

VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

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Dance for a Cure

Willowbrook High School's pom team held a Dance for a Cure camp last week for girls ages 2 to 14. The young campers practiced with the pom team daily from Oct. 17-20. On Friday, the campers joined the team to perform at halftime of the varsity football

game against Leyden. The photo was taken just before the beginning of the game. Proceeds from the Dance for a Cure camp benefit the Susan G. Komen organization, which is dedicated to fighting breast cancer.

CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review



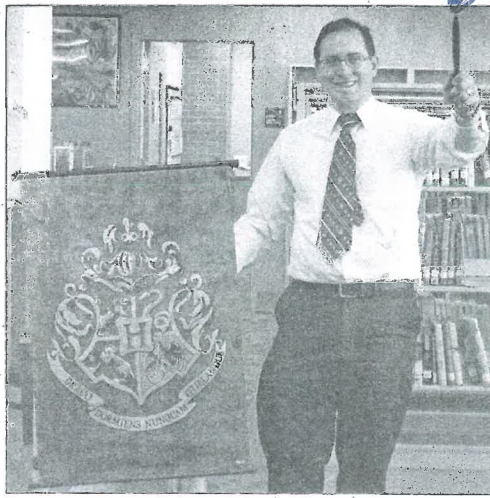
CHRIS FOX
PHOTOS
Villa Park Review



Willowbrook welcomes grade-school musicians to Band Day

Willowbrook High School's music department held its annual Band Day on Friday to welcome students from its feeder schools. Young musicians from area schools including Jackson, Jefferson and Albright middle schools spent part of the day at Willowbrook, where they practiced with the high school musicians. The students played as an ensemble moments before Friday night's varsity football game at Willowbrook's stadium. The ensemble performed Pharrell Williams' hit song "Happy"—as well as "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the Willowbrook fight song.

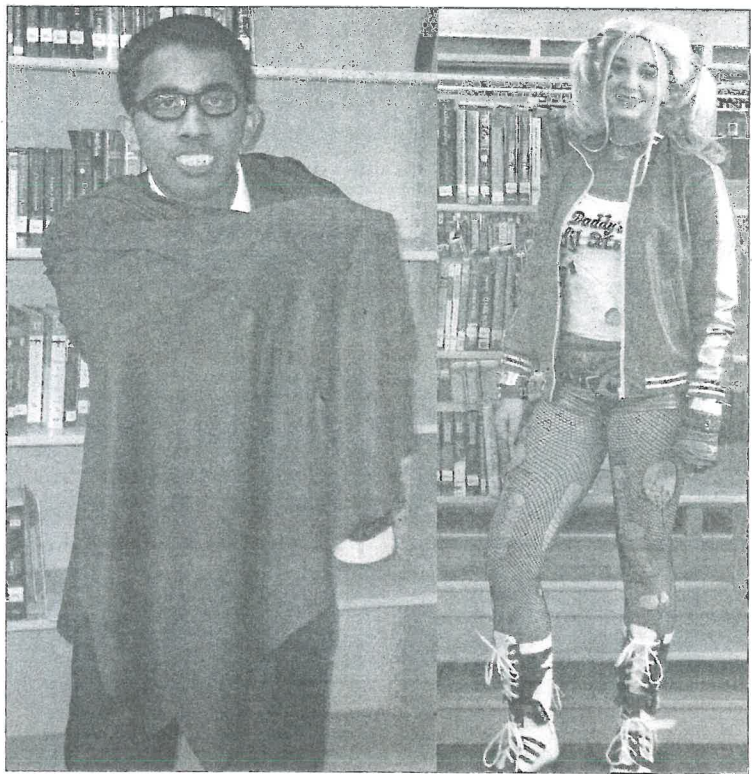




SUBMITTED PHOTOS Villa Park Review

Teen Read Week at Willowbrook

Willowbrook High School celebrated Teen Read Week from Oct. 11-14. In one of the week's special activities, students attempted to fly paper airplanes through a hula hoop to pay overdue library fines, or to win treats. Students also watched book-based movies after school and dressed as their favorite literary characters. The winners of the various events during the week received gift cards. The winners in the contest to dress as a literary character included (above) social studies teacher Andrew Levin, who dressed as Harry Potter from "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," as well as (middle) junior Faizan Ali, who dressed as Dracula from "Dracula" and sophomore Danielle Lee (right), who dressed as Harley Quinn from "Harley Quinn."



Villa Park's Halloween trick-or-treating hours for Monday: 3-7 p.m.

The Village of Villa Park has adopted Monday, Oct. 31, from 3-7 p.m. as the official hours for Halloween trick-or-treating. All local schools have been notified of the hours and will be encouraging their students to comply with the trick-or-treat hours.

The Villa Park Police Department will provide additional police personnel on duty during the four-hour trick-or-treating period. The police department recommends some simple tips for parents to ensure their children's safety on Halloween.

- Young children should be accompanied by a responsible adult. No child should ever trick-or-treat alone. Children should walk only in well-lit areas and avoid back yards, alleys, empty lots and parks.
- Make sure any masks that children wear do not block their vision. They should be able to see well both in front and to each side.
- Children who trick-or-treat after dark should carry flashlights and use reflective tape on their costumes.
- Parents of older children should know the routes they are planning to take and set a time for kids to be home. It is strongly recommended that children trick-or-treat in groups rather than by themselves.
- Review the contents of all treats. Remove any suspicious treats. If any treats show signs of possible tampering, call the police department at 630-834-7447.

Villa Park Junior Women's Club holds Trick or Trot run/walk on Saturday

The Villa Park Junior Women's Club will hold its annual Trick or Trot 5K Run/Walk and 1K Little Devil Dash on Saturday, Oct. 29. The 5-kilometer (3.1-mile) run and walk will begin at 9 a.m. The start and finish lines are located on the Illinois Prairie Path near the Rugard Gazebo, just west of Ardmore Avenue. The 1-kilometer dash for children will start at 10 a.m.

All participants are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes for the event. All proceeds from the run/walk will benefit the charities, organizations and families supported by the Villa Park Junior Women's Club.

Registration for the run/walk is \$35 per person and \$60 per family through Friday, Oct. 28. Registration for the 1-kilometer dash is \$12 per child. Race-day registration, which will begin at 7 a.m., will cost \$40 per individual and \$65 per family.

Registration forms and online registration are available through the Villa Park Junior Women's Club website at vpjwc.org. For more information, send an e-mail to vpjwc5k@gmail.com.

Businesses sponsor trick-or-treating event on Saturday

The Old Town Villa Avenue business association will hold a Halloween Trick-or-Treat event from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29. Children are invited to dress up in their costumes and visit the participating stores and businesses along Villa Avenue between St. Charles Road and the Prairie Path to collect treats. Children up to age 12 are invited to participate in the costume contest that will begin at 3 p.m. at Cortesi Veterans Memorial Park. Children who take part in the contest will be grouped into four separate divisions.

Cullerton honored by Transform Illinois

Sen. Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park) was recently honored for his work during the last session in creating a more transparent and efficient government.

Cullerton was honored by Transform Illinois for making local governments more responsive to their communities. Transform Illinois is a state-wide collaborative of elected officials and civic and research organizations dedicated to supporting more efficient local governments.

"By making local governments more efficient, we also our making our local governments more responsive to their constituencies," said Cullerton. "It has been a top goal of mine since

joining the state senate and I am proud of the good work we have done this year."

Cullerton sponsored legislation that would require county boards to develop reports of bodies of local governments that could be consolidated.

Veterans advocacy group supports Cullerton

For his work protecting veterans, Cullerton earned the endorsement of VoteVets, an organization representing over 400,000 troops, veterans, military families, and supporters nationwide.

"I am excited to announce that VoteVets has endorsed me as one of their Emerging Leaders. I plan to con-

tinue to be a voice for those who have served their country in the armed forces," said Cullerton. "Care for veterans must remain a top priority in this state; 22 veterans across the country commit suicide every day. I worked on the Task Force on Veterans' Suicide, instituted the 'no wrong door' policy to eliminate red tape for veterans seeking care, and consistently voted to increase funding for social services to make sure that these men and women can fully take advantage of state resources upon returning home."

VoteVets is a group focused on giving a voice to veterans of the armed services regarding the various issues that affect them. Their 400,000 members are active in all 50 states working on issues that affect veterans at the local, state, federal and international levels.

Murder mystery at the Villa Park Public Library Nov. 4-6

The Friends of the Villa Park Library will present their annual murder mystery play at the library on Friday, Nov. 4, Saturday, Nov. 5 and Sunday, Nov. 6. This year's presentation is entitled "Sam Club, Private Eye in: The Case of the Malted Falcon."

The presentations on Nov. 4 and Nov. 5 will begin at 7 p.m. The Nov. 6 event will start at 2 p.m. Dessert and coffee will be served during intermission of each performance. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Advance tickets are available at the circulation desk of the library, which is located at 305 S. Ardmore Ave.

The family friendly play will feature Private Eye Sam Club, who

finds trouble when the priceless edible chocolate sculpture he's guarding is stolen en route to the Gallery of Amazing Art in Villa Park. Who was the thief of the Malted Falcon? Was it Sam's secretary—Velma Vavoomsky? Was it television chef Rachael Raven? Could it have been extreme bird activist Abigail Nightingale, or was it one of the other wacky characters? At the end of the play, someone will be ruthlessly murdered, and it will be up to the audience to guess the culprit.

Audience members who correctly identify the murderer will be entered in a drawing to win prizes. For more information about the murder mystery, call the Villa Park Public Library at 630-834-1164.

Villa Park's unlimited fall leaf disposal continues throughout November

The Village of Villa Park's fall leaf collection program allows residents to dispose an unlimited number of Kraft paper bags of leaves without affixing any yard waste disposal stickers. The program is in effect during a seven-week period that began earlier this month and ends the week of Nov. 28 to Dec. 2.

Brush must be tied in bundles no larger than 4 feet, no larger than 18 inches in diameter and weighing no more than 50 pounds. No limbs over 4 inches in diameter will be accepted.

Yard waste is limited to what is

generated at the residence being serviced and must be placed out for pickup by 6 a.m.

Yard waste stickers are not required for the disposal of brush bundles. Since all brush and yard waste are transported to a composting facility for processing, plastic bags should not be used. Residents should use only biodegradable twine or string to bind brush.

It is unlawful to deposit yard waste of any kind into public streets. For more information, call the village's public works department at 630-834-8505.

Students invited to free Friday Night Connect; first meetings take place on Friday

All area students in grades 6-8 are invited to take part in Friday Night Connect—a partnership between Willowbrook High School, the Villa Park Police Department and local churches. The first event takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28.

The mission of Friday Night Connect is to provide students with safe and positive activities. Willowbrook students will mentor the grade-school students. Adults will provide supervision.

The program is free for all participants.

The Friday Night Connect events will take place at three area locations—York Center Church of the Brethren at 18071 Luther Ave., Lombard; Harvard Avenue Evangelical Free Church at 206 W. St. Charles Road, Villa Park; and Calvary United Methodist Church at 136 E. Highland Ave., Villa Park.

Another Friday Night Connect event is scheduled for Dec. 9. The events set to take place in 2017 are set for Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 10, April 14 and May 12.

For more information, call 630-832-5580, or send an e-mail to FridayNightConnect@gmail.com.

Warriors' quest for conference title ends with a loss to Leyden

By Chris Fox
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW
STAFF REPORTER

The Willowbrook football team needed to win Friday's regular-season finale against West Suburban Gold Conference rival Leyden to win the program's first conference championship in 34 years. The Warriors were unable to overtake the visiting Eagles, who posted a 21-9 victory in Villa Park.

Leyden, which snapped Willowbrook's four-game winning streak, finished the regular season with an overall record of 7-2 and an unblemished conference mark of 5-0. The Warriors, who clinched a playoff berth with their 31-7 conference win at Downers Grove South on Oct. 14, completed the regular season at 6-3 overall and 3-2 in conference play.

Leyden and Willowbrook will continue their seasons in the IHSA playoffs. The Warriors, who last qualified for the post-season in 2013, will travel to Quincy for this week's Class 7A first-round meeting against the Blue Devils of Quincy Senior High (8-1 overall). Leyden, which will play in the Class 8A division; opens the playoff with a game at Barrington.

The Warriors were able to move the ball against Leyden, but they struggled to convert their drives into points. Willowbrook scored its only touchdown of the night with less than one minute left in the game. Junior running back Jack Jensen, who rushed for nearly 200 yards on the night, crossed the goal line on a 4-yard touchdown run with about 50 seconds to play to provide the final



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review
Junior Jack Jensen of the Willowbrook football team ran for nearly 200 yards during Friday's West Suburban Gold Conference game against Leyden. The Eagles defeated Willowbrook 21-9. Jensen scored the Warriors' only touchdown of the night on a 4-yard run with less than one minute to play in the fourth quarter.

points of the night.

"We had the ball inside their 15-yard line six times and scored one touchdown," said Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth after the game. "You're not going to beat good teams by squandering opportunity after op-

portunity and not finishing drives."

Willowbrook took the game's opening kickoff and drove deep into Leyden territory, but the Warriors' opening drive ended when they missed a 25-yard field-goal attempt that bounced off the left upright.

Leyden took possession of the ball and scored two plays later on a 61-yard touchdown run up the middle of the field. The Eagles made the extra-point kick to take a 7-0 lead with about seven minutes left in the first quarter.

The Warriors produced another offensive deep into Leyden territory later in the first quarter, but that drive ended when senior quarterback M.J. Ranieri was sacked for a 3-yard loss on a fourth-and-three play from the Eagles' 13-yard line.

Willowbrook senior Khalif Copeland made a diving interception of a tipped pass to end a Leyden scoring threat midway through the second quarter. Copeland's catch near the sideline gave the Warriors the ball near their own 20-yard line.

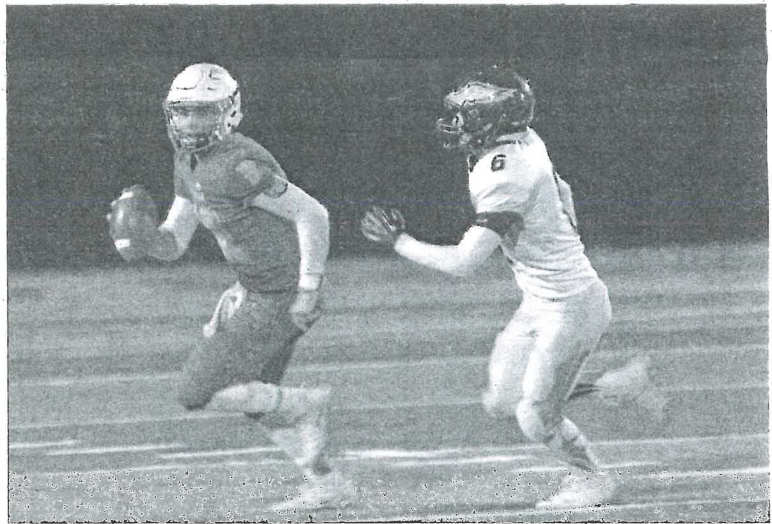
The Eagles extended their lead to 14-0 when they scored a defensive touchdown with a little more than one minute to play in the first half. The Eagles sacked Ranieri near midfield and caused a fumble on the critical play. One Leyden player recovered the fumble and advanced the ball before fumbling it himself. Another Eagle picked up the loose ball and raced about 35 yards into the end zone. The extra-point kick gave the Eagles a 14-0 lead.

Senior kicker Mike Dembowski provided Willowbrook's first points of the night when he made a field goal of about 25 yards in the third quarter. Dembowski missed a kick from a similar distance later in the period. Leyden expanded its lead to 21-3 following a 54-yard touchdown pass with 10:36 left in the game.

"We moved the ball early; we gave up a big play; we gave up a defensive score," said Hildreth. "The biggest problem for us was execution. We'll learn from the things we have to fix. Fortunately for us, we've put ourselves in a position where we get to play next week."



Willowbrook senior offensive lineman Zak Walenga provides pass protection during Friday's regular-season finale against Leyden. The visiting Eagles beat the Warriors 21-9 in Villa Park. The Warriors needed to win the game to earn the school's first conference championship in football in 34 years. Willowbrook's season continues with this week's IHSA Class 7A playoff game at Quincy Senior High School.



Willowbrook senior quarterback M.J. Ranieri evades a Leyden defender during Friday's West Suburban Gold Conference football game in Villa Park. The Warriors could have clinched a share of the conference title by beating Leyden in the regular-season finale, but the visiting Eagles earned a 21-9 win. Leyden posted a perfect conference record of 5-0, while Willowbrook turned in a conference mark of 3-2. The Warriors, who closed out the regular season with an overall record of 6-3, will open the IHSA Class 7A playoffs with this week's game at Quincy Senior High School.

Montini builds playoff momentum with win over St. Francis

By Chris Fox
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW STAFF
REPORTER

The Montini football team completed its regular season with Friday's convincing 44-0 win over St. Francis in Lombard. The victory sends the Broncos into the IHSA Class 6A playoffs on a five-game winning streak. Montini has not lost since absorbing a 42-7 defeat at Brother Rice on Sept. 16—a loss that gave the Broncos a 1-3 record.

Montini, which won the 2015 Class 6A state title with an unblemished 14-0 record, will begin the 2016 playoffs with this Friday's game at St. Ignatius in Chicago. The opening kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. If the Broncos beat St. Ignatius, which posted a 7-2 record during the regular

season, there's a good chance they will meet Prairie Ridge of Crystal Lake in the second round.

A Montini-Prairie Ridge contest would mark a rematch of last year's memorable post-season showdown in the Class 6A semifinal round. The Broncos rallied from a fourth-quarter deficit to beat the Wolves 35-27 in a game played in blizzard conditions. One week after beating Prairie Ridge, the Broncos beat Crete-Monee 38-15 in the Class 6A state championship game.

The Broncos have played in seven straight IHSA state championship contests. Montini won four straight Class 5A state titles from 2009-12 before losing two straight Class 5A title tilts in 2013 and 2014 and winning the Class 6A championship in

2015. The Broncos are making their 24th consecutive playoff appearance this year.

Montini built a 24-0 halftime lead over St. Francis—which finished the season with a 1-8 record. The Broncos opened the scoring on junior quarterback Matt Morrissey's 15-yard touchdown pass to senior Christian Pirog in the first quarter. Junior Nick Orlando's 15-yard touchdown run later in the quarter helped Montini extend its lead to 14-0.

Morrissey and senior receiver Mitch West connected on a 54-yard touchdown pass in the second period. Junior kicker Michael Cooney, who booted the extra-point kicks after each of Montini's five touchdowns during the game, converted a 32-yard field-goal attempt in the second period to push the

Broncos' lead to 24-0.

Morrissey fired two more touchdown passes in the third quarter. He hooked up with his brother—senior Tommie Morrissey—on a 25-yard scoring pass before delivering an 8-yard TD pass to junior Matt Quaglia later in the period. Cooney closed out the scoring with a pair of field-goal kicks—a 20-yarder in the third quarter and a 47-yard boot in the fourth quarter.

Matt Morrissey completed 11 of 16 pass attempts for 221 yards and four touchdowns. Senior Prince Walker, who had been sidelined with an injury for several straight games, returned to the lineup on Friday and contributed 32 rushing yards on six carries. Walker also made three receptions for 69 yards.

Warriors' girls and boys cross country teams advance to Class 3A sectional

By Chris Fox
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW
STAFF REPORTER

The Willowbrook girls and boys cross country teams continued their seasons with top-six finishes in Saturday's IHSA Class 3A regional at Katherine Legge Memorial Park in Hinsdale. Each team needed a top-six finish in its respective race to advance to next week's Marist Sectional at Midlothian Meadows in Midlothian.

The girls team ran to a sixth-place finish in the eight-team regional. The Warriors posted a team score of 177 points. Chicago's Curie High School placed seventh with 216 team points. Sophomore Victoria Palma turned in Willowbrook's fastest regional time, completing the 3-mile race in 19 minutes, 39 seconds.

Palma placed 23rd among all individuals in the girls race, which featured 60 finishers. Junior Lydia Bauernfreund finished the race in 21:24, just ahead of freshman Ellie King, who completed the regional in 21:25. Juniors Angela Klingelhoffer (21:41) and Briana Jones (22:33) provided the Warriors' fourth- and fifth-best times. Senior Grace Guthrie (23:08) and junior Jennifer Williams (23:35) completed the Warriors' regional lineup.

Willowbrook's boys team also earned a sixth-place finish in Saturday's regional, which took place on the same 3-mile course as the girls race.

The Warriors posted a team score of 159 in the 11-team boys competition. Sophomore Matt Caron ran the Warriors' fastest regional time by negotiating the 3-mile course in 16 minutes, 16 seconds. Caron placed 21st among all individuals in the race, which included 74 finishers. Seniors Casey King (16:33) and Jacob Christiansen (17:07) delivered



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS/Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Willowbrook's boys cross country team is pictured at the start of Saturday's IHSA Class 3A regional at Hinsdale's Katherine Legge Memorial Park. Willowbrook ran to a sixth-place finish in the team standings of the 11-team competition. Placing among the top six teams in the regional gave the Warriors a berth in this week's Marist Sectional in Midlothian. Willowbrook's regional lineup (pictured left to right) featured: Junior Ian Costello (bib No. 677), sophomore Matt Caron (671), senior Evan Carter, junior Michael Isaacson (673), senior Jacob Christiansen (672), junior Alec Gruchalski (674) and senior Casey King. Caron ran the Warriors' fastest regional time. He completed the 3-mile race in 16 minutes, 16 seconds. Caron placed 21st among all individuals in the event. The other photo shows Caron crossing the creek that is part of the course at Katherine Legge Memorial Park. Runners must cross the creek twice during the race.

the Warriors' second- and third-best times. Junior Alec Gruchalski (17:10.36) and senior Evan Carter (17:10.95) both finished the race a few seconds after Christiansen. Juniors Michael Isaacson (17:24) and Ian Costello (17:56) completed the Warriors' regional team.



Above: The Willowbrook girls cross country team opened the IHSA post-season by competing in Saturday's Class 3A regional at Katherine Legge Memorial Park in Hinsdale. The Warriors ran to a sixth-place finish in the team standings to qualify for next week's Marist Sectional. The top six teams at the regional earned berths in the sectional. The photo from the opening seconds of the regional shows (left to right) junior Angela Klingelhoffer (bib No. 555), junior Jennifer Williams, freshman Ellie King (553), senior Grace Guthrie, junior Briana Jones (556), sophomore Victoria Palma (551) and junior Lydia Bauernfreund (554). Palma posted Willowbrook's fastest finish in the 3-mile race. She completed the event in 19 minutes, 39 seconds, which was good for 23rd among all individuals in the race.

Left: Junior Lexi Weltin of the Glenbard East girls cross country team is pictured at Saturday's IHSA Class 3A regional at Lake Park High School's east campus in Roselle. Weltin led the Rams to a fifth-place finish in the 10-team event. By placing among the top six teams, Glenbard East earned a berth in this week's Niles West Sectional. Weltin completed the 3-mile regional race at Lake Park in 19 minutes, 16 seconds—good for 27th among all individuals. Juniors Katie Schaefer (19:19), Cailyn Biegalski (19:34), Melissa Flores (19:35) and Ali Ljiljestrand (20:01) posted the Rams' next fastest times. Freshmen Laura DeLaTorre (20:06) and Allyson Griffith (20:19) completed the Rams' regional lineup.



Broncos advance to sectional cross country meet

The Montini girls cross country team earned a berth in this week's IHSA Class 2A sectional in West Chicago with its fifth-place effort in Saturday's regional at Katherine Legge Memorial Park in Hinsdale.

The Broncos turned in a team score of 123 points at the 10-team regional. The top six regional teams advanced to the Wheaton Academy Sectional, which will be held at Kress Creek Farms Park in West Chicago.

Senior Jenna Weidacher ran Mon-

tini's leading best time at the regional, completing the 3-mile race in an 11th-place time of 19 minutes, 33 seconds. Senior Mary O'Brien (19:47) placed 18th among all competitors, while sophomore Katie Harrington (20:14) ran to a 23rd-place finish. Junior Lea Ritchie (20:31) and freshman Julianne Billote (20:44) placed 33rd and 38th, respectively.

Junior Emily Samp (21:07) and freshman Maggie Connelly (21:22) rounded out Montini's regional contingent.



COURTESY PHOTO SThe Independent



District 88 celebrates Teen Read Week

From Oct. 11 to 14, Addison Trail and Willowbrook celebrated Teen Read Week.

Activities included students flying paper airplanes through a Hula-Hoop to pay off library overdue fines or to win treats, watching movies that are based on books after school, enjoying a "read-in" event during resource period and dressing as a favorite literary character.

Event winners received a gift card to Portillo's or Sonic.

Sophomore Karime Martinez

The winners from Willowbrook were:

Dress as your favorite literary character:
Social studies teacher Andrew Levin (dressed as Harry Potter from "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone")

Junior Faizan Ali (dressed as Dracula from "Dracula")
Sophomore Danielle Lee (dressed as Harley Quinn from "Harley Quinn")

Abe Lincoln and Read for a Lifetime reading program raffle winner: Junior Diyahvion Skinner

Teen Read Week is a national adolescent literacy initiative created by the Young Adult Library Services Association. It began in 1998 and takes place annually in October. Its purpose is to encourage teens to be regular readers and library users. This year's event featured a multi-lingual "Read for the fun of it!" theme.

The winners from Addison Trail were:

Dress as your favorite literary character:

Math teacher Natalie Stach Wilen (dressed as Mikasa from "Attack on Titan")

Senior Priscilla Vega (dressed as Tris from "Divergence")

Freshman Brayan Villegas (dressed as The Puppeteer from "The Puppeteer")

Abe Lincoln and Read for a Lifetime reading program raffle winner:

Pictured above are Addison Trail's winners of the Teen Read Week costume contest who include (from left): math teacher Natalie Stach Wilen, senior Priscilla Vega and freshman Brayan Villegas. Pictured at left are Willowbrook's winners of the Teen Read Week costume contest who include (from left): social studies teacher Andrew Levin, junior Faizan Ali and sophomore Danielle Lee.



Visitation's Annual St. Nick's Boutique!!

Saturday, November 5th, 2016 • 9:00am - 3:00pm
Visitation Valentino Center • 851 S. York

SHOP!

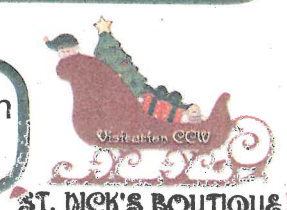
Handcrafted Gift Items,
Apparel, Holiday Décor,
Jewelry, Homemade Baked
Goods and more!

EAT!

Our Kringle Café will be serving
our World Famous Sloppy Joes,
walking tacos, pizza, hot dogs
and more!

WIN!

Our Annual Kid's Raffle Tree will be open from
9:00am-2:00pm! Great prizes for all ages!



Addison Trail High School salutes its best

On Oct. 18, 25 Addison Trail students were named as AT's Best. The AT's Best award honors students who have achieved a "personal best." The following categories have been used to recognize recipients: service, Blazer Pride, cooperation, dependability, initiative, leadership, humanitarian spirit or unique contributions. Students receive a pin or a T-shirt for their efforts and are honored during a breakfast.

AT's Best recipients are:

- Senior Andrew Felix
Nominated by: Dean Keith Marston
- Sophomore Clare O'Connell
Nominated by: Teacher aide Marianne Perri
- Seniors Maxwell Dziabis, Lilia Garcia, Alec Montgomery and Sevina Topalska

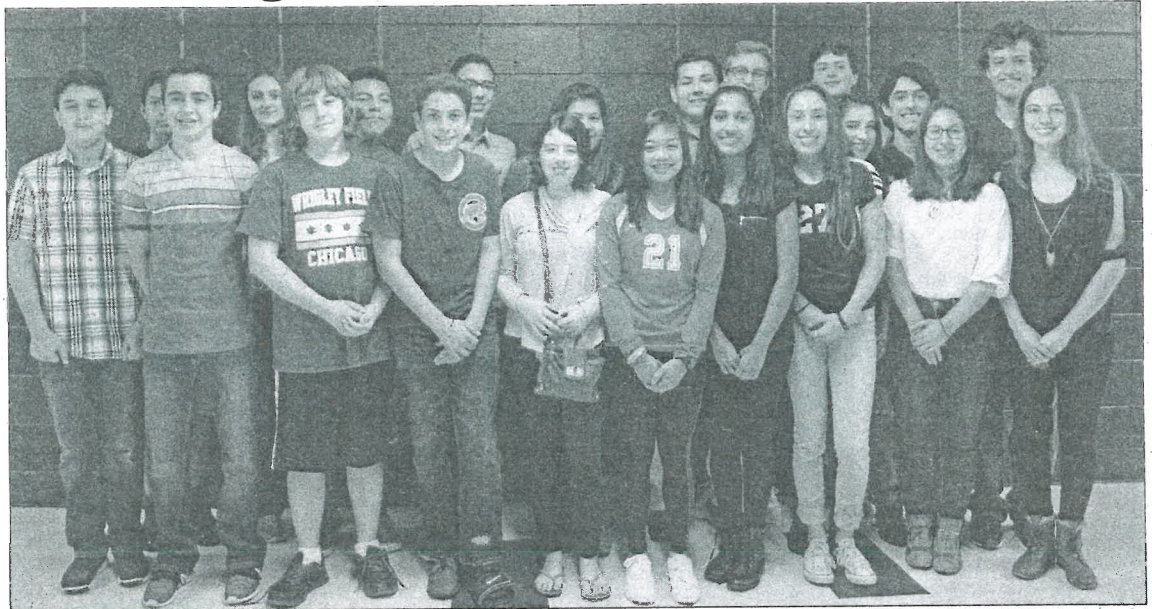
- Nominated by: English teacher and Theatre Director Anna Jakubka
- Sophomore Edward Ficarra, junior Katarina Surjancev and sophomore Connor White

- Nominated by: English teacher and Theatre Director Anna Jakubka
- Freshmen Sabrina Boucekkine, Sam Conforti, Nicole Bartosik, Pratibha Bhalla, Aesha Patel, Matthew Kurtz, Johan Lora, Paulina Stachura, John Stathopoulos and Alex Conrad

- Nominated by: English teacher Katie Inzinga, social studies teacher Mark Olson and science teacher Andrea Stawery

- Freshmen Marco Chaidez, Jonathan Roeglin, Kevin Cruz, Angela Gonzalez, Giselle Rios and Amy Reyes

- Nominated by: English teacher Patricia Subers, science teacher Laura Garcia, special education teacher Anna Grice and social studies teacher Jose Hernandez.



COURTESY PHOTO Addison Independent

Pictured are Addison Trail students who were named as AT's Best at a breakfast held in their honor on Tuesday, Oct. 18.

ATHS to honor Coletta with Tradition of Excellence award

Induction ceremony, reception planned for Nov. 1

On Nov. 1, Addison Trail will recognize alumnus Christopher Coletta (class of 1990) with the Tradition of Excellence award.

The Tradition of Excellence award is the highest honor presented by Addison Trail to its graduates.

Initiated in 1999, this annual alumni recognition program has honored recipients in professional fields such as medicine, engineering, science, education, art, music and law. Coletta will be inducted into the Tradition of Excellence during a presentation that will begin at 3:15 p.m. at Addison Trail. A reception will take place after that ceremony. To reserve a seat, RSVP by Oct. 30 to Melissa Morales at mmorales@dupage88.net or 630-458-4150.

Coletta has more than 20 years of experience in the health care industry — externally as a strategy consultant with McKinsey & Company and internally through multiple biopharma roles at Pfizer Inc. and Amgen, which involved drug discovery, corporate strategy and technology innovation.

Coletta is a member of the leadership team at Coactuate, a strategic design consultancy focused on driving growth and innovation for the world's top health care companies. In this role, he draws on his diverse background in science

(he earned his undergraduate degree from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Harvard University), music (he plays double bass in jazz performances) and sports (he was an Olympic cyclist in 1992) to identify creative solutions to the most difficult problems facing health care companies today.

Coletta lives in Los Angeles with his wife Lecia and their children Emmeline, 5, and Mateo, 3.

To be considered for the Tradition of Excellence award, nominees must have graduated from Addison Trail more than 10 years ago; distinguished themselves in the academic, artistic, business, professional, entrepreneurial or public service field; demonstrated an ability to serve as an outstanding role model for current Addison Trail students; and performed services and/or accomplishments that have brought credit to their alma mater. To nominate someone for the Tradition of Excellence award, visit dupage88.net/site/public/files/?item=644.



COURTESY PHOTO Addison Independent

Pictured is Addison Trail alumnus Christopher Coletta (class of 1990), who will be honored with the 2016 Tradition of Excellence award during a presentation on Nov. 1.

•Dems (Continued from front page)

Bray said the disclosure indicates who really benefits from the status quo.

"These are the people and the organizations that don't want to see change and want things to stay just the way they are," Bray said.

The Support Independent Maps political action committee had gathered more than a half a million signatures and raised millions of dollars in an effort to give redistricting power to an independent 11-member panel aimed at maximizing public input. While it was supported by members of both parties, the Independent Maps received funds from donors allied with Gov. Bruce Rauner, who advocated for the amendment. People's Map criticized Independent Maps in an August letter calling the measure "a political ploy to hurt middle-class families and minorities in Illinois," and saying the measure would help Rauner and his "extreme agenda."

Independent Maps still enjoys popular support for today. A poll by Southern Illinois University's Paul Simon Public Policy Institute showed 72 percent of voters polled supported the ballot initiative.

Trial lawyer Michael Kasper, the go-to election lawyer for Madigan and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, challenged the ballot initiative in court. Instead of arguing that the proposed Constitutional amendment violated the voting rights of Illinois' minorities, Kasper argued that the proposal improperly gave power to the state's auditor general, something he argued ballot initiatives cannot do.

Along political lines, the Illinois Supreme Court voted against the measure in August, saying it went beyond the scope allowed for citizen-led initiatives. Dissenting opinions excoriated the ruling. Supreme Court Justice Robert Thomas, a Republican, said that relevant parts of the Illinois Constitution should bear an "out of service sign," because the ruling makes it very difficult for any citizen-led referendum to make it on the ballot.

Multiple attempts to reach People's Map via email, Mr. Kasper, Chairman Hooker, and Arthur Gass Sr. — also a principal of People's Map — were not successful. The organization's listed phone number is disconnected.

Fourth and fifth graders work with songwriter to create a song

All fourth and fifth graders of Addison School District 4 are getting the opportunity to work with songwriter Steve Seskin to write and perform a song. Seskin is visiting Addison as an artist-in-residence, spending time in each of the seven elementary schools, working with groups of students to brainstorm

a title, write verses, a chorus, and a bridge and then to perform the newly written song in an all-school assembly at the end of the day. On Wednesday, Lincoln 4th & 5th graders wrote "Keep Calm and Carry On." Thursday, Wesley students wrote "Life is a Journey."

"Steve was wonderful to work

with, great with the kids, and obviously a very talented song-writer," said Music Teacher Hillary Lamb. "What a unique, valuable experience for our students!"

For more information about Songwriting With Kids, visit steveseskin.com.

See photo on page 1.

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COURTESY PHOTO The Independent

Addison Trail Assistant Principal Courtney DeMent (left) and Willowbrook Assistant Principal Tom Cantlin (right) accept a check from LifeSource during the Oct. 17 District 88 Board of Education meeting. The check was presented by LifeSource Addison Community Blood Drive Chairperson Judy Socha (second from left) and LifeSource Senior Account Manager Suzanne Hammer (third from left). The money is from blood drives hosted during the 2015-16 school year at Addison Trail and Willowbrook and will go toward scholarships for District 88 students.

LifeSource presents District 88 with blood-drive proceeds

During the Oct. 17 District 88 Board of Education meeting, LifeSource presented District 88 with a check for \$8,000.

The money is from blood drives hosted during the 2015-16 school year at Addison Trail and Willowbrook and will go toward scholarships for District 88 students. District 88 received the check for having about 688 people participate in the blood drives. According to LifeSource, each unit of blood collected supports three lives, which means about 1,700 lives have been supported thanks to the generosity of those donors.

LifeSource Addison Community Blood Drive Chairperson Judy Socha said this school year marks the 45th year Addison Trail will participate in blood drives. To watch the presentation from Socha and LifeSource Senior Account Manager Suzanne Hammer, go to <https://www.dupage88.net/site/page/6079#> and click on "LifeSource Presentation."

LifeSource, Chicago's Blood Center, is a nonprofit organization that provides blood products to the majority of the Chicago area. Blood donations are accepted at any of the LifeSource donation centers, and an appointment can be made by calling 877-543-3768 or registering online at lifesource.org. Mention Addison Trail or Willowbrook to earn credit for the schools.

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Stone School welcomes author of Girl Superhero book

Stone School held a special event on Tuesday, Oct. 18 when author Amy Logan visited the school.

Logan wrote *A Girl with a Cape: The True Story about the Superhero in All of Us*, as well as two additional books in this series. Staff members planned several activities for the students in preparation for Logan's visit. Every student wrote a journal about what is "super" about themselves and each class went on a Top Secret mission of kindness. In addition, they built a Kindness Wall

to celebrate kindness and caring actions throughout the school.

Logan presented student programs in the afternoon, talking to students about their own superhero 'powers' and ways that they can make a difference in someone else's life.

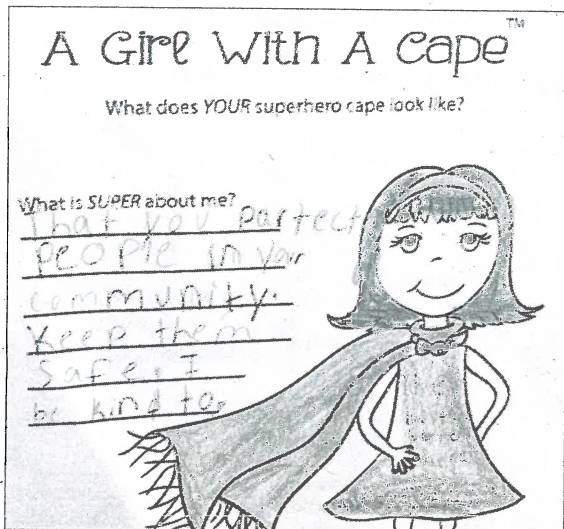
Stone families were encouraged to attend the school's Family Reading Night event Tuesday evening, where Logan presented another program. Stone staff members dressed for the day wearing superhero teaching t-shirts and capes.



COURTESY PHOTOS Addison Independent

Above: Students at Stone School raise their hands to respond to Amy Logan, author of *A Girl with a Cape: The True Story about the Superhero in All of Us*, during an assembly held at the school on Tuesday, Oct. 18. She encouraged the children, especially the girls, to think about and identify their own "super powers."

Left: This is one of the many worksheets that were done by the students at Stone School as they figured out what their own superhero powers. It was part of a program featuring author Amy Logan, who wrote *A Girl with a Cape*.



AT alumni featured in Center for the Arts 'Then and Now' exhibit

On Oct. 12, Addison Center for the Arts hosted a reception for its "Then and Now" exhibit.

That display showcases about 125 pieces of artwork created by 14 Addison Trail alumni in celebration of the school's 50th anniversary. The works show where they started at Addison Trail and where they are now.

Alumni artists exhibiting their works and stories are Rafael Barontini, Kyle Busse, Joe Giron, Dan Kernkamp, Katherine Klimt-Staller, Erik Lykins, Frank Matas, Mike Naples, Ann Pasteur, Wendy Rizza, Jeff Ward, Alex Wellington, Rhonda Zayas and Etola Zinni.

The exhibit will go through Nov. 4.

On Oct. 12, Addison Center for the Arts hosted a reception for its "Then and Now" exhibit, which showcases about 125 pieces of artwork created by 14 Addison Trail alumni in celebration of the school's 50th anniversary. Many of the artists attended the event, and they're pictured with their artwork. They are (top to bottom, left to right) Frank Matas, class of 1993; Joe Giron, class of 1994; Katherine Klimt-Staller, class of 1980 (with her daughter); Wendy Rizza, class of 1982; and the art of Rafael Barontini, class of 2001 (artist not pictured). The exhibit will go through Nov. 4.



COURTESY PHOTOS Addison Independent





COURTESY PHOTOS The Independent

Addison Trail hosts 'Go Pink' events

On Oct. 12, Addison Trail hosted its fifth annual Go Pink Walk to raise money for breast cancer awareness and research in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. (above): Principal Michael Bolden (center, left) and District 88 Superintendent Dr. Scott Helton (center, right) pose with leaders of the groups that coordinate the school's "Go Pink" activities throughout October. Those groups are Addison Trail's Blazettes Team, Cheerleading Team, Girls Volleyball Team, Orchestras Team, L.A.D.I.E.S., Marching Band and Color Guard.

(Above): Junior Fiona Levesque (left) and senior Hayley Scotti participate in the walk. (below): Juniors Karla Regalado (left) and Esbeyda Martinez hold up pink ribbon cookies that were available to buy during the walk.



Montini community supports 'Mission Nights' at Giordano's

Under the leadership of Campus Minister Michael Blanchette, Montini Catholic's service ministry program teamed up with Giordano's Pizza in Oak Brook to host "Montini Mission Nights" every Tuesday in October. Tuesday, Oct. 18 was the big night however, when there were raffles and give-aways from the Bulls and Blackhawks throughout the evening. Giordano's donated 15% of every ticket to Montini, to benefit the high school's mission trips.

"Called by our Lasallian mission of faith, service, community and social justice, Broncos participate in service and immersion experiences both at home and abroad," said Blanchette, who plans to take his third trip to Nicaragua with students next summer. "The location and

See MONTINI, Page 21



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ATHS Go Pink Walk raises funds for breast cancer awareness

Event recalls beloved teacher Elizabeth Clifford who passed in 2014

On Oct. 12, Addison Trail hosted its fifth annual Go Pink Walk to raise money for breast cancer awareness and research in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The school will host events throughout October to raise funds to benefit Elmhurst Memorial Hospital Center for Cancer Care's Breast Health Project, as well as a student scholarship. "Go Pink" activities are coordinated by the Blazettes Team, Cheerleading Team, Girls Volleyball Team, Orchestras Team,

L.A.D.I.E.S., Marching Band and Color Guard.

This year's theme is "Go Pink Hits Home" in memory of Addison Trail special education teacher Elizabeth Clifford. Addison Trail also planted a Prairie Flower Crabapple tree (which has "pink" flowers) on Oct. 12 and dedicated it to Clifford, who passed away in May 2016 after battling breast cancer for several years. She joined the District 88 staff in 2003 at Addison Trail and taught in special-

ized programs such as SED88 and ACHIEVE for 13 years.

During her time at Addison Trail, Clifford was involved in the school's "Go Pink" initiative; helped lead the school's L.A.D.I.E.S. group, which provides support and ongoing motivational clinics for female students in an effort to help members gain confidence and realize their true potential; and assisted with the annual Pay It Forward event, which welcomes incoming freshmen to the school.



Top left: Pink balloons were released before the Go Pink Walk on Oct. 12 in memory of Addison Trail special education teacher Elizabeth Clifford, who passed away in May 2016 after battling breast cancer for several years. **Pictured are (from left)** Nick Lopez, a close friend of the Clifford family; Clifford's two daughters, Katy and Sara; Grace Fitzpatrick, a close friend of the Clifford family; and Maddie Gwilliam, a close friend of the Clifford family. **Top right:** Addison Trail Principal Michael Bolden (right) presents a plaque honoring Clifford to her daughters, Katy (left) and Sara, and Jeff, to whom Clifford was married for 25 years. **Bottom:** Addison Trail students release pink balloons to honor Clifford.



COURTESY PHOTOS Addison Independent

Students participated in Go Pink Walk to remember Addison Trail special education teacher Elizabeth Clifford, who passed away in May 2016 after battling breast cancer for several years. Before the Go Pink Walk on Oct. 12, several speakers shared their memories of Clifford. They are (top to bottom, left to right) AT Principal Michael Bolden, Dist. 88 Board of Education President Donna Craft Cain, WBHS Social Worker Erik Engel and AT juniors Destiny Martinez (left) and Yesennia Tiscareno.

Community calendar

Tuesday, Nov. 1

• Crazy 8s Math Club: Grades 3-5 at the Library

Join us for a wild Math Ride from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, 4 Friendship Plaza. We'll play games so fun you won't even realize you might have learned something! Info: Call 630-458-3338 or visit addisonlibrary.org

• The Book Bunch at the Library

The library's flagship book club meets once a month to discuss titles in every conceivable genre. Pick up a book and sign up to join us at the Adult Services desk. I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai will be discussed from 7-8 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, 4 Friendship Plaza. Info: Call 630-458-3320 or visit addisonlibrary.org

Tuesday, Nov. 1 and Nov. 8 Young Parent Group at the Library

Join other young parents and Teen Parent Connection to learn about your baby's development, access resources in your community, and feel great about yourself from 6:00-8:30 at the Addison Public Library, 4 Friendship Plaza. Dinner provided. For parents and parents-to-be 22 and under. Info: Call 630-458-3319 or visit addisonlibrary.org

addisonlibrary.org

Wednesday, Nov. 2 • Brown Bag Book Talk at the Library

Read any book of your choice and come ready to discuss with Adult Specialists from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, 4 Friendship Plaza. Lunch will be provided. Registration required. Info: Call 630-458-3320 or visit addisonlibrary.org

• Political Discussion

Group at the Library

Read articles and then meet up to discuss them from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, 4 Friendship Plaza. The conversation is civil and the cookies are fresh! Articles will be available here online and at the adult services desk a week or two before the program. Info: Call 630-458-3320 or visit addisonlibrary.org

• Family Movie Night at the Library

Drop in. Come share snacks and watch a movie on our big screen. This program takes place at the same time as our teen film club, but features a family title from 6-8 p.m. at the Addison Public Library. All ages are

welcome. Info: Call 630-458-3334 or visit addisonlibrary.org

• Teen Film Club

Join us for dinner and a movie at our monthly movie night from 6-8 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, 4 Friendship Plaza. Bring siblings along for dinner and their own movie in the room next door. We are featuring films from Addison Trail High School's Cinema Class, so stick around to talk about the movie. Info: Call 630-458-3319 or visit addisonlibrary.org

Thursday, Nov. 3

• Yoga for Adults at the Library

From 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, 4 Friendship Plaza. No children please. Info: Call 630-458-3320 or visit addisonlibrary.org

• Hungry Brain: Evil

Teens, join us for a discussion of current events, science, and philosophy. Watch this month's YouTube playlist and then share your thoughts with us at our monthly meeting from 6-8 p.m. at the Addison Public Library.

You can find this month's topic and videos at tinyurl.com/hungrybrainers. Info: Call 630-458-3319 or visit addisonlibrary.org

Thursday, Nov. 3 and 10 ¡Hola!

Drop-in. Come join us in our play space for our Spanish/English story time. Have fun listening to your favorite stories and enjoy some activities in Spanish from 10:30-11 a.m. at the Addison Public Library, 4 Friendship Plaza! All ages welcome; knowledge of Spanish is not required. ¡Nos vemos pronto! For kids of all ages. Info: Call 630-458-3319 or visit addisonlibrary.org

Saturday, Nov. 5 Saturday Stories and Crafts

Children have fun and develop early literacy skills in this drop-in Saturday class that includes books, music, and crafts from 2-2:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, 4 Friendship Plaza. All ages; caregivers welcome. Info: Call 630-458-3338 or visit addisonlibrary.org

Sunday, Nov. 6 Creative Studio: experience virtual reality at the Library

Explore other planets or the depths of the ocean. Check out the library's Playstation VR to experience this futuristic technology or see if it makes a good holiday gift from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library. Info:

Call 630-458-3354 or visit addisonlibrary.org

Monday, Nov. 7 Anime Club

Teens, we'll watch the latest anime, discuss our favorite manga, and try out Japanese snacks from 4:00-6:00 at the Addison Public Library. Newbies welcome! Info: Call 630-458-3319 or visit addisonlibrary.org

• Writing the perfect resume

Learn to write a perfect resume from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, 4 Friendship Plaza.

Bring your resume with you and there will be a one-on-one resume review at the end of the workshop. Info: Call 630-458-3320 or visit addisonlibrary.org

• Facebook for Beginners

We'll teach you everything you need to know about Facebook from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, 4 Friendship Plaza.

Make sure you have an account and bring your username and password. If you're having trouble, ask for assistance at the IT help desk.

Info: Call 630-458-3354 or visit addisonlibrary.org

SPORTS

OCTOBER 27, 2016 • 18

Willowbrook football team moves onto playoffs

Fenton boys and girls cross-country teams headed to sectionals

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

There was good news and bad news for the Willowbrook football team.

The bad news was the Warriors lost 21-9 at home to Leyden in a West Suburban Conference Gold Division game that determined the conference champion.

Leyden won the conference title outright with a 6-0 mark and finished 7-2 overall.

The good news for Willowbrook is the Warriors automatically qualified for the state playoffs by virtue of its 6-3 overall record.

The Warriors open postseason play in Class 7A either Friday or Saturday on the road in Quincy against Quincy Senior High School.

Willowbrook is the No. 23 seed in the 32-team Class 7A bracket. Quincy (8-1) is the No. 10 seed.

Addison Trail football

The Addison Trail football team concluded its 2016 season after a 49-14 West Suburban Conference crossover loss to Glenbard West.

Addison Trail finished the season with a 4-5 overall record. The Blaz-

ers finished 3-3 in WSC Gold Division play.

Glenbard West led 14-0 after the first quarter and 35-0 at halftime and 49-0 after three quarters.

Willowbrook boys cross country

The Willowbrook boys cross-country team earned the sixth and final sectional-qualifying spot out of the Class 3A Hinsdale Central regional.

The Warriors finished with 159 points. Sophomore Matt Caron was 21st with a time of 16:16. Senior Casey King was 27th with a time of 16:33.

Senior Jacob Christiansen was 36th with a time of 17:07. Junior Alec Gruchalski was 37th with a time of 17:10.

Senior Evan Carter was 38th at 17:10. Junior Michael Isaacson was 41st at 17:24 and junior Ian Costello was 47th at 17:56.

Addison Trail boys cross country

The Addison Trail boys cross-country team finished 10th at the recent Class 3A Lake Park regional and did not qualify any individuals

for the sectional meet. Senior Demetrio Cervantes was 44th with a time of 16:33.8. Senior Julio Cervantes was 46th with a time of 16:37.7. Junior Danny Bueno was 52nd at 16:50. Junior Luis Vargas was 54th with a time of 16:54.2.

Sophomore Ricardo Arreguin was 59th at 17:13.1. Junior Nick Czorniak was 62nd at 17:22.8 and senior Tony Diaz was 64th with a time of 17:43.6.

Fenton boys cross country

The Fenton boys cross-country team placed fourth at the St. Viator Class 2A regional and advanced to sectional action.

Fenton had 86 points, six out of third place.

Senior Jose Vazquez-Perez was eighth with a time of 16:51. Junior Jeremy Lodewyck was 18th at 17:22. Junior Cristian Sanchez was 19th at 17:25. Junior Alex Whyte was 20th at 17:31. Senior Anye Whyte was 21st at 17:33. Junior

Bryan Medina was 31st at 18:06 and junior Michael Lieggi was 35th at 18:19.

Willowbrook girls cross country

The Willowbrook girls cross-country team finished sixth at the Class 3A Hinsdale Central regional and earned the final team-qualifying spot for Saturday's sectional race.

The Warriors had 177 points.

Sophomore Victoria Palma was 22nd at 19:39. Junior Lydia Bauernfreund was 36th at 21:24. Freshman Elle King was 37th at 21:25. Junior Angela Klingelhoeffer was 40th at 21:41. Junior Briana Jones was 42nd at 22:33.

Senior Grace Guthrie was 44th at 23:08 and junior Jennifer Williams was 45th at 23:35.

Addison Trail girls cross country

The Addison Trail girls cross-

country team placed 10th at the recent Class 3A Lake Park regional and did not advance any individuals to the sectional round.

Fenton girls cross country

The Fenton girls cross-country team placed fifth at the Class 2A St. Viator regional and earned one of six team-qualifying spots for Saturday's sectional race at Fenton.

The Bison had 141 points, six better than six-place Resurrection and nine points better than seventh-place Elmwood Park.

Junior Jessica McCauley was 12th with a time of 20:35.

Junior Charity Bullis was 19th at 21:36.

Sophomore Ruth Kirkwood finished 33rd with a time of 23:16.

Sophomore Emily Paniagua was 37th at 24:20. Sophomore Alyssa Silva was 40th at 24:34. Junior Jacqueline Ponce was 45th at 25:51 and sophomore Natalie Hernandez was 47th at 26:27.

Willowbrook girls volleyball team competes in Autumnfest tournament

Warriors open postseason play this week

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls volleyball team recently took part in the always competitive Autumnfest tournament.

The Warriors opened play with a 25-22, 25-12 loss to Huntley. Payton Ceh had one kill, one assist and five digs. Olivia Pennebaker had four kills and three digs. Grace Chantos had two digs. Jessica Ragucci had one kill and one dig. Emily Ligocki had four kills, one ace, seven assists and one dig. Jamie Chiappetta had two kills and one assist. Marissa Marcello had two assists and three digs, while Milena Sogura had one kill and one block.

In a 25-18, 25-15 loss to Joliet Catholic, Ceh had one kill, two aces and eight digs. Pennebaker had four kills and two digs. Chantos had six digs. Ragucci had one dig. Ligocki had eight assists and four digs. Chiappetta had five kills, while Marcello had one kill, three assists and two digs. Sogura had three kills and one block.

In a 25-17, 25-22 loss to Glenbard East, Taylor Balsitis had one kill and two blocks. Ceh had one ace and seven digs. Pennebaker had four kills and six digs. Chantos had two digs. Ragucci had three kills. Ligocki had six assists. Chiappetta had

four kills, one ace and three digs. Marcello had two assists and one dig, while Sogura had four kills.

In a 25-23, 25-22 win over Wheaton-Warrenville South, Bri Hoffmann had one dig. Balsitis had two kills and one block. Ceh had one kill, four aces, one assist and four digs. Denise Perez had one dig. Pennebaker had three kills and eight digs. Chantos had six digs. Ligocki had one kill, 12 assists and one dig. Chiappetta had six kills, one ace, one assist and two digs. Marcello had five digs and Sogura had three kills and two blocks.

In a 25-17, 25-11 loss to Schaumburg, Hoffmann had one dig. Balsitis had three kills. Ceh had one ace and seven digs. Pennebaker had four kills and four digs. Chantos had four kills and four digs. Ragucci had two kills and three digs. Ligocki had one kill, 10 assists and one dig. Chiappetta had three kills, while Marcello had five assists and five digs. Sogura had five kills.

In other recent action, the Warriors lost 25-23, 25-12 to Hinsdale South to close out West Suburban Conference Gold Division action. Willowbrook finished 3-3 in conference play.

Hoffmann had one dig. Ceh had one kill, one ace, one assist and nine digs. Pennebaker had four kills and

eight digs. Chantos had five digs. Ragucci had one kill, one assist and one dig. Ligocki had one kill, nine assists and five digs. Chiappetta had one kill, one ace and three digs. Marcello had one kill, one ace, three assists and two digs. Sogura had eight kills.

Willowbrook also lost 25-17, 25-20 to West Chicago in non-conference play. Hoffmann had one ace and one assist. Balsitis had three kills and two blocks. Ceh had one kill and one assist. Pennebaker had two kills. Ragucci had two kills. Ligocki had one kill and nine assists. Chiappetta had four kills and one ace. Marcello had two assists, while Sogura had two kills and two blocks.

In a 25-20, 25-18 loss to Chicago Resurrection in non-conference play, Balsitis had one dig. Ceh had one ace and nine digs. Pennebaker had three kills, two aces and five digs. Chantos had one ace and five digs. Ragucci had one ace and five digs. Ligocki had one ace, 13 assists and five digs.

Chiappetta had three kills and three digs, while Sogura had eight kills and two blocks.

Willowbrook was 14-21 overall after the loss to Resurrection. The Warriors started Class 4A regional play earlier this week.

Week 10 Preview

Willowbrook (6-3) at Quincy (8-1)

What: First round of Class 7A state football playoffs

When: Friday or Saturday

(check IHSA.org for exact day and time)

Where: Quincy Senior High School

Seeds: Willowbrook is the No. 23 team in the 32-team Class 7A bracket.

Quincy is the No. 10 seed.

Outlook: Talk about opening up the playoffs on the road! With one single 32-team bracket not broken up by geography, Willowbrook will make a more than four-hour ride to west-central Illinois to face Quincy in the first round of the Class 7A playoffs. According to Google maps, Villa Park is almost 300 miles away from Quincy. Willowbrook lost in Week 9 to Leyden at home in a game that decided the conference championship and more importantly likely cost the team a first-round home playoff game given six of the seven 7-2 teams in the field are playing at home in the first round. The only exception is the 16-17 seed game that features a pair of 7-2 teams. Quincy won the Western Big 6 Conference title. However, the Blue Devils possess only two wins against teams with winning records (both 7-2) and have other wins against teams with records of 0-9, 0-9, 2-7, 2-7, 1-8 and 4-5. Their only loss was to 8-1 Edwardsville.

Up next: The winner of this game faces either No. 26 Chicago Simeon (5-4) or No. 7 Glenbrook North (8-1). A Willowbrook win will give the Warriors a second-round home playoff game regardless of opponent.

Addison Trail boys soccer team wins regional title

Blazers take home first postseason crown in 16 years

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail boys soccer team recently picked up some pretty strong confirmation on just how good of a season they are having.

The Blazers scored a 3-0 win over Wheaton-Warrenville South to win a Class 3A regional title. It was the first time Addison Trail has won a boys soccer regional title since 2000.

"It was a long time coming," said Addison Trail coach Ryan Dini. "We possessed the ball real well and had good ball control most of the game. Anytime Wheaton-Warrenville South put us in a dangerous situation, our defense shut them down."

Addison Trail held a 15-3 shots-on-target advantage. "We had possession most of the time," the coach

pointed out. "We were able to create a lot of scoring chances."

Enrique Luna had two goals for Addison Trail. Martin Juarez had the other tally. Luna, Tom Kania and Jonathan Hernandez each had one assist.

Addison Trail was bolstered by the defensive play of Brian Ramos, Edmond Montano, Uriel Martinez and Melvin Mora. Junior Jacob Grygo earned the shutout in his second postseason start in a row.

In the regional semifinals, Addison Trail scored a 2-1 win over Glenbard West. Kania and Hernandez each had a goal. Montano and Kania had one assist each.

"We were losing 1-0 most of the game," said Dini. "We tied it in the last 25 minutes."

Addison Trail held a 30-2 shots-on-target advantage. "We hit the crossbar twice and hit the post twice," said Dini. "They scored on their first shot from 40 yards out. We had some bad luck. We dominated the whole game and had consistent pressure on them. We had so many chances and we finally put one on

the board. That helped us relax."

Kania's goal tied it and Hernandez scored the game-winner with five minutes to play.

The two wins pumped Addison Trail's record to 21-1. The WWS win was the team's 16th in a row.

"We got a good scare against Glenbard West," said Dini. "That got

us back to practicing well and working on the little things. The guys are extremely focused. They want to make a long run in the playoffs."

Addison Trail played in a sectional semifinal game Tuesday at Glenbard East. If the Blazers won that game they will play for the sectional title Friday at 5 p.m. at Glenbard East.

Fenton boys soccer team wins regional title

Bison girls volleyball team preparing for playoffs

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Fenton boys soccer team scored a 1-0 win in penalty kicks against Marmion Academy to take home the Class 2A Fenton regional title in Bensenville.

Fenton and Marmion were tied 0-0 after two overtimes. The Bison won the game by virtue of winning the penalty-kick phase by a 4-1 count.

Earlier, Fenton advanced to the regional-championship game after a 2-1 win over St. Francis.

Fenton advanced to this week's Class 2A St. Francis sectional in Wheaton. The Bison played Tuesday against the winner of the Burlington Central regional. If Fenton won that game it will play for the sectional title Saturday at 7 p.m. at St. Francis.

Fenton football

The Fenton football team closed out its season with a 49-0 setback to IC Catholic Prep in Bensenville.

The Bison concluded the 2016 campaign with a 3-6 overall record. The Bison finished Metro Suburban Conference Blue Division play with a 1-4 mark.

Fenton girls volleyball

The Fenton girls volleyball team finished the regular season with a 12-22 record.

The Bison finished the regular season with a 25-21, 25-13 win over Elmwood Park in a MSC crossover series match. The night before, the Bison dropped a tough three-set match to Aurora Central Catholic by scores of 25-20, 22-25, 25-21. Fenton also recently lost two-set contests to Wheaton Academy and Glenbard South.

"While we are happy with the way we finished in defeating Elm-

“Despite being the better seed, we know it will be a huge test. If we are fortunate to get by Prosser, Glenbard West will be waiting.”

— Kelly Kleidorfer,
Fenton coach

wood Park and losing a tough match at ACC, we still are very disappointed we didn't win a conference match again this season," said Fenton coach Kelly Kleidorfer late last week. "That was one of our primary goals. However, we already have turned our attention to our regional opener (earlier this week against Chicago Prosser at Prosser). Despite being the better seed, we know it will be a huge test. If we are fortunate to get by Prosser, Glenbard West will be waiting."

Through the end of the regular season, Paulina Milanowski was leading the team in serving with 298 serves in out of 323 attempts to go with 58 service aces. She also was the team leader in kills with 153 and assists with 263 (now just shy of 1,000 assists for her career). Vicky Krzyzkowski was the team leader in blocks with 39 and Ashley Lira was leading in digs with 186.

"Needless to say, Paulina is our MVP," said Kleidorfer. "She finished second in digs and third in blocks as our setter. She has had an amazing career. We are going to miss all our seniors, but have some young talent that will keep the program moving in the right direction."

Addison Trail girls volleyball team reaches 20-win mark again

Blazers finish second in conference

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail girls volleyball team reached an important victory benchmark recently.

The Blazers sported a 20-10 overall record through late last week, achieving 20 wins for a second year in a row (Addison Trail was 22-14 last year).

Addison Trail also took second in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division with a 5-1 mark.

"We've done a great job responding to adversity throughout the season," said Addison Trail coach Dan Styler. "We lost to Downers Grove South and that was a big match. Downers South won the conference. Even tough things didn't go our way, we responded and beat a very good

Glenbard West team that is the No. 1 seed in the sectional. We have been able to respond when things aren't going our way."

Styler said a litany of things came together in the Glenbard West win. "We did a fantastic job playing smart volleyball," he said. "We controlled the ball well. All facets seemed to be clicking. We wore them down with our ball control. We played an aggressive game, especially near the end to close it out."

Styler commended the recent performances of seniors Sarah Petrbok, Keara Schmitt and Anastasia Labadessa.

"Those three seniors continue to play well," he said. "They are three-year starters who have been fantastic and very consistent for us."

The Blazers also have benefited from the play of junior middles Nicci Scorza and Giovanna Scarabaggio. "Both have been doing a great job," said Styler. "They are not the tallest middles out there, but they play a very fast tempo and they are

aggressive. They have outworked a lot of middles on the opposite side of the net this year."

Styler said this year's success has additional context to it. "We've had a great run the past two years," he said. "What's even more impressive is we toughened up the schedule this season. During the grind of this season we have played some competitive teams and that's helped us to get better."

Team chemistry, he added, has been off the charts as well. "The team chemistry with this group truly has been a bright spot," he said. "They are great kids. We have eight seniors who we just recognized on senior night. They have bonded so well on and off the court. You can have all the talent in the world, but if you don't have personalities that mesh together, you are fighting an uphill battle."

Addison Trail opened Class 4A regional play earlier this week against Leyden. The Blazers are the No. 5 seed in the sectional.

Elmhurst Youth Baseball Little League




Registration for 2017 Season

Saturday, November 12th 10:00am-2:00pm
Cityview Community Church (York Rd. & St. Charles Rd.)

With Special Guest Appearances by:
Former White Sox player Dan Pasqua (11:00-Noon)
White Sox mascot Southpaw (Noon-12:50)
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Suburban Life Scholars



Addison Trail High School

Annalise Morrone

Nominated by Kevin Redding, Director of Guidance: Annalise Morrone has been named as Addison Trail's September recipient of 88's Best recognition for her academic accomplishments. Morrone, a senior, was recognized during the Sept. 26 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

Morrone has earned an "A" grade in all of her classes during her four years at Addison Trail, and by the end of her senior year, she will have taken 11 honors courses and 14 Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses.

Morrone also is involved in many extracurricular sports and activities, including swimming, theatre and band. She is a two-time Illinois High School Association (IHSA) state qualifier in swimming and was recognized as All-Conference her freshman and junior years. However, injury sidelined Morrone temporarily two years ago, and that's when she discovered theatre. She gained new perspective being away from swimming and learned not everything has to be so fast paced. Theatre allowed her to recognize the benefits of teamwork and leadership and helped her gain a well-rounded high school experience.

"Morrone has been a dedicated member of our Theatre program," said Anna Jakubka, Addison Trail Theatre Director. "When not swimming, she will often come to our productions and earn hours anyway possible. I admire her ability to work independently, and I often trust her with projects. She takes initiative and models what underclassmen should do in theatre. She is by far one of the few students I can trust to get the job done!"

Morrone has been in Marching Band and Concert Band all four years and is on the Band Board as Treasurer.

"Morrone is a quiet leader," said Mark Corey, Addison Trail Music Department Chair and Band Director. "Where other students require guidance or specific instructions, she just looks around, sees what needs to be done and does it. As a band officer, she does just that – ensuring things run smoothly in the band room. As a senior snare drummer in the drum line, she is always there to mentor the younger percussionists through her exemplary performance. She doesn't seek the spotlight; her determination to do what is right brings the spotlight to her."



St. Francis High School

Katherine Kubik

Notable Student Academic Achievements: National Merit Semi-Finalist, AP Scholar, A Honor Roll all four years, Student of the Month for English Department, Math Team Orals Competition First Place in State Competition

Student Involvement in Activities: Track, Math Team, Scholastic Bowl, Musical Theater Set Crew, Arts and Crafts Club, Notre Dame Summer Scholars in Film Production, Employed as Golf Caddie, Concession Stand Manager and Score Board Operator

Student Involvement in Community Service: West Chicago School Supply Drive, Native Veterans Event--helped to register veterans, Tutoring, Junior High Math Contest--grader and greeter, Unity Garden volunteer, Shedd Stewards--helped to clean forest and remove invasive species, Food Pantry volunteer.

Nominated by Trudy Rigney, Director of Guidance: Katherine Kubik is a brilliant young woman and one of the top students in this year's senior class. She is an independent thinker, a tremendous problem solver, a skilled communicator, and a creative artist. Katie has a passion for learning, brings enthusiasm to the classroom and serves as the perfect role model of what a student should be. She can think outside the box. Katie is also a positive leader inside and outside the classroom. She is very sensitive to others and takes advantage of all opportunities offered to her.



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Benet Academy

Noah Scott Heim

Notable Student Academic Achievements: Semifinalist in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Competition; National Honor Society Member; First Honors

Student Involvement in Activities: Eagle Scout; Troup Guide and Assistant Senior Patrol -Leader of Activities; Jazz Combo; Jazz Band - President and Saxophone Section Leader; Math Team; Marching Band; Symphonic Band/Wind Ensemble

Student Involvement in Community Service: Eagle Scout Project - donated mural to Mooseheart

Nominated by Laura Lundstrom, College Counselor: This outstanding young man has managed to melt the hearts of the entire Benet community because of his genuine kindness, compassionate heart, and humbleness. On numerous occasions, I have been the recipient of heartfelt compliments regarding Noah, but nothing could prepare me for the outpouring of love that was displayed by our entire student body and staff as they cheered for Noah as he was named Benet's 2016 Homecoming King. This young man deserves a huge pat on the back. He not only is at the very top of his class, he is a musician, an artist, an Eagle Scout and Scout leader who is dedicated to service, and a humble and considerate person. Noah is exemplary in every possible way.

At the end of Noah's junior year, he contemplated toning down his schedule due to rigor and time constraints. After some thoughtful consideration he stated he was up for the challenge. Noah is no stranger to challenges; he has faced a few in his lifetime but he has always risen to the occasion. These challenges not only have made Noah more resilient, they have allowed him to be sympathetic to the struggles of others. After a school retreat, a teacher described an outstanding student who was instrumental in helping a number of his classmates through some emotional moments during the weekend event. No names were mentioned, but I knew exactly who she was speaking about. It was Noah. It was because of his goodness and trustworthiness that I personally asked for his assistance in helping a fearful student get through Spanish 4. Lastly, I personally witnessed Noah's sophomore English teacher beg him to enroll in her Creative Writing class because of his clarity of thought, creative mind, and quiet leadership. These examples are just a sampling of the good things I hear about Noah. They are a testament to what kind of person Noah is and how revered he is at Benet.

Noah has always been ahead of himself. His mother states that he was completing 500 piece puzzles at the age of four and read through the Harry Potter series by age six. So, it was no surprise that Noah was recognized as an Eagle Scout as a freshman. His Eagle project was to create a mural for the Mooseheart Centennial celebration. Noah combined his passion for art and history and created an 8 foot by 8 foot painting depicting a scene from Mooseheart's historic past and present which now hangs prominently in the school lobby. <http://www.mooseheart.org/2013/news/Mural.asp>

Academically, Noah is stellar. He has taken the most challenging curriculum possible while balancing a wide range of activities. I wish I could tell you what subject he likes best, but Noah seems to enjoy all of his classes. I know Noah would love to have taken some art classes while at Benet but there has never been room in his schedule to fit art, in addition to band, and all the AP and Honors courses that make up his schedule. So to get his art fix, Noah attends park district programs and summer classes at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Noah lives by the motto "Be Prepared". The Boy Scout motto is defined as being disciplined, prepared in mind and body, and ready and confident to take on future challenges. A Scout should prepare himself to become a useful citizen and to give happiness to other people. Noah embodies this motto and what we should all strive to be - a good person and citizen who gives happiness to others. Because of this, all the good things life has to offer will come his way. I can't think of another student who represents Benet and what it stands for as a school and community more than Noah. He is perfection.



Willowbrook High School

Mustafa Ali

Notable Student Academic Achievements: As a student, Mustafa consistently pursues the most rigorous courses available at Willowbrook High School. At the conclusion of his high school career, he will have successfully completed 14 Advanced Placement courses as well as a multitude of honors courses. Mustafa has also been recognized as an AP Scholar with Distinction, Illinois State Scholar, and Distinct Honor Roll member each semester of his high school career. He has also earned Outstanding Student Honors for the Science Department and is an inductee of Civitas, our Social Studies Honor Society, as well as our Math and World Language Honor Society.

Student Involvement in Activities: Beyond the classroom, Mustafa is an active member of Business Professionals of America (BPA), Science Olympiad, Econ Challenge, and Scholastic Bowl, while also serving as the President of our Muslim Student Association. He has competed at the regional, state, and national level for BPA, earning 5th place overall in the nation for Computer Modeling and 7th place overall in the nation for Computer Animation. Mustafa has also been a member of the Econ Challenge and Science Olympiad teams that have qualified and competed at the state competition.

Student Involvement in Activities: Beyond Willowbrook, Mustafa can be found volunteering for numerous organizations and events, including the Islamic Circle of North America Festival and as Media Coordinator for the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Muslim Student Association.

Nominated by Daniel Krause, Principal: Willowbrook High School senior Mustafa Ali is an academic superstar in the Class of 2017. Built upon an outstanding record of academic and co-curricular achievements, he attributes his success to the support and encouragement provided by his family and the example set by his brothers. He is driven by a passion to do his best and prepare for his future, sharing that students should never underestimate their potential for greatness.



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DuPage County

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FBI obtains warrant for emails
It will search trove from ex-Rep. Weiner to see if any are relevant to Clinton case — Page 2

Daily Herald

Dist. 88 makes great improvements on PARCC test

BY JESSICA CILELLA
jcilella@dailyherald.com

In a year of so-so results on state standardized test scores, Addison Trail and Willowbrook high schools showed some marked improvement, according to data released Monday.

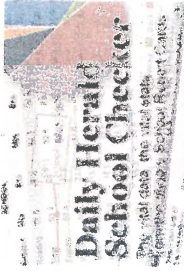
Last year, only 19.5 percent of students in DuPage High School District 88 high schools met or exceeded expectations, well below the state level of 33 percent on the 2015-16 Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers test administered this spring to third- through 10th-graders for the second year.

SCHOOL REPORT CARDS: ON PAGE 9

- How test results look overall
- See DuPage County's highest-achieving schools.

Addison Trail and Willowbrook in Villa Park this year ranked above the state average, which increased to 33.4 percent. Even more notably, both schools saw the biggest percentage point increases in DuPage County of students not only meeting or exceeding but also approaching expectations.

"We really appreciated the hard work and effort that both buildings put in, by taking this



Daily Herald School Checker
The site data the school data for the 2015-16 school year. For more information, visit www.dailyherald.com/schoolchecker.

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test seriously," Superintendent Scott Helton said. "It was about compliance and doing what was right."

The three categories — meets, exceeds and approaching — combined accounted for 39.9 percent of Addison

See **SCORES** on **PAGE 9**

Should gas tax money be 'locked' for transit? You make the call.

HEARST PYKE, PAGE 6



Lilia De La Torre helps Jacky Pantoja in a 10th-grade English class at Addison Trail High School, where student standardized test scores rose from 39.9 percent to 58.6 percent of students meeting or exceeding expectations.

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60s today, then 70s.
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Index

Comics	5-3
Health & Fitness	6-1
Help wanted	4-1

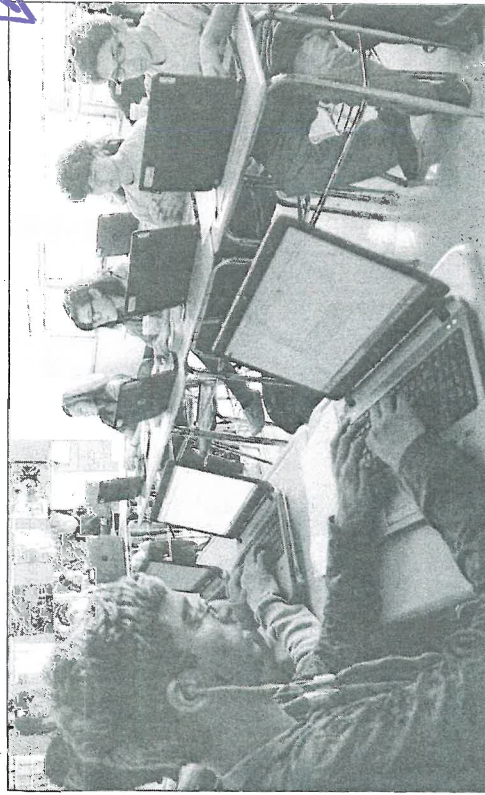
Horoscope	5-3
Lottery	1-10
Movies	6-5

Obituaries	5-3
Puzzles	5-3
Sports	2-1

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BEV HORNE/bhorne@dailyherald.com
 Students participate in a 10th-grade English class at Addison Trail High School. DuPage High School District 88, which also includes Willowbrook High School, saw the largest jump among all DuPage County districts in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations.

Scores: Top-ranked schools largely remained on top

Continued from Page 1

Trail students in the first year of PARCC testing, but 58.6 percent in the second year. In Willowbrook, 47.4 percent of students fell within the three categories the first year, compared to 66.5 percent the second year.

More than 600 schools in Cook, DuPage, Kane Lake, and McHenry counties surveyed by the Daily Herald saw declining proficiency scores.

In District 88, there's still room for improvement — considering the meets/exceeds/approaching categories typically account for 80 to 90 percent of students in top-ranked districts — administrators said they are pleased with the progress that was made.

Adam Cibulka, director of curriculum, instruction and assessment, said one of the biggest changes the district made the second time around was testing over just two days. He said focusing on English for one day and math the next was beneficial to students, compared to testing over multiple days, as the district did with the first year of the test.

Top ACT scores

Stevenson H.S., Lincolnshire	26.9
Hinsdale Central H.S., Hinsdale	26.8
Libertyville H.S.	26.0
Nequa Valley H.S., Naperville	25.9
Fremd H.S., Palatine	25.5
Barrington H.S.	25.0
Prospect H.S., Mt Prospect	24.9
Naperville North H.S.	24.9
Hersey H.S., Arlington Heights	24.8
Naperville Central H.S.	24.8

Source: Illinois State Report Cards

Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause and Addison Trail Principal Michael Bolden said they also regularly communicated with students and their families in advance of the test to make sure they understood why they were taking it and how it would be set up.

"We really tried to talk to them about the expectations for performance, for us as a school and as a district," Bolden said.

On the whole, though, the top-ranked schools in DuPage County have remained on top. Schools in Naperville Unit District 203, Indian Prairie Unit District 204, Wheaton

Warrenville Unit District 200, Lisle Unit District 202 and Butler Elementary District 53 in Oak Brook were among the highest-achieving.

At the elementary level, seven of the 10 highest-achieving schools remained the same. All three newcomers to the list — Madison, Oak and Elm elementary — are from Hinsdale Elementary District 181.

Hinsdale schools also took over two spots in the top 10 ranking for highest-achieving high schools. Hinsdale Central and Hinsdale South are now on the list, replacing Glenbard West and Glenbard South high schools.

Glenbard High School District 87 had the biggest drop in the county of percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards on the PARCC. All four of the district's high schools saw significant decreases in both categories and the district now falls short of the state's level.

Last year, 37.4 percent of Glenbard students met or exceeded expectations; this year, the number has dropped to 26.6 percent.

High-achieving elementary schools in DuPage County

School, city	District	Percent M/E	App	% not tested Read Math
Meadow Glens Elem. School, Naperville	Naperville Dist. 203	84.0	13.8	0.4 0.4
Brook Forest Elem. School, Oak Brook	Butler Dist. 53	81.3	14.7	0.0 0.0
Fry Elementary School, Naperville	Indian Prairie Dist. 204	79.4	16.6	0.7 1.0
Butler Junior H.S., Oak Brook	Butler Dist. 53	78.8	15.9	0.0 0.0
Highlands Elem. School, Naperville	Naperville Dist. 203	78.2	18.0	3.4 3.4
Kennedy Junior H.S., Lisle	Naperville Dist. 203	77.4	16.0	1.2 1.3
Madison Elem. School, Hinsdale	Hinsdale Dist. 181	77.1	16.0	0.0 0.0
Oak Elem. School, Hinsdale	Hinsdale Dist. 181	76.5	18.1	0.0 0.0
Longfellow Elem. School, Wheaton	Community Dist. 200	76.5	15.3	0.5 0.5
Elm Elem. School, Burr Ridge	Hinsdale Dist. 181	76.0	15.8	0.0 0.0

High-achieving high schools in DuPage County

School, city	District	Percent M/E	App	% not tested Read Math
Naperville Central H.S., Naperville	Naperville Dist. 203	69.5	20.8	1.0 1.8
Naperville North H.S., Naperville	Naperville Dist. 203	67.1	19.7	0.3 0.2
Nequa Valley H.S., Naperville	Indian Prairie Dist. 204	59.8	28.3	0.6 0.5
Wheaton North H.S., Wheaton	Community Dist. 200	55.7	26.2	3.3 6.6
Metea Valley H.S., Aurora	Indian Prairie Dist. 204	55.7	25.3	1.9 3.7
Hinsdale Central H.S., Hinsdale	Hinsdale Twp. H.S. Dist. 86	53.1	24.7	4.3 1.8
Wheaton Warrenville South H.S., Wheaton	Community Dist. 200	49.6	27.0	2.1 3.0
Waubonsie Valley H.S., Aurora	Indian Prairie Dist. 204	49.5	25.7	1.4 2.4
Lisle H.S., Lisle	Lisle Dist. 202	46.4	31.1	2.3 1.0
Hinsdale South H.S., Darien	Hinsdale Twp. H.S. Dist. 86	45.6	33.8	1.1 0.4

Source: 2015 Illinois State Report Cards

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Scores down in more than half our schools

By MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY
mkrishnamurthy@dailyherald.com

More than half the 615 suburban schools surveyed by the Daily Herald show declining scores on the state's standardized test, data released Monday reveals.

The range of scores is dramatic: Between 6 percent and 77 percent of elementary and middle school students throughout Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake and McHenry counties are meeting or exceeding expectations for proficiency; between 11 percent and 38 percent are approaching those standards, per the 2016 Illinois School Report Card.

Similarly for suburban high schools, between 6 percent and 70 percent are meeting readiness benchmarks for college coursework. Students approaching expectations range between 19 percent and 38 percent, the data show.

These results are from the 2015-16 Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers test administered this spring to third- through 10th-graders. The two-year-old test's assessments in English language arts/literacy and mathematics are based on the more rigorous Common Core State Standards and replace previous standardized tests.

The test focuses on students' mastery of key concepts, critical thinking and writing skills. It aims to give teachers, schools, students and parents a better idea of whether students are on track in their learning and for success after high school. It also is meant to help teachers customize learning to meet student needs.

More students took the test this year — up from 95.6 percent last year to 97.5 percent.

PARCC performance levels:

The PARCC tests feature five levels of performance.

College or career ready: Students scoring at levels four and five are considered proficient and ready to advance.				
A new level: Students at level three are considered potentially ready to advance. They are not failing, but they may need extra support or help to be successful.				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Did not yet meet academic expectations for the knowledge, skills and practices embodied by the standards assessed at their grade level or course.	Partially met academic expectations for the knowledge, skills and practices embodied by the standards assessed at their grade level or course.	Approached academic expectations for the knowledge, skills and practices embodied by the standards assessed at their grade level or course.	Met academic expectations for the knowledge, skills and practices embodied by the standards assessed at their grade level or course.	Exceeded academic expectations for the knowledge, skills and practices embodied by the standards assessed at their grade level or course.

Source: Illinois State Board of Education

Among elementary schools surveyed, more of them fell in the meets/exceeds category — the average high score is 59.7 percent — than those that fell below standards — the average score on the low end is 29.4 percent.

Fewer high schools scored above the state average for meets/exceeds — among those the average high score is 48 percent — while the average score for those who ranked below standards is 24.9 percent.

State education officials concede the PARCC test provides only a snapshot in time of student performance, while suburban educators question whether the state's standards are accurate because the results don't correlate with other assessments. The 2016 report card includes finalized statewide, district-level and school-level data on an array of areas, such as student demographics, teacher and administrator salaries and spending per pupil. This year, there are some new categories, such as teacher attendance; figures on students earning college credit through Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and dual credit courses; students taking career technical

courses; and documenting numbers of students taking six or seven years to finish high school.

Statewide, students meeting or exceeding math proficiency increased from 28.2 percent to 30.5 percent, while students meeting or exceeding English language arts proficiency dipped from 37.7 percent to 36.2 percent. State education officials say too many students still are unprepared for college-level rigor.

"During the 2015-16 school year, our Report Card indicates mostly held steady — a testament to the commitment and resourcefulness of educators and administrators across the state, who deeply felt our state's education funding challenges," State Superintendent of Education Tony Smith said.

"Yet, while some students are achieving at remarkable levels, the majority of the generation of students entrusted to us are unprepared for the world of work and for meaningful participation in our communities... we must make major changes to the way we fund our public schools and fundamentally shift our approach to education."

For instance, high school graduates enrolled in Illinois

Elgin Area School District U-46. "We use other metrics as well to determine whether or not students are growing. We put a lot of emphasis in U-46 on building basically a portfolio to understand where (students) are within that learning continuum," U-46, the state's second-largest school district with a diverse population of more than 40,000 students, finds 27 percent of students meeting/exceeding expectations in math, while 31 percent meet/exceed expectations in English language arts/literacy.

Educators stress the PARCC exam is a different kind of test aligned to national assessments of readiness. Some say changes to the test this spring — only one testing window and a shorter test from the previous year — when some students boycotted or purposely tanked on the test might have affected scores. Testing time for most students was 90 minutes shorter, and it was a simpler format. Also, a greater percentage of students — 85 percent versus the previous year's 75 percent — took the test online statewide.

Switching to an online test saved the state some money but may have hurt scores, said Fred Heid, superintendent of Algonquin-based Community Unit District 300 where officials are seeing double-digit dips in reading scores across the board. "If this is the type of result that we can expect, the state better ante up because we are not doing anything next year but paper and pencil (tests)," Heid said.

Some schools officials flatly dismiss the relevance of PARCC scores at the high school level because the state has dropped the test for high schoolers this year in favor of

a revised SAT college admission exam for all juniors. "Frankly we're not really looking at the PARCC scores at high school because it's going away," said Karen Sullivan, superintendent of Indian Prairie Unit District 204. "This is the last time you'll see them. We feel the ACT or the SAT is much more significant."

Previously, Illinois high schools were required to administer the ACT, which had been provided for free to 11th-graders for 15 years. Illinois stopped funding the ACT and will provide the SAT at no cost to school districts this school year.

"The state took a perfectly good and fair measurement tool, the ACT, and replaced it with something with significant flaws, the PARCC," said Jim Conrey, spokesman for Adlai E. Stevenson High School District 125 in Lincolnshire. "With the ACT, all 11th-grade students at every school in the state took the test, so you had some basis for comparison in terms of results. With PARCC, there was no basis for comparison, because schools could determine who they wanted to take the test, and what type of test to take."

"The state's mandate to administer the SAT exam to all juniors means that all schools are at least playing by the same rules. This will give a more reliable indicator of how students are doing throughout Illinois."

High schools, though, will have the option of voluntarily offering PARCC testing in high schools this school year at the state's expense.

Meanwhile, students in third through eighth grades will continue to take that assessment through the 2017-18 school year and likely beyond.