

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

VFW Post 7446 holds annual steak dinner

VFW Post 7446 in Addison recently held its annual steak dinner for veterans (Above): Members of the Addison Trail Student Veterans Club helped serve the dinners to hungry guests at the Addison VFW Post 7445. (Below right) The dinner was a success, and the VFW wishes to thank the following individuals, businesses and organizations for their help. The VFW would like to thank Sam's Club Northlake for its help making the dinner possible. Pictured are (from left): Chlco, general manager at Sam's Club Northlake; Randy Boryscka, commander of VFW Post 7446; and Sam (in apron) of Sam's Club Northlake. (Bottom right): Korin (left) and Mike, both employees of Sam's Club Northlake, helped load steaks and other products used at the dinner. Rob and Tom (not pictured) donated their time to grill the steaks. The VFW would like to thank Rico and the Sams Club Northlake meat department, who cut 144 prime rib steaks for the dinner.



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Ford named '88's Best'

Katelyn Ford, pictured here with Addison Trail principal Jack Andrews, was recognized during the Sept. 23 District 88 Board of Education meeting for being named as Addison Trail's September recipient of 88's Best recognition for her outstanding academic accomplishments.



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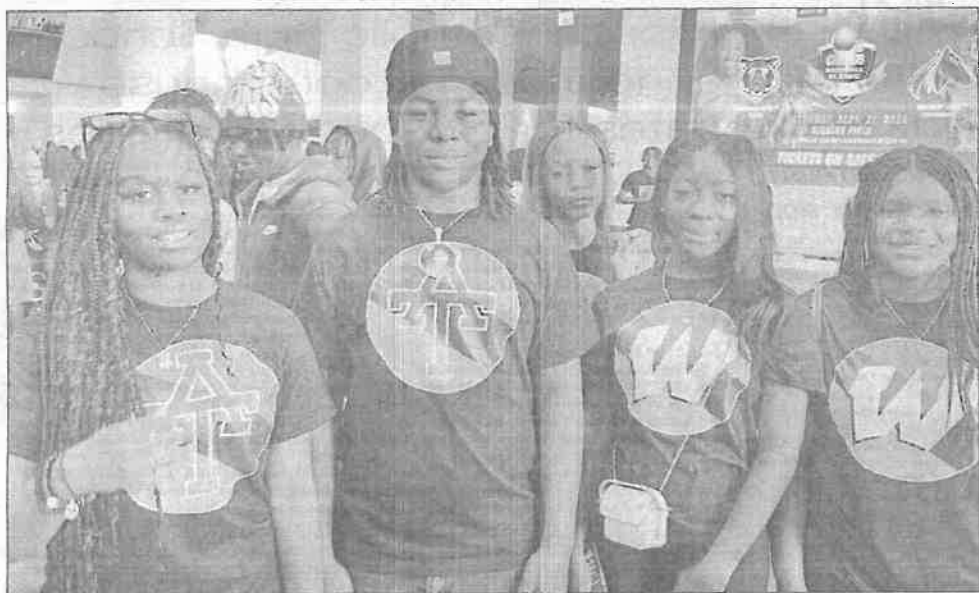
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Addison Trail, Willowbrook attend Chicago Football Classic

On Sept. 21, more than 20 Addison Trail and Willowbrook students attended the Chicago Football Classic at Soldier Field, accompanied by District 88 student success coordinator VaLarie Humphrey and AT JROTC coordinator William Jones. The event included a College and Career Fair, the Teen Fest, the BMO Financial Summit and the highlight – the High School Battle of the Chicagoland Bands. During the event, Willowbrook senior Mariah Green received the news she has been accepted to Jackson State University.

Glowiak Hilton to host shred event in Oakbrook Terrace

State Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton has teamed up with Oakbrook Terrace Mayor Paul Esposito to host a shred event for residents to safely destroy personal documents at no cost.

"When it comes to protecting yourself against fraud and identity theft, you can never be too careful," said Glowiak Hilton (D-Western Springs). "Documents with personal information like your address, banking information or social security number should be securely shredded."

The shredding truck will be available in the parking lot of the City of Oakbrook Terrace, located at 17W261 Butterfield Road, from 9 a.m. to noon, or until the truck is full on Saturday, Oct. 12. A limit of two boxes of documents per car is encouraged.

Examples of documents with personally identifiable information that should be safely discarded include bank statements, outdated medical records, tax returns, bills, junk mail, credit card applications and receipts.

Residents with questions can contact Senator Glowiak Hilton's office at 630-785-3177.

Police Reports

The Addison and Bensenville Police departments 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.

Addison Sept. 16

Frances Reyes, 26, of Aurora, was charged with two counts of DUI in the 800 block of W. Fullerton at 4:49 a.m.

Paula Santos Valentin, 37, of Roselle, was charged with DUI and two counts of leaving the scene of an accident with vehicle damage in the 1700 block of W. Lake at 1:57 a.m.

Sept. 15

Emilio Ruiz, 19, of Addison, was charged with criminal damage to property in the 100 block of E. North at 5:05 p.m.

Sept. 12

Kevin Diaz, 24, of Lombard, was charged with DUI, transportation/carrying alcoholic liquor by a driver, speeding and no insurance in the 200 block of W. Lake at 1:56 a.m.

Miguel A. Rios, 32, of Addison, was charged with DUI, failure to reduce speed and two counts of failure to notify of damage to an unattended vehicle near Armitage and Addison

at 2:20 a.m.

Sept. 11

Hector L. Ortiz, 29, of Glendale Heights, was charged with obstructing and criminal trespassing at a local restaurant.

Bensenville

Sept. 22, 3:21 a.m. near E. Irving Park Road and N. York Road, Wilder O. Carrillo-Lopez, 31, of Bensenville, was arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol and other traffic violations. BEPC2400791

Sept. 22, 11:26 p.m. in the 100 block of N. Mason St.; a 33-year-old Bensenville man was arrested for domestic battery. BEPC2400793

Sept. 22, 11:31 p.m. in the 1200 block of Devon Avenue, a 41-year-old Chicago man was arrested for domestic battery, criminal damage to property and resisting arrest. BEPC2400792

Sept. 21, 5:37 AM, in the 100 block of Bridget Court, Rudy E. Lopez-Garcia, 25 (residence not given), was arrested for criminal damage to government supported property due to tampering with his ankle monitor, also violation of pre-trial release. Lopez-Garcia was transported to DuPage County. BEPC2400789

Sept. 20, 5:27 p.m. in the 1100 block of S. York Road, Saul Garcia, 24, of Bensenville, was arrested on one count of felony resisting a police officer, one count of misdemeanor battery and one count of misdemeanor retail theft. BEPC2400787

Giannoulis encourages FDA to review harmful chemicals in food supply

GRAS designation under scrutiny as FDA introduces new post-market review process

Ahead of a public meeting to discuss food safety, Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulis is advocating that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) develop a post-market assessment program to test harmful chemicals in our food supply.

The "generally recognized as safe" (GRAS) designation currently allows food manufacturers—not the FDA—to decide if chemical additives are safe for consumption. This legal loophole has allowed food dyes, preservatives and other chemicals to be placed on store shelves with little to no oversight from the FDA, the federal agency tasked with ensuring food is safe. Many of these GRAS ingredients have been linked to serious health problems, including hyperactivity, nervous system damage, reproductive issues, hormonal damage and increased risk of cancer.

"Allowing the company that produces the ultra-processed food to decide if a chemical is safe, without having to inform the FDA, makes no sense and it adds up to a dangerous game for American families to play," Giannoulis said. "Developing a rigorous review program that puts our health first and addresses the impact of chemicals in our food

will go a long way to holding food manufacturers accountable and restoring trust and confidence in the FDA."

The Secretary of State oversees Illinois' organ donation registry, which is one of the largest in the nation.

Studies have shown that organ damage and failure is a consequence of the health risks associated with chemical additives, particularly in children.

Keeping donors' organs healthy for individuals suffering from life-threatening diseases or injuries who need transplants is critical.

Many food chemicals have never been meaningfully reassessed for safety, even if they were approved decades ago and new science has since demonstrated potential harms.

Instead, the product is brought straight to market for human consumption without a systematic health and safety review.

According to a 2022 Environmental Working Group analysis, "since 2000, food and chemical companies have petitioned the FDA only 10 times to approve a new substance. By contrast, for 756 of 766 new food chemicals added to the food supply since then, or 98.7 percent, these companies have exploit-

ed a loophole for substances that are 'generally recognized as safe,' or GRAS."

During the past year, the FDA has undergone a major reorganization of its Human Foods Program and established the Office of Food Chemical Safety, Dietary Supplements and Innovation.

Additional steps have been taken including the development of an enhanced systematic process for the post-market assessment of chemicals in foods, slated for a discussion at a public held Wednesday, Sept. 25.

European and other nations have outlawed many GRAS chemicals and mandate that corporations formulate their products with safer alternatives.

In the U.S., California recently passed a law that outlaws several harmful chemicals in the food supply that goes into effect in 2027.

Last year, Giannoulis, with the help of state Sen. Willie Preston (16th District-Chicago) and state Rep. Anne Stava-Murray (81st District-Downers Grove), introduced The Illinois Food Safety Act (SB 2637) which seeks to ban the sale of foods in Illinois containing chemical additives that have been linked to health issues.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors beat Morton

Willowbrook's girls tennis team faced Morton in last week's West Suburban Gold Conference dual meet in Villa Park. The Warriors defeated the visiting Mustangs 6-1 in the Sept. 26 contest. Senior Ella Lopez earned a 6-1, 6-1 victory for Willowbrook in the meet's No. 1 singles match. Junior Shannon Freer of the Warriors prevailed 6-0, 6-0 at No. 2 singles. Willowbrook's No. 1 doubles team of senior Avery Solls (pictured above left) and Junior Hannah Gawat posted a 6-1, 6-0 victory. The Warriors' No. 2 doubles team of seniors Abby Finnegan (pictured above right) and Semra Jadacic secured a 6-0, 6-1 win. Willowbrook's duo of juniors Kamira Henry and Kiki Smalling provided a 6-0, 6-2 victory in the No. 3 doubles match. The Warriors' No. 4 doubles team of junior Zoey Evans and sophomore Jada Langston also earned a 6-0, 6-2 win. Willowbrook raised its overall season record to 10-1 and improved to 3-1 in conference play with last week's win over Morton.

Warriors pound the Hornets 45-7

Willowbrook scores 25 points in the second quarter to take a 32-0 halftime lead

The Willowbrook football team proved to 2-3 overall and 2-1 in West Suburban Gold Conference action with Friday night's 45-7 victory against Hinsdale South. The Warriors built a 2-0 halftime lead against the Hornets, who fell to 2-3 overall and 1-2 conference play.

Willowbrook received the game's opening kickoff and proceeded to gain 80 yards for a touchdown. Senior Aidan Kuehl completed the drive with a 15-yard touchdown run. Senior Dean Romano added the extra-point kick to give the Warriors an 8-0 lead.

Senior Anthony Leo delivered a 45-yard touchdown run in the second quarter to raise Willowbrook's lead to 14-0. Romano's extra-point kick extended the Warriors' lead to 14-0.

Willowbrook junior quarterback Chase Reed fired a 30-yard touchdown pass to senior KJ Rhodes later in the second quarter. Romano tacked on the extra-point to extend the Warriors' lead to 20-0.

Senior Otis Powell set up Willowbrook's next score when he intercepted Hinsdale South's pass and made a run of about 30 yards, down to the Hornets' 12-yard line. A short later, Romano kicked a 30-yard field goal to boost the Warriors' lead to 27-0.

Reed's 22-yard touchdown pass added to Willowbrook's half lead. The Warriors then

converted a two-point conversion pass to move their lead to 32-0.

A 42-yard touchdown pass from Reed to senior Jordan Pate pushed the Warriors' lead to 38-0 in the third quarter. Later in the third quarter, junior Rashad Morrison raced 53 yards for a touchdown to extend Willowbrook's lead to 44-0. Romano added the extra-point kick to raise the Warriors' lead to 45-0.

Hinsdale South scored its only touchdown of the game early in the

fourth quarter.

The Warriors' season continues with this Friday's conference home game against Proviso East (0-5 overall and 0-3 in the conference). The Warriors will likely beat the Pirates to improve to 3-3 overall. Willowbrook will finish its regular season with a game at Oak Park and River Forest on Oct. 11, a conference home contest against Morton on Oct. 18, and a conference battle at Leyden on Oct. 25.

A hole-in-one

Sophomore Alyssa Hirsch of the Willowbrook girls golf team made a hole-in-one during the Warriors' recent dual meet against Glenbard East. Hirsch aced the par-3 fifth hole at the Warriors' home venue—Twin Lakes Golf Club in Westmont. She used a 5-iron for her hole-in-one. Hirsch, (pictured above left) with the ball she used on her memorable shot, fired the best individual score of the Sept. 17 meet, posting a nine-hole score of 39 on the par-30 course. Glenbard East narrowly defeated the Warriors 178-180 in the meet. Sophomore Lilly Penfield (pictured above right) shot a 41 for the Rams. Junior Mary Metcalf carded a 45 for Glenbard East, while senior Jessica Rivas and junior Mary Dziarkowski each turned in scores of 46 to complete the Rams' scoring total (41+45+46+46). Senior Madison Vega (44), senior Paige Dehnke (48) and senior Brooklyn Burmelster (49) joined Hirsch to round out Willowbrook's scoring total (39+44+48+49).

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1971: American tennis star Billie Jean King becomes the first female athlete to earn \$100,000 in prize money in a single year after she wins the \$4,000 Virginia Slims Thunderbird Classic in Phoenix.

'It's changing football'

Willowbrook, Addison Trail among schools embracing first year of IHSA flag football

By **BOB NARANG**

Shaw Local News Network correspondent

Willowbrook High School was the ideal place to watch high-level football Sept. 28.

On a cold, windy and gloomy late morning/early afternoon, it was ideal football weather.

Without a hint of sunshine, along with a slight wind gust, fans were bundled up in fall clothes.

It was a typical fall football game atmosphere with football players milling around outside the stadium and tents set up to enjoy the festivities.

But this was no ordinary football game.

In mid-February, the Illinois High School Association announced that girls flag football would be the latest sport to debut with a state series. The IHSA set in motion its inaugural season, which concludes with the girls flag football state championship Oct. 18-19.

The first practice officially was Aug. 12, with games kicking off Aug. 26. The first IHSA sanctioned season has been a big hit as evidenced by the Willowbrook Quad on Saturday.

Willowbrook coach Rachel Karos lived up to the "this is football" mentality by delivering a motivational speech to her players sitting on the 50-yard line after Saturday's final game, a victory over Addison Trail.

Karos, like her male counterparts, didn't hold back in telling her players to work hard, eliminate mistakes and be focused.

Karos said the sport has grown tremendously over the past few years.

"The growth of girls flag football has been amazing over the last years," Karos said. "Growing from 100 teams to now 170, which means more opportunities for female athletes in Illinois."

Flag football is not tackle football, but you couldn't tell that from Saturday's quad. The players were aggressive and even tackled several runners in attempts to grab a flag. Several players sported injuries from previous game, limped off the field and had visible scars on their bodies from the aggressive sport.

"The sport of flag football is not only physical but also highly skilled," Karos said. "In many ways pulling a flag is harder than making a tackle, so



Karen Nass for Shaw Local News Network

Addison Trail's Emma Caniglia runs against Oak Park-River Forest on Sept. 28 in Villa Park.

our girls are not only training to handle the physicality of the game they are driven to increase their hand eye coordination and all necessary skills to be not just great athletes but great flag football players."

Addison Trail coach Jenn Schulmeister said her team is playing with a lot of motivation with the state series in October.

"We've had a very successful season so far," she said. "We brought back a lot of girls. We've had great numbers, growing from 27 or 28 to 38 this year. That's amazing. We also have new lev-

els. This year has been different, just in solidifying the rules and not much gray area. It's great that it's been sanctioned because it gives our girls more to work for. There's more excitement than before because there's more of an end game for our girls."

Addison Trail quarterback Emma Caniglia took some big hits in Saturday's game against host Willowbrook. She managed to whip passes all over the field and showcased her speed with several runs in and outside the pocket. Caniglia said this is her second year playing flag football and that she was

drawn to the sport because of her brother.

"Last year was really interesting because it was our first year and we didn't have much experience," Caniglia said. "This year we have a lot of athletes on the team, so we connect really well. I love the sport so much more, so many more teams and competitions. It's a physical game, but you have to do what you can do to get the flag. It's a game, but really competitive on the field."

See **FLAG FOOTBALL**, page 14

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Korea Nassar for Shaw Local News Network

Addison Trail's Vanessa Gonzalez runs the ball against Oak Park-River Forest on Sept. 28 in Villa Park.

• **FLAG FOOTBALL**
Continued from page 11

Willowbrook junior Marli Smrz, who plays quarterback, wide receiver and safety, said this is her third full year playing football.

"My family has always been big in football," Smrz said. "Coming into high school, it was a brand-new sport and I figured I might as well try it and everybody is at the same level and scared, too."

A small but tough runner, Smrz can attest to the physicality of flag football. Three weeks ago, she suffered a torn labrum and dislocated her shoulder while trying to intercept a pass in a game. She returned to the field for Saturday's games.

"I would definitely say it's very physical," Smrz said. "It's really underrated."

Willowbrook sophomore Liz Pettinger, who plays wide receiver and cornerback, is playing in her second season of flag football. Her older sister encouraged her to try the sport.

"I would watch it and see how aggressive and fun it was and I liked the environment and you can make friends and loved watching the girls be united," Pettinger said. "It's more than I could imagine, just with the amount of opportunities and it's been amazing to watch the team and

It's more than I could imagine, just with the amount of opportunities and it's been amazing to watch the team and sport grow in Illinois."

Liz Pettinger, Willowbrook sophomore, on the inaugural IHSA season of girls flag football

sport grow in Illinois."

Even though the sport doesn't have the traditional offensive linemen or feature kickoffs, Pettinger said games can get aggressive.

"It says no contact but we get aggressive and you can tell the heart everyone puts into it," Pettinger said.

Willowbrook junior Leigh Bernardo, who also does track and volleyball, said playing flag football is unique, especially given her 10-plus year background in gymnastics.

"Football is a whole different sport," Bernardo said. "It's very emotional. Team-wise, it's like a family. I think it's an amazing sport and a great way to bring more girls to the sport. It's changing football and bringing everybody together."

Suburban Life

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

GAVIN SHARENOW

Riverside-Brookfield, junior, golf

Why Sharenow was selected: Sharenow shot a 4-over-par 75 to tie for second place, helping lead Riverside-Brookfield to the Upstate Eight Conference championship. He was voted the Athlete of the Week in an online vote.

Here is his Q&A with Sports Editor Joshua Welge.

What was the key to your round at conference? What did it mean for the team to win conference?

Sharenow: The key to my round at conference was not getting in my head mentally and staying focused when I was playing well. Making sure to stay in my own zone and play my own game. It was a big achievement to win conference this year because it is our first year in the Upstate Eight and to win meant a big deal. We also shot 308 as a team, which is our lowest score ever.

How has the season gone otherwise?

Sharenow: Overall, the season went well. I started playing really bad but I kept being motivated to get better and everything started to come together and the results were showing.

How did you get started in golf? What do you like about it?

Sharenow: I got into golf after I quit baseball back in 2018. I started doing Nike junior camps and loved the atmosphere and being out on the course. I like being out there and in a way just in my own world with nothing to worry about.

What's the toughest course you've

ever played on?

Sharenow: The toughest course I've played on was the PGA course in Hawaii I got to play over spring break called Kapuala. Lots of trouble and the rough was thick with fast greens sitting along the ocean.

Do you have a pro golfer you like watch?

Sharenow: I like to watch PGA Tour events to watch how players stay mental in the game during pressure moments like Scottie Scheffler who won lots of events this year and always stays mentally focused. I've focused a lot on the mental side this season and got better at it by watching the very best pros deal with it well on the course.

Do you have a favorite TV show or movie?

Sharenow: Growing up I watched a lot of "Star Wars" with my dad and every movie that comes out we go watch in theaters so I'd say that's my favorite movie series.

Is there a place in the country or world you've never been to but would like to visit?

Sharenow: I would like to travel to Scotland to play some of the most famous golf courses like St. Andrew's and the view that are very nice.

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GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: DOWNERS GROVE SOUTH DEF. WILLOWBROOK 27-25, 25-18

Downers South snaps Willowbrook's 29-game WSC Gold win streak

Sylvia Masiulionis' 2 kills at end of first set spark victory

By JOSHUA WELGE
jwelge@shawmedia.com

DOWNERS GROVE - Sylvia Masiulionis has a tried and true strategy for handling the most stressful moments in a volleyball match.

"I always take a deep breath before an important point," said Masiulionis, Downers Grove South's senior outside hitter.

She delivered in that moment Tuesday and sent Downers Grove South to another milestone win in a season of them.

Masiulionis had back-to-back kills, the second on set point, to turn away visiting Willowbrook's late comeback in the first set.

Downers Grove South took that momentum and ran with it, beating Willowbrook 27-25, 25-18 in a matchup of conference leaders and snapping the Warriors' 29-game West Suburban Gold winning streak dating to 2019.

The Mustangs (15-8, 4-0), on track for their first winning season since 2019, checked off another significant

box with the win.

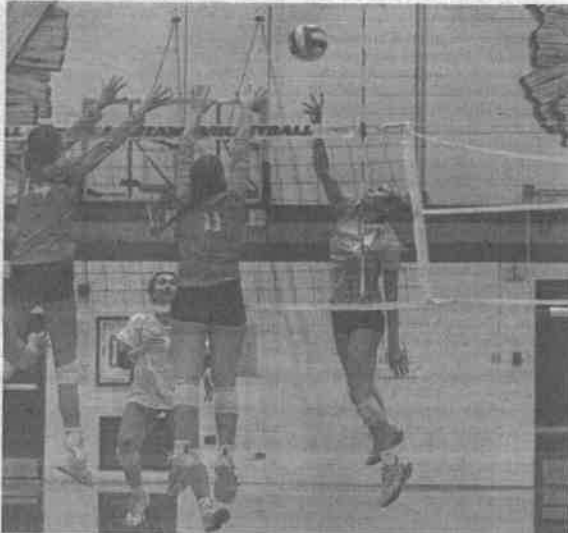
In September, Downers Grove South beat Lyons Township in three sets, the first time Mustangs coach Madisen Babich had beaten her alma mater.

This time, they topped a Willowbrook team that's won the last four Gold titles.

"We know we have the physical skill and we have the talent. What we have been working on is the mental side of the game," Babich said. "Now that we know that we can hang with these top schools we are ready to take on anyone."

The first set was back and forth with Downers Grove South's biggest lead at 7-2 and Willowbrook's biggest advantage at 18-15. The Mustangs looked in command up 23-20 after a Jayda Dixon back-row kill and Willowbrook hitting error, but the Warriors (16-4, 3-1) turned away two Downers Grove South set points, tying it 24-24 on a block by Louisville recruit Hannah Kenny.

Kenny's kill denied Downers Grove South a third set point, tying it 25-25, but Masiulionis answered with a hard smash for the lead and wrapped up the set with a deftly hit crosscourt shot.



Gary E. Duncan Sr. for Shaw Local News Network

See GIRLS VOLLEYBALL, page 16

Downers Grove South's Sylvia Masiulionis tips a shot over the net against Willowbrook on Oct. 1.

Live with Friday Night Drive provides football fans with live scores, updates from our team of reporters and exclusive analysis from high school experts Steve Soucie and Matt Rodewald.

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