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VOL. 22 · NO. 8      WWW.THEINDEPENDENTNEWSPAPERS.COM      THURSDAY, FEB. 5, 2026



JOE PEARSON PHOTOS Villa Park Review



## An intimate evening at Willowbrook

Encore Center for Performing Arts (ECPA) presented "An Intimate Evening with Plain White T's" on Friday, Jan. 30, at Willowbrook High School. Tom Higgenson (pictured), a 1997 Willowbrook graduate and the Plain White T's lead singer, joined his bandmates to perform in the school's Doris E. White Auditorium. The Willowbrook Orchestra Quartet joined Higgenson to perform "Hey There Delilah," the Grammy-nominated song, written by Higgenson, that reached No. 1 on the US Billboard Hot 100 in July 2007. Friday's event, which served as a fundraiser for ECPA, also included a discussion of the band's hits and a question-and-answer session with the audience. Also pictured is Villa Park Village President Kevin Patrick, who took the stage to give some brief remarks at the event. ECPA is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to offering performances in theater, music, dance, and comedy, where artists and patrons share their love of the performing arts. ECPA has the ultimate goal of creating a vibrant theater complex in Elmhurst City Centre.

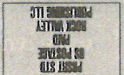


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## Montini students celebrate 52<sup>nd</sup> annual Catholic Schools Week



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Montini Catholic High School in Lombard celebrated the beginning of Catholic Schools Week with a special Mass on Monday, Jan. 26. Junior Madeline Barrett of Villa Park is pictured while participating in the Mass. As with every year, Montini students began their week-long celebration by focusing on the value of Catholic education, and by acknowledging and thanking the community, friends and family members for recognizing this value. National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts on the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2026 was Jan. 25-31.

## Chicago couple among nine individuals charged in federal drug investigation

Seven other defendants allegedly distributed cocaine last year in Chicago, Villa Park, Addison and Rosemont

A federal drug investigation has resulted in criminal charges against nine individuals for allegedly trafficking cocaine in the Chicago area.

The investigation, led by the FBI and the Chicago Police Department, utilized covert surveillance operations, undercover narcotics purchases, and wiretapped communications to shut down a drug trafficking organization allegedly led by a Chicago couple—Joel Andrade and Maria Brenda Mora-Hernandez.

A criminal complaint filed last week in federal court in Chicago accuses Joel Andrade and Mora-Hernandez of conspiring to possess at least five kilograms of cocaine with the intent to distribute. The pair also allegedly possessed two semiautomatic handguns in furtherance of their drug trafficking crimes.

The seven other defendants allegedly distributed cocaine last year in Chicago or the suburbs of Villa Park, Addison and Rosemont.

Law enforcement on Jan. 29 arrested seven of the defendants and executed court-authorized searches of multiple locations in the city and suburbs. Those defendants have begun making their initial appearances in federal court in Chicago. The two other defendants are in state custody in Cook County and will make their initial federal court appearances at a later time.

The Villa Park Police De-

partment announced on Jan. 29 that it assisted the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in "law enforcement activity" in the 500 block of West Division Street that morning.

"The Villa Park Police Department is aware of, and assisted with, law enforcement activity that occurred earlier today involving the FBI," noted the Villa Park Police Department in a statement issued early in the morning of Jan. 29. "The FBI served a criminal search warrant at a location within the community. This action was part of a federal criminal investigation and was not related to immigration enforcement."

The Villa Park Police Department's statement related that the department's role in the operation was limited to maintaining peace, ensuring public safety, and preventing confusion.

"The Police Department did not assist in the service or execution of the warrant and had no involvement in the underlying investigation," noted the statement. "The scene was secured, and there is no danger to the public. This was an isolated incident, and no ongoing threat to the community exists."

The charges and arrests were announced by Andrew S. Boutros, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; Douglas S. DePodesta, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Field

Office of the FBI; Larry Snelling, superintendent of the Chicago Police Department; and Nicholas J. Roti, executive director of the Chicago High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA).

Substantial assistance was provided by the Illinois National Guard's Counter-Drug Task Force, the Carpentersville Police Department, the Cook County Sheriff's Office, the Aurora Police Department, the Naperville Police Department, the Lake County Sheriff's Office's Special Investigations Group, and the Berkeley Police Department.

"The U.S. Attorney's Office will not allow our communities to be exploited by drug traffickers peddling poison," said Boutros. "We are proud to partner with FBI, CPD, HIDTA and our many other federal, state, and local law enforcement partners to hold traffickers accountable and keep dangerous drugs and illegal guns off our streets."

"The FBI will continue to aggressively combat criminal organizations that degrade our communities by engaging in the trafficking of narcotics," said DePodesta. "The success of this operation underscores the valuable partnerships the FBI shares with the Chicago Police Department and all members of our Safe Streets Task Force who work together to ensure the safety of our

See CHARGED, Page 8

## Go Green Villa Park to hold its first Kids' Clothing Swap(tional) and bake sale this Saturday, Feb. 7

Event will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Villa Park Public Library

Go Green Villa Park is a new, volunteer-led community group focused on helping residents live more sustainably through education, resources, and practical local initiatives. The group's goal is to make Villa Park healthier and greener by reducing waste, sharing knowledge, and creating simple ways for neighbors to take meaningful action.

This Saturday, Feb. 7, Go Green Villa Park will host its first Kids' Clothing Swap(tional)—a free event where families can donate, donate and "shop," or simply "shop" for gently used children's clothing and winter gear. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Villa Park Public Library, 305 S. Ardmore Ave.

Shoppers should bring a reusable bag to "shop" for items

donated by other families in the community.

Kids outgrow clothes quickly, which leads to higher consumption and more textile waste. Americans throw away an average of 81 pounds of clothing per person each year, and the fashion industry accounts for roughly 8–10 percent of global carbon emissions.

Extending the life of kids' clothing through reuse helps reduce waste, lowers environmental impact, and eases the cost burden on families. A donation box will be available at the Villa Park Public Library until this Saturday, Feb. 7, and all leftover items will go to The Outreach House in Lombard. The group will also hold a bake sale at the event, with proceeds being split between The Outreach House and Go Green Villa Park.

## District 88 announces Board of Education vacancy

Vacant seat is open through the election in April 2027

District 88 recently announced a vacancy on its Board of Education.

Due to a board member resignation, a seat on the District 88 Board of Education is open through the next election in April 2027. To apply for the position, complete the application at [www.dupage88.net/BoardVacancy2026](http://www.dupage88.net/BoardVacancy2026) by Feb. 13.

Selected candidates will be interviewed by the Board of Education on Feb. 17.

For questions or more information, contact District 88 Superintendent Jean Barbanente at [jbarbanente@dupage88.net](mailto:jbarbanente@dupage88.net), or at 630-530-3980.

## Willowbrook presents its winter play this week

Opening performance takes place tonight—Thursday, Feb. 5

Willowbrook High School's theater department will present its winter play, *Puffs, or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic (Two-Act for Young Wizards)*, by Matt Cox, this week.

Performances will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 5, Friday, Feb. 6, and Saturday, Feb. 7, in the school's Doris E. White Auditorium.

*Puffs* is appropriate for all ages.

Tickets cost \$10 for adults (13 and older) and \$5 for chil-

dren (12 and younger). Admission is free for those with a District 88 student ID or a District 88 Senior Gold Card. Family passes will be accepted.

Tickets for all three performances can be ordered online at <https://willowbrooktheatre.ludus.com/index.php>. Tickets will also be available to buy at the box office (45 minutes before each performance).

For more information, email Willowbrook Theatre Director Terri Woebel at [twoebel@dupage88.net](mailto:twoebel@dupage88.net).

### VILLA PARK REVIEW

Your Hometown Newspaper  
240 N. West Avenue  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Main Phone 630-834-8244  
Fax 630-834-0900

The Villa Park Review is published every Thursday by Rock Valley Publishing, LLC, 240 N. West Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126.

Display Advertising:  
630-834-8355  
Classified Advertising:  
630-834-8244

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240 N. West Avenue,  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.



# Sports

## Rams jump to 23-2 after crushing Fenton 74-27

Glenbard East's schedule this week includes two division games, followed by this Saturday's contest against Curie

The Glenbard East boys basketball team improved to 23-2 overall and 9-0 in the Upstate Eight Conference's East Division after Friday's dominant 74-27 victory over Fenton in Lombard.

The Rams led the visiting Bison 9-4 after a low-scoring first quarter. Glenbard East piled up nine field goals, including two 3-point baskets, during the second quarter, and built a 30-12 lead by halftime. The Rams made four shots from 3-point range during the third quarter and owned a 57-20 lead with eight minutes to play. That lead of at least 30 points at the end of the third quarter triggered a running clock throughout the fourth quarter. That running clock contributed to an already quick game, which lasted about one hour.

Senior Jacob Marynowski scored a team-leading 16 points for the Rams in Friday's triumph over Fenton. He made three baskets in the first quarter and added two more baskets and one free throw in the second quarter. Marynowski sank two field goals, including a 3-point basket, during the third quarter.

Senior Michael Nee provided 10 points for Glenbard East in Friday's victory. After scoring just two points in the first half, Nee contributed

eight points in the third quarter with a three-point play, a dunk, and a 3-point field goal.

Senior Norman Loechel supplied nine points for the Rams in their win over the Bison. Loechel connected on three 3-point attempts in the game. After sinking one long-range shot in the second quarter, he added a 3-point basket in the third quarter. Loechel's long 3-pointer with a little more than one minute left in the third quarter gave Glenbard East a 40-point lead—56-16. Loechel drained his third 3-point basket of the night during the fourth quarter.

Junior Javier Avalo also scored nine points for the Rams in Friday's win. Avalo scored eight of his nine points during the fourth quarter. Senior Keenan House scored six points, while seniors Sam Walton, Muhammad Musleh and Cameron Bonner contributed five points each. Senior Danny Snyder provided three points with a 3-point basket in the third quarter. Juniors Maksim Jajic and Colton Schmidt sank 3-point attempts during the fourth quarter to provide three points each.

**Rams eclipse last season's win total—22—following their triumph over the Bison**

With Friday's victory over

Fenton, Glenbard East exceeded its win total from last season. The 2024-25 Rams posted an overall season record of 22-11. Glenbard East won nine games in the 2022-23 season. The Rams earned 14 wins during the 2023-24 season before piling up 22 victories last season.

"Three years ago, we only won nine games," said Glenbard East coach Eric Kelly after Friday's home win. "We don't take winning for granted, because it can be gone just like that. We definitely appreciate it, and we want to get as many wins as we can."

**Snyder's strong fourth quarter lifts the Rams to a win at Yorkville Christian**

Three days before facing Fenton, the Rams picked up their 22<sup>nd</sup> win of the season by posting an 86-78 victory at Yorkville Christian in a non-division contest. Glenbard East led the Mustangs of Yorkville Christian 23-19 after one quarter. The Rams owned a 42-40 lead at halftime. The Mustangs led Glenbard East 60-59 at the end of the third quarter.

House scored a team-leading 21 points in the Rams' win at Yorkville Christian. Nee, who drained four shots from 3-point range, tacked on 19 points. Snyder, who connected on three 3-point



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Senior Norman Loechel (No. 11) made three 3-point shots and scored nine points for Glenbard East's boys basketball team in Friday's 74-27 win over Fenton in Lombard. The Rams improved to 23-2 overall and 9-0 in the Upstate Eight Conference's East Division following Friday's victory. Another photo from the game shows several Glenbard East players watching from the sideline as Loechel shoots and makes a 3-point field goal early in the fourth quarter.

attempts, added 18 points. Marynowski provided 15 points. Walton and Loechel contributed eight and five points, respectively.

"Danny Snyder carried us with 11 points in the fourth quarter," said Kelly while speaking about the Rams' Jan. 27 win at Yorkville Christian. "He was the reason we really kind of won that game. They [the Mustangs] are a really good team. It was close for the entire game. We



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

had four guys in double figures, so we were a balanced scoring group." **Glenbard East will conclude a busy week with this Saturday's matchup against Curie High School**

Earlier this week, the Rams played a division game at Riverside Brookfield. Glenbard East will play a division home game against Glenbard South this Friday, Feb. 6. One day later, the Rams will battle the talented Curie High School Condors from Chicago in this Saturday's non-division game at the Kankakee Shootout at Kankakee High School. Curie held an overall season record of 20-1 at the beginning of this week.

"It's a game that we've been looking forward to, because Curie is a consensus top-two team," said Kelly. "They are the best team in Chicago, and one of the best in the state. We want to see where we stand, so that's why we're going to play that game."

## Willowbrook overtakes the Rams with a huge fourth-quarter surge

Edison scores 16 of her 30 points during the final quarter; Warriors outscore Glenbard East 21-4 in the final eight minutes

The Willowbrook girls basketball team defeated Glenbard East 56-43 in Saturday afternoon's meeting between area rivals in Villa Park.

The Warriors improved their overall season record to 9-16 with their non-conference win over the visiting Rams. Glenbard East's overall season record dropped to 16-7 with the loss.

The Rams led the Warriors 39-35 at the end of the third quarter. Willowbrook freshman Claire Edison scored the first nine points of the fourth quarter to lift her team to a 44-39 lead. Senior Joely Maciejewski added a basket to give the Warriors a 46-39 lead and complete an 11-0 run. After the Rams ended that run with a basket, Willowbrook piled on 10 straight points to raise its lead to 56-41.

Edison scored 16 of Willowbrook's 21 fourth-quarter points. She poured in a team-leading 30 points in the victory.

Glenbard East led Willowbrook 18-13 at the end of the first quarter. Junior Teagan Murphy scored



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Freshman Claire Edison (No. 4) scored 30 points to lead Willowbrook's girls basketball team to a 56-43 win over Glenbard East on Saturday in Villa Park. Edison scored 16 points in the fourth quarter. The Warriors, who trailed the Rams 39-35 at the end of the third quarter, opened the fourth quarter with an 11-0 run to take a 46-39 lead. Another photo from Saturday's game shows freshman Kennedy Rieger (No. 10), who scored six points for the Warriors. One more photo shows (left to right) Willowbrook senior Joely Maciejewski (No. 25) and Glenbard East senior Nora Opila. Maciejewski scored nine points for the Warriors. Opila provided 10 points for the Rams.

11 first-quarter points for the Rams. sophomore Olivia Nee sinking a 3-point shot to give the Rams a 25-13 lead.

Willowbrook responded with a 13-0 run; Maciejewski completed the run with a basket that gave the

Willowbrook responded with a 13-0 run; Maciejewski completed the run with a basket that gave the

See WILLOWBROOK, Page 15

# Broncos win the title at Naperville North Regional

**Eight Montini wrestlers deliver first-place finishes at the regional; Montini's team will compete in this week's dual team sectional at Marmion Academy**

The Montini Catholic wrestling team won the championship plaque at Saturday's IHSA Class 3A Naperville North Regional. The Broncos won the regional's team title with their score of 235.5 points. Naperville Central placed second with 199 points, while Naperville North (144.5) finished third. Lyons Township (107.5) turned in a fourth-place finish, while Glenbard East (70.5) and Willowbrook (68) placed fifth and sixth, respectively. Hinsdale Central (56.5) landed in seventh place in the team standings, while Argo (14.5) finished eighth.

With its win at the regional, Montini advanced to this week's Class 3A team dual team sectional, which takes place tonight, Feb. 5, at Marmion Academy in Aurora. If the Broncos win their dual meet tonight at Mar-

mion, they will join seven other teams at the dual team tournament, which will take place Feb. 27-28 in Bloomington.

The top three finishers in each weight class at the Naperville North Regional advanced to this week's individual sectional at Hinsdale Central High School. The top four finishers in each weight class at the sectional will qualify for the IHSA Class 3A individual state meet, which will take place Feb. 19-21 in Champaign.

Eight Montini wrestlers won individual titles at the Naperville North Regional. The Broncos' regional champions included junior Bobby Ruscitti, who won three straight matches to claim the title in the 126-pound level. Ruscitti raised his overall season record to 40-0 with his three regional victories.

Montini sophomore Erik Klichurov won the Naperville North Regional's 113-pound championship. Junior Allen Woo of the Broncos won the 120-pound championship. Montini junior Mikey Malizzio delivered a first-place finish in the 132-pound division. Senior Kam Luif of the Broncos won the 144-pound title.

Montini senior Santino

Tenuta won the 165-pound championship at the Naperville North Regional. Senior AJ Tack of the Broncos captured the 175-pound title. Junior Gavin Ericson-Station of the Broncos won the championship in the regional's 285-pound weight class.

Montini's other wrestlers who qualified for this week's individual sectional at Hinsdale Central included senior Jeremy Huf, who placed second in the 138-pound division at the Naperville North Regional. Sophomore Will Konder of the Broncos earned a third-place finish in the regional's 157-pound level. Sophomore Sam Swais of Montini placed second in the 215-pound division.

## Four Rams and four Warriors qualify for the Hinsdale Central Sectional

Four Glenbard East wrestlers advanced to the Hinsdale Central Sectional by earning top-three finishes at the Naperville North Regional. Senior Ismael Chaidiez of the Rams placed second in the regional's 126-pound level. Senior Orlando Hoye of Glenbard East placed second in the 190-pound weight class. Freshman Nick Greenfield of the Rams earned



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The Montini Catholic wrestling team won the championship plaque at Saturday's IHSA Class 3A Naperville North Regional. Winning the title at the eight-team regional propelled the Broncos into this week's dual team sectional at Marmion Academy in Aurora. If Montini wins its dual meet at the sectional, it will advance to the quarterfinals of the IHSA dual team state tournament in Bloomington. Eight Montini wrestlers won individual titles in their respective weight classes at the Naperville North Regional. A total of 11 Broncos earned top-three finishes at the regional to qualify for this week's individual sectional at Hinsdale Central High School. All wrestlers who earn top-four finishes at the individual sectional will advance to the IHSA individual state meet in Champaign.

a third-place finish in the 106-pound division, while Glenbard East junior Cole Forsyth placed third in the 120-pound level.

Willowbrook will also send four wrestlers to this week's Hinsdale Central

Sectional. The Warriors' sectional qualifiers include freshman Leo Kingji, who earned a second-place finish in the Naperville North Regional's 113-pound level. Senior Aris Neal of the Warriors delivered a sec-

ond-place finish in the regional's 120-pound weight class. Senior Travis Jones of Willowbrook placed third in the 165-pound level, while senior Korvyn Nieves of the Warriors finished third in the 175-pound division.

## •Willowbrook

(Continued from page 14)

Warriors a 26-25 lead. Nee connected on another 3-point shot late in the second quarter to lift Glenbard East to a 28-26 halftime lead.

The see-saw game continued in the third quarter, with Glenbard East scoring five straight points to take a 33-26 lead. The Warriors then scored seven straight points to even the score at 33-33. Glenbard East scored the last four points of the third quarter to take a 39-35 lead with eight minutes to play.

### Edison scores nine straight points in the Warriors' 11-0 burst to start the fourth quarter

Edison made a pair of free throws in the opening seconds of the fourth quarter. She sank a 3-point shot to give Willowbrook a 40-39 lead with about 6:30 left in the game. After scoring a basket to raise the Warriors' lead to 42-39, Edison delivered a steal and basket to push the lead to 44-39. Maciejewski's basket extended the Warriors' advantage to 46-39. Glenbard East ended Willowbrook's run when Nee scored a basket with about 4:35 to play to reduce the Warriors' lead to 46-41.

Glenbard East's only other fourth-quarter scoring came when senior Nora Opila

made a layup at the buzzer to account for the game's final points.

Edison drove for an inside basket to push the Warriors' lead to 48-41 with 2:55 remaining. She netted another basket about 20 seconds later to boost the lead to 50-41. After freshman Kennedy Rieger scored to lift the lead to 52-41, Edison made a pair of free throws with about one minute to play. Edison made one of two free throws with about 40 seconds remaining to push the lead to 55-41. Freshman Jessica Tortorello made one of two free throws in the closing seconds to account for Willowbrook's final point of the game.

Edison made 10 baskets, including one 3-point shot, and drained nine of 12 free throws during her 30-point output against the Rams. That total marked a season-best for Edison, who poured in 29 points during Willowbrook's 56-42 win over Bartlett at Wheaton North's holiday tournament on Dec. 26. She made five 3-point shots during that contest.

Maciejewski and Tortorello scored nine points each for the Warriors in Saturday's victory over Glenbard East. Rieger provided six points, while junior Jada Langston

contributed two points.

Nee, who made four shots from 3-point range, scored a team-high 16 points for the Rams in Saturday's loss in Villa Park. Murphy, who dealt with foul trouble during the game, provided 15 points. Murphy went to the bench after committing her third foul in the second quarter. She returned to the bench for a break after she was called for her fourth foul in the middle of the third quarter.

Opila netted five field goals to contribute 10 points for the Rams in Saturday's game. Senior Sarah Crocker added two points with a first-quarter basket.

### Willowbrook's week included a win over Proviso West and a loss to Fenwick

The Warriors opened last week with a dominant 62-16 non-conference home victory over Proviso West on Jan. 27. Langston scored a team-leading 18 points for Willowbrook, which led the Panthers 23-7 after one quarter and 43-8 at halftime. Edison added 15 points, while sophomore Leah Piper and Tortorello provided 10 points each. Piper made three 3-point shots, while Tortorello sank two attempts

from 3-point range.

Two days after beating Proviso West, Willowbrook lost 55-29 to Fenwick in another non-conference game in Villa Park. The Friars led the Warriors 13-8 after one quarter and 29-16 at halftime. Fenwick owned a 43-25 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Edison scored 13 points in Willowbrook's Jan. 29 loss to Fenwick. Maciejewski and Rieger contributed six points each.

The Warriors are finishing their West Suburban Gold Conference season with this week's conference road games at Proviso East and Leyden. Willowbrook entered the week with a conference record of 4-6.

### The Rams' week featured division wins over Ridgewood and Riverside Brookfield

Glenbard East began last week's action with a pair of Upstate Eight Conference East Division wins. The Rams defeated Ridgewood 64-40 in Lombard on Jan. 27. Three days later, Glenbard East earned a 55-51 division victory at Riverside Brookfield. The Rams improved to 9-1 in division play after Friday's win over the Bulldogs.

Glenbard East led Ridge-

wood 17-13 after one quarter of last week's contest. Murphy banked in a 3-point shot from the wing as the first quarter ended. Nee scored the first seven points of the second quarter to help the Rams to a 24-13 lead. Glenbard East led the Rebels 33-22 at halftime. The Rams' lead grew to 51-29 by the end of the third quarter.

Murphy scored 16 points in last week's win over Ridgewood. Nee added 15 points, while Opila supplied 10 points. Sophomore Mae Hoffman added eight points. Sarah Crocker, senior Haley Greenfield and sophomore Maddie Haugen tacked on four points each. Sophomore Lorelai May scored two points, while junior Bridget Crocker provided one point with a fourth-quarter free throw.

The Rams led Riverside Brookfield 13-9 after one quarter of Friday's division battle. Glenbard East owned a 31-19 halftime lead. The Rams' lead grew to 47-31 by the end of the third quarter, but the Bulldogs opened the fourth quarter with a 9-0 run to reduce the lead to 47-40. Murphy scored the Rams' first points of the fourth quarter when she delivered a driving layup to push the

lead to 49-40 with about 3:45 to play. May scored an inside basket off a pass from Murphy to move the lead to 51-40 with about three minutes to play. Murphy rebounded her own miss and scored a basket to give Glenbard East a 53-44 lead with about 1:45 on the clock. Nee scored the Rams' final basket of the game to help Glenbard East seal its win.

Murphy scored 20 points in Friday's victory over Riverside Brookfield. Nee, who made three 3-point shots in the second quarter, supplied 15 points. May contributed eight points, while Hoffman scored six points. Opila and senior Kathleen Nevels added four and two points, respectively.

Earlier this week, the Rams played a non-division home game against Wheaton North, along with a division contest at Fenton. The Rams will face division leader Glenbard South this Friday, Feb. 6, in Lombard, in a contest that will complete the division season for both teams. The Raiders will enter that game with an unblemished 11-0 division record. Glenbard South defeated the Rams 54-23 in the teams' division meeting in Glen Ellyn on Jan. 9.



## Rams qualify for the state cheerleading meet

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Glenbard East's cheerleading team will compete in the upcoming IHSA competitive cheerleading state meet, which takes place this Friday and Saturday, Feb. 6-7, at Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington. The Rams earned their berth in the state meet at Saturday's Buffalo Grove Sectional. The top five teams in the sectional's 10-team Coed-2 division qualified for the state meet. Glenbard East earned a fifth-place score of 86.57 for its sectional performance in that division. Members of the team, pictured left to right at the sectional, are: (bottom row, kneeling) MJ Acuna, Claire Olsen, Angel Hill, Yolanda Gonzalez, Liyah Adams, Courtney Coletto, Allison Yuknis and Nick Logalbo; (top row, standing) assistant coach Lakeisha Greer, assistant coach Darren Nuezca, Leighann Schrelber, Mariah Smith, Dalja Trice, Margo Nunamaker, Wyatt Wilson, Carsyn Corral, Keira Carr, Madison Leicht, Makayla Beasley, Makayla Hagenbart and head coach Kelly Dolan.

## Broncettes place fifth at state meet



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Montini Catholic High School's dance team—the Broncettes—earned a fifth-place finish in the 1A division of the IHSA competitive dance state meet, which took place on Friday and Saturday at Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington. The Broncettes were one of 30 teams to compete in the 1A division's preliminary round on Friday. The top 12 teams advanced to Saturday's final round. Montini secured an eighth-place score of 85.79 for its performance in the preliminary round. The Broncettes earned a fifth-place score of 88.97 for their performance in Saturday's final round. Pictured left to right at this year's state meet are (front row) assistant coach Carrie Plonke, freshman Mina Kim, freshman Ava Scala, freshman Delaney Zimmer, senior Zoe Roerich, sophomore Brynlee Boyer, sophomore Courtney Canty, sophomore Abby Milas, head coach Eugenia Scavone and assistant coach Taylor Scavone; (back row) junior Cameron Kalata, junior Gemma Gatto, freshman Izzy Reichl, sophomore Gia Pulla, senior Olivia Kosarek, freshman Marissa Jackson and sophomore Mya Kois. The Broncettes also earned a fifth-place finish in the 1A division of the 2025 state meet.

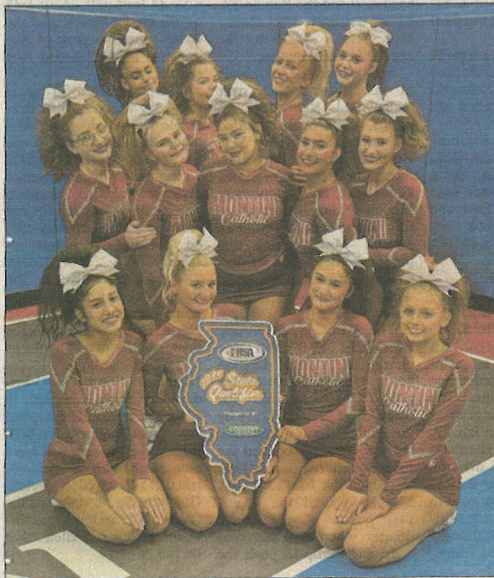
## Willowbrook senior receives U.S. Figure Skating's Graduating Seniors Award



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Willowbrook High School senior Gianna Flamm (pictured) was recently recognized with the Bronze-level U.S. Figure Skating Graduating Seniors Award by the Program Development Committee of U.S. Figure Skating. According to a press release from the committee, the award honors "the hard work of student-athletes who have participated in figure skating throughout high school; awards are given at the Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze level based off a skater's level of competitive achievement in high school. Selection for this award speaks to a skater's continued commitment to succeeding in their athletic and academic endeavors." Flamm is a Villa Park resident.

## Montini cheerleaders qualify for the state meet



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Montini Catholic High School's cheerleading team qualified for the IHSA competitive cheerleading state meet with its fourth-place finish in the 1A division of Saturday's sectional at Dundee-Crown High School in Carpentersville. The top five teams in the sectional's 14-team 1A division qualified for the state meet, which takes place this Friday and Saturday, Feb. 6-7, at Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington. The members of Montini's cheerleading team, pictured left to right at the sectional, include (front row) freshman Analee Hernandez, senior Gianna Boccoccelll, senior Gabriella Oliverio and junior Chloe Rothermel; (second row) freshman Gianna Liotta, freshman Ava Eirich, freshman Sienna Velazquez, sophomore Talia Tenuta and sophomore Giavanna Sloma; (back row) sophomore DeLaura Jones, freshman Millie Foote, sophomore Margaret Schmit and junior Gianna Langert.