

THE INDEPENDENT

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ATHS alumna, 2016 Miss Addison crowned Miss Mexican Heritage

Bianca Reyes also honored for Best Essay, Best Dressed, Most Photogenic

If you had asked Addison Trail alumna Bianca Reyes (class of 2016) how she felt about pageants a year ago, you might not get the most favorable answer.

But her perspective and understanding of the pageant world have changed in the last year, as she was crowned Miss Addison in 2016 and Miss Mexican Heritage on Sept. 8. The Miss Mexican Heritage Scholarship Pageant Program is a four-month professional development program hosted by Mexican Cultural Center DuPage that ends in the Scholarship Pageant, where three participants are awarded a college scholarship.

"I never really wanted to be in pageants, because I thought all they cared about was physical looks," Reyes said. "But I now know there's so much more to these competitions. The judges are looking for more than beauty — they really care about the whole package, including academics and volunteer work."

Having never participated in the Miss Mexican Heritage Scholarship Pageant before, Reyes was excited to share her culture with others. Contestants had to participate in workshops on various topics such as motivation, poise, financial independence, interview skills and politics and attend events throughout the summer. The pageant included writing an essay on a state in Mexico, representing that state in a garment competition and participating in a question-and-answer session.

Reyes was not only crowned Queen, but she also won the "Best Essay," "Best Dressed" and "Most Photogenic" titles. She focused on Jalisco, where her parents were born.

"I truly didn't think I was going

to win," Reyes said. "I was really shocked, and I also was very excited, because I knew my parents were proud I showcased our heritage."

"Getting this title means a lot to me, as it's an opportunity to represent Latinos. My parents have sacrificed a lot to be here, and I wanted to compete in this pageant to show when you put your mind to it, you can achieve anything — no matter your background."

One of Reyes' first duties as Queen was to participate in the Mexican Independence Day Festival on Sept. 16 & 17, which was presented by Mexican Cultural Center DuPage, with support from the City of West Chicago. Reyes said she looks forward to other events and opportunities she will get to experience.

She said she is grateful for her years at Addison Trail, as they helped prepare her for a successful future.

"Addison Trail does a great job trying to keep students involved and offers many opportunities with different clubs and activities," she said. "The teachers also care tremendously about your future as well. They take the time to help you with FAFSA, college applications, scholarship applications and more."

"Because Addison Trail provided me with all the resources I needed, I am now thriving in college and beyond."

During her time at the school, Reyes was a member of the Blazettes, Girls Soccer and Orchestras teams and participated in Choir and the International Dance Show. Beyond the classroom, Reyes is a Commander with the Addison Police Explorers. She also served in the Addison Police Department's Peer Jury program



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

Pictured is Addison Trail alumna Bianca Reyes (class of 2016), who was recently crowned Queen of the Miss Mexican Heritage Scholarship Pageant.

and was certified through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.

Now a sophomore at Western Il-

linois University, Reyes plans to major in international relations and Spanish. She also is considering a minor in criminal justice.

ITJH Band leader Cannon receives grant from IRTAF

Representatives from the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation (IRTAF) visited Indian Trail Junior High School on Wednesday, Sept. 27 to present a grant check in

the amount of \$729.99 to Raymond Cannon for use in the ITJHS Music Department. This year, the IRTAF awarded \$36,500 in grants to public school teachers across the state. This

grant money is intended to allow educators to enrich their instruction with materials not otherwise available to them.

Cannon applied for a grant in order

to purchase recording equipment that will be utilized to help record student performances. The recording will allow students to hear their progress from year to year. The equipment will also be used for live streaming concerts to the community.

Cannon has also procured more than \$6,000 worth of used instruments from School and Community Assistance for Recycling & Composting Education (SCARCE). Instruments that have been donated to SCARCE are now finding new life in the hands of music students throughout ASD4.

At the Board of Education meeting on September 27, Superintendent Langton thanked the SCARCE organization for additional donations of instruments, including three drum sets. He also thanked Kristin Gross and her family for the donation of a trumpet. Langton urged community members who may have unused musical instruments in their homes to consider donating them for use by current students. For more information about donating instruments, call the Indian Trail office at 630-458-2600.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

Indian Trail Band Teacher Raymond Cannon (center) accepted a check for \$729.99 from the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation (IRTAF). The grant will be used toward the purchase of recording equipment in the Music Department. Pictured are (from left): ITJHS Principal Craig Bennett, IRTAF Area 3 Rep. Jan Bryant, Cannon, Band Teacher Lawrence Underwood and Superintendent John Langton.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Addison Independent

Teddy Bear Sleepover comes to Addison Library

Children brought their favorite stuffed animals to Addison Public Library on Wednesday, Sept. 20 for a Teddy Bear Sleepover! Activities included reading stories, playing games, and exploring the building after dark.



Protecting your assets

Attorneys John Pankau and Lisa Knauf discuss ways for attendees to protect their assets in today's economy at Addison Public Library's "Basics of Wills and Trust" program on Wednesday, Sept. 2.



Putting the fire out

Above: Addison Public Library staff were trained on Fire Extinguisher Use by the Addison Fire Protection District on Monday morning. Everyone got the chance to put out a real fire!



Right: This youngster and his mother shake out their portion of a parachute, brought in by Children's Specialist Omar, who introduced the parachute into Book Babies story time on Thursday Sept. 21 at Addison Public Library.

A boy, a bell, and a bike ... Tears of joy shed at Addison's Wild Fire Harley-Davidson

Good people abound, if you just look. Twenty-year-old Austin Vitello is one of them. So are the members of the Addison Police Department.

Here's the heartwarming story of how they came together over a Harley-Davidson bicycle.

Austin Vitello loves motorcycles, especially Harley-Davidsons. Coming in numerous times a week, he'd walk from his home in Addison, about three miles in the freezing cold or blazing heat just to hang out at Wild Fire Harley Davidson—talking to employees and customers ... being around the bikes.

Eventually, he became a store helper—doing odds and ends around the dealership. Then, he became part of the team and the store family. Last June, Wild Fire gave Austin a Harley-Davidson bicycle. He loved the bike and rode it everywhere, all the time.

Early September, his bike was stolen from his home. Crushed doesn't even begin to describe how he felt. His sister posted on Facebook ex-

plaining that his bike was stolen and the outpouring of support for Austin was overwhelming. Strangers, friends, the dealership...everyone shared the post to try to help Austin locate his stolen bicycle. Twelve different strangers offered to donate bikes to him.

Then, the police got involved.

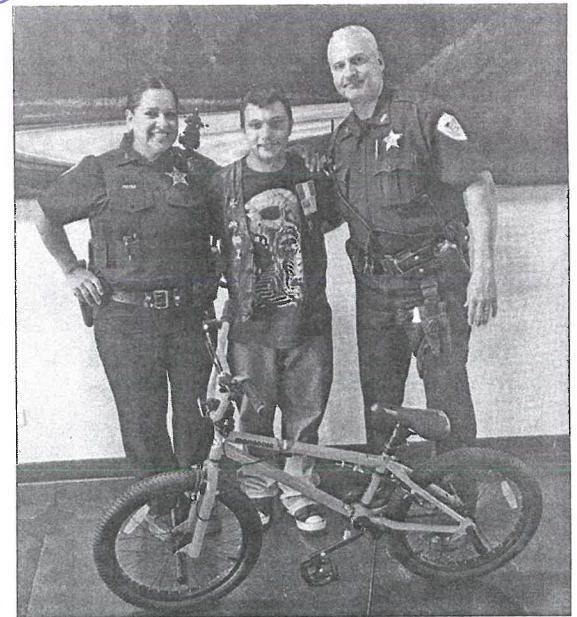
The Addison Police Department—that has been searching and continues to hunt for the stolen bike—contacted Wild Fire Harley-Davidson wanting to replace Austin's bicycle. So, the dealership customized the new bike with stickers, and other Harley-Davidson branded items to replicate the old bike as closely as possible.

As a surprise for Austin, the Addison Police Department presented the new bicycle to him at the Sept. 16 School of Harley Rock: Battle of the Kids Bands event. While there, Austin was asked to ring the legendary Freedom Bell—an occurrence that's exciting enough for any Harley lover. And, just when he thought it

couldn't get any better, on cue, in walked two officers from the Addison Police Department with his new replacement bicycle. A very emotional Austin was so overwhelmed he couldn't physically contain his excitement—jumping up and down and smiling ear to ear. Friends, family, employees and customers cheered Austin on as he took a joyous test loop around the store.

The APD is still working to locate Austin's original bike, as they explained when they presented him with the new replacement. In the meantime, this bike will help him get to work.

Austin and his story have captured the hearts of people all over social media. It is the kind of happy ending everyone loves to experience, and Austin is the kind of young man whose happiness has brought tears to the eyes of everyone who has shared in this moment whether they were there live it or one of the nearly 20,000 people who saw it on Facebook.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

Here are two members of the Addison Police Department on either side of Addison resident Anthony Vitello, a young motorcycle enthusiast, who had been working at Wild Fire Harley Davidson, where he obtained a Harley bicycle that was eventually stolen. Through an outpouring of support, mostly on Facebook, the officers were able to present Vitello with a new bicycle, pictured here.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

Pictured here with Addison Trail Principal Michael Bolden is senior Dionisia Vassos, who has been named the September recipient of 88's Best recognition.

Dionisia Vassos named Addison Trail's recipient of '88's Best' award

Dionisia Vassos has been named as Addison Trail's September recipient of 88's Best recognition for her outstanding academic accomplishments. Vassos, a senior, was recognized during the Sept. 25 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

Throughout her four years at Addison Trail, Vassos has taken the most rigorous courses available and has not only participated, but been a leader in numerous clubs, activities and sports.

Vassos' academic record speaks for itself — she has received AS in every course she has taken (including eight Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses and 14 Honors courses) and has continually challenged herself to take classes she not only enjoys, but knows will help her in the future.

"I had the privilege of having Vassos in Speech class," said Katie Inzinga, English teacher and Girls Volleyball coach. "Not only was she over prepared and extremely organized, but her speeches were always delivered fantastically, with emotion and enthusiasm. She truly captivated her audience for every speech she presented, utilizing her range of voice and facial expressions."

"It is clear Vassos takes pride in her academics and strives to achieve the highest standards. She continually wants to learn to better her education and will do well in her future endeavors."

Vassos is Co-Captain of the Girls Volleyball Team, Vice President of Student Council, Vice President of National Honor Society and is a member of Best Buddies, the Class of 2018 Board and Choir. She also volunteers at AMITA Health Alexian Brothers Medical Center. This is just a small picture of the many things she has participated in during her four years as a Blazer.

"I have had the pleasure of teaching and coaching Vassos," said Jessica Clark, English teacher and Girls Volleyball coach. "She is an exem-

plary kid, who takes advantage of everything school has to offer. I have never met a kid who is as jazzed to be in high school as Vassos. From the moment I started coaching her as a freshman, I knew this girl was something special. Her positive attitude and outgoing personality are unparalleled. Having Vassos in class was no different. She is highly motivated and has a positive influence on those around her. She is very deserving of this recognition. I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to get to know her over the last four years."

Dan Styler, social studies teacher and head coach of the Varsity Girls Volleyball Team, agreed.

"I've had the pleasure of knowing Vassos in the capacity as one of her volleyball coaches at Addison Trail over the past four years," he said. "Her contagious laugh and vibrant personality make her teammates gravitate toward her."

"Our coaching staff always talks about how Vassos is a kid who just loves every facet of high school. Her performance in the classroom, coupled with her sense of service to others, will take her very far in life. We are very proud of her. Go, Blazers!"

Vassos' Blazer Pride exudes from her whole being, and it is truly infectious. She has joined so many clubs and activities because she cares deeply about her school and wants to make it even better through serving as a leader. She works hard to include everyone in school activities and tries to make high school a positive place for her classmates, just as it has been for her.

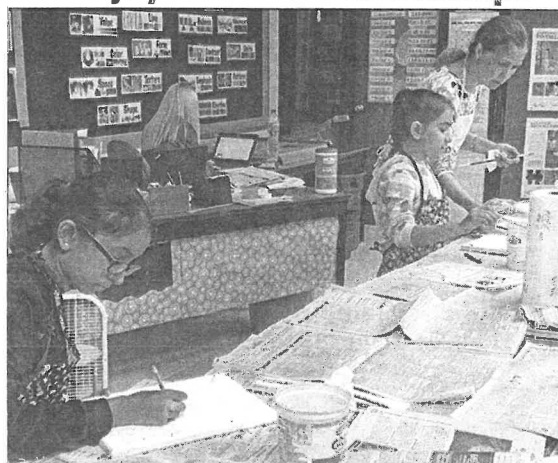
Vassos is in the process of applying to various colleges and universities, but at the top of her list are Indiana University, The University of Iowa and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She plans to study science and has aspirations to be a hospital pharmacist. Above all, she wants to help people and knows that by combining her passion for science, she will achieve that goal.

Indian Trail students enjoy Arts Alive workshops

Indian Trail Junior High School students had the opportunity to participate in an after school arts enrichment program this week at Arts Alive workshops. The Arts Alive is designed to give junior high students a chance to explore Creative Writing, Visual Arts, Music and Theatre by participating in workshops taught by professional artists.

During this week's session, students could choose between three different workshop topics, "TOONS" TIPS: Making Cartooning fun and easy; You too can be a Modern Artist: Abstract Painting Made Easy; and Teen "Zine." These art workshops are offered free to students. A different rotation of workshops will be offered later in fall.

This program is funded by a grant from The DuPage Foundation (JCS Fund), National Endowment for the Arts (Arts Engagement in American Communities), Illinois Arts Council Agency (through Federal funds from NEA), the Addison Center for the Arts in partnership with Addison District 4.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

Students at Indian Trail Junior High had the chance to take part in various workshops in the arts, thanks to the after-school program known as Arts Alive. A different rotation of workshops will be offered later this fall.



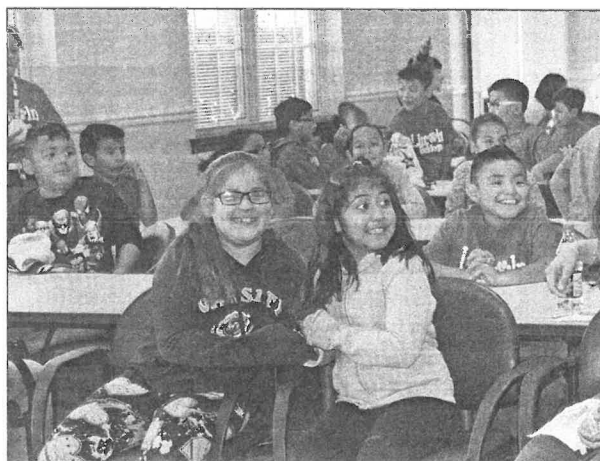
SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

Gathered in the rotunda

In what has become a tradition, this group of students from Lincoln School gather in the Addison Village Hall rotunda with Mayor Rich Veenstra.

Anxiously waiting

Another local group of students got to learn about local history and government as 60 Lincoln School 3rd graders visited the Addison Historical Museum, Village Hall and the Addison Public Library recently. It's evident in this photo that the students could hardly contain their excitement as they waited for Mayor Rich Veenstra to make his appearance.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

SPORTS

OCTOBER 5, 2017 • 20

Willowbrook football team becomes playoff eligible with win

Addison Trail loses to Leyden

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook football team became playoff eligible after scoring a 45-22 West Suburban Conference crossover victory against York in Villa Park in Week 6 action.

The win put the Warriors at 5-1 overall.

Willowbrook can clinch a playoff berth with a victory at Morton Friday night.

In the York game, Willowbrook led 14-0 at one point and held a 14-7 lead after the first quarter and a 24-7 edge at halftime. The Warriors led 38-7 heading into the fourth quarter.

Jack Jessen and Chris Diaz each scored two touchdowns for the winners.

York dropped to 0-6 with the loss.

Addison Trail football

The Addison Trail football team fell to 2-4 overall and 0-3 in West Suburban Conference Gold Division play after a 14-7 loss at home to Leyden.

Leyden led 7-0 after the first quarter and 14-0 at halftime.

Addison Trail quarterback Mike Ruffolo completed five passes for 44 yards and had one touchdown toss.

Nick Daudelin ran the ball 14 times for 57 yards and had a long run of 22 yards.

Jacob Grygo caught a 24-yard touchdown pass from Ruffolo. Daudelin caught four passes for 20 yards.

Christian Cici had a fumble recovery on defense and also returned one kickoff 34 yards.

Addison Trail returns to action Friday when it heads to Darien to face Hinsdale South in another WSC Gold game.

Addison Trail football Week 7 preview Addison Trail (2-4, 0-3) at Hinsdale South (4-2, 3-1)

When: Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Hinsdale South High School, Darien

Last week: Leyden 14, Addison Trail 7; Hinsdale South 51, Proviso East 6

Last year: Hinsdale South 38, Addison Trail 13

Outlook: Addison Trail has lost four games in a row after starting the season 2-0. The Blazers have scored only 17 points in those four games. They will look to get back on track against a Hinsdale South squad that has won three of its last four games. Hinsdale South's four wins this season have come against teams that had a combined 4-16 record heading into Week 6. Addison Trail must win out against Hinsdale South, Morton and Proviso East in order to become playoff eligible.

Willowbrook football Week 7 preview Willowbrook (5-1, 3-0) at Morton (1-5, 1-2)

When: Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Morton West High School, Berwyn

Last week: Willowbrook 45, York 22; Downers Grove South 18, Morton 0

Last year: Willowbrook 49, Morton 20

Outlook: Willowbrook needs one win to secure a guaranteed return to the playoffs for a second year in a row. Plus, a win would keep them atop the West Suburban Conference Gold Division standings with two games to play against Proviso East and Downers Grove South (both at home). Morton's lone win came against winless Proviso East (13-12).

Addison Trail girls volleyball team making progress

Blazers sport 2-1 conference mark through their first three matches

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail girls volleyball team sported an 8-10 overall record through its first 18 matches.

The Blazers also were 2-1 in West Suburban Conference Gold Division play through their first three conference contests.

And through those first 18 games, coach Dan Styler has seen some positives, particularly when it comes to the defensive side of the net.

"Our defensive effort and execution has been a bright spot for our team," said Styler. "Our success always will be built on our ability to control the ball in serve-receive. There is a clear correlation between the success from match to match aligned to our ability to pass the ball effectively. We are comfortable with our core group of primary passers and look forward to them working as a unit to continue to grow together during the second half of the season."

Addison Trail has been led offensively by Nina Muell, who topped the team in kills with 168 through those first 18 contests. At the service line, Dionisia Vassos was tops with 19 service aces. In the back row, Sofia Susa had a team-best 96 digs.

Setter Amy Reyes has been directing the offense and had 107 assists through those first 18 contests.

Styler added the team still is hard at work regarding the offensive side of the equation. "We still are working on establishing a balanced offensive effort during the second half of the season," he said earlier last

"I'm most impressed by our group embracing our most pressing areas for growth and tackling them head-on in the gym every day."

— Coach Dan Styler

week. "Statistically, we are generating enough points offensively in the kills category to win games. However, we still need to cut down on the number of errors we make."

Styler cited recent strong play from sophomore Jessica D'Ambrose.

"Jessica really has expanded her skill set this year and has proven to be our most versatile player," the coach said.

Styler noted he's been encouraged by his team's willingness to get in the gym and continuously work on ways to take things to the next level.

"I'm most impressed by our group embracing our most pressing areas for growth and tackling them head-on in the gym every day," he said.

Addison Trail continued WSC Gold Division play earlier this week against Downers Grove South. The Blazers head to the St. Charles East tournament Friday and Saturday before an additional busy week next week with a conference match against Morton, a WSC crossover match against Glenbard West and the Plainfield Central Invitational next Friday and Saturday.

Willowbrook boys golf team fares well at conference tournament

Warriors shoot lowest round in at least eight years; Sarovich finishes third

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

How low did the Willowbrook boys golf team go?

The Warriors recently shot a 327 to finish third at the recent West Suburban Conference Gold Division meet held at par-72 Prairie Bluff Golf Club.

Willowbrook was seven shots off the pace of tournament co-champions Downers Grove South and Hinsdale South. Both those teams shot 320s.

It was Willowbrook's lowest team score of the year for 18 holes and coach Gary Walker noted it was the squad's best score in at least the past eight years.

Willowbrook ended up taking

fourth in the conference overall. The Warriors did defeat Addison Trail at the conference meet (327-337), but ended up fourth with the regular-season dual meets figured in.

Junior Taylor Sarovich shot a personal-best 76 round and took third overall. Senior Buddy Martens shot 82 and took 10th overall. Both Sarovich and Martens earned all-conference honors.

Junior Jackson Hathaway shot 84 and Tim Keefe, a senior, rounded out the Warriors' scorecard with an 85. Also competing for Willowbrook were junior Joey Guthrie (86) and sophomore Logan Rattana (88).

Willowbrook was scheduled to play in a Class 3A regional earlier this week.

Willowbrook boys cross country

Willowbrook boys cross-country coach T.J. Artman reports his squad is hard at work and competing against a strong list of runners at its meets. "The varsity is working hard,

but it's tough to beat some of the faster times right now," he said.

The team's lower levels are having success, punctuated by a second-place showing at the recent Leyden Invitational.

"Our lower levels are doing great," he said. "They are showing promise for future seasons."

Progress has been made, Artman noted, on a number of fronts. "We're coming together as a team and our pack running has improved," he said. "We're seeing consistent times and we're getting faster overall."

Matt Caron continues to improve as the postseason approaches. "Matt continues to get faster and is motivated for the post part of the season," said Artman.

Artman would like to see his team finish in the top half of the West Suburban Conference Gold Division meet on Oct. 14. Willowbrook hosts the conference meet this year.

"The team has bonded well together and it enjoys working hard every day," he said.

Scouting this weekend's football games

The High Five

St. Edward (4-2, 1-1) at Glenbard South (4-2, 2-0)

Metro Suburban Blue

Game time: 7:15 p.m. Friday.

Last week: St. Edward 55, Fenton 21; Glenbard South 27, Wheaton Academy 23. **Last year:** Glenbard South 42, St. Edward 21.

Outlook: Two teams in playoff mode, Glenbard South in a slightly tighter bind finishing with IC Catholic and Riverside-Brookfield. The Raiders will honor Angel Garcia and the St. Edward ground game, but the focus is mainly sifting through myriad formations and a large line to contain the program record-setting duo of quarterback Dylan Minarich and receiver Tyler Holte. Minarich has thrown for 1,300 yards and 15 touchdowns, Holte has 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns. Glenbard South, also in a conference race, gets a push from nose tackle Anthony Kramer and offers bruising Adam Haushahn and Nick D'Ambr, who scored on an interception and a blocked kick against Wheaton Academy. But Minarich's step-and-throw limits a rush and will pressure Raiders defensive backs Kesji Gjini, Graham DiFranco, Gavin Fitzpatrick and Rod Rivera. As coach Ryan Crissey has said the Raiders go as quarterback Jack Crouch goes, and Crouch's connections with receivers Ryan McConville and Mike Paprota have been a positive step.

Next week: Riverside-Brookfield at St. Edward; Glenbard South at IC Catholic.

Hinsdale Central (5-1, 4-0) at Glenbard West (5-1, 3-0)

West Suburban Silver

Game time: 1:30 p.m. Saturday. **Last week:** Hinsdale Central 49, Proviso West 0; Glenbard West 35, Lyons Twp. 3.

Last year: Hinsdale Central 31, Glenbard West 30, overtime.

Outlook: Glenbard West avenged one of its Silver losses from last season. Now the Hilltoppers aim to avenge the other. Evidenced throughout the season, offense hasn't been an issue for the Hilltoppers. Not with running backs Tyquan Cox, who last week rushed for 230 yards and 2 touchdowns, Ryan Diver and Dre Thomas. And a passing threat like receiver Alec Pierce, who had a touchdown catch and an interception against Lyons. It's the defense that was especially impressive last week. The return from injury of lineman Marky Winters and linebacker Dan Howard has been a huge boost, and the lineup continues to get healthier. They'll need to be at their best again to stop Hinsdale Central's three-headed offensive threat of running back Luke Skokna, athlete Garrett Oakley and Indiana-bound tight end Matt Bjorson. Like Glenbard West, the Red Devils' defense, led by junior linebacker Aidan Cruickshank, has multiple sophomore contributors.

Next week: Lyons Twp. at Hinsdale C.; Glenbard W. at Oak Park.

The Rest of the Best

Addison Trail (2-4, 0-3) at Hinsdale South (4-2, 3-1)

Game time: 7:30 p.m. Friday.

The quick hit: With running back Nick D'Ambrose out another week, the Blazers need offense. They hope converted quarterback Nick Daudelin shines in the ground game. Hornets receiver Destin Talbert, 400 receiving yards the last two weeks, is on another level.

Benet (4-2, 3-1) at Joliet Catholic (2-4, 1-3)

Game time: 7:30 p.m. Friday.

The quick hit: As sophomore quarterback Colin Gillespie continues to adjust in relief of injured Matt Boyle, the Redwings are trying to lean on their ground game. The two-way play of Connor Reid, who last week was part of a 300-yard rushing effort, has helped.

DePaul (2-4) at Norcini (4-2)

Game time: 7:30 p.m. Friday.

The quick hit: Earning playoff eligibility is the Broncos' priority in this Chicago Catholic League crossover. All three quarterbacks — Matt Morrissey, Brad Norgle, Nick Orlando — tore it up last week against De La Salle. Senior Brian Jackson stands out at left tackle.

Browners South (3-3, 3-1) at Leyden (3-3, 2-1)

Game time: 7:30 p.m. Friday.

The quick hit: If the Mustangs keep playing defense the way they have while notching shutouts three of the last four weeks, they'll stay in the WSC Gold race. Sophomore quarterback Jayden Lambert has rushed for more than 100 yards the last two games.

Glenbard North (3-3, 2-3) at Lake Park (3-3, 3-2)

Game time: 7:30 p.m. Friday.

The quick hit: Lancers linebacker Anthony Gulyk helps contain the ground game. Glenbard North must contain QB Jackson Bahles. Panthers cornerback Tyrik Henderson affects all three phases. Tailback Mark Finley leads an offense averaging 220 yards rushing.

IC Catholic (5-1, 2-0) at Wheaton Academy (3-3, 0-2)

Game time: 1 p.m. Saturday.

The quick hit: Last week Cristian Carstens ran for 216 yards for Wheaton Academy, but coach Brad Thornton said it'd take a "perfect" game to tip the Knights. They racked up 655 yards, C.J. West passing for 233, running back Kyle Franklin going for 230.

Jacobs (4-2) at Glenbard East (1-5)

Game time: 7:15 p.m. Friday.

The quick hit: Another 17 tackles by Rams safety Mike Brown would come in handy against Jacobs' downhill run game. In last week's win quarterback Bret Bushka ran for a touchdown and passed for 3 to Kenny Adams, Jeremy Johnson and Matt Shockey.

St. Francis forfeits football game for 'safety' reasons

BY DAVE OBERHELMAN
doberhelman@dailyherald.com

In the wake of a shooting near last week's football game between Providence and Hope Academy, St. Francis has forfeited its football game Friday night in Chicago against Hope Academy.

Gunfire heard near Hope's home field at Aligned Park, bordered by South Washtenaw Avenue and West Harrison Street on Chicago's West Side, caused players from Providence and Hope to hit the turf and take cover early in a game last Friday. The Herald-News reported that after about 20 minutes police gave an "all-clear" and the game was completed, Providence winning 56-14.

Thursday morning St. Francis athletic director Dan Hardwick said the two schools had tried working out alternatives for three days before St. Francis made its decision Wednesday afternoon to forfeit the game, which was Hope's homecoming. The sophomore game remains in play at 11 a.m. Saturday in Wheaton.

"It's a very difficult decision, but we have to make decisions that are in the best interests of the safety of our kids," said Hardwick, noting that a June 21 shooting near Aligned Park requiring evacuation of

Little League baseball games, in addition to possible retaliation from the Sept. 29 shooting, added to the decision.

"In the face of all that I hope Hope understands we have an obligation to keep our kids safe," Hardwick said.

Hope Academy founder and president Bob Muzikowski did not initially respond to an email Thursday morning requesting comment.

Options discussed included moving the game to St. Francis, with the Wheaton school giving Hope gate receipts and travel expenses, Hardwick said. The two schools also considered moving the game Saturday to St. Ignace, at West Roosevelt Road near South Racine Avenue, but that facility was unavailable.

Hardwick stressed no "ill will" toward Hope Academy, which would improve to 5-2 on the season with a forfeit win while St. Francis drops to 1-6. He said St. Francis preferred to "err on the side of caution."

Chicago Hope Academy, a private Christian preparatory school with an enrollment of 212 students, opened in August 2005.

"It's very unfortunate," Hardwick said of the cancellation. "We completely support and agree with the mission of Hope Academy."

DuPage County football statistics

Player (School)	TD	PAT	FG	TP
Wilbur (NI)	15	166	2	4.0
Gabors (IC)	15	165	2	11.1
Cooney (Ben)	22	165	2	7.5
Jason (W)	31	154	1	3.3
Thorne (W)	31	154	1	3.3
Thorne (IC)	59	158	3	3.2
Daudelin (AT)	42	153	1	3.6
Thompson (Glen)	23	133	0	42.7
Thompson (Ben)	27	151	0	5.6

Lincoln-Way Central (5-1) at Waubonsie Valley (3-3)

Nonconference

Game time: 7:20 a.m. Friday.

PREP ROUNDUP

York boys golf takes second at regional

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

Sophomore Joshua LaBounty fired a 71, leading York to second place at the Class 3A Elk Grove Regional and a spot in next week's sectional. York, whose 306 was second only to Fenwick's 302, got a 72 from Jake Brown, 81 from Matthew Buckley and 82s from Aidan Mann and Sam Bartolone.

IC Catholic

Medalist Cannon Leahy shot a 75, leading the Knights to the championship of the Class 1A IC Catholic Prep Regional. Charlie Schoonveld shot an 82, Thomas Hilgart an 83 and Charlie O'Brien an 84 for the Knights' 325 total.

Glenbard East

Tyler Reitz shot a 76 and Georgi Solar carded an 81 for the Rams at the Class 3A Hinsdale South Regional to advance to next week's sectional.

Willowbrook

Joey Guthrie shot a 77 and Taylor Sarovich had an 80 for the Warriors at the Class 3A Hinsdale South Regional to advance to next week's sectional.

Timothy Christian

Ty Merrick shot an 89 at the Class 1A IC Catholic Prep Regional to advance to sectionals.

GIRLS GOLF

York

Jenna Koeppen shot a 92, Bella Bartolone a 92, Katie Wegmann a 93 and Annie Grasse a 99 for the Dukes at the Class 2A Nazareth Regional to advance to sectionals.

FOOTBALL

Willowbrook

Jack Jessen ran for 179 yards and

two touchdowns and John Taylor threw for 202 yards and a 15-yard TD pass for the Warriors (5-1) in a 45-22 West Suburban crossover win over York on Sept. 29. Jacob Entwistle returned an interception for a touchdown.

York

Josiah Scott had a 63-yard touchdown run for the Dukes (0-6) in the 45-22 loss to Willowbrook on Sept. 29.

Montini

Bradley Norgle ran for touchdowns of 72 and 80 yards in a 56-27 win over De La Salle.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

IC Catholic Prep

Nailah Landon had 13 kills and Maya Stovall had nine kills and four aces in the Knights' 14-25, 25-14, 25-15 win over Illiana Christian. Isabella Leslie added 16 digs and Sophie Hurt had 27 assists.

Timothy Christian

Tracy Westra had 19 assists, four kills and six digs in Timothy Christian's 25-8, 25-13 win over Elmwood Park on Oct. 3. Rachel Stoll added two kills, four aces and three digs and Emily DeBoer had four kills for Timothy Christian (17-9, 8-1). Westra had 13 assists, three kills and five aces and Stoll six kills in a 25-11, 25-15 win over Guerin Prep.

GIRLS TENNIS

York

The Dukes beat Benet 6-2 on Oct. 2. Eva Jacobsthal won her singles match. Lauren Fonorow and Cristina Gamboa, Micki Neidigh and Rachel Kayman, Siva Sreedhar and Isabella Nicoli, Elysia Woodward and Olivia Brunke and Jessica Paist and Wendy Zhang won doubles matches.

Suburban Life

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



**JACK
JESSEN**

**WILLOWBROOK
Senior | Football!**

Why Jessen was selected:

Jessen ran for 179 yards and two touchdowns in Willowbrook's 45-22 win over York. On the season Jessen, who has committed to Northwestern for wrestling, has run for 1,155 yards and 13 touchdowns for a 5-1 Warriors team that leads the West Suburban Gold.

Jessen, the Suburban Life Athlete of the Week sponsored by Gracik Makinney, spoke with sports editor Joshua Welge about the season. Here's an edited transcript.

Welge: How do you feel the team is at?

Jessen: I definitely feel that we are where we need to be. There is definitely room for improvement, but we have put ourselves in a great position.

Welge: Your offense, and you in particular, have put up some huge numbers lately. Are you guys peaking?

Jessen: Our offensive line is doing a great job, doing their responsibilities. It all starts with the line up front. They open things up for us.

Welge: Your team had a great run last year, advancing to the Class 7A quarterfinals. Is there pressure to match that?

Jessen: We use it as motivation in training and practices and games. A lot of the guys loved the feeling and

loved the competition and they want to have it once again.

Welge: I've heard your offense described as "lightning, no-huddle spread." Is that an accurate description?

Jessen: That does describe our offense. The tempo that we run is a lot faster than most offenses run. We are quick to the ball. Our goal is to run as many plays as we can.

Welge: How has wrestling made you the football player you are today?

Jessen: Wrestling has given me the stamina to stay in the game. It gave me the strength and explosiveness that I have on the football field.

Welge: This is your last year of football. What's your emotions?

Jessen: I try not to think about it. I love the sport, and I never want it to end. But everything in life comes to an end. I'm trying to make the season last as long as I can.

This Athlete of the Week is brought to you by

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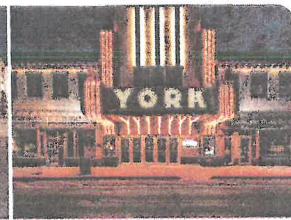
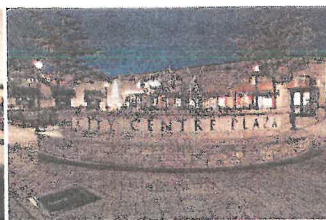
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SPORTS

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LeCero: Bears rookie QB's teammates say he's ready for tonight — Sports

Daily Herald

Pyke: Sorting out the new transponder rules — Page 13



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DAILY HERALD/SUN-TIMES SPECIAL REPORT

A cloudy future for high school football?

Suburbs see drop in participation by younger players

Part of a continuing series.

BY BOB SUSNJARA, JAKE GRIFFIN AND MITCH DUDEK
bsusnjara@dailyherald.com
jgriffin@dailyherald.com
mdudek@suntimes.com

Glenbard East High School's junior varsity football team was expecting to host St. Charles East High School for an early-season game when

SEE THE NUMBERS FOR YOUR HIGH SCHOOL
• bit.ly/footballfewer

bad news arrived.

St. Charles East didn't have enough players for the JV game scheduled in Lombard that Saturday, a day after a matchup between the schools' varsity teams. Glenbard East Assistant Principal

for Athletics and former Chicago Bears wide receiver D'Wayne Bates found another opponent in time for his Rams, who ended up beating Cicero-based Morton High School 38-6.

This scenario replays across the suburbs this fall as young teams, from junior varsity down to youth leagues, feel the biggest pinch after a

See **FOYBALL** on PAGE 4



ALLEN CUNNINGHAM/Chicago Sun Times

West Chicago High School's freshman football team reserves watch as the offense runs a play against East Aurora. West Chicago has 69 players on all teams this season compared to 153 a decade ago, a 55 percent decline.

Page 5: Former Bears linebacker and Palatine Mayor Jim Schwantz launched a flag football program in 2012, but had to cancel play this year due to a lack of players.

LOST IN CUBS FEVER | GOING FOR TWO

DEFENDING THE CHAMPIONSHIP



BRIAN HILL/bhill@dailyherald.com

George Richardson of Richardson Adventure Farm in Spring Grove had to get special permission to use the Cubs' logo in his corn maze for this year, captured by our drone camera. But his maze goes beyond the logo. How did the farm crew get it so intricate and perfect? GPS. See the story on Page 6.

CUBS FACE SCHERZER AT HOME

NLDS GAME 3: Washington Nationals at Cubs

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IN THE SPORTS SECTION

BRUCE MILES: The Cubs are still loaded with young players, and they all share a common trait: an unflappable nature.

TODAY'S FEATURED POSTER:



Football: Sophomore teams see 42.5% decline

Continued from Page 1

decade of declining participation in suburban football programs that many trace back to fears about concussions.

"It's funny, just a couple of years ago, the coaches and ADs really thought it was a pretty good overall picture for football," Barrington High School Athletic Director Mike Obsuszt said. "But the landscape is changing, and I feel like more changes might be on the way."

The number of athletes taking part in football at 87 suburban high schools dropped 18.7 percent over the past decade, an analysis of school records by the Daily Herald and Chicago Sun-Times showed.

But the number of players on sophomore teams is down 42.5 percent since 2008 at the 41 suburban high schools that broke down participation by program level. The number of players on freshman teams declined 29.1 percent. In some cases, separate sophomore teams were eliminated entirely, leaving fewer options for schools that still have them to compete.

"You never used to see emails looking for sophomore games," said Jeff Bral, athletic director at Bartlett High School. "Now, you see them every week."

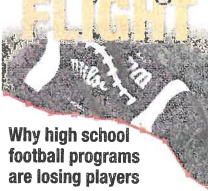
Youth leagues, which feed players into high school systems, offer few signs of a turnaround.

The Bill George Youth Football League had 156 teams this year compared to about 190 in 2012, board President Jerry Miller said. The tackle league has teams in Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Hanover Park, Carol Stream, Palatine, Wheaton and Glen Ellyn, among others.

The Chicagoland Youth Football League, which has players from 38 communities in the Chicago area and southeastern Wisconsin, peaked at about 9,800 players in 2008 and is down to roughly 6,700 this season, President Geoff Meyer said.

Football coaches, athletic directors and parents give

Friday Night FLIGHT



Why high school football programs are losing players

Editor's note

The Daily Herald and Chicago Sun-Times joined forces to collect data from 87 public high schools in the suburbs and interview dozens of athletic directors, coaches, parents and medical experts to report how concerns about safety and other factors have affected local football programs.

many reasons for the drop in players — competition from other sports such as soccer, increased pressure for young athletes to specialize rather than compete in several sports, and even the time demands of online activities.

But they say concerns about the long-term fallout from blows to the head accounts for most of the decrease.

"Concussion" is a big word out there, a big medical term right now, and it's probably scaring families away," Bates said.

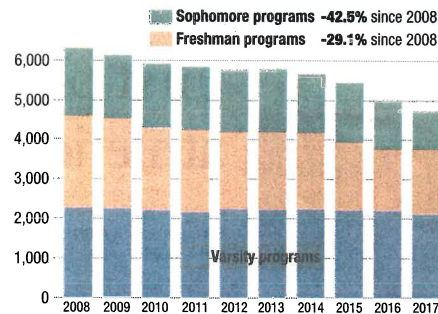
Many coaches say the game is safer than ever. But it's hard to counter reports like the one out of Boston University this fall, which said former football players who started playing tackle before age 12 were more likely to have emotional, behavioral and cognitive problems later in life. The study's authors say there is not yet enough data to be definitive about the risks, but the report resonated.

Even legendary former Bears coach Mike Ditka, speaking on "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel," said if he had an 8-year-old son today, he wouldn't tell him to play football.

"You have all that information, and parents start making

Young teams see sharper decline

Suburban high schools are seeing fewer students signing up for football, especially at the freshman and sophomore levels.



Source: Daily Herald/Chicago Sun-Times analysis of student participation in 41 high school football programs in the Chicago suburbs.

DAILY HERALD

Shrinking field

Some suburban high school football programs have seen participation levels decline by more than 30 percent over the past decade.

School	percent change	10-YEAR participation change
West Chicago Comm. H.S.	-54.9%	-84
Waubensie Valley H.S.*	-53.4%	-132
Prairie Ridge H.S.	-49.1%	-86
Crystal Lake Central H.S.	-45.3%	-62
Crystal Lake South H.S.	-44.5%	-85
Wheaton Warrenville South H S	-42.0%	-108
Romeoville H.S.	-42.0%	-60
Lake Zurich H.S.	-37.8%	-71
Neuqua Valley H.S.*	-36.2%	-92
Lincoln-Way Central H.S.*	-35.4%	-85
York Comm. H.S.	-34.2%	-78
Wheaton North H.S.	-34.1%	-72
Sandburg H.S.	-33.2%	-71
Jacobs H.S.	-33.1%	-50
Willowbrook H.S.	-31.5%	-47
Wheeling H.S.	-31.5%	-39
Fremd H.S.	-31.4%	-61
Grayslake North H.S.*	-31.4%	-49
Naperville Central H.S.	-30.8%	-77

* Decline due in part to new school opening within district.

Source: School districts

DAILY HERALD

decisions about not letting their kids play football. And that's when the youth numbers really start to go lower," Obsuszt said.

Meyer contends the dwindling numbers are not just related to concussion concerns. "It's 'Generation Me,'"

he said. "It's a lazier society. Kids get their competitiveness by being on their computers and cellphones."

But player safety is still the biggest obstacle to overcome, many believe.

This fall, just 11 boys showed up for Highland Park's tackle program for fifth- to eighth-graders, and parks officials canceled it.

Park district Executive Director Liza McElroy said flag football is flourishing, with about 100 kids in grades one through eight. In Evanston, a flag program for sixth- and seventh-graders attracted about 150 kids this season. Yet, the 5-year-old Northwest Flag Football League in Palatine canceled play this year because it had too few players.

Crystal Lake resident Denise Smith and her husband, Scott, recently decided their 6-year-old son Cameron will not play tackle football. Denise Smith, a physical therapist who works with a concussion specialist, said she sees the effects of head injuries each day at work.

"Maybe we'll allow him to play flag football," Smith said. "He wants to do that. We don't want to take away from his youth, but we are opening Pandora's box by allowing him to play flag football?"

Back at the high school level, West Chicago's freshman team had just six bench players when it played East Aurora early in the season. West Chicago has 69 players on two teams this season compared to 153 on three teams a decade ago, a 55 percent decline.

Athletic Director Doug Mulaney said that hasn't affected the pageantry of Friday night football in his town.

"Our Friday nights are still packed houses and excitement all around school that day," he said. "It's tough to play the West Auroras and Wheatons because they have higher concentrations of football players and we don't, but that takes nothing away from the desire and interest and thrill to play from our teams."

Athletic directors and

coaches say they've made the high school game safer, focusing on proper technique, rarely tackling during practice, and identifying potential concussions and removing those kids from the game. They want to find a way to bring the game back and say one way to do it is by promoting all they've done to protect athletes.

"Honestly, if I could go back and play in this generation, I might play another 20 years," Bates said. "We need to come up with some game plan to motivate our kids to come back to football. America, this is the one country that thrives on football. This is our sport. And we want to make sure we do our part to have it continue to grow."

• Bob Susnjara and Jake Griffin are Daily Herald staff writers. Mitch Dudek is a reporter for the Chicago Sun-Times. Daily Herald staff writers John Radtke, Aaron Gabriel and Orrin Schwarz contributed to this report.

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Vol. 58 No. 40

Thursday, October 5, 2017

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A special week at Willowbrook



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park Review

Willowbrook High School celebrated its homecoming last week with several events. Friday afternoon's pep assembly ended with the announcement of the homecoming kings and queens from each class. The group photo shows (left to right) junior king and queen Charles Flak and Zoe Ericson-Staton, senior king and queen Brandon Loth and Claire Hosman, sophomore king and queen Deandre Holliday and Payton Ceh and freshman queen and king Grace Chambers and Sergio Ayala. The photo above from the assembly shows English teacher Scott Grobstein (left) battling with sophomore Letisha Sepulveda (right) during the ple-eating contest. Grobstein was declared the winner of the contest.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park Review

A happy homecoming for the Warriors

Willowbrook's football team improved to 5-1 with Friday's 45-22 homecoming victory over York. Pictured during their halftime performances are members of Willowbrook's cheerleaders, pom squad and marching band. See the sports section for more about the Warriors' victory.

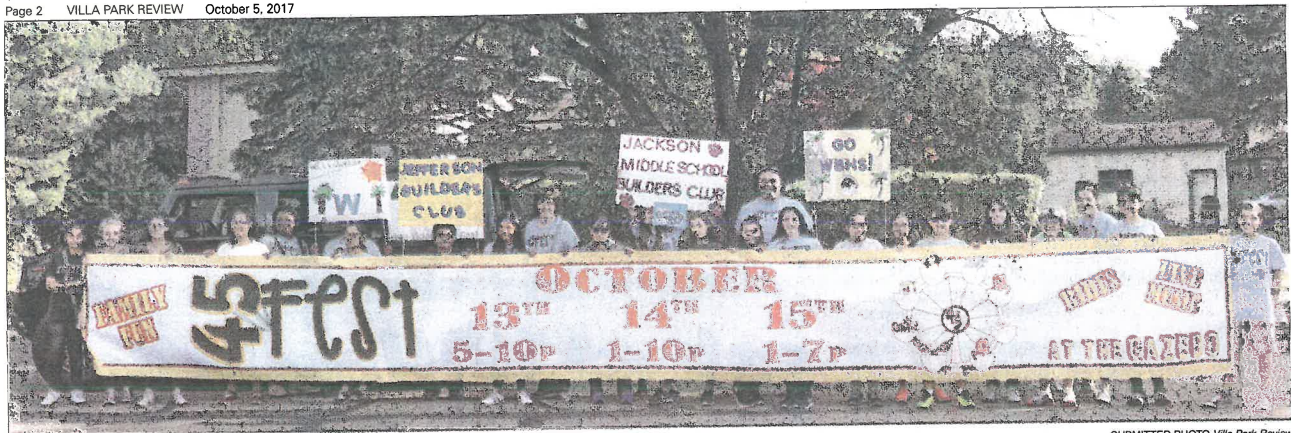


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The Jackson and Jefferson Middle School Builders Clubs marched in the Willowbrook High School homecoming parade on Friday. The District 45 students carried a 45 Fest banner in the parade. The inaugural 45 Fest takes place Oct. 13-15 in Villa Park.

School District 45's inaugural 45 Fest takes place next week

Three-day festival begins Oct. 13 at Park and Ardmore

The District 45 Foundation for Excellence in Education will hold 45 Fest Oct. 13-15. The family event will take place near Park Boulevard and Ardmore Avenue, near the Illinois Prairie Path in downtown Villa Park.

Everyone is invited to enjoy the carnival rides, food, entertainment and more. For details, go to the 45 Fest website at d45fest.org/.

In addition to food, games and carnival rides, the festival will include main stage performances by Brittany and The Spears (on Friday, Oct. 13) and The New Invaders (on Saturday, Oct. 14). Petty Cash will

close out the festival on Sunday, Oct. 15.

The entertainment during all three days of the festival includes performers who are District 45 current students and alumni.

The festival's hours are 5 to 10 p.m. on Oct. 13, 1 to 10 p.m. on Oct. 14 and 1 to 7 p.m. on Oct. 15.

From 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14, and Sunday, Oct. 15, the festival will offer unlimited ride specials for \$25 per person per day.

The District 45 Foundation is a non-profit organization that raises funds to support the enrichment of the educational opportunities for the district's students.

The Foundation is excited to celebrate this unique event that brings together the eight schools of the district.

Fire department invites residents to open house on Oct. 14

Contest entry deadline is Oct. 7

The Villa Park Fire Department will hold its annual open house on Saturday, Oct. 14. All residents are invited to the free event, which will take place from noon to 3 p.m. at Fire Station No. 81, 1440 S. Ardmore Ave.

Parking will be available in the post office lot, which is located across the street from the fire station.

The open house will give children and adults an opportunity to visit the station and take a close look at some of the department's vehicles and equipment. Children will be able to use a real fire hose, wear kid-sized firefighting gear and meet Sparky the Fire Dog.

The open house will offer fire safety puppet shows and a live fire demonstration. The fire demonstration will begin at 2:30 p.m.

This year's open house will feature a contest

drawing at 2 p.m. As a way to help Villa Park families make and practice a home fire escape plan, every family that completes a home fire escape plan will be entered into a drawing to win one of three \$100 Walmart gift cards.

Entry forms are available at Fire Station No. 81, Villa Park Village Hall and the Villa Park Library. Entry forms are also available online through the village's web site—inviolapark.com. Entries must be received by Saturday, Oct. 7.

The open house takes place during Fire Prevention Week, which dates back to the 1920s. The week is recognized in early October to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, which began on Oct. 8, 1871. The theme of this year's Fire Prevention Week is "Every Second Counts—Plan Two Ways Out!"

For more information about the open house, call the Villa Park Fire Department at 630-833-5350. For more about Fire Prevention Week, visit firepreventionweek.org.

A dramatic finish at Willowbrook

The seniors faced the juniors in Willowbrook High School's annual powder-puff girls football game, which took place at the school's stadium on Sept. 27. The contest is a staple of Willowbrook's homecoming week festivities. This year's battle was scoreless after four quarters of regulation and one overtime period. The officials then decided the outcome would be decided by one series. The juniors took possession at the seniors' 10-yard line. If the juniors scored on the series, they would win. If the seniors prevented the juniors from scoring, the seniors would win. On a fourth-and-goal play from the 9-yard line, quarterback Emma Barrington completed a touchdown pass to Sydney Verdino to propel the juniors to a 6-0 victory. The top right photo shows Verdino (left) earlier in the game. Also pictured (bottom right) is senior Jayla Smith, who is shown running with the ball. The photo below shows the victorious juniors after they received the trophy for winning the game.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Villa Park Review

Stressing kindness

The Villa Park Junior Women's Club held a "rocks of kindness" community event last month at Park Art Center, 9 E. Park Blvd. Participants had the chance to connect with one another and paint rocks. The International Kindness Rocks Project encourages people to be inspired and share. Pictured left to right are Ella Lopez, Abby Finnegan and Maggie Brennan—three young artists at the event. For more information about the Villa Park Junior Women's Club's upcoming events, including its annual Trick or Trot 5K and children's Little Devil 1K Dash on Oct. 28, visit vpjwc.org.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

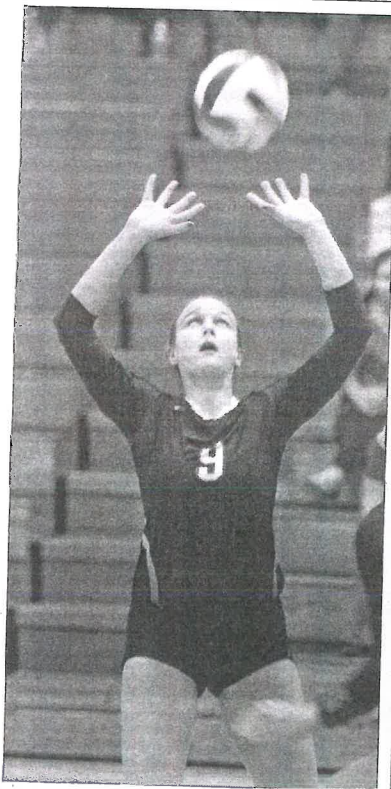




CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Another win for the Warriors

The Willowbrook football team secured its fourth straight victory when it defeated York 45-22 on Friday night in Villa Park. The Warriors, who improved their overall record to 5-1 with the homecoming victory, led the Dukes (0-6) 24-7 at halftime. The above left photo shows senior Chris Diaz (No. 21), who ran for a pair of touchdowns. The above right photo shows senior Nick Sabatino (No. 14) running with the ball after a reception. Willowbrook will complete its regular season with three West Suburban Gold Conference games, beginning with this Friday's game at Morton. The Warriors will enter that game with a 3-0 conference record.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review



Rams vs. Warriors

The Glenbard East and Willowbrook girls volleyball teams squared off in last week's match in Lombard. Glenbard East defeated the Warriors 25-13, 25-12 in the Sept. 28 non-conference match. The Rams improved their overall record to 12-13. Willowbrook's record dropped to 7-12. Junior Sarah Elliott bashed eight kills and served six aces for Glenbard East, which grabbed a 10-0 lead to start the second game. Junior Emily Sarles (No. 9, pictured above left) provided eight assists, while senior Emily Denton (No. 2, pictured above right) made 12 digs. Senior Jessica Ragucci connected for four kills for Willowbrook. Junior Katelyn McCann (pictured at right) contributed seven digs, while sophomore Payton Ceh made five digs. Senior Marissa Marcello had three assists. "We're happy with the energy and the execution we had today," said Glenbard East coach Marci Maler after the victory. "We've got a few kids who are injured right now. We're just going to keep battling."



DINA KWIT PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

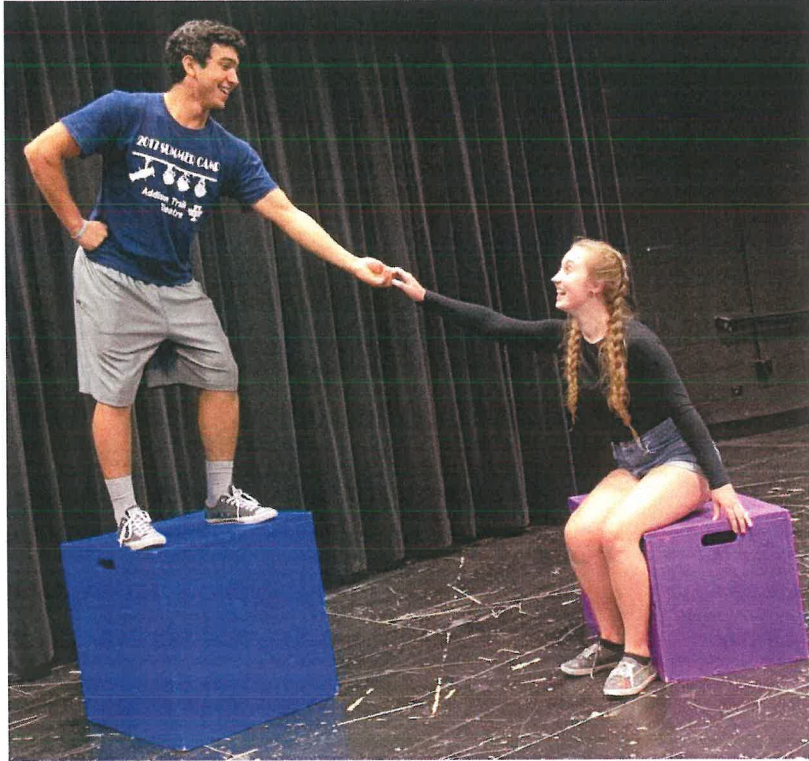
Big win for the Broncos

The Montini football team earned a decisive win in its homecoming game on Friday night, pounding De La Salle Institute 56-27 in a Chicago Catholic League Green Division game in Lombard. The Broncos, who improved to 4-2 overall and 2-1 in the division, led the Meteors (4-2, 1-1) 35-7 at halftime. Seniors Nick Orlando, Jake Karczewski and Matthew Morrissey scored first-quarter touchdowns for the Broncos. Senior Matt Quaglia grabbed a pair of touchdown receptions in the second quarter. Senior Bradley Norgle (No. 14, pictured) ran for a pair of touchdowns in the second half. Karczewski also provided a touchdown run in the second half. Montini will play a home game against DePaul College Prep this Friday.

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Addison Trail to present 'Peter Pan'



Senior Juan Jakoby Bracamontes plays Peter Pan to sophomore Dominika Zdanowicz's Wendy in Addison Trail's upcoming production of "Peter Pan."

Courtesy of Addison Trail High School

**By Danielle Brink
DuPage High School District 88**

Addison Trail High School Theatre members will take audience members back to their childhoods during the school's upcoming production of "Peter Pan."

The play takes audience members to Neverland -- a world filled with fantastical adventure. The story follows Peter Pan, played by senior Juan Jakoby Bracamontes, as he meets Wendy Moira Angela Darling, played by sophomore Dominika Zdanowicz, during a visit to the real world.

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Peter faces many obstacles in Neverland -- including battling his nemesis Captain Hook, played by senior Nicolas Montgomery, -- but discovers his biggest struggle is between never wanting to grow up and watching as Wendy continues to age.

"Peter Pan" will be performed at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Oct. 19 and 20, and 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, at Addison Trail High School, 213 N. Lombard Road, Addison.

"I want every individual who walks into the theater to get the full impact of the play and to connect with the story," Bracamontes said. "Children and adults will enjoy this show, as there are many levels to the messages it shares."

He added it has been a fun challenge to portray such a classic and well-known character.

"Everyone grew up with 'Peter Pan,' and there are so many versions of the story," he said. "It's an amazing honor to portray this character, and I know I have a responsibility to bring him to life on the stage."

Zdanowicz said she remembers reading the book and watching the movie when she was younger. Addison Trail's performance will provide a sense of wonderment for children and a nostalgic escape for adults, she hopes.

Theater Director Anna Jakubka said she chose "Peter Pan" at the request of the senior class. Members of that group saw a performance of "Finding Neverland" on Broadway during a trip to New York two years ago and have wanted to do a similar show ever since.

She said the school will use a version by Jon Jory, adapted from the novel by J.M. Barrie. In this version, the script allows for creative effects to provide the illusion of flying, including the use of a star curtain, a black curtain with LED lights to simulate stars. It also scripts Wendy as an only child.

Tickets cost \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and \$3 with an Activity Pass, and are free with a District 88 Senior Gold Card. To buy tickets, contact (630) 628-3365 or at.theatre88@gmail.com.