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VOL. 23 • No. 40

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

Female juveniles charged with threatening junior high in Addison

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Addison Chief of Police Roy Selvik have announced that three juveniles, a 14-year-old female from Lombard and two 12-year-old females from Addison, have been charged with threatening an Addison junior high school.

The Lombard juvenile appeared in Juvenile Court on Sept. 9 in front of Judge Chantelle Porter who ordered that she be placed on home detention with electronic monitoring. Her next court date is scheduled for Sept. 25. The first Addison juvenile appeared in Juvenile Court

on Sept. 14 in front of Judge Porter who ordered that she be placed on home detention with electronic monitoring. Her next court date is scheduled for Oct. 1.

The second Addison juvenile appeared in Juvenile Court Sept. 16 in front of Judge Porter who ordered that she be placed on home detention with electronic monitoring. Her next court date is scheduled for Oct. 25. The Lombard juvenile is charged with one count of disorderly conduct—transmitting a threat to a school building, a Class 4 felony.

The two Addison juveniles have each been

charged with two counts of disorderly conduct—transmitting a threat to a school building.

According to the State's Petitions filed in Juvenile Court against the Addison juveniles, on Aug. 11, the two Addison juveniles created and shared with each other a video depicting themselves as cartoon figures "walking around a school, taking out rifles, shooting students and then killing themselves." Following an investigation into the matter, it is alleged that the video contained a hand-written map showing the interior layout of Indian Trail Junior High School with the lunchroom,

office, nurse and bathroom labeled and depicted the juveniles shooting in the hallway at drawn figures with the sounds of gunshots and screams.

According to the petition filed against the Lombard juvenile, approximately two weeks later, on Aug. 29, the juvenile allegedly "transmitted a threat of violence, death or bodily harm directed at persons at Indian Trail Junior High School" via Snapchat and WhatsApp to one of the Addison juveniles.

See JUVENILES, Page 8

Students with special needs, families invited to attend Options Fair

The annual Options Fair was established to offer students with special needs and their families an opportunity to learn about postsecondary choices and resources. This year's event will take place from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 30, at Addison Trail High School, 213 N. Lombard Road.

The program is free to the public, and pre-registration is not required.

Sponsored through the collaborative effort of area high schools, this year's fair will feature colleges, universities, college certificate programs, college experience programs, careers in the trades, and agencies that provide services to youth and adults with special needs.

The event is divided into four areas of focus:

- College degree programs, with information regarding admissions and accommodations.
- College experience programs, for those interested in continuing their education formally after high school (the focus will be on developing vocational, social, independent-living and academic skills for employment and beyond).
- Trades/certification programs, with information regarding admissions and training opportunities in trades such as automotive, skilled manufacturing, HVAC, welding and cosmetology.
- Adult agencies/services, with insight into accessing state funding and services, obtaining government benefits, guardianship, long-term financial planning, day programs and more.

There also will be an adult agency panel Q&A and a presentation on College of DuPage access and accommodations.

For more information, visit <https://options-fair.org>.

Addison Trail to host Kermes celebration on Oct. 3



From 4-7 p.m. on Oct. 3, Addison Trail will host its annual Kermes (Latino food and culture festival). All students, parents, guardians, alumni, staff and community members are invited to attend. Kermes will feature traditional Latino dishes; live entertainment, featuring traditional dances and music from Addison Trail student groups; raffles and games and activities for children. Admission is free. Proceeds from dinner tickets will support scholarships for Addison Trail students. The event is sponsored by Addison Trail's Interact Club and Padres Unidos (United Parents) group. For questions or more information, contact Interact Club advisers Rebecca Vogt (rvogt@dupage88.net, 630-458-4516) or Claire Sychta (csychta@dupage88.net, 630-458-4158). (Submitted photo from last year's Kermes event)

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The Addison Independent is
published every Thursday by
O'Rourke Media Group,
PO Box 237,
Kiel, WI 53042

Display Advertising:
630-834-8244

Classified Advertising:
630-834-8244

News:
630-834-8244

General Information:
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Business Hours:
Monday-Friday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Harvest Fest returns with free activities, Artisan Alley

Fall is coming, and the Bensenville Park District is inviting the community to celebrate the season at Harvest Fest from noon-5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at Fischer Farm, 16W680 Old Grand Ave.

With free admission and a variety of activities available at no cost, Harvest Fest offers an afternoon of family-friendly fun surrounded by the sights, sounds and traditions of the harvest season.

"Harvest Fest is one of those special events that brings the community together to enjoy the farm, celebrate the season and make memories," said Christine Shiel, Fischer Farm manager. "There is something for everyone, from exploring the corn maze and other free activities to shopping for unique finds in Artisan Alley and, of course, the food."

Nearly 30 local vendors will fill Artisan Alley on the West Lawn, offering handmade goods, artwork, seasonal items and other unique finds. Artisan Alley is open to shoppers throughout the event, with individual vendor purchases priced separately.

Guests can enjoy a full lineup of free activities, including Subie's World — where kids are able to make and outfit their own Subie plush doll, a corn maze, a cider press demonstration, Meet the Beekeeper, harvest crafts, exciting farm carnival games and a straw pyramid.

For those looking to take home a traditional symbol of fall, the Pumpkin Patch will be open on the North Lawn. Wagon rides, pony rides, face painting and the bounce house also will be available for an additional fee with event tickets.

A complement of fall favorites such as roast-

ed corn pumpkin bread, apple cider donuts and pumpkin coffee rounds out the food and beverage menu, with every item priced between \$2 and \$5 worth of event tickets, sold separately at the front gate.

Live music will add to the festive atmosphere, with Tank and the Breez taking the stage at noon, Comstock Lode at 1:30 p.m. and The Curfew at 3:30 p.m. on the southwest lawn.

Harvest Fest is presented with major support from Grand Subaru, which has helped make the event a fall tradition for the community. Additional sponsors include ARC Limited McDonald's Family Restaurants, All Around Gymnastics and Texas Roadhouse. For more information — including directions, parking, activities with fees, Artisan Alley vendors and food menu with pricing — visit BvilleParks.org/HarvestFest.



Addison Trail Principal Jack Andrews shared a message about the significance of Patriot Day during a ceremony and brunch for local first responders from the Addison Police Department and the Addison Fire Protection District at Addison Trail on Sept. 11 — the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. (Submitted photo)

Addison Trail hosts ceremony to mark anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001 attacks

On Sept. 11, 2001, the United States experienced tragic terrorist attacks that claimed nearly 3,000 lives in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., including more than 400 first responders.

This year marked the 25th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, and Addison Trail came together to remember those who lost their lives and honor first responders who continue to protect and serve our communities.

As part of its annual 9/11 remembrance, Addison Trail hosted a ceremony and brunch for local first responders from the Addison Police Department and the Addison Fire Protection District. The event provided students and staff with an opportunity to express their gratitude and recognize the courage and dedication of those who serve the community. The gathering involved:

- Addison Trail Principal Jack Andrews sharing a message about the significance of Patriot Day
- Addison Trail students and staff participating in

a moment of silence, the Pledge of Allegiance and a video presentation

- Leaders of the Addison Trail Veterans Support Organization (ATVSO) introducing the attending first responders and presenting them with gift bags as a gesture of appreciation for their service and dedication

Later that evening, first responders also were introduced and honored on the football field before the Addison Trail Varsity Football game (against Hinsdale South). Members of Addison Trail's Blazer Battalion U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program presented the colors, the Addison Trail Marching Band performed the National Anthem and a moment of silence took place to remember Sept. 11, 2001.

The 25th anniversary provided a meaningful opportunity for the Addison Trail community to pause, reflect and remember the lives lost, while honoring the bravery and service of first responders.

Residents invited to get a coffee with DeSimone

Do you have questions or comments for Village President Frank DeSimone? Do you just want to sit down and have a chat with some friends?

Then bring a neighbor or a friend and come chat with the president and village trustees while you have a complementary cup of coffee.

"Speaking face to face with the residents of Bensenville is one of the most important roles that I have," said Village President Frank DeSimone. "It's always been my goal as the village president to be transparent and available to anyone. I'm grateful to the residents who have joined us every year that I've done coffee with the president, and I hope we can keep this conversation and tradition going strong."

Coffee with the president events will all take place from 9-11 a.m.

The 2026 coffee with the president scheduled events are set for:

- Sept. 26, at Breiter-Palm Park on Church Road.
- Oct. 3, at Mohawk Park on Hillside Drive.
- Oct. 10, at the Heritage Center in Bensenville Village Hall.

In case of any inclement weather the event may be cancelled, so be sure to stay updated and follow the Village of Bensenville socials for updates or visit Bensenville.gov.



Three coffee with the president events are set for Sept. 26, Oct. 3 and Oct. 10, when residents can meet and speak with Bensenville Village President Frank DeSimone (shown here). (Submitted photo)

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. 15

Matthew A. Budy, 44, of Lombard, was charged with DUI and improper lane usage near Swift and Concord at 9:24 p.m.

Josue A. Guadarrama, 41, of Addison, was charged with aggravated violation of misrepresented material and theft by deception in the 600 block of S. Wisconsin at 8:16 p.m.

Rogelio Olivares Orizaba, 25, of Glendale Heights, was charged with leaving the scene of an accident, failure to report an accident to police and two counts of DUI in the 1500 block of W. Lake at 10:16 p.m.

Sept. 11

Jose Victor Lopez, 29, of Bensenville, was charged with DUI, driving while license suspended and

failure to reduce speed near School and Byron at 1:05 a.m. Tommy Pittman Jr., 43, of Addison, was charged with resisting/obstructing a police officer, DUI and obstructing identification in the 200 block of W. Parkview at 3:04 a.m.

A 55-year-old Addison woman was charged with two counts of resisting a police officer and two counts of domestic battery at 4:41 p.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.

Sept. 13, 8:30 a.m. near Fairway Drive, Robert Czwartek of Bensenville was arrested for two counts of DUI.

Sept. 10, 3:33 p.m. near E. Grand and David Drive, Andrade C. Alcivades of Bensenville was arrested for a failure to appear warrant out of DuPage County.

•Juveniles (Continued from page 1)

"asking her about security measures at Indian Trail Junior High School" stating that "she was going to buy a gun when she was 15, that she would do a school shooting in 2030, and that when she turned 15 she would come to Indian Trail Junior High School and conduct a school shooting."

The matter came to the attention of authorities after two students at one of the Addison juvenile's school allegedly overheard the juvenile talking on the phone about the plot with the Lombard juvenile. The students immediately contacted the School Resource Officer. An investigation into the matter conducted by the Addison Police Department led to the three juveniles as the people allegedly involved in the threatening correspondence.

"First and foremost, I commend the students who brought this matter to authorities for their courage and concern for their fellow students and staff," Berlin said. "They absolutely did the right thing and we all owe them a debt of gratitude. It is because of their actions, a possible tragedy has been prevented. With the school year just beginning, I want to remind everyone that school safety remains a top priority of my office. Schools are central to our communities and incidents or threats that jeopardize the safety of our schools, can have a chilling effect on not only the students and staff at the school, but all of us."

"It is incumbent upon us that we all work together to ensure our schools remain a safe place where teachers can teach and students can learn without fear for their personal safety. My office takes any sign of potential violence, real or perceived, involving a school very seriously and anyone suspected of any such behavior will not only hold these juveniles accountable for their alleged actions but will also give our juvenile justice system the opportunity to get them the help they need to get on the right track."

"Again, I thank the students for bringing this matter to our attention and I remind all of our students, if you see something, say something. I thank authorities at Indian Trail Junior High School for their cooperation throughout the investigation and for their continued dedication to school safety. I also thank the Addison Police Department for their efforts on this case."

"The safety and security of our students and staff remain our absolute priority, and we take every threat to our schools very seriously," Selvik said. "This incident and the nature of the threats are incredibly disturbing. I highly commend the quick response by Addison detectives as well as the strong support of State's Attorney Bob Berlin, whose efforts prevented what could have been a very real threat to our community."

Youth culinary classes offer hands-on learning, fun

The Bensenville Park District is inviting young chefs to mix, measure, bake and create this fall and winter with a lineup of hands-on youth culinary programs designed to build kitchen confidence while having fun.

Chief Explorers Academy (606726-01) will transform curious kids ages 6-10 into confident cooks through weekly hands-on cooking and baking adventures. From chopping and mixing to measuring, following recipes and using kitchen tools safely, participants will develop essential kitchen skills while building independence and creativity. Each week features a new recipe and a fresh culinary adventure. The class meets from 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 23-Nov. 4, in the Deer Grove Leisure Center 2nd Floor Kitchen. The fee is \$110, \$100 in district.

Several new one-day culinary pop-

up classes will offer seasonal opportunities for ages 8-12 in the DGLC 2nd Floor Kitchen. The fee for each is \$55 or \$50 in district.

The new Apple Pie Cup Class (616726-01) will teach participants how to mix, assemble and bake individual apple pie cups from scratch, 5-6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24.

For a spooky-season baking adventure, the new Pumpkin Patch Cupcake Decorating Class (626726-01) will let young bakers create their own pumpkin patch cupcakes using colorful frosting, candy decorations and edible toppings from 5-6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22.

Fall flavors take center stage in the new Maple-Cinnamon "Doughnut Hole" Baking Class (636726-01) from 5-6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24. Participants will make warm doughnut holes from scratch, coat them in cin-

namon sugar and finish them with a maple glaze.

The culinary fun continues into the holidays with the new Hot Cocoa and "Snow Globe Cookie Jar" Pop-Up Class (646726-01) from 5-6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 22. Participants will enjoy hot cocoa while creating edible snow globe dessert jars with layers of sweet treats and festive decorations.

All pop-up classes have a minimum of five and maximum of 10 participants. Parents should inform park district staff of any food allergies at the time of registration. Registration is available online at BvilleParks.org/.

Register by searching the applicable program registration code or in person at the Deer Grove Leisure Center, 1000 W. Wood St. in Bensenville. For more information, call the Bensenville Park District at 630-766-7015.

Addison Trail hosts annual new student breakfast



On Sept. 2, Addison Trail hosted its annual new student breakfast, with Addison Trail and District 88 administrators and staff members greeting more than 65 students who are new to the area or who have transferred to Addison Trail. The goal of the breakfast is to welcome those students to the school and help establish a sense of belonging and inclusion. Addison Trail Director of Guidance Kevin Redding gave new students tips on how to be successful throughout their high school career, and Principal Jack Andrews (an alumnus of Addison Trail) provided words of encouragement. (Submitted photo)

Bensenville Park District adds new STEAM with Me classes for fall

Young scientists, engineers, artists and problem-solvers can put their curiosity to work with the Bensenville Park District's new STEAM with Me monthly classes. Designed for ages 5-12, the four-class series combines Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics with hands-on activities that make complex concepts fun, approachable and easy to understand. Sign up for one or all four.

The series begins with the Weather Wonders Lab from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, in the Maple Elm Room at the Deer Grove Leisure Center, 1000 W. Wood St. Participants will investigate what causes storms, tornadoes and rain through hands-on experiments, including creating tornadoes in bottles, rain clouds

in jars and testing wind force. The activities will help young weather scientists understand how weather works while encouraging curiosity about the natural world. The registration number is 605106-01.

Next up is the LEGO Engineering Lab (605106-02) from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21. Young engineers will use LEGO-style building bricks to tackle challenges such as constructing the tallest tower, strongest bridge and fastest vehicle.

In November, the Turkey Trouble Slime Lab will bring science and slime together from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 18. Participants will mix, measure and experiment to create custom slime while learning how ingredients combine to form

polymers. Register for the class using number 605106-03.

The series wraps up with the Winter Blizzard Build Challenge (605106-04) from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16. Participants will design and build structures, shelters and devices using everyday materials, then put their creations to the test in a simulated winter blizzard.

Each STEAM with Me class is for ages 5-12 and has a minimum of five and maximum of 15 participants. Sign up a week prior to each class. The fee is \$17, or \$15 in district, for each class. For registration details, visit BvilleParks.org/Register and search the appropriate program registration number, or call the park district at 630-766-7015.

Sports

Montini Catholic football team delivers more fourth-quarter magic in victory over Carmel

Next up for Broncos will be homecoming contest against St. Rita this Friday night

The Montini Catholic football team earned its third straight victory with Friday night's 42-35 triumph over Mundelein's Carmel Catholic High School in a Chicago Catholic League (CCL) crossover battle in Lombard.

The Broncos, who play in the CCL Green Division, raised their overall season record to 4-1 with their win. Carmel, which plays in the CCL Orange Division, fell to 2-3 with the loss.

Following a scoreless first quarter, the visiting Corsairs took a 7-0 lead after a 1-yard touchdown run early in the second quarter. Montini evened the score at 7-7 after a 15-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Israel Abrams to senior Damacio Oregon,

and the ensuing extra-point kick by senior Johnny Louise.

Montini senior defensive tackle Andrew Ayala scored his team's next touchdown when he intercepted a Carmel screen pass and rumbled 27 yards into the end zone. The extra-point kick from Louise pushed the Broncos' lead to 14-7 with 2:19 remaining in the first half.

Carmel evened the score at 14-14 by half-time after scoring on a 4-yard touchdown pass and adding the extra-point kick with 18 seconds left in the opening half.

Both teams scored one touchdown during the third quarter, which ended with the teams deadlocked at 21-21. Senior Eddie Kowalczyk

delivered Montini's third-quarter score with a 36-yard touchdown run.

The Broncos, who scored 20 unanswered points in the closing minutes of their thrilling 47-42 victory at Nazareth Academy on Sept. 11, turned in another explosive fourth quarter seven days later in Lombard. Abrams provided a 4-yard touchdown run early in the final quarter of the battle against Carmel. After Montini made a defensive stop, Abrams and Oregon connected on a 33-yard touchdown pass that raised the Broncos' lead to 34-21. Carmel responded with a 26-yard touchdown pass

See MONTINI, Page 10

Warriors suffer second straight conference loss

Willowbrook prepares to play homecoming game Friday

The Willowbrook football team slipped to 2-3 overall and 1-2 in West Suburban Gold Conference action after Friday's 35-18 conference loss at Hinsdale South. The Hornets, who held a 21-6 halftime lead over the Warriors, improved to 3-2 overall and 3-0 in conference play with the victory.

Willowbrook's offensive unit moved the ball down the field on the game's opening series, but the Warriors' drive ended when Hinsdale South intercepted a pass near the goal line. The Hornets then began a drive at their own 20-yard line. Moments later, they scored on

See WILLOWBROOK, Page 10



Glenbard East beat Glenbard South 20-12 in Friday's game, which was highlighted by the Great American Rivalry Series. The series, presented by the U.S. Army, focuses on high school football rivalries across the country. (Photos by Chris Fox)

Rams hang on to beat Raiders



Glenbard East senior Montil Perry won the game's MVP award after he rushed for 190 yards and two touchdowns during the Rams' rivalry victory against the Raiders.

Glenbard East wins third straight, moves to 3-2

Glenbard East's football team moved to 3-2 overall and 3-0 in the Upstate Eight Conference East Division following Friday night's 20-12 victory over Glenbard South in Lombard.

The Rams led the visiting Raiders 20-6 with seven minutes left in the game, which took place in pleasant weather conditions. Glenbard South, which dropped to 3-2 overall and 2-1 in the division with its loss, scored a touchdown with a little more than three minutes to play to cut Glenbard East's lead to 20-12. The Raiders regained possession with more than one minute to play, but turned the ball over on downs.

Glenbard East maintained its hold on the Rivalry Trophy that's held by the winner of its annual contest against the Raiders. The Rams have now won five straight games against Glenbard South. The Raiders last defeated Glenbard East in 2021, when they claimed a 40-20 win in Lombard.

In addition to holding on to the Rivalry Trophy, the Rams picked up another trophy after Friday's win over the Raiders. The Great American Rivalry Series, presented by the U.S. Army, selected the contest

See GLENBARD EAST, Page 11

Warriors dominate Blazers as Pettinger scores three TDs during first quarter

Willowbrook's flag football team raised its 2026 season record to 11-0 after routing Addison Trail 47-6 in Villa Park on Sept. 17. The Warriors led the visiting Blazers 19-0 after one quarter and 41-0 at halftime. Senior Liz Pettinger scored all three of Willowbrook's first-quarter touchdowns.

She scored the first TD of the game on a 31-yard reception from senior quarterback Kaitlyn Santos. Pettinger then intercepted an Addison Trail pass and raced 65 yards for a touchdown. She scored her third touchdown of the quarter on a 30-yard reception from Santos.

Senior Janell Adams ran 32 yards for a touchdown during the second quarter. Senior quarterback Madeline Carine

See FLAG FOOTBALL, Page 10



Liz Pettinger scored all three of the Warriors' first-quarter TDs against Addison Trail. She hauled in two touchdown receptions and returned an interception 65 yards into the end zone. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Warriors win pair of home matches

Willowbrook's girls volleyball team boosted its overall season record to 13-4 with a pair of home wins last week. The Warriors moved to 2-0 in West Suburban Gold Conference play following their 25-7, 25-11 victory over Leyden on Sept. 15. Two days later, Willowbrook earned a 25-7, 25-15 non-conference win over West Aurora.

Senior Melanie Mariner provided 12 assists, six digs and four aces in the Warriors' win over Leyden. Senior Maggie Hurley bashed six kills for Willowbrook. Sophomore Evelyn Lammers contributed five kills, while sophomores Lucy Franz and Darcy Hurley supplied four kills each. Senior Tess Doyle delivered eight digs and five aces. Freshman Paige Mariner handed out seven assists.

Melanie Mariner dished out 12 assists in Willowbrook's win over West Aurora. Darcy Hurley and Lammers connected for six kills each. Maggie Hurley contributed five kills, three aces, two blocks and two digs. Doyle and senior Matea Mockler made four digs each. Junior Charlotte Baker provided four assists.

The Warriors faced Addison Trail in a West Suburban Gold Conference match earlier this week in Villa Park.



Willowbrook sophomore Evelyn Lammers (12) had six kills in the victory over West Aurora. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Rams drop three-game battles against Raiders, Blazers



Senior Belle McDermott serves for the Rams against Glenbard South. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Glenbard East's girls volleyball team faced Glenbard South in last week's Upstate Eight Conference East Division contest in Lombard. The Rams won the opening game of the Sept. 15 match, but the visiting Raiders rallied to win the next two games and earn a 21-25, 25-18, 25-14 win. Glenbard East's division record fell to 1-1 with the loss.

One day after facing the Raiders, the Rams traveled to Addison Trail for a non-division match. The Blazers prevailed in three games, winning 25-21, 10-25, 25-13. Glenbard East's overall season record fell to 5-12 with the loss.

Senior Belle McDermott piled up 11 kills, 11 digs, five aces and two assists for the Rams in their loss at Addison Trail.

Junior Abby Michelson contributed 10 digs, six kills and six assists for Glenbard East. Sophomore Eileen Urbina provided 10 digs. Senior Claire Bolda supplied three kills and three digs, while sophomore Madison Schmidt hit three kills and served three aces. Sophomore Olivia Stieve handed out six assists and made three digs. Senior Taylor Griffith made four digs.

The Rams' schedule this week includes non-division matches against Elk Grove and Lake Park.

Glenbard East's O'Donnell runs to win in invitational at Marmion

Glenbard East's girls and boys cross-country teams competed in last week's "Run So As To Win" Invitational at Marmion Academy in Aurora. Junior Teigan O'Donnell ran to a first-place finish in the 3-mile girls race at the Sept. 16 event. O'Donnell, who qualified for the IHSA Class 5A state meet in 2024 and 2025, finished the race in a winning time of 18 minutes, 54.4 seconds. She crossed the finish line a little more than 10 seconds ahead of the runner-up. The girls race featured 155 finishers.

Glenbard East freshman Isabelle Budy (20:48.8) ran to a 25th-place finish. Sophomore Ellie Pangilinan (23:10.2) of the Rams landed in 47th place. Junior Charlotte Kenmerling (23:33.9; 55th) and

freshman Monroe Brumm (24:11.7; 70th) completed Glenbard East's scoring lineup. The Rams finished fifth in the team standings of the event, which included 13 teams.

The Rams' boys team placed seventh out of 17 teams in the Sept. 16 competition in Aurora. Senior Alexander Hernandez led the Rams with his sixth-place finish. He covered the 3-mile course in 16 minutes, 24.2 seconds. Sophomore Kyler Tilgner (17:38.7) placed 27th for Glenbard East. Junior David Botero (17:40.1) finished in 30th place for the Rams. Junior Jason Kelly (18:31.9; 68th) and sophomore Nolan Walsh (18:37.0; 72nd) rounded out Glenbard East's scoring lineup.



Willowbrook's Janell Adams runs past defenders during her 86-yard touchdown reception against the Blazers. (Photo by Chris Fox)

•Flag football (Continued from page 9)

threw a 34-yard touchdown pass to senior Lillian Macias later in the second quarter. Adams threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to senior McKenzie Edison near the end of the second quarter.

Adams scored on the first play of the second half when she caught a short pass from Santos and motored down the sideline for an 86-yard

touchdown reception. The Warriors improved to 12-0 following their 44-0 victory at Oak Park/River Forest on Saturday, Sept. 19.

Willowbrook is scheduled to play four games this week, including this Friday's homecoming contest against Morton. The game will begin at 5 p.m. in Villa Park.

•Montini (Continued from page 9)

and trimmed Montini's advantage to 34-28. Abrams and Oregon then hooked up for their third touchdown connection of the evening, a 45-yard scoring pass that helped the Broncos boost their lead to 42-28 with 2:38 remaining in the game.

The Corsairs kept on fighting, and drove down the field to score on a 17-yard touchdown pass that helped them cut Montini's lead to 42-35. The Broncos punted the ball to the Corsairs, who took possession deep in their own territory in the closing minutes. Senior defensive back Andrew Christen helped Montini seal its victory when he forced a Carmel fumble. Senior linebacker Ben Evenson recovered the fumble for the Broncos.

Abrams completed 16 of 29 passes for 315 yards in Friday's victory. He threw three touchdown passes and added a touchdown run. Oregon hauled in 11 receptions for 238 yards and three touchdowns. Oregon also contributed a key defensive play by intercepting a Carmel pass during the

fourth quarter. Kowalczyk provided 101 rushing yards on 14 carries, along with a 40-yard reception on a third-down play.

Lonise, Evenson, senior linebacker Orlando Greco, senior defensive back Luca Florio, and junior defensive back Shea Wells recorded double-digit tackle totals in the win. Greco and Wells joined Ayala and Oregon in making one interception each. Senior Gavin Ericson, sophomore Blake Pohlman, and Ayala contributed strong performances on Montini's defensive line.

"Carmel had a great game plan, and really did a good job executing in all three phases of the game, but our guys kept making plays for four quarters, and never stopped battling all night long," stated Montini head coach Mike Bukovsky in his post-game comments.

The Broncos play their homecoming game this Friday, when they will face St. Rita in a CCL Green Division battle. The Mustangs of St. Rita enter the contest at 2-3 overall and 1-0 in the division.

•Willowbrook (Continued from page 9)

a 62-yard touchdown run and added the extra-point kick to take a 7-0 lead with 7:25 left in the opening quarter.

Hinsdale South scored on a 34-yard touchdown pass early in the second quarter. The extra-point kick gave the Hornets a 14-0 lead with 9:40 remaining in the first half.

Willowbrook scored its first points of the evening on a 20-yard touchdown pass from sophomore Jackson Dyers to senior Josiah Marlowe with 7:25 left in the second quarter. The Warriors missed the extra-point kick, leaving the Hornets' lead at 14-6.

Hinsdale South blocked a punt later in the second quarter and started an offensive drive at the Warriors' 29-yard line. The drive ended with a 1-yard touchdown run, followed by an extra-point kick that moved the Hornets' lead to 21-6 with 1:35 to play in the second quarter.

Hinsdale South added to its lead on a 30-yard touchdown pass with

7:47 left in the third quarter. The extra-point kick gave the Hornets a 28-6 lead. The lead grew to 35-6 after Hinsdale South's 20-yard touchdown run and the ensuing extra-point kick with 9:9 seconds left to play in the third quarter.

Willowbrook junior Jay Chavez scored on a 12-yard touchdown run with 9:40 remaining in the game. The Warriors attempted a run on the ensuing conversion attempt and were stopped short of the goal line.

Willowbrook scored its third and final touchdown of the night on a 24-yard run by senior quarterback Carter Holland with 2:25 to play. The Warriors then tried to run for the two-point conversion, but were unsuccessful.

Willowbrook will play its homecoming game this Friday, when it will face Morton (1-4 overall, 1-1 in division play) in a West Suburban Gold Conference matchup.

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VOL. 22 • No. 41

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

Block party at Willowbrook



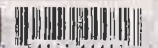
Senior Tess Doyle (6) and her teammates on Willowbrook High School's girls volleyball team were fired up after sophomore Lucy Franz made a block to win a point for the Warriors during the second game of last week's home match against West Aurora. Willowbrook defeated the visiting Blackhawks 25-7, 25-15 during the Sept. 17 contest in Villa Park to boost its overall season record to 13-4. For more sports, see pages 9 through 11. (Photo by Chris Fox)

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Main Phone 630-834-8244

The Villa Park Review is
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O'Rourke Media Group.
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Kiel, WI 53042

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630-834-8244

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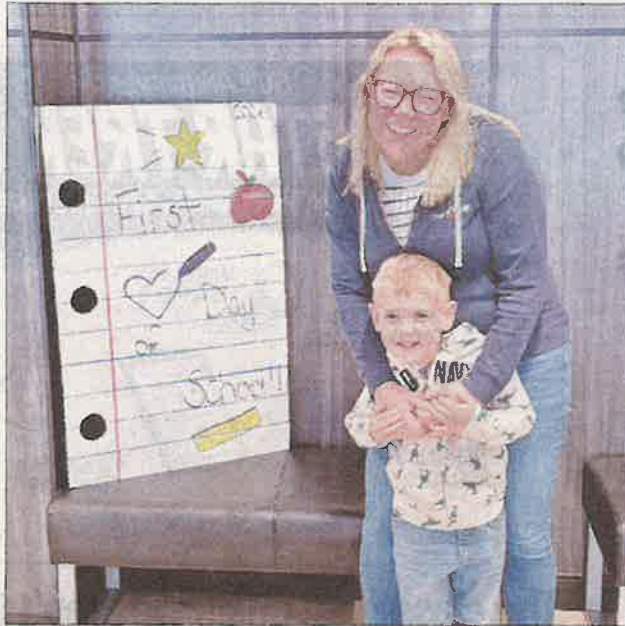
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Preschoolers begin new school year



The Villa Park Parks and Recreation Department's 2.5-year-old and 4-year-old preschoolers kicked off their 2026-27 school year last week at the Villa Park Recreation Center. The children learned new songs, created fun crafts, and got to meet their new classmates and teachers. "We're so excited for all the learning, growing and fun that's ahead this school year," stated the parks and recreation department in a social media post. (Photos by Lily Morgan/Village of Villa Park)

Area News

Ardmore Avenue, Highridge Road set to be closed on Friday during Willowbrook homecoming parade

Willowbrook High School is celebrating its homecoming this week. This year's theme is "A Night in Rio."

The special week will include a variety of activities, including Willowbrook's 2026 homecoming parade, which will begin at 4 p.m. this Friday, Sept. 25. The parade will begin near the Ruggard Gazebo, at Park Boulevard and Ardmore Avenue in Villa Park, and will proceed south on Ardmore to the school.

Villa Park residents should note that from about 4 to 4:45 p.m. this Friday, Ardmore Avenue will be closed from Park Boulevard to Highridge Road for the homecoming parade. Highridge Road will also be closed during that time.

Senior Fair to be held this Friday

The Villa Park Senior Concerns Commission will host the Villa Park Senior Fair on Friday, Sept. 25, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Villa Park Recreation Center, 320 E. Wildwood Ave.

Meet with local organizations and service providers offering valuable information on health, wellness, safety, financial resources, recreation, and community services.

Free health screenings, vaccine opportunities, and helpful resources will be available. Admission is free, and all seniors, caregivers, and families are welcome.

Vendors include Addison Township, York Township, Endeavor Health, Costco, DuPage Senior Citizens Council, DuPage Community Services, Villa Park Osco (flu shots), and more.

Golf Under the Stars fundraiser to be held Oct. 2 at Sugar Creek

The Kiwanis Club of Villa Park-Lombard and the Rotary Club of Villa Park will present their Golf Under the Stars fundraiser on Friday, Oct. 2, at Sugar Creek Golf Course, 500 E. Van Buren St., Villa Park. Dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m., followed by golf at 7 p.m.

Tickets for dinner are \$35 per person. Tickets for dinner and golf are \$75 per person. For tickets, sponsorship information, and to schedule a tee time, visit www.kiwanisclubofvillapark.com or contact Sandy Hill at the Villa Park Public Library at 630-478-4029, or at shill@vppl.info.

Villa Park residents invited to Autumn Jubilee on Oct. 10

The Villa Park Community F.U.N. (Focus on Unifying Neighbors) Commission invites you to the fourth annual Autumn Jubilee on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Villa Park Historical Museum, 220 S. Villa Ave., along the Illinois Prairie Path.

Enjoy a fun-filled day featuring food trucks, sweet treats, beverages, live entertainment, face painting, balloon art, arts and crafts, unique vendors, and local animal rescue groups.

District 88 to hold referendum information meetings, give presentations

During its Aug. 10 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education approved the placement of a referendum question on the Nov. 5, 2026, ballot to address facility needs at Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools.

The question requests permission to authorize the issuance of \$118 million in referendum bonds, without a net tax rate increase. Facility improvements include safety and security upgrades and improvements to infrastructure, ADA accessibility and Career and Technical Education (CTE) spaces. The board made this decision after reviewing a comprehensive facilities assessment that was completed by the district's architectural firm, as well as engaging the community for a year to gather feedback and input from a variety of stakeholder groups.

If approved, the bond referendum would fund

safety and security upgrades and improvements to infrastructure, ADA accessibility and CTE spaces at both facilities without a net tax rate increase. This is possible because District 88 has existing referendum debt that will be paid off after levy year 2026, and the district has limited the proposal to the highest-priority needs.

District 88 invites all of its stakeholders to attend the upcoming public information meetings to learn more about the referendum, ask questions and tour the buildings.

There will be an online meeting beginning at 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 28.

Another meeting will take place Thursday, Oct. 8, at Willowbrook High School, 1250 S. Ardmore Ave., Villa Park, and begin at 6 p.m.

There will be a meeting at Addison Trail High School, 215 N. Lombard Road, Addison, on Sat-

urday, Oct. 10, beginning at 10 a.m. To register for the meetings, visit www.dupage88.net/PublicInfoMeetings.

District officials to give presentations at community events in Villa Park: District 88 representatives will discuss the bond referendum at upcoming community information events, including the "Get the Facts: District 45 and District 88 Referendum Forum" that will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Room W4 at Willowbrook this Thursday, Sept. 24. Attendees should enter through Door 6. District 88 will present from 7:30 to 7:40 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session from 7:40 to 8:10 p.m.

There will be another community information event at Villa Park VFW Post 2801, 39 E. St. Charles Road, on Tuesday, Sept. 29, beginning at 7:30 p.m.