

LISTEN TO WIN FOUR-PACKS OF CLUB-LEVEL BREWER TICKETS!



INSIDE



Big birds

White pelicans make themselves at home
Page 5

Taking care

Week of Young Child highlights provider needs
Page 4

Spring sports

Girls softball, boys golf, girls soccer teams previewed
Page 9

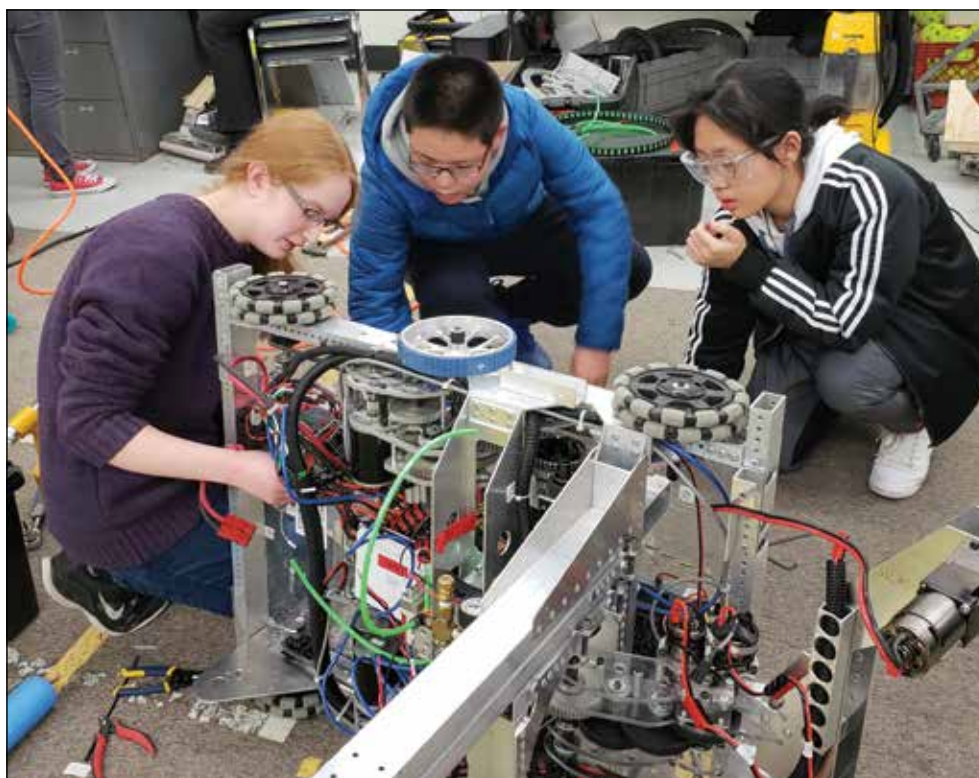


PHOTO BY TOM EKVALL

Taylor Payne, a senior at Oshkosh North, works with Chinese students Hao Yun Qin and Aria Ruan on a practice robot.

Robotics students compete, share

Shanghai high school Wave group visits area

By Tom Ekvall
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Members of the Oshkosh FIRST Wave Robotics team hosting a team from mainland China last week shared strategies and learned more about each other's culture in the process.

After the several days' stay in Oshkosh, the Chinese team from Shanghai, known as the Clockwork Knights, traveled to Chicago where they competed in the Midwest FIRST regional robotics competition. At the same time, the Oshkosh team was victorious in a regional event in La Crosse before the FIRST national championship

tournament in Detroit in late April, for which the team has already qualified.

Karl Loewenstein, president of the Oshkosh Wave executive board, said the get-together was a great opportunity for Oshkosh high school students to share their knowledge and skills with those from another culture and help them do better as a result. The essential skills of problem-solving, teamwork and engineering helped generate an uplifting effect on people from different teams and backgrounds working together to solve challenges.

"We want to help others succeed," Loewenstein said, as well as winning the events that the Oshkosh team competes in. He noted one example where a computer used

SEE **China visit** ON PAGE 4

Election turnout better than conditions

Council has new member; Basiliere takes judge seat

By Patty Brandl
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

A late blast of winter weather did not deter Oshkosh voters from making their voices heard in selecting candidates for city, county and state positions during the 2018 spring election April 3.

"No matter how small or how large the election, we do all we can to ensure accuracy, security and accessibility," said City Clerk Pam Ubrig, noting that 26 percent of the city's eligible voters cast ballots. "Considering the weather, I'm very happy with the turnout."

Three seats of seven on the Oshkosh Common Council were up for election, and the winners included two incumbents and one challenger from a field of four. Voters chose Deputy Mayor Steve Herman and Councilor Lori Palmeri to fill two of the open seats. Matt Mugerauer, who made an unsuccessful bid in 2017, unseated incumbent Councilor Caroline Panske for the third open spot on the Council.

All terms run for two years, and Mugerauer will be joining the Council at the April 24 meeting. All three will be sworn in at noon April 17, where Panske will be award-

SEE **Elections** ON PAGE 8

State music nominees have plenty of local flavor

Oshkosh artists well represented for 38th annual WAMI awards

By Collin Goeman
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Multiple Oshkosh-based bands and artists have been nominated for Wisconsin Area Music Industry awards to be presented at the organization's 38th annual awards show April 15.

The Oshkosh band nominations span multiple genres and range from band awards to individual performers.

The blues is a well-represented genre for Oshkosh with two nominees for best blues artists, the Jay Edward Band and David "Lil Davy Max" Janke. The Jay Edward Band was also nominated for new artist of the year.

Janke, the Wisconsin representative for the Paramount Blues Challenge, was born and raised in the Fox Valley, and has been playing the blues in the Oshkosh area his entire life.

Janke said these nominations have been a long time coming for the area.

"It's not that this hasn't been going on for years," Janke said. "The talent from Oshkosh and Appleton and Fond du Lac



The Jay Edward Band (left) received multiple nominations for WAMI awards this year, including best blues artists, best new artist and for drummer Tom Hansen.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Lil Davy Max (below) is nominated for best state blues artist.



area has been leading the way for years with many, many bands. But somehow, it seems that the Valley has been overlooked."

One of Janke's blues colleagues, Gary Shaw, is nominated for best guitarist.

"Gary is truly one of the most talented guitarists in the state of Wisconsin," Janke said.

Jay Ginnow of the Jay Edward Band, after relocating to California for most of his life, came back to his hometown a few years ago, and said he felt support from the

community almost instantly.

"It's a real warm, sincere feeling. I grew up playing in bands as a teenager here in town, and we are part of a large group

of folks that are still playing together to this day," Ginnow said. "After leaving for so long and returning, I'm sincerely amazed at the heartfelt support and rekindling friendships."

He said that not only the community, but other area bands coming out to support one another, is what makes the Oshkosh music scene special.

"So many of the bands, whether it's classic rock or country or jazz, lots of interchangeable folks are coming together to support each other," Ginnow said.

Jay Edward Band drummer Tom Hansen also received a nomination for his work. Ginnow said he gives his bandmates the majority of the credit for their nomination.

"When you see the nominations for best blues band, the emphasis is on band," Ginnow said. "It's not just Jay Edward, it's truly about us as a group, and that's the most important thing."

Oshkosh acts Bad Habitz, Copper Box, Harvest, engineer-producer Tom Washatka, guitarist Max Jones and bassist Andy Mertens were also nominated for awards.

SEE **WAMIs** ON PAGE 8

Oshkosh Corp. HQ plan gets commission backing

Public vehicle display rules being worked out

By Tom Ekvall
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Development of Oshkosh Corp.'s new global corporate headquarters at 2175 Punhoqua St. moved closer to reality when the Oshkosh Plan Commission unanimously recommended approval of an implementation plan for the facility at its April 3 meeting.

Developers submitted the latest plans for the new headquarters, which received praise from Plan Commission members for the building materials that would be used.

The major topic of discussion centered

on outdoor displays that would be allowed to showcase vehicles manufactured by Oshkosh Corp. The proposed site plan includes five display areas. Plan commissioners and the developer agreed that displays would be able to accommodate up to eight vehicles at any one time with three visible to the public. The displays would be allowed as a base standard modification to zoning requirements for a corporate business park that do not allow outdoor displays.

Planning staff had noted the proposal by Oshkosh Corp. is not the traditional outdoor display intended to be prohibited in such districts.

Mayor Steve Cummings, a member of the Plan Commission, supported allowing the flexibility for displays, noting that what the company produces is a "source of community pride."

The motion for approval also included additional modifications requested by planning staff for landscaping, bufferyard requirements, building facades and street frontage landscaping.

David Paino, representing the applicant Trammel Crow of Chicago, said his company is in agreement with the proposed outdoor display stipulations, adding that he anticipated that the maximum number would occur about five times a year. The Common Council will be asked to act on approval of the site implementation plan.

The headquarters structure would feature natural Fond du Lac Stone material and metal paneling with a wood look on the canopy underside, along with extensive use of glass. The metal panels can be bent to achieve crisp lines and make the metal appear as though it has a curve at each floor line.

Creation of more park land in the city also highlighted discussions by Plan Commission members as they recommended approval of a preliminary plat for a proposed 61-lot subdivision in the 3300 block of West 9th Avenue.

The proposed subdivision would be developed in phases with the plat designating a specific area for parkland as part of Phase 1. Several commission members expressed strong concerns that the amount of land proposed is inadequate and felt that park land should be dedicated in another area that would accommodate future development. Present ordinance requires either the dedication of land for parks or pay a fee

in lieu of dedication.

Commission member John Kiefer, who along with Katherine Propp voted against approving the preliminary plat because of park land dedication concerns, said the related ordinance "needs to be updated to require more park land dedication." The current ordinance would require a payment of \$2,800 as "in lieu of" fees based on the size of land proposed for dedication.

Grant Duchack of Excel Engineering in Fond du Lac, representing the petitioners, said previous subdivision developers have not had to make the park land dedications now being proposed.

Parks Director Ray Maurer said his staff is working with the Planning Department and developers to look at park land alternatives and that the Advisory Parks Board would review the concerns at its April meeting.

Propp said she felt that having a park as part of a subdivision would be a huge draw for people to buy lots.

In other action, the commission recommended:

- Approval of a conditional use permit for an aquaponic facility and thrift shop at 753 N. Main St. requested by Jericho Road Ministries that would be used for raising produce for local food pantries as well as sale to others such as through farmers markets.

- Approval of a conditional use permit to allow a mixed-use structure at 320 Rosalia St. to convert a vacant commercial unit (previously a salon) into a one-bedroom apartment with a total of five apartments at the location. Ron Hanche, representing the Stevens Park Neighborhood Association, said the group is concerned about the im-



PHOTO BY TOM EKVAL

A representative for Oshkosh Corp. presents a display of building materials that would be used as part of construction of the new corporate headquarters.

pact on parking and recommended against the conversion. Planning staff noted that a one-bedroom unit would have less impact than commercial use.

- Approval of text amendments to the city's zoning ordinance.

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Retired educators to hear about pension rules

Winnebago County Retired Educators invite all retired school personnel to a meeting April 19 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Neenah. Check-in time is from 11 to 11:30 a.m. After a short business meeting a lunch will be served, after which Diane

Wilcinski, executive director of WCREA from Middleton, will talk about pensions.

Anyone interested in attending is asked to call Vi at 233-5892 by April 12. Members are urged to bring items for the Neenah food pantry.

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Community News Briefs

Teen killed, another hurt in stabbing; suspect held

An 18-year-old Oshkosh man was killed and two others injured in a stabbing incident during the early hours of April 6 on the city's near-north side, according to Oshkosh police.

A 17-year-old male was arrested without incident in connection with the stabbings and was treated at a local hospital for stab wounds.

At a press conference that afternoon, Police Chief Dean Smith said Noah Williams, who was living at 581 Mount Vernon St. where the incident occurred, died from multiple wounds.

Also injured was Trei Appleby, also at that address, who was taken to ThedaCare Regional Medical Center in Neenah and was being treated in the intensive care unit. The hospital did not have an update on his condition Tuesday.

Smith said the incident involved a marijuana deal and that several knives were recovered at the scene.

Police received a call at 1:31 a.m. from a neighbor about loud noises and yelling. The suspect fled after learning police were being called.

Smith emphasized this was an isolated incident and that area residents should feel safe. No information was provided as to what led up to the stabbings or who initiated the attacks.

Fire department reports on 2017 performance

After leading the Oshkosh Fire Department for nearly 18 years, Fire Chief Timothy Franz, who will retire in June, gave his final detailed report to the city on the department's 2017 performance.

There were 8,890 emergency responses by the department last year, 7,283 of those being emergency medical service (EMS) calls. Some of the other responses included false alarms (590), vehicle accidents (211), service calls (98), hazardous materials (65), structure (49) and other fires (83), and water-ice rescue calls (21).

There were four reported injuries of department personnel working at fires in 2017, which showed a safety record above the national average and used as an indicator of properly trained personnel.

The EMS division, which manages the department's paramedic ambulance services and education program, responded to 6,576 ambulance calls in the city and 1,154 in its contracted areas of Winnebago County.

The Special Operations Division, which responds to situations outside traditional fire-related incidents — hazardous materials, water and ice responses, airport rescue and firefighting, technical rescues — responded to 123 incidents last year. The group partners with the Appleton Fire Department to make up the regional Hazardous Materials Team, and accounted for 95 of those responses. The division also amassed 1,648 hours of training in 2017.

The Prevention Division checked 3,802 out of 3,813 inspectable properties, finding 913 code violations and clearing 89 percent of those. The division also contacted 6,981 children through fire and life safety classes at Oshkosh area schools, community groups and industries.

Communications line cut affects city, area systems

A contractor working for the city on the Oregon Street reconstruction project damaged a major AT&T communications line April 5 that caused online and phone service outages in portions of Oshkosh,



Oshkosh Police Chief Dean Smith, with Kate Mann, public information officer, holds a press conference April 6 with details on the stabbing death of Noah Williams at his home.

Green Lake County and Waushara County, according to Oshkosh police.

Landline phones on the city's southwest side were knocked out. Before service was mostly restored Friday evening, officials asked residents in need of emergency assistance to use their cellphones or call the Police Department's front desk.

An AT&T spokesman said that fiber optic services were restored by Friday evening but there was still continued work to reconnect some copper-based landlines in the area. He said 911 center service was not affected by the disruption.

The Community YMCA was one of many organizations and businesses that asked members and others trying to make contact with them to use email until the phone system was restored.

GO Transit federal grant will help buy three buses

GO Transit was recently awarded \$1.2 million in grant funding from the Federal Transit Administration after a successful competitive application submitted last summer for replacement buses.

Oshkosh will receive \$1.2 million of the \$2.6 million awarded statewide. The transit system is looking to replace 10 diesel buses that are past their useful life of 12 years. The funding allows replacement of three of the buses with new clean diesel buses that cost about \$450,000 to \$500,000 each.

City officials said the funding will add to the Common Council-approved purchase of replacement buses this year and improve system efficiency and reliability. The federal funding is 80 percent with a 20 percent city match. The local match for one of the buses will be covered this year with the other two in 2019.

Food benefit concert at arena features Chisel

Oshkosh Corp. is hosting its second Feed the Body, Feed the Soul initiative, a musical event to raise money for food items to be packed by community volunteers and donated to those in need.

Partnering with the Refuge for the Arts, the concert will be a salute to the late Tom Petty featuring Cory Chisel & Friends at 7:30 p.m. April 14 at the Menominee Nation Arena.

Ticket prices range from \$33 to \$78 and can be purchased at the arena ticket box office or at <http://bit.ly/2F9DmPa>. A portion of the sales will be used to purchase food that will benefit those in need in northeast Wisconsin. Oshkosh Corp. is organizing a

volunteer event May 18 to pack the food. "As we get ready to host our second Feed the Body, Feed the Soul musical experience, we are thrilled to continue to make a positive impact in northeast Wisconsin," said Jodie Larsen, Oshkosh Corp. vice president of community engagement. "Through music, we are able to raise money and inspire the community to use their time and talent."

The first Feed the Body, Feed the Soul event last August featured The Temptations, Cory Chisel, Cat Power and other artists. Money raised through ticket sales was used to purchase rice, which was then packaged by more than 900 volunteers.

Father Carr's to be Place 4U

By Lily Pollack
FOR THE HERALD

High school students in Oshkosh are hosting the first Place 4U event for students in grades 8-12 from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. April 20 at Father Carr's Place 2B.

The Place 4U is a free game night planned by the Lourdes Academy Senior Tomorrow's Leaders class along with the Oshkosh West Rotary Club presidents.

All students who attend the Place 4U will enjoy pizza sponsored by Pizza King, frozen custard sponsored by Rhapsodies Frozen Custard, and board games, card games, pool, foosball and several other activities sponsored by Thrivent Financial.

Guests will be entered into hourly prize drawings, and students brave enough to give up their phone for the night will be entered into a special prize drawing.

According to Sami Boehm, Lourdes senior and Tomorrow's Leaders member, "The Place 4U encourages teens to meet new people in an environment that is safe and welcoming. This night is planned by teens for teens based on what we find fun."

"Father Carr's was originally founded as a teen hangout rather than a homeless shelter. We hope that the Place 4U encourages teens to be more active at Father Carr's

and in their community."

The Place 4U began as an idea for the senior Tomorrow's Leaders final leadership project. Although planned by Lourdes Academy and Oshkosh West, the main goal of the event was to promote community involvement among all students.

"We want students to attend the event and bring the teen friendly atmosphere back to Father Carr's without feeling like they have to belong to a certain school," Boehm said.

The Place 4U involved much planning and organizing throughout the year, including finding sponsorships by Oshkosh businesses for food and games, designing and creating posters and invites, and planning and coordinating many games and activities for the students who attend the event.

Business briefs

ThedaCare has signed an agreement with the intent to acquire the physician group Fox Valley Hematology & Oncology by June 4. The agreement includes the employment of providers and staff. The acquisition of the FVHO physician group has been reviewed and approved by the ThedaCare board of trustees.

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Al Stewart rose to stardom in the 1960s & 1970s as part of the British Folk Revival scene. He is best known for his hit songs "Year of the Cat" and "Time Passages".

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TUES-SAT 11a-close

*Entrance located on Northeast side of building

Week of the Young Child shares message of community care need

By Dan Roherty
OSHKOSH HERALD

As community and advocacy groups celebrate young children and their caregivers during next week's national recognition, those who work with families and providers know that improving family access and support is an ongoing mission.

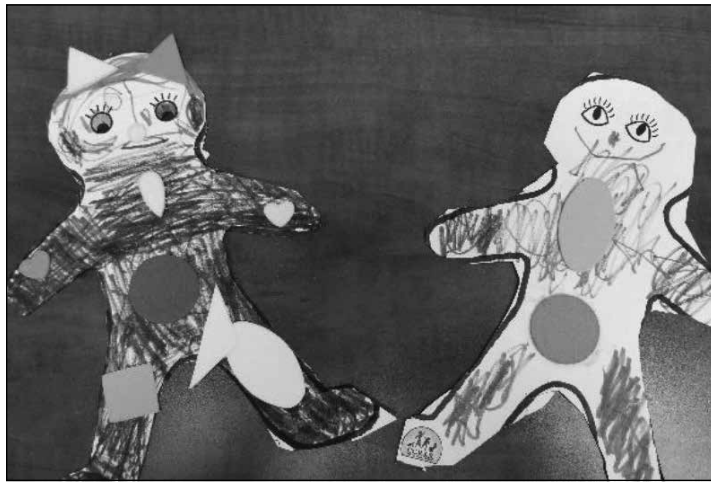
The Fox Valley area's Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) will be participating in local events during Week of the Young Child, April 16-20, sponsored annually by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The nonprofit referral agency offers child care start-up sessions, lines up employers with qualified staff and helps those looking for child care employment. It is a regional office for the state's child care quality rating and improvement system called YoungStar.

Promoting higher wages for care workers is just one of CCR&R's advocacy efforts for improving circumstances for single mothers, lower-income families and others who need child care help to get by and sustain their employment.

Amy Geurden, marketing and outreach coordinator for CCR&R, which serves the counties of Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Sheboygan, Waupaca and Winnebago, said the week brings community awareness to the importance of early education and quality care.

"We want to stress the importance of early education because the statistics that come back say that if our local economy invests \$1 in early education it comes back as



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A Paper Doll Community Awareness Project displayed at Pick 'n Save on South Koeller Street will feature the dolls decorated by children in child care programs.

\$17 in the long run by the time these kids reach adulthood," Geurden said.

She said there's a lot going on in Washington right now related to child care funding and related family programs.

A federal budget deal passed in February for which Congress is now hammering out final details would revive funding for early-childhood programs. The Child Care and Development Block Grant would be doubled to \$5.9 billion to help pay for subsidized child care for low-income families and allow about 230,000 more children to be served than the current program's 1.4 million children.

Earlier attempts to promote higher quality, safety and stability for families receiving the program subsidies did not come with any additional money to make those raised standards attainable, and Congress still needs to approve that funding to back up the latest effort.

Judy Olson, executive director of CCR&R, will be with Child Care Aware of America and Child Care Works advocates in Washington, D.C., next week as part of an annual symposium that includes meeting with Wisconsin representatives to follow up on the necessary funding.

A related federal measure introduced in September, the Child Care for Working Families Act, would make child care more affordable for families and allow the programs to pay their workers better wages. Provisions of the legislation help states contribute to better pay for child care workers, whose average wage has been estimated at \$10.33 an hour.

Tammy Dannhoff, owner of Kids Are Us Family Child Care in Oshkosh, has been a licensed care provider since 1989

after having to look for child care for her own children while managing a restaurant. She knows the challenge of finding and keeping qualified care providers is nothing new.

"It's so hard to keep anybody on board for any longevity in child care," Dannhoff said. "It's not a very good wage, and especially if you went to school and did everything you were supposed to do, you don't get paid very much."

The recent recipient of the Governor's Trailblazer Award for Women in Business takes care of up to eight children at her home from families who work in Oshkosh. She said it's especially hard for families to find care services for the very young.

"Infant care (considered any child under age 2) is really, really hard right now," Dannhoff said. "That's in high demand."

There are 52 regulated child care programs in Winnebago County with 2,533 children enrolled, according to the CCR&R capacity report from January. The CCR&R website lists average child care rates in Winnebago and the other counties it serves.

The agency points to a steady drop in regulated child care programs in Wisconsin by an average of 200 per year since 2000 as a result of parents' inability to afford enrollment, low wages and high turnover rates, among other factors. Recent signs of staffing and budget limitations in Oshkosh include the consolidation of Jericho Road Ministries' centers and the relocation of Wee Winni Childcare Center to First United Methodist Church.

Week of the Young Child events include a Paper Doll Community Awareness Project, with the Pick 'n Save on South Koeller Street in Oshkosh adopting and displaying groups of paper dolls decorated by children in area child care programs. Businesses can host a display by contacting www.ccrfoxvalley.org.

Geurden said the paper dolls represent the more than 230,000 children statewide who spend time in child care. Dannhoff said she will be involved in the paper doll project at Pick 'n Save as her way of promoting quality, regulated care.

"All of those paper dolls are going to represent all of the children that are in child care, and kind of give an awareness to the public as to how many children there are in child care," Dannhoff said.

The Fox Valley Chapter of the Wisconsin Early Education Association will sponsor a night of touring local child care centers from 6 to 9 p.m. April 16 where child care providers can collect ideas and discover the strengths in other programs. Geurden said it will allow participants to "network a little bit and see how other programs are set up." For information on local locations, visit www.foxvalleychapter.org.

A family literacy night and resource fair will be hosted from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. April 19 by the Community Early Learning Center in Appleton with storytelling, music, dancing, door prizes and free giveaways. New or used children's books will be swapped with other families.

China visit

FROM PAGE 1

by the Oshkosh team broke down during competition, prompting another team to loan then one of theirs.

The visit was sponsored by the Chinese Urban Youth Robotics Alliance, which last year had invited Oshkosh Wave members to Zhengzhou, China, to mentor high school students and be one of a few international teams competing in a major tournament event.

The six visiting Chinese high school students and two adult mentors are with a foreign language school affiliated with the Shanghai International Studies University.

After a 13-hour trip from Shanghai to Chicago, the Chinese team toured a large dairy farm in Rosendale and the Experimental Aircraft Association museum in Oshkosh.

"Being from a large urban city, this was the first time I had a chance to see a farm," said Aria Ruan, a 10th-grade student from Shanghai. "Everyone here has been very kind and helpful," she said in fluent English.

The two groups met later at Perry Tipler Middle School where the Wave Robotics team works on its robotics project.

Loewenstein said the Oshkosh team is special in that it is community-based with members from Oshkosh West, North, Lourdes Academy and other schools. He said most teams are built around specific schools in other parts of the country.

West senior Jack Wagner said the robotics program has been helpful in developing his professional interest in mechanical engineering. Now in his fourth year with the Wave team, Wagner oversees the computer-aided design (CAD) elements of the project. He has been accepted at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville where he plans to major in mechanical engineering.

The visit by the Chinese students, he said, "gives us a chance to showcase our hometown and interact with them to learn more about each other and their culture."

Students on the team can spend anywhere from 10 to 30 hours a week on activities that include designing and building the robot. Besides Perry Tipler, the team uses space provided by Folske Electrical Services (formerly Green Meadow Elementary School) as a simulated practice field.

The team has six weeks to design, build and practice with the robot before it is sealed in a plastic wrap for competitions. The team built a second one for practicing that was used by the Oshkosh and Chinese students for strategy sharing.

FIRST (for inspiration and recognition of science and technology) Robotics was founded in 1989 to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. There are teams connected to FIRST throughout the United States and worldwide. The competitions allow students to interact and learn about robotic engineering in a fun, nontraditional environment.

The Wave program in Oshkosh is in its 10th year.

Legal help at the library

Free legal assistance is available from 4:30 to 6 p.m. April 17 in the Oshkosh Public Library's lower-level meeting room to individuals who need help with simple legal questions, assistance with forms, or referrals to attorneys who offer reduced-cost and/or unbundled services. The session is offered the third Tuesday of each month.

Volunteer attorneys and students from Fox Valley Technical College's Paralegal Student Organization will be available to offer help in the following case types: family law, small claims, landlord/tenant, domestic abuse, harassment injunctions, probate/wills, guardianships and property disputes.



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White pelicans' return a steady water sighting

By Rob Zimmer
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The American white pelican has become a symbol of wild Oshkosh over the past few decades as our area hosts one of the largest concentrations of these birds found east of the Mississippi River. As quickly as winter's ice moved out on the lakes here in the Oshkosh area, these incredible birds have arrived for another season.

The pelicans are a testament to the ongoing improvement of area waterways, namely the Wolf and the Fox River watersheds. Pelican numbers have soared to new heights as the birds have made their home here on our lakes and wetlands, centered around Oshkosh.

From April into November, American white pelicans can be seen throughout the area, peaking in midsummer when thousands of birds can be found right here in Winnebago County.

Throughout Oshkosh, white pelicans can be seen along the river, along lakes Winnebago and Butte des Morts, as well as quiet bays and backwaters.

American white pelicans are one of our largest bird species here in the state. With a wingspan that may exceed 8 feet, a foot-long bright orange bill, and striking black wingtips on pure white plumage, the birds are unmistakable as they soar and roller-coaster in flight over the waves.

Pelicans are often spotted in large squadrons that circle higher and higher overhead, riding invisible heat thermals that rise with the warmth of the spring sun.

They arrive immediately after ice-out on area rivers and lakes, preparing to nest for another season on remote islands and shoreline stretches. Pelicans are colonial masters, as well as ground nesters, putting them at risk from small mammal predators such as foxes, coyotes, mink and many bird species.

Throughout spring and summer, the young are raised on a diet of rough fish, caught in large numbers by schooling pelicans that fish in spectacular fashion.

Unlike brown pelicans that are found along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, American white pelicans do not dive for their food from the sky. Instead, these huge birds gather together in large numbers, herding or schooling fish together into tight groups before plunging their huge, pouched bills into the water to capture the trapped fish.

Pelicans may travel long distances to find prime fishing grounds in wetlands and shallows. In fact, many of the pelicans seen in our area are traveling down the Fox River from Green Bay to feed here on Lake Winnebago.

There are many great places in the area to spot pelicans. Menominee Park is one ideal location, as well as shoreline areas



PHOTO BY ROB ZIMMER

American white pelicans have returned to the treasured waterways of Oshkosh for another season. These majestic giants have become a symbol of wild Oshkosh over the past decade as their numbers have increased dramatically.

throughout the city along rivers and lake-shores. Many pelicans are also seen on Asylum Bay, as well as all along the shoreline of Lake Butte des Morts. Often, pelicans are seen right downtown along the river.

With waterways now open and free of ice for the most part, the pelicans will remain, battling upcoming snowstorms and

colder weather to begin a new season of raising families here along our treasured shores.

Find Rob Zimmer online at www.facebook.com/RobZimmerOutdoors. Listen to *Outdoors with Rob Zimmer*, Fridays, 4-5 p.m. and Saturdays, 7-8 a.m. on WHBY, now in Oshkosh at 106.3 FM.

Police K9 program fundraiser scheduled

The Oshkosh Police Department is holding a K9 program fundraising event from 5:30 to 8 p.m. April 13 at Buffalo Wild Wings at 500 S. Koeller St.

Police Chief Dean Smith, Officer Brad Fox and his K9 Odin will be there along with other officers. The department will be selling stuffed dogs for \$15.

WCLC offers tutoring opportunities

The Winnebago County Literacy Council (WCLC) is seeking volunteer tutors to help with a growing list of adult and adolescent learners who want to improve their literacy skills.

The tutoring time commitment is a minimum of an hour, once a week. Volunteer orientation will include information about the WCLC, as well as training to

understand the different types of learners, tutoring basics and cultural considerations.

The next orientation will take place from 10 a.m. to noon April 13 on the third floor of the Oshkosh Public Library. Interested volunteers may register for orientation by contacting education coordinator Julia Frasca at frasca@winlit.org or at 920-236-5219, ext. 4830.

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PHOTO BY COLLEEN BIES

The Color-Brave Photo Project tells the stories of people of color who call Oshkosh home.

Paine hosts Color-Brave exhibit on Oshkosh diversity

The Color-Brave Photo Project: Black and Brown Faces, a New Narrative is a traveling exhibition of 20 portraits that will be shown at the Paine Art Center's Carriage House on April 20-22.

The portraits were taken by photographer Colleen Bies, a Hmong-American and Oshkosh native, and the photos are accompanied by stories about the subjects' lives and why they call Oshkosh home. The free exhibit is presented by Fit Oshkosh.

"The goal of this project is to overcome false ideas about why people of color live in Oshkosh," stated Tracey Robertson, executive director of Fit Oshkosh.

"Some of these ideas are that people of color come here from 'hoods' of Milwaukee or Chicago, that they only moved here to be students or staff at the university, or that they are staff members at the prison or family members of a prisoner. The last example is the most damaging and the most

alarming."

The individuals' stories were compiled from interviews done by Roberta McGuire, chair of the English department at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh; Alicia Johnson, director of the Women's Center at UWO; Susan Resnig, associate professor women's and gender studies and African American history; and Robertson.

The exhibit will travel to six other locations in the Fox Valley, including UW-Oshkosh, and there will be guided discussions called "Color-Brave Conversations" at each location. Fit Oshkosh will help schools schedule field trips for middle schools, high schools and university students to visit the project. A book and videos will also be created to further share the photos and stories.

The grant-funded project is supported by the Wisconsin Humanities Council and Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.

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Community events

Ongoing events

Masterpieces of the Valley, Paine Art Center and Gardens, 1410 Algoma Blvd.

REPLAY!, Oshkosh Public Museum, 1331 Algoma Blvd.

April 12

Women in Management, 11:30 p.m., La Sure's Banquet Hall, 3125 S. Washburn St.

April 13

Comedy Improv Show, 9 p.m., Backlot Comedy House, 424 N. Main St.

April 14

Oshkosh Farmers Market, 9 a.m., Merrill Middle School, 108 W. New York Ave.

AMVETS Post 7 State Dart Ball Tournament, 9:30 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center, 500 E. County Y

Sports Nutrition Workshop, 10 a.m., Oshkosh Community YMCA, 324 Washington Ave.

Frosting for Flight Cupcake Competition and Sale, FVTC Spanbauer Aviation Center, 3601 Oregon St.

NPC Fox Cities Showdown, 5 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium, 375 N. Eagle St.

N.E.W. Piano Guys, 7 p.m., La Sure's Banquet Hall, 3125 S. Washburn St.

Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra: Chamber Music at the Grand, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh, 100 High Ave.

Feed the Body, Feed the Soul: Cory Chisel & Friends Salute Tom Petty, 7:30 p.m., Menominee Nation Arena, 1100 S. Main St.

Comedy Improv Show, 9 p.m., Backlot Comedy House, 424 N. Main St.

April 15

AMVETS Post 7 State Dart Ball Tournament, 9:30 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center, 500 E. County Y

April 19

The Four Phantoms in Concert, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh, 100 High Ave.

April 20

Color-Brave Photo Project: Black and Brown Faces, A New Narrative, 11 a.m., Paine Art Center and Gardens, 1410 Algoma Blvd.

Mother-Son Superhero Date Night, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Community YMCA, 3303 W. 20th Ave.

The Four Phantoms in Concert, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh, 100 High Ave.

Comedy Improv Show, 9 p.m., Backlot Comedy House, 424 N. Main St.

Phocus at Fletch's, 10 p.m., Fletch's Local Tap House, 566 N. Main St.

April 21

Runaway to the Bay, 7 a.m., Menominee Park

Oshkosh Farmers Market, 9 a.m., Merrill Middle School, 108 W. New York Ave.

ACW Watercity Wrestlecon, 4:30 p.m., Menominee Nation Arena, 1100 S. Main St.

The Four Phantoms in Concert, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh, 100 High Ave.

Comedy Improv Show, 9 p.m., Backlot Comedy House, 424 N. Main St.

Spring Heat: Honor Society Music Group Concert, 9 p.m., Sunnyview Expo Center, 500 E. County Y

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FVTC PHOTO

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Pianist Winston coming to Heid

George Winston is bringing his acclaimed piano skills back to Heid Music in Oshkosh at 4 p.m. April 28.

He will give a live performance and clinic, and participate in a question-and-answer session with those registered for the free event by April 25.

Winston recorded his first solo piano album, "Ballads and Blues 1972," in 1972 for the late guitarist John Fahey's Takoma label. Since then, Winston has released many more solo piano albums.

In 2001, he debuted "Remembrance: A Memorial Project," which is a six-song CD of piano, guitar and harmonica solos benefiting those affected by 9/11. In 1984, he also performed the solo piano soundtrack for the children's story "The Velveteen Rabbit" for Rabbit Ears Productions.

Winston is concentrating on live performances, mostly touring and playing solo piano concerts, solo guitar concerts, solo harmonica concerts and solo piano dances (with R&B and slow dance songs).

Oshkosh Youth Symphony auditions scheduled

The Oshkosh Youth Symphony invites middle and high school band and orchestra students to audition for the 2018-19 orchestra season.

Auditions will be held by appointment

April 27 and 29 in Oshkosh North High School's Orchestra Room. To schedule an audition contact osyncmusic@gmail.com. Audition paperwork and requirements will be emailed.

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Elections

FROM PAGE 1

ed a plaque in recognition of her dedication and service. Panske did not reply to a request for comment.

According to April 4 reports from the City Clerk's office, Palmeri received 5,077 votes, the highest number in the race. Herman received 4,540 votes, and Mugerauer came in third at 4,360 votes. Panske received 3,958.

More than 1,100 absentee ballots were cast. Ubrig said there were 13 write-in votes for registered candidate Robert Wilcox, who was not on the ballot. The city is not required by state law to count the remaining write-in votes cast for characters like Mickey Mouse. The final vote count would be verified by the local board of canvassers the following week, Ubrig noted.

Oshkosh family law attorney Teresa Basiliere won the open judgeship in Branch 1 of the Winnebago County Circuit Court, beating out opponent, County Deputy District Attorney Scott Ceman, by a margin of about 2,800 votes.

Three members of the Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education won re-election over one new challenger for the three available seats. Board president Allison Garner, James Evans and Kelly Olmsted earned new three-year terms, with Liz Szilagyi falling short on her bid for the board.

Wisconsin voters also chose Milwaukee County Judge Rebecca Dallet to serve as state Supreme Court justice by about 12 percentage points over Sauk County Judge Michael Screnock. Once Dallet is sworn in, six of seven state justices will be women.

A state referendum that would have eliminated the treasurer's office, a position that has been in place for 170 years, was soundly defeated by a 61 percent to 39 percent statewide vote.

Palmeri was with her family when she learned of her win. She said she was pleased to have been chosen by voters for a second term on the Council and that her plans include advocating for parks and other green space. She's also prepared to take up the need for affordable housing stock diversification, vacant land use, transportation and inclusivity.

"We continue to strive for improvements regarding quality of life, infrastructure, health and safety of the public," Palmeri said. "I believe my policy perspective benefits those endeavors."

Herman, one of a few councilors to serve five terms, said he thinks voters



OSHKOSH HERALD

Twenty-six percent of eligible Oshkosh voters went to polling stations last week to select Common Council, Board of Education and judicial candidates.

re-elected him because they trust that his decisions are always made in the best interests of the city and of the people he represents. He learned of his victory at Beckett's restaurant and celebrated with a small group of family and friends – a tradition, he says, over the past 10 years.

One major area Herman plans to focus on is the Oshkosh Avenue corridor development process. He believes the Council's decision to sell the former Lakeshore Municipal Golf Course property to Oshkosh Corp. for its global headquarters was in the best interest of the community, but said it was difficult for him personally as an avid golfer who played the course regularly.

Other areas of concentration for Herman include development of city parks and the Sawdust District. The growing number of neighborhood associations in the city – 15 up and running in the most recent count – is important to Herman.

"I'd like to see that program grow," he said. "There are so many grants and benefits available through places like the Planning Services Division and the Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corporation."

Herman hopes to continue serving on the Parks Advisory Board and Convention and Visitors Bureau Committee.

Mugerauer, the newest Council member, said he thinks voters chose him because they can relate to him. Receiving the vote was a humbling experience, he said.

"They connected with what I had to say about what has to be done, and the best way to get there," he said, adding that when it comes to issues he uses a common-sense approach. "I'll be doing a lot of hearing and listening."

Mugerauer, who watched the results come in while at home with his family, plans to focus in coming months on issues such as the city's special events fee structure, which he believes is exceptionally high – particularly significant because in 2010, local officials chose "Oshkosh, Wisconsin's Event City" as the city's brand slogan. He wants to make it financially feasible for groups to continue holding events in Oshkosh rather than looking at other nearby locations that may offer lower event fees.

"I don't want to see organizations considering whether to hold events here or go somewhere else like Winneconne," he said. "I'm hoping we can revisit that (current fee structure) and make it work."

The city's strategic plan and the annual budget process will also come up on the Council calendar in the next few months, and Mugerauer said finances are always in the forefront when it comes to important issues.

"Every single dollar is important, and we don't want to waste a cent of the taxpayers' money," he said. "I want what's best for the community and its residents."

School board president Garner said she was honored and proud to be re-elected. She is looking forward to continued work on equity issues in the district as more students have significant needs and will focus on a smooth transition from retiring Superintendent Stan Mack to incoming leader Vickie Cartwright.

Garner also wants to start discussions and actions related to increasing the district's revenue stream to deal with budget issues.

"We've made such great progress in reducing the number of students who open-enroll into our surrounding districts," she said, "and I am looking forward to being a net importer of students to the OASD."

Evans expressed appreciation to all the candidates as exceptionally qualified and enjoyable to work with at the campaign events they attended. He shared Garner's enthusiasm for the district's successful search for another strong superintendent.

"Hiring a new superintendent is one of the most important duties that is entrusted to school boards," Evans said. "Going through this process not only made us a better board of education, it also brought us closer together, which in turn made us stronger as a group."

Evans wants to work on improving literacy rates across the district, staff recruitment and retention, improved parity among schools and incorporating the creative arts into everyday learning.

Fire chief finalists named

Four finalists to replace retiring Fire Chief Timothy Franz have been selected by the Oshkosh Police and Fire Commission and will be available to meet the public April 17 before final interviews are held.

The finalists are:

Michael Callahan, deputy fire commissioner for the Chicago Fire Department with more than 35 years of fire and emergency management experience and more than 20 years as a supervisory and command-level officer.

John Christian, chief of the Grayslake Fire Protection District in Grayslake, Ill., with more than 30 years of fire and emergency management experience, about 15 years as a supervisor and 10 at the executive level.

Michael Stanley, commander for Aurora Fire Rescue in Aurora, Colo., with more than 20 years of fire and emergency management experience, and more than 10 years as a supervisory and command-level officer.

Dan Zaccard, district chief for the Rockford Fire Department in Rockford, Ill., with more than 35 years of fire and emergency management experience and about eight years as a supervisory and command-level officer.

The commission has scheduled a meet-and-greet from 5 to 7 p.m. April 17 at the Oshkosh Convention Center as an opportunity for the candidates to interact with residents.

An extensive interview process has been scheduled for April 18, where the commission will also hear from interviewers representing diverse and pertinent backgrounds. Those will include a community panel, a technical/peer panel and an employee panel.

The commission intends to secure a candidate that will be able to begin in June. Questions regarding the recruitment can be made to John Fitzpatrick, assistant city manager and director of administrative services, at 920-236-5110.

WAMIs

FROM PAGE 1

Zakk Abitz of Bad Habitz said Oshkosh gave them their chance to be a successful band.

"The community always comes out and supports us; we have great turnouts in Oshkosh," Abitz said. "We try to get out when we can to support other local bands in the Oshkosh area as well."

Janke said throughout his many years playing in the area he has never seen such wide nominations from the WAMI show.

"I'm so happy that someone has recognized some of the local talent from our little town of Oshkosh," Janke said. "It's certainly well deserved, by not just me, but all the musicians from Oshkosh that have been nominated. It's very special indeed. I'll take it with me and be grateful that someone cares."

This year's awards will be held at 7 p.m. April 15 at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center in downtown Appleton.

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Spring sports previews

North expected to remain FVA power

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Oshkosh North has been one of Wisconsin's elite softball teams the past few years.

With sensational Sydney Supple back in the circle, that pattern will likely continue.

Although North has to replace starters at several positions, the Spartans return one of the state's finest pitchers and best all-around players in Supple. Her presence alone should allow the Spartans to rebuild while cranking out victories at an assembly-line pace.

"We're young," said North coach Cindy Suess. "Our young players are going to have to grow up in a hurry, but we expect to win ballgames."

The Spartans lost six starters from last year's powerhouse that went 25-5 overall and reached the state tournament for the second straight year before falling to Kaukauna in a WIAA Division 1 state quarterfinal.

Graduation was not kind to the Spartans. Gone are standouts like slugger Shaye Gauthier, who hit a team-high .615, Lauren Christie (.451), Lauren Neveau (.440), Sam Buerger (.397) Emma Tessmer and Morgan Moxon. All but Moxon, a second-team choice, were first-team all-conference players.

"The kids we lost were all four-year starters, so right now we're kind of in the same boat we were in four years ago," Suess said.

Third baseman Libby Neveau, catcher Sophie Averkamp and outfielder Shae Thull join Supple as returning players expected to lead the Spartans. North will break several new players into the lineup this spring and Supple has been impressed with the hungry young players. The Spartans have started the season looking like a state power and took a perfect 6-0 record into this week after playing in some early nonconference tournament games.

Softball

"I'm really excited to see how our underclassmen and our new freshmen contribute this year," said Supple. "They've already done a great job accepting their roles and buying into our program. The young players are great kids and great teammates to have. They're working to get better each and every day and I love being around them."

Supple, a 5-foot-10 lefty, usually dominates games with her stellar pitching and the Spartans won't need many runs to win games. Supple was last year's Gatorade Wisconsin Softball Player of the Year and shared FVA player of the year honors with Kaukauna's Haley Hestekin.

Syd is the grinder of all grinders," said Suess. "She just outworks people and makes people around her better."

Supple mowed down hitters at an astonishing rate, compiling a 14-1 mark with a microscopic 0.21 earned run average and 158 strikeouts in 99 2/3 innings. Supple can beat you with her bat,

too. Supple, who has made a verbal commitment to play softball at Northwestern University, hit .553 with five home runs.

"For me, I feel I can always get better, whether it's more movement or spin on the ball," Supple said. "I feel like I'm stronger this year and I want to take my team further. I want to take them all the way."

Supple isn't the only quality player back. Libby Neveau was a first-team all-conference infielder and led the Spartans in home runs (seven), while hitting a robust .507 and collecting 30 RBI.

"Libby is a person of few words, but she is tough as nails," Suess said.

Averkamp was an outfielder last year but is expected to work with Supple behind the plate. She hit an impressive .361 as a freshman.

"Sophie is another grinder," Suess said.

"I'm really excited to see how our underclassmen and our new freshmen contribute this year. They've already done a great job accepting their roles and buying into our program."

Sydney Supple, Oshkosh North pitcher

Wildcats ready to compete in FVA

By Alex Wolf
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The Oshkosh West boys golf team returns a majority from last year's team and head coach Michael Johnson hopes his team can finish in the top half of the Fox Valley Association and qualify for sectionals as a team.

Ben Willeford will lead the way for the Wildcats this season after earning a spot on the all-conference team while making it to sectionals a season ago.

Johnson said other top returning players this season include Drew Slife, Ben Jameson, Ryan Timm and Faysal Amin. He also said several young players will try to contend for a varsity spot as well.

The Wildcats lost a big piece of their team last year when Nick Baker – a three-time all-conference golfer – graduated.

Boys golf

Oshkosh North

Oshkosh North boys golf coach Bryan Dorn hopes his Spartans can bounce back from last year and finish in the middle of the pack in the tough Fox Valley Association this season.

Dorn said Thomas Urben, Carver Schmidt, Josh Stephanie, Josh Hoffman and Anthony Blando are the top returners this season.

Urben and Schmidt should lead North this season as they are the two returners who participated in regionals a year ago.

Lourdes Academy

Finishing third in the Trailways-North a season ago, the Knights return a majority of last year's team including Dan Dunn

"She's as hard a worker as there is."

The Spartans have gone 44-8 the past two seasons and are the defending FVA champion after posting an 18-0 mark last season. Expect North to battle Kaukauna, Kimberly and Hortonville for the top spot again this season.

The Spartans have developed a serious rivalry with Kaukauna in recent years which has resulted in some classic showdown games. But Suess says the Ghosts are just another team on the schedule. North swept Kaukauna during the regular season last year by scores of 1-0 and 5-0 before dropping a 2-0 decision at state.

"The FVA is definitely one of the toughest leagues in the state," said Suess. "Anyone can beat you on any given day. You have to be really prepared for each and every game. You can't take any days off."

Lourdes Academy

Lourdes Academy is looking to win its third straight Trailways North conference title, but the Knights face a challenging task. They have some retooling to do after graduating several seniors, including ace pitcher Lauren Schiek.

"We lost eight kids that played a lot for us," said Lourdes coach Jim Johnson. "The past few years we've used solid defense and pitching as our formula to win games, and that's not going to change."

Schiek will be tough to replace in the circle after posting a 21-3 record and a 2.26 ERA, but sophomore Kristin Wetterau seems ready for the challenge. She was impressive in limited innings last year, compiling a 2-0 mark and with no earned runs and 10 strikeouts in 10 innings.

"Kristin is going to be our main pitcher," said Johnson. "She pitched some innings for us last year and we expect her to keep us in games and to keep getting better. I'm excited to see what she will do. She's a tough player, smart and a dual threat because she's strong both offensively and defensively."

Additional returning players expected to fill key roles are juniors Charleigh Reinardy, Marley Wesenberg, Sophie Laib and sophomore Rachel Russo.

Russo hit .390 last season while Laib batted .341. Both were starters along with Reinardy and Wesenberg.

"We don't have a large number of girls

out, but they are a great group and will be exciting to watch," Johnson said. "I think they will surprise some people."

The Knights have just one senior on their roster in Abi Giese. Junior Alexis Rolph, sophomore catcher Grace Syson and freshmen Brooklyn Baker, Hope Burns and Christine Starshak are young players to watch.

"Grace Syson will control things from behind the plate for us," said Johnson. "She's a solid player, a dedicated student of the game and fiercely competitive. Alexis Rolph joins the team this year and she's my X-factor. I anticipate big things from her as the season unfolds. And we have some good freshman players who could make an impact."

Lourdes tied Oakfield for last year's conference championship at 13-1 and Johnson hopes his young team will remain a contender.

"Oakfield and Markesan are excellent programs, well coached and always at the top of our conference," said Johnson "But you can't take any team lightly and we will prepare for every game and every team as though the season depends on it. Our goal remains the same. It's to be competitive in the Trailways North and to constantly improve both individually and as a team."

Oshkosh West

Oshkosh West has a new coach in Tim Kohl and with several returning players, the Wildcats may be an interesting team to watch.

West went 14-14 overall and 7-11 in the FVA. The Wildcats return a first-team all-conference player in junior catcher Alyssa Brewer along with second-team all-FVA picks Leah Welch and Annika Johnson and three players who received all-conference honorable mention: Neva Oates, Emily Miller and Jacy Morgan.

Brewer hit .548 last season and Welch had a .435 average. Johnson was the Wildcats' top pitcher as a freshman, going 6-9 with a 3.13 ERA. She was also a threat at the plate, hitting .364.

West basketball's Sutter steps down

Early last week, Niki Sutter announced that she was stepping down as the girls basketball coach for Oshkosh West.

Sutter, who led the Wildcats for 12 seasons, compiled a 154-136 record in her time. She helped West to a Fox Valley Association title and a state runner-up finish in 2007-08.

Sutter and the Wildcats had a lot of success early on when she started in the 2006-07 season, but it has been a struggle in the last couple of seasons. The Wildcats went 3-20 this season with a 2-16 mark in the FVA.

Sutter will continue to teach at West.

North Eagles sign-up set

The Oshkosh North Eagles Youth football program will have a registration meeting at 6:30 p.m. April 15 at the North High School Auditorium.

Registration is for fifth- through eighth-grade student athletes for the 2018-2019 school year. All paperwork will be handed out at this time. Visit <http://www.oshkosheaglesfootball.com> for more information.

Oshkosh West girls motivated this season

By Morgan Van Lanen
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

According to Oshkosh West girls soccer head coach Greg Ruark, his team has high expectations for itself this spring.

Finishing fifth in the Fox Valley Association with a record of 5-4 in conference and 11-9 overall was not good enough for his team last season, Ruark said, and will be motivation for the Wildcats this season.

"I've been disappointed with how we have stacked up in our conference and we have nobody to blame but ourselves," Ruark said. "I'd like to think we can improve upon that, but you just never know because this conference is so strong. I do think we will be better, but if other schools improve as well, then we may be looking at a similar finish. But I'd like to think that this team with this leadership is a top-three, top-four team this year."

The Wildcats return 10 varsity players this offseason and rosters a total of 21 on var-

Girls soccer

sity, Ruark said. Two of these returners are co-captains - senior defender Natalie Tyrivier and senior midfielder Jill Ruark. There are six other seniors on the squad.

Ruark said the senior class will have high expectations — midfielder Payton Alford, defender Dri Andreini, midfielder Olivia Helf and defender Elly Dey are notable seniors for West.

Ruark rostered five freshmen this season as well. He said he looks forward to what contributions the class will make, especially from midfielder Lindsey Keller, who had a strong preseason, Ruark said.

The Wildcats kick off conference play April 17 at Titan Stadium. Until then, the team has four games against nonconference opponents to open the season, weather permitting.

"At this point I'm really looking forward to getting into the meat of the schedule," Ru-

ark said. "There's a stretch in the middle of the season where we play Appleton North, Kimberly, Neenah, Homestead — some teams that are perennial, top 25 in the state. That will be a really good test for us."

The Wildcats fell to Homestead 0-7 in the regional final of the playoffs in 2017.

"The girls are anxious. They want to see how they stack up against the best teams in the state," Ruark said.

Oshkosh North

The 2018 spring soccer season will be a year of rebuilding for the Oshkosh North girl's soccer team, head coach Nicole Palmquist said.

The Knights return just eight letter winners from last season on their roster of 23.

"We are pretty young," Palmquist said. "Overall our goal for the beginning here is to rebuild as a team and come together as a team and look to just improve the little things to start out. We have a few games here starting out that are winnable games, competitive games, so we are hoping to at least compete and not get blown out by anyone."

Last season, North finished fourth in the Fox Valley Association with a conference record of 6-3 and an overall record of 8-10. The team lost 3-4 in a shootout in the regional semifinal against Nicolet.

Palmquist said players to watch include senior forward Ruby Salbego, junior

midfielder Erin Schallhorn, junior midfielder Elle Lieder and junior defender Sydney Foote.

Losing midfielders was the hardest hit the Spartans took this offseason, Palmquist said, but she looks forward to seeing who can step up and fill the gap.

"Overall, I would say our goal for conference is to be .500," Palmquist said. "It might be a rough patch to start, but eventually we will figure things out and hopefully get some victories in conference. Our end goal would be to get past the first round of regionals, considering we lost last year in the first regional game."

Lourdes/Valley Christian

In her first year of coaching the Oshkosh Lourdes/Valley Christian girls soccer team, Anne Coleman hopes to see the seniors on her squad strive to be strong leaders.

The team has six seniors on its team this year, including midfielder Maggie Berenz, who led the team in assists last season with 22.

"We have four really strong seniors who've played all four years," Coleman said. "They should do a great job of leading the team: Rosie Navas, Haley Klysen, Hailey Droessler and Maggie Berenz. They will do a great job, as well as the other seniors on the team."

Last season, the Lady Knights took fourth in the Flyway Conference with a conference record of 7-6-3 and an overall record of 10-8-3. Standout senior midfielder Elly Degroot lead the team in goals with 34 and collected a total of 77 points on the year.

Coleman rostered 18 players this season and three of them are freshmen, including starting goalkeeper Paige Droessler. Paige is the younger sister of defender Hailey Droessler. Coleman said she looks forward to seeing how the two work together on the field.

"We had a scrimmage against Kaukauna and she (Paige Droessler) did an excellent job," Coleman said. "It's hard being a freshman and telling older players what to do."

Coleman also added how the defense as a whole is coming together to help Droessler.

"We have a strong defense who communicates and works really well together," Coleman said.

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Back in the Day

Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

April 18, 1952

Hoelt hurls first game in Majors: On this date, Oshkosh's Billy Hoelt played his first Major League Baseball game. Hoelt was signed by the Detroit Tigers as an amateur free agent in 1950. On April 18, 1952, Hoelt's first assignment in the majors was a two-inning stint against the Cleveland Indians and Hall of Fame hurler Bob Feller. Feller notched the win while Hoelt faced seven batters, giving up one hit and walking another in his debut.

Source: "Yesterday in Oshkosh... My Hometown" by Randy R. Domer

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Gymnastics Xcel teams take all-around state championship

Oshkosh Gymnastics Center Xcel teams captured an all-around title and two second-place all-around runner-up titles in the Wisconsin State Gymnastics Championships in Madison on March 23-25.

The Oshkosh athletes individually won 10 first-place event titles, three second-place runner-up places and eight third-place event finishes with 25 teams participating.

Women's team captures title

The Oshkosh Gymnastics Center Optional level teams competed in the State Women's Gymnastics Championships in Madison on March 23-25, with its Level 7 team taking the title.

The Level 7 team had a winning team score of 113.850 and dominated the floor event. The top three scores came from Angelina Vu (9.525, first place), Parker Loberg (9.5, second place) and Madeline Anderson (9.5, second place). Other notable floor scores within their individual age groups were from Samantha Lor who placed third (9.475), Anna Otto who placed fifth (9.375), Audrey Brenner who placed fifth (T) (9.3) and Alaina Palomaki who placed third (T) (9.25).

The team also had a great day on balance beam. The top three scores included a 9.5 from Anna Otto (first place), a 9.5 from Angelina Vu (second place) and a 9.35 from Samantha Lor (second place). Alaina Palomaki also did well with a 9.15 on beam for fifth place.

For uneven bars, the top three scores came from Natasha Konop (9.675, second place), Angelina Vu (9.575, second place) and Sydney Ganzer (9.4, third (T) place). Samantha Lor scored a 9.3, which gave her a fifth-place finish on bars. The last event, vault, had top three finishers with a tie. Samantha Lor scored a 9.6 (first place), Audrey Brenner scored a 9.375 (second place) and Olivia Navin and Alaina Palomaki both scored a 9.35, giving each a third-place finish. Other top five finishers included Madeline Anderson with a 9.15 (4T) and Natasha Konop with a 9.15 (fourth).

Individual All-Arounds within specific age groups went to Samantha Lor who placed first with a 37.725, Angelina Vu who placed second with a 37.400, Anna Otto who placed second (T) with a 37.175 and Natasha Konop who placed fourth (T) with a 37.05.

The Level 6 team also competed well. Tiana Loynes placed third on vault (9.2), fourth on beam (9.35), first on floor (9.35) and fifth All-Around with a score of 36.350 for age group Senior B. Sarah Penzenstadler placed third on floor (9.2) for Senior B. Abby Stevens placed fourth (T) on bars (9.15) for Senior B. Elaine Nowicki placed first on vault (9.35) for Senior D.

The Level 8 Team had a good showing. Taylor Emery placed third (T) on bars (9.0), first (T) on floor (9.375) and third (T) All-Around with a score of 35.200 for age group Senior B. Hanna Reichenberger placed second on vault (9.05) for Senior B. Trinity Schaefer placed fifth on bars (8.625) for Senior C. Mackenna

Johnson placed fifth (T) on vault (8.5), fifth on beam (8.775) and second on floor (9.425) for Senior D.

The Level 9's competed well. Rachel Hencke placed first on vault (9.675), fifth (T) on beam (8.2) and fifth All-Around with a score of 34.625 for Senior B. Jordyn Faust placed on bars (8.5) for Senior B.

The team qualified 21 athletes to the Region 4 Championships in Minneapolis the weekends of April 13-15 and 20-22.

The Xcel teams qualified 25 for the Region 4 Championships on April 20-22 in Iowa.

Results details:

For the Platinum team, Maeve Lasky competed in the Junior A bracket finishing with a third (tie) Beam (9.2) and third Floor (9.35). Sophie Nowicki (Jr A) placed third Vault (9.175). In the Junior C bracket, Molly Ziegert finished first Vault (9.35) and second Beam (9.2). Finally, in the Senior B bracket,

Lucie Spanbauer finished third Vault (9.2) and third (tie) Beam (9.125).

The Gold team had strong finishes on Vault (Sedona Wedell third Junior D 8.875), Beam (Sedona third (tie) 9.35 and Sylvia Butters first Senior A 9.225) and All-Around (Sedona third 36.625).

The Silver team finished fifth over the weekend. Kiara Deppiesse (CH D) placed first Bars (9.55), first Beam (9.45) and second All-Around (36.975). Lily Mack (CH F) placed second (tie) Bars (9.575). Andree Cardinal (JR A) finished first Bars (9.55),

Kaelyn Dahlke (JR C) placed second Vault (8.9), and Chloe Gudex (JR E) finished third Vault (9.2), first Bars (9.6) and third All-Around (36.875). Lydia Nowicki also competed in the JR E bracket and won Beam (9.425). Finally, in the Senior Division, Reagan Proud (SR B) placed first Vault (9.25), second (tie) Beam (9.6) and third All-Around (37.150).

The Bronze team's Stella Lusk (JR C) placed first on Beam (9.575) and Aya Rouse (SR B) finished second Beam (9.55).

Boys Level 5 gymnasts take state championship

The Oshkosh Gymnastics Center Boys Level 5 team came home with the state championship title while overall the center's teams captured five first-place All-Around titles and five second-place All-Around runner-up titles in the State Men's Gymnastics Championships in Madison the weekend of March 23-25.

Joe Cuadra, boys team head coach, was honored with the Wisconsin Coach of the Year award.

Individually, Oshkosh athletes won 20 first-place individual event titles, 20 second-place runner-up individual event places and 14 third-place individual event finishes.

The teams qualified 10 athletes to the upcoming Region 4 Championships in Iowa the weekend of April 13-15.

Results details:

The Level 5 team had a championship winning team score of 178.600. Ian Simmons placed second on floor (9.2), first on Pommels (10.6), third on Rings (10.8), first on P-Bars (10.3), 3T on High Bar (9.4) and first All-Around with a score of 60.100 in the 7-8-year-old category. Owen Schmitz and Oliver White competed in the 9-10-year-old bracket. Owen won Pommels (11.2), placed third on High Bar (9.4) and second (tie) in the All-Around with a 57.700. Oliver won Floor (10.5), was third on High Bar (9.4) and second (tie) in the All-Around with a 57.700. Results in the 11 and older age group: Jonathan Muenchow: third Pommels (10.8) and first Vault (9.7). Tiernan Deppiesse: second Pommels (10.9). Guner Schira: third (tie) on Floor (9.7). Tyler Schmidt: second Floor (8.7), third Pommels (9.3), first Rings (9.2), second (tie) Vault (9.4), first P-Bars (9.0), first All-Around (53.50). Moritz Deegen: third Floor (8.4), second Pommels (9.4), second (tie) Vault (9.4), second (tie) H-Bar (8.4), second All-Around (52.6).

The Level 4 team had strong finishes from Chalen Martin (9-year-old age bracket) with a third (tie) on Pommels (9.0) and second on P-Bars (9.2). Nigel Lusk and Jady Bastian both competed in the 8-year-old bracket. Nigel finished first on Floor (9.0), second on Pommels (8.5), first Rings (9.6), first Vault (9.4), second P-Bars (8.7), first High Bars (8.7) and first All-Around 53.900. Jayden finished second Floor (8.2), first Pommels (8.9), second (tie) Rings (8.8), third Vault (9.2), third P-Bars (8.6), third (tie) High Bar (8.0) and second All-Around (51.700).

The Level 6 athletes finished with All-Around

titles. Alex Reichenberger competed in the 12 and older bracket. He placed second Floor (9.6), first Pommels (11.1), third Rings (9.3), second Vault (9.6), first P-Bars (10.2), second High Bar (9.6) and first All-Around (59.400). Ethan Pinkerton competed in the 12 and older bracket and placed first Floor (7.4), first Pommels (9.5), first Rings (7.9), first Vault (9.5), first P-Bars (8.4), second High Bar (7.5) and first All-Around (50.200).

Spencer Merritt competed as a Level 10. He placed third (tie) on Floor (11.9) and second High Bar (11.5).

Jaxson Villeneuve in the Junior Development Level placed second Floor (9.3), second Pommels (8.8), second Rings (9.1), first Vault (11.6), first P-Bars (10.2), second High Bar (9.9) and second All-Around (58.900).

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