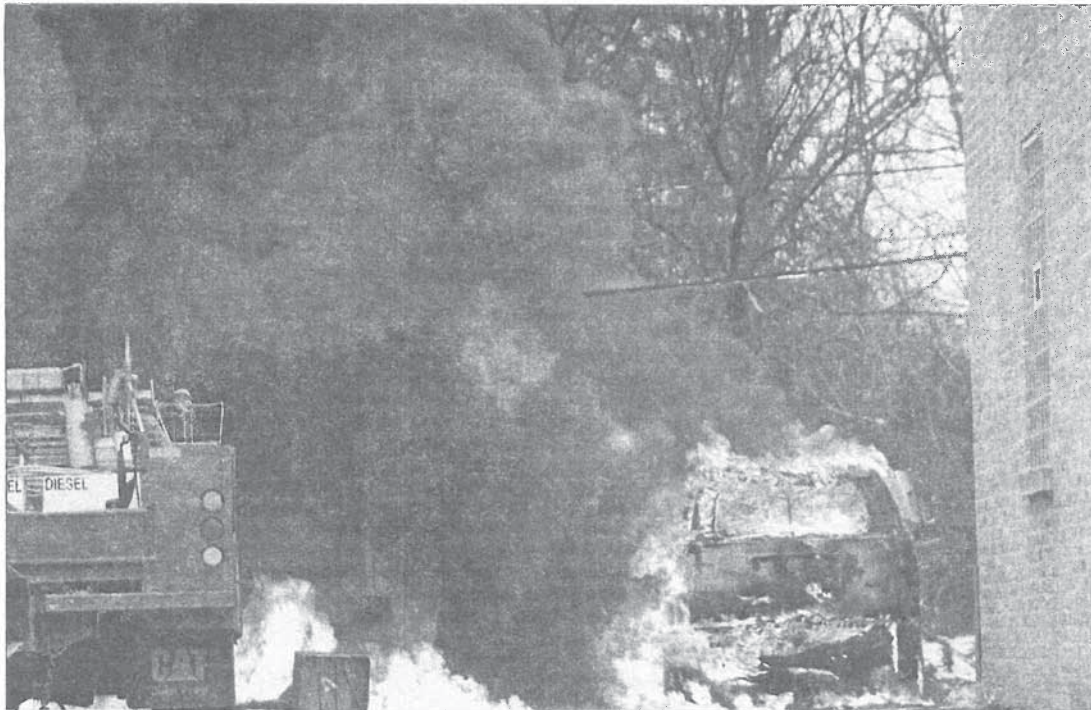
The conference will take place from May 5 to 9 in Boston. Students who will compete are senior Amos Cabudol (placed 3rd in C++ Programming at State), junior Mustafa Ali (placed 2nd in Computer Modeling and 3rd in JAVA Programming at State), senior Brandon Calabrese (placed 3rd in Fundamental Spreadsheet Applications at State), senior David Naughton (placed 1st in Visual Basic/C# Programming at State) and junior Michael Cameron (placed 2nd in Visual Basic/C# Programming at State).

Also placing at State are junior Habib Hassan (7th place in JAVA Programming and 5th place in Visual Basic/C# Programming), Cabudol (8th place in JAVA Programming) and junior Miguel Perez (6th place in Visual Basic/C# Programming).



Pictured are the Willowbrook students who have qualified to compete in the 2016 National Leadership Conference for Business Professionals of America. Pictured are (from left): senior Amos Cabudol, senior David Naughton, junior Mustafa Ali, junior Michael Cameron and senior Brandon Calabrese. The conference will take place from May 5 to 9 in Boston.

courtesy photo



Fire engulfs van in Villa Park

Villa Park resident Francis O'Byrne was on her way to a basketball game at about 12 noon on Saturday, March 5, when she saw this van engulfed in flames on the 100 block of W. Home Ave. The fire sweeping across the lot and away from the van indicates there was a flammable substance on the ground fed by the flaming vehicle. No further information was available at press time.

courtesy photo by Francis O'Byrne

• CALENDAR

Continued from page 10

by Tom Somora, an employment services representative with IDES (Illinois Department of Employment Services). Registration is required for each session. Info: 630-834-1164 or vppl.info.

Ongoing events Story Time series continues at the Library

New storytime sessions in the Youth Services Department of the Villa Park Library will start in April and are as follows:

- Babies and Books (9-9:30 a.m. Tuesdays or Thursdays)
- Toddler Time (10-10:30 a.m. Mondays or Thursdays)
- Family Storytime (10-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays)
- Story Circle for Preschoolers (9:30-10 a.m. Wednesdays)
- Ready for Reading (1:15-2 p.m. Thursdays).

These storytime sessions will introduce the world of language and books to children. They include singing, stories, rhymes, and a variety of preschool S.T.E.A.M.-based and S.T.E.M.-based activities. Most story times require registration and have recommended age ranges. Info: 630-834-1164 or vppl.info

Fenton girls track team wins pair of meets

Krebasch wins two individual events at D.B. Kurtz Classic

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Fenton girls track team had success at a pair of recent indoor meets.

The Bison won their own six-team D.B. Kurtz Classic with 153 points. Fenton was eight points better than second-place Dundee-Crown.

Maria Trentadue won the shot put with a throw of 32-2. Katrina Krebasch won the high jump with a leap of 5-2.

Fenton won the two-mile relay with a time of 11:30.25 and also won the four-lap relay with a time of 1:12.85.

Krebasch also won the triple jump with a leap of 33-0. Fenton won the eight-lap relay in

2:37.37 and also took first in the 12-lap relay with a time of 4:25.44.

Emmy Burris was second in the long jump at 14-11. Marisol Garcia was second in the 440 with a time of 1:13.07. Krebasch tied for second in the pole vault at 7-0.

Kaitlyn Jordan was third in the 50 high hurdles at 9.26. Alexis Petrella was third in the 880 at 2:52.88. Gianna Caliendo was third in the 440 at 1:14.44, while Garcia was third in the 50 intermediate hurdles at 9.14. Jessica McCauley was third in the one-mile run at 6:16.51, while Hanna Matuszewski was third in the one-lap dash at 18.14.

Katherine Dominguez was fourth in the two-mile run at 15:31.74. Garcia was fourth in the 50 high hurdles at 9.27. Charity Bullis was fourth in the one-mile run at 6:16.92 and Jordan was fourth in the pole

vault at 6-6.

Skylar Dolecki was fifth in the high jump at 4-2. Jacqueline Ponce was fifth in the two-mile run at 15:41.45. Matuszewski was fifth in the 50 at 6.78.

Danielle Ferbrache was sixth in the shot put with a throw of 25-7. Amber Azim was sixth in the one-lap dash at 18.82.

Earlier, Fenton won a quad-rangular meet it hosted. Fenton won with 84 points, while Trinity was second with 80 points.

Fenton won the four-lap relay at 1:15.8. Trentadue won the shot put at 30-11, while

Burris won the long jump with a leap of 17-3. Fenton also won the eight-lap relay at 2:39.9. Cassidy Kelly won the 400 in 1:10.54. Fenton was victorious in the 12-lap relay in 4:21.43, while Krebasch won the pole vault at 7-0.

Fenton took second in the two-mile relay at 11:47.08. Breana Aponte was second in the shot put at 26-1. Krebasch was second in the high jump at 5-0 and took second in the triple jump at 32-11. Jordan was second in the pole vault at 6-6.

Nina Bush was third in the

50-yard dash at 6.66. Sarah Mason was third in the long jump at 14-8. McCauley was third in the 880 with a time of 2:49.29. Bush was third in the one-lap dash at 18.47.

Dominguez was fourth in the two-mile run at 16:06.5. Bullis was fourth in the 880 at 2:52.1. Caliendo was fourth in the 440 with a time of 1:12.02. Dolecki was fourth in the 50 low hurdles at 8.81.

Jordan was fifth in the 50 high hurdles at 8.90. Garcia was fifth in the one-mile run at 6:19.38.

Addison Trail boys gymnastics team returns three state qualifiers

Rias, Kominowski and Sanchez lead the way for Blazers

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

A year ago, the Addison Trail boys gymnastics team sent nine athletes to the state meet, including six seniors (senior R.J. Infusino took sixth on rings).

That leaves three state qualifiers returning off a 2015 team that took second in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division behind District 88 neighbor Wil-lowbrook, which finished fourth in the state.

Back for the Blazers are state-qualifiers Marcus Rias, a senior all-arounder; Alex Kominowski, a junior all-arounder; and Ruben Sanchez, a senior who competes on rings, vault, parallel bars and high bar.

Rias qualified for state on vault and parallel bars, while Kominowski was a state

qualifier on floor exercise. Sanchez qualified on parallel bars and high bar.

Addison Trail coach Mike Galfi likes the way the team's floor exercise routines are coming together. "We have two gymnasts who will have a strong chance of making state finals and competing for a podium position," he said. "Marcus Rias and Alex Kominowski both have 10.0 starts already this season and are working on fine-tuning their routines for the rest of the year."

The Blazers also are showing promise on parallel bars. "Our parallel bars team is probably the most well-rounded," said Galfi, who noted the team is focused on improving its pommel horse routines. "Although we don't have any state-final qualifying routines as of yet, the routines the gymnasts are doing have strong start values and are competed smoothly and cleanly."

Galfi has been impressed with the way the three returning state qualifiers have come out of the gates. "Keep an eye on Marcus, Alex and Ruben," he said.

"They have been showing a strong work ethic and I expect a lot from those individuals this year."

Keep an eye on Marcus, Alex and Ruben. They have been showing a strong work ethic and I expect a lot from those individuals this year.

- Mike Galfi, Coach

• SOFTBALL

Continued from page 14

Four players return with .300 or greater batting averages

smann (CF, 24 runs scored, 29 stolen bases).

Key newcomers include junior Taylor Spizzirri (P) and freshmen Isa Lozada (utility) and Payton Pugliese (P, 2B, OF).

"We only graduated one senior from last year's team, so we return a lot," said Fenton coach Dave Mello.

That one senior was Dana Fritz, who logged 105 innings on the mound. The pitching workload will be handled by Geraci, who threw 87 innings last year, Souvannasy (12 innings last year), Spizzirri and Pugliese.

"I feel we are in a very good spot with our pitching," said Mello. "Jenna will be our No. 1 and she has two years of varsity experience. Jocelyn is in her fourth year on varsity and threw a lot of innings as a freshman. She threw some the last two years, but will throw more this season. We also add Taylor, who pitched for our JV last year and Payton. All four girls will see a lot of action."

Mello is excited about the makeup of the team on offense. "A strength for us should be our offense," he said. "Diana, Ellie,

Courtney, Jocelyn and Jenna all hit over .290 for us. Ellie, Jill and Alex all bring a nice speed element to our offense. We have a great mix of speed and power and we have enough girls who can create problems on the bath paths. And then we have the girls who can drive the ball deep."

Defense, Mello noted, will be a key this season. "We have been discussing how defense has been a weakness for us in the past," he said. "We made 114 errors last season and are working every day to make sure that doesn't happen again. We are putting a huge emphasis on our throwing and catching of the ball."

Fenton has games scheduled this week against Fremd, North Grand and Streamwood. The team heads to Tennessee for games on March 24.

"We hope to be able to take advantage of the great weather and play our early-season games before we head to Tennessee," said Mello. "We will face our usual difficult schedule with many tough non-conference matchups and then our side of the Metro Suburban is absolutely loaded. All of that included with the teams we play in Tennessee will only help us prepare for our first appearance in the Class 4A state playoffs. We will be looking to improve each day and should certainly be ready to compete in the 4A playoffs."

Girls track team third at own invite

Kroll, Gjonaj, Banuelos, Valbuena break fieldhouse record

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail girls track team took third at its

own recent AT Invitational.

Wheaton North won the meet, while Addison Trail was two points behind second-place Leyden.

Addison Trail's 4-by-1 lap relay team of Lauren Kroll, Klea Gjonaj, Lynette Banuelos and Suhei Valbuena rebroke the Addison Trail fieldhouse record with a time of 1:28.44. The record had been broken the previous

week by Montini.

"We still have work to do on our exchanges, but with time we should break that time again," said Addison Trail coach Dave Pytko.

Kroll won the 55 hurdles and 200 dash, while Valbuena was first in the 300. Gjonaj was second in the 55 dash.

Addison Trail's frosh-soph team placed second behind Wheaton North.



Latest on iPhones

FBI might get access after one unvelled
— Business

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three movies you might see this year. Maybe you've heard of them?

"Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice."

"Independence Resurgence"

And "Star Trek Beyond."

"It's been a good year," the Bensenville native and

Fenton High School graduate said.

"Batman v Superman" opens this weekend and features props conceived by

Dochterman and brought to life by others.

"It's different from previous incarnations of Batman," he said. "So, all of his gadgets and hand props have to have a new, specific look to them. The movie's setting is very gritty and real,

so in terms of these devices that Batman uses, they need to look like they're an existing thing."

"They can't look like toys. See **SHOWTIME** on **PAGE 5**

100 new visual effects for the 2000 director's cut of "Star Trek the Motion Picture."

"We continue, as President Castro indicated, to

See **CUBA** on **PAGE 7**

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D

Golden Apple finalists



COURTESY OF DUPAGE HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 88
Willowbrook High School Principal Ian Krause takes a selfie with students on the first day of the 2015-2016 school year. Krause has been named a finalist for a Golden Apple award, as well as eight suburban teachers. **PAGE 4.**

Antioch mom's network turns 2 on World Down Syndrome Day



COURTESY OF JESSICA WEINSTOCK PHOTOGRAPHY
Gianluca "Luca" Di Benedetto of Antioch, now 3½, already has overcome a lot with his Down syndrome.

After a tense pregnancy that included a stress test, a miscarriage scare and fears about a potential heart ailment, Jenny and Nicolino Di Benedetto of Antioch were ready to share the Oct. 2, 2012, birth of their son, Gianluca, with his big sister, grandparents, their extended families and friends.

"When he was born, we were

just relieved that we didn't have to worry about health issues anymore," Jenny remembers. She sent a birth email to her boss along the lines of, "He's here. He's great. He's perfect."

Then a doctor cleared the room of everyone but the parents and their newborn. He said



See **DOWN** on **PAGE 5** **BURT CONSTABLE**

Weather

Warm freeze

Enjoy it now. 61.
See the back of Business.



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Willowbrook principal among finalists for Golden Apple award

BY ERIN HEGARTY AND CHRISTOPHER PLACER
ehgarty@dailyherald.com
cplac@dailyherald.com

Willowbrook High School Principal Daniel Krause is among four finalists in the running for the 2016 Golden Apple Stanley C. Golder Leadership Award.

And eight high school teachers in the Daily Herald coverage area are finalists for the 2016 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The leadership award is presented annually to a prekindergarten through high school

principal who shows commitment to student achievement and expertise in curriculum, instruction and assessment. It's named in memory of a founding Golden Apple board member.

Krause, who is in his ninth year as Willowbrook's principal, has overseen implementation of the Villa Park school's Warrior Code — "Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Engaged" — which has contributed to a positive school culture, he said.

Under Krause's leadership, the school has also put in place a "Warrior Time"

resource period for students to receive extra academic help during the school day.

"The toughest part about an award like this is it names myself, but the incredible work happens because of the incredible staff, students and community," Krause said.

Teachers who receive the Golden Apple award are nominated for making a difference in their students' lives and working to build a stronger, better-educated community.

Winners of both awards will be announced later this spring, but the 30 finalists

for the teaching award and the four Golden finalists will be honored during a ceremony April 2 at the Hilton Rosemont Chicago O'Hare.

Golden Apple will also honor the winner at the Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Leadership event May 20, and during a WTTW Channel 11 live broadcast.

The Golden Award winner will receive \$10,000 for his or her professional development and a school project of their choice.

The Golden Apple award selection committee, after a

final review and classroom observation, will choose 10 of the 30 nominated teachers to receive the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. Winners will receive \$5,000, one tuition-free spring quarter sabbatical to study at Northwestern University and membership into the Fellows of the Golden Apple Academy of Educators.

Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching finalists include:

- Michael Ayala, John Hersey High School in Arlington Heights

- Colleen Backer, St. Charles North High School in St. Charles

- John Camardella, Prospect High School in Mount Prospect

- Jeff Grant, Downers Grove North High School in Downers Grove

- Mark Hibner, Palatine High School in Palatine

- Peter McNulty, Loyola Academy High School in Wilmette

- Joshua Norton, Cary-Grove Community High School in Cary

- Sherri Rukes, Libertyville High School in Libertyville

U-46 changing how students learn science

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY
mkrishnamurthy@dailyherald.com

How does a change in temperature affect an earthworm's pulse rate? Do earthworms like wet soil or dry sand?

Rather than finding answers on Google or in a biology book, students in Frankie Valencia's seventh-grade science classroom at Kenyon Woods Middle School get their hands dirty to investigate the bodily functions of these creepy crawlers.

"I enjoy it because it's more hands-on," said Aliyah Johnson, 12, of Elgin, who wants to be a biologist. "I like learning about things ... how they work."

Watch the video



U-46 students get hands on with the science program overhaul at dailyherald.com/more.

that no longer focuses on rote memorization of facts, but offers students more opportunities to learn through hands-on experiments and investigation.

Elgin Area School District U-46 will be rolling out this new curriculum across its 40 elementary schools starting in the 2017-18 school year, and eventually its eight middle schools to better align with the state's new Next Generation Science Standards.

"It outlines what kids should know and be able to do by the end of certain grade levels,"

They are focused on having kids do science, not just learn about science. It's about students performing key practices to uncover scientific content."

Science teachers and experts from 26 states, including Illinois, developed the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) based on the National Research Council's framework for K-12 science education. The standards emphasize deep understanding of scientific concepts, asking students to engage in scientific inquiry and create their own theories for how and why things work.

Illinois formally adopted new science standards based on NGSS in February 2014, but school districts aren't required to implement them.

accountable for what they should know at each grade level.

"We are asking them to prove how they know it ... engaging in argument from evidence," Hans said. "We don't want them just getting the definition on day one. We want them going through a series of investigations to understand how (it) works. It's more meaningful. It's not just about a lesson. It's about an experience. Students can physically, cognitively, emotionally engage with a challenge."

Early implementers within U-46 will have another year to test out the new curriculum with the new materials before districtwide rollout.

"When students are engaged,

Settle: \$715,000 roof membrane installed

Continued from Page 1

The park district spent roughly \$815,000 on permanent fixes, and a roofing consultant who investigated the source of the leaks recommended a solution and bid out the work.

Legal costs, meanwhile, have approached nearly \$250,000, Harris said.

T.A. Bowman Constructors, the firm hired to build Ackerman, first filed a breach of contract lawsuit against the park district in July 2011. Bowman was "willing and able to finish its work" but

Through their insurers, five firms would pay the park district \$250,000 to settle the dispute. Bowman would owe \$80,000. Professional Building Services, Ollmann, Whited Brothers and Imperial would pay the rest.

The settlement also would not "constitute an admission of liability of any party."

A status hearing on the agreement is set for April 12 in DuPage County court. Harris, who was hired in July 2011, said Ackerman hasn't had any problems since an insulated, "single ply" membrane was installed



Congratulations
Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause
FINALIST
Golden Apple Stanley C. Golder
Leadership Award



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