

THE INDEPENDENT

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E-mail:
Advertising Department: ads1@rvpublishing.com
News Department: Independent@rvpublishing.com
Classified Department: Classifieds@rvpublishing.com

Administration:
Dee Longfellow
News Coordinator

Debra Hamilton
Advertising Director

Pete Cruger
Publisher

Advertising:
Brenda Garcia

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Addison Trail students featured in 'Fra Noi' Italian magazine

Students in Addison Trail world language teacher Judie Vitiritti-Lynch's Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level Italian class (pictured at right) were recently featured in the publication "Fra Noi," Chicago's Italian American Voice.

A photo of the students appears in the January edition of the magazine, along with an essay from Addison Trail senior Claudia Herrera.

All pupils in the class submitted a reflection piece answering the question, "What has studying Italian for six years or more done for you?" Herrera's response was selected for print in the "Nuove voci" (New Voices) section.

Below is Herrera's reflection piece, in English:

"I have studied Italian for six years, and all this time I have felt that learning the Italian language was something so important for me. I already speak two languages, and I wanted to learn more. For me, Italian class gives me the opportunity to learn about another culture. Italian class also creates a familial atmosphere, which I don't feel in (other classes). This is what changed me and how I perceive the language, the culture, their gastronomy, etc. I like that we also speak about things that are important to our society. It is not a normal class - it is a class that changes your life, because it teaches you everything - not only how to speak the language. It gives you the ability to travel to Italy without any worries."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

A group of Addison Trail students were featured in the January edition of the publication "Fra Noi," after submitting essays pondering the question, "What has studying Italian for six years or more done for you?" The response of AT senior Claudia Herrera (front row, center) was selected for print in the "Nuove voci" (New Voices) section.

New beginnings Long-time greeter lands at Caputo's

By Paul DelGuidice
FOR THE INDEPENDENT

In the spring of 2017, Michael D'Agostino was heartbroken when he was told by the store manager that the job of greeter was being eliminated at the store. D'Agostino, who has physical disabilities, had worked weekends as a greeter at the Addison Walmart for 17 years.

"I told them I would do any other job if they weren't going to have greeters any more," D'Agostino said, "but they said there were no other jobs for me."

He finished his last Friday shift and punched out for the last time. No one even said good-bye.

"I couldn't believe they let him go like that," said Addison resident Rachel Lobello, who looked forward to seeing Michael at the Walmart each Saturday when she did her shopping.

After speaking with the Walmart manager and being told they would not reconsider keeping D'Agostino, Lobello reached out to the community on his behalf.

"Robertino (Presta) the owner of Caputo's heard about Michael and said he would hire him 'on the spot' to be a greeter at the remodeled Caputo's Fresh Markets store," said Lobello.

On Friday, Jan. 11, Michael was working his shift as a greeter at the front door of Caputo's (he has been at it for six months now) and also took part in the official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new addition to the store.

The Caputo's on Lake St. has a long history of hiring folks for what they can do, and accommodating any employees who may have a disability.

"I've been here 14 years," said Matt Ladd, who regular Caputo's customers will recognize as he gathers carts in the parking lot, "Mr. Robertino [Presta, company CEO] takes good care of us."

Bagger Payton Knights loves her job so much she walks to work each day.

"I have a cold today, but I wouldn't miss the grand opening," she said.

"I've taught special education, and I know how important it is for these folks to fit in. They just want to contribute like everyone else. A job is very important," Lobello said. "I noticed they still have greeters at Walmart. I won't shop at there anymore."



PAUL DELGUIDICE PHOTO Addison Independent

Three familiar faces to those who regularly shop at Caputo's Fresh Markets store on Lake St. are (standing): cart tender Matt Ladd, bagger Payton Knight and (seated) greeter Michael D'Agostino. The three were on hand for the ribbon cutting celebrating the store's addition and remodeling on Friday, Jan. 11.

SPORTS

Willowbrook girls bowling team records key conference win against York

Helsper rolls 266, Pettinger a 234 in win against Dukers

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls bowling team came out on top of a recent West Suburban Conference showdown with York at Stardust in Addison.

Willowbrook downed York 3,395-3,065 to run its record to 6-1 overall and 4-0 in WSC action.

Holly Helsper shot a 266 game against York, while Katie Pettinger had a 234 in that contest. Brianna Bryant rolled a 598 high series in a recent conference match.

Through late last week, Pettinger was averaging a 194, while Helsper was at 183.

"We are starting to learn about the lane conditions and how to play them correctly," said Willowbrook coach Kevin Allen. "As we are bowling from frame to frame, the girls are talking about their lines and if they need to make any adjustments. They are learning how and when to move based on each other's shots. This is crucial for the girls to learn so we can always stay ahead of the transitions of the lane."

Allen cited recent strong play from the likes of Paula Williams and Bryant, in particular. "Paula and Brianna have been bowling very well over the past month," said Allen. "They have been very consistent with making quality



COURTESY PHOTO Elmhurst Independent

The Willowbrook girls' bowling team, pictured at a recent event, recorded a key West Suburban Conference win against York that pushed its WSC mark to 4-0 on the season.

shots. Both of their spare games have improved greatly, which is leading to bigger and better scores."

Allen added Willowbrook is reaping the benefits of the work it puts in

on the practice lanes. "The girls have really put in the work in order to be successful," the coach said. "They always are upbeat and positive during our matches and invites. Whenever

the girls are bowling, we feel like we are going to bowl great. Keeping in a positive mindset has helped us battle through some very hard lane conditions throughout this season."

Willowbrook recently played in invites at Fenton and Hinsdale South. The Warriors have conference matches slated this week against Hinsdale Central and Leyden.

Addison Trail girls basketball team battles Downers Grove South

Berumen scores 12 points in conference game

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

During the first meeting against Downers Grove South this season, the Addison Trail girls basketball team lost 56-21.

The second time around was a bit different. While the Blazers still lost 60-41, coach Rob Schader was proud of how his squad played.

"We lost by 19, but Downers South

is good," he said. "They have a Division I softball player who was out the first game. We also played with a running clock in the first game. They have another girl who is going Division I to Colgate. I thought we played really well considering how good they are. They have three pretty good kids. We did a much better job on defense and rebounded better. We also scored much better and that's something we've been doing the last couple of weeks."

Addison Trail also played Hinsdale South in a recent WSC Gold game. "Hinsdale South got us by 12 points

the first time (47-35)," said Schader. "They have a really good freshman whose parents both were athletes in the Big 12 Conference and another girl who has been a starter for three or four years."

Schader said improvements have been coming in across the board of late. "We've played much better," he said. "Offensively we've done much better and our defense is much better. I think we are much better all the way around."

In the Downers South game, Schader lauded the play of Serena Gilliam along with the returning

Brenda Berumen, along with freshman Quiana Birmingham. "Serena played really well and Brenda was back and had 12 points. Serena did a really nice job on one of their girls," he said. "Q is our freshman and did a nice job on their point guard, who was tough. She was fast and pretty good. Q did a pretty good job all things considered."

Addison Trail continues to benefit from a roster that has plenty of depth. "Everybody is doing something," said Schader. "We can play eight or nine kids every night."

Addison Trail had one conference

win through late last week. "We've played everybody now except Proviso East and Willowbrook beat them," said Schader. "The conference has been solid forever and I think now teams are a little closer. We only have one win, but right now the conference definitely is more competitive than it has been in the past from the first team to the seventh team."

The Knights played IC Catholic Prep earlier this week in a non-conference game and had additional games slated against Hoffman Estates (non-conference) and Morton (conference on Saturday) this week.

Willowbrook girls basketball team beats Proviso East ... again

Warriors cagers 2-1 in recent divisional games

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls basketball team went 2-1 during a recent three-game West Suburban Conference Gold Division stretch.

In a 50-45 win against Downers Grove South, Willowbrook trailed 13-7 after the first quarter and 29-19 at halftime. The Warriors outscored the Mustangs 15-9 in the third quarter and 16-7 in the fourth quarter.

Stephanie Dasbach had 14 points and 15 rebounds, including 11 offensive rebounds. She also had two blocked shots. Kaitlyn McCann added 10 points, including two 3-pointers.

Anemarie Knudtson added eight

points (two 3-pointers) and had five steals. Cecilia Lizasuaian had six points, while Grace Tumilty also had six points to go with three assists.

Willowbrook then lost 47-44 to Hinsdale South in conference play. Willowbrook led 16-7 after the first quarter and 26-24 at halftime. The Warriors increased the lead to 37-34 after three quarters, but were outscored 13-7 in the fourth quarter.

McCann had 15 points and five

steals. Knudtson had nine points, while Dasbach had six points and 10 rebounds. K'aliya Herron had six points, five rebounds and three steals. Tumilty had seven rebounds and three assists.

Willowbrook also downed Proviso East for the second time this season, this time by a 67-59 count.

Proviso led 18-8 after the first quarter and 35-30 at halftime. Willowbrook outscored the Pirates 20-16 in

the third quarter and 17-8 in the fourth quarter. Willowbrook scored 42 combined points in the middle two quarters.

Tumilty tallied 21 points (2 three-pointers) to go with nine rebounds. Herron had 13 points. Maura Heneghan had 11 points and shot 7-for-10 from the free-throw line. Knudtson had seven points, four assists and four steals, while Dasbach had three blocks.

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Fenton's Fischer sets new backstroke meet record at Elk Grove

Bison send three boys bowlers to sectional round

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Fenton boys swimming team continued its forward progress after finishing third as a team at the recent eight-team Elk Grove invitational.

Fenton finished behind Highland Park and Cary-Grove

Nik Fischer won two individual events for the Bison. He also set a meet record in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 54.07.

Conrad Oberski took second in the 50 free.

Fenton's 200 medley relay team of Fischer, Oberski, Matt Janovsky and Lucas Feddersen took second.

"We have been training hard and that bodes well for the upcoming championship season," assistant coach

Dan Hennebry noted.

In other recent action, Fischer and Oberski led the scoring for Fenton in a dual meet against Riverside-Brookfield.

Fischer and Oberski each won two individual events. Fischer and Oberski teamed up with relay members Janovsky and Jordan Loyola to record a first-place time.

Jason Gasior took second in the 500 freestyle, while Janovsky was second in the 200.

Prior to the holidays, Fenton took second at the Leyden invitational. Fischer and Oberski each had two individual wins and were part of two relay victories.

Feddersen earned an individual win and was part of two relay wins.

The second-place finish is believed to be the team's highest finish in an invitational in many years.

Fenton finished with 314 points, 14 points behind winner West Chicago co-op.

Fenton boys bowling

The Fenton boys bowling team was seventh at the recent Glenbard East regional with a 5,411 pinfall count.

On the individual front, the news was good with three Bison bowlers earning berths in Saturday's sectional round where trips to the state meet will be on the line.

Junior Joey Potkay rolled a 1,212 series to advance. Sophomore Henry Valenzuela rolled a 1,139 and sophomore Matt Sipes rolled an 1,126 to also advance to Saturday's sectional.

Portkay was seventh overall in the field.

James Palumbo shot a 1,011 series and Arthur Kawalkowski finished with an 807 series.

Willowbrook girls gymnastics team records two conference wins

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls gymnastics team started the new year off on the right foot with a pair of West Suburban Conference Gold Division victories.

The Warriors were 120.8-116.0 winners over Leyden in conference play. On vault, Tess Placek was first with an 8.65. Karli Wilson was second with an 8.40, while Riley Wieringa had an 8.20 and finished third.

On bars, Wilson was second with a 7.50, while Placek was third with a 7.40. Maeve Costello finished with a 7.00.

On beam, Placek was first with an 8.40, while Wieringa had a 6.60 and Wilson had a 6.55.

On floor exercise, Costello won the event with an 8.20, while Placek tied for second at 8.10 and Wieringa was fourth at 7.70.

Placek won the all-around scoring at 32.55. Wilson was third at 29.95, while Wieringa was fourth at 29.30.

"Varsity had its first win and our

JV lost by only 0.25 points so we are on the right track," said Willowbrook coach Deanna Zuchowski.

In the JV 1 meet, Leyden won 92.25-92.00.

Dominique Crowe won the vault for Willowbrook with an 8.25. Alyssa Lorann was second at 8.00, while Heidi Helsper was third at 7.90.

Helsper won the bars competition with a 5.40 score. Lorann won the beam at 6.60. Helsper was third at 6.10 and Crowe was fourth at 5.90.

On floor, Crowe was third at 7.20, while Lorann was fourth at 7.00. Helsper was tied for fifth at 6.90.

Helsper won the all-around at 26.30. Lorann was second at 25.30 and Crowe was fourth at 24.55.

Willowbrook then defeated Morton 118.55-109.40 in a Gold Division meet.

Placek won the vault at 8.50, while Wilson was second at 8.20 and Costello was third at 7.90. Caitlyn Owen tied for fourth at 7.80.

On bars, Placek won the event at

7.60. Owen was second at 6.90, while Wieringa was third at 6.70. Costello tied for fourth at 6.60.

Placek scored a 6.60 on beam. Wieringa finished at 6.50 and Autumn Palacios was at 6.15.

Wilson won the floor exercise at 8.90. Placek was second at 8.50, while Costello was third at 8.10 and Wieringa was fourth at 7.60.

Placek won the all-around at 31.20. Wieringa was second at 28.40, while Wilson was third at 28.25.

Morton won the JV meet 89.40-87.6. Lorann won the vault for Willowbrook with a 7.20. Crowe was second at 7.10, while Helsper was third at 7.00.

Helsper won the bars competition at 6.50. Lorann was third on beam at 6.20.

Lorann also won the floor exercise with a 6.80. Crowe was third at 6.60 and Helsper was fourth at 6.10.

Lorann won the all-around with a 24.80 score. Crowe was second at 22.10 and Helsper was third at 21.7.

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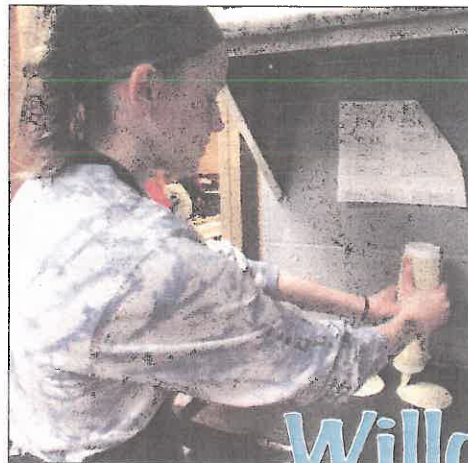
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Willowbrook Band fundraiser a success

Pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage were the main items on the menu as the Willowbrook High School band recently held its second annual pancake breakfast fundraiser at the Villa Park VFW. The band had its inaugural fundraiser last year (also held at the VFW) to raise money for the marching band to go to Disney World during spring break. No trips are planned for this year, but band director John Clemons said the turnout this time around was "pretty solid." Junior Dominique Crowe (wearing a pink apron) and freshman Daniela Trimper are shown here making pancakes, while senior Bahgat Hassan cooked scrambled eggs. Clemons (left) also is shown with two Willowbrook band parents who attended the breakfast. Funds raised at the breakfast will go directly towards instruments, repairs, purchasing music and future travel.



MIKE SANDROLINI PHOTOS Villa Park Review

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Dare to Dream: Get Educated! Conference coming Jan. 26

Annual conference helps empower Latina Middle School girls

The 11th annual "Dare to Dream: Get Educated!" one-day Conference, geared toward preparing young Latinas to further their education, will be held at the McAninch Arts Center at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn on Jan. 26.

As many as 600 girls and women from DuPage County and Suburban Cook will hear Latina role models in successful careers talk about how they dealt with obstacles to achieve their dream of a better life through higher education.

This year's opening keynote speaker is Deputy Chief Cyndy Velazquez, police officer in the Village of Lombard for nearly 29 years. Working her way through the ranks, Velazquez served as patrol officer, detective, patrol sergeant, patrol lieutenant, and Commander of the Investigations Unit. Velazquez is currently the Commander for the DuPage County Major Crimes Task Force, the first female to hold that title. Deputy Chief Velazquez

has a master's degree in Organizational Behavior and a bachelor's degree in Law Enforcement Administration. Velazquez attended the Northwestern University School Staff and Command.

Workshops, other programs

The Dare to Dream: Get Educated! Conference will also feature a series of workshops and panels on careers, college life and navigating the U.S. educational system.

Eira Corral Sepulveda, Village Clerk of Hanover Park, will deliver the closing message. Corral Sepulveda, elected at age 23 in 2009, was the youngest elected official in the state of Illinois. Corral Sepulveda was elected in April 2017 to her third term. She graduated from DePaul University with degrees in Political Science and Latino and Latin American Studies, Community

Service Studies, and Commercial Spanish and has studied in Argentina,

Chile, Uruguay, and Nogales, Mexico.

The Dare to Dream: Get Educated! Conference is made possible by grants from the DuPage Foundation, support from the College of DuPage, funding from local branches of AAUW (American Association of University Women), HBK Engineering LLC, Molex LLC, Edward Jones, Microsoft, Montenegro-INC, PayPal, and by many in-

dividual donations.

Participating schools include: Algonquin Middle School, Blackhawk Middle School, Chippewa Middle School, Churchville Middle School, District 89, Glenn West Lake Middle School, Glenside Middle School, Gurrie Middle School, Hester Middle School, Hubble Middle School, Indian Trail Junior High, Hannah Beardsley

Middle School, Iroquois West Middle School, Jackson Middle School, Jefferson Middle School, Mannheim Middle School, Marquardt Middle School, Northlake Middle School, Spring Wood Middle School, Elgin District U-46, West Oak Middle School, and Wood Dale Jr. High.

For more information, visit dareto dreamlatinas.org.

Willowbrook Speech Team earns awards

On Dec. 15, the Willowbrook Speech Team competed in a home tournament at Willowbrook and finished in fourth place. Results were as follows:

Dramatic Duet Acting: freshman Katherine Wentworth and senior Kelli McNeice, finalists; Extemporaneous Speaking: junior Chloe Devens, fourth place; Oratorical Dec-

lamation: senior Renee Maggard, third place; Prose Reading: senior Maryellen Dziak, finalist; and, Radio Speaking: sophomore Ryan Brown, sixth place.



On Dec. 15, the Willowbrook Speech Team, pictured above, competed in a home tournament and took fourth place over all.



The top performers at the Willowbrook Home Speech Tournament are pictured here. They include (from left): junior Chloe Devens, senior Maryellen Dziak, sophomore Ryan Brown, senior Renee Maggard, freshman Katherine Wentworth and senior Kelli McNeice.

Villa Park briefs

Free dental care for children at College of DuPage

Appointments required; call 630-942-3250

In honor of Give Kids a Smile Day, the College of DuPage's dental hygiene program will provide free preventive dental care to children ages 4 to 18 on Friday, Feb. 1. Appointments are required, and a parent must be present. There are limited appointments available from 8 to 11:30 a.m., and from 12:30 to 4 p.m., at the College of DuPage Dental Hygiene Clinic, located in Room 1122 of the Health and Sciences Building at 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn. Dental cleanings, school forms, exams and X-rays will be offered. Parents should bring any current X-rays of their children. Dental exams are state mandated for children in kindergarten, second grade, sixth grade and ninth grade.

Christmas tree pickup in Villa Park offered during the second and third week of January

The Village of Villa Park reminds residents that free pickup of their real Christmas trees will be available during the second and third week of January. Residents should remove all plastic bags, strings, wiring, lights and decorations from their trees before placing them at the curb on their regular garbage pickup day. The village's waste collector—Roy Strom Company—will pick up the Christmas trees.

College news

Local students make Carthage College dean's list

The following local students are among 1,022 who made the Carthage College dean's list for the fall 2018 semester: Micala Giammarino, Meghan Koterba, Tyler Meder and Laura Smith.

UW-Whitewater announces dean's list

Students from Villa Park were named to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Dean's List for the 2018 fall semester. They include Krista Dahlstrand, Christopher Hackbert and Shawn Pieper.



Dance team in action

Willowbrook High School's dance and cheer teams competed in Sunday's West Suburban Conference Meet at Hinsdale South. The dance team earned a seventh-place finish, while the cheer team placed fifth. Pictured left to right during the dance team's performance are: senior Samantha Corso, freshman Ava Cappitelli, junior Charlie Wozniak, sophomore Katie Kramme, freshman Coco Bernardi, junior Gianna Irlon, senior Claryce Dooley and sophomore Natasha Daum. One day before performing at the conference meet, Willowbrook's dance team earned a second-place finish at a competition at Lockport High School. The dance team will compete in this Saturday's IHSA Geneva Sectional. The top six teams in each division of the sectional will advance to the IHSA state meet, which takes place Jan. 25-26 in Bloomington.

CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

PIE Foundation, District 88 Board to host evening at Drury Lane

Donna Craft Cain, on behalf of the Partnership for Inspired Education (PIE) Foundation and the District 88 Board of Education, has invited the community for an evening of entertainment, dining and fun on Sunday, March 10 at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace, while supporting the PIE Foundation.

The PIE Foundation's 2019 fundraiser will benefit students in DuPage County school districts 4, 45, 48 and 88. The evening will feature a performance of "Mamma Mia!" along with dinner, a silent auction with sports memorabilia, tickets to events, jewelry and gift certificates as well as a free prize drawings and a live auction.

Ways you can help the PIE Foundation fundraiser

1. Donate to the silent auction: We're looking for a variety of items to include in baskets at our silent auction, as well as gift certificates. If you have items to donate, contact District 88 Director of Community Relations Dani Brink by Feb. 11. She can be reached at dbrink@dupage88.net or 630-530-3989.
2. Attend the PIE Foundation fundraiser: Tickets are limited, so be sure to buy yours today. Tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased online at piefoundation.org or fill out a ticket order form at dupage88.net/PIEFoundation2019.

3. Provide a monetary donation: To support the enrichment of student learning through the PIE Foundation, mail your tax-deductible contribution to:

PIE Foundation
P.O. Box 5438
Villa Park 60181

Donations also may be made securely online at piefoundation.org/donations.html.

Matching gifts: Your gift might be multiplied with a matching gift from your/spouse's employer. See your Human Resources Department for the appropriate form, and return it with your contribution.

PIE Foundation fundraiser details

What: A performance of Mamma Mia! dinner and an auction

When: Sunday, March 10, 2 p.m. show, 5 p.m. dinner

Where: Drury Lane, 100 Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace

Tickets: Tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased at piefoundation.org or at dupage88.net/PIEFoundation2019.

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

Multiple Warriors step up in comeback win over Proviso East

Victory helps team maintain a share of first place in the conference

The Willowbrook girls basketball team rebounded from last week's tough West Suburban Gold Conference loss to Hinsdale South by scoring conference victories over Proviso East and Leyden. Those two victories gave the Warriors an overall record of 17-7 and a conference mark of 8-2.

Willowbrook and Proviso East ended the week tied atop the conference standings. The Warriors have lost to Downers Grove South and Hinsdale South. Proviso East has suffered both of its conference losses to Willowbrook.

The Warriors will finish their conference season with two upcoming road games—a Jan. 25 contest at Addison Trail and a Feb. 2 battle at Morton. The Warriors defeated the Blazers and the Mustangs during the first half of the season.

Willowbrook's 67-59 victory over Proviso East on Jan. 10 in Villa Park was especially impressive. Needing to beat the Pirates to keep pace with them in the conference standings, the Warriors faced major obstacles in the first half. Willowbrook trailed Proviso East 18-8 at the end of the first quarter. Senior Katelyn McCann—the Warriors' leading scorer, suffered an injury in the second quarter and did not return for the rest of the game.

"We were struggling, and we needed somebody to step up," said Willowbrook coach Terry Harrell.

Several Warriors, led by sophomore Gracie Tumilty, did step up to ignite a comeback, which trimmed Proviso East's lead to 35-30 by halftime. The Pirates' lead stood at 51-50 by the end of the first quarter.

Tumilty provided a team-leading 21 points in last week's win over the Pirates. She scored seven points in the second quarter, making a 3-point shot along with four free throws. Tumilty drained five field goals in the third quarter to provide half of the team's 20 points during the period.

"The girls just played fantastic defense in the second half, and offensively, Gracie Tumilty just took over," said

Harrell.

Junior K'alyha Herron of the Warriors scored 11 of her 13 points during the second half. Herron connected for seven points in the fourth quarter, when she made two field goals, including a 3-point shot, and drained both of her free-throw attempts.

Senior Maura Heneghan rounded out Willowbrook's trio of double-digit scorers by providing 11 points. Heneghan scored two baskets and made seven of 10 attempts from the free-throw line.

Sophomore Annemarie Knudtson scored seven points, including a 3-point shot in the fourth quarter. McCann scored five points before she was sidelined.

The Warriors' comeback win over Proviso East came two days after a disappointing 47-44 conference loss to Hinsdale South. Willowbrook held a 37-28 lead midway through the third quarter, but the Hornets cut the Warriors' lead to 37-34 by the end of the period. The Hornets hit a 3-point shot to take a 40-39 lead midway through the fourth quarter, but the Warriors responded with five straight points to take a 44-40 lead. Sophomore Stephanie Dasbach made one free throw to tie the game at 40-40. Herron scored a go-ahead basket with about 3:20 to play. Knudtson then made a pair of free throws to give Willowbrook a 44-40 lead with 3:04 to play. The Warriors did not score for the rest of the game.

The Hornets tied the game at 44-44 with about two minutes to play. Moments after a Willowbrook turnover in the closing seconds, the Hornets made a pair of free throws with 11.9 seconds to play to take a 46-44 lead. Hinsdale South added one more free throw with 2.4 seconds to play. The Hornets then missed a free throw, and Willowbrook didn't have time to get the ball into the frontcourt for a last-second shot.

McCann scored 15 points against the Hornets. Knudtson added nine points. Herron contributed six points.

The Warriors closed out their week



Sophomore Gracie Tumilty scored a team-leading 21 points for the Warriors. Willowbrook will complete its conference schedule with games against Addison Trail and Morton.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

The Willowbrook girls basketball team played three West Suburban Conference home games during a five-day span last week. The string of games began with a 47-44 loss to Hinsdale South on Jan. 8. The visiting Hornets outscored the Warriors 7-0 in the game's final three minutes. Junior K'alyha Herron added 13 points, while senior Maura Heneghan (above) scored 11 points.

with their third straight conference home game—Saturday's 54-23 Senior Night win over Leyden. Senior Cecelia Lizasuain scored 10 points for the Warriors, who held a 31-13 halftime lead. Senior Megan Schmid drained three shots from 3-point range to produce nine points. Heneghan added eight points, while senior Emma Barrington scored seven points.

Willowbrook will play on its home court this Saturday. The Warriors will play a morning game against Brooks College Prep Academy of Chicago. The game is part of the annual Derril Kipp Hoopfest Tournament, which will feature several games on both Saturday and Monday.



Senior Katelyn McCann (pictured against Hinsdale South) scored 15 points for the Warriors. Willowbrook regrouped to win its next game, defeating Proviso East 67-59 on Jan. 10. The Warriors trailed the Pirates by 10 points after the first quarter, but sliced the lead to five points by halftime. Willowbrook closed out the week with last Saturday's 54-23 conference win over Leyden. Saturday's victory gave the Warriors a conference record of 8-2, good for a share of first place.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Rams win a pair of conference games

Glenbard East's boys basketball team won two Upstate Eight Conference home games last week. The victories over Elgin and Streamwood gave the Rams an overall season record of 8-10 and a conference record of 4-5. Glenbard East pounded Elgin 78-49 on Jan. 8. The Rams held a 36-26 lead at halftime. Their lead grew to 52-37 by the end of the third quarter. Junior Alijah Nelson (No. 22, right) led Glenbard East in scoring with 24 points. Nelson drained nine shots, including four from 3-point range. He made a pair of 3-point shots in the first quarter and piled on five baskets, including one 3-pointer, in the second quarter. Senior Antonio Davis added 14 points, while junior Deon Cook contributed 12 points. Junior DaRon Hall scored all 10 of his points during the fourth quarter. Hall made four baskets, including two 3-point shots. Two days after beating Elgin, the Rams beat Streamwood 71-57. Hall and Nelson scored 18 and 17 points, respectively. Davis added 11 points. Cook (No. 31, left) scored 10 points to mark the second straight game the same quartet of Rams produced double-digit scoring outputs. Glenbard East will play a conference home game against West Aurora this Friday.

Glenbard East/South boys bowlers advance to the sectional

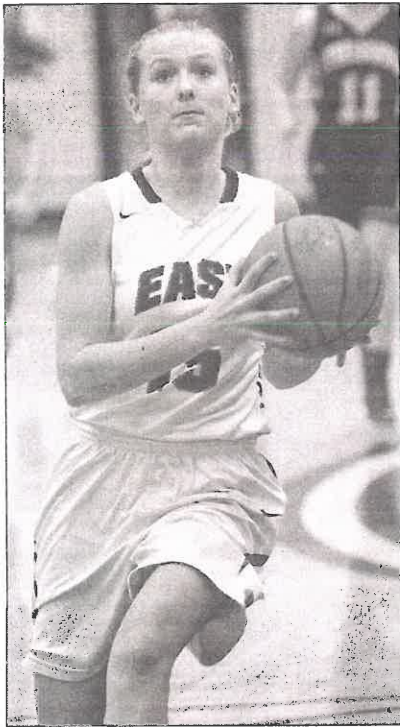
Team needs a top-six finish at the sectional to qualify for the state meet.

The Glenbard East/South boys bowling team earned an IHSA sectional berth with its third-place finish at last Saturday's regional at Brunswick Zone in Glendale Heights. The top four teams at the nine-team regional qualified for this week's Hinsdale South Sectional. The top six teams at the sectional will qualify for the IHSA state meet, which will take place Jan. 25-26 in O'Fallon.

Lake Park won the regional in Glendale Heights with an overall score

of 6,198. Naperville Central (5,833) placed second, while Glenbard East/South claimed third with a score of 5,799. Lyons Township (5,627) placed fourth.

Junior Kyle Bailey turned in the top regional score for the Glenbard East/South team with a six-game total of 1,338, an average of 223 per game. Bailey posted the third best individual score at the regional. Senior Jake Jordan provided a total score of 1,190, which was good for 13th place among all individual competitors, while sophomore Anthony Pope turned in a six-game score of 1,101.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Glenbard East girls deliver a conference win

Glenbard East's girls basketball team beat Streamwood 59-37 in last week's Upstate Eight Conference game in Lombard. Sophomore Lauren Huber (No. 15, left) drove to the basket for two of her 25 points. Huber made nine baskets, including three from 3-point range, and sank four of six shots from the free-throw line. Huber scored 13 points in the first half to help the Rams to a 23-12 halftime lead. Huber scored eight third-quarter points for Glenbard East, which pushed its lead to 48-28 by the end of the period. Huber, senior Sophie Moore and junior Jillian O'Brien each made a 3-point shot during the third quarter. Moore (No. 21, right, at the free-throw line during the fourth quarter), made both attempts and finished the game with 12 points. Moore made two shots from 2-point range and a pair of 3-point shots to go along with her two free throws. Sophomore Emily Ryan added seven points for Glenbard East, which improved to 6-14 overall and 3-8 in the conference with the Jan. 10 victory. "We just kept moving the ball around and getting open looks," said Huber after the victory. "Our shots were falling tonight, and we were getting some steals." Moore stated that the team has been playing better since it took part at Riverside-Brookfield's holiday tournament in late December. "We've definitely improved since then," said Moore. "We're turning a corner. I think it's going to be a much better second half of the season."

Sharp shooting Bronco

Freshman Sophie Sullivan (No. 1) helped the Montini girls basketball team improve its overall record to 21-3 with a pair of strong performances last week. Sullivan scored 18 points to lead the Broncos to a 47-36 victory at Mother McAuley on Jan. 10. That win over the mighty Macs came less than two weeks after the teams squared off in the semifinal round of Montini's Christmas tournament. The Broncos edged Mother McAuley 39-38 in that battle, which took place on Dec. 28. Sullivan drained seven 3-point shots to tally 21 points in Montini's 62-28 win over Trinity on last Saturday.



A great week for the Warriors

The Willowbrook girls bowling team won the team championship at last Friday's eight-team Hinsdale South Ed Puck Varsity Invitational. The members of the team, pictured left to right with the championship plaque, are: (front row) Junior Makaylah Jones, senior Katie Pettinger and junior Madeline Brown; (back row) Junior Victoria Selezar, senior Brianna Bryant, senior Paula Williams and senior Holly Helaper. One day after winning Hinsdale South's invitational title, the Warriors earned a fourth-place finish at last Saturday's 24-team Fenton Invitational. Pettinger delivered a ninth-place showing in the individual standings of Saturday's meet with a six-game score of 1,124. Helaper (1,101) placed 16th in the individual standings, while Williams (1,004) finished 17th. The Warriors also posted West Suburban Conference victories over York and Hinsdale South last week. Willowbrook defeated York 3,395 to 3,065 on Jan. 8. Bryant provided a three-game score of 593. Williams fired a 589 series, while Helaper contributed a 584 series that included a 266 in her second game. The Warriors improved their conference record to 5-0 when they beat Hinsdale South 3,217 to 2,583 on Jan. 10. Bryant rolled a three-game series of 619, while Helaper turned in a 605 series. "They've all been very consistent," said Willowbrook coach Kevin Allen in discussing the Warriors' strong season. "That's a huge strength of our team. Any given girl could be our best bowler of the day." The Warriors will finish their conference season with meets against Hinsdale Central, Leyden and Downers Grove North.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Warriors win one and lose one in conference play

Late rally against Downers Grove South comes up short

The Willowbrook boys basketball team played its first two West Suburban Gold Conference games of 2019 last week. The Warriors opened the week with a victory at Hinsdale South.



Senior Scott Tumilty scored six points. The Warriors earned a conference win earlier in the week, beating Hinsdale South 65-56 on Jan. 8.

Three days later, Willowbrook lost a home game to Downers Grove South. That decision gave the Warriors an overall record of 9-7 and a conference record of 3-2.

Willowbrook completed a season sweep of Hinsdale South with a 65-56 victory on Jan. 8. The Warriors led the Hornets 29-25 at halftime. Willowbrook's lead grew to as many as 22 points in the third quarter. The Warriors' lead stood at 51-36 at the end of the period.

Junior Everett Stubblefield made nine shots, including a pair of 3-pointers, and scored a team-leading 20 points. Senior Levi Bentsen added 15 points. Senior Charlie Flak, who made two shots from 3-point range, scored 12 points. Stubblefield (nine of 16), Bentsen (five of nine) and Flak (four of seven) all made more than half of their attempts from the field. As a team, the Warriors made 50 percent of their shots from the field, converting 24 of 48 attempts.

The Warriors and Downers Grove South tangled in front of an enthusiastic crowd in last Friday's contest in Villa Park. Both teams enjoyed healthy support from spirited student sections. The Mustangs built a double-digit lead during the second half, but the Warriors cut the lead to one point with about two minutes to play. Downers Grove South held off Willowbrook's rally and pulled out a 66-60 victory. The Mustangs improved to 12-5 overall and 5-1 in the conference.

Willowbrook held a 24-23 halftime lead. Senior Scott Tumilty made a 3-point shot early in the third quarter for the Warriors, who led the Mustangs 30-23 early in the period. Downers Grove South then unleashed a 17-1 run

to take a 40-31 lead with about three minutes left in the period. The Mustangs' lead stood at 46-38 at the end of the quarter.

The visitors pushed their lead to 51-40 with about six minutes to play. Two minutes later, the lead stood at 54-50. A driving layup by junior Isaac Gaines and a basket by Flak trimmed the Mustangs' lead to four points.

Stubblefield scored five quick points to cut Downers Grove South's lead to one point. His 3-point shot cut the Mustangs' lead to 58-57 at the two-minute mark. Downers Grove South then scored eight straight points to take a 66-57 lead. It looked like that would be the final score, but a brief skirmish broke out with just 1.9 seconds to play. When a lengthy discussion between the officials ended, the Mustangs were hit with a technical foul, and Stubblefield went to the foul line to shoot four free throws. He made three of the attempts to finish the night with 29 points.

Gaines provided 10 points, while Bentsen and Tumilty each scored six points.

"I felt like we played a complete game for 32 minutes," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins after Friday's loss. "We dug ourselves a hole, but then we fought back. They [the Mustangs] made one or two more plays. This was a great environment. Sometimes you're on the losing end. We've still got a lot of games left. We've just got to continue to improve."

The Warriors' schedule this week includes a conference road game at Proviso East, followed by games on Saturday and Monday at Sterling High School's Martin Luther King Tournament.



Willowbrook's boys basketball team squared off against Downers Grove South in last Friday's West Suburban Gold Conference game in Villa Park. The visiting Mustangs edged the Warriors 66-60 in front of a large and boisterous crowd. Willowbrook's conference record fell to 3-2. The Mustangs improved their conference record to 5-1. Junior Isaac Gaines (above), drives for a basket in the fourth quarter, contributed 10 points.

Willowbrook girls gymnastics

team records two conference wins

Warriors best Leyden and Morton in Gold Division meets

By Mike Miazga
FOR THE LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW

The Willowbrook girls gymnastics team started the new year off on the right foot with a pair of West Suburban Conference Gold Division victories.

The Warriors were 120.8-116.0 winners over Leyden in conference play. On vault, Tess Placek was first with an 8.65. Karli Wilson was second with an 8.40, while Riley Wieringa had an 8.20 and finished third.

On bars, Wilson was second with a 7.50, while Placek was third with a 7.40. Maeve Costello finished with a 7.00.

On beam, Placek was first with an 8.40, while Wieringa had a 6.60 and Wilson had a 6.55.

On floor exercise, Costello won the event with an 8.20, while Placek tied for second at 8.10 and Wieringa was fourth at 7.70.

Placek won the all-around scoring at 32.55. Wilson was third at 29.95, while Wieringa was fourth at 29.30.

"Varsity had its first win and our JV lost by only 0.25 points so we are on the right track," said Willowbrook coach Deanna Zuchowski.

In the JV 1 meet, Leyden won

92.25-92.00.

Dominique Crowe won the vault for Willowbrook with an 8.25. Alyssa Lorann was second at 8.06, while Heidi Helsper was third at 7.90.

Helsper won the bars competition with a 5.40 score. Lorann won the beam at 6.60. Helsper was third at 6.10 and Crowe was fourth at 5.90.

On floor, Crowe was third at 7.20, while Lorann was fourth at 7.00. Helsper was tied for fifth at 6.90.

Helsper won the all-around at 26.30. Lorann was second at 25.30 and Crowe was fourth at 24.55.

Willowbrook then defeated Morton 118.55-109.40 in a Gold Division meet.

Placek won the vault at 8.50, while Wilson was second at 8.20 and Costello was third at 7.90. Caitlyn Owen tied for fourth at 7.80.

On bars, Placek won the event at 7.60. Owen was second at 6.90, while Wieringa was third at 6.70. Costello

tied for fourth at 6.60.

Placek scored a 6.60 on beam. Wieringa finished at 6.50 and Autumn Palacios was at 6.15.

Wilson won the floor exercise at 8.90. Placek was second at 8.50, while Costello was third at 8.10 and Wieringa was fourth at 7.60.

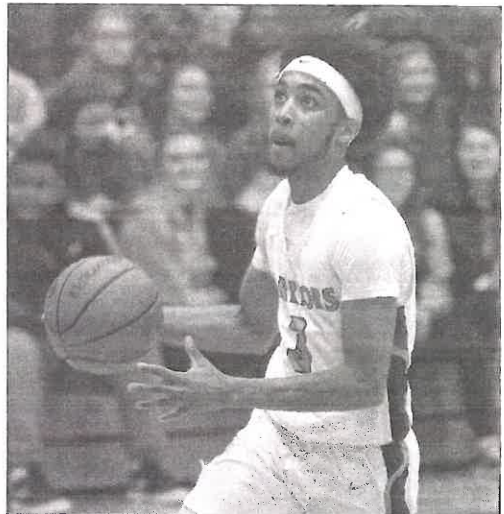
Placek won the all-around at 31.20. Wieringa was second at 28.40, while Wilson was third at 28.25.

Morton won the JV meet 89.40-87.6. Lorann won the vault for Willowbrook with a 7.20. Crowe was second at 7.10, while Helsper was third at 7.00.

Helsper won the bars competition at 6.50. Lorann was third on beam at 6.20.

Lorann also won the floor exercise with a 6.80. Crowe was third at 6.60 and Helsper was fourth at 6.10.

Lorann won the all-around with a 24.80 score. Crowe was second at 22.10 and Helsper was third at 21.7.



Junior Everett Stubblefield of the Warriors poured in 29 points.

Crossword Puzzle Answers

ECRU	BUD	IRA
GLEN	FUND	BASED
GEAR	ULIA	ATLAS
GREENBAY	YLEM	
EXIST	MOA	
EAGLES	ROUNDED	
ALL	CHIPIN	TEAR
SLOBS	ROC	SALSA
TORTI	POTENT	HEP
STYGIAN	IODIDE	
GAR	GAMMA	
SCAM	LOMBARDI	
PLUMB	ABEL	TURN
VOTES	VANE	EMIT
CBS	ADD	DASH

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Shaw Media file photo

Timothy Christian's Josh Harris takes a shot against Chicago Christian on Dec. 11.

PREP ROUNDUP

Timothy Christian eases past Guerin behind Harris' effort

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

Josh Harris had 17 points and six rebounds, Matt Owens added 11 points and 10 assists and Zach Orange contributed 10 points for Timothy Christian (11-7, 3-2) in a 65-56 win over Guerin Prep on Jan. 15.

Glenbard East

Alijah Nelson scored 16 points, Antonio Davis added 14 and Dion Cook had 14 for the Rams in a 64-42 win over Larkin on Jan. 15.

Willowbrook

Everett Stubblefield had 29 points and six rebounds and Isaac Gaines added 10 points for the Warriors in a 66-60 loss to Downers Grove South on Jan. 11. Willowbrook lost to Proviso East 85-58 on Jan. 15.

York

The Dukes beat Proviso West 57-35 on Jan. 15. York lost to Oak Park-River Forest 59-30 on Jan. 11.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Montini

Sophie Sullivan scored 18 points to lead the Lady Broncos past Mother McAuley 47-36 on Jan. 10. Sullivan scored 21 points, hitting seven 3-pointers, to pace Montini (21-3) past Trinity 62-28 on Jan. 12.

Willowbrook

Grace Tumilty scored 15 points and K'aliya Herron had eight points for the Warriors in a 55-47 loss to Elk Grove on Jan. 15.

Cecilia Lizasuain scored 10 points and Maura Heneghan added eight in a 54-23 win over Leyden on Jan. 12.

Tumilty scored 21 points, Herron 13 and Heneghan 11 in a 67-59 win over Proviso East on Jan. 10.

York

Sydney Molis scored 18 points in the Dukes' 75-42 win over Hinsdale Central on Jan. 12. Carley Schwartz added 14 points and Kaitlyn Kjome had 13.

Suburban Life

MVA - ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



SOPHIE SULLIVAN
MONTINI
Freshman | Basketball

Why Sullivan was selected:

Montini freshman Sophie Sullivan, a Lombard resident, scored 18 points in a 47-36 win over Mother McAuley, and 21 points - hitting seven 3-pointers - in a 62-28 win over Trinity.

Sullivan talked to Suburban Life sports editor Joshua Welge about the season and more. Here is an edited version of the transcript.

Welge: Seven 3s! Did you realize you were having that big a game?

Sullivan: I knew I was having that type of game. I missed my first couple shots and I couldn't make a shot, and then, eventually, in the second quarter I hit four in a row going into halftime. My coach just told me, 'You have the green light, you're hot, keep shooting.' I ended up making three more.

Welge: How big was that McAuley win?

Sullivan: It was a huge win for us. We played them once before and we beat them by one. To go on their home court and beat them again was huge.

Welge: How has Sam [Mitchell] helped you since she was hurt?

Sullivan: When she got hurt, it was really out of the blue and everybody was shocked. I'm not going to lie, the first couple games were really nerve-wracking for me. I didn't really know how to handle the situation. Sam has always been a role model of mine. It's funny how we became teammates. She leads me and tells me what to do on the bench. As a freshman, I appreciate her leadership.

Welge: Was basketball always your sport?

Sullivan: I would always go to my brothers' games. I have five older brothers. ... I started park district in second grade, then third grade with the Lady Lightning. I also did volleyball, track and cross country. I just really loved the game.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

Willowbrook shines at recent speech tournament

On Jan. 12, the Willowbrook speech team (pictured above) competed in a tournament at Waubonsie Valley High School and finished in third place. Junior Chloe Devins (second from left) was the tournament champion in Extemporaneous Speaking.

District 88 Board submits resolution in support of statewide access to property tax relief grants

As District 88 has previously shared, Illinois recently implemented a school funding law that looks to achieve adequacy and equity in education funding throughout the state.

That Evidence Based Funding law also provides money for a Property Tax Relief Grant. The intent of that program is to assist communities in Illinois that are experiencing a significant local property tax burden due to limited local property wealth.

It's an opportunity to lower the property tax burden on local taxpayers, with the state replacing a portion of foregone tax revenue with state funds.

District 88 has applied for this grant on behalf of the property taxpayers of the district and Illinois.

However, the district is concerned there isn't sufficient funding allocated to fully and effectively implement this program to support all eligible communities.

During its Jan. 14 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education approved submitting a resolution to address concerns regarding the underfunding by the state for property tax relief. That resolution was sent to state senators Tom Cullerton and Don Harmon; state representatives Deb Conroy, Deanne Mazzocchi, Terra Costa Howard and Kathleen Willis; Gov. J.B. Pritzker; state superintendent Dr. Tony Smith; and Peg Agnos, executive director of Legislative Education Network of DuPage (LEND).

New inductees to Willowbrook Athletic Hall of Fame

Seven athletes/teams to be honored at banquet

Founded in 2010, the Willowbrook Athletic Hall of Fame celebrates the athletic and personal successes of standout student-athletes. A screening committee comprised of current and former coaches, staff members, Athletic Booster Club members and community representatives selects the Willowbrook Warriors who are inducted each year.

This year's Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Banquet will take place on Thursday, Jan. 31 at The Carlisle, 435 E. Butterfield Road in Lombard. The evening will begin with a social gathering from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

The banquet and presentation of the class of 2019 will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Inductees also will be recognized before the

Willowbrook Varsity Boys' Basketball game on Feb. 1.

Class of 2019 inductees

Bill Biliskis (Class of 1968 – cross-country, track and field)

Yolanda Lewis Marshall (Class of 1997 – basketball, volleyball, track and field)

Cherise Porter (Class of 2012 – basketball, volleyball, track and field)

Steve Congene (Class of 2012 – wrestling)

Orv Wilkin (Coach – baseball, football)

1998-99 wrestling team

Brendan McArdle (outstanding contributor)

Pom pon team (2006-07 – state champion)

New Firehouse Subs restaurant opens in Villa Park

Operated by local entrepreneur with 30 years in the restaurant industry

First-time Firehouse Subs Franchisee Doreen Evans welcomed Villa Park to the Firehouse Subs® family with the opening of her restaurant at 298 W. North Ave., in December.

Firehouse Subs serves premium meats and cheeses steamed and piled high on a toasted sub roll, served "Fully Involved®" with fresh produce and condiments. In addition to its signature subs, the restaurant offers a variety of catering options from sandwich and dessert platters to salads and snacks to fuel any occasion.

This is Evans' first Firehouse Subs restaurant, and she plans on making it a family business with the help of her husband, Juan Lopez, and two sons, Tyson and Jerrett Evans. Evans has more than thirty years of experience in the restaurant industry and is proud to own her first franchise.

"I've been working in the restaurant industry since I was 16 years old, and, now, to have my very own franchise is a dream come true," Evans said. "I was eager to open my first Firehouse Subs restaurant after experiencing the brand's welcoming culture, flavorful food and passion for helping first responders. I'm excited to bring all of that back to the Villa Park community."

Evans is excited to serve steamed-to-perfection subs while sharing the brand's commitment to heartfelt service and local public safety organizations through Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation®, which has donated more than \$1 million in grants in the state of Illinois.

The Villa Park Firehouse Subs restaurant is open seven days a week from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and will offer third-party delivery and in-house catering services.

Cullerton named to chair labor committee

As a former Teamster member, state Sen. Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park) is no stranger to the importance of organized labor in Illinois.

Cullerton was recently tapped to chair the Illinois State Senate Labor Committee.

"The hardworking men and women of our state are what make Illinois great," Cullerton said.

"Organized labor is the driving force that keeps our nation running. Remember every time someone takes the expressway to visit a relative, relies on local firefighters and police officers to keep their families safe or checks

their mail, that is labor in action."

Cullerton's priorities this legislative session are to advance legislation that will protect the core values of working people across Illinois by keeping workers safe, fighting for worker's rights and promoting sound and reliable infrastructure for all residents.

"I will take every step possible to advance policies that promote the values and principles of working people," Cullerton said.

Cullerton will also serve as a member on the following committees: Energy and Public Utilities, Insurance, State Government, Transportation and

Veterans Affairs.

Cullerton looks forward to determining new and meaningful ways to fight waste, fraud and abuse in the new General Assembly.

"I will continue to work in a bipartisan manner to advance policies that eliminate waste, fraud and abuse in our communities and state," Cullerton said.

"Illinois residents cannot afford to waste a single dime. It's our duty to explore every possible method to eliminate unproductive and careless government inefficiencies."

Conroy collecting necessities for local families

To assist local families of federal employees impacted by the federal government shutdown, state Rep. Deb Conroy, D-Villa Park, in concert with other local officials, is collecting food, diapers, and other supplies to benefit the Lombard/Villa Park Food Pantry's efforts to provide temporary assistance to these families in need.

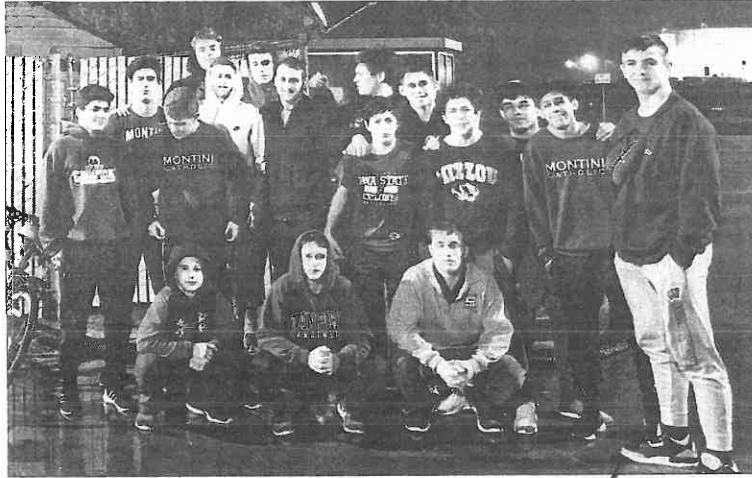
"Families of federal employees in our community are forced to get by without a paycheck and unfortunately there is no end in sight to the stalemate in Washington that has

already created the longest government shutdown in history," said Conroy. "These are circumstances completely out of their control. It's up to us as members of this community to step up and lend a hand to neighbors in need as they deal with the uncertainties that come with unexpectedly losing their paychecks."

Items collected by Conroy, Costa Howard, Pappas, Villa and Willis will be donated to the Lombard/Villa Park Food Pantry, which is based out of First United Methodist

Church in Lombard. The pantry will distribute the items to local families in need. Items may be dropped off at Conroy's full-time constituent services office at 28 S. Villa Ave. in Villa Park Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or at any of the representative's offices. Donations will be collected through the end of the shutdown.

For additional drop off locations or to arrange for a special drop-off time, contact Conroy at 630-415-3520 or RepDebConroy@gmail.com.



Montini Catholic wrestlers 2nd at Doc Buchanan tourney in California

The Montini Catholic wrestling team returned home from the Doc Buchanan Wrestling Tournament in Fresno, Calif., earlier this month. The 2018 IHSA 3A champions placed an impressive second out of 109 schools represented at the tournament with a team score of 183.5. Each year, the invite draws some of the nation's top wrestlers and presents the opportunity for contenders to test themselves midseason. Individual Bronco winners were: Dylan Ragusa, third place (126); Dylan Burnock, seventh place (132); Fidel Mayora, second place (145); Jake Siles, first place (152); Trevor Swier, fifth place (182); Pete Christensen, second place (195); and Mike MoNichols, sixth place (285). Upon leaving the tournament, the team stopped off at Safe Harbor Shelter in San Francisco to deliver the food they had from their meet to shelter residents. "We wanted to find some place that could use the food," said Athletic Director Tom Lentine. "We were lucky enough to talk to a police officer who directed us to Safe Harbor." Above, the wrestling team delivers food to Safe Harbor Shelter in San Francisco after competing in the tournament.

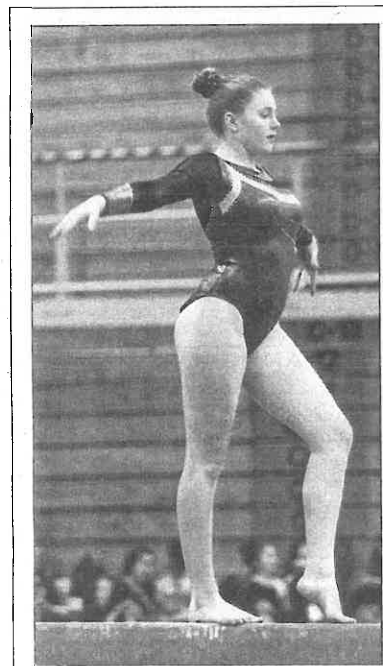
SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review



Warriors dance team heading to state meet

Willowbrook High School's dance team earned a berth in the IHSA competitive dance state meet with its strong performance in last Saturday's sectional at Geneva High School. Needing a top-six finish in its division to secure a trip to the state meet, Willowbrook placed fourth in the 2A-2 division, which included 14 teams. Fenton won the 2A-2 sectional with its score of 86.12. Willowbrook's sectional performance received a score of 82.40. The state meet takes place this Friday and Saturday in Bloomington. This is the Willowbrook dance team's first berth in the IHSA state meet, which has taken place annually since 2013. At right, from Saturday's sectional performance shows (left to right) senior Samantha Corso, junior Charlie Wozniak, freshman Ava Cappitelli and junior Gianna Irion.

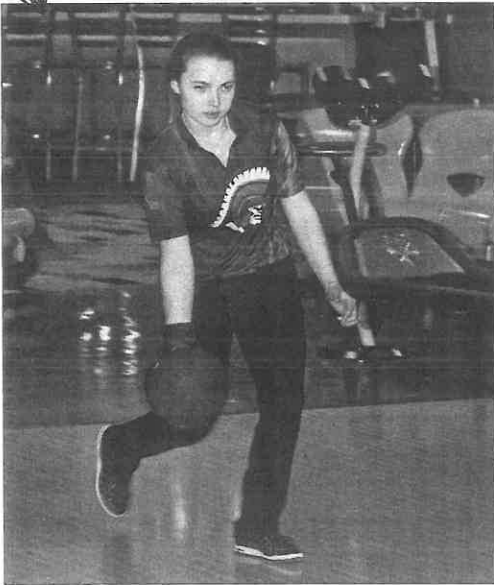
At left are freshman Coco Bernardi (foreground, right) and sophomore Katie Kramme (left). The Montini dance team also earned a state-meet berth at the Geneva Sectional. Montini earned a second-place finish in the sectional's 1A division. Glenbard East's dance team competed in the 3A-2 division at last Saturday's Warren Sectional in Gurnee and earned a 10th-place finish.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Warriors edge Blazers

The Willowbrook girls gymnastics team earned a narrow 122.3 to 121.8 victory over Addison Trail in last week's dual meet in Villa Park. The Warriors, who honored their senior gymnasts before the meet, will compete in this Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference meet at Addison Trail. They will then compete at the IHSA regional at Glenbard East on Jan. 31. Willowbrook senior Caitlyn Owen is above (right) on the balance beam during the Warriors' Jan. 16 meet against Addison Trail. Owen earned a score of 7.2 on the beam. She also delivered an 8.6 on the vault, a 6.650 on the uneven bars and a 7.0 in floor exercises for an all-around total of 29.45. Freshman Tess Placek of the Warriors (above left) delivered an all-around score of 32.050, which included first-place scores of 8.9 on the vault and 7.4 on the uneven bars. Placek, who turned in her team's best score on the balance beam (7.3), tied Addison Trail's Francesca Scarabaggio for first place in the all-around standings. Junior Karli Wilson of the Warriors delivered her team's best score on the floor exercises with an 8.5. In addition to Owen, the seniors on this year's Willowbrook team are April Aquino, Emily Gusel, Autumn Palacios and Bethany Tantilla.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Warriors rolling along

The Willowbrook girls bowling team maintained its undefeated West Suburban Conference season with a pair of wins last week. The Warriors beat Hinsdale Central 3,051 to 2,777 on Jan. 15. Two days later, Willowbrook defeated Leyden 3,173 to 2,380. The win over Leyden gave the Warriors a conference record of 7-0. Seniors Holly Helsper and Katie Pettinger (above) led the Warriors to the Jan. 17 win over the Eagles. Helsper bowled a three-game series of 583 with games of 216, 193 and 174. Pettinger rolled a 577 series on games of 205, 171 and 201. Helsper and Pettinger have both been on the varsity since they were freshmen. They hold the team's top two scoring averages this season. "They have both shown great leadership qualities throughout the year by motivating the team during every match and invite," said Willowbrook coach Kevin Allen. "They have both been bowling great all season, and I think their best bowling is still to come." The team is completing its conference dual-meet schedule with this week's meet against Downers Grove North. The Warriors will begin post-season play at the Glenbard East Regional at the Brunswick Zone in Glendale Heights on Feb. 2.