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VOL. 23 · No. 44 WWW.ADDISONINDEPENDENTNEWS.COM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026

Chicago woman charged with attempted armed robbery in September Oak Brook mall shooting

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Oak Brook Chief of Police Brian Strockis announced last week that Judge Joshua Dieden granted the state's motion to deny pre-trial release for a Chicago woman charged in connection with a shooting at Oakbrook Center in late September.



Chance Jamerson

Chance Jamerson, 29, appeared in First Appearance Court and was charged with three counts of attempted armed robbery, a Class 1 felony.

On Sept. 30 at approximately 12:09 p.m., officers with the Oak Brook Police Department received a call of shots fired in the parking lot outside the Oak Book Mall. Upon their arrival, officers observed Justin Hill, who appeared to have sustained a gunshot wound, lying in the parking lot. He was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Officers also found that Jamerson appeared to have sustained a gunshot wound as well. She was transported to an area hospital for medical attention. Following an investigation into the shooting, it is alleged that the driver of a black Mercedes had arranged with Jamerson and two other individuals to go to the Oak Brook Mall to purchase four Swatch watches, priced at approximately $448 each plus tax, which were limited to one purchase per person.

It is alleged that the driver of the Mercedes had brought $2,000 with him to purchase the watches. It is alleged that at approximately 12:01 p.m., the black Mercedes, with four occupants, including Jamerson who was seated in the back driver's side of the Mercedes, pulled into a parking stall. It is alleged that a short time later, a white Nissan Rogue, later determined to be driven by the sole occupant, Hill, pulled behind the Mercedes and blocked it in. It is further alleged that after blocking in the Mercedes, Hill exited the Rogue and approached the rear passenger side of the Mercedes, opened the door, pointed a gun at the car's occupants and said, "give me all that s***".

It is alleged that the driver of the Mercedes exited the vehicle and began wrestling Hill for the gun at which point, Jamerson jumped out of the back seat of the car and tried to help Hill as he wrestled the driver of the Mercedes for the gun. It is alleged that the driver of the Mercedes wrestled the gun away from Hill and discharged the gun, striking Jamerson and Hill. Following the shooting, the victims fled the scene in

See SHOOTING, Page 8



From Sept. 28 to Oct. 3, Addison Trail High School hosted a Hispanic Heritage Week, which featured spirit days, lunchtime activities, student-led musical performances, poetry and the annual Kermes — a Latino food and culture festival. It marked the 10th year the school celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month. (Submitted photo)

Addison Trail celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with activities, live performances, special events

For the 10th year, Addison Trail celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month, with the school hosting a Hispanic Heritage Week from Sept. 28 to Oct. 3 that featured spirit days, lunchtime activities, student-led musical performances, poetry and the annual Kermes Latino food and culture festival.

Students helped decorate the school hallways with papel picado (traditional Mexican decorative paper banners), displays featuring famous Hispanic icons and a wall recognizing Hispanic staff members.

The week began Sept. 28 with conchas in the commons area and a musical performance by Mariachi de Addison Trail, an Addison Trail student-led group.

The gathering gave students and staff an opportunity to enjoy a traditional Mexican sweet bread and celebrate Hispanic heritage and culture through music.

On Oct. 1, the school welcomed Chicago-based writer and educator Diego Báez for two sessions. Báez guided students through brainstorming techniques to help them get started on a poem and also spoke with students about poetry, writing and his experiences as a writer and educator. He is the author of "Yaguareté White," which was named Best New Poetry Collection by the Chicago Reader.

The week continued Oct. 2 with a concert during lunch periods. Students and staff gathered in the commons area to enjoy performances by two Addison Trail student-led groups, Grupo Quimera and Los de la Clave.

Addison Trail hosted Kermes on Oct. 3. The event showcased traditional Latino dishes along with live student performances, music, raffles, games and activities for children. Proceeds will help provide scholarships for Addison Trail students. The event was sponsored by Addison Trail's Interact Club and Padres Unidos.

The event involved 70 student volunteers and participation from more than nine other clubs.

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ILLINOIS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Illinois AirTeam offering emissions tests at Bensenville's Veterans Park Nov. 16-20

Illinois AirTeam mobile testing units will return to Bensenville in November, offering vehicle emissions testing for area motorists at Veterans Park, located at the corner of Main Street and Church Road in Bensenville.

Specially equipped emissions testing vans will be on-site from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, Nov. 16-20, providing an additional testing option for motorists who have received notice that their vehicles require emissions testing. The Illinois AirTeam Mobile Testing Unit program is designed to improve accessibility by bringing emissions testing services directly into local communities.

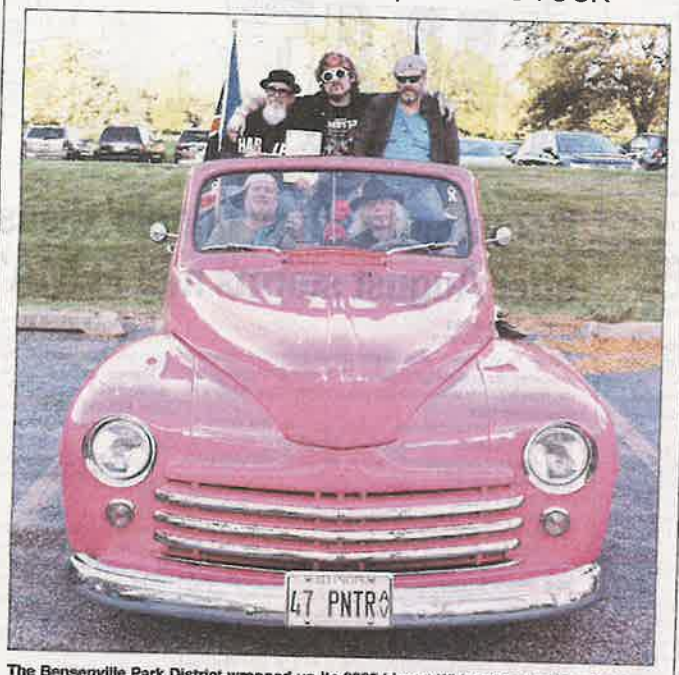
Motorists can confirm whether their vehicles require testing by using the Vehicle Eligibility Check Tool at ilairteam.com/vehicle-eligibility-check-tool and entering their Vehicle Identification Number or license plate number.

Hosting the mobile testing units locally provides motorists with another convenient opportunity to complete a required vehicle emissions test, according to Bensenville Park District Executive Director Joe Vallez.

"Bringing the Illinois AirTeam's mobile testing units to Veterans Park gives motorists another convenient opportunity to take care of their emissions testing close to home," Vallez said. "The park district is pleased to provide a local location that makes this routine requirement a little easier for our residents."

For more information about Illinois AirTeam mobile testing units, including a schedule of locations, visit ilairteam.com/mobile-testing-units.

Classic cars, cornhole, classic rock



The Bensenville Park District wrapped up its 2026 Live at White Pines series with Cars, Cornhole and Classic Rock on Oct. 11. Attendees checked out a showcase of classic cars, tossed some bags in a friendly game of cornhole, grabbed a bite to eat or a cocktail and enjoyed live classic rock from Chicago-area band Joker's Rival. (Submitted photo)

Residents can save $10 on round of golf at White Pines

Bensenville residents can squeeze in a few more swings before the golf season winds down with a special offer at White Pines Golf Club, 500 W. Jefferson St. in Bensenville. The club is offering in-district residents $10 off any round of golf, making fall the perfect time to enjoy the crisp air, scenic course views and a little extra time on the greens.

"Fall is a beautiful time to play golf at White Pines, and this special gives Bensenville residents another reason to get out on the course before the season ends," said Andrew Godfrey, PGA general manager of White Pines Golf Club. "It's a great opportunity to enjoy a round, take in the fall scenery and make the most of the remaining golf season."

The $10 discount is available exclusively to Bensenville in-district residents through Nov. 1. Golfers are encouraged to take advantage of the offer and enjoy a few more rounds before the season comes to a close.

For more information about White Pines Golf Club or to book a tee time, visit WhitePinesGolf.com or call the Pro Shop at 630-766-0304.

District 88 Foundation invites area residents to participate in annual Mayor's Charity Ball

The 35th annual Addison Mayor's Community Charity Ball on Nov. 7 will raise needed funds for Addison-based charities and service organizations, including the District 88 Foundation. The foundation invites residents to support Addison Trail and Willowbrook students through participation in the event.

Tickets to the ball — set to begin at 6 p.m. on Nov. 7 at Medinah Shriners (550 Shriners Drive in Addison) — cost $130 each.

They can be purchased at https://tinyurl.com/AddisonMayorsBall2026.

Be sure to select "District 88 Foundation" as the organization of your choice.

There are a limited number of tickets. The deadline to register is Oct. 31, 2026.

Raffle tickets cost $5 each, or $20 for five tickets. Participants have three chances to win (prizes are $1,500, $1,000 and $500).

To buy raffle tickets, contact District 88 Director of Community Relations Dani Brink by Oct. 23. She can be reached at dbrink@dupage88.net or 630-530-3989. Checks should be made payable to "Addison Mayor's Community Charity Ball."

Contributions support mini-grants to benefit students through implementing innovative, teacher-led initiatives that could not otherwise be funded through the district's budget.

The foundation has offered mini-grants since the 2013-14 school year. Since that time, 120 mini-grants have been awarded, and more than $106,000 has been secured for students.

To view a list of mini-grant recipients, go to www.dupage88.net/Foundation.

Addison Trail news

Addison Trail seeks presenters for International Fest Week Nov. 10-12

Addison Trail is looking for speakers to share with students their travels and experiences from throughout the world for the school's annual International Fest Week.

The presentations provide an opportunity for students to learn about a variety of countries, cultures, topics and perspectives.

The goal is to promote traveling abroad, international work, the benefits of being bilingual or multilingual and more.

The event will be held Nov. 10, 11 and 12. Presentations should be about 45 minutes long (including a few minutes for questions). The presentations will take place during lunch periods (between 10:55 a.m. and 2:15 p.m.).

To sign up as a presenter, complete the brief form at https://forms.gle/5ahMHHrbWyCtx-WMQ6 by Oct. 20.

For questions or more information, contact Addison Trail staff members and International Club advisers Karen Pierropoulos (kpierropoulos@dupage88.net), Hannah Sutton (hsutton@dupage88.net) and Christina Trapani (ctrapani@dupage88.net).

Addison Trail Music Booster Club set to host Fall Craft Fair Oct. 24

The Addison Trail Music Booster Club invites all students, parents, guardians, alumni, staff, community members and friends to attend a Fall Craft Fair from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 24 at Addison Trail High School, 213 N. Lombard Road.

The craft fair will be held in the commons area. Enter at door No. 1 (the main entrance)

The event will feature live music from student performers, raffles, food and a variety of crafts and vendors.

Admission is free.

For questions or more information, e-mail athsmusiccraftfair@gmail.com

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.

Oct. 13

A 27-year-old Addison man was charged with two counts of domestic battery in the 1100 block of W. Army Trail at 9:46 p.m.

Oct. 11

Jeffrey M. Rodriguez-Rojas, 27, of Villa Park, was charged with obstructing identification in the 500 block of W. Green Oaks at 1:32 a.m.

Oct. 10

A 51-year-old Addison man was charged with two counts of domestic battery in the 2100 block of W. Concord at 2 a.m.

A 39-year-old Addison man was charged with domestic battery and criminal damage to property near Oak and Highview.

Oct. 9

Juan A. Martinez Montes, 44, of Addison, was charged with DUI and two counts of improper signal in the 500 block of W. Lake at 10:47 p.m.

A 34-year-old Addison man was charged with two counts of domestic battery in the 500 block of Stevens.

Shooting

(Continued from page 1)

the Mercedes and were located at the Oakbrook Terrace Police Department a short time later, while Jamerson allegedly entered the Nissan that Hill had arrived in and briefly drove around the parking lot.

Authorities took Jamerson into custody at the scene where she received medical attention and was transported to an area hospital.

While executing a search warrant on the Mercedes, officers located a Springfield 9 mm pistol. Officers also located 9 mm shell casings in the parking lot of the mall.

Following further investigation, it is alleged that prior to the incident, Jamerson was messaging Hill information including appraising Hill of their location, telling him what type of car they were in, to block them in, and to take everything including the phones in the car. It is alleged that Jamerson sent Hill a message at 11:54 a.m. stating, "Smavk his a** with the pipe n tell me turn the car off."

Additionally, it is further alleged that Jamerson sent Hill two messages at approximately 12:05 p.m. stating, "Block car in decent," and "Im help u get everything tho" and that after receiving these messages, Hill approached the Mercedes armed with a firearm, and announced a robbery.

As the investigation determined Justin Hill and Chance Jamerson were committing armed robbery with a firearm, a forcible felony, the driver of the Mercedes is not being charged in the shooting because Illinois law authorizes the use of deadly force to prevent the commission of a forcible felony.

"It is alleged that Ms. Jamerson, working in coordination with Mr. Hill, arranged to rob at gunpoint an innocent man of approximately two thousand dollars and two other innocent individuals of their personal property," Berlin said. "Violent crime, by its very nature, is dangerous and unpredictable and when you engage in such activity, everyone involved, not just the intended victim, is put at risk, particularly when a firearm is involved. The Oak Brook Mall remains a top shopping and entertainment destination for many throughout the Chicagoland area and I assure the public that with the holiday shopping season just around the corner, law enforcement will be out in full force to ensure a safe, secure and enjoyable experience for shoppers, diners and all the visitors at the mall and surrounding areas."

"The response to this incident was swift, coordinated and professional," Strockis said. "Our officers, investigators and law enforcement partners demonstrated exceptional work in building this case and securing the appropriate charges against the surviving offender. Technology played a critical role in both the immediate response and the investigative process. The safety of Oakbrook Center and the entire Oak Brook community remains a top priority for our department. We commit substantial resources every day to protecting our residents, businesses and visitors, and this incident underscores the importance of preparedness, strong partnerships and effective investigative work.".

Jamerson's next court appearance is scheduled for Oct. 23 in front of Judge Brian Telander.

Gathering at the Grapevine raises more than $11K



The District 88 Foundation extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended, supported and helped coordinate the third annual Gathering at the Grapevine fundraiser. The event took place on Sept. 19 at DeVine Wine and Cocktail Bar in Villa Park and raised funds for District 88 students. Participants enjoyed drinks, food, live music, a raffle, a silent auction and more. About 80 people came out to the event and joined the foundation for a great cause. The event raised about $11,600. (Submitted photo)

District 88's Humphrey earns Junior Achievement of Chicago's Above & Beyond Award for 2026

District 88 Student Success Coordinator Dr. VaLarie Humphrey was recently honored during the Junior Achievement of Chicago (JA)'s Annual Meeting and Luncheon.

Humphrey was recognized by JA with the 2026 Above & Beyond Award for partnering the organization with District 88's Beyond B.O.S.S. Community to strengthen the financial confidence and readiness of Addison Trail and Willowbrook students. The Beyond B.O.S.S. Community engages Black students and their parents/guardians in meaningful programs and events that celebrate identity, build leadership and strengthen connections.

The group's mission is to educate, expose, empower and prepare Black students for success beyond high school. According to https://jausa.ja.org, JA "helps young people discover what's possible in their lives ... by helping them connect what they learn in school with life outside the classroom."

The collaboration between District 88 and JA is composed of four key programs.

Through the JA Town Budgeting Experience, this program, Beyond B.O.S.S. students participate in an interactive mock town and take on real-world roles. They manage budgets, track expenses, run businesses, vote and make decisions that mirror adult responsibilities. It provides them with a grounded and relatable way to understand money and daily financial choices.

Through JA in a Day, members of the district's Talented Scholars Network (TSN) (Black Scholars Honors Network) provided lessons at Evergreen Elementary School in Carol Stream as part of JA's High School Heroes Program. Every grade at the school received hands-on financial and career readiness activities.

The Talented Scholars Network (TSN) (Black Scholars Honors Network) participated in the JA Take Stock in Your Future program that uses a hands-on simulation to teach investing fundamentals. Students learned how buying and selling stocks works in real time, how risk plays a role and how current events move the market.

District 88 students participated in the JA Stock Market Challenge and placed as Regional Finalists.

This is a live simulation, where students take what they learned in the classroom through the JA Take Stock in Your Future curriculum and apply it to the real world. JA Areas facilitate fast-paced competitions based on a fictional marketplace. Students can compete in teams or individually, in person or remotely.



Dr. VaLarie Humphrey joined Addison Trail in 2021-22 and was hired as District 88's first Student Success Coordinator in December 2023. (Submitted photo)

"Dr. Humphrey ... joined forces with JA to consistently create opportunities for students to build financial literacy skills, leadership skills, career awareness and confidence," JA said during the awards presentation.

Humphrey joined Addison Trail in 2021-22 and quickly made an impact. She was hired as District 88's first Student Success Coordinator in December 2023.

Dr. Humphrey has more than 35 years of experience in education and travels the world as a motivational/transformational speaker. She was an educator in Chicago Public Schools and Bellwood School District 88, served as a Principal with Quad County Urban League, was an administrator with Indian Prairie School District 204 and was a professor at Aurora University.

Sports

Broncos storm back to defeat St. Francis, shift focus to playoffs

Montini, seeking third straight IHSA state title, will have post-season bye this week

The Montini Catholic football team wrapped up its 2026 regular season with Friday night's thrilling 28-24 come-from-behind victory over St. Francis in a Chicago Catholic League (CCL) Green Division game in Lombard.

The Broncos finished their regular season with an overall record of 7-2 and a second-place division mark of 2-1. St. Rita, which posted a 6-3 overall record, won the championship in the CCL's four-team Green Division with its perfect 3-0 record. St. Francis (4-5 overall) posted a division mark of 1-2, while Nazareth Academy (4-5 overall) went 0-3 in division play.

Montini is attempting to win a third straight IHSA state championship. The Broncos won the Class 3A title in 2024 and captured the first-place trophy in the Class 4A playoffs last year. Montini will compete in the Class 4A level this year. The Broncos will have a bye this week. They will play a home game against Geneseo (6-3) or North Chicago (2-7) next week. If Montini wins its post-season opener, it will likely play a road game at Morris (9-0) in the following round.

The visiting Spartans scored the first points of Friday's game when they kicked a 28-yard field goal to complete their opening offensive drive. Montini senior Israel Abrams threw a 19-yard touchdown pass to senior Luca Florio in the first quarter. Senior Johnny Louise made the ensuing extra-point kick to give the Broncos a 7-3 lead.

The Spartans scored a touchdown with just 13 seconds left in the first half and held a 10-7 advantage at halftime.

Montini's offense moved the ball down the field on its first

See BRONCOS FOOTBALL, Page 11



Glenbard East's Moises Velazquez (19) kicked a field goal in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter against South Elgin. Velazquez also kicked the winning field goal in overtime. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Rams edge South Elgin in overtime

Velazquez kicks tying field goal in fourth quarter, adds winning field goal in OT; Glenbard East set to open 2026 playoffs with home game against Bartlett

Glenbard East's football team closed out its 2026 regular season with Friday night's memorable 27-24 overtime victory over South Elgin in Lombard.

The Rams finished their regular season with an overall record of 6-3. South Elgin concluded its record with a 7-2 record. Glenbard East finished second to Riverside Brookfield in the Upstate Eight Conference's East Division standings. The Bulldogs posted a perfect 6-0 record in division action, while the Rams went 5-1. Riverside Brookfield earned a 38-28 home win over Glenbard East on Oct. 9.

South Elgin won the Upstate Eight Conference's West Division title with its unblemished 6-0 division record.

The Rams will open IHSA post-season play with a Class 7A home game against Bartlett (2-7 overall) of the Upstate Eight Conference's West Division. The contest will begin at 7 p.m. this Friday, Oct. 23. The Hawks of Bartlett lost their first seven games of the season before earning wins over Larkin and Streamwood. Bartlett secured a 43-36 victory at Streamwood on Friday.

The Hawks suffered a 28-26 loss at Riverside Brookfield on Oct. 2.

If Glenbard East defeats Bartlett this week, it will move on to play at Kenwood (6-3) in Chicago. Kenwood has a first-round bye. This year's Class 7A field includes 48 teams. In past years the field in each post-season class included 32 teams.

Friday's contest between the Rams and South Elgin, which was played in chilly conditions, had a playoff feel, as each team was battling for an improved post-season seeding. The lead changed hands three times during the second half, with the Storm taking the lead on a touchdown with less than one minute to play. The Rams then pushed the ball down the field and kicked a game-tying field goal in the closing seconds to even the score at 24-24 and force an overtime period. Glenbard East, which opened

See RAMS FOOTBALL, Page 12

Willowbrook ends regular season with loss to Addison Trail

Blazers win District 88 Bowl for second straight year; both teams host playoff games this week

The Willowbrook football team finished its regular season with last week's 37-20 West Suburban Gold Conference loss to District 88 rival Addison Trail in Villa Park. The visiting Blazers completed their regular season with an overall mark of 6-3 and a conference record of 4-2. Willowbrook concluded its regular season at 5-4 overall and 3-3 in conference play.

Downers Grove South won the West Suburban Gold Conference title with a perfect 6-0 conference record. Hinsdale South claimed second with its 5-1 conference mark. Addison Trail placed third, while Willowbrook finished fourth. All four teams will compete in the IHSA playoffs.

With their Thursday-night win over the Warriors in the Oct. 15 contest, the Blazers retained possession of the District 88 Bowl trophy for another year. The winner of the annual gridiron matchup between Willowbrook and Addison Trail maintains custody of the trophy. One year ago, the Blazers seized the trophy after beating the Warriors 35-0 in Addison. That victory marked the Addison Trail football program's first win over Willowbrook since 2015.

The Blazers received the opening kickoff and drove 61 yards for a touchdown on their first offensive drive of last week's battle in Villa Park, which took place in cool weather and occasional sprinkles. Addison Trail junior Michael Clementi broke a 42-yard touchdown run to give the Blazers an early 6-0 lead. Sophomore Brandon Zambuni made the extra-point kick to push the lead to 7-0 with 9:20 left in the first quarter.

Addison Trail's defense delivered a fourth-down stop to end

See WARRIORS FOOTBALL, Page 12



Dylan Borkowski (22) of Willowbrook provided two touchdown receptions during the Warriors' Oct. 15 game against Addison Trail. Borkowski, who made a long reception that led to another TD, left the game with an injury in the fourth quarter. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Rams earn win, tie; set to host IHSA Class 3A regional this week

The Glenbard East boys soccer team finished its regular season with one win and one tie last week. The Rams defeated Bartlett 7-1 in an Oct. 14 match in Lombard. Glenbard East closed out its regular season by rallying to earn a 2-2 tie at New Trier on Saturday, Oct. 17.

The Rams finished their regular season with an overall record of 8-5-5.

Glenbard East built a 4-1 halftime lead over Bartlett. The Rams added three more goals during the second half.

Seven players (senior Charlie Gidcumb, sophomore Brandon Garcia, senior Yani Guzman, senior Marco Fernandez, senior Ryan Kummer, junior Sam Scarlett and junior Daniel Grimaldo) scored one goal each in Glenbard East's win over the Hawks. Gidcumb provided two assists, while Garcia, Guzman and senior Johan Olivero contributed one assist each.

The Rams trailed New Trier 2-0 in the first half of Saturday's match, but cut the Trevians' lead to 2-1 by halftime. Glenbard East added one goal in the second half to tie the match.

Juniors Christian Olvera and Anthoni Flores scored the Rams' goals during Saturday's contest. Olvera scored in the first half. Flores netted the team's second goal with less than 10 minutes to play in the second half.

The Rams are hosting an IHSA Class 3A regional this week. Glenbard East faced Schaumburg in an Oct. 20 regional semifinal.

The winner of that match will face Addison Trail or Glenbard North in the regional final in Lombard this Saturday, Oct. 24.

Senior cheerleaders in spotlight



Willowbrook High School's cheerleaders performed during halftime of last week's varsity home football game against Addison Trail. The cheerleading squad's eight seniors, who were highlighted during the performance, are (left to right) Sofia Ruiz, Madison Kosior, Brianna Amato, Isabel Wind, Brianna Lara, Hailey Wright, Hailey Zermeno and Braiana Russell. (Photo by Chris Fox)

•Warriors football (Continued from page 10)

Willowbrook's first offensive drive of the game. Willowbrook's defense returned the favor on the ensuing series by producing a fourth-down stop of the Blazers' offense at midfield. The Warriors' offensive unit then moved the ball inside Addison Trail's 20-yard line before failing to pick up a first down on a fourth-and-two run.

Addison Trail raised its lead to 10-0 when Zambuni made a 27-yard field goal with 1:40 left in the second quarter. Willowbrook senior Josiah Marlowe returned the ensuing kickoff 43 yards to the 50-yard line. On the next play, junior quarterback Niko Vourlos threw a pass to senior Dylan Borkowski, who grabbed the ball near the Blazers' 25-yard line and rumbled to the 1-yard line. Junior Kamron Greenhow crossed the goal line on the next play on a 1-yard touchdown run. Senior Ben Swanson made the extra-point kick to cut Addison Trail's lead to 10-7 with 55.6 seconds left in the first half. The Blazers maintained that 10-7 advantage at halftime.

Addison Trail erupted for two touchdowns in the first four minutes of the second half. Willowbrook received the kickoff to open the second half, but the Warriors fumbled the football on a running play. Clementi picked up the loose ball and ran 22 yards into the end zone for a touchdown. Zambuni's extra-point kick moved the Blazers' lead to 17-7 with 11:09 remaining in the third quarter.

A short time later, after a short punt by the Warriors, Addison Trail caught the punt on the run near Willowbrook's 35-yard line and returned the ball to the 5-yard line. Junior Ayden Smith then found the end zone on a 3-yard touchdown run. The extra-point kick from Zambuni boosted the Blazers' lead to 24-7 with 8:30 left in the third quarter.

One play after Borkowski hauled in a 32-yard reception to move the ball to the Blazers' 17-yard line, Addison Trail intercepted a Willowbrook pass at the 1-yard line to end the Warriors' next drive.

Willowbrook's comeback effort gained steam when Borkowski made a leaping catch and ran into the end zone for a 33-yard touchdown reception late in the third quarter. Borkowski leaped and caught the pass from Vourlos near the 10-yard line and sprinted into the end zone on the scoring reception. Swanson added the extra-point kick to trim the Blazers' lead to 24-14 with 1:14 left in the third quarter.

Addison Trail padded its lead on a 1-yard touchdown run by Smith with 8:49 left in the fourth quarter. A penalty by the Blazers forced Zambuni to attempt a lengthy extra-point kick, which the Warriors blocked to keep Addison Trail's lead at 30-14 with 8:49 left in the game.

On the first play of Willowbrook's next offensive series, Vourlos fired a pass to a wide open Borkowski, who caught the ball near his team's 45-yard line and ran to the Blazers' 15-yard line for a 65-yard gain. One play later, Vourlos and Borkowski connected on a 7-yard touchdown pass. The Warriors tried a running play for a two-point conversion, but Addison Trail made a stop to maintain a 30-20 lead with 7:44 to play.

About one minute later, while playing defense for the Warriors, Borkowski suffered an apparent arm injury while diving in an attempt to make a tackle. After spending several minutes on the turf, he was carted off the field.

Shortly after play resumed, the Blazers picked up 22 yards on a pass connection on a fourth-and-eight play. Smith finished the drive with a 6-yard touchdown run. Zambuni made the extra-point kick to give Addison Trail a 37-20 lead with 2:33 remaining.

Clementi intercepted a Willowbrook pass with 1:40 remaining to end the Warriors' final offensive drive of the night.

Willowbrook and Addison Trail will participate in the IHSA Class 6A playoffs this year. The Warriors will open the post-season with this week's home game against Amundsen (3-6). The game will begin at 1 p.m. in Villa Park this Saturday, Oct. 24. The winner will travel to Hononegah (8-1), which has an opening-round bye. The Blazers will begin the playoffs with this week's home game against Rolling Meadows (2-7). The winner of that contest will advance to a postseason meeting at Wheaton North (6-3), which has a first-round bye.

•Rams football (Continued from page 10)

its 2026 season with an overtime loss at Willowbrook on Aug. 21, intercepted a South Elgin pass on Friday's first overtime play. Senior Moises Velazquez, who made a 34-yard field goal in the waning seconds of the fourth quarter, kicked a 23-yard field goal in overtime to end the game.

"We're growing as a team," said Glenbard East coach John Walters after the victory over South Elgin. "We've had our struggles this year. We've had some good wins, too. Right now, we just need to get some momentum where we're playing consistently good football week in and week out."

The Rams scored the game's first touchdown on a 10-yard pass from sophomore quarterback Carter Pohlman to senior Mason Wright with about five minutes left in the first quarter. Velazquez made the extra-point kick to give Glenbard East a 7-0 lead.

South Elgin evened the score at 7-7 following a 4-yard touchdown pass and the subsequent extra-point kick with about two minutes remaining in the first quarter.

The Rams regained the lead when senior Montii Perry ran 34 yards for a touchdown with less than nine minutes to play in the second quarter. Velazquez added the extra-point kick to give Glenbard East a 14-7 lead.

The Storm made a 26-yard field goal with about three minutes to play in the first half to cut the Rams' lead to 14-10 by halftime.

South Elgin scored on a trick play in the opening minute of the second half, when the quarterback threw a lateral to a teammate, who then fired the ball down the field to a receiver who made the catch and raced into the end zone for a 65-yard touchdown reception. The extra-point kick pushed the Storm's lead to 17-14.

Shortly after the Rams blocked a South Elgin field-goal attempt late in the third quarter, Pohlman fired a 32-yard touchdown pass to senior Jaiden Javier. The extra-point kick from Velazquez pushed Glenbard East's lead to 21-17 with 6.2 seconds remaining in the third quarter.

South Elgin drove 80 yards in 61 seconds to regain the lead in the closing minute of regulation. The Storm took the lead on a 4-yard touchdown pass with 43.2 seconds left in the fourth quarter. The successful extra-point kick gave South Elgin a 24-21 lead.

The Rams began their subsequent drive at their own 21-line with just 39.7 seconds on the clock. On the second play of the drive, Pohlman gunned a long pass to Wright, who made the catch and raced down the field until he was tackled inside the Storm's 20-yard line. Wright's 62-yard reception set up the game-tying field goal from Velazquez, who booted the ball through the uprights to even the score at 24-24 with 11.5 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter.

"I've been here before," said Velazquez, who is in his third season with the varsity team. He then referred to a lengthy field-goal attempt he missed earlier in the game. "I missed one already, and I don't make mistakes twice."



Glenbard East's Carter Pohlman threw two touchdown passes in the win over South Elgin. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Velazquez, who made a 48-yard field goal to lift the Rams to a win over Riverside Brookfield in the 2025 regular-season finale in Lombard, mentioned the advice and encouragement he's received from assistant coach Jim Walker.

"He always says, don't overthink it, don't let the moment get too big, trust your preparation," said Velazquez while describing Walker's contributions. "Those words echo through my head every single time I kick."

South Elgin's offense took the field to begin the overtime period with a first-and-goal series at the 10-yard line. On the first play of the drive, the snap sailed over the quarterback's head. He retrieved the ball and fired a pass into heavy traffic near the goal line. Perry came down with the interception, and the Rams' offense took the field.

On third down, Velazquez took the field to attempt a 23-yard field goal that would end the game. The execution of the snap and hold weren't completely clean, and the Storm made a strong rush on the kick. A South Elgin player got a hand on the kick, which fluttered toward the goal post, hit the crossbar, and bounced forward to give the Rams the thrilling win. Velazquez and his teammates then raced from the south end of the field to the north end to celebrate their victory.

South Elgin received a first-round bye in the IHSA Class 8A post-season field. The Storm will face the winner of this week's game between Lane Tech and Joliet Central.

"The last two weeks have been great tests going into the IHSA playoffs," added Walters, whose team dropped a 38-28 battle at Riverside Brookfield on Oct. 9. "We've had to play two tough opponents. We've played two good football games. In this one [against South Elgin], we came out on the right side."