

## SPORTS

Oct. 24, 2019 • 19

# A defensive dandy

## Payton Ceh has been a longtime key cog for the Willowbrook girls volleyball team

By Mike Miarga  
CORRESPONDENT

The libero position on the volleyball court is one of the sport's most important.

And the Willowbrook girls volleyball team has enjoyed a longtime gem manning that key defensive position in senior Payton Ceh, a four-year varsity performer.

"I love how the libero impacts the rest of the court and I love being a leader on and off the court all the time," Ceh said.

Ceh noted being a leader hasn't always come naturally.

"I started playing the sport super-young, but being a leader wasn't very easy," she said. "I have grown into that role a lot, and it's become pretty easy for me now. I like being a leader and helping people around me."

"I like being the person people go to when they need help. Being a leader and being a libero and wearing the different-colored uniform shirt helps me be vocal and be more out-going on the court."

Ceh started playing volleyball at the age of four. Her mom, Brooke, is a

longtime coach in the Westmont High School girls volleyball program.

"She brought me to practices and I watched all the girls played and enjoyed it," Ceh said. "I got to play with older girls and enjoyed it."

Ceh said the key to being a good libero is being on alert at all times.

"You always have to be prepared for everything," she said. "And most definitely, you have to be a leader out there. Libero is probably the second most difficult position on the court behind the setter."

Ceh, who plays club volleyball for New Wave out of Westmont, said her development over the years can be chalked up to the knowledge and teachings of many.

"I have had some different perspectives with coaching," she said. "My mom and her friends have helped me and I have had a lot of other coaches at every age level who have impacted my career."

During a match, Ceh said there are few better feelings than bringing a hard-hit ball up.

"It's the feeling of helping your team out when you get that ball up,

especially against a good team," she said. "It doesn't matter where it goes, as long as you get the ball up, it's a feeling of the passion I have for the sport and it's why I love the game so much."

Ceh would like to play the sport in college, and would like to study to be a nurse or something in the physical therapy realm.

"I have always wanted to be in the medical field," she said. "Being able to help people is a good feeling." Ceh said she's enjoyed her senior season at Willowbrook because of the way the players interact with each other. "I like how we have a lot of different grade levels," she said. "We have freshman, sophomore, junior and senior. We have been able to connect."

In the "surprising fact about me" department, Ceh said her persona on the court is different than when she is away from the gym.

"Usually, I'm not that outgoing," she said with a laugh. "When I'm on the court, it's a lot different. I feel more comfortable. It's my place where I can do my thing."



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Fast Warrior

Junior Tyler King posted the Willowbrook boys cross country team's best finish in Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet at O'Brien Park in Downers Grove. King completed the 3-mile race in a sixth-place time of 16 minutes, 9.3 seconds. King earned all-conference distinction by placing among the top 16 individuals in the race, which featured 45 runners. Willowbrook placed fourth in the team standings of the seven-team meet. Senior Brandon Haseton (17:03.3), finished 21<sup>st</sup>, while juniors Ben Cunneen (17:09.7) and Thomas Flory (17:37.7) placed 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, respectively. Junior Nick Leo (18:07.6) finished 36<sup>th</sup> to complete the Warriors' team score of 114. Senior Liam Riesen (18:57.6) and Junior Jake Murray (18:51.4) rounded out Willowbrook's varsity lineup at the conference meet. The Warriors will run in this Saturday's IHSA Class 3A Glenbard West Regional at Camera Park in Glendale Heights.

## Week 9 football previews

**Proviso East (6-2, 4-1) at Willowbrook (7-1, 5-0)**

**When:** Friday, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Willowbrook High School, Villa Park

**Last week:** Proviso East 14, Proviso West 8, Willowbrook 44, Morton 0

**Last year:** Willowbrook 40, Proviso East 7

**Outlook:** Proviso East, a long-struggling squad, finds itself having gone from 2-7 a year ago and 0-9 in 2017, to heading to Villa Park Friday to play for the West Suburban Conference Gold Division title. A Willowbrook win gives the Warriors their third outright WSC Gold title in a row (and third undefeated conference season in a row), while a Proviso East win takes the two teams share the title. Proviso East lost to Lyons Township 31-20 on the road in Week 2 and also dropped a 39-23 game to Downers Grove South in Week 4 (Willowbrook defeated Downers Grove South 32-15 in Week 3). The Patriots are on a four-game winning streak. Heading into Week 8, Pro-

viso East had played only one team with a winning record (Downers Grove South, which was 4-3 after 7 games). A Willowbrook win will only further cement another home playoff game next week. Willowbrook's playoff fate will be revealed Saturday night. Proviso East will be in the state playoffs for the first time since 2008 and only third time in program history. Willowbrook is looking for its 18<sup>th</sup> conference win in a row.

**Penton (2-6, 2-6) at South Elgin (7-1, 7-1)**

**When:** Friday, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** South Elgin High School, South Elgin

**Last week:** East Aurora 28, Ponton 21, Bartlett 17, South Elgin 14

**Last year:** Did not play

**Outlook:** Penton closes out the season on the road against a South Elgin team that needs to win to capture at least a share of the Upstate Eight Conference title. South Elgin came into its Week 8 game against Bartlett having gone 7-0 and outscoring its first seven foes

by a combined 374-7 mark, which included scores of 65-0, 57-0, 47-0, 63-0, 35-7, 48-0 and 63-0. Penton has lost six in a row since winning its first two contests of the season.

**Morton (0-8, 0-5) at Addison Trail (1-7, 1-4)**

**When:** Friday, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Addison Trail High School, Addison

**Last week:** Willowbrook 44, Morton 0; Addison Trail 26, Hinsdale South 13

**Last year:** Morton 13, Addison Trail 0

**Outlook:** Addison Trail went on the road last week and earned its first win of the season in Darion against Hinsdale South.

The Blazers have a key opportunity here to end their season on a high note with a two-game winning streak against a Morton team that has only scored more than 10 points twice this season and has been held to six or less points four times (3 shutouts). Morton is 3-23 over the last three seasons, while the Blazers are 6-20.

## Warriors run winning streak to seven by pounding Morton 44-0

A win over Proviso East would close out a third straight undefeated conference season

The Willowbrook football team improved to 7-1 overall and 5-0 in the West Suburban Gold Conference with Friday's overwhelming 44-0 victory at Morton.

The Warriors scored all of their points during the first half.

Senior quarterback Sam Tumilty threw four touchdown passes. Tumilty connected with senior Everett Stubblefield on three touchdown throws. Tumilty also fired a scoring pass to senior Deandre Holliday. Tumilty and senior Ta'Vion Geanes added rushing touchdowns for Willowbrook against Morton, which fell to 0-8 overall and 0-5 in the conference.

Willowbrook has won seven

straight games since losing its season opener to Providence Catholic. The Celtics defeated the Warriors 14-7 in a non-conference meeting in Villa Park on Aug. 30.

The Warriors, who have clinched a 2019 post-season berth, can finish off their third straight unblemished conference season with a victory in this Friday's regular-season finale. Willowbrook will face Proviso East (6-2 overall, 4-1 in the conference) in a conference game in Villa Park.

The Warriors won the 2017 and 2018 conference titles with perfect 6-0 records.

Willowbrook has already clinched a share of this year's conference championship.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Blazers claim all-conference honors

Viviana Sanfilippo (left) and Maddie Ford of the Addison Trail girls cross country team earned all-conference distinction with their strong performances in Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet at O'Brien Park in Downers Grove. Sanfilippo, a junior, completed the 3-mile race in an eighth-place time of 18 minutes, 54.7 seconds. Ford, a sophomore, crossed the finish line in an 11<sup>th</sup>-place time of 20 minutes, 8.1 seconds. The top 16 finishers in the meet, which included 41 individuals, earned all-conference medals. The Blazers placed fifth in the team standings of the six-team meet. Sanfilippo and Ford will lead Addison Trail in this Saturday's IHSA Class 3A Glenbard West Regional at Camera Park in Glendale Heights.

## Addison Trail girls volleyball team overcoming challenges Blazers headed toward 20-win barrier

By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail girls volleyball infirmity has been getting a workout lately.

Coach Dan Styler reports sickness has been slowing down the Blazers. "It's been a bit of challenge the last few weeks," he said. "We've been unhealthy with colds and stomach flu. We're a little shaky health-wise lately."

However, Styler has been impressed with how his team has fought through that adversity. "Despite the sickness we have seen a lot of bright spots with our play on the floor," he said.

The Blazers were 18-10 overall and 4-1 in West Suburban Conference Gold Division play through late last week. Downers Grove South is on track to win the WSC Gold title and Addison Trail's match earlier this week with Hinsdale South decided the conference runner-up position.

"Our defensive pursuit has been really good the last few weeks," said Styler, noting one of the recent standout areas of play. "We are stretching some longer volleys with some

really gritty play. We are winning those rallies and grinding out points with that style of play."

Styler said the Blazers' offense continues to improve.

"There is still room for growth," he said. "We have done a very good job of diversifying the offense and engaging in a more balanced attack. On any day, any one of five players on the attack can lead us in kills. We have been opportunistic. On any given day, a different girl has been taking the lead. That has been another bright spot for us."

Addison Trail continues to be led by the likes of Jess D'Ambrose, along with Katrina Bielanski and Pauline Wirbicki at the libero position.

Styler also lauded the play of defensive specialist Nicole Bartosik and setter Amy Reyes.

"Nicole has been a steady influence for us at defensive specialist, and Amy has done a great job running our offense," he said. "She makes it tough for teams to play against us. She's been amazing."

Juniors Mia Johnson and Ally Severino also have improved.

"Our juniors Mia and Ally have taken a leap forward," said Styler. "They are going to have a great skill set where they can play multiple positions heading into their senior year. I have been really happy with their play as well."

Addison Trail faces Glenbard West in a WSC crossover match at home tonight. The Blazers are the No. 5 seed in the upcoming Class 4A Glenbard West sectional.

"We are playing some good teams down the stretch before regionals, which will only benefit us," said Styler. "The No. 5 seed in the sectionals is one of the better seeds we have had in several years here. Heading into the regionals, this is a great opportunity for us to make a splash and we are chipping away right now and building toward that."

Addison Trail opens Class 4A Addison Trail regional play at home Tuesday, Oct. 29 against No. 12 seed Wheaton North. The winner faces either No. 4 Downers Grove South or No. 13 Lake Park on Halloween for the regional title at Addison Trail.

## Brown-King win WSC Gold No. 1 doubles title

By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls tennis team wrapped up a positive first season under new coach Ed Delacruz.

The Warriors finished tied for six at Friday's and Saturday's 10-team IHSA Class 2A Lyons Township Sectional and had no individuals or doubles teams qualify for this week's state tournament.

"Our sectional is one of the toughest in the state for players to qualify with Hinsdale Central, Lyons Township, Downers Grove South, Downers Grove North, Glenbard East, York and Riverside-Brookfield to name a few," said Delacruz last week.

One week before the section: Willowbrook competed in the West Suburban Gold Conference Meet. The Warriors entered the tournament with a 3-3 conference dual-meet record, and that coupled with its placement at the league tournament resulted in them finishing fourth in the conference.

Willowbrook placed four players on the all-WSC Gold team. The No. 1 doubles team of seniors Madi Brown and Ellie King won the West Suburban Gold No. 1 doubles title. Brown and King beat Downers Grove South in the semifinals and then downed Hinsdale South by an 11-9 count in a super-tiebreaker to win the conference title.

"Our senior combo of Madi and Ellie shocked many coaches as players by beating Downers Grove South in the semis and then staying mentally tough in the final and winning four match points against Hinsdale South, coming back and winning 11-9 in the super-tiebreaker," said Delacruz.

Sophomore Pegelope DeValle finished third at No. 1 singles to earn all-conference honors, while senior Rylee Goles took third at No. 3 singles, also earning all-conference accolades.

Willowbrook went 9-6 overall duals this season. The Warriors won their annual District 88 tournament and took second at the Leyden tournament.

"Next year, I will look forward to enhancing our schedule with more matches to be played at the beginning of the season," said Delacruz.

Looking back, Delacruz is thrilled with how his first season as the girls coach has unfolded.

"I have been coaching the girls for the last 10 years," he said. "It is my first season coaching the girls program and it has been nothing short of spectacular. The varsity girls really understand and are working hard to where I want to see this program in the future. The support from the parents has been amazing as well where they are stating to much they have seen with improvement and with team chemistry, it is something I am big on."

Earlier this week, Delacruz became player and parent/teacher tournament at the school, "to help finish off season with a fun and positive atmosphere," he noted.

# Willowbrook girls cross country team second at WSC Gold race

## Girls volleyball team defeats Proviso East

By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls cross country team placed second at Saturday's six-team West Suburban Gold Conference Meet at O'Brien Park in Downers Grove.

The Warriors finished with 75 points. Downers Grove South won the meet and the conference title with a perfect score of 15. The first seven runners to finish the meet were from Downers Grove South.

Senior Madeleine Wilkie took 12<sup>th</sup> in the 3-mile race with her finishing time of 20 minutes, 13.3 seconds. Junior Melissa Martinez placed 13<sup>th</sup> at 20:29.2. Junior Daylee Braden finished 16<sup>th</sup> at 20:42.9, while senior Michelle Villalobos claimed 18<sup>th</sup> at 20:51.5. Freshman Amelia

Barrington (20:54.3) and sophomore Lily Weder (20:55.9) placed 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

Willowbrook's pack time from Wilkie to Weder was 42.6 seconds.

### Girls golf

Willowbrook sophomore Emma Ruttana tied for 39<sup>th</sup> at the Class 2A Hoffman Estates Sectional, held Oct. 14 at the Bridges of Poplar Creek Country Club (par-70, 5,300 yards). Seeking to earn her second straight berth in the IHSA Class 2A state meet, Ruttana shot an 18-hole score of 98 at the sectional and did not qualify for this year's state event. Ruttana qualified for the sectional with an 82 at the Class 2A Glenbard East regional on Oct. 10.

### Girls volleyball

The Willowbrook girls volleyball team moved to 2-3 in West Suburban Conference Gold Division play with a 25-13, 25-13 home win over Proviso East on Oct. 15.

Freshman Natalie Cipriano had five kills. Junior Sofia Espinosa added one ace and eight digs. Sophomore Katie Linnig had two aces, four digs and 10 assists. Senior Payton Ceh recorded three kills, one ace, 12 digs and one assist. Junior Noelle Faulk finished with three kills and one dig. Sophomore Kyla Ostrowski had three kills and two digs. Junior Grace Reckamp registered two kills, three aces, three digs and 10 assists. Junior Stephanie Dasbach had six kills.

On Oct. 16, Willowbrook downed Oak Lawn 25-14, 25-18 in the Lincoln-Way Central Invitational. Cipriano had five kills and one dig. Linnig recorded 10 digs and 12 assists. Ceh totaled two kills, 21 digs and three assists. Senior Alondra Mendoza had two kills and one assist. Faulk had one kill and two digs. Ostrowski had three kills and seven digs. Reckamp had six kills, one ace, 10 digs and six assists, while Dasbach had six kills.

The Warriors earned another win at the Lincoln-Way Central Invite, beating the Lincoln-Way Central JV team 25-14, 25-9.

Linnig had one kill, nine aces, 10 digs and six assists. Ceh had two kills, two aces, nine digs and two assists.

Junior Alejandra Lopez had one ace and seven digs. Reckamp had eight kills, three digs and two assists.

Willowbrook played three more matches at the Lincoln-Way Central Invite on Saturday. The Warriors suffered losses to Lincoln-Way East, Homewood-Flossmoor and Joliet West. Willowbrook finished in eighth place in the 16-team invitational. Ceh was named to the all-tournament team.

The Warriors held an overall record of 18-15 at the end of Saturday's play.

Willowbrook is the No. 10 seed in the IHSA Class 4A Glenbard West Sectional. The Warriors head to Elmhurst on Oct. 29. They will face Hinsdale Central in the semifinals of the York Regional. The winner plays on Halloween night at York at 6 p.m. against either the host Ducks (the sectional's No. 2 seed) or No. 15 Glenbard North.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Third place at the conference meet

Dylan Moran of the Addison Trail boys cross country team ran to a third-place finish in Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet at O'Brien Park in Downers Grove. The meet featured 45 individual runners. A junior, Moran completed the 3-mile race in his third-place time of 15 minutes, 57.5 seconds. Addison Trail placed sixth in the team standings of the seven-team meet. Moran and the Blazers will compete in this Saturday's IHSA Class 3A Glenbard West Regional at Camera Park in Glendale Heights.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Willowbrook girls cross country team competed in Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet at O'Brien Park in Downers Grove. The Warriors earned a second-place finish in the team standings of the six-team meet. Downers Grove South, which swept the top seven spots in the individual standings, won the team title with 15 points. Willowbrook posted a team score of 75 points. Senior Madeleine Wilkie (above) of the Warriors finished 12<sup>th</sup> in the individual standings of the 3-mile race. Willowbrook junior Melissa Martinez (below) placed 13<sup>th</sup>. Wilkie, Martinez and junior Daylee Braden (16<sup>th</sup> place) earned all-conference medals by placing among the top 18 individual runners. The Warriors will compete in this Saturday's IHSA Class 3A Glenbard West Regional at Camera Park in Glendale Heights.



# Clarendale of Addison holds World's Fair grand opening

On Wednesday, Oct. 9, Clarendale of Addison, 1651 West Lake Street, held "The Greatest Exhibition Since the 1893 Chicago World's Fair," a grand opening celebration set on the anniversary date of the record-breaking Chicago Day at the World's Fair more than 100 years ago.

The Belvedere Room was transformed into a giant casino. The Salt Creek Bar served signature cocktails and craft beer flights, along with hors

d'oeuvres. There was also live musical entertainment.

To recreate the excitement of the 1893 Midway, Clarendale offered items that had originally debuted at the Fair like Vienna Hot Dogs, Cracker Jack, Pabst Blue Ribbon beer and the Ferris Wheel. Entertainment was also provided by "Harry Houdini," various sketch artists, a belly dancer and others.



Someone showed up in this old-time vehicle at Clarendale of Addison, who hosted a World's Fair grand opening event on Wednesday, Oct. 9. The event included food and signature cocktails, a casino set-up and live musical entertainment.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Thirteen members of the Addison Trail Student Council volunteered during the grand opening of Clarendale of Addison Senior Living Community held Oct. 9. The theme of the party was the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. The students greeted guests, served cotton candy, supervised carnival games and more.

## Community calendar

### Thursday, Oct. 24

#### • Chair Yoga at the Library

From 1-2 p.m. at the Adult Programming Room of the Addison Public Library, a certified yoga instructor will guide you through one of the gentlest forms of yoga, emphasizing breath awareness and relaxation. No prior yoga experience is necessary to participate in this class.

#### • Halloween fun at the Library

Drop in at the Addison Public Library from 4-4:45 p.m. to celebrate the scariest holiday and make Halloween crafts! For all ages. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3338.

#### • Halloween makeup tutorial at the Library

From 3:30-4:30 p.m. for grades 6-12 at the Addison Public Library, professional makeup artist Chuck Castellanos will teach us how to turn into zombies, create gruesome scars, and bring your scariest Halloween costumes to life. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3320.

### Saturday, Oct. 26

#### • Exploration Stations at the Library

From 11-11:45 a.m. for ages birth through fifth grade at the Addison Public Library, join us for a play experience for children. Children of all abilities are welcome. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3338.

#### • DIY no carve Halloween pumpkin at the Library

From 2-3 p.m. for all ages at the Addison Public Library, transform your pumpkin into a beautiful carriage or into a mischievous ghoul. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3338.

### Sunday, Oct. 27

#### Día de los Muertos: Sugar Skulls at the Library

Decorate your own sugar skull with Academia Cultural Xiloli from 2-4 p.m. at the Addison Public Library. All ages. Part of Hispanic Her-

itage Month. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3338.

### Monday, Oct. 28

#### • DIY Halloween costume making for families at the Library

Drop-in from 3:30-5 p.m. at the Addison Public Library and get ready for Halloween by making your own costume. Supplies provided. All ages are welcome. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3338.

#### • The Warsaw Uprising: Two Enemies, 63 days, and one city at the Library

Learn about the 75th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising and Wojtek, the bear who fought in World War II from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3320.

#### • Chess Club at the Library

From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, learn tricks and techniques for competitive chess with our expert instructor. Both beginners and masters welcome. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3338.

### Wednesday, Oct. 30

#### True Ghost Stories at the Library

The afterlife has always been a mystery ... until now! Quantum Paranormal Investigators will share stories from their explorations as well as evidence they have uncovered about life after death from 7-8 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3320.

### Thursday, Oct. 31

#### Sewing for very beginners at the Library

Learn how to use our new sewing machines from 3-5 p.m. at the Addison Public Library. We will practice by sewing our very own napkin set. Materials will be provided. For

grades 6-12. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3320.

### Ongoing events

#### • Circle Up at the Library

Every Friday from 3:15-4 p.m. throughout October at the Addison Public Library, we'll use fun games to help you chill out and connect. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3320.

#### • Toddler storytime at the Library

For ages 2-3 years old with a caregiver at the Addison Public Library from 10-10:30 a.m. every Monday through Nov. 18. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3338.

#### • Creative Corner at the Library

For all ages from 10:45-11:15 a.m. at the Addison Public Library every Monday through Nov. 18, a Polish-English storytime includes books, rhymes, songs and crafts. Everyone is welcome; you do not need to speak Polish to attend. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3338.

#### • Playing Preschool at the Library

For ages 3-5 from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at the Addison Public Library every Monday through Nov. 18, a class for preschoolers that will introduce your child to school activities. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3338.

#### • ¡Hola! at the Library

Join us at the Addison Public Library from 10:30-11 a.m. each Thursday starting Oct. 24 through Nov. 21 for our Spanish/English story time. Have fun listening to your favorite stories and enjoy some activities in Spanish. All ages welcome; knowledge of Spanish is not required. ¡Nos vemos pronto! Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3338.



When Clarendale of Addison planned a grand opening event around the theme of the 1893 World's Fair, there simply had to be a Ferris wheel. In addition, items were offered that had originally debuted at the Chicago's World's Fair, such as Vienna Hot Dogs, seen here in the hot dog stand in front.

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## Addison Trail requesting items for Veterans Day display

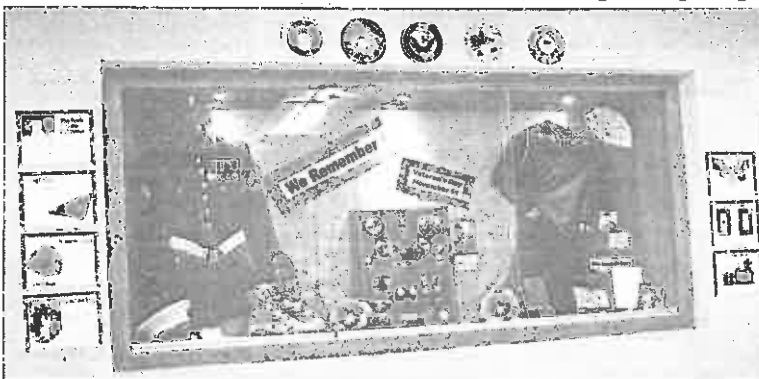
### Local veterans invited to attend luncheon

Each year, Addison Trail recognizes Veterans Day with a display and a video to honor veterans from Addison.

The school is looking for more pictures and items to add to that collection. If you have photos of local service members in uniform, letters written to or from local veterans or other artifacts, Addison Trail would like to include them. Items will be returned, and the submission deadline is Nov. 1.

Submissions can be dropped off to the attention of Maryellen Marisie between 7:45 a.m. and 3 p.m. during the week at Addison Trail, 213 N. Lombard Road in Addison (when school is in session). Enter through door No. 1. They also can be e-mailed to Marisie at mmariesie@dupage88.net.

To honor those who have served,



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Pictured is a Veterans Day display from a previous year at Addison Trail. The school is looking for more photos and items to add to that collection. The deadline to submit items is Nov. 1.

Addison Trail will host a Veterans Day Luncheon from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Nov. 8 at the school. Addison Trail alumni and Addison residents asked to RSVP by Nov. 5 to Caryn Scimecca at 630-628-3304 or cscimecca@dupage88.net.



Veterans and Addison Trail students who plan to serve in the military pose by the school's USS Arizona display during a previous Veterans Day Luncheon. This year's luncheon will take place on Nov. 8, and Addison Trail alumni and Addison residents who have served in the military are invited to attend.

## ATHS to present Willis with Tradition of Excellence award

On Nov. 5, Addison Trail will recognize alumna Kathleen Willis (class of 1980) with the Tradition of Excellence award.

The Tradition of Excellence award is the highest honor presented by Addison Trail to its graduates. Initiated in 1999, this annual alumni recognition program has honored recipients in professional fields such as medicine, engineering, science, education, art, music and law.

Willis will be inducted into the Tradition of Excellence during a presentation that will begin at 3:15 p.m. at Addison Trail. A reception will take place after the ceremony. To reserve a seat, RSVP by Oct. 28 to Melissa Morales at mmorales@dupage88.net or call 630-458-4150.

Willis is serving her fourth term in the Illinois General Assembly as State Representative of the 77th District and also serves as House Majority Conference Chair. Prior to her election as a state representative, Willis worked as coordinator of access services at the Elmhurst College Library and as a part-time teacher of children's and adolescent literature.

Willis has always been an active member of her community. A mother of four children (all of whom also graduated from Addison Trail), Willis served three terms as a member of the Addison School District 4 Board of Education,



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Illinois State Representative Kathleen Willis, who is a member of Addison Trail's class of 1980.

volunteering her time without pay to help give local children a better education. As a member of the American Association of University Women, she helped found and organize the

"Dare to Dream" program, mentoring young Latina girls and their mothers to make good choices to promote education and combat truancy. She also has been Vice President of the Kiwanis Club of Addison, Chair of the Addison Special Events Commission and has helped coordinate the Addison Mayor's Community Charity Ball.

After earning her bachelor's degree in Human Services Administration from Elmhurst College, Willis went on to receive her Master's degree in Library and Information Services from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She and her husband, Tom, live in Addison.

#### To nominate someone...

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



# Montalbano receives Cianci Humanitarian Award

Local businessman and resident of Oak Brook and charitable dynamo Richard Montalbano Sr. received the prestigious Joseph P. Cianci Humanitarian Award at UNICO National's annual convention, held in Nashville on July 27.

Born and raised in the Galewood area of Chicago, and then River Forest, and a 1964 graduate of Fenwick High School in Oak Park, and a 1968 graduate of St. Procopius College, present day Benedictine University, in Lisle.

Richard Montalbano, Sr. continued as the second generation owner of his family furniture manufacturing, importing, and restoration business for more than 50 years through many ups and downs! As a pioneer in the importation of furniture and accessories from Italy, he continued along with his sons, Rick and Mark, the manufacturing of high end solid carved wood furniture as well as hotel and contract furniture. Richard continued to diversify into furniture distribution and delivery as well as restoring and reupholstering furniture for the residential market, which has become the primary business after

ceasing manufacturing in 2010. Montalbano Furniture, previously Majestic Wood Carving Company was created by his father Thomas Montalbano, Sr. in 1923.

A Knight Grand Cross of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Montalbano as well has been active for 54 years serving as Past Grand Knight and Past District Deputy of the Knights of Columbus and as Past Regional Director and Grand Commander of the Order of Alhambra.

## Active in Visitation Parish

He has served for nearly 40 years as the curator of the Crypt of the Saints, a shrine at Visitation Parish in Elmhurst that contains roughly 700 religious statues, icons and relics of saints and a library of more than 700 books. His lifelong devotion to the saints as protectors and intercessors also led him to author a book on the topic that lists thousands of saints and their patronages.

A past president of the Chicago West Suburban Chapter of UNICO National, Montalbano is a founding member and trustee of the Westlake

Health Foundation and an advisory board member of Touch My Heart.

## Long-time member of ECCI

He is a longtime member of the Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce, Boys & Girls Club of West Cook County and Chicago and Italian American Charitable Organization, and a lifetime member of the Italian Cultural Center, National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame, Hundred Club of DuPage County and Hi Hopes of Hope University.

In 2005, he and his family raised the more than \$15,000 necessary to dig water wells for the Catholic Mission of Turkana in Kenya.

## Other awards, recognition

Montalbano has received the Silver Palm of Jerusalem Medal from the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Lifetime Community Service Award from the Boys and Girls Club of West Cook County, Silver

Acorn Award from the Boy Scouts of America, Taking the Initiative Award from ASPIRE of Illinois, Community Leadership Award from Ray Graham Association, Man of the Year award from the Boys and Girls Club of Bellwood and Hillside, Board Director of the Year award from the Boys and Girls Club of America, Outstanding Business Man award from the Bellwood Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the Year, and International Man of the Year award from the International Biographical Center. He was inducted into the "Society of Procopians" at Illinois Benedictine College as well as the Catholic Youth Organization Club of Champions after raising more than \$250,000 for their programs.

He and his family continue operating Montalbano Inc., a furniture showroom selling the last of all their locally made French provincial and solid carved wood furni-

ture as well as restored antiques. They also continue restoring, refinishing, and reupholstering people's quality furniture so it can continue to be passed down to the next generation! Their current location is in Broadview and operates with craftspeople who have been with the business for almost 50 years and a combined experience of more than 300 years.

## D88 students earn certification in CPR, AED, First Aid

Ten Addison Trail and Willowbrook students who are enrolled in the schools' Preschool Teaching Internship program recently earned their certification through the American Heart Association in infant, child and adult Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR); Automated External Defibrillator (AED); and First Aid. To achieve that success, they took a five-hour class and a three-hour exam.

The students from Addison Trail include: junior Rodrigo Ibarra, senior Kasey Pierniega, senior Destiny Medina, Veronica Sypta (class of 2020), junior Alondra Zavala; and, from Willowbrook: senior Hanna Behrendt, junior Miranda Gebien, junior Shannon McGrann, senior Erandy Sanchez Figueroa and junior Kiley Wesley.

## Business briefs

### Hospitals earn Blue

#### Distinction Center+ designation for spine surgery

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois has selected Edward Hospital in Naperville and Elmhurst Hospital as Blue Distinction Center+ for Spine Surgery, as part of the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program. The designation signifies that the Spine Surgery Program at each hospital met nationally established selection criteria by demonstrating expertise in delivering quality specialty care, safely and effectively.

### HUD awards institutions

#### \$2.7 million to study lead, other health hazards

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded nearly \$8.4 million to seven universities and two research institutions including \$1.7 million to the University of Illinois in Chicago (UIC) and \$1 million to the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), to improve the Department's and the public's knowledge of housing-related health and safety hazards, including the development of new methods for identifying and mitigating lead-based paint hazards that pose a particular health risk to young children.

## Deadline extended to college's 'Creating Brands That Stand'

Elmhurst College is hosting the workshop "Creating Brands That Stand" on Friday, Nov. 8, at 8:30 a.m. in the Founder's Lounge in the Frick Center on the campus. If you haven't RSVP'd yet, we've extended the deadline to Wednesday, Oct. 23.

At this hands-on workshop learn how Disney®, IBM®, March of Dimes®, Starbucks® and others have built legendary brands—and

how you can too. This workshop is presented by Jim Paglia, president and CEO of Brands That Stand®, a nationally-recognized brand strategy consulting firm that has worked with Fortune® 100 Companies, nonprofits, government entities, universities, entrepreneurs and small businesses.

Seating is limited, so please RSVP by Oct. 23 to [elmhurst.edu/brand-stand](mailto:elmhurst.edu/brand-stand).

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