

ADDISON INDEPENDENT

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Newspaper

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Register now for upcoming Clubhouse Days Off School

The Bensenville Park District is now accepting registrations for its upcoming Clubhouse Days Off School, offering children a fun, safe and engaging way to spend days away from the classroom.

Upcoming Clubhouse Days Off School are Friday, Sept. 18; Monday, Oct. 12; Thursday, Oct. 22; and Friday, Oct. 23. The Oct. 12 program will be a special field trip day.

Clubhouse Days Off School gives children the opportunity to make the most of school holidays, institute days and other days when school is not in session. Each fun-packed day features exciting games, activities and challenges designed to keep participants active, creative and smiling. From

scavenger hunts and arts and crafts to movie time and indoor and outdoor games, there is plenty of fun waiting at the Clubhouse.

"Clubhouse Days Off School is all about giving kids a place where they can have fun, be active and spend time with friends while parents have peace of mind," said Recreation Supervisor Leslie Monarrez. "Every day offers new activities and opportunities for kids to try something different, make memories and enjoy their day away from school."

Childcare is offered from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and children must arrive by 9 a.m. Drop-off and pick-up take place in the Maple/Elm Room at the Deer Grove Leisure Center, 1000 W. Wood St., Bensenville.

Participants should bring a sack lunch and water bottle each day. Breakfast and an afternoon snack will be provided.

The fee for the Sept. 18, Oct. 22 and Oct. 23 programs is \$75, or \$65 for in-district patrons. The Oct. 12 field trip day fee is \$100, or \$90 for in-district patrons. Clubhouse Before and After School program participants pay \$45 per day. A minimum of six participants is required.

Families are encouraged to register early and give their children a safe, supervised and exciting place to spend their next day off from school. For more information, visit BvilleParks.org. Sign up is at the Deer Grove Leisure Center.

Addison Trail hosts Bucky's 'BLING' run/walk



Last month, Addison Trail hosted the Bucky's "BLING" Run/Walk to begin a yearlong celebration that will recognize the school's 60th (diamond) anniversary. Despite rainy weather, 66 participants took part in a 6.0-kilometer run/walk, a 1,600-meter run/walk or a 60-yard kids dash. That number was especially significant, given Addison Trail opened in 1966. The group took a route throughout the village of Addison, ending at a finish line archway at the school. "I was impressed with how many people came out in extremely rainy conditions," said Kirsten Olson, Addison Trail girls cross country coach and Bucky's "BLING" Run/Walk coordinator. "I wanted to create a fun event to kick off our year of celebrations that brings people together to show our Blazer Pride that has been prevalent for 60 years and counting." Donations raised from the event will support Addison Trail cross-country student-athletes. (Submitted photo)

District 88 Foundation's third annual Grapevine fundraiser set for Sept. 19

Looking for a fun day out that also benefits a great cause?

The District 88 Foundation invites parents, guardians, alumni, staff, community members and friends to attend its third annual Gathering at the Grapevine fundraiser on Sept. 19.

The event will take place from 2-5 p.m. and will feature a wine tasting, an array of charcuterie and dessert items, live music, raffle items and more.

The host will be DeVine Wine and Cocktail Bar, 339 E. Kenilworth Ave. in Villa Park.

The first 50 Gathering at the Grapevine registrations will receive a souvenir wine tumbler, and proceeds will fund mini-

grants to implement innovative, teacher-led initiatives that will benefit students, which could not otherwise be funded through the district's budget.

For details, and to buy tickets, go to www.dupage88.net/GatheringAtTheGrapevine2026.

The foundation also invites all businesses, corporations and individuals to be part of the event. To become a sponsor, or to make a donation, complete the packet at www.dupage88.net/Grapevine-SponsorPacket2026.

For questions or more information, contact District 88 Director of Community Relations Dani Brink at dbrink@dupage88.net or 630-530-3989.

Sunday Fundays return with football, food at White Pines

Football, food and a little Sunday fun are headed to White Pines Golf Club, where Sunday Fundays at 37 Bar & Grill will give fans another reason to make the clubhouse their game-day destination.

Starting at 11 a.m. every Sunday from September through December, guests can catch their favorite football games on high-definition screens while enjoying food and drink specials in a lively, welcoming atmosphere at 37 Bar & Grill, located inside White Pines at 500 W. Jefferson St.

The Sunday Funday lineup includes half-price appetizers, \$4 16-ounce domestic beers and \$5 Tito's cocktails for dine-in guests. And for those who like to get an early start, breakfast is served until noon daily. "Sunday Fundays at White Pines

are about more than great food and drinks—they're about camaraderie," said Andrew Godfrey, PGA general manager of White Pines Golf Club. "It's the perfect place to gather with friends, watch college and pro games and enjoy a fun, relaxed environment."

Whether guests are cheering for their favorite team, settling in for a full day of football or simply looking for a place to enjoy good food and good company, White Pines offers a comfortable game-day atmosphere.

White Pines Golf Club features two 18-hole championship golf courses and year-round dining at 37 Bar & Grill. The facility is owned and operated by the Bensenville Park District.

For more information, visit whitepinesgolf.com or call 630-766-0304.

Upcoming reunions set for Addison Trail alumni this autumn

Attention, Addison Trail alumni—it's time to celebrate!

The following reunions are being planned, and members of these classes are invited to join the fun, reconnect with peers and show their Blazer pride.

- **Class of 1976 (50-year reunion):** Sept. 18 and 19
- **Class of 1981 (45-year reunion):** Sept. 18, 19 and 20
- **Class of 2006 (20-year reunion):** Sept. 19
- **Class of 1971 (55-year reunion):** Oct. 24

Go to www.dupage88.net/ATALumniInfo for all the event details!

Staying in touch with alumni is a top priority at Addison Trail. The school invites alumni to join the alumni database to receive news and stay connected with their alma mater, as well as to share successes and career path information with current students.

Be sure to sign up at www.dupage88.net/District88Alumni.

Police Reports

ADDISON

The Addison Police Department recently reported the following arrests and citations. Persons who are charged with domestic battery are not named in order to protect the victim's privacy. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a conviction, and that suspects are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Juveniles age 17-or-younger are not named.

Sept. 1

A 39-year-old Addison woman was charged with two counts of domestic battery in the 200 block of S. Hale at 10:10 p.m.

Aug. 31

A 42-year-old Addison man was charged with two counts of domestic battery in the 600 block of N. Swift at 4:07 a.m.

Aug. 29

Fernando Barragan, 25, of Addison, was charged with retail theft under \$300 and criminal trespass to a building in the 500 block of E. Lake at 9:12 p.m.

Aug. 28

Devonsha C. Collier, 55, of Chicago, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

Aug. 27

Miguel Arreguin Jr., 29, of Addison, was charged with DUI, driving on a sidewalk and making an improper turn at an intersection in the 800 block of W. Fullerton at 8:31 p.m. Arreguin Jr. was also issued a failure to appear warrant for driving while license suspended.

Andres C. Chavez, 43, of Glen Ellyn, was charged with aggravated fleeing and eluding, retail theft under \$300 and driving while license suspended or revoked near Garden and Stonefield (Roselle) at 4 a.m.

BENSENVILLE

The Bensenville Police Department recently reported the following arrests and citations. Persons who are charged with domestic battery are not named in order to protect the victim's privacy. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a conviction, and that suspects are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Juveniles age 17-or-younger are not named.

Aug. 26, 1:46 a.m. near S. Evergreen St., Fernando Morales-Carrillo of Bensenville was arrested for disorderly conduct. BEPC2600795.

Park District announces live music lineup for Sept. 26 Harvest Fest at Fischer Farm

The Bensenville Park District announced the live music lineup for Harvest Fest, featuring three bands performing throughout the afternoon on Saturday, Sept. 26, at Fischer Farm, 16W680 Old Grand Ave.

Tank and the Beez will open the festivities from noon to 1 p.m. The Chicago-based acoustic roots band celebrates the pre-war sounds that helped shape American music, including country blues, traditional jazz and early folk. Featuring warm vocal harmonies and driving acoustic rhythms, the group brings timeless melodies to life while honoring the storytelling traditions of musicians who helped make Chicago a hub for jazz, blues and folk music.

Comstock Lode Country Rock Band will take the main stage from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Formed approximately eight years ago by singer-songwriter and guitarist Greg Wright, the group delivers a full country band sound with a streamlined live ensemble. Acoustic guitar, electric guitar and pedal steel are supported by professionally engineered bass, drum and keyboard tracks, creating a strong musical foundation for Wright's lead vocals and the group's harmonies. For larger venues, the band can expand its sound by adding an additional guitarist.

The Curfew will close out the day's live music from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The Elmhurst-based rock cover band combines blended vocal harmonies with groovy

guitar riffs and a powerful rhythm section. Featuring a selection of fun, recognizable and upbeat songs, The Curfew delivers an energetic performance designed to keep audiences singing along and the dance floor moving.

All musical performances will take place on the main stage in the southwest lawn area of Fischer Farm.

Grand Subaru is a major sponsor of Harvest Fest. Additional sponsors include ARC Family McDonald's Restaurants and Texas Roadhouse.

Parking and admission to Harvest Fest are free. Food and select activities require tickets. A complete listing of entertainment and activities is available at BvilleParks.org/harvestfest.

Lunch Bunch and Bingo



The Bensenville Park District's Young at Heart group celebrated the end of summer with a fantastic meal and several rounds of bingo at the Aug. 20 Lunch Bunch and Bingo in the Oak Room. (Submitted photo)

New youth pickleball camp serves up skills, fun at Sunrise Park

Young athletes can learn the fundamentals of one of the nation's fastest-growing sports this fall with the Bensenville Park District's new Youth Pickleball Camp at Sunrise Park.

Designed to be fun, active and engaging, the camp will introduce participants to the basics of pickleball through drills and games. Children will develop fundamental skills, including proper grip, strokes, scoring and game rules, while improving hand-eye coordination, motor skills and confidence on the court.

All equipment will be provided. Participants should bring a labeled water bottle. The camp requires a minimum of four participants and is limited to 20 participants per session.

Youth Pickleball Camp will be offered at Sunrise Park in three age groups. Children ages 7-9 will meet from 4:30-5:15 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 23-Nov. 11 (program code 616026-01).

Children ages 10-12 will meet from 5:15-6 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 23-Nov. 11 (program code 616026-02).

Participants ages 13-14 will meet from 6-7 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 23-Nov. 11 (program code 616026-03).

Fees for each camp are \$60 or \$55 for in-district patrons.

Registration is available in person at the Deer Grove Leisure Center, 1000 W. Wood St. in Bensenville, or online at BvilleParks.org/register.

For more information about the Youth Pickleball Camp and other upcoming Bensenville Park District programs, visit BvilleParks.org.

Sports

Warriors erupt for three TDs, pull away from Leyden

Willowbrook senior Dylan Borkowski (22) returns an interception in Friday's win over Leyden. He has made an interception in each of the Warriors' first three games of 2026. (Photo by Chris Fox)



The Willowbrook football team opened its West Suburban Gold Conference season with Friday's 26-9 victory over Leyden in Northlake. The Warriors raised their overall record to 2-1 with the win.

Willowbrook trailed the Eagles (1-2 overall, 0-1 in the conference) 9-7 after Leyden made a field goal early in the third quarter. The Warriors then closed the quarter with a burst of three touchdowns to take their 26-9 lead. Willowbrook

and Leyden played the fourth quarter as flashes of lightning appeared in the distance, northwest of Leyden's stadium. The lightning remained more than 10 miles away, allowing the game to continue.

Nick Hildreth earned the 100th win as Willowbrook's head coach with Friday's triumph over Leyden. Hildreth, who played for the Warriors

See **WARRIORS**, Page 12

Broncos start new winning streak with victory at Marist

Abrams throws three TD passes, runs for two scores during win

The Montini Catholic football team improved to 2-1 with Friday's 35-28 win at Marist in Chicago. The Broncos scored three touchdowns in the first quarter to take an early 21-0 lead over the RedHawks. Marist, which dropped to 2-1 with the loss, scored two touchdowns during the second quarter and cut Montini's lead to 21-14 by halftime.

The Broncos scored a touchdown on their first drive of the second half to build a 28-14 lead. Marist responded with a TD of its own to reduce Montini's lead to 28-21 in the middle of the third quarter. Montini scored its fifth and final touchdown of the game in the final minute of the third quarter. Marist scored its final touchdown of the evening with about two minutes left in the contest.

The Broncos earned their 35-28 win over Marist one week after losing a 35-28 decision at Sandburg. The Aug. 28 loss at Sandburg ended the Montini program's 25-game winning streak. Montini won its last 10 games of the 2024 season and captured the IHSA Class 3A state title. The Broncos posted an undefeated 14-0 record and won the Class 4A state championship in 2025. Montini opened its 2026 season with a 48-0 home win over Hoopston Area High School on Aug. 21.

Senior quarterback Israel Abrams tossed a 53-yard touchdown pass to senior Donovan Evans to give the Broncos a 6-0 lead with 8:05 left in the first quarter. Senior Johnny Louise added the extra-point kick to push Montini's lead to 7-0.

Abrams scored the Broncos' next touchdown of the game on a 9-yard run with 2:20 to play in the first quarter. Moments later, on the next play from scrimmage, Montini senior linebacker Ben Evenson tipped a Marist pass in the air and made an interception at the RedHawks' 32-yard line. Evenson delivered a 22-yard return on his interception to advance the ball to Marist's 10-yard line. On Montini's next offensive play, Abrams threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Evans. The extra-point kick gave the Broncos a 21-0 lead with 1:59 remaining in the first quarter.

Montini received the second-half kickoff and quickly drove 60 yards for a TD. Abrams and senior Damacio Ortegón connected on a 35-yard touchdown pass to complete the drive. The extra-point kick raised the Broncos' lead to 28-14 with 10:55 left in the third.

Marist trimmed Montini's lead to 28-21 after it scored a touchdown and made the extra-point kick with 8:20 to play in the third quarter. Abrams scored the Broncos' fifth and final touchdown of the night on a 9-yard run with 39.8 seconds left in the third quarter. The extra-point kick raised Montini's lead to 35-21.

Abrams completed 12 of 23 passes for 252 yards and three touchdowns in Friday's win over Marist. He did not throw any interceptions. Abrams gained 44 rushing yards and scored two touchdowns on nine carries.

Louise, a linebacker on Montini's defensive unit, provided a team-leading 13 tackles. He also made all five of the Broncos' extra-point kicks. Evenson supplied nine tackles, as well as his first-quarter interception that set up Montini's third touchdown of the game.

"It was great to be able to jump out to an early lead," said Montini coach Mike Bukovsky in his post-game comments. "Our guys really battled tough, and many guys had to play extra snaps that they don't usually play, because of the effect the heat was having on numerous players. I am very pleased with our overall preparation and resiliency to be able to bounce back this week from a tough loss [at Sandburg] last week."

Montini's season continues with this Friday's CCL Green Division game at Nazareth Academy (1-2) in La Grange Park. The Broncos and the Roadrunners join St. Rita and St. Francis to make up the four-team Green Division this season.



TOP: Senior Montii Perry (1) rushed for 127 yards and two touchdowns during Glenbard East's win over Fenton. Perry is pictured during his 30-yard scoring run late in the first quarter. BELOW: Glenbard East senior Mason Wright (3) heads toward the end zone on his 49-yard touchdown reception Friday at Fenton. (Photos by Chris Fox)

Rams rout Fenton for first win of 2026

Glenbard East plays its homecoming game this Friday

Glenbard East's football team opened its Upstate Eight Conference East Division season by crushing Fenton 48-0 on Friday evening in Bensenville. The Rams, who opened their 2026 season with losses to Willowbrook and Plainfield North, moved to 1-2 overall with their dominant victory over the Bison, who dropped to 1-2 overall.

The Rams scored three touchdowns in the first quarter of Friday's division contest. Glenbard East piled on four more touchdowns during the second quarter to take a 48-0



See **RAMS**, Page 11

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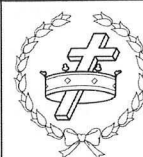
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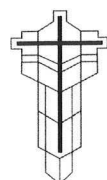
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•Warriors (Continued from page 10)

and graduated from Willowbrook in 2000, has been the team's head coach since the 2011 season. The Warriors struggled through an 0-9 campaign in Hildreth's first season. Willowbrook's program rebounded from that winless season to post a 6-4 record and earn an IHSA playoff berth in 2012. Hildreth has guided the Warriors to the playoffs in 11 seasons. The Warriors have earned 13 post-season victories during Hildreth's tenure.

Willowbrook scored the first touchdown of Friday's game on a 21-yard pass from junior quarterback Nate Jerkovic to senior Josiah Marlowe, who caught the ball near the goal line. Senior Ben Swanson made the extra-point kick to give the Warriors a 7-0 lead with 2:02 left in the first quarter.

With 18.5 seconds left in the second quarter, Swanson attempted a 27-yard field goal. Leyden blocked the kick, and an Eagle picked up the ball off the turf at his team's 15-yard line and raced 85 yards for a touchdown. Leyden couldn't cleanly execute the snap on the extra-point try, leaving the Warriors with a 7-6 lead with just 3.9 seconds remaining in the first half.

Willowbrook sophomore Jackson Dyers couldn't handle the kickoff to start the second half, and the Eagles recovered the loose ball at the Warriors' 28-yard line.

Leyden's ensuing offensive series ended with a 32-yard field goal that

gave the Eagles a 9-7 lead with 9:02 to play in the third quarter.

Dyers quickly made amends for his fumble. Jerkovic was sidelined by an injury, and Dyers stepped in to handle the Warriors' quarterback duties in the second half.

Barely one minute after Leyden took the lead, Dyers fired a 24-yard touchdown pass to Marlowe to lift Willowbrook to a 13-9 advantage. An incomplete pass on the subsequent conversion attempt left the Warriors with their 13-9 lead with 8:01 left in the third quarter.

Minutes later, Leyden punted the ball, and Willowbrook began an offensive drive at its 31-yard line. On the first play of that drive, Dyers took a snap from a shotgun formation and raced 69 yards for a touchdown to boost the Warriors' lead to 19-9 with 5:16 remaining in the third quarter. Dyers threw an incomplete pass on the conversion attempt.

"Jackson starts at safety [on defense]; he's one of our backup quarterbacks," said Hildreth after Friday's win. "He dropped the kickoff to start the second half, and then comes in and pops a touchdown; just an awesome response."

Willowbrook's third-quarter surge continued when senior Dylan Borkowski intercepted a Leyden pass at the Warriors' 45-yard line and made a 33-yard return to the Eagles' 22-yard line. The turnover marked Borkow-

ski's third interception of the season. He made an interception in the Warriors' 20-13 Week 1 win over Glenbard East and snared another interception in the team's Week 2 loss at Oswego East.

On the next play after Borkowski's interception at Leyden, Dyers broke an 18-yard run to the Eagles' 4-yard line. Senior Dionel Rocha completed the three-play scoring drive with a 3-yard touchdown run. Borkowski added the extra-point kick to push the Warriors' lead to 26-9 with 1:32 left in the third quarter.

"We came out flat, but I'm proud of the way we came back in the second half," added Hildreth after Friday's winning effort. He noted that the Warriors did not have a typical week of practice leading up to the game, as the excessive heat during the week led the team to practice inside for a couple of days. "We didn't get a true practice in, but they adapted well, and our practice all week was great. But I was disappointed in the way we came out. We were super flat. It took a turnover and them [the Eagles] getting the lead for us to figure it out and get the energy and the tempo going."

Willowbrook's season continues with this Friday's home game against Downers Grove South (2-1 overall, 1-0 in the conference). The Mustangs opened their conference season with Friday's wild 55-42 victory at Addison Trail.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

Happy Warriors; Willowbrook wins Flag Fest championship



Willowbrook High School's flag football team won the championship at its 12-team Flag Fest tournament, which ended Saturday, Aug. 29. The Warriors won four straight games during the event. They defeated West Aurora 33-14 in the title contest. Ed Sullivan, Willowbrook's assistant principal for athletics and operations, presented the championship plaque to the fired-up Warriors, who raised their overall season record to 5-0 with their win over the Blackhawks. Willowbrook won the third-place trophy in the 2025 IHSA state tournament. See Sports on Page 10 for more on Willowbrook's Flag Fest title. (Photo by Chris Fox)

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Yurich receives Willowbrook's 88's Best award for August

Willowbrook High School senior Bethany Yurich was named her school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of August. Yurich was recognized during the District 88 Board of Education's Aug. 24 meeting.

The 88's Best award recognizes students at Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools for their achievements in and out of the classroom. The District 88 Board of Education joined the district's administration to create the award to highlight students' successes. The award recognizes nine Willowbrook students and nine Addison Trail students each school year. Yurich is Willowbrook's first recipient of the award in the 2026-27 school year.

Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause read comments from some school staff members during the recent board meeting. Those staff members praised Yurich, describing her as an exceptional student who is generous, hard-working, responsible, kind, thoughtful, and humble.

Yurich is an Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction. She is the vice president of Willowbrook's National Honor Society chapter, and a member of several other honor societies. She is a leader in the New Beginnings program, which helps Willowbrook freshmen adjust with the transition into high school.

Yurich is a member of the school's math team, Key Club, choir and marching band. She's also a member of the Warriors' girls cross-country, track and field, and basketball programs.

Speaking at the Aug. 24 board meeting, Yurich thanked her parents, teachers, coaches, friends and peers for helping her achieve success at Willowbrook. She noted the camaraderie and competition that exists between the school's elite students and stated that the competitive nature among them pushes them to grow.

Yurich hasn't yet decided where she will continue her education after she graduates from Willowbrook. She plans to study mechanical or aerospace engineering.



Bethany Yurich is a member of Willowbrook High School's girls cross-country team. She is pictured during introductions at the school's Silver and Blue Community Night event on Aug. 14. Yurich, a senior, posted the Warriors' fastest finish in the team's season-opening meet on Aug. 29, when she ran to a sixth-place finish at the Elgin City Classic Invitational. Willowbrook finished third in the event's team standings. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Rancorous meeting features disputes about recordings, documents

Village clerk returns after missing multiple meetings, spars with Patrick and Kozar

The Villa Park Village Board's Aug. 24 regular meeting included discussions and disagreements between board members about recordings, transcripts, investigations, and use of village stationary.



Rolf Laukant

Village Clerk Rolf Laukant, who had been absent from the board's three meetings in July, along with the Aug. 10 meeting, attended the Aug. 24 meeting and engaged in brief exchanges with Village President Kevin Patrick and Trustee Jack Kozar.

The Aug. 24 meeting also included a suggestion from Trustee Cari Alfano that representatives from the Illinois Municipal League help the board conduct an evaluation in an effort to ease tensions between board members. Alfano referred to trust on the board as "waning" and "broken" while making her recommendation.

All seven board members attended the Aug. 24 meeting. All seven board members attended the start of the Aug. 10 meeting, but shortly after that meeting began, Patrick distributed documents to board members that contained a reported transcript of a December 2025 discussion between Trustee Khalid Sabri and Villa Park Finance Director Suzy Mika. According to Patrick, Sabri secretly recorded that discussion, without Mika's knowledge. Patrick's distribution of those documents was not on the agenda for the Aug. 10 meeting. Shortly after he handed the documents out at that meeting, Patrick called a brief recess for board members to examine the documents. When the meeting reconvened, Sabri and Alfano were absent from the dais.

Patrick stated during the Aug. 10 meeting that he found portions of the transcript deeply concerning. He said the transcript contained discussions about village employees, elected officials, and village finances. Other documents that Patrick distributed noted that the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office investigated the matter of Sabri recording his conversation with Mika and decided not to pursue legal charges.

Kumar criticizes Patrick's release of supposed transcript: Trustee Deepa Kumar stated during the Aug. 24 meeting that there was "a lot of clarity lacking" in the transcript Patrick distributed on Aug. 10. Kumar, who said that the document caused stress to Mika, stated that Mika's employ-

ment status should be frozen while an investigation takes place. Kumar also stated she wanted a formal resolution "calling out" what she called Patrick's unauthorized use of village letterhead to distribute the documents at the Aug. 10 meeting.

Patrick said during the Aug. 24 meeting that in his capacity as village president, he had the authority to use village stationary/letterhead to distribute the documents he handed out during the Aug. 10 meeting. Patrick added that he thought it was odd that he was being attacked for using village letterhead when a trustee allegedly made an unauthorized recording of a conversation with a village employee.

Trustee Jorge Cordova then called for a point of order to end discussion of the issue. "Now they're trying to silence me," responded Patrick, who then stated, "What are you guys trying to hide? If Villa Park wants a conspiracy, look right here. This is getting out of hand."

Trustee Tina Konstatos said at the Aug. 10 and Aug. 24 meetings that Sabri handed her the printed transcript of his supposed recording of his conversation with Mika. Konstatos stated that she did not read the transcript, and put it in an envelope containing other documents. According to Konstatos, when recent issues with Laukant came up, she handed those documents to Patrick, who then became aware of the transcript.

Patrick still waits to hear recording of June 29 executive session: Patrick stated during the Aug. 24 meeting that Alfano, Cordova, Kumar and Sabri called on Friday, June 26, for a special meeting to be held on Monday, June 29.

Patrick, whose father had just passed away, did not attend that meeting. Kozar, who was out of town, was also absent from that meeting. Patrick and Kozar have demanded that Laukant provide them with a recording of the executive session discussion from that June 29 meeting, which reportedly included discussion of any action the board might take regarding Village Manager Michael Rivas and/or other village employees.

On July 6, board members voted 7-0 to adopt a resolution appointing a Chicago law firm, Laner Muchin, to conduct an employment investigation. Laner Muchin has reportedly also requested access to the recording of the June 29 executive session discussion.

Board members considered a resolution during the Aug. 24 meeting that authorized "the limited disclosure of certain executive session verbatim recordings related to employment investigation." That resolution passed in a 4-3 vote. Cordova,

Konstatos and Kozar voted in favor of the resolution, while Alfano, Kumar and Sabri voted against it. Patrick then voted in favor of the resolution.

Patrick went through a timeline during the Aug. 24 meeting to note his several messages to Laukant demanding a copy of the recording of the executive session discussion from the June 29 meeting. Patrick also noted that the board had passed a resolution in July ordering Laukant to turn over a copy of that recording. As Patrick went through that timeline, he referred to Kozar's Aug. 21 email to Laukant, requesting access to that recording. According to Patrick, Laukant responded to Kozar, telling him to get a court order. Later on Aug. 21, Laukant reportedly emailed Kozar and stated, "Do not throw me under the bus." Laukant's email to Kozar allegedly included some more explicit language, and also stated, "Do not ever show your face in Villa Park ever again."

Laukant says he has legal representation; will not turn over recording: In the Aug. 24 meeting's segment for the clerk's report, Laukant read from a prepared statement. "During the execution of my official duties as village clerk for the Village of Villa Park, I became aware of illegal activities necessitating legal scrutiny, analysis and investigation," said Laukant, who added that he is currently engaged with independent counsel and that he is "prohibited from sharing further details, documents or commentary to ensure the integrity of the legal process."

Laukant then paraphrased a quote from a 1974 movie, "Mongo sad. Mongo just a pawn in the chess game of life."

When Patrick asked Laukant for clarification, the clerk responded, "It's from *Blazing Saddles*." Patrick then said he wanted clarification for the statement, not the quote. The exact quote from the film is "Mongo only pawn in game of life."

After Laukant stated that he would not violate the oath of his office, Patrick said the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office report from the incident regarding the transcript of the conversation allegedly recorded by Sabri contained allegations that were found to have no credibility or evidence.

"Did I mention DuPage County?" responded Laukant, who then accused Patrick of trying to "deflect and dodge" before adding an expletive that could be translated as "BS."

Kumar takes issue with document release: In the Aug. 24 meeting's segment for reports from trustees, Kumar referred to a communication breakdown

See BOARD, Page 8

Sports

Glenbard East offense struggles in 21-0 loss to Plainfield North

Rams begin 2026 division season this week at Fenton

The Glenbard East football team fell to 0-2 following Friday's 21-0 home loss to Plainfield North in Lombard. The visiting Tigers, who raised their record to 2-0, scored one touchdown in the first quarter and added two more touchdowns in the second quarter.

"We just couldn't get anything going all night," said Glenbard East coach John Walters after Friday's loss. "We had a couple of explosive plays. We just couldn't sustain drives. I thought we played pretty well defensively for as much time as we were on the field tonight."

The Rams received the game's opening kickoff and began their first offensive series at their own 37-yard line. Glenbard East fumbled the ball at midfield at short time later, and the Tigers made the recovery. Plainfield North's offense then delivered a 52-yard drive that ended with a 2-yard touchdown run. The

extra-point kick gave the Tigers a 7-0 lead with 5:33 left in the first quarter.

Plainfield North converted a couple of fourth-down runs on its next scoring drive, which concluded with a 7-yard touchdown run on a first-and-goal play. The Tigers added the extra-point kick to take a 14-0 lead with 6:26 remaining in the second quarter.

Plainfield North scored its third and final touchdown of the evening on a 30-yard pass with 28.4 seconds to play in the second quarter. The Tigers added the extra-point kick to close out the scoring.

Plainfield North received the second-half kickoff and started its drive at its own 17-yard line. After running more than five minutes off

See RAMS, Page 11



Glenbard East senior Mishun Williams (5) is pictured during his 37-yard run in the third quarter of Friday's game in Lombard. The Rams open their Upstate Eight Conference East Division season with this Friday's game at Fenton. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Warriors sail to Flag Fest tournament title

Willowbrook wins four straight to claim championship plaque, improve to 5-0

Willowbrook's flag football team won the championship at its own 12-team Warrior Flag Fest event, which ended Saturday, Aug. 29. Willowbrook opened the tournament by going 2-0 in pool play on Thursday, Aug. 27. The Warriors beat Romeoville 26-0 in a semifinal contest on Saturday morning. Willowbrook defeated West Aurora 33-14 in Saturday afternoon's title contest.

The Warriors, who won the third-place trophy in the 2025 IHSA state tournament, moved their overall record to 5-0 with their win in the Flag Fest championship game. Willowbrook opened its season with a 34-6 home win over DeKalb on Aug. 24.

The Warriors started the Flag Fest tournament with a 27-0 win over Bolingbrook on Aug. 27. Willowbrook senior Lillian Macias returned a punt 84 yards for a touchdown during the fourth quarter to give her team a 20-0 lead.

In their second game on Aug. 27, the Warriors defeated Lindblom 20-6.

Senior McKenzie Edison, who earned All-State honors during her junior season, led Willowbrook to its shutout win over Romeoville in Saturday morning's semifinal game. Edison made two touchdown receptions and intercepted two Romeoville passes during the victory.

Willowbrook raced to a 33-0 lead over West Aurora in Saturday afternoon's championship game. Senior Janell Adams scored the Warriors' first points of the contest when she broke an 86-yard touchdown run with less than two minutes left in the first quarter.

Senior Madeline Carine threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to senior Jada Langston in the final minute of the second quarter to give the Warriors a 12-0 lead.

Senior Kaitlyn Santos fired a 16-yard touchdown pass to senior Liz



TOP: Willowbrook senior Lillian Macias (4) returns a punt 84 yards to score a touchdown during the Aug. 27 game against Bolingbrook. BOTTOM LEFT: McKenzie Edison (3) is pictured during Willowbrook's Aug. 27 win over Bolingbrook. BOTTOM RIGHT: Janell Adams dives toward the goal line during her 20-yard touchdown run against West Aurora in the Flag Fest championship game. (Photos by Chris Fox)

See WARRIORS, Page 11

Warriors' comeback falls short against Oswego East

Willowbrook's football team dropped to 1-1 following Friday's 22-14 loss at Oswego East. The Warriors had a chance to tie the one-possession game late in the fourth quarter, but the Wolves sealed their victory when they intercepted a pass near their 10-yard line in the closing moments.

Oswego East raised its 2026 record to 2-0 with its win over Willowbrook. The Wolves held a 7-0 halftime lead, and added a third-quarter touchdown to boost their advantage to 13-0. The Warriors scored their first touchdown when junior quarterback Nate Jerkovic threw a short pass, which was deflected into the hands of senior Dylan Borkowski, who caught the ball near midfield and raced into the end zone for a 61-yard touchdown reception with a little more than two minutes remaining in the third quarter to trim the Wolves' lead to 13-6.

Oswego East pushed its lead to 15-6 following a safety early in the fourth quarter.

The Wolves picked up the two-point safety by sacking Jerkovic in the end zone.

Oswego East drove for a touchdown on its ensuing possession and extended its lead to 22-6. Jerkovic and senior JJ Miulli connected on a touchdown pass late in the fourth quarter. The Warriors scored on the two-point conversion attempt to cut the Wolves' lead to 22-14.

Willowbrook's defense forced Oswego East to punt with less than two minutes to play. The Warriors began their final offensive possession of the night near their own 40-yard line with 1:37 remaining. Willowbrook drove the ball into Wolves' territory before turning the ball over on the late interception.

The Warriors will open their West Suburban Gold Conference season with this Friday's game at Leyden (1-1). Willowbrook will battle conference rival Downers Grove South in Villa Park on Sept. 11.

Broncos' 25-game winning streak ends with 35-28 loss at Sandburg

The Montini Catholic football program's school record 25-game winning streak ended with Friday night's 35-28 loss to the Sandburg Eagles in Orland Park.

The Broncos' 2026 record dropped to 1-1 with the loss, while Sandburg raised its record to 2-0.

Montini had not lost a game since its 14-10 setback at Fenwick in Week 4 of the 2024 regular season. That loss on Sept. 20, 2024, dropped the Broncos' record to 2-2. Montini closed the

season by winning 10 straight games and capturing the IHSA Class 3A state championship. The Broncos posted an undefeated 14-0 record during the 2025 campaign and won the IHSA Class 4A state title. Montini's winning streak reached 25 games with its 48-0 home win over Hoopeson Area High School in its 2026 season opener in Lombard on Aug. 21.

Montini and Sandburg scored one touchdown each

See BRONCOS, Page 11

Warriors open season with two wins, tie

Willowbrook's boys soccer team kicked off its season by playing Elmwood Park to a 2-2 tie in Villa Park on Aug. 25. Senior Ian Muller and sophomore Thomas Basista scored first-half goals to give the Warriors a 2-0 lead. Senior Brayden Dotson assisted Mueller's goal. Junior Liam Kling provided an assist on Basista's goal. Elmwood Park scored a first-half goal to cut Willowbrook's lead to 2-1 before halftime. The Tigers scored the equalizer in the second half.

The Warriors earned their first victory of the season when they traveled to Peotone High School and beat the Blue Devils 3-2 on Aug. 27. Sophomore Oliver Soltys, junior Miko Sokolowski and junior Vinny Prenant scored one goal each for the Warriors. Prenant, sophomore Hamza Abdoussi and Mueller supplied one assist each.

Willowbrook improved to 2-0-1 following Saturday's 2-0 triumph over Jones College Prep in Chicago. Dotson and Abdoussi provided one goal each.

The Warriors faced Proviso West earlier this week in Hillside. Willowbrook will open its West Suburban Gold Conference season with a Sept. 8 match at Downers Grove South.



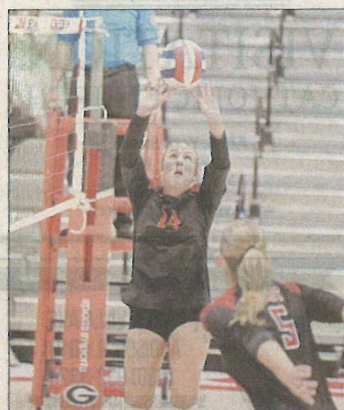
Junior Vinny Prenant (10) of Willowbrook is shown during his team's 2-2 tie against Elmwood Park on Aug. 25. Prenant had a goal and an assist in the Warriors' 3-2 victory at Peotone on Aug. 27. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Broncos win opener



Montini Catholic's girls volleyball team opened its season with last week's 25-23, 25-21 victory over Timothy Christian. Montini's Victoria Reed is pictured during the Broncos' Aug. 26 win over the Trojans in Lombard. The Broncos won four of five matches and earned a third-place finish at the Metea Valley Invitational, which took place Aug. 28-29. Micaela Haggerty and Hope Garland were named to the all-tournament team. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Rams start season with three-game loss



The Glenbard East girls volleyball team began its 2026 season with a 25-19, 17-25, 25-18 home loss against Metea Valley on Aug. 25. Senior Belle McDermott bashed nine kills and made six digs. Sophomore Olivia Steve (pictured setting above) had eight assists for the Rams. Junior Abby Michelson finished with seven assists and seven digs. (Photo by Chris Fox)

•Rams (Continued from page 10)

the clock, the Tigers punted the ball to the Rams, who began a drive at their own 20-yard line. Senior Mishun Williams of Glenbard East broke a 37-yard run that moved the ball to the Wolves' 38-yard line, but the Rams' drive ended when they turned the ball over on downs.

"The motor never started," added Walters after Glenbard East's loss in its home opener, which marked the program's first shutout loss since its 42-0 loss to Marist in an IHSA Class 8A first-round playoff game in Lombard on Oct. 29, 2021.

The Rams and Tigers played the game in ideal weather conditions and in front of a large crowd. The opening kickoff took place at 7:21 p.m. The contest progressed swiftly and ended at 9:19 p.m. The Rams' season opener, a 20-13 overtime loss at Willowbrook on Aug. 21, featured several penalties, numerous injuries, and a 50-minute lightning delay. The lengthy season opener between the Rams and Warriors did not end until 11:16 p.m.

Glenbard East will open its Upstate Eight Conference East Division season with this Friday's game at Fenton (1-1) in Bensenville. The Rams won the division title last year with a perfect 6-0 record.

•Warriors (Continued from page 10)

Pettinger to give Willowbrook an 18-0 lead in the third quarter. Santos and Edison connected on the conversion pass to raise the lead to 19-0. Adams supplied a 20-yard touchdown run later in the third quarter to boost Willowbrook's lead to 25-0. Carine completed the conversion pass to Macias to give the Warriors a 26-0 advantage.

The Warriors scored their fifth and final touchdown of the game on a 14-yard pass from Santos to Langston with about eight minutes left in the fourth quarter.

Santos connected with Pettinger on the conversion pass to raise Willowbrook's lead to 33-0.

The Warriors tried to move to 6-0 when they battled York in Elmhurst earlier this week. Willowbrook will play a home game against Elk Grove this Saturday, Sept. 5.

•Broncos (From page 10)

in the first quarter of Friday's contest. Senior quarterback Israel Abrams scored Montini's first touchdown of the evening on a 1-yard run. Sandburg scored a pair of second-quarter touchdowns after taking advantage of a couple of miscues by the Broncos, including a fumble late in the second quarter. Shortly after recovering the fumble, the Eagles scored on a 15-yard touchdown pass and made the extra-point kick to take a 21-7 lead going into halftime.

The Broncos evened the score at 21-21 with a pair of third-quarter touchdowns. Senior Eddie Kowalczyk delivered a 3-yard touchdown run to help Montini cut the Eagles' lead to 21-14. Abrams connected with senior tight end Johnny Louise on a 5-yard touchdown pass later in the third quarter. The extra-point kick

deadlocked the contest. Sandburg took the lead later in the third quarter on a 5-yard touchdown run.

The Eagles expanded their lead to 35-21 after a 14-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter. Montini cut into the lead when Abrams fired a 49-yard touchdown pass to senior receiver Damacio Ortegon.

Sandburg's offense faced a fourth-and-four play with less than two minutes left in the game. A defensive penalty by the Broncos gave Sandburg a first down and allowed the Eagles to seal their victory.

Montini's season continues with this Friday's Chicago Catholic League (CCL) game at Marist (2-0) in Chicago. Montini is a member of the four-team CCL's Green Division, which also includes St. Rita, Nazareth Academy and St. Francis. Marist plays in the CCL's Blue Division, which includes Brother Rice, Loyola Academy and Mount Carmel.

Abrams, who was Montini's quarter-

back throughout the program's 25-game winning streak, completed 16 of 34 passes for 231 yards and two touchdowns in Friday's loss. Ortegon made seven receptions for 123 yards and one touchdown.

Senior linebacker Ben Evenson made a team-leading 12 tackles for the Broncos in their loss to the Eagles. Senior linebacker Orlando Greco provided nine tackles, while senior defensive back Jack Spanos contributed eight tackles. Louise, a linebacker on defense, supplied seven tackles.

Montini coach Mike Bukovsky praised Sandburg after Friday's battle.

"They [the Eagles] executed very well in all three phases of the game all night, and proved they are an excellent team. We had a tough time containing their quarterback all night, and we just couldn't keep our offensive consistency going for four quarters. They made a few more key plays than us."

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