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THURSDAY, DEC. 28, 2023

## Dispute over pizza, bar tab results in shooting in Wheaton

*Pre-trial release denied for suspect who fired 9mm Glock*



DuPage County State's Attorney Bob Berlin and DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick announced last week that Judge Joshua Dieden granted the state's motion to deny pre-trial release for an Aurora man accused of murdering Dexter Perkins on Friday, Dec. 22 at Rosie O'Reilly's, an establishment located in unincorporated Wheaton.

Michael Freund, 49, appeared in First Appearance Court and was charged with one count of first-degree murder.

On Friday, Dec. 22 at approximately 8:40 a.m., DuPage County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a call of shots fired at Rosie O'Reilly's, 0N131 Gary Ave. Upon their arrival, officers found the victim, Dexter Perkins, deceased at the scene.

Following an investigation into the shooting, it is alleged that a dispute arose over pizza and the bar tab between Perkins, Freund and two other men. It is alleged that a brief scuffle ensued on the outside front porch of the bar between Perkins and one of the other men, which ultimately resulted in Freund pulling out a 9mm Glock handgun

from his jacket pocket and firing two warning shots into the air.

It is further alleged that after Freund fired the warning shots, Perkins approached the other man at which time Freund, who was standing on the other side of a wooden railing, fired at him, striking him in the torso and in the face. It is alleged that after the shooting, Freund placed the Glock, which had been fired a total of 11 times, in the center console of his truck, where it was subsequently found by law enforcement.

Freund was taken into custody without incident. The investigation also found that Perkins did not know Freund or any of the other men involved in the incident.

"Dexter Perkins lost his life allegedly over a dispute regarding pizza and a bar tab," Berlin said. "For this senseless act of violence that resulted in the death of an innocent man, Mr. Freund now finds himself facing first degree murder charges. I offer my sincere condolences to Dexter's family and friends and wish them strength as they are now forced to continue their lives without the love and friendship they enjoyed with Dexter."

Freund's next court appearance is scheduled Jan. 18 for arraignment in front of Judge Ann Celine O'Hallaren Walsh.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

### INSIDE:

Opinion.....4 Police .....8  
Speak Out.....5 Sports.....14-15-17

## Addison Trail cheerleaders continue successful season

On Sunday, Dec. 10, the Addison Trail cheerleading team participated in its first competition of the year at Marian Catholic High School, where the coed varsity team took first place and the junior varsity squad finished in second place. At a competition on Sunday, Dec. 17 at Wilmington High School, both teams were named as champions with first-place finishes, which qualified them for the Illinois Cheerleading Coaches Association (ICCA) Championship on Jan. 6 and 7 in Springfield.

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# District 88 Transition students create holiday decor

## Effort one of program's business initiatives

Students in the District 88 Transition program recently continued their classroom business with handmade holiday decor.

Guided by Transition program staff members Stephanie Nitka and Amanda Wilson, the students created ceramic coasters with seasonal designs, as well as wooden trees about 34 inches tall. The items were available for District 88 staff members to purchase.

The pupils collected orders, filled out and organized order forms, creat-

ed and distributed invoices, collected payment and delivered the items. Proceeds went toward a special trip for the students to see "The SpongeBob Musical" at Drury Lane Oakbrook.

The District 88 Transition Program helps individuals ages 18 to 22, who have a variety of abilities learn life skills, obtain job training at local vocational sites in a community setting and transition to a life of independence after District 88. Read more at [dupage88.net/TransitionProgram](http://dupage88.net/TransitionProgram).



Alina Patel works hard on one of the wooden holiday trees made and sold by the students in the Transition program.



Students Raquel Florez and Brenden Bleberstein deliver a wooden holiday tree to District 88 student success coordinator Valerie Humphrey.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

District 88 Transition Program student Brian Pisarcik helps make a wooden holiday tree, one of the projects made by the classroom business.



District 88 staff member Veronica Noyola (right) receives a wood holiday tree delivered by Berenice Melendez-Rios.

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# Hoda honored with the 88's Best award for December

## Lombard resident is a shining star in Willowbrook's Class of 2024

Willowbrook High School senior Ariel Hoda was recently named her school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of December.

The 88's Best award recognizes students for their achievements in and out of the classroom. The District 88 Board of Education presents the award to nine Willowbrook students and nine Addison Trail students each school year.

While speaking about Hoda at the board's Dec. 11 meeting, Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause read comments from several of her teachers. Those teachers described Hoda as kind, hard-working, talented, dedicated, cheerful and insightful.

Hoda, who is a Lombard resident, is an academic standout in Willowbrook's Class of 2024. When she graduates in a few months, she will have completed 14 Advanced Placement (AP) classes. She is an AP Scholar and an Illinois State Scholar, and she's been named to Willowbrook's Distinct Honor Roll in each semester of her time in high school.

Hoda is the president of Willowbrook's National Honor Society chapter. She's also an inductee of several other honor societies, including the National English Honor Society, the National Math Honor Society, the World Language Honor Society, the Science National Honor Society, the Tri-M Music Honor Society, and Willowbrook's social studies honor society—Civitas.

Additionally, Hoda is the co-founder and president of Willowbrook's new Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) organization.

Hoda was a captain of the Addison Trail/Willowbrook girls swim team. She's also a member of the Warriors' girls basketball and girls



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook High School senior Ariel Hoda was recently named her school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of December. Hoda, who is a resident of Lombard, was recognized during the District 88 Board of Education's Dec. 11 meeting. She is pictured (right) at that meeting with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause (left). The 88's Best award recognizes students at Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools for their achievements in and out of the classroom. In addition to being an exceptional student, Hoda is involved in numerous extracurricular activities at Willowbrook. A member of the school's Science Olympiad team, Hoda is the co-founder and president of the Willowbrook's new Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) organization. She plans to study psychology at the University of Notre Dame.

track and field teams.

Hoda is a member of the Willowbrook Student Council. Additionally, she's a member of the Willowbrook Choir and the school's Science

Olympiad team. She is also an editor of Willowbrook's student newspaper, Skyline.

Hoda plans to study psychology at the University of Notre Dame.

## Warriors earn a victory over Morton

### Campbell wins the meet's all-around title; she delivers first-place scores on the vault and uneven bars

The Willowbrook girls gymnastics team defeated Morton 129.85-111.85 in a dual meet in Villa Park on Dec. 20.

Junior Naomi Campbell of the Warriors won the meet's all-around title with her total score of 34.15. Campbell delivered first-place scores on the vault (9.05) and the uneven bars (8.4). She earned a second-place score of 8.7 for her routine in floor exercises. Campbell received a fourth-place score of 8.0 for her performance on the balance beam.

Willowbrook senior Mia McBride placed second in the meet's all-around standings with her score of 33.45. McBride finished first in floor exercises (8.75). She placed second on the uneven bars (8.2), third on the balance beam (8.3) and sixth on the vault (8.2).

Willowbrook sophomore Kaia Capulong finished third in the meet's all-around competition with her total of 31.25. She placed second on the balance beam (8.4) and tied for second on the vault (8.55). Capulong landed in fifth place in floor exercises (8.0) and wound up seventh on the uneven bars (6.3).

Freshman Lillian Macias provided the Warriors with a fourth-place score of 30.70 in the meet's all-around standings. Macias claimed third in floor exercises (8.1) and on the uneven bars (6.95). She earned a fifth-place score of 8.3 on the vault and finished sixth on the balance beam (7.35).

Sophomore Leigh Bernardo of the Warriors tied for fourth on the uneven bars (6.6). Willowbrook senior Molly Robson placed seventh on the balance beam (7.3). See photos on page 17.

## Coming event

### Villa Park Library programs

The Villa Park Public Library's 2024 Winter Reading Program, "Find Your Voice," starts on Tuesday, Jan. 2, and continues through Thursday, Feb. 29.

Track your reading to earn tickets for prize drawings. The library's adult and youth winter reading programs offer something fun for all ages.

Both programs are free, easy and open to everyone!

Calling all artists ages 7 and older to come to the Villa Park Public Library on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2-3 p.m. to create a winter masterpiece.

Using brightly-colored dyes, young artists will create a scene of eye-catching trees in a snowy landscape.

For more information, visit the library's website at [www.vppl.info](http://www.vppl.info) or call 630-834-1164.



JANE CHARMELO PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Victorian Christmas in Lombard

The Lombard Historical Society last weekend gave visitors a glimpse of what a Victorian Christmas was like at the Victorian Cottage on Maple Street. According to volunteer docent and tour guide Joyce Miller, pictured (top left and right) by the parlor Christmas tree and in the kitchen, the house was built by Newell Matson, a Chicago jeweler, in 1883, initially for his daughter and son-in-law, but since they did not want it, he used it as a rental home, in what she said was considered at the time to be "a bedroom town." The house changed hands several times and was purchased by the historical society (with support from the village) in 1971. During the tour, Miller showed off the dining room (above middle), where the children's Christmas tree and presents would have been located. Miller pointed to the fireplace (above) in the corner of the dining room, saying it was discovered during a renovation project. For more information about the Lombard Historical Society, visit [www.lombardhistory.org](http://www.lombardhistory.org).

# Warriors' two-game winning streak ends with loss to Fenwick

## Visiting Friars outscore Willowbrook 23-10 in third quarter

The Willowbrook girls basketball team lost 48-42 to Fenwick in last week's non-conference game in Villa Park. The visiting Friars' victory snapped the Warriors' two-game winning streak.

Willowbrook's overall season record dropped to 5-9 following its Dec. 1 loss to Fenwick.

The Friars led the Warriors 10-7 at the end of the first quarter. The two teams were tied at 17-17 at halftime, after scoring 17 points during the game's first 16 minutes. Fenwick erupted for 23 points in the third quarter and held a 40-27 lead with eight minutes to play. The Friars made five shots from point range during the third quarter. Sophomore Cammie Molis made four of Fenwick's 3-point field goals during the period. She made her fourth pointer as the buzzer sounded to end the quarter.

Willowbrook junior Kendall Medinger drained a 3-point shot in the opening seconds of the fourth quarter to reduce Fenwick's lead to 40-30. Senior Elle Bruschkuk drove for a layup to cut the Friars' lead to 40-32 with a title more than six minutes to play. Bruschkuk made one of two free throws to trim the lead to 40-33 with 5:37 remaining.

Fenwick then scored seven straight points to build its lead to 47-33. Bruschkuk ended the Friars' run when she made a 3-point shot to cut the lead to 47-36 with about 2:20 left in the game. A basket by Willowbrook junior Yasani Gusman dropped Fenwick's lead to 47-38 with about two minutes remaining. Bruschkuk made two free throws to reduce the lead to 47-40 with 1 second on the clock. Seconds later, Fenwick made one free throw to give it a 48-40 lead. Medinger sank a 3-point shot with about 12 seconds left to account for the game's final



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls basketball team lost 48-42 to Fenwick in a non-conference game in Villa Park on Dec. 21. The Warriors, whose overall season record dropped to 5-9 with the loss, were tied at 17-17 with Fenwick at halftime. Fenwick made five 3-point shots during the third quarter. The Friars outscored Willowbrook 23-10 during the quarter to take a 40-27 lead with eight minutes to play. Senior Elle Bruschkuk (No. 33 - above middle) scored a team-high 14 points for the Warriors in the battle. Junior Kendall Medinger (No. 14 - above right) provided 12 points for Willowbrook. Senior Seyna Fall (No. 5 - above left) of the Warriors added two points. She is pictured while scoring those points on a layup during the third quarter. Willowbrook is playing in this week's tournament at Wheaton North High School.

two points.

Bruschkuk scored a team-leading 14 points for the Warriors in their loss to the Friars. She also provided five rebounds, four assists, four steals and a blocked shot. Medinger, who made a pair of 3-point shots during the contest, added 12 points. Junior Loralei McIntyre supplied seven points for Willowbrook. Gusman added four points. Senior Tia Kelly contributed three points with a 3-point field goal in the first quarter. Senior Seyna Fall scored two points with a driving layup in the third quarter.

Senior Grace Kapsch, who made a

pair of 3-point shots, scored a team-high 15 points for Fenwick in its win over the Warriors. Molis added 12 points with her four 3-point baskets in the third quarter. The Friars made seven of 16 attempts from 3-point range during the game. Willowbrook connected on five of 17 shots from 3-point territory.

The Warriors are playing in this week's tournament at Wheaton North. They will finish the first half of their West Suburban Gold Conference season with a Jan. 5 game at Leyden. Willowbrook will enter that contest with a conference record of 3-2.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## High-scoring Warriors

Willowbrook's girls gymnastics team outscored Morton 129.85-111.85 in last week's dual meet in Villa Park. Junior Naomi Campbell of the Warriors won the meet's all-around title with her score of 34.15. Campbell earned that all-around total with first-place scores on the vault (9.05) and uneven bars (8.4), a second-place performance in floor exercises (8.7) and a fourth-place effort on the balance beam (8.0). Campbell is pictured (above left) during her routine in floor exercises. Willowbrook senior Mia McBride delivered a first-place score of 8.75 in floor exercises. She is pictured (above middle) during that routine. McBride finished second on the uneven bars (8.2), third on the balance beam (8.3) and sixth on a vault (8.2). She posted a second-place total of 33.45 in the all-around standings. One more photo from the meet shows Willowbrook sophomore Kala Capulong (above right), who is pictured during her second-place performance on the balance beam (8.4). Capulong tied for second on the vault (8.55). She placed fifth in floor exercises (8.0) and seventh on the uneven bars (6.3). Capulong wound up third in the all-around standings with her total of 31.25.

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THURSDAY, JAN. 4, 2024

## Court agrees to detain Wood Dale man accused in fatal aggravated DUI crash

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin announced that Judge Joshua Dieden



**Juan Moxthe** granted the state's motion to deny pre-trial release for a Wood Dale man accused of crashing his vehicle while intoxicated killing his stepdaughter Jaylene Escamilla.

Juan Moxthe, 45, appeared at First Appearance Court, and was charged with one count of aggravated DUI causing death, a Class 2 felony.

On Dec. 17 at approximately 2:15 a.m., Chicago police officers responded to a call of a single-vehicle crash in the 12000 block of Irving Park Road near O'Hare Airport. Upon their arrival at the scene, officers found ambulances and fire trucks already at the scene.

Escamilla was pronounced deceased at the scene while Moxthe was immediately transported to a local hospital for medical attention.

Following an investigation into the crash, it is alleged that Moxthe, his wife, Escamilla and her husband were traveling on Irving Park Road when Moxthe lost control of the

See CRASH, Page 3



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

## INSIDE:

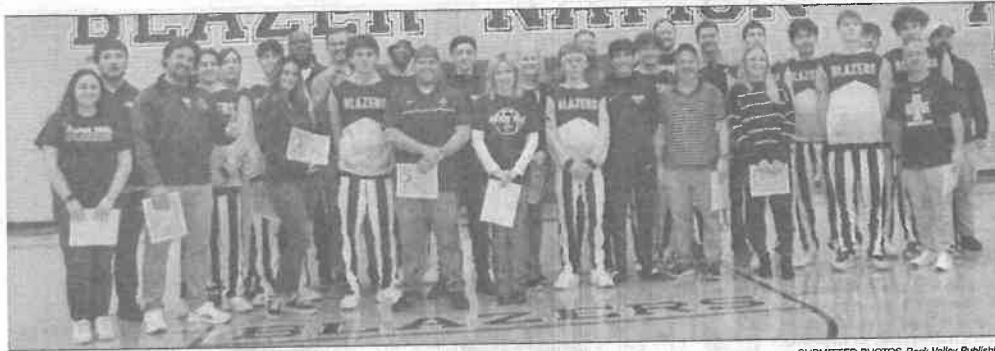
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## Chris Bazant among honorees

Even Santa got into the spirit of things when the Addison Trail boys basketball team held its Staff Appreciation Night. Coming down the line is high school social studies teacher Chris Bazant who was nominated by junior Dominic Renc to be among those recognized at the annual event. Story and more photos on page 3.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Addison Trail boys basketball team recently held its annual Staff Appreciation Night, when each athlete honored a certain person. Pictured are the honorees and the players who nominated them. Each honoree was presented with a certificate that included a message from the player who nominated him or her.

## AT boys basketball team hosts Staff Appreciation Night

### Junior recognized for 1,000-point scoring milestone

On Wednesday, Dec. 6, the Addison Trail boys basketball team hosted its annual Staff Appreciation Night.

During the event, each varsity student-athlete recognized and thanked a staff member who has made a positive difference in their life and played a role in shaping them into who they are today. Each honoree was presented with a certificate that included a message from the player who nominated him or her.

Following are the student athletes with their honoree's name and department: junior Alexander Manriquez honored LeVonne Cescolini-Boyer of the social studies department; junior Aryan Patel, Aaron Jackson, science; junior Luke Smith, James Ziebk, reading; senior Arturo Quiroga Jr., Colleen Kane, math; junior Isaiah Cortes, Dan Styler, social studies; junior Casey Carlson, Michael Kennedy, special education; senior James Cahill Jr., Nicholas Pingel, science; junior Dominic Rene, Chris Bazant, social studies; junior Matt Garcia, Jeff Laschinski, CTE; senior Michael Morales, Cory Little, girls head basketball coach; junior Roberto Rizo Mut, Jessica Clark, English; junior Maximilian Sobus, Ryan Peronto, social studies; senior Cesar Alvarez Herrera, Mike Rosengrant, physical education; junior Mario Rodriguez Jr., Bianca Neff, social studies; junior Malik Barry, Annette Severino, special education.

#### Junior Luke Smith honored for scoring milestone

The team also recognized junior Luke Smith for reaching the 1,000-point scoring milestone. Smith accomplished this feat on Nov. 29 with a 3-point basket during Addison Trail's game against St. Charles East. He has been on the varsity team since his freshman year and completed this accomplishment in 59 varsity games. To honor Smith's success, boys basketball team head coach Brendan Lyons presented him with a commemorative basketball.

"Smith excels at all aspects of the game," Lyons said. "He distributes the basketball, rebounds the basketball and is a tenacious defender. His passion for the game is evident, but he also is as humble of a player as any you'll come across. He has definitely earned the respect of his coaches and teammates."



Annette Severino, a member of Addison Trail's special education staff, was among the many honored recipients at Staff Appreciation Night held recently. She was recognized by junior Malik Barry.



Addison Trail junior Luke Smith was recognized on Dec. 6 for reaching the 1,000-point scoring milestone. He is pictured with his family.

## • Crash

(Continued from front page)

vehicle striking a guard rail causing the vehicle to flip.

It is further alleged that Moxthe's BAC was 0.12 approximately two hours after the crash.

On Dec. 22, Moxthe was released from the hospital and immediately transported to the DuPage County Jail.

"Like all alleged DUI cases, the case against Mr. Moxthe was 100 percent avoidable," Berlin said. "As I have said many times before, if you have been drinking, do not get behind the wheel of a car. Call a friend, a cab or use a ride sharing service to make sure you and your passengers get home safely. I offer my sincerest condolences to Jaylene's family and friends and wish them strength as they adjust to their new reality of life without Jaylene."

Moxthe's next court appearance is scheduled Jan. 8 for arraignment in front of Judge Ann Celine O'Hallaren.

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# Warriors split four games at ICCP/Westmont Christmas Classic

## Willowbrook concludes the tournament with a win over Westmont

The Willowbrook boys basketball team won two of four games and finished seventh in the 12-team IC Catholic Prep/Westmont Christmas Classic, which ended on Saturday. The Warriors' overall season record stood at 6-7 at the conclusion of the tournament.

Willowbrook began the holiday event with a 54-51 victory over Chicago's Leo High School in Elmhurst on Dec. 26. Two days later, the Warriors lost 76-49 to Chicago's Taft High School in another game played at IC Catholic Prep. Willowbrook lost 67-54 to IC Catholic Prep in Friday's contest on the Knights' home court in Elmhurst. The Warriors completed the tournament with Saturday's 62-46 win over Westmont on the Sentinels' home court in Westmont.

Willowbrook built a 14-11 lead over Leo through one quarter of last week's first-round contest in Elmhurst. The Warriors held a 31-21 halftime lead, but Leo rallied to tie the score at 40-40 by the end of the third quarter.

Sophomore Otis Powell scored 13 points and snared four rebounds for the Warriors in last week's win over Leo. Senior Andrew Ciesinski provided 11 points, eight rebounds and five blocked shots in Willowbrook's narrow victory. Sophomore Jaylen Griffin scored seven points and handed out three assists for the Warriors. Junior Filip Palutkiewicz supplied six points, six rebounds and three steals. Junior Jaden Royal contributed six points, four rebounds and three assists. Senior Kenyon Rhodes and junior Feim Alka supplied six and three points, respectively.

tively.

Willowbrook trailed Taft 21-8 through one quarter of last week's contest in Elmhurst. Taft led the Warriors 42-24 at halftime and 67-42 at the end of the third quarter.

Ciesinski scored a team-leading 15 points in the loss to Taft, which left Willowbrook with a 1-1 record in its three-team pool in the event. The Warriors finished second in their pool and joined the tournament's three other second-place teams (IC Catholic Prep, Westmont and Montini Catholic) in the next round of action.

Ciesinski also compiled eight rebounds, three blocked shots and two assists against Taft. Powell provided nine points, 10 rebounds, two assists and two steals. Rhodes and Griffin scored six and five points, respectively.

Palutkiewicz and senior Justin Wade contributed four points each.

IC Catholic Prep led the Warriors 16-15 after one quarter and 32-28 at halftime of Friday's contest in Elmhurst. The Knights led the Warriors 49-40 at the end of the third quarter.

Palutkiewicz scored 15 points and grabbed four rebounds for Willowbrook in Friday's loss to IC Catholic Prep. Royal provided 13 points, five rebounds and three steals. Ciesinski contributed 11 points and 13 rebounds.

Palutkiewicz made a pair of 3-point shots in the opening quarter of Saturday's game against Westmont. He also made two free throws during the first quarter to help the Warriors to a 15-10 lead after eight minutes of action. Willowbrook led the Sentinels 30-20 at halftime and 52-35 at the end of the third quarter.

Palutkiewicz scored a team-leading 16 points in Saturday's win over Westmont. He also supplied five rebounds, four assists and three steals. Royal contributed 11 points and four steals. Rhodes provided nine points, four rebounds, three assists and three steals. Senior Noah Boyd tallied eight points, four assists and three steals. Ciesinski delivered seven points, 12 rebounds and two blocked shots.

The Warriors will resume their West

Suburban Gold Conference season with this Friday's home game against Leyden. The contest will begin p.m. Willowbrook will enter the battle against the Eagles with a conference record of 1-2.

The Warriors will represent conference in this Saturday's one WSC/MSL (Mid-Suburban League) Challenge at Addison Trail. Willowbrook will face Hoffman Estates battle that will start at 2 p.m. Saturday's event in Addison will feature three other games (Leyden vs. Grove, Morton vs. Buffalo Grove, Addison Trail vs. Wheeling).



SUBMITTED PHOTO: Rock Valley Publishing

## Successful road trip for Broncos

The Montini Catholic wrestling team competed in last week's Marge and Tate Invite, a dual-meet tournament at Grandville High School, near Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Broncos opened the Dec. 28 event with a 54-21 victory over Michigan's Cedar Springs High School. Montini then edged Grandville 34-33 and outscored Michigan's Byron Center High School 37-36 before beating Michigan's Bedford High School 38-36 in the championship contest. Bedford is one of the highest-ranked teams in Michigan's largest class (Division 4). Montini raised its overall season dual-meet record to 12-1 with its wins in Michigan. "The tournament victory in Michigan was a total team effort," said Montini coach Mike Bukovsky. "We were missing five starters from our regular lineup, and every guy sucked it up and did a great job to pull everything together and win the championship." Montini's standout wrestlers in last week's meet in Michigan included freshman Bobby Ruscitti, freshman Isaac Mayora, junior Josh Vazquez, sophomore Kam Luff, senior David Mayora, sophomore Santino Tenuta, sophomore A.J. Tack, senior Alex Marre and junior Jaxon Lane.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS: Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's boys basketball team won two of four games placed seventh in last week's team IC Catholic Prep/Westmont Christmas Classic. The Warriors completed the event with Saturday's 62-46 win over Westmont on the Sentinels' home court in Westmont. Junior Filip Palutkiewicz (No. 23 - left) scored a team-leading 16 points for Willowbrook in Saturday's win. Junior Jaden Royal (No. 11 - above) added 11 points for the Warriors, who raised their overall season record to 6-7 with the victory. Willowbrook's season continues with this Friday's WSC/MSL Suburban Gold Conference home game against Leyden. The Warriors will enter the contest with a conference record of 1-2.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE

CERTIFICATE NO. 79296 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Cook County on DECEMBER 20, 2023, wherein the business firm of CARTE MUSIC AND PRODUCTION, 123 S. PLANK ROAD, BENSENVILLE, 60106 was registered; that the true real name or names of the persons owning the business, with respective post office address(es) are as follows:

Clifford Carter, 123 Old Plank Road, Bensenville, IL 60106.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 20TH day of DECEMBER, A.D. 2023.

Jean Kaczmarek  
DuPage County Clerk  
(Published in The Lombardian  
Jan. 4, 11 & 18, 2024)

445

## • Losses (Continued from page 15)

Moments later, Pierson made a steal and drove the length of the court for a basket that gave the Rams a 70-68 lead. Hansberry evened the score at 70-70 with 1:20 remaining.

After Nee missed a last-second shot from the baseline, Glenbard was called for a foul with seven-tenths of a second on the clock. Hansberry junior Al Brooks went to the free-throw line.

He missed his first attempt but made the second shot to give his team a 71-70 lead.

After a timeout, Glenbard East tossed a desperation pass down the court. Hansberry intercepted the pass to end the game.

Nee connected on five of eight 3-point attempts and scored a team-leading 24 points in the Rams' one-point loss to Hansberry. Nee also grabbed eight rebounds during the

game. Jajic piled up 13 points and seven rebounds in the contest. Villalvazo scored 12 points for the Rams. Snyder contributed nine points, while Pierson scored five points.

Highland Park led Glenbard East 9-6 after one quarter and 20-17 at halftime of Friday's contest. Highland Park owned a 40-36 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Nee buried seven of 11 attempts from 3-point range and scored a team-high 22 points in the Rams' final game at last week's tournament in Elmhurst. Jajic and Snyder contributed eight points each. Villalvazo added four points, while Pierson and Kraft scored two points each.

Glenbard East's season continues with today's Upstate Eight Conference home game against Elgin. The Rams enter the contest with a 4-2 conference record.

## • Tournament (Continued from page 15)

Andrew. She sank a pair of 3-point shots during the fourth quarter, when she scored a total of 10 points.

Glenbard East trailed Plainfield East 18-7 through one quarter of the Dec. 29 contest at Sandburg. The Rams erupted for 30 points in the second quarter and took a 37-30 halftime lead. Carney connected on three 3-point shots during the second quarter.

Johnson made a pair of 3-point baskets in the quarter. Glenbard East freshman Lilly Carver drained one 3-point attempt in the second quarter.

The Rams led Plainfield East 42-37 at the end of the third quarter. Senior Gabby Walton scored three baskets during the fourth quarter to help Glenbard East finish the tournament with a victory.

Carney made four 3-point shots and scored 16 points in the Rams'

win over Plainfield East. Walton provided 14 points with seven field goals. Johnson contributed 12 points. Carver supplied six points. Freshman Teagan Murphy added four points, while Robbins scored one point by making a free throw during the fourth quarter.

Carney was named to the event's all-tournament team.

The Rams will resume their Upstate Eight Conference season with today's home game against Elgin. Glenbard East enters the game against the Maroons with a conference record of 7-0.

This Friday, Jan. 5, Glenbard East will host four games in the Grow the Game Showcase. The Rams will play in one of those four contests. They will face Providence Catholic in a battle that is scheduled to tip off at 2:30 p.m.

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THURSDAY, DEC. 28, 2023



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

## Willowbrook Student Council shows its holiday spirit

Students and staff members from Willowbrook High School recently delivered presents and gift cards to York Township Hall as part of the Willowbrook Student Council's "Warrior Project." This year's project "adopted" eight York Township families with a total of 25 children. Each holiday season, York Township assists families through its "Adopt a Family for Christmas" gift program with the help of local individuals, companies and organizations, including Willowbrook High School. "I want to thank the 'Warrior Project' for their ongoing support," said York Township

Supervisor John W. Valle. "Year after year, the students and faculty of Willowbrook High School support our efforts to make the holidays brighter for our residents." Pictured (left to right) are: Valle, Willowbrook Assistant Principal Jamie Gourley, Student Council Advisor Gabrielle Horabik, Willowbrook Student Council members (all Juniors) April Santos, Nina Young, Julia Roznovsky, Emily Wolter, Alana Romero, Hannah Daly and Kelly Kramme; Student Council Advisor Dalila Ramirez and Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause.

### INSIDE:

Opinion.....4 Police .....8  
Speak Out.....5 Sports.....14-15-17

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# 15 charged in 5-day period with stealing from DuPage County businesses

*Businesses in Villa Park, Oakbrook Terrace among those where alleged incidents occurred*

Law enforcement in DuPage County continues to be on high alert during the holiday shopping season after charging 15 individuals over a five-day period who are accused of stealing merchandise from DuPage County retail establishments, according to DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin.

The most recent arrests include:

- Kiara Harris, 33, of Chicago—Accused of stealing approximately \$308.55 worth of merchandise from a Glen Ellyn Walmart on Dec. 24. When confronted by loss prevention officers, Harris allegedly fled the scene on foot. She was taken into custody by Glen Ellyn police officers a short time later at a nearby McDonald's. The court granted the state's motion to deny pre-trial release. Harris' next court appearance is scheduled for Jan. 22.
- Gheorghe Poenaru, 23, of Baltimore, Maryland and Maria Codreanu, 23, of Houston, Texas—Both defendants are accused of stealing approximately \$972 worth of merchandise, including cosmetics, from the Elmhurst Kohl's on Dec. 23. The court granted the state's motion to deny pre-trial release for Poenaru and Codreanu. The next court appearance for both defendants is scheduled for Jan. 22.
- Victor Matamoros, 25, a Venezuelan migrant staying in Chicago—Accused of stealing approximately \$777 worth of merchandise from the Oak Brook Macy's on Dec. 24. Matamoros' next court appearance is scheduled for Jan. 22. He was released from custody pending trial and has been fitted with a GPS monitoring device.
- Yonathan Barrios-Hernandez, 25, a Venezuelan migrant staying in Chicago—Accused of stealing approximately \$738.42 worth of merchandise from the Villa Park Target on Dec. 24. Barrios-Hernandez was released from custody pending trial. His next court date is scheduled for Jan. 22.
- Christian Perez-Aguilera, 26, of Chicago; Jose Raphael Suarez-Silva, 25, of Chicago; and Deimar Elena Gomez Beomont, 27, with no known address—Accused of stealing \$713 worth of merchandise from the Oak Brook Macy's on Dec. 23. All were released from custody pending trial with Perez-Aguilera fitted with a GPS monitoring device. The next court date for all three defendants is scheduled for Jan. 22.
- David Infante-Hernandez, 30, of Chicago; Carolina Rojas-Torres, 43, of Chicago; Marvella Rojas-Torres, 26, of Chicago; and Johnny A. Valero Lozano, 34, of Chicago—All are accused of stealing more than \$300 worth of merchandise from the Elmhurst Kohl's on Dec. 23. All four defendants were released from custody and have their next court appearance scheduled for Jan. 19.
- Mariah Jeane Puentez, 19, of East Chicago, Indiana—Accused of stealing approximately \$2,176.95 from a Naperville Home Depot store on Dec. 23. Puentez was released from custody. Her next court appearance is scheduled for Jan. 22.
- Larry Hamersly, 49, of Willow Springs—With a prior conviction, Hamersly is accused of stealing less than \$300 worth of clothing from the Elmhurst Kohl's store on Dec. 24. Hamersly was released from custody. His next court appearance is scheduled for Jan. 22.
- Omar Serrano-Velasco, 36, of Stone Park—Accused of stealing an Echo chainsaw valued at \$629 from an Oakbrook Terrace Home Depot store on Dec. 27. Serrano-Velasco was released from custody. His next court appearance is scheduled for Jan. 23.

## Pre-trial release denied for Aurora man accused of murder in Wheaton

DuPage County State's Attorney Bob Berlin and DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick have announced that Judge Joshua Dieden granted the state's motion to deny pre-trial release

for an Aurora man accused of murdering Dexter Perkins Dec. 22 at Rosie O'Reilly's, located in unincorporated Wheaton.

Michael Freund, 49, appeared

in First Appearance Court and was charged with one count of first-degree murder. On Dec. 22 at approximately 8:40 a.m., DuPage County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a call of shots

fired at Rosie O'Reilly's, 0N131 Gary Ave. Upon their arrival, officers found the victim, Dexter Perkins, deceased at the scene.

Following an investigation into the shooting, it is alleged that a dispute arose over pizza and the bar tab between Perkins, Freund and two other men. It is alleged that a brief scuffle ensued on the outside front porch of the bar between Perkins and one of the other men which ultimately resulted in Freund pulling out a 9 mm Glock handgun from his jacket pocket and firing two warning shots into the air.

It is further alleged that after Freund fired the warning shots, Perkins approached the other man at which time Freund, who was standing on the other side of a wooden railing, fired at him, striking him in the torso and in the face. It is alleged that after the shooting, Freund placed the Glock, which had been fired a total of eleven times, in the center console of his truck where it was ultimately found by law enforcement.

Freund was taken into custody from Rosie O'Reilly's without incident. The investigation also found that Perkins did not know Freund or any of the other men involved in the incident.

"Dexter Perkins lost his life allegedly over a dispute regarding pizza and a bar tab," Berlin said. "For this senseless act of violence that resulted in the death of an innocent man, Mr. Freund now finds himself facing first degree murder charges. I offer my sincere condolences to Dexter's family and friends and wish them strength as they are now forced to continue their lives without the love and friendship they enjoyed with Dexter. I thank DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick and his team for their work on this sad case as well as DuPage MERIT for their efforts."

Freund's next court appearance is scheduled Jan. 18 for arraignment in front of Judge Ann Celine O'Hallaren Walsh.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Happy Warriors

Willowbrook's boys basketball team defeated Westmont 62-46 in Saturday's seventh-place game at the 12-team IC Catholic Prep/Westmont Christmas Classic. Junior Xavien Smith of the Warriors drained a 3-point shot in the closing moments of the game. Several of his teammates are pictured while celebrating that basket. Pictured left to right are: sophomore Otis Powell (No. 2), sophomore Jaylen Griffin (No. 3), junior Jaden Royal, senior Kenyon Rhodes, senior Noah Boyd (No. 25), junior Filip Palutkiewicz (No. 23), senior Carter Ferguson and senior Andrew Ciesinski (No. 33). The Warriors won two of four games at the tournament. They began the event with a win before suffering two straight losses. Saturday's victory raised Willowbrook's overall season record to 6-7.

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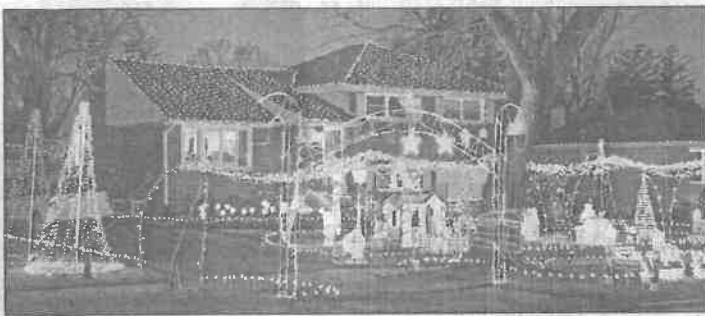
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CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Holiday lights

In 2020, the Villa Park Community F.U.N. (Focus on Unifying Neighbors) Commission designated Andrew Fillipp's home at 39 W. Madison Street as "The Official Villa Park Holiday House." Fillipp, who is a Villa Park firefighter/paramedic, has lived in the home since 2011. For the last several holiday seasons, he has displayed an elaborate assortment of colorful lights outside of his house. This season's light display will be up and running until this Sunday, Jan. 7.

## DuPage County ensuring safe passage for asylum seekers to Chicago

The DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (OHSEM) is working closely with local and regional partners to ensure asylum seekers who have been arriving on out-of-state buses are transported to the city of Chicago.

"Our primary goal is to help these new arrivals get to their destination in the city as safely, and with as few delays, as possible. We are

grateful for the collaboration with state, regional, and local officials, who have been enormously helpful in ensuring the safety and security of those arriving in DuPage County, as well as our residents," said County Board Chair Deb Conroy.

Since Dec. 14, 49 buses have arrived at train stations in DuPage County containing 2,081 passengers, according to DuPage OHSEM.

They boarded trains to Chicago, where city teams guided them to Chicago's "landing zone," which is the only designated location in the state of Illinois for asylum seekers.

Residents who would like to assist asylum seekers by donating food, clothing, or small household items, or learn more about the requirements for sheltering, can visit [chicago.gov/support](http://chicago.gov/support).

## Court grants state's motion to detain Wood Dale man accused of fatal aggravated DUI crash

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin announced that Judge Joshua Dieden granted the state's motion to deny pre-trial release for a Wood Dale man **Juan Moxthe** accused of crashing his vehicle while intoxicated, killing his stepdaughter, Jaylene Escamilla.

Juan Moxthe, 45, appeared at First Appearance Court, and was charged with one count of aggravated DUI causing death, a Class 2 felony.

On Dec. 17, at approximately 2:15 a.m., Chicago police officers responded to a call of a single-vehicle crash in the 12000 block of Irving Park Road near O'Hare Airport.

Upon their arrival at the scene, officers found ambulances and fire trucks already at the scene.

Escamilla was pronounced deceased at the scene, while Moxthe was immediately transported to a local hospital for medical attention. Following an investigation

into the crash, it is alleged that Moxthe, his wife, Escamilla and her husband were traveling on Irving Park Road when Moxthe lost control of the vehicle, striking a guard rail and causing the vehicle to flip.

It is further alleged that Moxthe's BAC was 0.12 approximately two hours after the crash.

On Dec. 22, Moxthe was released from the hospital and immediately transported to the DuPage County Jail.

"Like all alleged DUI cases, the case against Mr. Moxthe was 100 percent avoidable," Berlin said. "As I have said many times before, if you have been drinking, do not get behind the wheel of a car. Call a friend, a cab or use a ride sharing service to make sure you and your passengers get home safely. I offer my sincerest condolences to Jaylene's family and friends and wish them strength as they adjust to their new reality of life without Jaylene."

Moxthe's next court appearance is scheduled for Jan. 8, for arraignment in front of Judge Ann Celine O'Hallaren.



## Police Reports

The Villa Park Police Department recently reported the following arrests and citations. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a conviction, and that suspects are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Persons charged with domestic battery are not named in order to protect the privacy of victims. Juveniles age 17 or younger are not named.

### Dec. 23

Marvin Green, 35, of Chicago, was charged with retail theft—possessing displayed merchandise not exceeding \$300 and resisting or obstructing a police officer at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83 at 9:19 p.m.

A 43-year-old Villa Park man was charged with two counts of domestic battery in the 400 block of Ovaltine at 1:30 a.m.

### Dec. 22

A complainant at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83 reported at 6:31 p.m. that two unknown suspects removed items from display shelves and left without paying.

### Dec. 20

A complainant at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83 reported at 10:09 p.m. that a suspect removed items from display shelves and attempted to leave without paying. The

suspect was issued a citation and a trespass warning.

### Dec. 19

A complainant at a laundromat in the 600 block of W. North reported their clothing was stolen from a dryer by an unknown suspect.

A complainant at Willowbrook High School reported a suspect battered them. The complainant did not wish to sign complaints.

### Dec. 18

Police said Olga H. Rodriguez, 48, of Villa Park, had a failure to appear warrant near N. Addison and W. North at 11:21 p.m. Rodriguez also was charged with driving while license suspended and no insurance.

A complainant at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83 reported unknown suspect removed items from display shelves and left without paying.

### Dec. 17

Bayron Y. Cuevas Florez, 31, of Chicago, was charged with aggravated DUI and driving while license suspended or revoked near Petersen and Glen Ellyn Road at 1:46 a.m. Police said the suspect also had a failure to appear warrant.

Robert W. Post Jr., 61, of Willowbrook, was charged with bat-

tery—making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature—near E. Oak and N. Ardmore at 8:46 p.m.

A complainant at a store in the 1-100 block of E. North reported an unknown suspect entered their unsecured vehicle and removed several items.

A complainant in the 100 block of Ovaltine reported that a suspect battered them. The complainant did not want to sign complaints.

A complainant at a business in the 600 block of W. North reported that a suspect keyed their vehicle.

A complainant in the 300 block of E. Elm reported a suspect battered them. The complainant did not wish to sign complaints.

### Dec. 14

A 33-year-old Indian Head Park woman was charged with possession of a controlled substance/other drug, and two counts of domestic battery in the 300 block of E. Roosevelt. The alleged incident occurred Aug. 29, and the suspect was arrested on the above date.

### Fraud, identity theft

According to information provided by the Villa Park Police Department, police reported three incidents of residents being a victim of fraud or identity theft.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Scholarship recipients

Willowbrook High School's Music Booster Club recently announced its fall scholarship winners. The recipients participated in an audition process and were each awarded a \$100 scholarship for private music lessons. The student-musicians then performed during the Music Booster Club's Nov. 6 meeting. The club's fall scholarship winners, pictured left to right, are: (front row) Junior Kaleb Moreno, senior Lauren Maher, junior Margaret Brennan and Junior Joshua Jackson; (middle row) senior Lillian Caron, Junior Gillian Falco and sophomore Isabel Weaver; (back row) senior Sean O'Brochta and senior Raymond Gajardo. Not pictured is senior David Solis.

# Addison INDEPENDENT

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THURSDAY, DEC. 21, 2023

## Angelo Battaglia delivered Elmhurst a slice of life... and pizza Owner of Two Brothers, Angelo's, Rosalia's passes away at 89

By Dee Longfellow  
FOR THE INDEPENDENT

*"Those who touch our lives stay in our hearts forever. I will miss my dear, longtime friend."*

Those are the words of a person who left a comment about Angelo Battaglia at the web site of the Pedersen Ryberg funeral home.

A dear friend indeed... and then there's the food! Over the years, Angelo Battaglia brought some of the best food, along with outstanding restaurant service and event catering right here to the Elmhurst community all the way from his homeland of

Italy.

Founder and owner of Two Brothers from Italy, Angelo's Ristorante, and Rosalia's Deli in Elmhurst, Angelo Battaglia passed away on Nov. 26, 2023, at the age of 89. He was born in Altavilla Milicia, Sicily on March 10, 1934.

Angelo was a child during World War II and would remember the hardships. Growing up, he worked with his father on his family's land in Sicily. With



Angelo Battaglia

just a fifth grade education, Angelo was wiser than many and accomplished so much.

At age 26, he married Rosalia, the love of his life, and they celebrated 63 years together this past Nov. 12.

Along with Rosalia and their three children, Angelo immigrated to Germany and then, on to the United States, where they arrived on May 13, 1972. The Battaglia family started their new life here in Elmhurst. Times were difficult at first, but Angelo persisted, often holding two or three jobs at a time to take care of his family.

Angelo and his brother rented a small

space at 128 W. Park Ave. in downtown Elmhurst and converted it into a small Italian restaurant, where they began their legacy on April 25, 1976. Angelo had a tenacity to develop his own recipes, most of which have never been changed since.

One year later, Angelo and Rosalia became the sole proprietors of the Two Brothers from Italy restaurant. With an unwavering and determined work ethic, he eventually opened Angelo's Ristorante in 1994, followed by Rosalia's Deli in 2010.

See BATTAGLIA, Page 3



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

### INSIDE:

Opinion.....	4	Sports.....	20-23
Speak Out.....	5	Classifieds.....	24

## Key Club holds Holiday Backpack Project

Members of the Addison Trail Key Club hosted a Holiday Backpack Project on Tuesday, Dec. 12, when more than 40 backpacks, donated by the Women's Club of Addison, which the students filled with school supplies and hygiene products donated by AT staff members. The bags will support AT students and their families, who are in need of basic necessities.

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## District 88 hires new student success coordinator

### Humphrey already has proven track record at Addison Trail High School

During its Dec. 11 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education approved the administration's recommendation to name Valarie Humphrey as the district's new student success coordinator.



Valarie Humphrey

Joining Addison Trail in 2021-22, Humphrey immediately made an impact as the school's part-time student success coordinator. The district looks forward to having Humphrey work with Willowbrook students as well.

"Humphrey has an innate ability to connect with students and staff and push them to reach their full potential, while providing the support they need," said Dr. Jean Barbanente, District 88 superintendent. "Public education can be challenging to navigate and Humphrey does it in a way that calls people in to work together toward achieving excellence for all students. Her enthusiasm and passion to ensure a welcoming environment is contagious and she inspires all those around her to be better."

With more than 35 years of experience in education, Humphrey has traveled the world as a motivational/transformational speaker. She was an educator in Chicago Public Schools and Bellwood School District 88, served as a principal with Quad County Urban League, was an administrator with Indian Prairie School District 204 and is a professor at Aurora University, where she will earn her doctorate in Educational Leadership: Coaching and Mentoring in 2024. After earning her bachelor's degree from Western

Illinois University, she obtained her master's degree from Benedictine University.

Humphrey's personal journey of perseverance provides an interesting perspective to encourage students to accomplish their goals. Her focus is to make sure each student succeeds, and she does so by fostering an inclusive environment and authentic relationships with each child and their family members and teachers.

Examples of the positive effects Humphrey has implemented at Addison Trail include:

- an intervention program for African American students during the school's resource period.
  - completing "B.A.G." or Behavior, Attendance and Grades, checking each student.
  - educating students about the importance and value of the SAT.
  - sponsoring the school's BEYOND Club, which provides mentorship and academic support for African American students to enable them to thrive holistically in high school and BEYOND. About 85 percent of the school's African American population is part of this group.
  - hosting meetings for African American parents and staying in frequent contact with them to discuss their child's successes and areas for improvement.
  - Humphrey founded several events to empower and assist students.
- "Humphrey greets everyone with a warm smile, an aura of positive energy and her catchphrase, 'Be amazing on purpose,' Dr. Barbanente said. "That statement is more than just words for Humphrey—it's a motto to live by. And her passion is to make sure students embody that philosophy as well."

## EEHealth named a 15 Top Health System 5th year in a row

Fortune and PINC AI have named Edward-Elmhurst Health (EEH), now Endeavor Health, as one of the nation's 15 Top Health Systems, once again in the Medium Health Systems category. PINC AI is the technology and services brand of Premier, Inc.

It's the fifth year in a row EEH, including Edward Hospital, Linden Oaks Behavioral Health Hospital and Elmhurst Hospital made the list.

"We're honored to earn 15 Top Health System recognition again. Five years in a row speaks to the commitment to the safe, seamless and personal care provided by our team members," said Joe Dant, president, South Region, Endeavor Health. "We've set and maintained a high standard of performance and quality and look forward to continuing that for the patients and community we serve."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Ravi Patel named 88's Best

Pictured here with Addison Trail principal Jack Andrews, left, is Ravi Patel, right, who has been named as Addison Trail's December recipient of 88's Best recognition for his outstanding academic accomplishments. Patel, a senior, was recognized during the Dec. 11 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

## AT junior excels in translation competition

Addison Trail has announced that junior Gabriela Carpenter has been named as an award recipient in the European Union Center's 2023-24 Illinois High School Translation Competition.

The winners were recognized during a ceremony on Friday, Dec. 8 at the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago.

The Illinois High School Translation Competition aims to promote the study of less-commonly taught languages and to provide high school students with hands-on experience in translation.

Carpenter participated in the Polish-English Division and earned an Honorable Mention, which she also received in 2021. This year, she translated an excerpt from "Kwiat kalafiora" by Malgorzata Musierowicz.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing  
Gabriela Carpenter

## • Battaglia (Continued from front page)

He was proud of what he built and grateful for what he accomplished—as he well-deserved.

He was appreciative of all his patrons, some became lifelong friends, as in the comment above. Angelo has had hundreds of employees over the years and always treated every one of them with the utmost respect.

Angelo was fiercely devoted to family and friends and had a smile that could light up a room. He exemplified courage, tenderness, loyalty, hospitality, pride for one's work, generosity, respect, and patience. Always cooking for his family, friends, and community

members, Angelo handed down that adoration to everyone that had the pleasure to meet him.

His daughter Carmela gave the eulogy at his funeral.

"Angelo Battaglia was an exceptional man, it was a privilege to know him," she said. "He had a beautiful life and was a loving and devoted husband and father. He treated everyone he met like family."

"We were the luckiest to have had him."

Angelo was preceded in death by his parents Giacinto Battaglia and Carmela Grana, one son Cristoforo, his sisters Rosa, Maria, Carmela, and Rosalia, and his mother- and

father-in-law Giovanna and Cristoforo Bucaro.

Angelo is survived by his loving wife, Rosalia (Bucaro) Battaglia; a son, Giacinto (Diane) Battaglia and their children Rosalia (Ezequiel) Fernandez, with great grandchildren Maxima and Mason; Carra (Chris) Salzman with great grandchildren Enza and Vincent; Angelo (Faustina) with great grandchildren Lola, Adalyn, Micah, and Eleanor, Bianca (Jesse), and Julia. He is also survived by his daughter Carmela (Lucio) Di Nummo and their children Attilio (Madison), Angelo, Alessia, and Gianluca; and by his daughter Giovanna (Salvatore) Calderone and

their children Teresa (Jake) Whitt, with great grandchildren Sebastian and Giovanna; Rosalia (Mike) Bledsoe with great grandchild Eliot; Adriana, and Calogero.

Angelo is survived by his sister Gaetana (Joseph) Costanza; by a brother Antonino (Rosaria) Battaglia; and by many nieces, nephews, brothers- and sisters-in-law as well as God children.

Services have been held. A funeral mass took place at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church arranged by Pedersen Ryberg Funeral Home. Mr. Battaglia is interred at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Addison Trail 'Packs the Place' for Special Olympics Basketball

On Wednesday, Dec. 6, Addison Trail hosted its annual Pack the Place game. Best Buddies club attended the event to support the student-athletes. To celebrate, for the school's Special Olympics Basketball Team. Members of the Addison Trail participants danced the "Cha Cha Slide" during halftime. Blazettes, Cheerleading Team, Boys Basketball Team, Girls Basketball Team and

## College of DuPage among grant recipients

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) has granted nearly \$9.2 million to 44 organizations, including 21 community colleges, throughout Illinois to help address education and unemployment gaps.

The funding will be used to help minority and low-income students as well as individuals with disabilities remove barriers to completing their education and career goals through the Innovative Bridge and Transition Grant program (IBT).

"Closing the equity gap in higher education is a critical priority of the

Illinois Community College Board, and this grant funding helps community colleges and other organizations throughout Illinois do that. These financial resources help provide effective equitable education and career opportunities for thousands of Illinoisans who may otherwise not have the opportunity to better their lives through meaningful education," said ICCB Executive Director Brian Durham.

These initiatives improve student transitions to and through postsecondary education and into employment, support transitions for individuals

with disabilities, and scale programs that promote equity and diversity among those served. Last year's grant program served more than 7,000 individuals.

The IBT grant funds are intended to help colleges and community organizations meet four main objectives:

- Adult Education Bridge and ICAPS Programming: Create new or greatly expand bridge or integrated education and training programming, which shall include contextualized basic reading, math, and language skills, occupational competencies, and em-

ployability skills.

- Seamless Transitions for College and Career Pathways: Implement programs that provide seamless transitions from high school to college or between postsecondary institutions, CTE program of study development, or college and career pathway endorsement activities; apprenticeships, or Out-of-School Youth Career Activities, whereas the program is specifically aimed at helping out-of-school youth (ages 16-24) to become reoriented and motivated to complete their education by allowing students to participate in adult education instruction as well as career training activities. Programs can be modeled after, or as a supplement to, the ICCB Early School Leaver Transitions Program.

- Wrap-around Support Services: Utilize transition/wraparound services that provide students with the information and assistance they need to eq-

uitably access and persist along their career pathway. Services may include academic advising, career pathway navigation, tutoring, supplemental instruction, study skills, coaching, and referrals to individual support services (e.g., basic needs including housing, transportation, and childcare).

- Seamless Transitions for Students with Disabilities: Create comprehensive programming for individuals with disabilities that provides vocational, and psychological counseling, transitional and educational services, and job placement activities for them to live and work independently in the community. These programs may include transitions from high school to college as well as college to employment.

College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn was awarded \$215,690, toward Adult Education Bridge and ICAPS Programming.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Bensenville Independent

## Letters at the farm

Students in JoAnna Rieger's class visited the Bensenville Park District's Fischer Farm in November to roam the land and try to find items that resembled each letter of the alphabet. Students later uploaded their photos and created composite graphics with all the would-be letters together. Tip of the cap to all our creative eyes in Rieger's class.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Making the holidays brighter

On Tuesday, Dec. 5, the York Township Republican Committeemen's Organization held its annual Christmas party at the Elks Lodge in Elmhurst. Each attendee was asked to bring canned goods or a new unwrapped toy for distribution by the York Township Food Pantry. Toys donated will be distributed to pantry clients with children to make sure their holidays are joyful. York Township Supervisor John W. Valle said, "On behalf of our pantry staff and clients, I want to thank the York Township Republican Committeemen's Organization for their ongoing support year after year."

# Montini ends four-game losing streak with a win over Trinity

*Montini moves to 8-4 overall with last week's victories over Trinity and St. Francis*

The Montini Catholic girls basketball team won two of three games last week to move its overall season record to 8-4.

The Broncos began the week with a 52-46 loss to Hersey at the Exam Jamm event at Lake Zurich High School on Dec. 12. That setback extended the Broncos' losing streak to four games.

Montini ended its losing streak with a 69-42 Girls Catholic Athletic Conference (GCAC) win at Trinity on Dec. 13. The Broncos finished the week with Friday's 56-34 GCAC victory at St. Francis.

Montini improved to 3-2 in GCAC action with last week's wins at Trinity and St. Francis.

The Broncos had a slow start in

last week's game against Hersey in the one-day Exam Jamm showcase in Lake Zurich. Hersey led Montini 15-6 after one quarter and 27-14 at halftime. The Broncos cut the Huskies' lead to 41-36 by the end of the third quarter. Montini trimmed Hersey's lead to three points with a little more than one minute to play, but the Huskies held off the Broncos to earn the victory.

Montini senior Victoria Matulevicius scored a team-leading 18 points in last week's loss to Hersey. Matulevicius scored seven of her nine field goals during the second half. She made three baskets during the third quarter and netted four baskets in the fourth quarter.

Junior Nikki Kerstein provided

12 points for the Broncos in the loss to the Huskies. Kerstein made a pair of 3-point field goals in the second quarter. Junior Lily Spanos added nine points for the Broncos by making three 3-point shots during the third quarter.

Montini owned a 21-5 lead after one quarter of last week's conference battle at Trinity. The Broncos' lead swelled to 45-17 by halftime.

Montini junior Shea Carver scored a team-high 17 points in her team's win over Trinity. She scored all 17 of her points during the first

half after making three of four attempts from 3-point range, three of three 2-point attempts and both of her shots from the free-throw line.

Matulevicius supplied 14 points, seven rebounds and three assists against Trinity. Kerstein contributed 13 points, six assists and four steals. Senior Alyssa Epps scored 11 points. Spanos provided eight points, while senior Riley White tallied six points.

Montini held a 14-10 lead over St. Francis after one quarter of Friday's game in Wheaton. The Broncos expanded their lead to 28-16 by half-

time. Montini led the Spartans 47-24 at the end of the third quarter.

Kerstein made four shots from 3-point range and scored a team-leading 18 points in Friday's victory. Matulevicius added 14 points. Carver scored 12 points, while Epps contributed seven points. Spanos scored three points with a 3-point basket in the first quarter. Junior Peyton Farrell added two points.

The Broncos will continue their season at their own 12-team Christmas tournament, which runs from Dec. 26-29.

## Broncos' week ends with loss to St. Francis

The Montini Catholic boys basketball team lost a pair of games last week. The Broncos opened the week with a 56-43 loss at Brother Rice on Dec. 12. Montini finished the week with Friday night's 49-30 loss at St. Francis.

The Broncos' overall season record slipped to 2-9 following their loss to the Spartans in Wheaton.

St. Francis held a 12-9 lead over Montini after one quarter of Friday's game, which completed a girls-boys doubleheader between the Broncos and Spartans. St. Francis owned a

22-15 halftime lead. The Spartans' lead stood at 32-24 at the end of the third quarter.

Junior Drew Church of the Broncos delivered a three-point play to cut the Spartans' lead to 41-30 with 2:40 remaining in the contest. St. Francis then went on an 8-0 run to end the game.

Senior Danny Petersen scored seven points for the Broncos in Friday's loss to the Spartans. He made three baskets, including a 3-point field goal. Senior Tyler Pavlik provided six points for the Broncos.

Pavlik connected on a 3-point shot in the second quarter and sank three of four free-throw attempts in the third quarter.

Seniors Nick Lombardi and Maddox Shepherd provided four points each for Montini in Friday's game at St. Francis. Church, junior Max Bell and junior Dillon Bagley scored three points each.

The Broncos' season continues with four games in four days at the upcoming IC Catholic Prep/Westmont Christmas Classic, which begins on Dec. 27.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Rams win three of four games

Glenbard East's girls basketball team won three of four games last week to improve its overall season record to 9-3. The Rams began the week with a 46-29 Upstate Eight

Conference home win over West Chicago on Dec. 12. One day later, Glenbard East lost 48-30 to Willowbrook in a non-conference game in Villa Park. The Rams defeated Fenton 68-37 in Friday's Upstate Eight Conference contest in Bensenville. Glenbard East ran its conference record to 6-0 with that victory. The Rams completed their week with Saturday's 39-25 non-conference win at Addison Trail. One photo (above) from last week's game at Willowbrook shows Glenbard East senior Gabby Walton (No. 23) and senior Elle Bruschuk (No. 33) of the Warriors. Walton scored nine points against Willowbrook. She scored a team-leading 18 points in Friday's victory at Fenton. Walton provided a team-high 11 points in Saturday's win at Addison Trail. Glenbard East freshman Teagan Murphy (No. 14 - left) is pictured while launching and making a shot during the Rams' victory in Addison. Murphy scored 10 points against the Blazers.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Blazers vs. Rams

Addison Trail's girls basketball team faced Glenbard East in Saturday's non-conference game in Addison. The visiting Rams beat the Blazers 39-25. Addison Trail's overall season record dropped to 4-7 following the loss. Senior Calley Salerno (No. 22 - left) scored a team-leading eight points for the Blazers in Saturday's contest. She made two baskets and sank all four of her attempts from the free-throw line. Junior Emma Caniglia (No. 0 - above) drained a pair of 3-point shots for the Blazers and provided seven points. Addison Trail improved its West Suburban Gold Conference record to 2-2 with a 33-25 victory over Proviso East on Dec. 12.

# Warriors post pair of impressive home wins

*Two days after beating Glenbard East, Warriors win a double-overtime thriller against Downers Grove South*

After starting last week with a decisive loss, the Willowbrook girls basketball team produced a pair of impressive home victories over Glenbard East and Downers Grove South.

The Warriors began the week with a 66-36 non-conference loss at Waubonsie Valley on Dec. 12. One day later, Willowbrook defeated nearby rival Glenbard East 48-30 in Villa Park. The Warriors closed out the week with Friday's thrilling 65-63 double-overtime win over Downers Grove South in a West Suburban Gold Conference battle.

Willowbrook improved to 5-8 overall and 3-2 in conference play following Friday's victory.

Waubonsie Valley led Willowbrook 18-12 after one quarter, 31-18 at halftime and 51-30 after three quarters.

Senior Lillian Vish and junior Ayaani Gusman scored nine points each for Willowbrook in last week's loss at Waubonsie Valley. Senior Elle Bruschuk scored seven points and pulled down nine rebounds for the Warriors.

The Warriors led Glenbard East 10-6 after the first quarter of the Dec. 13 clash between nearby schools. The Warriors led the Rams 21-17 at halftime. Willowbrook outscored Glenbard East 16-4 in the third quarter to build a 37-21 lead with eight minutes to play.

Vish scored a season-high 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Warriors during their win over Glenbard East. Gusman provided 15 points for Willowbrook, while Bruschuk contributed 11 points and 11 rebounds.

The Rams went on a 6-0 run at the start of the fourth quarter to cut Willowbrook's lead to 37-27. Gusman then scored a basket to push the Warriors' lead to 39-27. Glenbard East reduced Willowbrook's lead to 39-30 with 4:31 to play. The Warriors then closed the game with a 9-0 run that included two baskets from Gusman and one basket each from Vish and Bruschuk, along with one free throw from Bruschuk.

Downers Grove South led the Warriors 13-0 through a little more than three minutes of Friday's con-

ference game in Villa Park. The visiting Mustangs made two 3-point shots and added a three-point play during their 13-0 run to start the game. Vish scored Willowbrook's first points of the night with a rebound and basket with about 4:50 left in the first quarter.

Vish provided a total of six points during the opening quarter of Friday's game. Downers Grove South led the Warriors 19-12 at the end of the first quarter.

The Mustangs led Willowbrook 29-18 late in the second quarter. Senior Seyna Fall of the Warriors made a pair of free throws to cut Downers Grove South's lead to 29-20 with 1:50 left in the first half. Fall launched and sank a 3-point shot from the left wing as the second quarter expired to cut the Mustangs' lead to 29-23 at halftime.

Downers Grove South led the Warriors 37-32 at the end of the third quarter. A steal and basket by Bruschuk cut the lead to 41-38 with about 5:45 remaining in the fourth quarter. Vish made a 3-point shot to trim the lead to 45-41 with 2:55 left in regulation. Gusman sank a 3-point shot to drop the Mustangs' lead to 45-44 with 2:15 to play in the fourth quarter. Moments later, after a steal by Willowbrook junior Loralai McIntyre, Gusman drained another 3-point shot to give the Warriors their first lead of the game—a 47-45 advantage with two minutes remaining in the fourth quarter.

The Mustangs regained the lead by sinking a 3-point shot with 1:18 left in regulation. Bruschuk made one of two free throws with 4.8 seconds on the clock to tie the score at 48-48.

Bruschuk scored the first points of the first four-minute overtime period to give the Warriors a 50-48 lead. A basket from Vish raised Willowbrook's lead to 52-48, but a 3-pointer from the Mustangs cut the Warriors' lead to 52-51.

Gusman made a pair of free throws to give the Warriors a 54-52 lead with 1:40 left in the first overtime period. The Mustangs made two free throws with 1:14 on the clock to tie the game. Downers Grove South took a 57-54 lead with a three-point

play with 38.7 seconds left in the period. Bruschuk made one free throw with 33.6 seconds on the clock. She returned to the line a few seconds later and made both free throws to

tie the score at 57-57. The Mustangs missed a lengthy shot at the end of the first overtime period.

Gusman made a pair of free throws to give the Warriors a 61-60 lead with 2:11 to play. Gusman made one free throw to boost her team's lead to 62-60 with 1:03 remaining.

Bruschuk made two free throws with 28.1 seconds to play to push Willowbrook's lead to 64-60. The Mustangs made a 3-point basket with 18 seconds remaining to trim the Warriors' lead to 64-63.

McIntyre made one of two free throws with 11 seconds to play. The Mustangs then missed a last-second corner shot that could have sent the game to a third overtime period.

Bruschuk piled up 27 points, 1 rebounds and five assists in Friday victory. She made 10 field goals and sank seven of 10 shots from the free throw line.

Vish provided 13 points and 1 rebounds in Willowbrook's win over the Mustangs. Gusman, who made seven of eight free throws in the game, contributed 13 points. Fall and McIntyre supplied five points each. Junior Kendall Medinger scored two points.

The Warriors' season continues with tonight's non-conference home game against Fenwick. Willowbrook will play four games at Wheaton North's holiday tournament, which will take place Dec. 26-29.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls basketball team delivered two winning performances last week. After opening the week with a non-conference loss at Waubonsie Valley on Dec. 12, the Warriors defeated nearby rival Glenbard East 48-30 in a non-conference game in Villa Park on Dec. 13. Willowbrook finished its week with Friday's exciting 65-63 double-overtime win over Downers Grove South in a West Suburban Gold Conference game in Villa Park. One photo from last week's win over Glenbard East shows Willowbrook senior Lillian Vish (No. 22 - top left) who scored a team-leading 16 points and pulled down 11 rebounds in the contest. Another photo shows junior Ayaani Gusman (No. 11 bottom left), who supplied 15 points for the Warriors. One more photo shows Willowbrook senior Elle Bruschuk (No. 33 - above) launch a shot as Glenbard East senior Catey Carney (No. 30) looks on. Bruschuk scored 11 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in the Warriors' win over the Rams. Bruschuk erupted for 27 points and 19 rebounds Friday's win over Downers Grove South. Vish added 13 points and 11 rebounds. Gusman, who made seven of eight free throws, also scored 13 points. Willowbrook improved to 5-8 overall and 3-2 in conference action following Friday's win over the Mustangs.

## Warriors' winning streak ends with a loss at Downers Grove South

*Willowbrook will play Hinsdale South this Friday in Villa Park*

The Willowbrook boys basketball team's three-game winning streak ended with Friday's 85-49 West Suburban Gold Conference loss at Downers Grove South. The Warriors dropped to 4-4 overall and 1-1 in conference play following the loss to the Mustangs.

Downers Grove South led Willowbrook 19-4 after one quarter and 45-14 at halftime. The Mustangs'

lead stood at 65-36 at the end of the third quarter.

Sophomore Otis Powell scored a team-leading 18 points for Willowbrook in Friday's contest in Downers Grove. He also grabbed five rebounds. Sophomore Jaylen Griffin provided 12 points, eight rebounds, five assists and three steals for the Warriors. Senior Andrew Ciesinski contributed five points and six re-

bounds. Junior Filip Palutkiewicz added four points and six rebounds. Senior Kenyon Rhodes scored four points.

The Warriors will face Hinsdale South in this Friday's conference battle in Villa Park. Willowbrook will then play four games at the IC Catholic Prep/Westmont Christmas Classic, which will take place Dec. 27-30.



# Warriors' week ends with win at Addison Trail's invite

Two days after losing dual meet to Leyden, Willowbrook claims title at Blazers' six-team competition

The Willowbrook girls gymnastics team competed in its first home meet of the season last week, facing West Suburban Gold Conference rival Leyden in Villa Park on Dec. 14. The visiting Eagles outscored the Warriors 128.75-124.05 in the overall team standings.

Willowbrook senior Mia McBride delivered a winning effort in the floor exercises in last week's meet against Leyden. McBride earned a score of

9.05 in her first-place performance. She also turned in second-place scores of 8.3 on the uneven bars and 8.15 on the balance beam. McBride posted a third-place score of 8.7 on the vault. She finished second in the all-around standings with her total of 34.2.

Junior Naomi Campbell of the Warriors earned a second-place score of 9.1 on the vault in the Dec. 14 meet in Villa Park. She turned in third-place

performances on the uneven bars (7.9), the balance beam (8.05) and in floor exercises (8.7). Campbell compiled a third-place total of 33.75 in the meet's all-around standings.

Willowbrook freshman Lillian Macias placed seventh in the all-around standings with her score of 28.3. Sophomore Kaia Capulong of the Warriors placed eighth in the all-around competition with her total of 27.8.

Leyden senior Kasey Macleod won the meet's all-around title with her score of 35.25. Macleod earned first-place scores on the vault (9.2), uneven bars (8.35) and balance beam (8.8).

The Warriors finished the week by winning the title at Saturday's six-team Addison Trail Winter Tumbleland Invite. Willowbrook posted a team score of 132.7 at the event. Addison Trail earned a second-place total of 130.2. Leyden (130.0) placed third, Mundelein (124.875), York (115.55) and Morton (94.0) finished fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively.

McBride delivered two first-place

performances at Saturday's invite. She earned her wins on the balance beam (9.05) and the uneven bars (8.5).

Campbell claimed the first-place medal in the invitational's all-around competition with her total of 35.0. Campbell earned second-place scores on the vault (9.05), uneven bars (8.35) and balance beam (9.0). She delivered a fourth-place score of 8.6 for her routine in floor exercises.

McBride finished second in the invite's all-around standings with her total of 34.7.

Capulong finished fourth on the balance beam (8.5) at the six-team invite. She tied for fourth on the vault (8.75).

The Warriors opened their 2023-24 season with a meet at conference rival Hinsdale South on Dec. 7. The two teams finished in a tie in the team competition, with each squad earning a total score of 123.8. McBride posted first-place efforts in each event of the Warriors' meet at Hinsdale South. She delivered first-place scores on the vault (8.5), uneven bars (8.3), balance

beam (8.5) and in floor exercises (8.3) to win the all-around title with her total of 33.8.

**Franczak and Trombatore lead Addison Trail**

Addison Trail senior Nicolette Franczak compiled a fourth-place all-around score of 33.75 at Saturday's invite. Sophomore Mia Trombatore of the Blazers posted a sixth-place all-around total of 32.7 to help her team to its second-place total of 130.2.

Trombatore won the first-place medal in floor exercises with her score of 9.1. Junior Olivia DeBeau of the Blazers placed second in floor exercises (8.7). DeBeau placed ninth in the all-around standings with her total of 32.2.

Franczak finished third on the vault (8.95) and in floor exercises (8.65). She earned a fourth-place score of 8.0 on the uneven bars.


Addison Trail sophomore Gabby Trejo contributed a fifth-place score of 8.45 on the balance beam at Saturday's invite.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook High School's girls gymnastics team competed in its first home meet of the season last week. The Warriors faced Leyden in a dual meet in Villa Park on Dec. 14. The visiting Eagles outscored Willowbrook 128.75-124.05. Senior Mia McBride of the Warriors delivered a first-place score of 9.05 in floor exercises during the meet. McBride is pictured (above) during her second-place performance on the balance beam. McBride also received second-place honors for her routine on the uneven bars. She placed third on the vault and finished second in the all-around standings. Willowbrook junior Naomi Campbell, who is also shown on the balance beam (below) during the meet, placed second on the vault and finished third on the balance beam, uneven bars and in floor exercises. Campbell placed third in the meet's all-around standings. On Saturday, Willowbrook won the team title at Addison Trail's six-team Winter Tumbleland Invite. McBride finished first on the uneven bars and balance beam and placed second in the all-around standings of Saturday's event. Campbell, who posted second-place scores on the vault, uneven bars and balance beam, won the first-place medal in the all-around competition.





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