

# Villa Park REVIEW

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THURSDAY, FEB. 19, 2026



## THE LAST DANCE

CHRIS FOX PHOTO/Villa Park Review

Willowbrook High School's dance team performed during halftime of the Warriors' Senior Night varsity boys basketball game in Villa Park on Saturday evening. The seniors on Willowbrook's boys basketball and dance teams were honored before the game. Saturday's halftime routine was the dance team's final performance of the 2025-26 school year. In addition to performing during halftime of home football and basketball games, the Willowbrook dance team participated in its own competitive events. On Jan. 24, the team qualified for the IHSA competitive dance state meet by earning a fifth-place finish in the 2A-2 division of the Maine South Sectional in Park Ridge. The top six teams in the sectional's 17-team 2A-2 division qualified for the state meet, which took place Jan. 30-31 in Bloomington. The Willowbrook dance team has qualified for the IHSA state meet in each of the last six seasons. The team's seniors, pictured left to right at the end of Saturday's performance, are: Ava Jovanovich, Maddy McEllin, Cecilia Oddo, Kaia Capulong and Gedvina Mickevicius.

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# Court grants state's motion to detain pre-trial two subjects charged with retail theft/aggravated fleeing and eluding in separate incidents

*One of the incidents involved a subject accused of taking items from Kohl's in Elmhurst.*

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin, Oak Brook Chief of Police Brian Strockis and Elmhurst Chief of Police Michael McLean announced last week that charges have been filed against two individuals accused of stealing merchandise from an Oak Brook and an Elmhurst retail business in two unrelated incidents.

Jehnyeh Moore, 22, of Woodridge, appeared

in court on Feb. 11, when Judge Joshua Dieden granted the state's motion to detain her pre-trial. Moore is charged with one count of retail theft (Class 3 felony) and one count of aggravated fleeing and eluding a police officer (Class 4 felony).

Jriami Williams, 32, of Chicago, also appeared in court on Feb. 11, when Judge Dieden granted the state's motion to detain him pre-trial. Williams is charged with one count of burglary (Class 2 felony), one count of aggravated fleeing and eluding a police officer and multiple misdemeanors and petty offenses, including retail theft,

resisting a police officer and driving with a suspended license.

On Feb. 10, at approximately 2:07 p.m., Oak Brook police officers responded to Nordstrom, located at 10 Oakbrook Center, Oak Brook, for a call of a retail theft in progress. Upon their arrival, officers located the suspect's vehicle, a white Chevrolet Equinox, traveling westbound on I-88. The responding officer pulled behind the Equinox and activated his emergency lights and siren to initiate a traffic stop. It is alleged that instead of stopping, the Equinox, later determined to

be driven by Moore, accelerated away from the officer at a high rate of speed.

It is further alleged that as the officer followed Moore, Moore reached speeds of approximately 112 mph before the officer terminated his pursuit due to safety concerns.

Following the pursuit, Oak Brook police officers went to Moore's residence, where she surrendered to authorities and was taken into custody without incident.

Following an investigation into the theft, it is alleged that Moore entered Nordstrom and selected several items of merchandise, including SKIMS undergarments and two T-shirts. It is alleged that Moore took the items into a fitting room and removed the anti-theft sensor from the items. It is further alleged that Moore left the fitting room with the items and selected a beanie and another T-shirt before exiting the store without paying for the items. It is alleged that a loss prevention officer confronted Moore outside the store and recovered all of the merchandise except one package of SKIMS before Moore fled the scene in the Equinox.

On Feb. 10, at approximately 5:18 p.m., Elmhurst police officers responded to Kohl's, 303 South Route 83, for a call of a retail theft in progress. It is alleged that prior to the call, Williams arrived at Kohl's and parked a white Jaguar F-Type in a handicap parking spot in

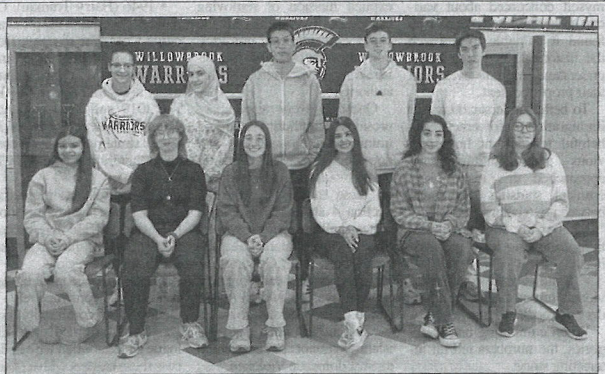
front of the store's door. It is alleged that Williams then entered the store, selected a Ninja blender, cut off the anti-theft sensor and placed the blender in a shopping cart.

It is alleged that Williams selected an electric griddle and placed it in the same shopping cart before staging the cart near the front door. Upon their arrival at the store, officers placed a stop stick under the rear passenger side tire of the Jaguar and began surveillance.

It is alleged that while officers surveilled the Jaguar, Williams exited the store, ran toward and then entered the Jaguar. It is further alleged that when officers ordered Williams to exit the Jaguar, he instead drove over the stop stick, deflating the rear tire, and fled the area.

Responding officers activated their emergency lights and siren and pursued Williams. After losing sight of Williams as he allegedly fled, officers located the Jaguar abandoned in a ditch near the corner of York Street and Butterfield Road. A short time later, officers located Williams hiding in a stand of trees and took him into custody following a brief foot pursuit.

Moore's next court appearance is scheduled for Feb. 17, in front of Judge Daniel Guerin. Williams' next court appearance is scheduled for March 9, in front of Judge Brian Telandier.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

## Willowbrook recognizes its Outstanding Students for the third quarter

Willowbrook High School recently recognized 12 of its students as Outstanding Students for the third quarter of the 2025-26 school year. To be chosen for the Outstanding Student distinction, students must demonstrate extraordinary achievement and an outstanding effort, along with a commendable attitude. Students who receive the award must also demonstrate motivation and the ability to overcome obstacles. Willowbrook Assistant Principal Jamie Gourley welcomed the recipients and their families to the Feb. 12 event that celebrated the honor. Willowbrook staff members who nominated the students for the award in various departments also attended the celebration at the school. Willowbrook's Outstanding Students for the third quarter (pictured left to right) are: (front row) freshman Savannah Smith (Warrior Resource Center), senior Crow McNeilly (Music), senior Eva Rodriguez (Career and Technical Education), sophomore Soleil Capulong (World languages), senior Rebeca Timothee (Art) and freshman Madeline Bousum (English); (back row) sophomore Azana Jackson (Science), senior Rawan Majzoub (Literacy), senior Angel Perez (Physical education), sophomore Shane Bernero (Social studies) and junior Kole Johanson (Math). Not pictured is senior Jesus Sandoval Jr. (Learning services).

## VFW Post 2801 holds Fish Fry Friday fundraising dinners during Lent

*Dinner served from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. each Friday from Feb. 20 through April 3*

Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 is holding its Fish Fry Friday fundraising dinners each Friday during Lent.

The post, which is located at 39 E. St. Charles Road, is open to the public.

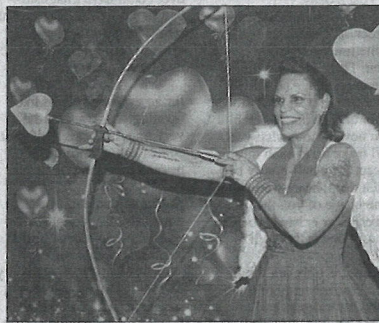
The first Fish Fry Friday at the post will take place this Friday, Feb. 20. The fundraising dinners will continue each Friday through April 3. The dinners will be served from 5:30

to 7:30 p.m.

Dinners include walleye and shrimp/walleye combo meals, all served with a choice of baked beans or slaw, and potato or hand-cut fries. A children's meal includes chicken nuggets with fries.

Take-out orders will be available during dining hours. For more information, call 630-834-8191.

## Valentine's Day at Post 2801



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park Review

Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 held a Sweetheart Dance on Valentine's Day—Saturday, Feb. 14. Merika Lofgren (pictured) of the VFW Post 2801 Auxiliary dressed as Cupid during the free event, which welcomed families for an evening that included pizza, kiddie cocktails, adult beverages, a live DJ, and dancing.

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# Three Montini wrestlers win individual titles at the Hinsdale Central Sectional

*A total of nine Broncos qualify for this week's individual state meet*

Nine members of the Montini Catholic wrestling team will compete in this week's IHSA Class 3A individual state meet in Champaign.

The nine Broncos earned their berths in the state meet by posting top-four finishes in their respective weight levels at the Hinsdale Central Individual Sectional, which took place on Friday and Saturday.

Three Broncos—sophomore Erik Klichurov, junior Allen Woo and junior Bobby Ruscitti—turned in first-place finishes in the sectional at Hinsdale Central. Four other Montini wrestlers posted second-place finishes.

Klichurov won the sectional's 113-pound championship. He won three straight matches at Hinsdale Central to raise his season record to 34-2. Woo won the 120-pound title after delivering three straight wins to move his season record to 38-8. Ruscitti earned three straight victories at the sectional to capture the 126-pound title. He raised his unblemished season record to 43-0 with those three wins.

Montini junior Mikey



JIM IZZO PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Junior Bobby Ruscitti (above, left) of Montini Catholic's wrestling team won the 126-pound championship at the IHSA Class 3A Hinsdale Central Individual Sectional, which ended on Saturday. Ruscitti won three straight matches at the sectional to move his season record to 43-0. The top four finishers in each weight class at the sectional qualified for the Class 3A individual state meet, which takes place this week in Champaign. Glenbard East senior Orlando Hoye (above, right) also earned a berth in the Class 3A state meet at the Hinsdale Central Sectional. Hoye placed fourth in the sectional's 190-pound weight class.

Malizzio qualified for the individual state meet by finishing second in the sectional's 132-pound weight class. Senior Santino Tenua of the Broncos secured a second-place finish in the 165-pound division. Senior AJ Tack of Montini placed second in the 175-pound level. Junior Gavin Ericson-Station of the Broncos earned

a second-place finish in the 285-pound weight class.

Sophomore Sam Swais of Montini qualified for the individual state meet after finishing third in the Hinsdale Central Sectional's 215-pound level. Another Montini sophomore—Will Konder—earned a state-meet berth with his fourth-place finish in the sectional's 157-pound divi-

sion.

The Broncos' season will not end after this week's individual state meet. Montini will conclude its season by competing in the IHSA Class 3A dual team state meet, which will take place Feb. 27-28 in Bloomington. The Broncos will open the dual team state meet with a quarterfinal-round dual meet

against Edwardsville on Feb. 27.

## Two Rams and one Warrior earn state-meet berths at the Hinsdale Central Sectional

Two Glenbard East wrestlers—seniors Ismael Chaidez and Orlando Hoye—qualified for the IHSA Class 3A individual state meet with their strong performances at the

Hinsdale Central Sectional. Chaidez earned a berth in the state meet with his fourth-place finish in the sectional's 126-pound level. He won his first two matches at the sectional before losing a 5-3 decision in the semifinal round. Chaidez then won his next match before losing in the third-place contest. He will enter the state meet with a season record of 36-7.

Hoye, who placed fourth in the 190-pound division, won his first two matches at the sectional before suffering a narrow 1-0 loss in the semifinal round. He won his next match before dropping the third-place match. Hoye will head to the state meet with a season record of 21-4.

Senior Aris Neal of Willowbrook earned a berth in the individual state meet with his third-place finish in the Hinsdale Central Sectional's 120-pound level. Neal lost his first match at the sectional in a tiebreaker. He then posted five straight wins to earn his third-place finish. Neal's season record stood at 30-8 at the end of the sectional.

## Warriors complete their regular season

Willowbrook's girls basketball team finished its regular season with a 62-35 loss at Timothy Christian in Elmhurst on Feb. 12. The Warriors trailed the Trojans 17-13 after one quarter. Timothy Christian outscored Willowbrook 17-3 in the second quarter to extend its lead to 34-16 by halftime. The Trojans raised their lead to 53-27 by the end of the third quarter. Freshman Claire Edison (No. 4) drained three 3-point shots and scored 20 points for the Warriors in their loss at Timothy Christian. Junior Jada Langston and freshman Jessica Tortorello contributed five points each for Willowbrook. Freshman Kennedy Rieger provided three points, while senior Joely Maciejewski supplied two points. The Warriors finished their regular season with a 10-18 record. Timothy Christian closed out its regular season with a 21-3 record. Willowbrook moved to 11-18 after opening post-season play with Saturday's dominant 66-14 home win over Proviso West in Villa Park



in a quarterfinal-round contest in the IHSA Class 4A Lake Park Regional. The Warriors, who took an early 14-0 lead over the Panthers, built a 25-3 lead by the end of the first quarter. Edison and Maciejewski scored 13 points each in Saturday's victory. Langston added nine points. Junior Mia Grochowski contributed eight points, while sophomores Leah Piper and Aubrey Favors scored seven and six points, respectively. Freshman Rachel Simek added four points. Rieger, Tortorello and senior Mary Smith scored two points each. Earlier this week, Willowbrook faced the Lancers of Lake Park in a regional semifinal at Lake Park in Roselle.

CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Two Rams and one Warrior qualify for the IHSA girls wrestling individual state meet

Two members of the Glenbard East girls wrestling team—junior Maria Green and senior Nadiia Shymkiv—will compete in the upcoming IHSA individual state meet, which will take place Feb. 27-28 at Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington.

Green and Shymkiv earned their state-meet berths by earning top-four finishes at the

Schaumburg Sectional, which ended on Saturday.

Green earned a second-place finish in the sectional's 140-pound weight class. Shymkiv placed third in the 105-pound division.

Green will head to the state meet with a season record of 42-2. Shymkiv will enter the state meet with a season record of 35-3.

The top four finishers in each weight class at the sectional qualified for the state meet.

Willowbrook sophomore Angie Manlapaz also earned a state-meet berth at the Schaumburg Sectional. Manlapaz placed fourth in the sectional's 115-pound level. She will begin the state meet with a season record of 17-4.

## Pettinger qualifies for the IHSA girls state bowling meet

Willowbrook junior Liz Pettinger will compete as an individual in the IHSA girls state bowling meet, which takes place this Friday and Saturday at The Cherry Bowl in Rockford.

Pettinger qualified for the state meet with her strong showing at Saturday's De La Salle Sectional at Bowlero in Lyons. The sectional's top five bowlers who weren't members of state-qualifying teams advanced to the state meet as individuals. Petting-

er finished first among that group with her six-game score of 1,130.

Pettinger placed fourth in the sectional's individual standings. She bowled a 161 in her first game of the sectional. After firing a 204 in her second game, Pettinger rolled a 222 in her third game. She completed the sectional with scores of 183, 210, and 150 in her final three games.

Morton won the sectional's team title with its score of 5,175. York (5,055) placed

second, while Resurrection (4,903) claimed third. Leyden (4,827) placed fourth in the 12-team sectional to claim a state-meet berth. The sectional's top four teams qualified for the state meet.

Addison Trail (4,778) finished fifth in the sectional's team standings. Junior Alessandra Pizzoferrato led the Blazers at the sectional with her six-game total of 1,076 that included a 235 in her third game. Willowbrook (4,560) landed in 10<sup>th</sup> place.

## Montini's Abby Milas qualifies for the IHSA girls gymnastics state meet

Montini sophomore Abby Milas will compete in multiple events at this week's IHSA girls gymnastics state meet at Palatine High School.

Milas qualified for the state meet with her strong performances at the Oswego Sectional on Feb. 11. All gymnasts who earned top-five finishes at the sectional automatically qualified for the state meet, which begins this Friday. Additionally, several other gymnasts who competed at the state's four sectionals earned "at large" berths in the state meet.

Milas earned a third-place score of 9.025 for her sectional routine on the uneven bars. She received a fifth-place score of 9.075 for her floor exercises performance at the sectional. Milas qualified for the state meet's all-around competition with her fifth-place all-around total of 34.85 in Oswego.

Milas also earned an "at large" berth in the state meet's vault competition. She received a score of 9.325 for her sectional performance on the vault.

## Warriors end their losing streak

Willowbrook's boys basketball team defeated Hinsdale South 76-46 in Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference game in Villa Park. The Warriors ended a nine-game losing streak with their decisive Senior Night victory over the Hornets. Willowbrook led Hinsdale South 20-6 after one quarter and 35-19 at halftime. The Warriors' lead swelled to 54-26 by the end of the third quarter. Senior Otis Powell (No. 2) scored a team-leading 25 points for Willowbrook in the win. Senior Jory Crocker added 12 points, while senior Jaylen Griffin contributed nine points. Junior Evan Senne delivered a burst of four field goals in the fourth quarter to provide eight points for the Warriors, who improved to 10-20 overall and 3-8 in conference play with Saturday's triumph. Willowbrook's losing streak reached nine games following Friday's 54-53 conference loss at Addison Trail. The Blazers made two free throws with less than 10 seconds to play to account for the game's final two points. Griffin scored 18 points in Friday's loss. Powell provided 15 points. Junior Dylan Borkowski supplied eight points, while Crocker contributed seven points. Senior Vince Blonda scored a team-high 17 points for the Blazers in Friday's win. Senior Manny Roque provided 16 points, including the two free throws in the closing seconds that gave Addison Trail its one-point lead. Senior Cam Salerno added 10 points for the Blazers. The Warriors finished their regular season earlier this week when they played a conference home game against Morton. Willowbrook will open the IHSA Class 4A post-season by hosting a regional next week. The Warriors will face Wheaton Warrenville in a regional semifinal contest in Villa Park on Feb. 25. Addison Trail will begin the IHSA Class 4A post-season with a Feb. 25 game against Lake Park at the Glenbard East Regional.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Sectional qualifier

Freshman Lilly McCarthy of the Glenbard East girls gymnastics team participated in the all-around competition at last week's Lake Park Sectional in Roselle. McCarthy placed 28<sup>th</sup> in the Feb. 10 sectional's all-around standings with her total score of 30.35. She opened the meet by earning a score of 7.725 for her routine in floor exercises. McCarthy is pictured during her performance in that event. After receiving a score of 8.475 on the vault, McCarthy earned a score of 6.975 on the uneven bars. She completed the sectional by posting a score of 7.175 on the balance beam. McCarthy earned an "at large" berth in the sectional's all-around competition with her performance at the Glenbard West Regional on Feb. 2.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Sectional competitors

Several members of the Willowbrook and Addison Trail girls gymnastics teams competed in last week's Lake Park Sectional in Roselle. None of the Warriors or Blazers who took part in the sectional advanced to this week's IHSA state meet at Palatine High School. Willowbrook junior Lillian Macias placed 12<sup>th</sup> on the vault at the Feb. 10 sectional. Macias, who is pictured as she approached the vault at the sectional, earned a score of 8.975 in that event. Sophomore Ella Paulsen of Willowbrook earned a 15<sup>th</sup>-place score of 8.65 on the vault. Freshman Brooklynn Stratton of the Warriors received a 16<sup>th</sup>-place score of 8.625 for her routine in floor exercises. Willowbrook's other sectional competitors included junior Macy Morris and sophomore Farrah Beavers. Addison Trail senior Mia Trombatore earned a ninth-place score of 33.925 in the sectional's all-around competition. Trombatore is pictured at the end of her performance on the uneven bars. She earned a 10<sup>th</sup>-place score of 8.8 in that event. Trombatore also placed 11<sup>th</sup> in floor exercises (8.825). Addison Trail's other sectional competitors included senior Gabriella Trejo, senior Mickey Fricano, sophomore Izabela Hernandez and sophomore Natallia Jurowska.

## • BOYS WRESTLING

Continued from page 18

After Kam Luiif (144) secured the first points of the match with an 8-5 decision, the Broncos proceeded to drop the next three matches, with one being by fall and two being via tech fall, to fall into an early 16-3 deficit.

That hole didn't last for too long. Montini went on to win each of the last eight matches wrestled while also forfeiting two matches to turn it around and secure a 35-28 victory.

"Beating Marist is always going to be a tough duel, with each match having to mentally prepare for six hard minutes," Broncos coach Sal Annoreno said. "We always have faith in our lower guys but our upper guys came up big, too. We always have faith in our guys to pull out a win, because that's how we train in the room."

Annoreno said that the big turning point in the match came in the 215-pound match, when Sam Swais came back from trailing 4-0 in the first period to secure six points with a win by fall over Tommy O'Brien in 3:32.

"I saw the bench, saw that we were still down a bit and needed a turn of events," said Swais, who transferred in from Nazareth before the season. "I haven't wrestled all year, so this was

pretty big for me. I've been with them for four months, but it really feels like I have been with them for four years."

Swais's victory was the Broncos' only win by fall on the night. Allen Woo (120) and Bobby Ruscitti (126) each had wins by tech fall, while Santino Tetuna (175) won in a 15-2 major decision to close out the bonus-point wins. Erik Klichurov (113), Mikey Malizzio (132), AJ Tack (190) and Gavin Ericson (285) all also won their matches.

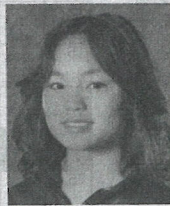
"Even when we were losing matches and minimizing points in our losses, our team was rallying behind our guys, and that's a big part of why we had success," Annoreno said. "Our team was in it and engaged the whole time. We never had a doubt and just stayed true."

Montini will face off against Edwardsville in its state quarterfinal, with the Tigers beating Lincoln-Way West 36-28 to advance. And even while the jump from 2A to 3A has been a bit worrisome, the expectation is the same.

"We just want to get down to state individually and maximize what we do down there," Annoreno said. "We expect to have up to five individual champions, but we're really shooting for a team title. They have the talent, they're working the right way, and we definitely can do it."

# Suburban Life

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



### ANGIE MANLAPAZ

Willowbrook, sophomore, wrestling

Manlapaz won the 115-pound championship at the Glenbard West Regional, becoming the first girls wrestling regional champion in school history.

She was voted the Athlete of the Week in an online vote. Other nominees were Hinsdale South wrestling's Callie Carr, Downers Grove South basketball's Dimitri Letsos and Lyons basketball's Gwen Smith.

Here is her Q&A with Sports Editor Joshua Welge:

**What did it mean to win the school's first regional title for girls wrestling? Did you know about that history?**

**Manlapaz:** Honestly I did not know. I thought there was probably a girl before me that won the title. For me, I just was really proud of myself knowing I only started a year ago and seeing my progression as a wrestler is impressive for me.

**Were you surprised to win it?**

**Manlapaz:** I was pretty confident. All my coaches, my parents and my mentors said I had a good shot at becoming a sectional qualifier. One of my coaches said just go out there and try your best. That motivated me to win the regional.

**How did you feel you wrestled? Any matches stand out?**

**Manlapaz:** First and foremost I thought it was my semifinals match that was impressive. I got a heads up that my opponent liked to do a headlock. I prepared myself to get in a vulnerable position and won the match unexpectedly.

**How has the season gone otherwise?**

**Manlapaz:** It's going well. I thought at the beginning when I was out for a little bit that I wasn't going to accomplish anything. Once I got cleared from my injury I thought things are going well who knows maybe I might go to state as an underdog.

**What was your injury?**

**Manlapaz:** I was training at a club in Lombard and my partner fell on top of my head and fractured one of my bones and I

had to wait two months to get cleared. It was on the bone located in my middle finger.

**How did you get started wrestling?**

**Manlapaz:** Last year I started. To be honest I wanted to try something new, it was right after volleyball season and I thought I should try a sport where I could get physical and get in shape.

**What do you like about wrestling?**

**Manlapaz:** I just like the community. Unlike my experience with volleyball I feel like they are very open to new people and very accepting. There are a lot of girls on the team.

**Have you played other sports?**

**Manlapaz:** I used to play basketball and volleyball.

**What are your goals for the rest of the season?**

**Manlapaz:** I know I might have to go against a nationally ranked opponent named Zoey Dempsey. For sectionals my goal is to get past the two days and hopefully qualify for state.

**What's your favorite class in school?**

**Manlapaz:** I really like French class.

**What's your favorite snack food?**

**Manlapaz:** I really like a toasted peanut butter sandwich along with a glass of milk.

**What's a place you've never visited but would like to?**

**Manlapaz:** I would love to visit a national park. I couldn't pick one.



Karen Naess for Shaw Local News Network

Marmion's Ashton Hopson and Mt. Carmel's Daniel Lynch competes in the 165-pound match at the Marmion Class 2A Dual Team Sectional on Thursday, Feb. 5, in Aurora.