

Scouting this weekend's playoff football games

Class 8A

No. 25 Bloom (6-3) at No. 8 Glenbard West (8-1)

Game time: 1 p.m. Saturday.

Last week: Bloom 44, Rock Island Alleman 7; Glenbard West 56, Proviso West 14.

Outlook: In 8A for a second straight year, the Hilltoppers ride an eight-game winning streak after claiming the outright West Suburban Silver title. Bloom finished third in the Southland Conference, averaging 38 points in its six wins. Quarterback Juan Green has accounted for 1,300 passing yards and is the team's leading rusher with nearly 500 yards. Glenbard West's defense is still trying to stabilize itself from a season filled with injury. Ben Norgaard, who can play the line or at linebacker, was being crucial. The running trio of Ryan Diver, Dre Thomas and Tyquan Cox — a return threat — has combined for 1,969 yards and 29 touchdowns. Expect Tommy Bleker to get more snaps at quarterback.

Advancement: The winner advances to the second round against the winner between No. 24 Naperville North and No. 9 Oswego.

No. 24 Naperville North (6-3) at No. 9 Oswego (8-1)

Game time: 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

Last week: Naperville North 28, Wheaton Warrenville South 21; Oswego 30, Plainfield Central 0.

Outlook: It's a classic confrontation between Naperville North's high-powered offense and Oswego's stingy defense. How stingy? The Panthers boast three shutouts, including last week's over Plainfield Central, and have allowed 54 points all season. Noah Shannon, an Iowa recruit, is the clear leader on the defensive line, while Dayne Millard is a force at linebacker. The Panthers know they must slow the Huskies' passing game with quarterback Drake Davis, who's thrown for 2,491 yards. Nick Calcagno and Ryan Laurenzo have combined for 115 catches and 1,608 yards. Linebacker Ryan Marrano leads the Huskies in tackles despite missing time early in the year due to injury.

Advancement: The winner advances to the second round against the winner between No. 25 Bloom and No. 8 Glenbard West.

No. 29 Lake Park (5-4) at No. 4 Homewood-Flossmoor (8-1)

Game time: 7 p.m. Friday.

Last week: Naperville Central 35, Lake Park 21; Homewood-Flossmoor 50, Sandburg 14.

Outlook: The Lancers couldn't ask for a more challenging first-round matchup in their first playoff appearance since 2009. But after surviving their final season in the DuPage Valley, the Lancers couldn't be more prepared. Lake Park is the healthiest it's been all year, and the offense is humming with quarterback Jackson Behles, who has thrown for 1,700 yards. David Kirkpatrick-Hardwick has emerged in the ground game, rushing for 450 yards the last three weeks. Containing the Vikings' offense goes beyond Northern Illinois-bound running back Justin Hall, who also returns kicks, lines up in the slot and plays in the secondary. Lancers linebacker Gino Romano paces the defense with 115 tackles.

Advancement: The winner advances to the second round against the winner between No. 20 West Aurora and No. 13 Naperville Central.

No. 20 West Aurora (7-2) at No. 13 Naperville Central (7-2)

Game time: 7 p.m. Friday.

Last week: West Aurora 28, Geneva 24; Naperville Central 35, Lake Park 21.

Outlook: This is a different West Aurora program than the one that competed in the DuPage Valley from 1997 to 2013. The Blackhawks didn't have a winning season for 10 straight years before their current streak of three straight playoff berths. Camron Donatian, a state high jump champion and standout basketball player, rushed for 350 yards the last two weeks upon his return from injury. From Lavar Archibald up front to Jack Jopes in the secondary, the Redhawks' defense has been consistently solid. The offense, though, has become special with the improved health of running back A.J. Deinhart. It's a dangerous pairing with quarterback Payton Thome, who's thrown for 1,777 yards.

Advancement: The winner advances to the second round against the winner between No. 29 Lake Park and No. 4 Homewood-Flossmoor.

No. 22 Stevenson (6-3) at No. 11 Hinsdale Central (7-2)

Game time: 3 p.m. Saturday.

Last week: Warren 21, Stevenson 14; Hinsdale Central 42, Hinsdale South 7.

Outlook: Hinsdale Central running back Luke Skokna passed the 1,000-yard rushing mark last week, while linebacker Aidan Cruickshank notched his 100th tackle. Fellow linebacker Sean Kelly, who had 3 sacks last week, and lineman Caleb Lagestee power a unit that's allowed more than 21 points only once. Red Devils quarterback Connor Bauer has filled in admirably

and Garrett Oakey, who also plays behind center in the Wildcat. If the ball gets in the red zone, keep an eye on Indiana-bound tight end Matt Bjorson. Stevenson, in the playoffs for the 29th straight year, lost two of its last three games due in much part to 6 interceptions.

Advancement: The winner advances to the second round against the winner between No. 27 New Trier and No. 6 Loyola.

Class 7A

No. 17 Benet (6-3) at No. 16 Maine West (7-2)

Game time: 7 p.m. Friday.

Last week: Benet 38, Carmel 21; Deerfield 31, Maine West 30.

Outlook: Benet's top priority is matching the energy of Maine West, making its first playoff appearance since 2002. Last week's loss to Deerfield cost the Warriors the outright CSL North title, but they still enter the playoffs with momentum. Benet's defense has been tremendous, and the challenge this week comes from containing running back Jake Bellizzi, quarterback George Markakis, who's thrown for 1,200 yards, and tight end Matt Kentgen. Connor Reid is among the many ballhawks in Benet's secondary. Week by week the Redwings have expanded the playbook for sophomore quarterback Colin Gillespie. Last week Thomas Snell became the latest player to step up at running back.

Advancement: The winner advances to the second round against the winner between No. 32 Harlem and No. 1 Hononegah.

No. 29 Glenbard North (5-4) at No. 4 Batavia (8-1)

Game time: 6 p.m. Friday.

Last week: Glenbard North 24, Neuqua Valley 14; St. Charles North 35, Batavia 28.

Outlook: Now that it's reached the playoffs Glenbard North puts all the pressure on Batavia. Again, it's no secret the Panthers will try to play ball control with tailbacks Jaylen Fitzpatrick, Mark Finley, Angelo Cusumano and Anthony Marre. Quarterback Lee Rady will aim for Tyrin Henderson and Josh Flowers to prevent ace Batavia defenders like Luke Weerts and Michael Bautch from completely selling out against the run. Coming off a 35-28 loss to St. Charles North, Batavia allows an average of 7 points but a low-scoring game would be to Glenbard North's benefit. Turn the ball over and it lets Bulldogs quarterback Riley Cooper command a freewheeling, multifaceted offense with no superstars but loads of talent.

Advancement: The winner advances to the second round against the winner between No. 20 Fenwick and No. 13 Wheaton North.

No. 20 Fenwick (6-3) at No. 13 Wheaton North (7-2)

Game time: 6 p.m. Saturday.

Last week: Fenwick 31, De La Salle 28; Wheaton North 20, Waubesa Valley 10.

Outlook: Get ready for what might be the most physical first-round game in the state. Wheaton North's offense makes no secret about its intent to pound the ball with running back Sam Singleton, who's rushed for 1,340 yards and 17 touchdowns. In addition to a strong line, the Falcons have additional punishing blockers with fullback Michael Jarosz and tight end Tyler Johnson. Fenwick's defense also must be wary of quarterback Rhett Netzer, who's thrown for 200 passing yards the last two weeks. Defensively, the Falcons will focus on receiver Mike O'Laughlin and running back Jason Ivery. Trenton Hegranes had 3 of his 5 interceptions last week. Fellow Falcons safety Jackson Gray has 4 picks.

Advancement: The winner advances to the second round against the winner between No. 29 Glenbard North and No. 4 Batavia.

No. 31 Downers Grove North (5-4) at No. 2 Normal Community (9-0)

Game time: 1 p.m. Saturday.

Last week: Downers North 24, York 6; Normal Community 50, Champaign Central 21.

Outlook: Downers North must slow an offense that hasn't been held under 42 points. Last week, thanks to an offensive line averaging 270 pounds, the Ironmen rolled behind running back Nick Hesse's 4 touchdown runs and touchdown reception. He and Varshaun Dixon combined for nearly 300 rushing yards for an offense that only threw the ball a handful of times. Between outside linebacker Blake Davis and defensive lineman Ethan Roesch, the Trojans' defense will lean on the experience of surviving a tough West Suburban Silver schedule. Downers North's offense is no secret. The Trojans bring a run-heavy attack led by Drew Shelly, who's rushed for 827 yards and 9 touchdowns.

Advancement: The winner advances to the second round against the winner between No. 18 Mt. Carmel and No. 15 Moline.

Class 6A

No. 13 Deerfield (5-4) at No. 4 Willowbrook (8-1)

Game time: 4 p.m. Saturday.

Last week: Deerfield 31, Maine West 30; Willowbrook 40, Downers

Outlook: While Willowbrook pretty much clinched a playoff berth weeks ago, Deerfield needed a Week 9 overtime win over Maine West to qualify. The Warriors actually needed two straight wins to qualify, but here they are. They rolled up 350 yards of offense last week, mostly with running back Kenny Kerstein and quarterback Jonah Silverglade. Willowbrook's won seven straight games with a diverse offense and a big-play defense. Jack Jessen's been tremendous on both sides of the ball, rushing for 1,603 yards and 19 touchdowns while leading the team in tackles with 70 at linebacker. The Warriors get strong two-way play from many others, including Nick Sabaiino, a playmaker at safety and wide receiver.

Advancement: The winner advances to the second round against the winner between No. 12 Montini and No. 5 DeKalb.

No. 12 Montini (6-3) at No. 5 DeKalb (7-2)

Game time: 1 p.m. Saturday.

Last week: Montini 49, St. Francis 7; Sterling 31, DeKalb 3.

Outlook: Montini's 49-15 2015 semifinal win at DeKalb means little now. What Barbs coach Matt Weckler said might prepare DeKalb for Montini's team speed and schemes was, ironically, last week's 31-3 loss to unbeaten Sterling. DeKalb itself runs a triple option out of a spread set that allows quarterback Noah Valin and 1,200-yard rusher Jaylen Hobson to make inside reads, bounce it outside or hit short perimeter passes to make Broncos like linebacker Jackson Brusciarelli tackle in space. Montini owns a fine plus-15 turnover ratio. Dual-threat quarterback Nick Orlando, Matt Morrissey and Brad Norgle have combined to complete 64 percent of their passes for 1,410 yards, 15 touchdowns, 1 interception.

Advancement: The winner advances to the second round against the winner between No. 13 Deerfield and No. 4 Willowbrook.

No. 16 Hinsdale South (5-4) at No. 1 Crete-Monee (8-1)

Game time: 7 p.m. Friday.

Last week: Hinsdale Central 42, Hinsdale South 7; Crete-Monee 52, Cahokia 8.

Outlook: Last week's loss put Hinsdale South in a precarious spot, but the Hornets made it to the playoffs as the last team to qualify. Now they hope to repeat their last two appearances when they reached the 6A semifinals and quarterfinals. Crete-Monee, the team that beat Hinsdale South in the 2015 semifinals, is an offensive juggernaut with 6-foot-6, 220-pound third-year quarterback Isiah Rucker. The Warriors average 46 points and have beaten opponents by an average of five touchdowns. The Hornets may have the offensive firepower to keep up with quarterback Justin Kolzow and receiver Destin Talbert. They'd love to control the ball with sophomore running back Marquese Garrett.

Advancement: The winner advances to the second round against the winner between No. 9 Quincy and No. 8 St. Laurence.

Class 5A

No. 11 Glenbard South (5-4) at No. 6 Payton (8-1)

Game time: 7:15 p.m. Saturday at Lane Tech in Chicago.

Last week: Riverside-Brookfield 37, Glenbard South 7; Payton 23, Taft 20.

Outlook: George Klupchak, Naperville Central Class of 2004, is Payton's football coach and athletic director. He hopes the Grizzlies, 0-6 in the playoffs, muster belief and execute. Like Glenbard South quarterback Jack Crouch, who has passed for 1,306 yards, run for 633 and accounted for 19 touchdowns, senior Erik Haneberg is the key to Payton's offense. When not running jet sweeps or handing off to Salar Pourkhalili he's thrown for 17 touchdowns. Eli Geleerd has caught 13 of them, sure to attract Glenbard South's secondary of Rod Rivera, Gavin Fitzpatrick, Kesji Ghini and Graham DiFranco. Raiders coach Ryan Crissey likes his team speed and physicality, both embodied by linebacker Nick D'Ambr.

Advancement: The winner advances to the second round against the winner between No. 14 Marian Central and No. 3 Antioch.

Class 3A

No. 12 Watseka (7-2) at No. 5 IC Catholic Prep (8-1)

Game time: 7 p.m. Friday.

Last week: Watseka 54, Iroquois West 20; IC Catholic 62, Fenton 7.

Outlook: Watseka coach Aaron Hilgendorf looks forward to the challenge posed by the defending 3A champion. When things are going well Watseka's up-tempo spread offense scores in bunches, averaging 38 points while Joe Jaskula and the 4-2 defense creates a plus-16 turnover ratio. Dual-threat quarterback Brendan Fletcher has accounted for 1,700 yards and gets the ball out quick to Jaden Downs and Blake Castongay. That up-tempo pace may slow a mite in an attempt to keep the ball away from ICCP's own fast-paced offense that averages 41 points. The Knights are anchored on both sides of the ball by a slew of quality linemen like Ricky Mysliwiec, Dylan Packer, Ryan Kenneally and Michael Johnson.

Advancement: The winner advances to the second round against the winner between No. 13 Paxton-Buckley-Loda and No. 4 Peotone.

— Dave Oberhelman and Kevin Schmitt

Saunders: The Knights' Mr. Versatility

Saunders, thrown in at QB after injury, excels for ICCP at receiver and safety

By JOSHUA WELGE
jwelge@shawmedia.com

Khalil Saunders can play any number of positions for IC Catholic Prep, and does.

He never expected quarterback to be one of them.

It became a reality at halftime of a Week 2 game with St. Laurence, when Saunders was told fourth-year starting quarterback Luke Ricobene was injured and wasn't returning.

Kid, you're up.

"Coaches said they didn't think Luke could finish, to be ready. At first it was shocking," said Saunders, a junior. "I didn't know if I was ready. They threw me into the fire, but it made the team stronger. Coaches always preach next man up.

The Knights have embraced that mantra in spades this year.

Saunders, in the short term, took over at quarterback for the Knights. Eventually, though, a third man - CJ West - assumed the reins.

Saunders has gone back to doing what he does best, which is play everywhere.

He'll surely be everywhere at 7 p.m. Oct. 27 when ICCP (8-1) hosts Watseka (7-2) in a Class 3A first-round game.

"Khalil is a special player that does so many things," Knights coach Bill Krefft said. "Quarterback, he could play wide receiver, he could play running back, return kicks and punts and oh by the way cornerback would probably be his best position. That's where



Clark Brooks/PhotoNews for Shaw Media
IC Catholic's Khalil Saunders (left) congratulates teammate Matt Sutton on Nov. 25 after Sutton's first-quarter touchdown reception in the Class 3A state championship game against Carlinville. The Knights won 43-0 to capture their third state title since 2002.

he is supposed to be but we have him at safety, what we need as a program. Up front, he could play linebacker."

That versatility is reflected in the numbers.

Saunders is 27-for-38 for 440 yards and five touchdowns passing, and has 19 catches for 294 yards and four TDs. He's also has 25 tackles and

three interceptions.

The Knights do still have packages for Saunders at quarterback. Saunders, voted a team captain as a junior, has skills that fit the position.

"He's just a real physical runner, really good in checking into what we want to do," Krefft said. "He sees the field really well and understands de-

fenses. He has a unique view from being a route runner, and a safety on defense."

Defense could be where Saunders' future is. Saunders, who lives in Bensenville, has had contact with Toledo, Illinois and Northwestern. He has yet to receive a scholarship offer.

Defense was perhaps the biggest void that Ricobene left, affecting four guys. Saunders took on the biggest load, but multiple players had to move. ICCP, in fact, was down six players for about three weeks. The Knights seem no worse for wear, beating their last seven opponents by an average 48-point margin.

"I believe that made us a very strong team knowing we can throw guys in and they will perform for us," Saunders said. "We showed our resiliency."

Saunders played some as a freshman during the playoffs, and moved into a starting role full-time as a sophomore. He's not the only Saunders doing things for the Knights, too.

Twin brother Khali is an outside linebacker, one of the team's leading tacklers, and also a receiver. Krefft calls the two "polar opposites," Khali close to 40 pounds bigger and more physical, Khali more athletic - and louder.

"We're different in how we play," Saunders said, "but we're similar in the way we attack every day, every practice and every game."

That attitude should serve the Knights well as they begin a quest to repeat as Class 3A champs.

"Coach wants us to focus on fighting another week for our brothers," Saunders said. "The next week is not guaranteed. We have to go into every game focusing on doing our job, and trusting that the next man is doing his job."

AREA FOOTBALL PLAYOFF MATCHUPS PREVIEW

CLASS 6A

No. 13 Deerfield (5-4)
at No. 4 Willowbrook (8-1)

When: 4 p.m. Oct. 28

Advancement: Winner plays winner of DeKalb/Montini

What to watch: Willowbrook enters the playoffs with momentum galore, winners of seven straight games and program's first conference title since 1982, first West Suburban Gold title ever. It's the Warriors' most wins since 1994. Willowbrook's up-tempo offense starts with workhorse running back Jack Jessen, who has rushed for over 1,600 tackles and also leads the Warriors in tackles. Scotty Tumilty, who had two

interceptions against Downers Grove South last week, is part of an opportunistic defense. Deerfield has one playoff win since 2006. Can Willowbrook repeat last year's playoff run?

No. 12 Montini (6-3)
at No. 5 DeKalb (7-2)

When: 1 p.m. Oct. 28

Advancement: Winner plays winner of Willowbrook/Deerfield

What to watch: Like clockwork, it's Montini in the playoffs - this is the Bonco's 25th straight appearance. Quarterback Nick Orlando can beat teams with his arm, and with his feet. Montini is 10-0 in first-round games since 2007.

DeKalb is making its fifth straight playoff appearance, Northern Illinois Big 12 East champs for the fourth consecutive season. DeKalb's Jaylen Hobson ran for 1,113 yards and nine touchdowns, quarterback Noah Valin has thrown for 1,089 yards, nine touchdowns and nine interceptions.

CLASS 3A
No. 12 Watseka (7-2)
at No. 5 IC Catholic Prep (8-1)

When: 7 p.m. Oct. 27

Advancement: Winner plays winner of Paxton-Buckley-Loda/Peotone

What to watch: Can anyone slow down the Knights? IC Catholic Prep, the defending 3A champs, have a 41-point

margin of victory, tops in the bracket. The margin in five playoff wins last year was 45 points, and the Knights haven't missed a beat despite losing quarterback Luke Ricobene to injury. Freshman Kyle Franklin has run for 806 yards and nine touchdowns, Lazerick Eatman 778 yards and 11 TDs for the Knights. C.J. West, IC's third quarterback this year, has settled in, completing 64 percent of his passes for 1,177 yards and 19 TDs. Watseka, an hour northeast of Champaign on the Indiana border, has its most wins since 2012. It last won a playoff game in 2002.

- Joshua Welge
-jwelge@shawmedia.com



CHICAGO SPORTS

SLIPPED THROUGH FINGERS

Bears fall short of fourth win after offense can't overcome errors, injuries and bad luck

Chicago Tribune



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Adan Gonzales, 14, walking a hallway in Addison Trail High School earlier this month, is among 35 students in a program for the visually impaired.

Charges loom in Mueller probe

Key Democrat puts speculation on 2 ex-Trump officials

BY DAVID WILLMAN
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — One of two former top strategists for the Trump campaign is "likely" to face indictment as early as Monday, a senior Democrat said Sunday, previewing what would be the first criminal charges in the intensifying probe led by special counsel Robert Mueller into current and former members of President Donald Trump's inner orbit.

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., ranking member of the House intelligence committee, said a federal judge could unseal an indictment against either Paul Manafort, Trump's former campaign manager, or Michael Flynn, who briefly served as Trump's national security adviser in the White House.

Schiff's comments came amid intense speculation at the White House and on Capitol Hill over media reports that a federal grand jury in Washington has approved its first indictment in the FBI investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election and whether

Turn to *Mueller*, Page 10

Teacher shortage puts classes for blind at risk

Educators say lack of awareness about visually impaired is reason

BY VIKKI ORTIZ HEALY
Chicago Tribune

The blind and visually impaired students make their way to the second-story classrooms at Addison Trail High School, hang their canes on hooks just outside the doorway, then run their fingertips across tables until they

recognize the feel of foam shapes marking their assigned spots.

For the rest of the school day, the 35 students who come from across DuPage and Cook counties will take advantage of special-education services guaranteed to them by law. State and federal dollars provide helpful accommodations, including shelves full

of Braille textbooks and tablets loaded with the latest apps designed to help students with partial blindness see what is on the board.

But while technology and special-education programs for visually impaired students are more accessible than ever, a teacher shortage threatens to

derail the progress.

The national Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind has 1,000 fewer members nationwide than it did 10 years ago. Meanwhile, administrators at Northern Illinois University and Illinois State Uni-

Turn to *Teachers*, Page 8

After fight for Obama center, why find fault?

Advocates: Scrutiny could hinder project

BY LOLLY BOWEAN
Chicago Tribune

Cheryl L. Mainor vividly remembers the winter day in

RARE FOOTAGE A NEW LOOK AT OLD CHICAGO



Few teachers for blind students

Teachers, from Page 1

versity — the only two colleges in Illinois that offer degrees specializing in teaching blind and visually impaired students — say they are graduating far fewer teachers than the states' students need.

"The shortage is a huge issue," said Joan Allison, administrator of the blind and visually impaired program for the School Association for Special Education in DuPage County, which houses its high school program at Addison Trail and offers similar programs for blind and visually impaired students from more than 93 school districts in the Chicago area.

Allison said she is grateful to have a full staff to operate the classrooms offered to 83 students at the elementary, middle and high school levels this year. But with three retirements expected in the next two years, she worries.

If she can't find replacements, "the quality of the education for the students will be compromised," she said.

Of the 2.4 million kindergarten through 12th-grade students in Illinois, there are 16,737 with low vision or

blindness, and only 212 teachers certified to teach them. That's a ratio of 1 teacher to every 79 students — a scarcity made more pronounced because not all of the students are geographically close to one another, said Olaya Landa-Vialard, assistant professor and coordinator of the low vision and blindness program at Illinois State.

"I got an email yesterday from a parent asking if we had any students who would be working in her child's district so that her child would have a (teacher)," Landa-Vialard said. "There is a dire need."

Students who are blind or visually impaired have several options from the public school system.

They can attend a mainstream school with the help of itinerant special-education teachers who travel to a child's home district. Other students move to a residential facility in downstate Jacksonville, where they live and learn surrounded by others with visual impairment.

Still other students choose to be bused to one of several visual impairment "resource programs" offered across the state — the ones at Addison Trail and



E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Jacob Gambrell, 14, greets teaching assistant Samantha Jones in a visually impaired program classroom at Addison Trail.

another run by the Chicago Public Schools being the largest.

While some special-education advocates push for inclusion in mainstream settings, many teachers for the blind and visually impaired contend that self-contained classrooms are the best way to teach lessons on how to use a Braille or how to use a cane or how to use special technology to study U.S. history and geometry.

"It's a philosophy discussion," said Allison, who began teaching visually impaired students nearly 30 years ago. "People interpret that if you are not in your home school with kids, that's restrictive. To me, to teach it really strongly, it's easier to pull them out."

Eddie Cortez, a 16-year-old from Wood Dale who was born blind, said he and his dad have high hopes that someday medical advances will be able to give him sight. But until then, he has learned important lessons from both schools in his home district and now at the program at Addison Trail, where he is bused each day.

"I never get scared. I

know where to go, and I like to come here," he said.

But the availability of teachers is — and has always been — critically low, school officials say.

Job boards at the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind consistently post openings for teachers for the visually impaired. At Northern Illinois, graduates who receive a special-education teaching license in the area of blindness and visual impairment routinely consider three or four job offers. Meanwhile, even with a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Education that covers the cost of graduate school tuition and offers a \$5,520 yearly living stipend for students training to be teachers for the blind or visually impaired, there are still not enough takers.

At Illinois State, the program for training teachers for the blind and visually impaired has had fewer than 20 graduates for each of the last five years, Landa-Vialard said.

Educators say the main reason for the shortage is lack of awareness. Many potential teachers have never encountered someone

who is blind or visually impaired. The public also often incorrectly assumes that students who can't see are sent somewhere besides public schools for their education.

"We want to give the (grant money) to applicants, and we are ready to do so," said Stacy Kelly, associate professor for the visual disabilities program at NIU. "We know there are kids in Illinois who are blind who do not have a teacher."

Laura Petrushka, 26, said she knew she wanted to become a teacher for the blind and visually impaired from an early age, after watching a family friend work in a classroom with blind students. She got a dual degree at ISU as a learning behavior specialist and teacher of the visually impaired, and received two job offers immediately after graduation. She accepted a job at Addison Trail, where she operates a classroom for 11 students who have special needs as well as blindness or visual impairment.

"I love the kids the most. Each day is different and chaotic, but watching them make even the smallest gain over time makes the chaos

worth it," Petrushka said.

Jan Paoletti, who teaches preschool to first-grade students who are blind or visually impaired at Salt Creek Elementary School in Elmhurst through the School Association for Special Education, said she is sure that the teacher shortage is because people don't know about the option. When she was studying to become a teacher 33 years ago, she had no contact with anyone who was blind or visually impaired until she heard a guest lecture from a person who was blind during a college class.

"He talked about how important a teacher is and how important it is that the teacher can give back independence in early stages," Paoletti said. "It just really grabbed me."

She plans to retire in two years but said she is going to have a hard time staying away. "At first, you're really kind of hung up on what they can't do, but pretty soon you let that go and you see what they can do, and it's pretty amazing what they can learn," Paoletti said. "Our classroom is a very happy place."

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Attorneys mum as gag order lifted

Defendants want to address sex assault allegations in Wheaton College hazing case

By **JUSTIN KMITCH**
 jkmitch@dailyherald.com

A DuPage County judge on Tuesday lifted a gag order at the request of three of five suspended Wheaton College football players facing charges in a hazing case to allow their lawyers to address accusations of sexual assault.

But once the order was lifted, the attorneys for Noah

Spielman, Samuel TeBos and Kyler Kregel refused to comment.

Paul DeLuca, who along with Paul Moreschi represents Kregel, said the attorneys "need to review everything" before speaking publicly.

The other two players charged in connection with the case, Benjamin Pettway and James Cooksey, also are expected to join the motion to

lift the gag order.

A grand jury last month approved a nine-count indictment against the players, alleging aggravated battery, mob action and unlawful restraint. All have pleaded not guilty, except Cooksey, who will be arraigned Nov. 13.

The men are accused of abducting a teammate from his dorm room, putting a pillowcase over his head, tying

him with duct tape and leaving him partially nude in a baseball field near Hawthorne Elementary School in Wheaton.

Terry Ekl, the attorney for the victim, said his client was left with two injured shoulders that required three surgeries. During the car ride to the ballfield, Ekl said, the victim, who

See **LIFTS** on **PAGE 8**



Suspended Wheaton College football players James Cooksey, Kyler Kregel and Ben Pettway, top row from left, and Noah Spielman and Samuel TeBos face felony charges in a 2016 hazing case.



ASSOCIATED PRESS
 Bicycles and debris lie on a New York City bike path after a driver steered onto it, striking and killing several people.

8 killed in N.Y. terror attack

By **MARK BERMAN, DEVLIN BARRETT** and **RACHEL SIEGEL**
 The Washington Post

NEW YORK — A 29-year-old man driving a rental truck plowed down people on a Manhattan bike path Tuesday in what authorities described as a terrorist attack that killed eight and injured 11 before the suspect was shot and arrested by police.

A sunny fall day along the Hudson River erupted in chaos just around the time students were getting out from nearby Stuyvesant High School, when a rented Home Depot truck turned on to the bike path along the West Side Highway.

Witnesses say the speeding truck struck unsuspecting bicyclists and pedestrians

See **ATTACK** on **PAGE 12**

2017 ILLINOIS SCHOOL REPORT CARDS



Fourth-grader Sofia Kroushi works at her desk at Stella May Swartz Elementary School in Oakbrook Terrace. Third-grade teachers last year piloted a more rigorous math curriculum that's now fully adopted.

BEV HORNE/bhorne@dailyherald.com

How one school got scores higher

By **KATLYN SMITH**
 ksmith@dailyherald.com

State testing at Stella May Swartz Elementary School in Oakbrook Terrace turned into a celebratory event last spring.

Teachers held a kickoff assembly, decorated the hallways, invited cheerleaders to classrooms and gave test takers encouraging messages from their parents.

Educators say those stress relievers and a restructuring of curriculum helped students make significant strides in improving standardized test scores, according to 2017 Illinois School Report Card data released Tuesday.

Stella May posted an increase of 16.4 percentage points in students meeting or exceeding expectations on the

See **SCORES** on **PAGE 5**

Check online

For results for your school, see the **Daily Herald School Checker** at reports.ards.dailyherald.com.

Top SAT scores

Stevenson H.S., Lincolnshire	1232.9
Hinsdale Central H.S.	1218.1
Neuqua Valley H.S., Naperville	1213.5
Libertyville H.S.	1203.0
Hersey H.S., Arlington Heights	1201.1
Naperville Central H.S.	1186.8
Fremd H.S., Palatine	1178.5
Naperville North H.S.	1175.8
Vernon Hills H.S.	1166.2
Prospect H.S., Mt Prospect	1163.9

Note: SAT sets 480 score in reading, 530 in math (total 1010) as college-ready benchmark. Source: Illinois State Report Cards

Charges: Mom's murder planned in detail

Prosecutors say Elgin man admitted killing, then dismembering his mother

By **BARBARA VITELLO** and **ELENA FERRARIN**
 bvittel@dailyherald.com, eferrarin@dailyherald.com



Brian Peck

A dispute between an Elgin man and his mother over loud Jimi Hendrix music led to the woman's gruesome murder and dismemberment, authorities said Tuesday.

Brian M. Peck, 55, told police that during the confrontation, he knocked down his 76-year-old mother, Gail S. Peck, stomped on her head and used a handsaw to cut up her body in the house they shared, authorities said. Her remains were found Saturday in suitcases weighed down by paver bricks in a lagoon in Chicago's Lincoln Park, police said.

He's charged with two counts of first-degree murder and one count of concealing a homicide. He was ordered held without bail.

Citing details from prosecutors that indicated "extensive planning and premeditation," Cook County Judge Steven J. Goebel said Peck posed an "extreme real and present threat."

Prosecutors revealed gruesome details of the murder, which authorities believe occurred early Wednesday morning, hours after Gail Peck and Brian, her only child, had dinner at a Schaumburg restaurant. That was the last time she had contact with anyone other than her son, prosecutors said.

Friday afternoon, Peck called 911 to report



Gail Peck



What's next for Haley Reinhart?

"When all this touring is finished," Haley Reinhart said, "I'd love to start taking classes

music to movies? "I never say never," Reinhart said. "I'm now trying dif-

will hit Chicago with her concert tour Sunday, Nov. 5, at Lincoln Hall. She's touring





BEV HORNE/bhorne@dailyherald.com

AT DAILYHERALD.COM/MORE: Every two weeks, Principal Gerrie Aulisa leads a celebration of stand-out students at Stella May Swartz Elementary school in Oakbrook Terrace. She held a similar assembly before a week of state testing last spring.

Scores: Hinsdale Central, Neuqua Valley tops in SAT

Continued from Page 1

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, or PARCC, test — the biggest jump among DuPage County schools.

The gains made Stella May an outlier in the state and region, according to a Daily Herald analysis of report card data. Of 197 elementary and middle schools in DuPage, 109 saw declines in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards, 83 showed improvement and five recorded no change from 2016 results. The statewide average ticked up less than 1 percentage point. State school leaders say their report cards numbers might be updated later this week.

At the high school level, juniors took the state-funded SAT college entrance exam instead of the controversial PARCC for the first time in the spring. Though educators are relieved the state made the



BEV HORNE/bhorne@dailyherald.com

Deb Butman teaches fourth grade at Stella May Swartz Elementary school in Oakbrook Terrace, which defied the trend of lower standardized test scores.

switch, they caution against reading too much into baseline SAT scores.

Elementary schools

At Stella May Swartz in Salt Creek District 48, 51.6 percent of students fell within the meets or exceeds categories, up from 35.2 percent in 2016. Educators attribute the

improvement to more rigorous math curriculum and a new testing environment that eased student stress.

"We treated it like this is your chance to show off everything you've been working hard for this year," Principal Gerrie Aulisa said.

Teachers set a theme — "Knock it out of the PARCC" — for testing week as a nod to

High-achieving elementary schools in DuPage County | PARCC test

School, city	District	Percent Met/Exceeds	Percent Approach
Meadow Glens Elem. School, Naperville	Naperville CUSD 203	86.1	11.2
The Lane Elem. School, Hinsdale	Hinsdale CCSD 181	81.7	14.2
Butler Junior High School, Oak Brook	Butler SD 53	79.9	15.0
Oak Elem. School, Hinsdale	Hinsdale CCSD 181	78.9	12.6
Prospect Elem. School, Clarendon Hills	Hinsdale CCSD 181	78.5	12.5
Kennedy Junior High School, Lisle	Naperville CUSD 203	77.6	16.7
Longfellow Elem. School, Wheaton	CUSD 200	77.3	15.1
Fry Elementary School, Naperville	Indian Prairie CUSD 204	76.1	18.0
Naper Elem. School, Naperville	Naperville CUSD 203	75.9	19.4
Madison Elem. School, Hinsdale	Hinsdale CCSD 181	75.7	16.2

High-achieving high schools in DuPage County | SAT test

School, city	District	Percent Met/Exceeds	Percent Approach
Neuqua Valley H.S., Naperville	Indian Prairie CUSD 204	78.4	16.6
Hinsdale Central H.S., Hinsdale	Hinsdale Twp HSD 86	77.3	17.4
Naperville Central H.S.	Naperville CUSD 203	70.9	23.9
Naperville North H.S.	Naperville CUSD 203	69.4	21.6
York Comm. H.S., Elmhurst	Elmhurst SD 205	67.2	22.4
Metea Valley H.S., Aurora	Indian Prairie CUSD 204	65.3	21.9
North H.S., Downers Grove	CHSD 99	61.9	27.8
Wheaton North H.S.	CUSD 200	59.6	26.1
Waubensie Valley H.S., Aurora	Indian Prairie CUSD 204	59.5	26.9
Glenbard West H.S., Glen Ellyn	Glenbard Twp HSD 87	58.2	27.7

Source: Illinois State Report Cards

Top ACT scores

Stevenson H.S., Lincolnshire	26.9
Hinsdale Central H.S.	26.6
Neuqua Valley H.S., Naperville	26.1
Libertyville H.S.	25.9
Fremd H.S., Palatine	25.3
Hersey H.S., Arlington Heights	25.2
Naperville North H.S.	25.1
Vernon Hills H.S.	25.1
Prospect H.S., Mt. Prospect	25.0
Naperville Central H.S.	25.0

Note: The ISBE sets a cumulative score of 21 as college-ready benchmark.

Source: Illinois State Report Cards

the start of baseball season.

Second-graders served as the cheerleaders greeting test takers each morning. Students in third and fourth grades also took the online exam on district-issued devices, whereas in previous years they were sent to computer labs.

"We had the technology where they could test in their classrooms on their devices with their teacher," Aulisa said. "To me, it made a difference. They're in their normal space."

Elsewhere in the county, White Eagle Elementary in Indian Prairie District 204 had an 11.8-percentage-point decrease in students meeting or exceeding standards — the biggest drop among DuPage schools.

District 204 Superintendent Karen Sullivan said one year's decline isn't cause for concern. "We pay a lot more attention to our own internal assessments for students," she said.

The state's contract to administer PARCC ends June 30, but state education officials support keeping it. Regardless of what testing is used, educators urge the state to release assessment data sooner so they can make adjustments for the upcoming school year.

High schools

Hinsdale Central notched the highest average score in DuPage of 1,218 on the SAT, followed by Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville, where students averaged 1,214.

Scores of 530 on the math section and 480 on the reading and writing section meet SAT's minimum benchmarks for college readiness. But Illinois has set tougher proficiency thresholds.

Students had to score 540 on both the math and the reading sections to meet the state's minimum targets.

"I think we'll see those get closer and closer to what the College Board has set as thresholds for college readiness the more that we start to see trends and patterns emerge," Neuqua Principal Robert McBride said.

With average scores of 607.5 and 606 on the math and reading portions, respectively, Neuqua students far exceeded the state's and College Board's benchmarks.

McBride credited the high marks on a schoolwide commitment to build skills — understanding academic vocabulary, for instance — that translate to the SAT and college.

"We have a certain amount of relentlessness about that focus," he said.

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Scores drop in most of U-46, other Fox schools

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY
mkrishnamurthy@dailyherald.com

Of the 147 elementary and middle schools within Kane and McHenry counties, 92 schools saw declines in standardized test scores reflected on the 2017 Illinois School Report Card released Tuesday.

Among those schools, 53 showed improvement while two remained flat on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers test, or PARCC, given to third- through eighth-graders. State education officials say those numbers could update later in the week.

Local educators were not alarmed by the results.

"We don't place a lot of emphasis on PARCC, and not because it's a bad measure; ... it's just not timely for us," said Brad Newkirk, chief academic officer for Batavia Unit District 101.

Its elementary and middle schools' scores declined from last year — ranging from 1.2 to 9.3 percentage points lower.

Yet, Newkirk says, the timing of the report card data release comes well after those students tested last spring have moved on to the next grade level to benefit from potential interventions.

"It's not actionable data," Newkirk said. "If we just relied on this, we would be doing our kids a disservice because it lags so much. Our parents trust the more regular assessment data that the district has and provides them in a timely manner. We use our own internal metrics in order to regularly assess our students and identify areas where more support is needed."

The standardized test is "probably the least applicable measure for a classroom teacher," said Laura Hill, Elgin Area School District U-46 director of assessment



JOHN STARKS/starks@dailyherald.com

Third-graders in Danielle Goebert's classroom at Gilberts Elementary School discuss school rules. Among Community Unit District 300 schools, Gilberts had the largest increase in the percentage of students meeting and exceeding proficiency standards — 6.7 percentage points.

and accountability.

In U-46, 36 elementary and middle schools showed declines in the percentage of students meeting and exceeding proficiency standards, while 12 schools showed increases. As a district, 27.9 percent of students are meeting and exceeding standards — a 1.3-percentage-point dip.

U-46 is the state's second-largest school district, educating just shy of 40,000 students. A majority are minorities from low-income backgrounds.

The biggest decline was at Prairieview Elementary School in Bartlett — 15.5 percentage points. Prairieview also saw a 4.9-percentage-point increase in students within the approaching-standards category, which suggests more students could be sliding in performance.

The largest improvement within U-46 and among Fox Valley area schools was at Sunnydale Elementary

School in Streamwood — 12.5 percentage points. Sunnydale also saw a 9.4-percentage-point dip in students in the approaching category, which might explain why more students are meeting standards there.

Officials couldn't explain the dips and increases from year to year, but say a contributing factor could be that the state this year is reporting scores based on where specific groups of students — such as special education, gifted or dual language — receive special instruction, rather than their home schools.

Statewide, 3 percent of students fit into this category.

That skews scores for schools like Sunnydale, which serves more gifted students from neighboring schools, said Matthew Raimondi, U-46 coordinator of assessment and accountability.

"It could be nothing different is happening there," Raimondi said. "We have a lot

of students who don't attend home schools."

Due to that change, U-46 had 13 elementary schools and three middle schools that performed higher than expected, he said.

Last school year was the second year PARCC was administered entirely online, which some educators say could have affected scores.

"The online assessment is more rigorous than the paper and pencil version," Community Unit District 300 Superintendent Fred Heid said.

"As a district, we saw ELA (English language arts) go up and math tick down slightly."

Of the Carpentersville-based district's 22 elementary and middle schools, 11 saw declining scores; the largest decrease was at Kenneth Neubert Elementary School in Algonquin at 12.7 percentage points. Gilberts Elementary School saw the largest increase in meets/exceeds — 6.7 percentage points.

In high schools, juniors

Two ways of measuring SAT success

With the Illinois State Board of Education setting benchmarks higher than the SAT's, 10 high schools among the 75 examined by the Daily Herald had average SAT reading/writing and math scores higher than the SAT minimum scores, but lower than the ISBE standards.

School	ACT	Avg. SAT	Avg. SAT read/write	Avg. SAT Math
State benchmarks	21	1080.0	540.0	540.0
SAT benchmarks		1010.0	480.0	530.0
Schools with average scores that met both SAT benchmarks but not state benchmarks				
South H.S., Downers Grove	22.4	1091.3	539.7	547.7
Schaumburg H.S.	22.2	1083.6	537.7	545.9
Jacobs H.S., Algonquin	22.4	1082.9	545.2	537.7
Lakes Community H.S., Lake Villa	22.6	1081.2	543.8	537.4
Rolling Meadows H.S.	22.3	1074.7	542.2	532.5
Hoffman Estates H.S.	20.9	1063.4	527.7	535.8
Crystal Lake North H.S.	22.4	1070.3	536.5	533.8
Crystal Lake Central H.S.	22.6	1068.6	535.5	533.1
Kaneland Senior H.S., Maple Park	22.7	1067.6	535.9	531.7
Antioch Comm H.S.	21.7	1068.6	538.0	530.6
Schools with average scores that met at least one SAT benchmark but no State benchmarks				
Bartlett H.S.	24.6	1094.5	537.8	529.7
Warren Twp. H.S., Gurnee	22.1	1061.4	536.1	525.3
Wauconda H.S.	21.8	1057.6	537.2	520.4
Wheeling H.S.	20.7	1030.3	513.1	517.3
Elk Grove H.S.	21.4	1028.7	512.2	516.4
Willowbrook H.S., Villa Park	21.4	1040.7	525.1	515.6
Glenbard North H.S., Carol Stream	21.3	1030.1	516.0	514.0
Glenbard East H.S., Lombard	20.6	1021.4	507.9	513.5
Hampshire H.S.	21.5	1039.6	528.1	513.4
Grant Comm. H.S., Fox Lake	21.3	1031.0	518.2	512.8
Lisle H.S.	23.2	1032.3	520.2	512.1
Maine West H.S., Des Plaines	20.8	1026.7	514.6	512.1
South Elgin H.S.	22.1	1024.4	513.5	510.9
McHenry East H.S.	19.9	1035.6	525.5	510.1
Mundelein Cons. H.S.	21.4	1035.5	525.8	509.7
Palatine H.S.	21.3	1012.2	504.6	507.6
Maine East H.S., Park Ridge	20.3	1018.3	512.8	505.5
Community H.S., West Chicago	19.4	1004.5	502.8	501.7
East Leyden H.S., Franklin Park	19.7	966.6	489.3	498.3
Fenton H.S., Bensenville	20.4	989.4	493.9	495.5
McHenry H.S.-West Campus	21.1	1002.4	500.8	492.6
Addison Trail H.S.	20.1	971.8	484.2	487.6
Dundee-Crown H.S., Carpentersville	19.0	970.0	487.1	482.8
West Aurora H.S., Aurora	20.4	945.0	481.3	463.7

Source: Daily Herald analysis of Illinois state report card data

took the revised SAT college entrance exam last school year after the state stopped paying for the traditional ACT.

Of the 23 Fox Valley high schools, 16 scored above the

state average of 38 percent meeting and exceeding standards on the SAT.

Thirteen schools had a higher percentage of students approaching proficiency than the state average of 35 percent.

How the ESSA will soon measure schools

Through the Every Student Succeeds Act, school quality starting the next school year will be measured through standardized tests, alternative assessments, academic growth, English language proficiency, science scores, success on college entrance tests, and graduation rates, as well as factors such as chronic absenteeism and school climate surveys.

Schools will be designated among four tiers starting with the 2018-19 school year:

- Tier 1, Exemplary School: Has no underperforming subgroups, a graduation rate greater than 67 percent, and performance is in the top 10 percent of schools statewide.
- Tier 2, Commendable School: Has no underperforming subgroups, a graduation rate greater than 67 percent, yet performance is not in the top 10 percent of schools statewide. Tier 1 and 2 schools may apply to coach other schools as members

of a preapproved network of partners.

- Tier 3, Underperforming School: One or more subgroups is performing at or below the level of "all students" in the lowest 5 percent of Title I schools. Such schools would receive targeted support.
- Tier 4, Lowest Performing School: In the lowest-performing 5 percent of Title I schools in Illinois and those high schools that have a graduation rate of 67 percent or less. Such schools would receive comprehensive support.

Every school also will receive a grade, specifically for growth, on an A through F scale beginning with the 2019-20 school year. Grades will be determined based on an annual comparison with similar schools in the state.

The law targets the lowest-performing 5 percent of schools for support, including more funding, teacher training, coaching, technical resources and pairing with other school districts for additional help. But educators fear more federal funding could reduce how much state aid districts receive, essentially supplanting funds.

Source: Illinois State Board of Education

Statewide 2017 Illinois Report Card highlights

- 39.8 percent of 11th-graders achieved proficiency in English language arts and 36.4 percent achieved proficiency in math on the SAT college entrance exam
- 37 percent of third- through eighth-graders met or exceeded standards in English language arts on the PARCC assessment — a 0.5 percentage-point increase from 2016
- 31.2 percent of third- through eighth-graders met or exceeded standards in math on the PARCC assessment — a 0.4 percentage-point decrease from 2016
- 4-year high school graduation rate increased from 85.5 percent to 87 percent
- 46.8 percent of Illinois high school 2016 graduates enrolled in community colleges are taking remedial courses — down from 49.4 percent for the class of 2015
- 87.1 percent of ninth-grade students on track to graduate — an increase from 82.4 percent in 2016
- 29.5 percent of eighth-grade students passed Algebra I — an increase from 28.4 percent in 2016
- Chronic truancy rate increased from 9.8 percent in 2016 to 10.8 percent — measures the percentage of students who miss 5 percent or more of school days per year without a valid excuse
- Teacher retention rate increased from 85.8 percent in 2016 to 86.3 percent

Source: Illinois State Board of Education

What is the SAT?

A redesigned SAT college entrance exam debuted March 5 nationwide and school districts statewide administered it for the first time last spring to all high school juniors.

Some SAT facts:

- SAT was first administered in 1926. It featured multiple-choice questions with nine subtests — definitions, arithmetical problems, classification, artificial language, antonyms, number series, analogies, logical inference and paragraph reading.
- SAT includes reading, writing, language and math tests — it also has an optional essay component, which some colleges require.

- Check out the redesigned SAT at collegeboard.org.

The College Board has partnered with KhanAcademy.org — an online educational resource — to offer students access to four full-length practice tests for free.

SOURCE: College Board



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WHERE ARE ALL THE FALL COLORS? You just have to look a little harder this year

If you're a bit underwhelmed with this year's fall color show, you can blame the weather. The bright red and yellow leaves are not as evident on trees in the suburbs this year as in the past, and experts say the delayed and muted colors are due to the combination of a very wet spring and a very dry summer. The Morton Arboretum's Ed Hedborn said recent rain may help salvage the season, which ends around the second week of November. "We're seeing colors trying to get back on track now that we've had more rain trees can absorb and a more normal weather pattern," Hedborn said. "The best color develops when we get bright sunny warm days and cool nights."

Our photographers found some great color anyway. See it in Neighbor and at dailyherald.com/galleries and [/video](http://dailyherald.com/video).



JEFF KNOX/knox@dailyherald.com

Autumn's colors are a bit more subtle than in past years, but they are still on display throughout our suburbs. This photo from the Daily Herald drone shows the colors at Busse Woods near Elk Grove Village.

DuPage County

Motley Fool's back



It's part of our **Tuesday Business** section

Daily Herald

Life in the NFL



Garoppolo traded to the 49ers



Surgeons try to save **Miller's leg** — Sports

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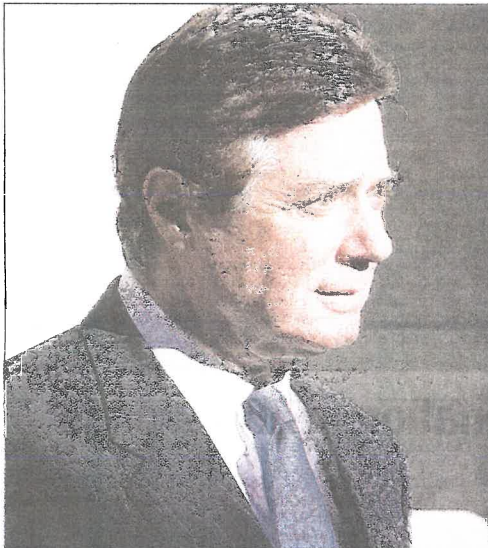
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THE INVESTIGATION INTO RUSSIAN MEDDLING IN 2016 ELECTION

THREE CHARGED



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paul Manafort, left, President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, and Rick Gates, Manafort's business associate, pleaded not guilty Monday to felony charges of conspiracy against the United States and other counts.

MUELLER ACCUSES MANAFORT, ASSOCIATE OF LAUNDERING, MORE BEFORE CAMPAIGN

THIRD TRUMP CAMPAIGN ADVISER, FROM THE CHICAGO AREA, ADMITS LYING ABOUT TRYING TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH RUSSIANS

No collusion, Trump writes

Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller III on Monday revealed charges against three former Trump campaign officials, including onetime campaign chairman Paul Manafort — marking the first criminal allegations to come from probes into possible Russian influence in U.S. political affairs.

The charges are striking for their breadth, touching all levels of the Trump campaign and exploring the possi-

Chicago Sun-Times

President Donald Trump immediately tried to downplay the importance of the indictment of his former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort.

But the guilty plea of North Side native and DePaul University graduate George Papadopoulos, also unsealed Monday, ultimately could prove just as troublesome for the White House.

That's because the former Trump campaign policy adviser and 2005 Niles West High School graduate admits he lied to the FBI about his contacts with Russians during last year's presidential race. And Donald



VIA AP

In this photo from President Donald Trump's Twitter account, George Papadopoulos is 2016

2017 ILLINOIS SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

Most scores drop in suburbs

But system overhaul looms

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY
mkrishnamurthy@dailyherald.com

Standardized test scores declined at a majority of suburban elementary and middle schools, while high schools have no historic reference for such achievement testing, according to 2017 Illinois School Report Card data released today.

Roughly two-thirds of Illinois students are not meeting

expectations on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, or PARCC, test administered to third- through eighth-graders last school year. And of

540 suburban schools surveyed by the Daily Herald, 309 schools saw declines in the number of students meeting and exceeding proficiency; 220 schools showed improvement, and

The Daily Herald's Poverty-Achievement Index online

To see results for your or any school in the state, including any updates the state may make this week, visit our database at reportcards.dailyherald.com.

See SCORES on PAGE 9

Judge rejects transgender

the man in the face unprovoked, spraying pepper spray at him and smacking him with a baton as two other officers joined in, Cook County prosecutors said.

Robertson's attorney Shay T. Allen said Robertson is innocent.

An investigation into the arrest was sparked by a video that Robertson filmed with his phone while watching a playback of surveillance footage in the company of other Metra police officers who laughed

"overzealous."

"Mr. Robertson was working in his capacity as a police officer. I am expecting he will be fully exonerated of all charges," Allen said, adding that Robertson had served for 25 years with no previous complaints.

But "as an agency that now prides itself on having a well-run and professional police force, and after our own investigation into the matter, we are disturbed and deeply troubled by this conduct," said Metra Executive Director Don

participated in the arrest were suspended without pay. Both were fired on Dec. 28. A third officer who took part in beating the man was dismissed before the internal investigation.

Of the officers who were heard laughing in the background on the video, two were disciplined and two no longer work at Metra, spokesman Michael Gillis said.

Robertson testified the other man started the fight and "rushed" him, then reached into his right pants pocket,

to leave if he didn't have a ticket and the man refused. Both exchanged words.

Prosecutors state Robertson punched the man in the face and aimed pepper spray at him without any physical aggression on the 45-year-old's part and the video backs up that version.

Robertson's bail was set at \$25,000 with conditions that he have no contact with the victim and surrender his guns and firearms identification card.

Scores: PARCC not leaving but won't be only measure

Continued from Page 1

11 remained flat.

High school juniors, meanwhile, took the revised SAT college entrance exam for the first time last school year. And on that test, proficiency benchmarks are different between the state and those recommended by the SAT itself.

Statewide, student performance improved in English language arts on the PARCC test, though math scores dipped slightly. There were gains in four-year graduation and college enrollment rates and other areas, said Tony Smith, state superintendent of education, at a media briefing Monday.

Results are from the third year the controversial PARCC test has been used to measure student performance, and it continues to draw criticism.

"How can you consistently gauge how students are performing?" Community Unit District 300 Superintendent Fred Heid said. "There's still a lot of questions that PARCC and state have to answer in order to solidify and build trust in this data. They have to report it faster. It should be used to move kids, hire staff, to better support different program implementation. How the heck do I change course midyear? Parents see the score and they are struggling with what it means. Next year is where the rubber hits the road."

Heid suggested some scores dipped because of the switch to online testing. Other educators say special education and gifted students might have skewed the numbers at some schools.

Next year is when the assessment process will be torn up again. PARCC and

SAT testing are likely to continue, but such standardized tests will be only one part of a new accountability system that will include academic growth, success on college entrance tests and other factors.

Standards too high?

Illinois began statewide PARCC testing in March 2015 of students in third through 11th grades in English language arts and math. At the time, it was administered over two testing periods as performance-based and end-of-year assessments. A year later, the test was shortened and taken at one time.

Suburban educators who favored tried-and-tested college entrance exams to PARCC prompted the state to drop the test in high schools. The revamped SAT was given last school year after the state stopped funding its predecessor, the ACT college entrance test — administered for free to juniors for 15 years.

The state's minimum SAT score to meet college readiness — 540 for both math and reading and writing, or a composite 1,080 — is higher than the College Board's SAT college readiness benchmarks — 480 in reading and writing and 530 in math, a 1,010 composite.

Of 75 suburban high schools surveyed, 62 schools scored above the state's average of 38 percent of students deemed college ready. Sixty-two suburban high schools' composite scores met SAT's benchmark of 1,010, but only 39 schools met or exceeded the state's guideline of 1,080.

For some educators, the state's SAT standards for college readiness are too high.

"If you look at the ACT, it

used to be if your kids scored between 19 and 21 they met state standards," said Scott Helton, superintendent of DuPage High School District 88. "That equates to a 1,010 on an SAT. To meet state standards, our kids need to be in the top one-third of the country. Eventually we need to get out of attainment and measure growth."

Northwest Suburban High School District 214 Superintendent David Schuler, an outspoken critic of PARCC, said he was relieved the transition to the SAT has been seamless. During the first year of PARCC, the district had some of the highest percentage of students — more than 80 percent at some schools — refusing to take the exam.

Despite promising SAT scores — the district's six high schools scored between 40 percent and 72 percent of students meeting and exceeding SAT standards — the district continue efforts to redefine what it means to be college ready by helping students graduate with college credit, industry credentials and apprenticeships or internships.

"We are not going to let one test define us," Schuler said. "We believe in a multi-metric approach in our district. I'm much more concerned with how successful our students are after graduation than how many of our students graduate."

New accountability

A new measure, the Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA, starts in August 2018 and gives more weight to student growth and graduation rates.

Signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2015, it

replaces the federal No Child Left Behind Act that served as a benchmark for 14 years. That law drew considerable criticism for its emphasis on test scores, its labeling of some school districts as "failing" and its punitive nature for schools not making the grade.

Illinois is "moving to an era where it's not just sorting and ranking to punish," state superintendent Smith said. The focus rather will be on "who is doing well so we can learn."

School quality will be measured through standardized tests, alternative assessments, academic growth, English language proficiency, science scores, success on college entrance tests and graduation rates, as well as factors such as chronic absenteeism and school climate surveys. Funding and support would be provided to schools struggling the most.

"They have actually tried to look at the whole child, as well looking at other indicators," said Erika Schlichter, assistant superintendent for learning and innovation for Huntley Community School District 158. "It's a good change. It makes us more well-rounded. There just needs to be a combination of metrics. (PARCC) gives us a piece of the pie, not the entire pie."

Meanwhile, the state's contract with PARCC ends June 30. Some educators suggest the backlash against it has been so strong that it is likely to be replaced with another standardized assessment.

But Smith said the test is staying.

"Currently, PARCC is the highest-rated assessment ever," he said. "There is no intention to stop using the assessment of readiness. We are all in with PARCC."

Video shows 1914 aerial view:

A Chicago newspaper has rediscovered a rarely seen eight-minute video taken from a dirigible airship in 1914 that shows the city from the air. The Chicago Tribune reported the film was taken from Roy Knabenshue's dirigible airship "White City." The video shows high-rise buildings downtown, rail yards, swimmers at a Lake Michigan beach on the South Side and a building that's now the Museum of Science of Industry. Many Chicago landmarks, like Soldier Field and the Buckingham Fountain, are missing because they weren't built yet. The newspaper reported it contacted the National Archives to obtain a copy of the video after learning about its existence from former Chicago harbor master and author R.J. Nelson.

sentent Walter Street with its Alan Madison Honor Award this month. Street has served as president of AIA Chicago and the Illinois Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects as well as serving on national boards. He is a 2014 Richard Upjohn Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and is a regular visiting faculty member at the School of the Art Institute.



BURT CONSTABLE

is taking some time off.

Check sex offender registry before trick-or-treating, Madigan advises

Daily Herald report

Calling the number of known sex offenders in Illinois "extremely alarming," Attorney General Lisa Madigan said parents should check the sex offender registry before their children go out to trick-or-treat.

More than 30,200 registered sex offenders are listed on the Illinois Sex Offender Registry, or about 1 in every 425 state residents.

More than 24,700 of those committed a crime against a child, Madigan said.

The registry, administered

by the Illinois State Police, is at www.isp.state.il.us/sor/.

"The number of known sex offenders throughout Illinois is extremely alarming, and they do not live in any one neighborhood or community; they live in every part of our state," she said.

Illinois law prohibits sex offenders who committed a crime against a child from distributing treats on Halloween.

Some police departments conduct surveillance of the homes of known sex offenders on Halloween and have made arrests.

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STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Students at Arlington Heights' Hersey High School, which had one of the state's top average SAT scores.

Illinois finds wide gap in scores on SAT

Many high schools across state seen as below average in 1st year of free testing

BY DIANE RADO AND JENNIFER RICHARDS
Chicago Tribune

About two-thirds of Illinois public high schools posted below-average to rock-bottom scores on the SAT college entrance exam, given for free for the first time to 11th-graders last spring at school, revealing that thousands of students are still struggling even as the state pushes kids to achieve at higher levels.

Average scores ranged from the low 740s to the high 1300s, reflecting wide disparities in performance at more than 700 high schools statewide, according to data released Tuesday as part of the state's annual picture of public schools, called the Illinois Report Card.

Black and Hispanic teens fared worse on the exam compared with

white and Asian peers, the data show. Some students attend classes in high-poverty neighborhoods, while others are educated in wealthy suburban enclaves and blue-collar and downstate rural areas.

Payton College Preparatory High School, a selective enrollment Chicago Public School, posted the highest SAT average in the state — a 1375. But in pockets of CPS, about two dozen schools posted the worst averages statewide, all under an 800 for math and for reading and writing combined.

The Illinois State Board of Education's report card is a conglomeration of data ranging from state exam scores for high school and grade school students, to school finance, teacher attendance and evaluations, and enrollment and socio-

Turn to SAT, Page 5



WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY

Former Trump campaign chief Paul Manafort leaves court Monday after pleading not guilty to all charges.

3 former Trump aides indicted

Adviser who pleaded guilty has Chicago connections

BY PATRICK M. O'CONNELL, KATHERINE SKIBA AND JASON WEISNER
Chicago Tribune



LINKEDIN

The 30-year-old Chicago man who entered the first guilty plea in special counsel Robert Mueller's probe of the Russian government's efforts to interfere with the 2016 election is just a "small part" of a much larger investigation, court papers unveiled Monday show.

George Papadopoulos, a 2009 DePaul University graduate, pleaded guilty Oct. 5 to lying to the FBI and signaled he is cooperating with investigators as they attempt to unravel the Trump campaign's dealings with Russia. He has acknowledged that he misled investigators about his dealings with the foreign power, including interactions with an unnamed overseas professor whom he believed to be

connected to the Russian government and who told him the Russians had "dirt" on then-candidate Hillary Clinton via "thousands of emails."

"There's a large-scale, ongoing investigation of which this case is a small part," said Aaron Zelinsky of the special counsel's office at Papadopoulos' plea hearing.

Papadopoulos, who grew up in suburban Lincolnwood and attended Niles West High School, did postgraduate work in London after earning a political science degree from DePaul University,

Turn to Russia, Page 9

2 plead not guilty while 1 to cooperate in probe

BY JOSEPH TANFANI
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The special counsel investigating Russia's role in the 2016 presidential race announced criminal charges Monday against three former campaign aides to Donald Trump, including his former campaign chief, marking a new phase in the FBI probe of the president's inner circle.

One of the three repeatedly sought to arrange a meeting between then-candidate Trump and senior Russian officials in London or Moscow, according to court documents.

The meeting did not take place, but court documents describe an extensive effort by Russian officials to gain access to the campaign.

Court papers disclosed that George Papadopoulos,

a former foreign policy adviser to the Trump campaign, is cooperating with prosecutors led by special counsel Robert Mueller, who is pursuing allegations of possible cooperation between the Trump campaign and Russian officials seeking to influence the U.S. election.

Paul Manafort, who was Trump's campaign chief, and Richard Gates III, who was Manafort's top deputy and helped run Trump's inauguration, were separately accused of a total of 12 counts of fraud, conspiracy and money

laundering in a financial scheme that ran from 2006 to 2017.

In a court hearing Monday afternoon, Manafort and Gates both pleaded not guilty to the charges. Manafort was released on

Turn to Charges, Page 10

Injured Bears player could have lost leg

Tight end Miller suffered torn artery in knee

BY COLLEEN KANE
Chicago Tribune

The angle at which Zach Miller's left leg bent was so horrifically wrong that there was little doubt the Bears tight end was seriously injured Sunday afternoon at the Superdome in New Orleans.

It was so serious, in fact, that Miller needed urgent vascular surgery, a procedure that went beyond trying to save his football career to trying to save his ability to walk.

When Miller landed awkwardly while trying to make a touchdown catch in the Bears' loss to the Saints, he dislocated his left knee and tore the nonlateral artery behind



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Bears tight end Zach Miller is taken off the field Sunday in New Orleans.

versity Medical Center New Orleans did that. Miller quickly went from the stadium to the hospital, where surgeons stabilized the injury by using a vein from his right leg to repair the artery, Bears coach John Fox said.

Educators disagree on testing standards

SAT, from Page 1

economic trends, among other measures made available to families and taxpayers.

State School Superintendent Tony Smith highlighted various improvements on a media conference call Monday, but also challenges.

While four- and five-year graduation rates went up, Smith raised concerns about the extent of remedial classes. The percent of graduates enrolled in such courses dropped from 49.4 to 46.8 percent in the 2017 data.

"I would say that is worth noting, and good that it's going down. But to me, that is a big area of work in this state. We have too many kids who are still taking remedial coursework," Smith said.

One key piece was missing in the school report card data: state science exams. The delays in scoring date back to the 2016 exams. State officials said some science scores may come out next month. Fifth-grade, eighth-grade and high school students in biology take the state science exams.

And while the ISBE has usually met a statutory deadline of providing school data to the public on Oct. 31, the agency will delay until Friday posting a plethora of information at IllinoisReportCard.com. Reports for schools, in traditional paper format, will be available Tuesday on the ISBE's "eReport Card Public Site."

The ISBE cited a variety of reasons for the delays, including a larger load of data to handle this year. Late Monday afternoon, the agency was still making revisions to key data, such as test scores. Some districts, including CPS, have been trying to reconcile the state's data compared with their own.

Still, the 2017 report represents the broadest picture yet on how schools and students are performing.

The percentage of third-through eighth-graders meeting or exceeding standards in English language arts on the PARCC assessment increased from 36.2 percent in 2016 to 37 percent in 2017. In math, the percentage changed from 30.5 percent in 2016 to 31.2 percent in 2017, according to the ISBE.

One of the newest data pieces — and likely the most surprising for educators and families — are the SAT

Top Illinois SAT schools ail in Chicago area

Illinois juniors for the first time took the SAT for free at school last spring. Data released as part of the Illinois Report Card show that the average composite SAT score — a combination of the reading and writing section and math section — was 1015.9 out of a possible score of 1600. These are the 10 schools with the highest composite SAT scores statewide.

School	District	City	Average school score
Payton College Preparatory	299	Chicago	1375
Northside College Preparatory	299	Chicago	1329.3
Young Magnet	299	Chicago	1290.4
New Trier Township Winnetka	203	Winnetka	1258.2
Jones College Prep	299	Chicago	1247.3
Stevenson	125	Lincolnshire	1232.9
Lane Technical	299	Chicago	1222.9
Hinsdale Central	86	Hinsdale	1218.1
Glenbrook North	225	Northbrook	1214.1
Neuqua Valley	204	Naperville	1213.5

SOURCE: Chicago Tribune analysis of Illinois State Board of Education data

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

results and how the state is interpreting those scores under a tough new standard that expects juniors to get at least a 540 in math and in reading and writing. That will be a challenge based on current data.

Overall, the College Board's SAT scores range from 400 to 1600, based on math, and reading and writing sections. Each section's scores range from 200 to 800.

The statewide average for last spring's exam was 1015.9 — a 511.5 in reading and writing and a 504.4 in math. The total figure — based on juniors taking the test for free at school — equates to at least a 19 or closer to a 20 on the familiar ACT, according to the College Board's SAT analysis.

In recent years, when juniors were taking the ACT at school, average scores ranged between 20.3 and 20.6.

Illinois' SAT average would also put the state in the middle of the pack — around the 50th to 52nd percentile — based on a national sample.

The Tribune reviewed average SAT scores at all Illinois public high schools, finding roughly 32 percent of schools posted higher scores than the state's average of 1015.9. The remaining two-thirds of high schools posted below the average, the data show.

To be clear, the state's average is not the same as SAT's national average, which includes both public and private students. For the 2017 graduating class, the national SAT average was 1060 — 533 on the reading and writing section, and 527 in math.

College Board officials cautioned that comparisons are difficult across states, and the most fair comparison would likely be in several states that administered the SAT at school, just like Illinois.

Illinois will now be using the SAT to determine whether students are meeting academic standards in reading, math and writing.

That will require at least a 540 on each section of the exam to be considered proficient.

The spring 2017 statewide administration of the SAT found that 39.8 percent of 11th-grade students achieved proficiency in English language arts and 36.4 percent in math.

The analysis gets more complicated because the College Board itself uses scores lower than 540 to determine if students are considered prepared for key freshman classes at college. Those scores are generally at least 480 for reading and writing, and at least 530 for math. Those figures mean that students likely could get a C or higher in key classes in the first semester of college.

So parents looking at SAT score reports could find that their child is prepared for college classes, but the state doesn't rate their child as proficient.

Educators are trying to make sense of the SAT proficiency scores that just recently were approved. "This quick undertaking ... seemed rushed and shortsighted and noninclusive," said Kevin O'Mara, executive director of the Illinois High School District Organization.

"The toothpaste is out of the tube and our high school superintendents are left holding the bag and trying to explain how you can be college-ready but not make the (proficiency) cut," O'Mara said. "It is still a difficult thing."

In the sprawling Township High School District 214 based in Arlington Heights, Superintendent David Schuler said he expected some confusion over the SAT scores. "We always knew this was going to be a little murky," Schuler said.

The district has its own set of goals and college-ready indicators for success, he said, and those are not necessarily the same data points that the ISBE uses in its Report Card.

"We can't let a state

agency or the federal government undermine what is appropriate and acceptable for our locals schools and colleges," Schuler said.

"What if we create our own report card and we'd say, as superintendents, this is what we value?"

The district's Hersey High School in Arlington Heights scored an average 1202.3 on the SAT, one of only 14 high schools in the state that averaged a 1200 or higher.

At CPS, the state's largest district, officials said they will be using SAT's college-ready scores, which are lower than the state's requirement.

"CPS is using this benchmark as it best reflects actual student performance and is backed by a significant amount of research," spokesman Michael Passman said. "Under the College Board's benchmark, 48.2 percent of CPS students met or exceeded reading/writing benchmarks and 26.7 percent met or exceeded math benchmarks."

Under the state's numbers, only 27.8 percent of CPS students were considered proficient in reading and writing and 24.5 percent in math.

However, of the 14 schools exceeding 1200 on the SAT, CPS selective enrollment schools were at the top of the list: Payton, Northside, Young, Jones and Lane Tech. In the suburbs, the top-scoring SAT schools were New Trier Township, Stevenson, Lake Forest, Libertyville, Deerfield, Hinsdale Central, Neuqua Valley, Glenbrook North and Hersey.

Smith said the federal government required the state to set scores for proficiency, for high school and grade school students alike. Ultimately, 90 percent of students should be considered proficient by 2032 and be prepared for college and careers.

"Overall, we're making progress," Smith said.

dnado@chicagotribune.com

Scores attended Lake Forest party where man slain

Event promoted on social media; homeowners not living at residence

By KAREN BERKOWITZ
Pioneer Press

Investigators looking into a fatal shooting early Sunday outside a Halloween costume party in Lake Forest estimate that 150 to 200 people attended the event, which was promoted on social media and attracted partygoers from southern Wisconsin and northeast Illinois.

The Lake County coroner's office Monday released the results of an autopsy on the victim, Shaft D. Wilson Jr., 19, of the 1600 block of Argonne Drive in North Chicago.

The coroner determined that Wilson's death was a homicide due to gunfire. Toxicology results are pending.

Sgt. Christopher Covelli, of the Lake County Major Crime Task Force, said the homeowners had not been living in the residence in the 1300 block of West Estate Lane East in Lake Forest.

In the last several months, the home had been occupied by an adult relative of the homeowners, Covelli said.

Investigators determined the party was organized and promoted by an acquaintance of the adult living in the home, according to Covelli.

Lake Forest police had been to the home in the moments immediately before the shooting and were aware of a large, loud party that started to swell in numbers after 11 p.m. Saturday.

The shooting took place shortly after midnight after an argument broke out, Covelli said.

Sunday, as more than a dozen investigators continued to mill around the usually quiet street, neighbors discussed their theories on what may have happened during the party.

Pete Luthy, who grew up in Lake Forest and for the past seven years has lived in a home near where the party was held, spent part of the morning speaking with a couple who also live in a nearby home, theirs with a view of the yard where the shooting occurred.

"He said it was just

surreal," Luthy said, recalling his earlier conversation with neighbors. "And I imagine with what they may have seen, with views of the crowds outside, that's true. We all sort of surmised that the shooting was outdoors because it was so easy to hear, rather than if the shooting was inside someone else's home."

Police confirmed Wilson was found outside.

A 20-year-old Waukegan woman was injured when there was a stampede of partygoers fleeing the scene, Covelli said. She was treated at a local hospital and released.

Even before police confirmed details about the party's promotion on social media, Luthy said Sunday the party seemed like the type that might have been promoted online and that drew a large crowd of people who might not have known others in attendance.

Luthy had locked up the house and was settling in for the night when he heard the gunshots.

He estimated that he heard 10 to 20 shots. "Then people were rushing back to their cars. I heard some crying, one sounded like a young woman crying, and obviously she was upset by what happened," Luthy said.

Luthy said he used to run into members of a family who lived in the house where the shooting took place, until they moved away some six to eight months ago.

That family rented the home, he said, but it wasn't clear whether the current occupant owns or rents the home, Covelli said.

Covelli said a woman currently lives in the home.

Police ask that anyone with information about Sunday's homicide call Lake Forest police at 847-810-3818 or Lake County CrimeStoppers at 847-662-2222.

Karen Berkowitz is a reporter for Pioneer Press. Chicago Tribune reporter Katherine Rosenberg-Douglas and photographer Nancy Stone contributed.

berkowitz@pioneerlocal.com

Melrose Park man jailed over road-rage shooting

Elmhurst incident results in charge of attempted murder

By CLIFFORD WARD
Chicago Tribune

A Melrose Park man was ordered held in lieu of \$1.5 million bail in the alleged weekend road-rage shooting of a man in Elmhurst, according to DuPage County prosecutors.

Angelo Navarro, 23, of the 3100 block of Ala

tered, and the driver outside, bleeding from the face. The driver's wife was in the car, but she was not injured, prosecutors said.

The older man's car was reportedly behind Navarro, who was stopped in the intersection, waiting to turn. When Navarro failed to turn, the older man drove around him and honked his horn.

Navarro is then alleged to have followed the man south on York, and then drove into the northbound lane

Bears' Miller undergoes vascular surgery

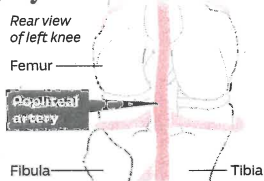
Miller, from Page 1

about where he is right now, as it relates to that."

"Right now the report is they're obviously going to take a while for it to make sure it remains good, but he's got good pulse in his lower leg, as well as good feeling," Fox said. "His foot is warm, which is a good sign. Not to say he's out of the woods by any stretch, but it's a good sign."

Miller's injury

Bears tight end Zach Miller had urgent surgery Sunday to repair a torn artery in his knee. Miller leaped attempting to catch a touchdown pass and dislocated his knee while landing.



he was arguing about catch, no catch.

"But he's very supportive of the team, very unselfish. That's just him, and it's genuine. It's real, and I just kind of shared that back. He's got all our love and prayers coming his way. He was basically telling us to hang in there. But that's him. That's just the kind of person he is and the kind of teammate he is."

The injury leaves the

Daily Herald

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As field shrinks, a plan to expand the brackets surfaces

In the blink of a weekend, a field of 256 playoff football teams slashed to 128.

This week's edition of Eyes on Five looks at the storylines heading into the second round of the playoffs as well as the possibility of future expansion of the qualifying field.

1 Expansion:

Twenty-eight bylaw amendment proposals recently were submitted to the IHSA, and one proposal features an attempt to expand the football playoffs.

No surprise there. There have been many previous submissions designed to expand the field, but they've failed.

Will this one be different, gain traction and ultimately succeed? We'll see, but don't count on it.



Kevin Schmit

Here are the details...

The proposal, submitted by representatives

from St. Patrick and Glenbrook North, doubles the playoff field from 256 teams to 512 and reduces the regular-season schedule from nine games to eight. For the roughly 30 to 40 football teams not qualifying, they have the option of scheduling a Week 9 non-playoff game against each other.

The 14-week schedule and qualification criteria would remain intact, but the playoffs would begin in Week 9 instead of Week 10. There'd still be eight classes, only with 64 teams each instead of the current setup of 32 teams per class. Each class would be divided into two brackets seeded 1 to 32.

The rationale for the proposal boils down to eliminating the pressure to win five games to become playoff eligible. Accomplish that and you'd hopefully eliminate the conference jumping that's occurred in recent years and the struggles so many schools endure trying to schedule nonconference games.

Following a series of town halls to discuss the proposals, the IHSA Legislative Commission meets Nov. 20 to determine which proposals to advance to a statewide vote



Willowbrook's Jack Jesson (24) is congratulated by Tyler Guerrero (51) after scoring a touchdown against Deerfield last week.

DANIEL WHITE/dwhite@dailyherald.com

among the member schools. The IHSA members vote between Nov. 21 and Dec. 5.

It'd be a game-changer if it passes, but it's likely too drastic of a change for the bulk of the member schools.

2 Giant slaying:

We've seen this before from Hinsdale South. Maybe not an upset of this magnitude, but we shouldn't be surprised the Hornets already made a mess of the Class 6A bracket.

Hinsdale South (6-4) was the last of the 256 playoff teams to qualify, narrowly beating out St. Edward for the final spot because of a third tiebreaker based on the number of victories by regular-season teams it defeated.

The reward was qualification for the Hornets, but the punishment was a 16th seed in the southern half of the 6A bracket and a first-round meeting at No. 1 Crete-Monee. Shocking the state, Hinsdale South pulled out a 28-20 victory.

For those who have followed the Hornets in recent years, however, wins like that

are expected.

In 2015 the Hornets were the 13th seed in 6A but beat the No. 4, No. 5 and No. 1 seeds before losing 40-37 to Crete-Monee in the semifinals. The year before that the 10th-seeded Hornets beat the No. 7 seed and the No. 2 seed before falling in the quarterfinals.

With an enrollment of 1,507, Hinsdale South is the smallest school in the 14-member West Suburban Conference. It's a challenge to survive a schedule against teams with much larger rosters, but now you see the benefit.

No matter what struggles Hinsdale South experiences during the regular season, they fade in the playoffs when finally facing similar-sized schools in Class 6A.

"We play with a chip on our shoulder during the season because we're the smallest school in the conference," said Hornets coach Mike Barry. "Our guys always believe they can win, but now they have the evidence to show they can do it in 6A."

Hinsdale South will try to keep the postseason magic

going against St. Laurence this weekend. Defending 6A champion Prairie Ridge is the heavy favorite to emerge from the northern bracket, but now the southern bracket is up for grabs.

The southern bracket still looks tough with Sacred Heart-Griffin, Nazareth, Providence and others, but the Hornets opened a lot of eyes last weekend.

3 Out of site:

Poor Duchon Field. Glenbard West's historic and breathtaking playing venue took a bit of a beating this season, including during last week's opening-round Class 8A victory over Bloom.

Because of an iffy weather forecast this week that may or may not pelt the grass surface with more rain, the Hilltoppers made the tough decision to move Saturday's second-round home game against Oswego to Glenbard East.

"I wish we could wait to see if it rains or not before making the decision, but that's not realistic," said Glenbard

West coach Chad Hetlet. "It's too bad we can't play at Duchon. I love playing there. There's something magical there. But it just makes sense to move it."

While explaining the decision, Hetlet referenced Glenbard West's 2012 Class 7A quarterfinal win over Wheaton North. Now known as "The Mud Bowl," Duchon Field was a swamp due to a pounding rain.

The play was not good. The Hilltoppers pulled out a 3-0 victory en route to winning a state title, but Hetlet doesn't want a repeat of those playing conditions.

"After 2012 I told myself I'd never do that to my kids again," Hetlet said.

Glenbard West has played multiple playoff games away from Duchon Field since "The Mud Bowl," including the following week for the semifinal win over Lake Zurich.

Glenbard South is typically the backup stadium for the Hilltoppers, who played there twice during the 2015 playoffs, but the Raiders host Marian Central in a 5A

matchup at 3 p.m. Saturday. The Hilltoppers are sticking to their standard 1 p.m. start time and playing at Glenbard East.

"Glenbard East was generous enough to let us do it, so that's the plan," Hetlet said. "It just doesn't make any sense to risk it. I don't think it's a disadvantage to either team playing on a better surface."

4 Conference calling:

How did we do last weekend? By "we" I mean the first-round performances by the local conferences.

The Chicago Catholic League had a rough weekend. Four of the five teams qualified but only one, Marmion, advanced to the second round. Montini, De La Salle and Fenwick all lost.

The DuPage Valley Conference was a mixed bag. While Naperville Central and Wheaton North won convincingly, Lake Park and Glenbard North lost.

The East Suburban Catholic Conference sent six of its nine teams to the playoffs, and four advanced, including Benet, Marian Central, Marist and Nazareth. Notre Dame and St. Viator fell.

Peotone and Wilmington both moved on from the Interstate Eight Small. IC Catholic Prep and Glenbard South advanced from the Metro Suburban Blue, but Riverside-Brookfield lost in the opening round.

The Upstate Eight Valley lost both qualifiers to first-round defeats — South Elgin and West Aurora.

Hinsdale South and Willowbrook helped the West Suburban Gold go 2-0 last weekend. The Silver went 2-3 as Glenbard West and Hinsdale Central advanced but Downers Grove North, Lyons Twp. and Oak Park lost.

5 Stat time:

Friday night playoff games continue to disappear.

Forty-three of the 128 opening-round games were played on Friday, or about 34 percent. This weekend, only four of 64 second-round games are on Friday — a reduction to 6 percent.

Follow Kevin on Twitter @kevin_schmit

Naperville North will get chance to defend title at state

By CHRIS WALKER
Daily Herald Correspondent

As a corner kick from Ethan Harvey bounced around like a metal ball in a pinball machine, it finally broke free and landed in the

Boys soccer



had to make three saves in the second half, including a huge one with a little more than 12 minutes left in the game off the foot of Edwin Zizumbo.

Naperville North (25-1), which tied the school record



