

## Coming events

**Editor's note:** Unless otherwise indicated, information on each of the following events and programs can be found by visiting the library's website at [vppl.info](http://vppl.info) or by calling 630-834-1164.

### Tuesday, Nov. 16 Thanksgiving 101 at the library

The Villa Park Public Library will present *Thanksgiving 101* in person at the library from 7-8:30 p.m. Chef Susan Maddox will walk attendees through the perfect Thanksgiving meal, from preparing the turkey to making some great side dishes. Registration and a \$5 tasting fee per person are required. Face masks are required to enter the library by all individuals over age 2 who can medically tolerate it, regardless of vaccination status.

### Wednesday, Nov. 17 Library offers free STEAM kits

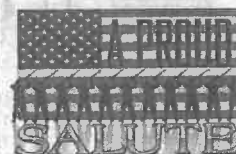
The Villa Park Public Library offers free STEAM kits aimed at tweens and teens in grades 5 through 12. Each take-home kit includes materials for a project that encourages creativity, exploration, and critical thinking through inquiry-based learning. The next kit will be available for pickup at the library starting on Wednesday, Nov. 17. The deadline to register for a kit is Friday, Nov. 12.

### Friday, Nov. 19 and Saturday, Nov. 20 Thanksgiving craft open house at the library

The Villa Park Public Library will hold a Thanksgiving Craft Open House on Friday, Nov. 19 and on Saturday, Nov. 20 from 2-4 p.m. Children of all ages can celebrate Thanksgiving with a fun craft. Young children will need adult help. Registration is not required. Face masks are required to enter the library by all individuals over age 2 who can medically tolerate it, regardless of vaccination status.

### Monday, Nov. 22 Virtual travel to Zambia at the library

The Villa Park Public Library will host Livingstone, Zambia: Gateway to Victoria Falls at 7 p.m. At this virtual program, Jeff Mishur will recount his adventures on game drives in Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park and on an elephant-back safari, rafting on the Zambezi River, and flightseeing over Victoria Falls in a vintage bi-plane. This program will be held online, and registration with a valid email address is required.



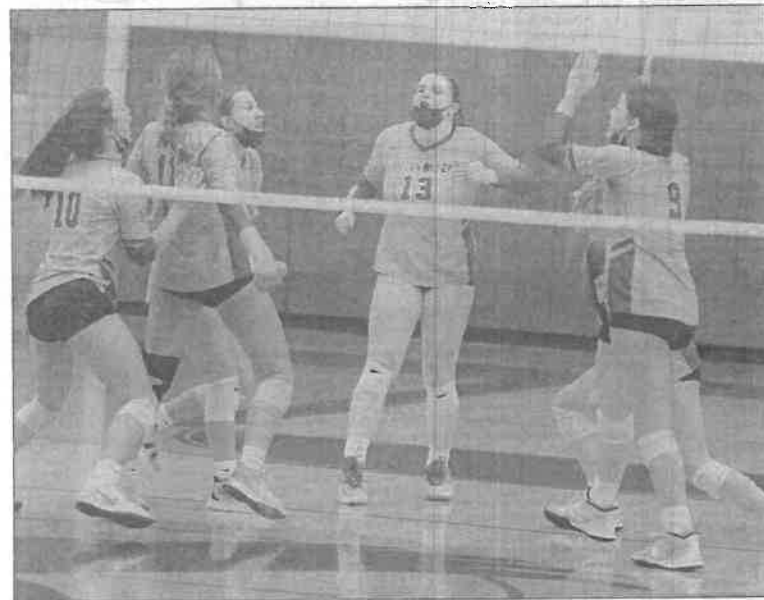
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CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Willowbrook's volleyball team ends season

Willowbrook's girls volleyball team finished a memorable season with a loss to Mother McAuley in Friday's IHSA Class 4A super-sectional match in Chicago. Mother McAuley, which won the contest on its home court, advanced to this week's state semifinals in Normal. The Warriors completed their season with a record of 37-2. Prior to this season, the Willowbrook program had never won a regional championship. This season's team won a regional title, as well as a sectional title. After posting two post-season wins on its own court to win a regional plaque, Willowbrook advanced to the Bartlett Sectional. The Warriors beat Downers Grove North in three games in a Nov. 1 sectional semifinal. Two days later, Willowbrook defeated Wheaton Warrenville South in the sectional final. One photo from the third game of the sectional final shows senior Kyla Ostrowski (below - No. 13) celebrating with her teammates after the Warriors won a critical point.



## Hassler will swim at IHSA state meet

Willowbrook senior Ellie Hassler of Villa Park will compete in the upcoming IHSA girls state swimming and diving meet at FMC Natatorium in Westmont. Hassler qualified for the state meet with her performances at Saturday's Downers Grove South Sectional.

Hassler, who is a member of the Willowbrook/Addison Trail co-op team, competed in the AWD (athletes with disabilities) division at the sectional. She earned state-meet berths in three individual events—the 50-yard freestyle, the 100-yard freestyle and the 100-yard breaststroke.

Hassler finished the sectional's 50-yard freestyle in 40.19 seconds. She posted a finishing time of 1 minute, 33.06 seconds in the 100-yard freestyle at the sectional. She completed Saturday's 100-yard breaststroke race in 2 minutes, 17.66 seconds.

# Suburban Life

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

### JOSE HERRERA

York, junior, soccer

**Why Herrera was selected:** Herrera had two goals and an assist in a 4-0 win over Fremd in the Class 3A state championship game as the Dukes won their first state title. Herrera also had a goal and an assist in a 3-2 win over Lockport in the state semifinal. Herrera was voted by readers as the Suburban Life Athlete of the Week.

Here is Herrera's interview with Sports Editor Joshua Welge.

**Welge: What does it mean to win a state title?**

**Herrera:** It's an honor to play with this group of guys. They've taught me a lot. They taught me to play hard even when we're down. It's an honor to be a part of the first team in school history to be soccer state champions. It's amazing.

**Welge: What was the mindset going in against a very good Fremd team?**

**Herrera:** We had a bunch of players on our team that knew a bunch of players on their team. We had an idea of what we had to do. We had to guard up, stay on our man, and that's what we did. We came out on top and it felt great.

**Welge: How did your goals happen?**

**Herrera:** The first goal, it was 30 seconds in, I really didn't celebrate that much. We knew once we had that first goal we needed to get the second one. I was happy that Sam [Musial] was able to

slap that one in. The third goal, Sam made an amazing run. Last goal, I had to finish it off, a chip over the goalkeeper. That made us state champs.

**Welge: At what point this season did you believe this team was capable of winning a state title?**

**Herrera:** Before the summer, and summer league. I saw the group of guys that came out for tryouts. Our goal was to make it to state and the state finals. It feels amazing that we set this goal, and we accomplished it. It was a hard challenge but we overcame and we are state champs.

**Welge: How would you describe yourself as a player? You seem to be a big-time goal scorer [24 goals this season]**

**Herrera:** I don't really want to give myself all the credit. The people that gave me the passes, those are the people that deserve the credit. They made sure I had a clear opportunity and I had to make sure I put it in the back of the net. We did amazing and I love those guys.

## GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: MOTHER MCAULEY DEF. WILLOWBROOK 25-18, 25-21

# Willowbrook's historic season comes to a close

By CASEY DROTAR  
editorial@mysuburbanlife.com

CHICAGO – The Willowbrook volleyball team has spent the entire year turning heads. Winning all but one of its first 38 matches and securing the first sectional championship in school history, it seemed there was nothing the group couldn't achieve.

However, taking on top-ranked Mother McAuley proved to be a task too tall for the Warriors. Though it hung neck and neck with the vaunted Mighty Macs, Willowbrook ultimately lost 25-18, 25-21 in the Class 4A Mother McAuley Supersectional on Nov. 5.

Mother McAuley is a 15-time state champion.

"I'm so proud of this team for just a historic run and what we've done for Willowbrook High School," Warriors coach Irene Mason said. "Our goal coming into this was to get conference and regional champions again this

year. We far surpassed the goals that we set for ourselves in the beginning to the point where we had to keep making new goals every time because we were achieving them all."

Willowbrook proved it was going to be a tough out to start the night, battling back and forth with the Mighty Macs and forcing an 8-8 tie midway through the first set. But three kills from sophomore Ellie White quickly helped push Mother McAuley to a 13-9 advantage.

White added another kill after a Warriors timeout, and the Mighty Macs stretched their lead to as much as eight points.

Kills from sophomore Calli Kenny and senior Kyla Ostrowski brought Willowbrook back to within five, but Mother McAuley senior Peyton Brokemond added two late spikes to secure a 25-18 win.

See WILLOWBROOK, page 30

Suburban Life

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GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: MONTINI DEF. ROCK FALLS 25-17, 25-18

# Montini moves on to state after 33rd straight win

By SCOTT SCHMID  
Daily Herald Media Group

ELMHURST — The quiet bus ride home after a loss to Glenbard West on Aug. 28 was something Montini didn't want to experience again.

Thirty-three straight wins later, the Lady Broncos still haven't.

On Nov. 5, Montini added a Class 2A IC Catholic Supersectional championship to its amazing run, defeating Rock Falls 25-17, 25-18 in Elmhurst.

Improving to 33-1 in the fall, the Lady Broncos advanced to the state semifinals at Redbird Arena where they will square off against Breese Mater Dei on Friday, Nov. 12. The two teams met Oct. 23 with Montini winning in two sets.

"When we lost that first match, and now only match, of the season, that lit a fire under us," senior Paige Pickering said. "We hated that feeling. We hated that bus ride home. We didn't want to feel that again, so we've worked our butts off in practice. We haven't lost since so I guess it's working."

"This feels so awesome. I don't have any other word but awesome. Every time I see that supersectional plaque, my breath is taken away."

The Lady Broncos led from start to finish in the opener after jumping out to a 7-3 lead. Pickering had four kills while Maddie Kasallis and Jordan Heatherly had five apiece.

"This is so special," said Kasallis, whose kill ended the first set. "I'm just so unbelievably proud of my team. We've worked so hard. And we've held each other accountable, from showing up to practice to getting all our reps in. We realized we all wanted the same thing and we had to work together if we wanted to reach our goals."

Montini charged out to a 9-2 advantage in the second set but the Lady Rockers fought back. Rock Falls tied the score at 15-all and later 17 apiece before the Lady Broncos scored eight of the final nine points. An ace by Pickering sent the team to its second state semifinals in program history.



Alex T. Paschal - apaschal@shawmedia.com

Montini Catholic celebrates its victory over Rock Falls on Nov. 5 at the Class 2A supersectional in Elmhurst.

The 2014 squad placed fourth.

"We've wanted this since freshman year," said senior libero Reagan Boyer, who along with Kasallis and Pickering have been on the varsity for four years. "We've been working for it and we worked even harder for it this year. But our work isn't done. We have two more matches."

"We are one big friend group and that is rare to have on a team. And that shows when we are out on the court. We play together, and if we can continue to work together like we have been working together, you see the results."

Kasallis finished with nine kills, Pickering had eight kills and two aces

and Heatherly totaled six kills.

"This is unbelievable," second-year Montini coach Trish Samolinski said. "They've given so much time in the gym since I came in last year with the goal to get down to state. This is 100% a team effort from the bench to the fans to the school."

"Rock Falls is tough. They are fantastic and well-coached. We knew it would be a grind."

Rock Falls, with only five seniors on its roster, had entered with 37 wins and only one defeat, with 34 of those victories in two sets. Mallory Pinske led the team with seven kills and Claire Bickett and Maya Sands had six apiece.

Sands will play at UNLV next year and Pinske will continue her career at the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown.

"We had that little spurt in the second game," Rock Falls coach Sheila Pillars said. "That's how we mainly played all season. We had been laser focused for the past two weeks so I don't really know what happened. But Montini is an excellent team. They took us out of some things."

"We had a great group of senior leaders. A lot of them are going on to play in college and they really laid the groundwork for the underclassmen. Those are big shoes to fill. They are great people on and off the court."

## • WILLOWBROOK

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"The level of intensity both teams played with tonight was impressive," Mason said. "We knew they were a great team coming into this, and we knew the level that we were going to have to be at. I think both teams played incredible defense."

The Warriors fell behind early in the second set, calling a timeout after Mother

McAuley grabbed a 9-3 lead. With nerves settled, Willowbrook clawed its way back into the contest, trimming the deficit to 15-14 thanks to kills from Hannah Kenny. The freshman led the team with six kills on the night, proudly letting everyone know the stage wasn't too big for her.

"I knew I really had to come through for our team," Kenny said. "We needed a fire, and somebody needed to step up. All the cheering and that energy, it really just makes me want to play better."

The efforts didn't go unnoticed from her coach.

"She's a one-of-a-kind type of kid," Mason said. "Early on during one play-off game, she did say the nerves got to her a little bit. We worked on some stuff with that in practice and she hasn't turned around since."

Kenny added another kill down the stretch, forcing Mother McAuley to cling to a 21-20 edge. But the Mighty Macs responded with a 4-1 run, blocking a final Willowbrook kill attempt and bringing

its triumphant season to a close.

Though they fell short of the state semifinals, the Warriors know a successful year will only increase expectations. It's a challenge they're more than ready for, with Kenny already eyeing a rematch just minutes after the game's conclusion.

"I'm ready to come back next year, beat Mother McAuley and go to state," Kenny said. "This is just the beginning for us. We're all ready for bigger things to come."

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# Joe Tumilty adds chapter to family legacy, leads Willowbrook's stirring comeback win over Moline

By BOB NARANG  
editorial@mysuburbanlife.com

VILLA PARK – Moline experienced a case of déjà vu Nov. 5.

Two years ago, Willowbrook pounded the Maroons in a Class 7A first-round playoff game. Sam Tumilty threw four touchdowns to spark the Warriors to the playoff win.

In a return matchup of the two teams, it was Joe Tumilty's turn to add to the Maroons' woes.

A junior wide receiver and defensive back, Joe Tumilty sparked a stunning comeback in the final seven-plus minutes, intercepting a pass and tossing the winning touchdown to lead the 21st-seeded Warriors to a 30-26 upset victory over fifth-seeded Moline in a Class 7A second-round playoff game in Villa Park.

Not only did the younger Tumilty add another chapter to his family's growing gridiron legacy, but his strong two-way performance extended the Warriors' streak to five straight quarterfinal appearances.

The Warriors (8-3) advanced to play No. 4 seed Wheaton North this weekend.

The 5-foot-9, 165-pound Tumilty had a 40-yard touchdown reception to open the scoring and added a 45-yard interception return with just over seven minutes left in regulation to set up his 56-yard pass off a jet sweep to Nick Mabutas with 6:14 left in the fourth quarter.

Despite Tumilty's memorable outing, his best moves came during the postgame, deflecting question after question about his place in the Tumilty football household, which also includes Scott Tumilty.

"Two years ago, I was on the sidelines [against Moline], so it was fun to watch my brother's play and learn from them because they are my role models," Joe Tumilty said. "I just tried to play hard for my teammates, and it was fun to come together as a team. ... It was a fun game."

"I just play for my teammates and as hard as I can to put points on [the board] for my team and make tackles. My older brothers were very good out here."

The momentum of the game shifted three times, with Tumilty's 40-yard touchdown grab 30 seconds into the game helping the Warriors build a 10-0 lead. The Maroons answered by outscoring the Warriors 26-7 the rest of the half, capped by a Hail Mary TD on the final play to seize a 26-17 lead at halftime.



Gary E. Duncan Sr. for Shaw Media

Willowbrook's Joe Tumilty runs after a short reception during the Class 7A second-round game against Moline on Nov. 5.

"[Moline] has a bunch of weapons all over the place, and they do a really good job with the single wing and their quarterback throws the ball well and makes good decisions," Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth said. "We talked about some adjustments and things we wanted to do differently. We knew we had to get stops and string things together."

The Warriors benefited from some questionable play calling by the Maroons in the fourth quarter to mount their comeback after a scoreless third quarter, including forcing three sec-

ond-half turnovers.

After Mabutas, who had five receptions for 138 yards and two touchdowns, caught a 14-yard TD to lower the deficit to 26-24 early in the fourth, Tumilty intercepted a pass and returned it 45 yards with 7:14 left. One minute later, Tumilty shocked Moline's defense, tossing a 56-yard TD to Mabutas for the winning touchdown. Vince Vassolo sealed the win with an interception at the 1:18 mark.

"Each [Tumilty] is a different kid and brings a different skill set," Hildreth

said. "We talked about that before the game. Our mantra is 'maintain the culture' and what that means about the guys that come before us and after."

Willowbrook senior running back Jaylon White, who rushed for 102 yards and a touchdown, praised the team's heart – and Tumilty – for the comeback.

"This is amazing," White said. "We were down at halftime, but we knew we could come back and keep fighting. It's amazing playing with a Tumilty. They're almost all the same. Just amazing players."

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CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Here come the pumpkins

The Villa Park Environmental Concerns Commission held its annual Pumpkin Smash on Saturday near Villa Park Village Hall. Residents stopped by to drop off hundreds of Halloween pumpkins. All of the pumpkins collected on Saturday will be composted. The commission held its Pumpkin Smash event in coordination with SCARCE (School and Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting Education). According to SCARCE, Pumpkin Smash events divert pumpkins from landfills. That diversion helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, composting pumpkins produces a useful, nutrient-dense soil amendment. One photo from Saturday shows Commissioner Marianne Greco (above) tossing a pumpkin into the receptacle that accommodated the pumpkins brought to the event. Another photo shows another commissioner—Margaret Schiefer, (top right), sending another pumpkin into the receptacle. One more photo shows siblings James and Bridget Carnahan (right - ages 4 and 8) of Villa Park dropping off one of their Halloween pumpkins.



## Cullerton-supported legislation pushes green transportation measures

State Sen. Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park) joined his colleagues in supporting a piece of legislation to put Illinois in the forefront of green transportation during the recent fall session.

The Reimagining Electric Vehicles in Illinois Act will preserve and create jobs in Illinois and incentive manufacturers to move to the state.

"When the General Assembly passed the Clean and Equitable Jobs Act this past spring, we laid the groundwork for putting Illinois on the map as a hub for green innovation," Cullerton said. "Bringing electric vehicle manufacturers here will further push our state toward progress."

Before passing this legislation, Illinois was already home to two major electric vehicle manufacturers: Rivian, which is located in Normal and produces electric SUVs and trucks, and Lion Electric Company, a Canadian-based company that produces medium and heavy-duty urban vehicles that opened a new facility in Joliet this year.

The new measure will provide a tax credit for manufacturers of electric vehicles, parts and power supplies.

Businesses in underserved areas would be eligible for a larger benefit. Additionally, training cost tax credits

can increase if new employees are recent college grads, certificate holders or credential recipients from a college in Illinois.

Cullerton also advocated for the inclusion of electric motorcycles under the definition of electric vehicles in the legislation.

"Already, the plant that manufactures Jeep Cherokees is looking to expand production to include electric vehicles," Cullerton said. "These manufacturing facilities will bring steady, good-paying jobs to Illinois

as we transition into a clean energy economy."

The state is already home to over 30,000 workers in the auto production industry and over 5,000 workers in the electric transportation industry, with these numbers expected to double in the next two years.

House Bill 1769 passed both chambers and is awaiting final approval from the governor.

*Editor's note: This was submitted by the office of State Sen. Tom Cullerton.*

## VPOE's Thanksgiving Food Drive runs through Nov. 17

Villa Park Office Equipment (VPOE) is holding its 10th Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive this year. VPOE conducts the food drive in partnership with DuPagePads.

Donations for this year's drive will be collected until Wednesday, Nov. 17. VPOE is located at 1120 N. Villa Ave. Donations can be dropped off (during regular business hours—Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) either curbside or in the VPOE showroom. Volunteers are

also available to pick up any large donations.

Last year's drive yielded \$7,050 in cash, checks and gift cards, along with over 6,600 individual items.

The food drive is collecting items including: Jewel and ALDI gift cards, instant potatoes, boxed desserts, single-serve packaged desserts and oatmeal packets, pasta, instant rice, microwaveable food, instant coffee/tea/hot chocolate packets, paper towels, toilet paper, paper plates, napkins and plastic utensils.

## Kiwanis Club holds spaghetti dinner at Willowbrook on Friday

The Kiwanis Club of Villa Park will hold a spaghetti dinner fundraiser this Friday, Nov. 12, from 5 to 6:45 p.m. at Willowbrook High School.

The event will take place before the school's presentation of its fall musical—"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." The musical will

begin at 7 p.m.

Tickets for the musical are sold separately.

Tickets for the spaghetti dinner are \$7 for adults, \$6 for teenagers and \$4 for children ages 6 to 12. There is no charge for children 5 and under. The dinner will include a mega gift card raffle at 6 p.m.

# Warriors rally to beat Moline and move on to quarterfinals

## Willowbrook's defense shuts out Maroons in the second half

### STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook football team advanced to the IHSA Class 7A quarterfinals after rallying to beat Moline 30-26 in Friday's second-round playoff game in Villa Park.

The Warriors, who moved their overall season record to 8-3 with their win over Moline (9-2), will play another home playoff game this week. They will host Wheaton North (10-1) this Friday. The contest will begin at 7 p.m.

Willowbrook's football program has now made it to at least the quarterfinal round in each of the last five IHSA post-seasons. The Warriors advanced to the quarterfinals in 2016 (in the 7A level), 2017 (6A) and 2018 (7A). Willowbrook won three playoff games in 2019 to earn a berth in the semifinal round of the Class 7A playoffs. The 2020 season was postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The state's IHSA football teams played a shortened six-game season, with no playoffs, in the spring of 2021.

Moline led the Warriors 26-17 at halftime. The Maroons scored on the final play of the first half, when they completed a 30-yard pass into the end zone. Moline missed the extra-point kick.

After a scoreless third quarter, Willowbrook cut into Moline's lead early in the fourth quarter. Sophomore quarterback A.J. Palicki completed a 14-yard touchdown pass to senior Nick Mabutas with 9:37 remaining in the final quarter. Junior Adrian Guerrero added the extra-point kick to reduce the Maroons' lead to 26-24.

The Warriors scored what proved to be the winning touchdown with 6:14 to play, when junior Joey Tumilty took a handoff from Palicki, ran to his right and threw a pass to Mabutas near the right sideline. Mabutas caught the pass near the Maroons' 40-yard line and sprinted into the end zone for a 56-yard touchdown reception that gave his team a 30-26 lead. Willowbrook missed the extra-point kick.

The Warriors sealed their victory with a couple of late defensive stops, the first of which came on a fourth-down running play. Moments later, after Willowbrook punted the ball away, senior Vince Vassolo intercepted a Moline pass. The Warriors then ran out the clock to wrap up their win and trigger a celebration among the team's players and fans.

"They [the Maroons] have a bunch of weapons all over the place," said Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth in describing how the Warriors shut Moline out in the second half after allowing 26 points in the first half. "We talked about some adjustments. Our defense did a really good job of getting stop after stop."

Hildreth noted during his post-game comments the Warriors' joy in extending their season for at least one more week.

"A loss in the playoffs is so abrupt," he said. "All we ever want is to get another week as a group. Every team is like a heartbeat, and then it abruptly ends. That's it. That same group is never together again. We've got another week with this group of kids and this coaching staff."

Tumilty scored the Warriors' first



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Willowbrook football team advanced to the quarterfinals of the IHSA Class 7A playoffs following Friday's 30-26 win over Moline in Villa Park. The Warriors trailed the visiting Maroons 26-17 at halftime, and at the end of the third quarter. Senior Nick Mabutas made a pair of touchdown receptions during the fourth quarter to help the Warriors to the victory. One photo from the third quarter shows Mabutas (above left) running with the ball after making a catch. Another photo shows Junior Joey Tumilty (above right - No. 10), who scored the Warriors' first touchdown. Tumilty also intercepted a Moline pass in the middle of the fourth quarter. Moments later, he ran to his right on what appeared to be a running play. Instead, he threw and completed a pass to Mabutas, who raced into the end zone for a 56-yard touchdown reception. That scoring play gave the Warriors a 30-26 lead. Another photo shows senior Vince Vassolo (below - No. 11) jumping in excitement at the end of the game. Vassolo made a late interception to seal the Warriors' win. Mabutas (No. 7) is pictured to the left of Vassolo. Willowbrook will battle Wheaton North in this Friday's quarterfinal game in Villa Park.

touchdown of the night less than one minute into the game when he caught a 40-yard touchdown pass from Palicki. Guerrero kicked the extra point to give Willowbrook a 7-0 lead. Guerrero made a 26-yard field goal in the middle of the first quarter to extend the Warriors' lead to 10-0.

Moline scored a touchdown with less than two minutes left in the first quarter. The extra-point kick trimmed the Warriors' lead to 10-7. Moline took a 13-10 lead following a short touchdown run in the middle of the second quarter. The Maroons missed the extra-point kick.

Senior Jaylon White helped the Warriors regain the lead when he delivered a 4-yard touchdown run with 3:41 left in the second quarter. Guerrero made the extra-point kick to push the Warriors' lead to 17-13.

Moline moved back into the lead on a touchdown pass with about two min-

utes left in the first half.

The Maroons added their fourth touchdown of the night when they completed the 30-yard touchdown pass on the first half's final play from scrimmage.

"We just knew we could come out and stop them in the second half," said Tumilty after the victory. "I just try to play for my teammates. They're my brothers on the field. They play as hard as hard as I play for them. It's just fun together as a team. It was a fun game."

In addition to scoring one touchdown, Tumilty turned in a huge play on defense when he intercepted a long Moline pass with about seven minutes to play in the fourth quarter. Tumilty made the interception near the Warriors' 5-yard line and delivered a lengthy return of about 40 yards. Moments later, the Willowbrook offense produced the go-ahead score—Tumilty's 56-yard pass to Mabutas.



## Warriors' unprecedented season ends one win short of a state-meet berth

### Mother McAuley beats Willowbrook in a super-sectional; Warriors win regional and sectional titles and finish the season with a 37-2 record

### STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls' volleyball team completed a historic season with Friday's 25-18, 25-21 loss to Mother McAuley in an IHSA Class 4A super-sectional match in Chicago.

Mother McAuley, which played the super-sectional on its home court, advanced to this week's Class 4A state semifinals in Normal. The Mighty Macs will meet Edwardsville in one of this Friday's semifinals. The winner will meet either Metea Valley or Barrington in Saturday's state-championship contest.

Willowbrook completed its season with an overall record of 37-2. The Warriors, who won the program's first regional title on Oct. 28, reached another new height by adding a sectional championship on Nov. 3.

Two days after beating Downers Grove North 25-18, 22-25, 25-22 in a sectional semifinal match, the Warriors squared off with Wheaton Warrenville South in the final of the Class 4A Bartlett Sectional on Nov. 3. Willowbrook and the Tigers waged a thrilling three-game battle in front of a boisterous audience. Both teams had match points at the end of

the third game. The Warriors closed out the see-saw match by winning three straight points to earn a 19-25, 25-21, 27-25 victory.

"It was a roller coaster all over the place, but we knew it was going to be like that," said Willowbrook coach Irene Mason moments after the emotional win over Wheaton Warrenville South in the sectional final. "At this point, I feel like all the preparation is already done, so what's going to happen is going to happen."

Mason guided the Warriors to their playoff success days before having a baby.

"I am nine months pregnant," she noted after the Warriors hoisted their sectional plaque in Bartlett. "This baby is most likely coming next week."

The Warriors did not panic after losing the first game to Wheaton Warrenville South. Willowbrook grabbed a 10-1 lead in the second game. The Warriors went on to win that game to even the match. Sophomore Elle Bruschnik swatted the ball into an open corner to provide the point that ended the second game.

See WARRIORS Page 16



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Villa Park calling. Congratulations to the Willowbrook girls volleyball team on their great season! I enjoyed reading about them in the *Villa Park Review*!

Did any of you climate change alarmists notice two of the world's biggest polluters, China and Russia, skipped the climate talks in Scotland? Who's going to force Putin and President Xi of China to do their part to combat climate change? The incoherent in Chief, Joe Biden? That whiny teen-age climate change deity from Sweden, Greta Thunberg? AOC almighty? The weak European Union? Good luck with any of that.

The economy added 531,000 new jobs in October. Sorry, Trump lapdogs. This occurred under President Biden's watch. Your twice-impeached messiah with the big mouth and the orange hair had nothing to do with these great job numbers.

The biggest laugh I got all week (referring to last week) was when I heard JB Pritzker, the king of executive orders, announce he would issue an executive order declaring gun violence a public health crisis in Illinois. He must think he's dealing with COVID. What's

this executive order going to do? Force gangs and killers on the south and west sides of Chicago to self-quarantine for two weeks? Pritzker is about as out of touch as Biden.

The woke progressive left? How about the joke regressive left! Bye!

I think the self-checkout lanes at stores like Jewel and Walmart are very convenient. Unfortunately, some less-than-honest people are taking advantage of those lanes by putting an item or two in their bag without scanning it. I recently witnessed this at Walmart. I also agree with what a previous Speak Out caller said about people who bring backpacks into stores. I suppose some of these shoppers could explain why they are wearing backpacks while shopping. But if you owned a store, would you feel comfortable having people with backpacks walk the aisles of your business?

It's interesting how the media couldn't stop talking about COVID-19 cases in Florida during that state's respiratory season. The COVID-19 rates in Florida have since plummeted. Why hasn't the media reported that? By the way, the case rates in Florida cratered without Pritzker-like mask mandates.

Gas prices here jumped about 50 cents within a few days to \$3.60-plus for regular. For one, how can they do that, upping the price on gas they already have in stock and paid way less for? Ouch. Also, a family member just came back from Wisconsin, where he paid \$3.09 a gallon. Those who need gas the most are among the hardest hit with these prices. Please, legislators, with groceries and other necessities going up and up more, help those of us who cannot afford to keep up with these rising prices. And now the utility companies want increases? When does it end?

I see that state Reps. Terra Costa Howard and Deb Conroy as well as state Sen. Glowiak all voted to allow girls under 18 to get abortions without notifying their parents. Wow, abortion on demand for adults was not enough; we need to get our kids in on the act. Do these state legislators really represent the views and values of their constituents? I certainly hope not.

If you enjoyed freedoms in the past, don't let the socialists take over. The more you take from the government, the weaker and lazier we become. Socialism breeds communism; look up socialism in the dictionary. Yes, pick up the dictionary and learn the word as it is; then look up communism. Do it now, please. Thank you.

Biden supposedly received more than 80 million votes, yet he can't fill an auditorium for his town hall meetings, which draw abysmal TV ratings. Are we allowed to talk about that? Also, Biden said he has no idea when gas prices might go down. This guy can't predict near-term gas prices, but we're supposed to believe he's absolutely sure what to do to reverse so-called "climate change."

A glimmer of hope recently faded

quickly (last week) when gas prices for regular dipped to just under \$3.20 a gallon, then jumped up by at least 40 cents overnight. Now, the backlog of cargo ships is really starting to show on store shelves—empty spaces, higher prices and fewer options. This is wearing thin for those of us who are on fixed incomes, but I guess we can just live with it by blaming Trump.

Hello, welcome to the new America. We allow the president to build a wall around his summer home in order to keep people out, but we can't build a wall on the border. Welcome to America, where shoplifters stole merchandise from the same store in Northbrook for the second time in a month—this time, taking more than \$150,000 in merchandise. It's wonderful. Where's our government? Where are our police? Where are our lawyers, and rules and laws? Welcome to America.

Lockdowns didn't work to stop an airborne virus. Masks definitely didn't work. It's not certain that the vaccines work. Unfortunately, it seems like a lot of people want more of what isn't working. Wear two masks! Get two shots! Get three shots! As time goes on, the lockdowns look like more and more of a mistake.

Wake up Americans. The extreme left socialists who call themselves Democrats are now considering giving \$450,000 to illegal immigrants separated at the border. We fought many wars to get the freedoms we have, and now they are being given away with this administration. We are in for a rough ride after the last 10 months. And it doesn't look good for the next three years the way it's going. Be careful what you vote for next time; don't cut off your nose to spite your face, as my mother used to say.

Two times I have written a check for real estate taxes and mailed them to the

DuPage County collector. They never cashed and did not return a bank. Where are they?

Democrats and their comrad the media can only hide so much. Please notice when gas is over \$3.50 a gallon. They notice when food prices are up and the store shelves are full. More and more people in Ill are also starting to notice the us mask mandate makes no sense. I of our neighboring states have a mandate. If masks are so effective shouldn't cases in those other states be exploding? Hopefully more and people are using common sense.

After reading last week's *Speak Out*, one thing I am certain of: Dr. Trump has lowered the IQ by 50 p or better for half of this nation. H it in four years. It's unbelievable.

The voters of Virginia just elect Black woman—Winsome Sears the state's next lieutenant governor I saw her inspiring victory speech on Fox News Channel. It's interesting that CNN and MSNBC didn't show her speech. Maybe they suppress because her election doesn't fit their phony narrative. For those who know, Sears is a Republican. I know that if Sears had been a Democrat, CNN, MSNBC and other outlets would have showered her glowing coverage and noted her historic achievement. The leftist media is dishonest and disgraceful.

To the person who continues to in to bash Donald Trump, news! Trump has been out of office a long time now. Clueless Joe is doing a marvelous job. Trump might have a destructive personality, but certainly his policies were a lot better for country than Joe Biden's. Biden, on the other hand, does not have a destructive personality, but everything that he does is literally destroying this country.

## •Warriors (Continued from page 7)

The Warriors battled back from a 10-7 deficit in the decisive third game to pull into a 10-10 tie. The Tigers held a 16-13 lead, but Willowbrook reeled off five consecutive points to take an 18-16 lead. The Tigers then won four straight points to grab a 20-18 lead.

The Warriors rebounded to win four straight points to take a 22-20 lead. The Tigers rallied to take the next two points and even the score at 22-22.

Willowbrook won the next point, but the Tigers claimed the next point. Junior Natalie Cipriano delivered a kill to give the Warriors a 24-23 lead and a match point. The Tigers responded by winning two straight points to earn a match point of their own. Willowbrook then won three straight points to capture the sectional title. Senior Kyla Ostrowski of the Warriors hit the serve on the last point of the match. Senior Katie Linnig dumped the ball into the middle of the court to earn the winning point for Willowbrook.

"We believed in ourselves and I think that really mattered," said Linnig after the win over the Tigers. "We fought so hard for it. It's just like a dream come true."

"I had faith that we would all pick

it up and pull through in the second and third games," said freshman standout Hannah Kenny after Willowbrook's win in the sectional final. "It's so special to do what no team has ever done before."

"This is what we've been working for," added sophomore Calli Kenny during the celebration of the Warriors' sectional title. "We had to give it our all, and that's what we did. It's crazy. I can't even describe it. It's just pure joy. It was back and forth, back and forth. I just had a feeling we were going to get that last point."

Hannah Kenny had 10 kills, 11 digs and seven assists in the sectional final. Calli Kenny provided nine kills and 10 digs, while Linnig supplied 17 assists, 10 digs and two kills. Senior Elizabeth Bruschuk had 11 digs and four assists.

Junior Hope Reckamp contributed three kills and two blocks, while Elle Bruschuk had four kills and three blocks. Ostrowski provided two kills and nine digs. Cipriano had three kills, while junior Grace Conley made three digs.

Calli Kenny piled up 19 kills and 19 digs in the win over Downers Grove North in the sectional semifinal.

Hannah Kenny had 10 kills, 13

digs and 13 assists. Ostrowski provided six kills and nine digs, while Linnig handed out 20 assists and made 10 digs. Elizabeth Bruschuk and Conley both made nine digs.

Calli Kenny tallied six kills and

seven digs during Friday's super-sectional match against Mother McAuley—a program that's won 15 state titles. Hannah Kenny had five kills, six digs and nine assists, while Linnig provided seven digs and seven

assists. Cipriano connected for kills, while Elizabeth Bruschuk had nine digs. Ostrowski delivered kills in the contest, which took place in front of an enthusiastic crowd at Mother McAuley's gymnasium.



The above photo from the third game of the sectional championship match shows junior Hope Reckamp (No. 11) hitting the ball over the net with the game tied at 25-25. The Warriors won the point, and with the next point, to end the match and claim the sectional plaque.

CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

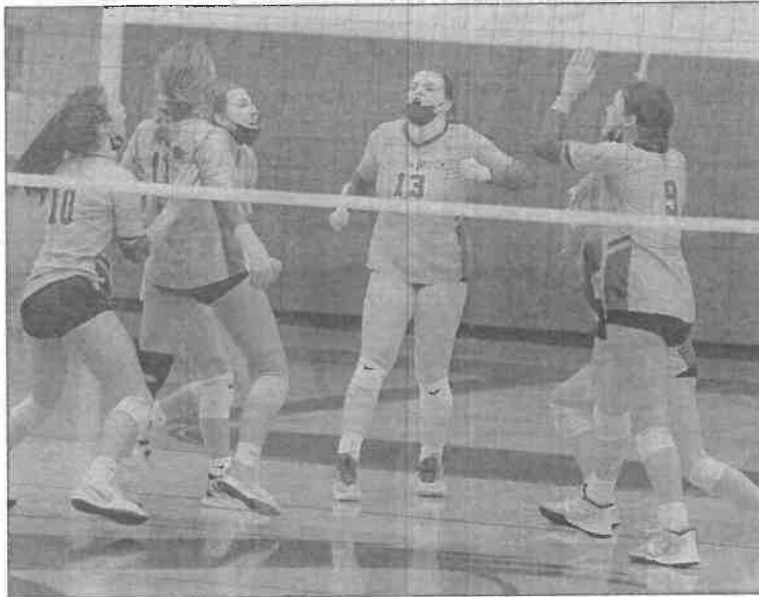




CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Willowbrook's volleyball team ends season

Willowbrook's girls volleyball team finished a memorable season with a loss to Mother McAuley in Friday's IHSA Class 4A super-sectional match in Chicago. Mother McAuley, which won the contest on its home court, advanced to this week's state semifinals in Normal. The Warriors completed their season with a record of 37-2. Prior to this season, the Willowbrook program had never won a regional championship. This season's team won a regional title, as well as a sectional title. After posting two post-season wins on its own court to win a regional plaque, Willowbrook advanced to the Bartlett Sectional. The Warriors beat Downers Grove North in three games in a Nov. 1 sectional semifinal. Two days later, Willowbrook defeated Wheaton Warrenville South in the sectional final. One photo from the third game of the sectional final shows senior Kyla Ostrowski (below - No. 13) celebrating with her teammates after the Warriors won a critical point.



## Hassler will swim at IHSA state meet

Willowbrook senior Ellie Hassler of Villa Park will compete in the upcoming IHSA girls state swimming and diving meet at FMC Natatorium in Westmont. Hassler qualified for the state meet with her performances at Saturday's Downers Grove South Sectional.

Hassler, who is a member of the Willowbrook/Addison Trail co-op team, competed in the AWD (athletes with disabilities) division at the sectional. She earned state-meet berths in three individual events—the 50-yard freestyle, the 100-yard freestyle and the 100-yard breaststroke.

Hassler finished the sectional's 50-yard freestyle in 40.19 seconds. She posted a finishing time of 1 minute, 33.06 seconds in the 100-yard freestyle at the sectional. She completed Saturday's 100-yard breaststroke race in 2 minutes, 17.66 seconds.

## Coming events

**Editor's note:** Unless otherwise indicated, information on each of the following events and programs can be found by visiting the library's website at [vppl.info](http://vppl.info) or by calling 630-834-1164.

### Tuesday, Nov. 16 Thanksgiving 101 at the library

The Villa Park Public Library will present *Thanksgiving 101* in person at the library from 7-8:30 p.m. Chef Susan Maddox will walk attendees through the perfect Thanksgiving meal, from preparing the turkey to making some great side dishes. Registration and a \$5 tasting fee per person are required. Face masks are required to enter the library by all individuals over age 2 who can medically tolerate it, regardless of vaccination status.

### Wednesday, Nov. 17 Library offers free STEAM kits

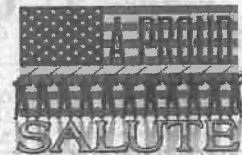
The Villa Park Public Library offers free STEAM kits aimed at tweens and teens in grades 5 through 12. Each take-home kit includes materials for a project that encourages creativity, exploration, and critical thinking through inquiry-based learning. The next kit will be available for pickup at the library starting on Wednesday, Nov. 17. The deadline to register for a kit is Friday, Nov. 12.

### Friday, Nov. 19 and Saturday, Nov. 20 Thanksgiving craft open house at the library

The Villa Park Public Library will hold a Thanksgiving Craft Open House on Friday, Nov. 19 and on Saturday, Nov. 20 from 2-4 p.m. Children of all ages can celebrate Thanksgiving with a fun craft. Young children will need adult help. Registration is not required. Face masks are required to enter the library by all individuals over age 2 who can medically tolerate it, regardless of vaccination status.

### Monday, Nov. 22 Virtual travel to Zambia at the library

The Villa Park Public Library will host Livingstone, Zambia: Gateway to Victoria Falls at 7 p.m. At this virtual program, Jeff Mishur will recount his adventures on game drives in Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park and on an elephant-back safari, rafting on the Zambezi River, and flightseeing over Victoria Falls in a vintage bi-plane. This program will be held online, and registration with a valid email address is required.



**VETERANS DAY  
NOVEMBER 11**