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## New resident

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# City budget for 2023 gains approval

Common Council opts to keep tax levy at 4.19%

By Kaitlyn Scoville Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh's Common Council paved the way for 2023 by approving the city's operating budget, capital improvements plan and more allocations from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. These approvals followed earlier discussions and a decision to add enhancements to the budget that did not ultimately affect the city's tax levy.

#### 2023 operating budget

City staff approached councilors at a previous meeting to recommend 19 enhancements to the operating budget, including positions in water utilities, parks, police and geographic information systems.

While only a handful of them were approved, the city's tax levy for next year will remain at 4.19% after Deputy Mayor Matt Mugerauer requested that \$153,600 of fund balance be used to offset what would have been a 4.52% levy.

"We have cash on hand that we can use to pay down the debt," he said. "This job

SEE City budget ON PAGE 22

# DA, defender ranks depleted

# Winnebago County case delays stalling justice

By Bethanie Gengler Oshkosh Herald

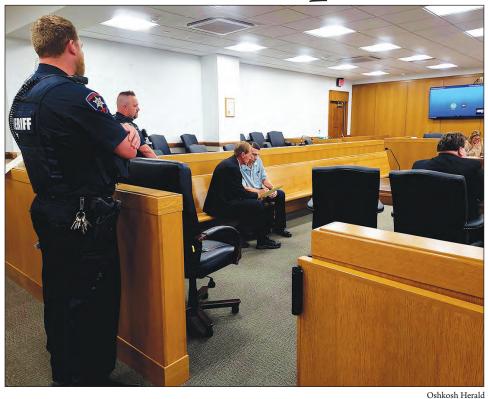
An underfunded system is leading to a shortage of prosecutors and public defenders both locally and statewide, causing a delay in at least one county case and potentially violating defendants' constitutional rights.

The right to a speedy trial and the right to an attorney is guaranteed under the Sixth Amendment. If defendants cannot afford an attorney, a state public defender (SPD) is appointed to represent them. The SPD may either be a staff attorney or a private sector attorney certified to take public defender appointments.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) reports that four out of five criminal defendants require a public defender. With a statewide backlog of about 15,000 cases, the SPD office cannot keep up; and with a shortage of prosecutors, the issues are affecting Winnebago County.

#### Murder case delayed

Mandel Roy, who is accused of killing 22-year-old Roger Ridgeway near Gord's Pub in Neenah in April 2021, has been



Winnebago County court cases have been impacted by a shortage of assistant district attorneys and public defenders.

without an attorney since his SPD-appointed attorney stopped representing him in June. Roy's accomplice, Terran Colwell, was sentenced in September.

The SPD office made 262 contacts in an attempt to find representation for Roy,

without success. At the current rate, it may be more than two years after Ridgeway's death before Roy enters a plea or faces sentencing. After repeated delays,

SEE Court backlog on Page 18

# Palmeri's Assembly victory opens up mayoral race

By Kaitlyn Scoville Oshkosh Herald

The city's Common Council will have a new mayor in April as a result of the Nov. 8 midterm election. Palmeri will be sworn into the Assembly in January at the state

ssembly both at the same time but her intention, she said, was to save Oshkosh taxpayers from having to pay for a special election Hintz, who had encouraged Palmeri to run for his seat, said he was pleased with the outcome.

Oshkosh Mayor and Democratic candidate Lori Palmeri defeated Republican challenger Donnie Herman – 12,124 to 10,382 – for a seat on the state Assembly for District 54. She will replace fellow Democrat Rep. Gordon Hintz, who announced he was stepping down from his position earlier this year. Capitol to begin her first term. She has served on the city's council since 2016 and is in her second term as mayor, which will end in April. She said she will not seek re-election as mayor because of her new duties.

Statutorily, Palmeri is able to serve

from having to pay for a special election.

"It was a bit of a bumpy ride," Palmeri said. "I'm very grateful to the voters for the turnout, that they did show up and participate.

"There really is an opportunity for unifying and working together," she added, with regard to the state Legislature. "There is hope for doing things differently and getting some of the people's work done." "She gave voters more of a reason to vote for her," he said, "whereas the other side seemed to spend so much time trying to convince people to vote against her. And I think that was a key distinction."

Hintz also said Palmeri is only the third person from Oshkosh to hold a

SEE **Election results** ON PAGE 22



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Advertising deadline is noon Friday for the following Wednesday. The classified line ads deadline is 4 p.m. Friday for Wednesday.

#### Publisher

Karen Schneider, 920-858-6407 karen@oshkoshherald.com

# Bridge's 6-month closure to end

# Jackson/Oregon span getting its new gearbox

#### By Kaitlyn Scoville OSHKOSH HERALD

After about six months of closure, the Jackson/Oregon Street bridge is set to open by the end of this week after two previous setbacks in receiving the needed part to make the repair.

The structure was placed out of order in late May after state Department of Transportation engineers spotted a deficiency in one of its lift gears. After investigating several other lift bridges in the area, it was determined to be an isolated incident with the specific gearbox.

The bridge has been in the up position ever since to allow for Fox River boat traffic, which officially ended its season last month. Specific business requests have kept the span from being lowered ahead of the repairs.

Regal Rexnord, the company manufacturing the new gears and refurbishing the gearbox, said in September it would not be expecting the new part to be delivered until Nov. 11. DOT officials said repairs began Monday and will continue through this week.

The existing bridge was constructed in 1956 and is nearing the end of its service life. Since then, it has provided more than 100,000 lifts for river traffic.

The DOT estimated the bridge sees about 8,500 vehicles cross per day that have been rerouted to the Main and Wis-

## Route change for bus connection to Neenah

GO Transit Route 10, the connection between Oshkosh GO Transit and Valley Transit in Neenah, will have a new origination point and final stop point in Neenah beginning this week.

The new location will be at the Downtown Transit Center in front of the Neenah City Hall building at 211 Walnut St.

Neenah is moving its transit center to this new location while route times and stops will be unaffected.

For questions regarding GO Transit Route 10, visit RideGOTransit.com or call 920-232-5340.

### Send business bits

Our readers are looking for information on what businesses are doing in Oshkosh. Help us share the news by emailing businessbits@oshkoshherald. com or calling 920-385-4512.



Work has begun this week to repair the Jackson/Oregon Street bridge.

consin Street bridges.

Public Works director James Rabe said the repair on the gear will not affect the long-term outcome of the bridge's future.

The entire structure is scheduled for reconstruction as a fixed-span bridge in 2028. The DOT indicated deficiencies in operation and safety over the last several years, including corrosion, cracking on concrete surface and narrow sidewalks showing unsafe conditions for walking

#### Back in the Day



## Nov. 22, 1969

**Buckstaff Receives Commendation** for Weather Service: Ralph N. Buckstaff was commended yesterday on completion of 45 years of service as a cooperative weather observer in Oshkosh. His hobby of dedication reported readings of daily high and low temperatures, precipitation, wind direction and other data which has informed Oshkosh residents for over four decades. The retired president of the Buckstaff Co. has weather records he has compiled that date back to 1900. The first climatological station in Oshkosh was opened in 1888 at the Normal School and closed in 1925. The Buckstaff Observatory weather station was opened September 1,

Wed., 11/23 Noon

Wed., 11/23 3pm

Mon., 11/28 Noon

and biking pedestrians.

Furthermore, vehicle crash rates along this road are higher than the statewide average on similar roadways. Riverwalk pedestrians create a midblock, at-grade obstruction to drivers.

There are several benefits to the replacement, including improved safety, traffic flow and boat passage, and a proposed 75-year lifespan before the next major improvement is required.



The Buckstaff Observatory weather station opened in 1924.

1924, and was the third largest in the state. Three large telescopes took most of the yard space at Buckstaff's residence on Allen Avenue. The Buckstaff family donated the observatory to Wisconsin State University – Oshkosh in 1961. Buckstaff was the owner of one of the largest private meteorite collections, containing more than 250 specimens, that was donated to the Oshkosh Public Museum in 1964. Ralph Buckstaff was president of the Oshkosh Museum and served on the Board there since 1924. He was also one of the founding members of the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society in 1919.

#### Editor

Dan Roherty, 920-508-0027 editor@oshkoshherald.com

#### Corrections

It is the policy of the Oshkosh Herald to correct all errors of fact. For correction information, call 920-385-4512.

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# Oshkosh Herald Nov. 23rd issue Oshkosh Herald Nov. 30th issue **Display Ad Deadline Display Ad Deadline**

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Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Nov. 22, 1969









# Great Estates FINE FURNITURE

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# Algoma Boulevard stretch ready to roll again

By Kaitlyn Scoville Oshkosh Herald

The city of Oshkosh is set to reopen Algoma Boulevard from Wisconsin Street to Congress Avenue this Friday after major fixes to the corridor – totaling about \$10 million – closed it for several months.

Transportation director Jim Collins said while most of the work is done, the road has remained closed to finalize landscaping, cleanup and putting signage back up. The general contractor was Dorner Inc. out of Luxemburg.

This one mile stretch of Algoma underwent a complete reconstruction, including replacement of the sanitary sewer, water mains and storm sewers along with repaving the roadway, ultimately affecting the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Oshkosh Public Museum and Paine Art Center and Gardens.

Those traveling by vehicle are reminded to proceed cautiously on the one-ways as we all readjust. Pedestrians should cross Algoma at the designated crosswalks, which have been widened to accommodate campus foot traffic.

"Algoma Boulevard has long been the Main Street of the Oshkosh campus, and it is wonderful to see this new, smooth, safe span open," UW Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt said. "Thanks to students and their families, faculty and staff members and UWO guests for making all the adjustments necessary to help the reconstruction project reach completion."

With this, High Avenue will no longer be two-way as each roadway returns to its original traffic flow.

According to city documents, the



An aerial view shows the milelong stretch of Algoma Boulevard that has been reconstructed through the UW Oshkosh campus area.

street's water mains are the oldest part of its infrastructure, dating back to around the 1920s. The oldest sanitary sewers are from 1936, its storm sewers were installed in 1963 and street paving was done in 2001 and then in 2011.

The road between Woodland and Hollister avenues marks the Algoma Boulevard Historic District, which, according to Wikipedia, features "a string of large, elaborate homes, once known as the 'Gold Coast' of Oshkosh." The corridor was listed officially on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 1994.

Some of the architectural styles featured in the district include Late 19th and 20th Century Revival, Tudor Revival and Victorian Queen Anne, according to documents from the 1994 application to the National Register.

Documents also indicate "the Algoma Boulevard Historic District consists of seven partial blocks. All but one was platted before 1858. The block north of West Bent Avenue was platted between 1862 and 1877.

"Half (24) of the contributing buildings were built between 1888 and 1909. Thirty percent (14) were built between 1910 and 1930. Nineteen percent (9) were built before 1885. Historically, the neighborhood was home to Oshkosh's wealthiest residents. Many were founders, officers and managers in the lumber industry or allied wood products businesses such as the manufacturing of sash, doors and blinds; furniture and woodworking machinery."



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# Main St. building design endures with changeovers

By Kaitlyn Scoville OSHKOSH HERALD

After the Exclusive Co. at 318 N. Main St. closed last spring, the Art Moderne building is ready to change hands for the fourth time.

Art Moderne is a style that developed out of what's known as Art Deco from the early 20th century, which was a response to the Great Depression. This style was known to emphasize simple configuration, incorporating curving forms and long horizontal lines, according to Oshkosh Landmarks Commission member Gerald Jacklin.

Shirley Brabender-Mattox, who also sits on the Landmarks Commission, said the Art Moderne style was "quite rare" in Oshkosh.

The building was originally a Woolworth's dime store when it opened in 1950, according to city records. Jacklin said the store eventually developed into a major retailer.

"Changes in shopping patterns and new forms of retailing in the 1970s and '80s



caused the demise of dime stores," Jacklin said.

He also said that a special characteristic of dime stores was the presence of a lunch counter, where teens, families and retired folks would gather for meals, ice cream and soda.

Woolworth's discontinued the business in 1981 but was revived as V&S Variety by former employees Marge Quigley and Robert Mastricola shortly thereafter, and was in business for a handful of years.

The Exclusive Co. eventually moved to the corner location after having been at 416 N. Main St. since it opened a storefront in Oshkosh in 1957, just one year after the record company's debut in West Bend.

"Being a music aficionado, I recall purchasing a fair amount of recordings from the Exclusive Company. It was a topnotch record and related musical equipment store," Jacklin said.

"When the Exclusive Company moved in, I remember finding LPs of John Harmon and the band Matrix," Brabender-Mattox said. "It was a phenomenal store for recordings as technology progressed from LPs to tapes. Mr. Giombetti's inventory was always current."

Mike Russell has been preparing the building to open his Great Estates Furniture, which was at 217 N. Main St., before a broken water pipe in February caused significant damage to the business and four other tenants.

Russell has been able to reestablish his inventory for its reopening Saturday.

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Oshkosh Herald

The building at 318 N. Main St. that will reopen as Great Estates Furniture was constructed with an Art Moderne design.



Photo from Bob Bergmar



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The Woolworth's store at 318 N. Main St. is shown in this undated photo.





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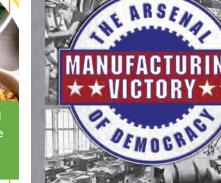
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# License plate reader program gets city funding

By Kaitlyn Scoville Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Common Council recently approved a \$124,000 investment in automatic license plate readers for the city's police department over the next two years.

The purchase from Flock Group Inc. will be funded fully through a reimbursement grant from the state.

Chief Dean Smith told council members it allows the department to identify vehicles and plates in investigations where only a partial description of the vehicle or plate is available. He said 51 state localities also use automatic license plate readers.

According to city documents, municipalities across the country are looking for new ways to deal with criminal activity within their communities, which includes looking to technology to work more efficiently in identifying perpetrators and suspect vehicles.

"By deploying this technology, we will be able to create a mesh network of cameras to identify and locate suspects of crimes from shootings to larcenies quickly and bring them to justice, reducing the exposure of our citizens to further victimization by these criminals," a memo from city staff reads.

The proposed two-year agreement calls for the installation of 25 cameras across the city for a 45-day trial period at no cost to the city. After this trial period, year one costs will be \$65,500. The second year cost will be \$58,500.

#### Sawyer detention basin

Council members also approved a \$495,000 professional services agreement with Strand Associates for engineering design work on the last major watershed

## Boys & Girls Club board member inducted

Lorie Bunke, a lifetime board member at the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh, has

been inducted into the Boys & Girls Clubs of Wisconsin Hall of Fame.

The prestigious award goes to someone whose contribution to the Boys & Girls Club movement is demonstrated through itscommitment and longtime passion for the

club, its mission and its community.

The Hall of Fame induction took place at the annual Boys & Girls Clubs Wiscon-

Edward **Jones** 



sin Area Council & Director's Conference November 7-8 in Stevens Point.

Bunke joined the board as a young professional in 1982, was involved in several of the club's capital projects, served as treasurer and went on to become the club's first female board president

She has served on the Finance Committee for 40 years and volunteers for events, programs and fundraisers throughout the year.

"Lorie's kindness and dedication to youth has made such an impact. I couldn't be happier to see her receive this honor," said Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh chief executive Tracy Ogden. project slated for Sawyer Creek.

Earlier this year, the city was granted this amount by the state Department of Natural Resources to continue work on the largest watershed in the city through construction of a rural detention basin on the outskirts of Oshkosh.

Over the past 17 years, about \$20 million worth of work has been completed on Sawyer Creek to mitigate flooding issues for residents. Public Works director James Rabe said studies of the area stemmed from a major flooding event in June 2004.

City staff note that the approximately 55-acre dry detention basin will have the ability to store about 300-400 acre-feet – 114 million gallons – of stormwater.

This watershed drains a 15.7-squaremile area in east-central Winnebago County, including the city of Oshkosh and towns of Nekimi, Algoma, Utica and Omro.

According to documents from Strand Associates, their services are expected to be complete by the end of August.

#### Wisconsin St. reconstruction

A bid to reconstruct Wisconsin Street for \$2.8 million was awarded to Advance

Construction based in Green Bay. The area affected will be from West New York Avenue to West Bent Avenue.

Sanitary sewer and laterals, water main and laterals, and storm sewer and laterals will be installed, replaced or repaired as needed before placing the concrete pavement patch, city documents state, which is similar to what was done along Algoma Boulevard from State 44 to Congress Avenue.

After reviewing five bids for the work, the lowest bid from Advance Construction came at specifically \$2,826,463.

#### Museum room

The group also allocated \$50,000 in the 2022 Capital Improvements Plan for the addition of a multipurpose room at the Oshkosh Public Museum for temporary and traveling exhibitions, in addition to educational and enrichment programming needs.

A professional services agreement of \$34,000 was approved with Split Rock Studios to design this space on the second floor, which is set to be complete next fall.

## West High alumni award nominations sought

1-year

The Oshkosh West High School Distinguished Alumni Committee is accepting nominations through Nov. 30 for its 2023 OWHS Distinguished Alumni Award.

The award recognizes alumni who have maintained a high standard of excellence and distinguished themselves through their work, personal accomplishments or in the lives of others. The nomination form is at tinyurl. com/6pg5mgw. Additional information is also available at oshkosh-west-high.oshkosh.k12.wi.us. For additional information, contact Cory Beaulieu, West assistant principal, at cory.beaulieu@oshkosh. k12.wi.us or Justin Hable, West Spanish teacher at justin.hable@oshkosh.k12. wi.us.

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# Student achievement gaps in district identified

#### By Kaitlyn Scoville OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education reviewed its most recent test data before report cards were sent home with students this week.

Of particular interest, especially for new board member Angie Lee at her first meeting, was how to work with and continue to close achievement gaps among those marginalized - be it students of color, with disabilities or economically disadvantaged.

Board members were told that data shows students in lower grades have been recovering from the pandemic slower than older students.

"We're a work in progress, and we know that - but there are some things we have made significant progress on," schools Superintendent Bryan Davis said.

With this, a memo from district administrators noted that "the changing landscape of state level accountability and assessment, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, have increased the importance of local district, school and classroom assessments.

"Local assessment data is a key compo-

# EAA banquet has new featured guests

Mike and Mark Patey, identical twins who hold multiple world speed records between them, are this year's featured guests at the Experimental Aircraft Association's annual Wright Brothers Memorial Banquet on Dec. 9 at the EAA Aviation Museum.

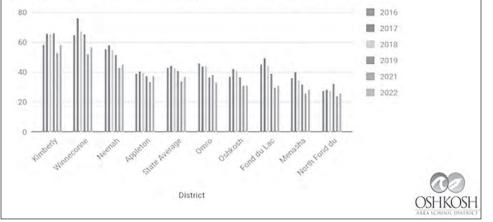
The brothers are replacing "Top Gun: Maverick" aerial coordinator Kevin LaRosa II, who is no longer available due to a scheduling conflict.

The Patey brothers have an extensive homebuilding background including an RV-6, a Zenith 801 with a modified en-



#### Comparison Between Districts: % of Students Proficient and Advanced on the Forward Exam--ELA





nent used in analyzing the validity and reliability of state assessment results at each grade level and by school."

The tests that the district administers include the ACT for grade 11, ACT Aspire for grades 9 and 10, and Wisconsin Forward Exam for grades 3-8 and Dynamic Learning Maps for grades 3-11.

gine, and multiple high-performance

Lancair Legacys. They competed in the

Sport Air Racing League before attempt-

ing to set world records. Mike has received

praise for his two latest original designs,

Draco and Scrappy, which were popular

EAA's annual Wright Brothers Memo-

rial Banquet honors the Wright brothers'

successful flights at Kitty Hawk, N.C., Dec.

17, 1903, that began the era of manned

flight. Tickets for the event are \$70 for EAA members and \$95 for nonmembers.

draws at AirVenture Oshkosh.

Doors open at 5 p.m.

Of the district's 9,203-student enrollment for the 2022-23 school year, 42.5% are economically disadvantaged, 15.6% are students with disabilities and 5.8% are English learners.

Furthermore, 56% of students with disabilities, 73% of the English learners, 32% of white students and 68% of students of color are also economically disadvantaged.

Despite these statistics, however, test participation in the district for both English-language arts (ELA) and mathematics, at 98.8% each, while the state lies at 92.9% participation for ELA and 93.9% for math.

For the graduating class of 2023, the ACT composite matched the state average at 19.2. Ninth- and 10th-graders have shown through the ACT Aspire exam that they have recovered rather quickly from the pandemic, with 35.9% proficiency in ELA in 2020-21 and 38.3% proficiency in 2021-22.

Additionally, director of curriculum and assessment Julie Conrad noted a bounce back in graduation rates after the pandemic.

"High school students are recovering faster from the pandemic than younger students. The OASD has set rigorous reading goals in policy in order to establish a direct connection from the boardroom to the classroom," Conrad said.

Some of the reading goals as noted in the district's policy include changes in the elementary literacy program to respond to the needs of student skill development, coaching cycles to provide support for staff and additional resources to deal with phonological awareness, phonemic awareness and letter identification for elementary-age students.

Something else Davis and Conrad noted was how parents and the community are also a large factor in developing a student's literacy skills. Volunteer opportunities are available for those interested in helping teachers hands-on.

"As a parent who has had kids who have excelled or needed tutors to excel, I appreciate the responsiveness in the ability for parents and teachers to know more quickly where a child is, and to get the resources there in a quick manner," board member Chris Wright said. "I think that's a really good thing so we aren't losing students in the cracks."

For those who would like to volunteer time to help students with literacy skills, Conrad said it is best to reach out to specific schools in the district.

# College of Business names new dean

Academic leader Frank Braun has been named the new dean of the College of Business at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh effective Jan. 17.

Braun serves as a professor in the School

of Business at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, where he also was dean of the College of Business, Health and Human Services.

"Dr. Braun has demonstrated ex cellence in teaching, scholarship and pro-



Braun

gram development as well as a strong, diverse range of experience in college, university and private-sector service," said UWO Provost John Koker. "He is an innovative educator with over a decade of experience developing and deploying experiential and emerging digital learning

technologies, pedagogies and strategies."'

Braun takes over for Barbara Rau, who has served as dean since June 2017 and is stepping down to return to the College of Business faculty.

He previously served as dean and professor of business and health informatics at the School of Business at Baldwin Wallace University. Before that, he spent 18 years as a faculty member and held various administrative roles at Northern Kentucky University. His research interests include entrepreneurship and innovation, organizational reliability and resilience, and project leadership attributes and outcomes.

Braun earned a doctorate at Case Western Reserve University, a master's of business administration at Xavier University and a bachelor's degree in engineering and computing at Miami University of Ohio. Braun is active in the cybersecurity domain and holds the certified information security manager credential.

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# Stormwater signs help educate public

The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance recently provided area private businesses throughout northeast Wisconsin with free educational stormwater signs for installation at stormwater ponds or biofilters on their properties.

The funding for the signs and accompanying stormwater education was provided to Fox-Wolf through a state Department of Natural Resources river planning grant.

Stormwater ponds, sometimes referred to as wet ponds or detention basins, help capture stormwater runoff, slow it down, allow sediment and pollution to settle out of the water, and then cleaner water is released into nearby lakes, rivers and streams. These ponds help reduce flooding, clean waterways and reduce erosion downstream caused by fast-moving runoff.

The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance and Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium work to bring education and awareness to the public.

This project aims to build connections among municipalities, private stormwater Best Management Practice owners and the public. The signs were designed to educate residents on how these efforts function and how they work to send cleaner water to nearby lakes and rivers.

Locations to pick up a free sign are Oshkosh Corp. headquarters at 1917 Four Wheel Drive, and Fox Communities Credit Union at 1870 Oshkosh Ave. with other locations in Oshkosh, along with Appleton, De Pere and Menasha.



Oshkosh Fire Department photo

# Joining the team

Six new members of the Oshkosh Fire Department were introduced recently. They are (from left) Jacob Myers, Jeremy DuCharme, Ben Patterson, Ben Cook, Megan Klansky and Miranda Galligan.



## Substance use panel discussion set at club

A panel discussion about substance use among children, including current trends, how to begin a conversation and providing resources, will be offered for adults in the community at 6 p.m. Dec. 13 at the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh.

Hosted by Breakwater, Rogers Behavioral Health, Catalpa Health and Oshkosh police, the program will have a free dinner from 5:30 to 6 p.m. at the club, 501 E. Parkway Ave.

Register at wchd.pub/3quMmem.



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# **DAV** helps homeless

Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Chapter 17 Ray H. Fuller Winnebago County, recently donated backpacks to the Day by Day Warming Shelter in Oshkosh for local homeless veterans. DAV Chapter 17 and Unit 17 Auxiliary filled the backpacks with warming blankets, gloves, hats and hygiene kits. Shown with the backpacks are (from left) Julie Hert, DAV auxiliary commander; Molly Yatso-Butz, shelter executive director; and Barbara Belmont, DAV commander.

# Pandemic reduced energy consumption

#### UW Oshkosh Today

Total energy consumption decreased 7.5% nationwide in 2020 compared with 2019 as the COVID-19 pandemic led to lockdowns, business closures and employees working from home, according to a new University of Wisconsin Oshkosh study.

The research conducted by Warren Vaz, an associate engineering professor on UWO's Fox Cities campus, is the first to quantify the effects of pandemic disruptions on energy consumption trends across all



ump- Vaz

50 states and the District of Columbia.

"By capturing these trends, it is hoped that policymakers and utilities managers can be better prepared for future challenges," Vaz said.

The study appeared recently in a special issue of the journal. Energies focused on the economic and social consequences of the pandemic in the energy sector based on federal data available publicly.

"Lockdowns had a significant impact on energy consumption, about 30% in some cases," Vaz said. "There were wide discrepancies in state's consumption trends. Hawaii saw the largest decrease of about 26%, while Alaska at plus 4% was the only state to record an increase."

Vaz attributed Hawaii's large decrease in consumption to its isolation from other states and its dependence on the tourism industry, which was virtually shut down by the pandemic. Alaska's small increase was likely due to a harsher winter in 2020 compared with 2019 as well as less strict lockdown practices across the state, he said.

At 8%, Wisconsin had the 19th highest decrease in energy, slightly above the national average.

Other results showed:

Fossil fuel consumption decreased, particularly petroleum.

Renewable energy increased but biofuels decreased, up to 88% in Nebraska.

All major greenhouse gas emissions decreased.

Carbon dioxide emissions fell by 10.4%. In addition, Vaz compared the U.S. energy consumption in 2020 to that of other populous countries around the globe, which all showed decreases except for China and Iran, which experienced slight increases.

# Toys for Tots initiative back for holidays

#### Oshkosh Herald

Now through Dec. 9, Winnegamie Home Builders, in conjunction with the U.S. Marine Corps, Oshkosh Salvation Army and Oshkosh Corp., will be hosting its annual Toys for Tots program at dropoff locations in Oshkosh and surrounding communities.

The mission of the Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during the holiday season and distribute them as gifts to less fortunate children in the community.

"While the holidays are a time to celebrate with loved ones, we must not forget that this season will be difficult for many

Festival celebrates 15 years of Turkey Trot

Festival Foods will mark 15 years of the Turkey Trot run and walk on Thanksgiving Day to benefit local Boys & Girls Clubs and YMCAs at 11 state locations, including Oshkosh.

There are more than 30,000 participants statewide that have helped raise more than \$3.6 million along with about 1,700 volunteers.

This year, Oshkosh Festival Foods Turkey Trot will have an all new venue and routes. Franki Moscato will sing the National Anthem and the run/walk will start at the Oshkosh Seniors Center, 200 North Campbell Road.

There will be a timed 5-mile run, a 2-mile

families experiencing tough economic times, and through the Toys for Tots program, families can experience some joy of the holiday season through the wonderful gift of giving," an announcement from Winnegamie Home Builders said.

Those interested in donating can find boxes throughout the Oshkosh, Neenah and Omro area. The toys will be distributed to the families that are registered through the Oshkosh Salvation Army.

For more information on drop-off locations, contact Jodi Vandermolen, Winnebago County Toys for Tots coordinator, at jodi@whba.net or 920-235-2962 or Salvation Army at 920-232-7660.

fun run, 2-mile walk and 2-mile Dog Jog. The 2-mile route will start on Campbell Road, up Dempsey Trail to Witzel Avenue, north on Josslyn Street to Coolidge Avenue, down Bauman Street and back to Campbell. The 5-mile will follow the 2-mile route, then go behind FVTC on the trail, under and over the Ohio Street bridge and follow the Riverwalk on the north and south side of the river crossing at the Main Street bridge.

Bib and T-shirt pickup will be at the Seniors Center south building from 2 to 6 p.m. Nov. 23 and 6:30 to 7:50 a.m. Nov. 24. To register, go to festivalfoodsturkeytrot.com.



Photo from Martin Luther Church

# Live nativity returns

Martin Luther Church at 1526 Algoma Blvd. will share its 14th annual Live Nativity from 4 to 7 p.m. Dec. 3 and 4, recreating the first Christmas in the town of Bethlehem. More than 100 volunteers prepare the free display for visitors. Enter the drive-thru on Algoma through a candlelit path.



#### *UWO Now*, a new biweekly podcast from UW Oshkosh, delves deep into today's most relevant issues.

Host Wendell Ray interviews faculty, staff, students and alumni to bring the wealth of knowledge on UWO's three campuses to the local community.

Listen on your favorite podcast platform or tune in biweekly at 5 p.m. on 90.3 WRST-FM.

# Grow-your-own movement blossoms in state

By Lydia Slattery and Maiah O'Rourke WISCONSIN WATCH

Sarah Bressler fell in love with growing food during an internship in urban farming her senior year of college. Now, she is the farm manager at the Hunger Task Force based out of Milwaukee, where she manages a 208-acre farm that provides half a million pounds of produce to its food bank each year.

The core labor force of The Farm is roughly 5,000 volunteers who pass through each season, and they, along with a fulltime staff, grow about two dozen different fruits and vegetables, Bressler said.

The growing season is year-round, thanks to two hoop houses, also known as high tunnels, that allow them to grow crops during cold months. This is how urban farming combats food insecurity, even during Wisconsin winters.

"It's a form of a greenhouse, but it's in the fields," she explained. "So it's literally surrounding the growing space, so you're actually still growing in the ground, but you have a structure around the growing space that has plastic wrapped on the top of it."

The Farm is part of a growing local food movement in Wisconsin aimed at supplying healthy, high-quality fruits, vegetables and meat — hearkening back to an earlier time when nearly all food was produced locally.

The movement includes farmers markets, urban farming initiatives, community supported agriculture and food banks that provide local produce and, increasingly, offer programs aimed at meeting the needs of the 1 in 12 Wisconsinites who are food insecure.

During a February visit to the hoop houses, the temperature was 32 degrees outside, but a steamy 80 degrees inside, providing the necessary climate for spinach, carrots, collard greens and mustard greens to grow.

Still, the hoop houses are no replacement for the bounty of a summer harvest.

"It's obviously a lot less," explained Bressler, referring to the winter and early spring harvests, "but at the same time, we are still able to supply those fresh fruits and vegetables, and the hoop houses also give us an extension even in the spring."

The Farm is about much more than giving people healthy food. It's about changing habits and diet for a healthier life, especially for the 41% of Milwaukee children who live below the poverty line, Bressler said.

"Almost half of children don't have enough to eat, let alone the right vitamins and minerals and nutrients that they need to grow and to use their brains in school," she said.



There is a grow-your-own food movement gaining momentum across Wisconsin.

"When they go to see a food pantry and they're picking out their collard greens, they're excited about leaving there and making something with them," Bressler added. "There's dignity there."

Before the U.S. food system nationalized, people spent the summer and fall canning vegetables and stockpiling potatoes. Now large farms grow food year round in temperate climates like California's Central Valley and ship it to grocery stores across the country.

Lydia Zepeda, a former University of Wisconsin-Madison professor and an expert on sustainable food movements, said most government agriculture policies do not support small, local farms, many of them passed down within families. This makes it unaffordable for almost anyone outside of large corporations to start a farm.

One movement pushing back against socalled factory farms is community supported agriculture, more commonly known as a CSA. It is a crop-sharing system in which the consumer takes on some of the farmer's risk by buying produce or meat for a set price in advance of the harvest. This means that customers buy what's available from the farmer – regardless of how well the growing season goes.

While there's no official definition, CSAs generally involve farmers who deliver boxes of food or leave them at a central collection site on an agreed-upon schedule. Some weeks, those boxes could be full of tomatoes, while other weeks there could be other vegetables, depending on what's ripe.

Organizations like Madison-based CSA FairShare Coalition connect local, organic farmers with consumers. Not everyone can afford organic CSAs, since they tend to be expensive, said Sarah Janes Ugoretz, the apprenticeship program coordinator for the nonprofit.

That's why FairShare created the Partner Shares Program, which helps cover between 25% and 75% of the costs of joining a CSA each year by connecting low-income families with CSA farmers. The program allows someone who signs up for the program to get a 50% discount on the \$600 cost per growing season for a standard share or the \$400 cost of a small share.

Janes Ugoretz said households apply to be a part of the program and assess their own financial needs for the application. This year, 152 families were enrolled in the program, which receives grant funding for serving low-income families.

In pursuit of creating a culture of dignity surrounding food assistance, some food pantries and food banks have pushed to incorporate more produce into charitable food systems.

Organizations such as the River Food Pantry, which provides groceries and meals to people in the Dane County area, has begun providing more fresh produce in the groceries and meals it provides to its clients.

In 2021, the pantry received a \$422,500 grant from the Inland Empire Community Foundation, a California-based nonprofit that provides grants to organizations working with vulnerable populations, said Helen Osborn-Senatus, director of operations for the pantry. With the grant, the organization bought produce from 35 local farmers, she said, spending roughly half of the nonprofit's monthly budget on produce.

"Prior to COVID, money just wasn't really spent on produce by most pantries or food banks, and now that's a huge change," Osborn-Senatus said.

Osborn-Senatus also works with Scott Williams, who owns the Mount Horeb, Wisconsin farm Garden To Be. Williams is an aggregator, supplying the pantry with produce from another two dozen farms. The River also gets donations of excess corn, tomatoes and squash from area farmers and gardeners, she said.

Farmers markets have also launched efforts to help food insecure families. The Dane County Farmers' Market jumped into the movement head first, seeing a nearly three-fold increase in the program which accepts FoodShare cards used by people receiving government food assistance. Food-Share recipients can get equivalent "market dollars," to be used with any vendors who sell eligible products.

Chrissy Ramakrishnan, the food access coordinator for the Dane County Farmers' Market, oversees that program and others, including the Double Dollars Program. A Madison and Dane County program, Double Dollars provides a money match of FoodShare funds used at the market up to \$25 for users each time they attend a local summer farmers market.

Usage of the FoodShare card program and the Double Dollars program has increased significantly in the past year, Ramakrishnan said. In 2019, a total of \$40,000 FoodShare dollars and Double Dollars were distributed, which dropped to \$30,500 in 2020.

In 2021, however, more than \$114,500 in FoodShare dollars and Double Dollars were distributed, she said. There were 1,371 program users attending the farmers markets in 2021 — and almost all of them were new users, Ramakrishnan said.

In addition to FoodShare, approximately 1,000 farmers participate in a statewide program that provides extra benefits to people receiving WIC (Women, Infant, and Children) benefits. One time per growing season, this program provides \$30 checks to pregnant or postpartum parents and to children at least nine months old to be redeemed at local farmers markets.

The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program helps low-income seniors aged 60 or older purchase fresh produce from local farmers markets. Indigenous people can participate if they are over 55. The program issues checks worth \$25 per participant per season.

"Everyone has the right to be involved within our food system," Ramakrishnan said. "So whatever we can do to try to make that possible within the means that we have is so crucial and important."

Zepeda said local food systems are an integral part of tackling food insecurity at a community and national level. She recommends that people vote with their dollars by buying from farmers markets. They can also ask lawmakers to support policy that supports small farmers, Zepeda said.

"The pandemic, if nothing else, has shown that food systems can be completely disrupted," she said.

The nonprofit Wisconsin Watch (www.WisconsinWatch. org) collaborates with WPR, PBS Wisconsin, other news media and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

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**3:00 - 5:00 p.m.** Fox Crossing Fire Department (1326 Cold Spring Rd, Neenah)

#### WEDNESDAYS - CLOSED NOV. 23

3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Sunnyview Expo Center (500 E Cty Rd Y, Oshkosh)

#### THURSDAYS - CLOSED NOV. 24

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Oshkosh Public Library (106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh)

- Pre-registration recommended. Please call 844-684-1064.
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#### NEENAH TOWN HALL Thursday, Nov 17, 1pm - 3pm 1600 Breezewood Ln, Neenah

#### RUSHFORD TOWN HALL Thursday, Dec 1, 3pm - 5pm 3413 County Rd K, Eureka

#### NEPEUSKUN TOWN HALL Tuesday, Dec. 6, 11am - 1pm 1475 County Rd E, Ripon



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# Addressing food insecurity starts with awareness

By Chloe Strand UWO Center for Civic and Community Engagement

The Center for Civic and Community Engagement at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh is working with local nonprofits to raise awareness about critical issues our community faces and the groups working to make a positive impact. Through this monthly series, folks will learn about the challenges and ways they can help.

Food insecurity is a major issue impacting our nation and community today with 15-20 percent food insecurity throughout the nation. Food pantries are a great resource for individuals struggling to find nutritious food, yet there are recurring themes and issues seen in these organizations.

Some common issues are the growing need for accessible food, negative stigma surrounding food pantries, and a lack of resources to use the food. The Oshkosh Area Community Pantry, Oshkosh Salvation Army, Father Carr's Food Pantry and Lutheran Food Pantry are great pantries in Winnebago County helping to solve food insecurity in the community. If you would like to learn more, or become a volunteer, attend the Open House at 5 p.m. Thursday at Father Carr's Place 2B 1062 N Koeller St., to learn more and meet these agencies.

One of the largest issues happening related to food insecurity is that need and demand are growing due to inflation. While need is going up, donations are going down. During the peak of the COVID era, a lot of food was coming in through donations. Now, donations are starting to decline.

Another issue pantries face is reaching the population of people who need help yet are not coming in to receive service. Staff at the pantries have talked about the negative stigma people feel when coming to a food pantry. They want the public to know there are many reasons why people need their service.

Oftentimes, guests need the pantry one or two times a year to get through a

difficult patch, and that is OK. Supporting the public through difficult times is exactly what the pantries are there for. They hope more people in need reach out and use the services.

Additionally, many individuals coming to food pantries may not have the resources to use certain items. It is one thing to come in and get accessible nutritious food; however, it's another to have to bring it home. Many items in a food pantry need to be put into a refrigerator or freezer.

Scholarship named for regional planner

resources.

crisis.

A scholarship has been established in the name of Trish Dobbert Nau, who was considered instrumental in parks and recreation throughout the Fox Valley, after her untimely death in a Calumet County car crash Sept. 27.

The 52-year-old Neenah resident was parks and recreation planner for East Central WI Regional Planning Commission for 26 years, completing open space plans, which are mandatory for a municipality to receive certain funds as well as grants from the state.

Also, many cans are given out at food

pantries which means a can opener is

needed. Unfortunately, many commu-

nity members do not have these specific

Raising awareness regarding the issue

resolve the issue. Through community in-

volvement and more community members

volunteering for this cause, we can get one

step closer to helping the food insecurity

of food insecurity is the first step to help

The \$1,000 Trish Dobbert Nau Memorial Scholarship will be given annually to a New London High School graduating senior who plans on pursuing an education in parks & recreation, municipal planning or natural resources.

Nau was assistant planner in the Village of Harrison since April. The crash occurred near the Harrison Village Hall.



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NOVEMBER 16, 2022









#### Ongoing

Manufacturing Victory: The Arsenal of Democracy, Oshkosh Public Museum, through Dec. 30

#### Wednesday, Nov. 16

State Street Center Craft Fair, 11 a.m., 206 State St.

Wisconsin Winter Wonderland Road Trips with Rob Zimmer, 10 a.m., Oshkosh Seniors Center

Open Mic Poetry & Prose, 6 p.m., Planet Perk Cafe, 100 City Center C

#### Thursday, Nov. 17

Mike Beck: Adventures in Hot Air Ballooning, 7 p.m., EAA Aviation Museum

Randy Domer author talk and book signing, 5 p.m., Caramel Crisp & Cafe, 200 D City Center

Bingo, 7 p.m., American Legion Hall, 1332 Spruce St.

#### Friday, Nov. 18

Nutcracker in the Castle opens, 10 a.m., Paine Art Center & Gardens

Punk in the Pub, 8 p.m., Oshkosh Arena's 1212 Pub

Marine Corps League bingo, 5:30 p.m., 4715 Sherman Road

Autumn Vibes Dance Party, 6 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Museum Auxiliary's Annual Gala, 5:30 p.m., Oshkosh Public Museum

#### Saturday, Nov. 19

TEDx Oshkosh 2022, 8:30 a.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Lourdes Academy Craft Show, 8 a.m., 110 N. Sawyer St.

Handmade for the Holidays Urban Craft Fair, 10 a.m., Becket's City Cen-



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#### ter Court

Craft and bake sale, 8 a.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2450 W. 9th Ave.

Winter Wonderland craft and vendor event, 8 a.m., Poplar Creek Barn, 4541 County K

Downtown Oshkosh Seasonal Sip & Shop, 2 p.m., 100 to 700 blocks of North Main Street

Craft and vendor fair, 11 a.m., Winkler's Westward Ho, 4905 County S

Rock the Arena, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Spicy Tie Band, 8 p.m., Revs Bowl Bar & Grill, 275 Washburn St.

#### Sunday, Nov. 20

Fox Valley Vintage Fest, 11 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

American Girls: Homefront History with Molly, 1 p.m., Oshkosh Public Museum

Daniel O'Donnell in concert, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

#### Thursday, Nov. 24

Festival Foods Turkey Trot, 8 a.m., Oshkosh Seniors Center

#### Friday, Nov. 25

Celebration of Lights, 5:30 p.m., Menominee Park (through Dec. 31)

Downtown for the Holidays: Black Friday & Small Business Saturday, 10 a.m., 100 to 700 blocks of North Main Street

Marine Corps League bingo, 5:30 p.m., 4715 Sherman Road

#### Saturday, Nov. 26

Holiday Market & Bazaar, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

Triple Threat Blues Review, 4 p.m., Twisted Roots Tavern, 693 N. Main St.

Wisconsin Herd vs. Sioux Falls Skyforce, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

#### Wednesday, Nov. 30

Meet and greet with author Louis Clark III, 5:30 p.m., Caramel Crisp Corner, 200 City Center, Suite D



### **Business news roundup**

Thunderbird Bakery is laying down roots in central Oshkosh with the purchase of a southside location and opening of a pop-up cafe by the end of the year. The husband-and-wife team of Trent Wester and Elizabeth Redman bought the former Reichenberger Meat Market and Grocery at Knapp Street and 6th Avenue. Thunderbird also signed a year lease at the Beach Building in the former Planet Perk location within the Rise & Grind co-working space on Algoma Boulevard, with a cafe opening date to be announced this month.

**Oshkosh Laundry**, located at 863 N. Main St., opened last week. The storefront used to be known as JJ's Laundry Corner, which has been closed since late 2019.

Locally-owned boutique Moss + Grant

owner Elizabeth Moss has announced the storefront will be closing down on Dec. 31 or when supplies run out. Moss said she has decided not to renew her lease at 428 N. Main St. but said the business will continue to have an online presence mainly with jewelry, accessories and women's clothing. Gift cards will be honored until the day the store closes.

**Oshkosh Corp.** won Forrester's 2022 Technology Strategy Impact Award for excellence in executing an enterprise wide, future fit technology strategy that puts customers at the center of its operating model. As part of the company's digital transformation, Oshkosh Corp. has expanded and optimized its core technology capabilities while improving its cybersecurity posture.



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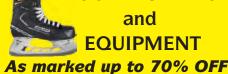
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A R B O R 🗇

#### NOVEMBER 16, 2022

# **Court backlog**

from Page 1

the court ordered a Dean appointment for Roy on Nov. 1.

Under the 1991 case of State v. Dean, individuals who do not qualify for an SPD but are unable to afford legal representation are appointed an attorney at county expense.

In recent years, there has been an increase in cases where courts have used Dean appointments for individuals who do qualify for a public defender, but have not been appointed one, to mitigate the amount of time indigent defendants spend without representation.

The court appointed attorney Scott Ceman to represent Roy. Ceman was a Winnebago County prosecutor for 12 years before resigning in 2019, citing low wages in a resignation letter he addressed to Gov. Tony Evers and other officials. Ceman said at that time that his earnings as deputy DA for 2018 were around \$69,000. The issues that Ceman outlined in his resignation letter have not improved.

#### **Prosecutor shortage**

District Attorney Eric Sparr has been a prosecutor for 17 years, taking over the lead position in May after the resignation of Christian Gossett. Sparr said the primary issue his office faces in keeping prosecutors is the low pay.

Winnebago County has lost three assistant DAs in the past six months. In May, Nerrissa Dyett resigned to relocate to California. In September, David Rashid resigned to accept a position as the Neenah city attorney and Margaret Struve resigned to accept a position as the Menasha city attorney.

Both Rashid and Struve's new positions

came with significant pay increases, with the city attorney positions offering wages of up to \$110,000 per year based on experience, about twice as much as starting assistant DAs are paid.

The Winnebago County DA's office includes the DA, deputy DA, and 10 assistant DAs. The county currently has two open full-time assistant positions.

Earlier this year the state announced \$5.7 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds would be going toward filling assistant DA positions, about 30

positions



The funds are allocated based on caseload and estimated backlog. Winnebago

awarded one part-time position. Sparr said the state

statewide.

was

positions are for a twoyear term and many of the positions across

the state have remained unfilled. He said it's difficult to fill full-time permanent positions and even harder to fill a temporary part-time position.

The DA's office has not received any applicants for the part-time ARPA-funded position. When the DA's office posted a job listing for a full-time assistant DA position in May, they also had no applicants.

"I have never seen anything like this in Winnebago, where our turnover is lower than prosecutor turnover statewide," Sparr said.

Sparr said the situation isn't ideal, but his office has been able to keep up with the caseload. He said the goal is for the county to make a charging decision on all cases within 30 days. In the past few years, the average number of cases with no charging decision after 30 days was about 50. That number has increased to about 100.

40



"That's still a pretty small number but I'd rather have it at zero or something close to that," he said.

In other counties, the problem is worse. Oconto County was without a DA from September through late October after the resignation of Edward Burke Jr. Waupaca County will be without a DA in December with the resignation of Veronica Isherwood. Langlade County DA Elizabeth Gerbert is resigning as of Jan. 1.

"This has been a problem for a long time in the state," Sparr said. "It has reached the next level at this point where it's become absolutely a crisis and we're feeling it too."

Sparr stressed the importance of having experienced prosecutors in the office.

"Making decisions even on lower-level cases - those are things that have tremendous impact on the lives of offenders and of victims," he said. "If we have people that don't have experience that are put in the position to be making those decisions and they're not doing a good job with it, that impacts everyone in the community."

#### Public defender shortage

The problems plaguing prosecutors mirror those of the SPD Office. Earlier this year, state public defender Kelli Thompson told WisPolitics that the state had a backlog of about 35,000 cases that will take years to get through due to the shortage of public defenders. SPD legislative liaison Adam Plotkin estimated the backlog is about 15,000 cases.

Plotkin said that pre-pandemic, the statewide turnover for public defenders was about 10% to 12%. That turnover has now jumped to about 20%. There are also fewer private attorneys accepting cases for the SPD, he said.

The office has created a centralized unit to help make appointment calls to private bar attorneys. They've hired temporary support staff to make calls and help attorneys prepare their cases.

"At this point everyone in the agency, including the state public defender herself, are making calls to try and find private bar attorneys," Plotkin said.

The office is also moving positions around the state to deal with particular problem areas, but there are limitations to that.

"You're sort of robbing Peter to pay Paul, so you may fix a problem in one part of the state but create a problem in another," Plotkin said.

When the prosecutors office received



ARPA funds from the state earlier this year, the SPD office also received \$5.5 million for the statewide public defender shortage. Plotkin said the increased resources are a step in the right direction, but the office is still having a difficult time hiring attorneys.

"We have been able to make use of the resources, so that's helping, and we're starting to see some of the glimmers of the first signs of things going the other way," he said.

Even still, he said the only way to truly deal with the shortage is for the state Legislature to fund pay increases for public defenders.

#### Follow the money

County prosecutors and public defenders are employees of Wisconsin, with salaries set by the state. Both public defender and assistant district attorney positions in Wisconsin start at \$26.70 per hour, which is about \$55,000 per year based on a 52week work year.

Although there have been times when the state prosecutors and public defenders offices have authorized hiring at a wage greater than the minimum, they often don't have the funding to do it. The low entry wages are considered a barrier to attracting and keeping prosecutors and public defenders, who are often saddled with hefty law school debt.

In advance of the state budget next year, both the prosecutors and SPD offices are requesting an increase in resources. Both agencies are asking for starting attorney and prosecutor pay to be increased to \$35 per hour, along with an increase in current employees' pay at or above that level. The agencies are also requesting full funding of a merit pay system to increase attorney and prosecutor pay.

The SPD compensates private bar attorneys at \$70 per hour to represent indigent defendants, which Plotkin said is far below the market rate. The federal public defenders office pays private bar attorneys about \$150 per hour. Court appointed attorneys are paid \$100 per hour. The SPD is asking for the private attorney rate to be raised to \$100 for out-of-court work and \$125 per hour for time spent in court.

#### **Justice denied**

A lawsuit filed in Brown County earlier this year on behalf of eight parties challenges whether it's constitutional for legal aid to be delayed for low-income defendants. Five of the parties have been incarcerated for up to a year while awaiting a court-appointed attorney.

Sparr said the delays in the state's criminal justice system become even more problematic when they impact people who are ultimately not guilty or incarcerated on less serious offenses.



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"The system has failed to provide representation for people that are supposed to have it and they're entitled to it, and it's resulted in them staying in jail when they shouldn't," he said.

Plotkin said even short stays in custody pretrial affect the defendant, their family and the community.

"The system-wide lack of resources has a direct impact on public safety and the work that we're doing here is a core constitutional responsibility of the state government," he said.

When it comes to local impact, Sparr said the Roy murder case is a perfect example of a system that isn't adequately funded.

"There's the saying that justice delayed is justice denied and there's a lot of truth to that," he said. "The longer it takes to get cases into the system, the less effective the system is."

# Loaded Lourdes looks to make deep postseason run

By Tim Froberg HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Many feel that Lourdes Academy will be a Division 5 girls' basketball power this winter. The Knights like the sound of that term, but they're aiming even higher.

They want to become a WIAA superpower.

Lourdes is expected to be a formidable squad capable of challenging for the Trailways East Conference title and making a deep postseason drive. The Knights

## Girls basketball starters, including PREVIEW

return multiple reigning conference player of the year Hailee Bauer,

from a rock-solid team that went 19-8 overall and a second-place 10-2 in the Trailways East.

"We want to win a state championship," said Lourdes coach Ali Starr. "That's the goal. We talk about it daily and journal about it daily. Almost every team wants to win state and we've talked about how the difference is that we have to be willing to prepare to win one. That happens between the hours of 3:30 and 5:30 (p.m.) when we practice."

Starr takes over the coaching reins from Quinn Heintz, who stepped down following the 2021-22 season. But she's no stranger to the program. Starr was the Knights' varsity coach from 2007-14 and was very successful, posting a 131-40 overall record and helping Lourdes win the silver ball in the 2012 state tournament. Starr played college basketball at Bemidji State and the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

"I never thought I'd be back at the high



Photo by Andy Ratchman Sophomore Hailee Bauer was the Player of the Year in the Trailways East as a freshman.

school varsity level and I'm very excited to be back," Starr said. "I talked to my husband and my kids about it and talked to God about it. It just felt like the right time to get back into something I love."

Starr has inherited a skilled and experienced group consisting of eight players who either started or played in the Knights' 2021-22 rotation. Leading the pack is Bauer, a dynamic 5-foot-6 sophomore guard who made an instant impact her freshman season. The firstteam all-conference selection topped the Knights in scoring (15.8 points per game), 3-pointers made (68) and assists (4.1 per game), while finishing second in rebounding (5.8 per game).

"She's very gritty and loves to compete," Starr said. "She works hard in practice, but put her in a competitive game situation and she just wants to win. That's what drives her to put in the time she does and encourage her teammates to do the same. She's a special kid."

Bauer will be surrounded by talent. The Knights also return two second-team all-conference picks - senior forward Addy Hafemeister and senior guard Molly Moore - along with junior Charlie Mullen, who received all-conference honorable mention.

The 5-10 Hafemeister was Lourdes' second-leading scorer (10.2 ppg) and top rebounder (9.0 rebounds per game), while averaging 3.0 assists. Moore averaged 8.5 points, 3.7 rebounds and 2.7 assists, while swishing 37 3-pointers. Mullen (5-10), added further scoring punch (5.3 ppg, 16 3-pointers) and averaged 3.7 rebounds and 1.3 assists.

Other returning players who made contributions last season and will play in Starr's rotation are senior guards Mackenzie Stelter and Olivia Nielson (1.7 ppg, junior guard Ella Slusarski (5.5 ppg, 3.4 rpg) and sophomore forward Delaney Ruedinger (5.4 ppg, 3.7 rpg with 19 3-pointers).

"I love the character of my girls," Starr said, "They're all in. They're a group that wants to talk to each other and not about each other. They're a group that wants to bond off the floor so they can be even stronger on the floor. As talented as we are, what trumps that is the culture we have right now."

Starr wants to play a fast-paced game and pressure opponents into mistakes. Expect Lourdes to be especially dangerous from beyond the arc. The team drilled 163 3-pointers a year ago.

"We want to get out and run," Starr said. "We should have a good rotation and that will give us the legs we need to play that style of game. We're looking to cause some discomfort with our defense which will help us score on offense. I feel that all my kids can play good defense on the perimeter and inside the lane."

Oakfield looks to be the Knights' primary competition for the conference title. Oakfield proved to be the Knights' nemesis last season, winning the league title at 12-0 and knocking them out in the WIAA Division 5 regional finals, 50-45.

"We're not looking just at Oakfield," Starr sad. "We want to play as well as we can against them, but we want to play well against everyone. We want to keep getting better for the second season in late February and March."

Lourdes, which opened the season Tuesday against Hilbert, travels to Weyauwega-Fremont on Thursday.

#### West builds around Seckar

The Wildcats played highly competi-

SEE Girls basketball ON PAGE 21



| Jan 6  | Hustisford             | 7:15pm | Jan 6  | Neenah            | 7:30pm | Jan 6  | Appleton North   | 7:30pm |
|--------|------------------------|--------|--------|-------------------|--------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Jan 10 | Central WI Christian   | 6:00pm | Jan 10 | Appleton West     | 7:30pm | Jan 10 | Fond du Lac      | 7:30pm |
| Jan 12 | Fall River             | 7:30pm | Jan 13 | Appleton East     | 7:30pm | Jan 13 | @ Hortonville    | 7:30pm |
| Jan 17 | @ St Mary Catholic     | 7:15pm | Jan 20 | @ Öshkosh West    | 6:00pm | Jan 20 | Oshkosh North    | 6:00pm |
| Jan 19 | @ Dodgeland            | 7:15pm | Jan 24 | @ Appleton West   | 7:30pm | Jan 21 | Marshfield       | 3:00pm |
| Jan 24 | @ Central WI Christian | 6:00pm | Jan 27 | Hortonville       | 7:30pm | Jan 24 | @ Fond du Lac    | 7:30pm |
| Jan 27 | @ Hustisford           | 7:15pm | Jan 30 | @ Green Bay East  | 7:15pm | Jan 27 | @ Kaukauna       | 7:30pm |
| Jan 30 | Wayland Academy        | 7:15pm | Jan 31 | @ Kimberly        | 7:30pm | Jan 31 | Neenah           | 7:30pm |
| Feb 2  | @ Horicon              | 7:15pm | Feb 4  | Appleton North    | 7:30pm | Feb 4  | @ Kimberly       | 1:30pm |
| Feb 7  | Oakfield               | 7:15pm | Feb 7  | Kaukauna          | 7:30pm | Feb 7  | Appleton Éast    | 7:30pm |
| Feb 13 | Wautoma                | 7:30pm | Feb 10 | @ Fond du Lac     | 7:30pm | Feb 10 | @ Appleton West  | 7:30pm |
| Feb 16 | @ Wayland Academy      | 7:15pm | Feb 14 | Shawano Community | 7:15pm | Feb 16 | @ Appleton North | 7:30pm |
|        |                        |        | Feb 16 | @ Neenah          | 7:30pm |        |                  |        |

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# Titans wrap up 2022 season with another lopsided win

The UW Oshkosh football team registered a second straight shutout to cap the regular season, pummeling UW-Eau Claire 61-0 at Carson Park on Saturday afternoon.

This was the first time since 1976 the Titans recorded back-to-back shutouts.

UW Oshkosh outscored its final two opponents 106-0 to finish the year with a 6-4 record, the 11th straight season the Titans have finished with a winning record.

It was another big day for quarterback



Berghammer, Kobe who totaled five touchdowns on the day.

He led the Titans in rushing with 154 yards on 16 carries and had touchdown runs of 1 and 39 yards. He also finished 18-of-25 for 302 yards passing with three scores.

Behind Berghammer, the Titan offense finished with 683 yards of total offense, which was the team's highest total since 2011. UW Oshkosh averaged 10.7 yards per play and recorded 31 first downs in the game.

The Titans marched 80 yards in 10 plays to open the game, taking the lead on Berghammer's 1-yard run. Berghammer added a 19-yard pass to Stephan Flores for a touchdown early in the second quarter, while a pair of Nolan Mobley field goals sent the Titans into halftime with a 20-0 lead.

The Titans then erupted for three touchdowns in the third quarter with Berghammer connecting with Terrell Carey for 29 yards and Tony Steger for 39 yards while also adding a 39-yard touchdown run.

UW Oshkosh rounded out the scoring in the fourth quarter with three scoring runs from Quentin Keene (11 yards), Doug Burson (61) and Nate Smith (60).

The defense limited UW-Eau Claire to 305 yards of total offense with Tony Jandrin leading the defense with eight tackles.

## Knights' Lindahl, Carpenter named all-region

A pair of Lourdes Academy players earned 2022 all-region honors from the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association it was announced last week.

Sophomore quarterback Wade Lindahl and junior inside linebacker Mason Carpenter garnered the honoros

Lindahl completed 75 of 283 passes this season for the Knights, throwing for 2,092 yards and 21 touchdowns with five interceptions. He threw for a school-record 393 yards and had five touchdowns in a

### **UWO Roundup**

### **Cross country**

The Titans qualified two runners for the NCAA Division III national meet at Lansing, Mich., on Nov. 19.

Amelia Lehman qualified for the girls race, while Steven Potter will run in the boys race after each finished 12th in their respective races at the regional meet held in Northfield, Minn., Saturday.

#### Women's basketball

The Titans improved to 3-0 overall on the season after posting a pair of wins at the UW-Eau Claire Tip-off Tournament.

UW Oshkosh topped Bethel University, 78-71, on Friday behind four players in double figures.

Jenna Jorgensen scored 17 points to lead the Titans, while Kate Huml had 16 points. Ava Douglas had 15 points off the bench and Kayce Vaile chipped in 14 points for the Titans, who shot 51 percent from the field and had a 32-25 rebounding advantage.

On Saturday, the Titans scored a 71-58 win over Wartburg College with Vaile leading the team with 24 points and nine rebounds. Jorgensen and Allison Forney each added 11 points in the win.

#### Men's basketball

The Titans split a pair of games in Michigan over the weekend, losing to Calvin University 59-56 on Friday before bouncing back to beat Hope College, 67-56 on Saturday.

Levi Borchert finished with 19 points and 14 rebounds in the loss to Calvin, while Jonah Rindfleisch added 11 points. UW Oshkosh made just five 3-pointers in the game and went 5-of-10 from the free-throw line.

Borchert again led the Titans on Saturday with 17 points, while Cole Booth added 12 points and Quinn Steckbauer and Eric Peterson added 11 and 10 points, respectively.

win over Brookfield Academy.

Lindahl was also the second-leading rusher on the team.

Carpenter was by far the leading tackler for the Lourdes Academy defense, totaling 127 tackles on the year - more than double the next highest total for the season by a Knights' player. He also led Lourdes Academy with 13 tackles-for-loss

Carpenter also totaled two sacks, two fumble recoveries, a forced fumble and an interception.



Oshkosh West was represented by (from left) Samara Zeinert, Carly Salzer, Kathryun Bergin, Caitlin Schneider and Jade Laibly at the WIAA State Swim Meet on Saturday.

# **Zeinert leads Oshkosh West** swimmers at WIAA state meet

#### Oshkosh Herald

The 2022 swimming season came to a close for Oshkosh West as three relays and two individuals competed at the WIAA Division 1 state meet hosted by Waukesha South on Saturday.

Highlighting the day for the Wildcats was sophomore Samara Zeinert, who finished 13th in the 100-yard backstroke with a personal best time of 58.46 seconds.

It was the third straight week Zeinert set a personal best in the race and head coach Kelly Wayne was definitely pleased with the way she finished her season.

"For three weeks she's had her best time and that's awesome to keep improving three weeks in a row," Wayne said.

Zeinert's finish also made sure that Oshkosh West scored points at the state meet – all swimmers and relays in the top 16 of each event score team points.

Finishing high or racking up a lot of team points wasn't a focus of this group, however, being in the final team standings was certainly nice to see.

"It was awesome," Wayne said. "Our goal wasn't necessarily to score a lot of points as a team, but it was nice to see Oshkosh West on the scoreboard."

Zeinert also competed in the 200-yard individual medley where she finished 24th.

The other individual competitor for the Wildcats was junior Carly Salzer, who placed 23rd in the 100-yard butterfly.

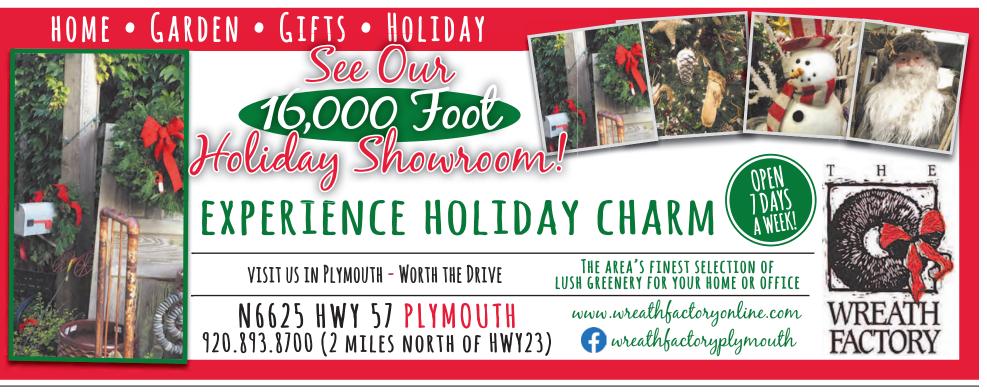
Both swimmers are expected to return next season and having that state meet experience - something the duo also gained last year – will be a boost.

"It's just great motivation for them to bring back to our underclassmen," Wayne said. "The last three years, our goal is to get all three relays to state and we've done that. But now we are losing another round of seniors, so hopefully our younger swimmers will see that motivation and see that end goal and hopefully we can get all three relays back next year."

West's best finish in a relay came in the 200-yard freestyle relay where Zeinert and Salzer teamed with seniors Kathryn Bergin and Caitlin Schneider to take 18th place, about seven-tenths of a second short of making the top 16.

The 200-yard medley relay team of Zeinert, Salzer, Schneider and senior Jade Laibly finished 19th overall, while Salzer, Bergin, Laibly and Schneider were 20th in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

"It's just an awesome experience for the seniors and their last meet," Wayne said. "There were so many fast swimmers, it's just a great experience to be there and be a part of it."



# Ice Hawks take aim at 2022 season under new coach

By Dustin Riese HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

There is excitement building for the Oshkosh Ice Hawks.

After struggling to put up wins for many seasons, Oshkosh finished 8-13-2

# PREVIEW Brunkhorst is hop-

and first-year head Boys hockey coach Stephanie ing that last year was just a sign of

things to come for the co-op program.

"I expect the kids to work hard, to not give up and to give into helping develop our program into something that I know, and many of us know it can be," said Brunkhorst, who replaced John Thom-

## **Girls basketball**

#### FROM PAGE 19

tive ball last season and return four players who played significant minutes on a decent team that went a sixth-place 9-9 in the rugged Fox Valley Association and 11-14 overall.

"This a fun group to be around," said West coach Kenisha Phillips, who is serving her fifth season as head coach. "There is lots of excitement and we're going into the year with high expectations. These girls have grown up together and are ready to take on this challenge for each other."

Paige Seckar, one of the FVA's better players, leads the pack of returning players. The 6-foot, do-it-all junior averaged 13.3 points, 6.5 rebounds and 2.1 assists. She also drilled 18 3-pointers and topped the FVA in blocked shots (1.9 per game). Seckar was a second-team all-FVA selection and a member of the league's all-defensive team.

"We're looking for Paige to lead us on both sides of the ball, especially early in the season while the other girls get a feel for the varsity game," Philips said. "She's so versatile with her height and athletic

son. "I believe that we just need to set new goals each day within practice and then in games. Having an overall goal is something we should have but I want the boys to really think about what they want that goal to be."

Oshkosh has a strong cast of players returning who will be looking to take the next step forward. Winston Knobloch, a returning honorable mention all-conference selection from last year, Kevin Lynch and Landon Braun are going to be some of the leaders this season as they bring experience and leadership to the team.

Junior Evan Neitzel and sophomore goalie Gage Bauer should be ones to look than enough talent to get by. "I hope that all of our kids step up this

out for also as the Ice Hawks have more

season, but I am really looking forward to what our seniors can do," Brunkhorst said. "All of those kids have come a long way since their freshman season and now it is time for them to put it all together on the ice."

Even with what seems like a vastly improved roster, things are not going to come easy for the Ice Hawks as the Badgerland Conference continues to be one of the tougher leagues in the state.

Perennial conference favorites Neenah and St. Mary's Springs should continue to lead the pack, but other teams are more

games, so we need to find a way to start games ready to go. This conference is too good to dig yourself a hole to start the game."

Hortonville won last year's league title at 18-0 followed by Appleton East (15-3), Neenah (14-4) Kaukauna (12-6) and Kimberly (10-8).

"I think the team to beat is Kaukauna," Phillips said. "But you can't look past historically strong teams like Hortonville, Kimberly and Neenah, which returns one of the top players in the state (Allie Ziebell)."

The Wildcats open the season at home Friday with a nonconference game against De Pere.

#### North returns solid group

The Spartans return their top four scorers from last year and should deliver more W's after going 4-21 last season and 0-19 in the FVA.

"I definitely think we're more athletic," said sixth-year head coach Jayme Engen. "We have quite a few returners and if we can continue to make gains and gel as a team, we can surprise some people."

Two double-digit scorers from last season - senior forward Mallory Ott and junior guard Ava Hanson - lead the North

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ability. That makes her hard to guard." Additional players back who either started or played in Phillips' rotation are

senior guard Maddi Choinski (6.3 points and 3.3 rebounds per game) and junior guards Brenna Gehri (6.6 points, 4.2 rebounds and 2.3 assists per game with 13 3-pointers) and Braelee Jodarski (5.6 ppg, 5.0 rpg).

"Maddi (Choinski) is a physical kid that helps us compete with the physicality involved in the FVA," Phillips said. "Brenna (Gehri) will be our primary point guard and be asked to handle pressure and set up the offense when things start to get crazy,

Seniors Elisha Schimmel and Campbell Grey are also back and are expected to play in Phillips' rotation along with sophomore Maddie Rasmussen. Phillips expects some newcomers from a promising junior class to also make contributions."

"We have a strong junior class that will help fill various roles," Phillips said.

West averaged a respectable 50.1 ppg last season and drained 115 3-pointers. A key for the Wildcats will be starting fast in ballgames.

"This team is athletic and has the ability to put points on the board," Phillips said. "We've always struggled to score early in



than capable of contending. Oshkosh is hoping they can be one of those teams to take the next steps forward in hopes of becoming a legitimate threat in the conference.

"For us to be successful, like I said before, the players really need to be able to give in to what can and will happen," Brunkhorst said. "We need to be able to move on from the last few seasons and start over. I'll do my part for them as I know our assistant coach will too, but in the end they have to make that choice on where they want to be, top of the league or bottom, and do the work."

The Ice Hawks kick off their season Nov. 22 when they host Ashwaubenon.

attack.

Ott, 5-10, averaged 13.0 points and 9.2 rebounds and received all-FVA honorable mention, Hanson averaged 11.4 points, 3.4 rebounds and 2.0 assists.

Sophomore guard Emma Niemczyk, who averaged 7.3 points and 6.6 rebounds as a freshman, should add further scoring punch along with senior guard Gabby Kempf (4.3 ppg, 3.2 rpg with 14 3-pointers).

Additional returning veterans expected to contribute are juniors Lauren Geer (3.8 ppg), Bella Lammey and Nora Flanigan. Hailee Valdez and Morgan Kolodzik are newcomers who should see time in the Spartans' rotation.

"Athleticism and togetherness are our strengths," Engen said. "Our challenges will be overcoming size at times and getting everyone to believe we can do good things in the FVA and leave the past couple years behind.

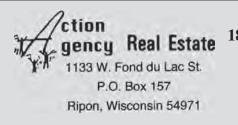
Our keys will be to gel as a team and establish an identity on both sides of the ball."

North opens the season Friday at West Bend East.

"I'd say that Neenah, Kaukauna, Hortonville and Kimberly will challenge for the league title," Engen said.

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# **City budget**

FROM PAGE 1

isn't about fun; it's about doing what we think is right."

As such, the 4.19% levy would be equivalent to about \$45.7 million. The resolution in city documents state that the funds would go toward:

General fund: \$23,435,500 Garbage collection: \$1,560,000 Street lighting: \$1,025,000 Museum: \$970,000 Senior services: \$353,500 Library: \$2,792,700 Cemetery: \$318,900 Leach Amphitheater: \$23,000 Pollock Water Park: \$64,000 Rental inspections: \$12,800 Capital equipment fund: \$1,088,200 Debt service fund: \$13,430,700 Greater Oshkosh (GO) Transit:

\$809,500

City documents state that the 2023 budget for water, sanitary sewer and stormwater utility funds have been deferred to a later time.

After having discussed the enhancements brought to them, council members Bill Miller and Michael Ford expressed the desire to adjust the process to be more transparent in the future.

#### Capital projects

In more fiscal action, the council unanimously approved the 2023 capital improvement program (CIP) and financing for next year's projects in several city departments.

While the CIP outlines projects in a prioritized order from 2023 to 2032, some items of importance next year include \$630,000 for improvements for the Oshkosh Police Department, \$2.6 million for the Oshkosh Fire Department and \$39 million for street and utility reconstructions throughout the city.

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Just over \$1 million has been set aside next year for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, Riverwalk signage and barriers, as well as land acquisitions along South Main Street and a separate \$600,000 for parking lot improvements citywide.

#### **ARPA** funds

The council reviewed about \$4 million more in ARPA funds allocations for various infrastructure projects such as for the museum, fire department and installation of fiber-optic cables throughout the city.

After this approval, the city has a remaining ARPA balance of about \$7 million.

In 2021, the city received notification it would be receiving about \$20.5 million in ARPA funds to be used toward certain projects to aid recovery from the pandemic. The council directed City Manager Mark Rohloff to allocate 75% of these funds toward infrastructure-related needs

# **Election results**

FROM PAGE 1

seat in state Legislature, following him and Gregg Underheim from 1987 to 2007.

Nearly 75,000 residents of Winnebago County made it to the polls last week.

Gov. Tony Evers, who previously worked at CESA 6 in Oshkosh before taking positions in Madison, visited Oaklawn Elementary School for his first while the remaining 25% was asked to be used for non-infrastructure recovery.

"The immediate-term goal is to give the city direction and set some community expectation around the distribution of our ARPA funds," Ford said last year when the direction was given. "This doesn't make any specific decision about projects we're funding or not funding; it creates ground rules that align processes with those goals."

He said though the funding would go toward projects that could be considered "boring," it will positively impact the city's future.

"We have an opportunity here to use these funds to meet our infrastructure needs while freeing up funds that would've been spent on debt service for a generation," Ford said. "It creates flexibility moving forward."

Per federal requirements, all of Oshkosh's allotted ARPA funds must be at least appropriated or finalized by 2024.

public visit after defeating Republican challenger Tim Michels by about 90,000 votes.

Michels received about 700 more votes than Evers in Winnebago County.

District 53 Rep. Michael Schraa will maintain his seat after going uncontested again this year, as well as District 6 congressional Rep. Glenn Grothman. Voters in Assembly District 55, which includes portions of the Town of Oshkosh, elected Republican Nate Gustafson over Democratic challenger Stefanie Holt by about 2,000 votes.

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# Afghan evacuees scrambling to pay for college

By Zhen Wang WISCONSIN WATCH

During the chaotic withdrawal of U.S. troops last year from Afghanistan, 148 students from the Asian University for Women made a dramatic escape, narrowly missing gunfire and suicide bombs set off at the overrun Kabul Airport.

Despite the dangers, the women were determined. They knew that with the Taliban back in power, their dreams of a college education would likely soon be over.

During the 20 years of U.S. occupation, the number of Afghan women in higher education increased from around 5,000 in 2001 under the previous Taliban rule to about 90,000 in 2018, the United Nations found.

In late summer, the fleeing students ended up at Wisconsin's Fort McCoy, where they tutored fellow evacuees in English as they waited to find out where they would be resettled.

The women, ranging in age from 18 to 25, are now scattered across 10 universities in the United States. But for some of these students, including 10 women at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, they face a new challenge: paying for college.

Due to a miscommunication, Mahrukh Delawarzad and other young women believed they had been offered free college tuition and housing at UW-Milwaukee. But the offer financed by a local church - generous as it was — covered just the cost of the university's Intensive English Program.

In June, the U.S. Department of Education made some Afghan evacuees eligible for federal student aid, which may help the students pay for UW-Milwaukee's tuition, which costs \$9,610 a year.

Delawarzad and the others say they're not sure how they will pay for their education with no family support and temporary legal status. But they said they



Wisconsin Watch photo by Amena Saleh

Tahera Sultani (from left), Mahrukh Delawarzad, Manizha Nazari and Shekiba Sultani are Afghan evacuees who fled their country in 2021 and are now studying at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Due to a miscommunication, the women thought they were being offered full scholarships to pursue their bachelor's degrees and are now scrambling to raise enough money to pay for college.

She dreams of getting a degree in public health and then going to medical school. Having lived through a protracted war and dangerous journey from her native land, Delawarzad knows life is precious.

"I want to save lives," she said.

During the pandemic, the women had been studying remotely at the Bangladesh-based Asian University for Women, which has since suspended "hybrid" instruction. Kamal Ahmad, a U.S. citizen and founder of the university, said he started receiving messages around June 2021 from the students, "worried about the political changes that are coming into this country."

Ahmad began orchestrating the evacuation from his office in Cambridge, Massachusetts, arranging to get the students to the U.S. military-controlled Kabul airport.

With the Aug. 31, 2021 withdrawal deadline fast approaching, the window

buses packed with university students passed through snarled traffic. On the evening of Aug. 23 into Aug. 24, while making their second approach to the airport — a 40-hour ordeal — the U.S. military suggested the group return home.

Delawarzad was on one of those buses. She said every young woman, despite exhaustion, dehydration and fear, reminded themselves why they were there: to get out and get an education.

The women persuaded Ahmad to give it a final try. He called a Taliban contact, persuading him to let the buses pass through the checkpoints on the way to the airport. Ahmad also tapped into political support in the United States, gaining help from the White House.

All 148 students made it, boarding an Air Force C-17 on Aug. 27, 2021. When the airplane's door closed, Simah Sahnosh, another student, was overwhelmed, saying to herself, "I leave behind my pride, my memories, my dreams, my traditions, my happiness, my family, and my homeland."

But the women didn't know where they were heading next — to Bangladesh, to continue their studies — or somewhere else?

When they landed in Spain, the women found out they were not bound for Bangladesh but for the United States. Delawarzad said she felt a sense of relief, knowing they would be treated as refugees. She called her mother in Afghanistan and told her not to worry.

Scott Stevens, president of the University and College Intensive English Programs, was following the women's well-publicized escape. When he learned of the need for English language training to continue their studies, he spread the word to other members of the consortium, which includes his own University of Delaware.

The challenge was daunting, with the universities "not prepared to absorb the costs of special needs of displaced students." But consortium members stepped up, offering to host 55 of the evacuees.

"At the end of the day, universities choose to do the right thing. They choose to stand up for these women," Stevens said.

SEE Afghan students ON PAGE 24





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# Afghan students

from Page 23

In addition to UW-Milwaukee, nine other universities agreed to offer English language training or admit the students as undergraduates, including West Virginia, North Texas, Georgia State, Delaware, Suffolk, DePaul, Arizona State, Cornell and Brown. Ahmad estimates about \$32 million has been committed by the schools to educate the 148 women.

Brooke Haley, director of UW-Milwaukee's English Language Academy, offered to help but was told the university was not in a position to pay the tuition of the evacuees.

Between 2010 and 2020, UW-Milwaukee experienced a 21% drop in enrollment, the second worst decline of any four-year UW System campus, according to the Wisconsin Policy Forum. And the pandemic made it worse, prompting a loss by July 2021 of \$91.8 million in income from tuition and room and board as enrollment dropped.

Ahmad, who was born in Bangladesh, knows a U.S. education is not cheap, especially at elite schools. He moved here in 1980, attending the Phillips Exeter Academy, Harvard and then University of Michigan.

While still at Fort McCoy, the women began receiving college acceptance letters. Sahnosh was accepted by Cornell, which she described as a "top" university.

In an email shared with Wisconsin Watch, a former representative of the Asian University for Women wrote that UW–Milwaukee had "generously offered a full scholarship that includes tuition and housing. UWM has an academic program that will suit your interests and allow you to pursue your goals and dreams in the US."

Shekiba Sultani was confused by the message. It didn't say how long the university would cover the full cost of attending. Around the same time, some other women received full tuition scholarship offers from other universities, including Arizona State, which raised money from private donors to fund 61 of the Asian University for Women students for their four-year undergraduate degrees.

That led the women who were placed at UW-Milwaukee to believe they would be treated the same.

But UWM was operating on a different track. English instructors sought funds to support the women in the university's Intensive English Program. Mari Chevako, a senior lecturer, contacted Eastbrook Church in Milwaukee to explore funding. The church raised a "generous" amount of money and matched each student with a host family, said Chevako, who is a member of the church.

In January, the women finally figured out that they had enrolled only as non-degree students — and that the offer of tuition and housing would end when the intensive English program finished.

"All the girls were saying, '(If) we do not have any scholarships, what will happen to us?' " said Tahera Sultani, another student. "It's so stressful for me."

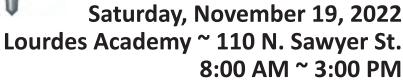
Said Haley of the Intensive English Program: "I feel (and) I understand their disappointment and how they see other friends having a different, more secure financial situation ... We did the best we could."

Besides the financial constraints universities face, Stevens said school admin-

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This spring, Eastbrook Church vowed to continue funding the women's education through their first year of college at UW-Milwaukee. They have launched the Afghan Student Partnership of Milwaukee to collect donations.

To support themselves, the evacuees all secured summer jobs at places including a summer school, a day care center, a Dairy Queen and Walgreens.

Haley said she has encouraged the women to finish the Intensive English Program. But, she told them, "If you want to apply to another university that can promise you a full scholarship, you should do that."

Under the resettlement process, the women were admitted to the United States on humanitarian parole, which allows them to remain in the country for two years. Congress is considering a bill to allow the parolees protection from deportation.

Delawarzad said she is inclined to stay in Milwaukee, saying it would be hard to relocate given the uncertainty around her legal status and what financial support she might receive at another university.

Still, the students count themselves as lucky. They know what women in Afghanistan are going through under Taliban rule.

Nazari said her friends are stuck at home after the Taliban closed many universities to women. A recent Amnesty International study found widespread repression against women and girls in every aspect of their lives — including access to high school and college — since the Taliban takeover.

For Shekiba Sultani, the issue is personal. One of her sisters was a member of the Afghan National jiu jitsu team but had to quit after six years of training. The Taliban banned women from sports shortly after the Americans left.

Back in Cambridge, Mass., Ahmad of AUW has high hopes for the women studying in the United States, saying they could become leaders in their home country one day "if the situation improves."

The nonprofit Wisconsin Watch (www.Wisconsin-Watch.org) collaborates with WPR, PBS Wisconsin, other news media and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

## Safety week reminds drivers to protect first responders

Crash Responder Safety Week has been designated this week as the state Department of Transportation (DOT) reminds motorists to practice safe driving habits and protect emergency roadside workers, who respond to about 134,700 traffic crashes every year.

A crash occurs about every four minutes in Wisconsin. First responders often work just feet away from traffic and put their lives in danger every time they respond. Since 2017, more than 350 first responders have been injured while working inside their emergency vehicle or at the scene of a crash.

"Thousands of women and men throughout Wisconsin dedicate their lives and careers to our safety as first responders," DOT Secretary Craig Thompson said. "We play an active role to keep them safe when traveling on Wisconsin roadways. Two simple steps: move over or slow down, can make a big difference in everyone's safety."

Wisconsin's Move Over Law has been in effect since 2001. The law requires drivers to shift lanes or slow down in order to provide a safety zone for a squad car, ambulance, fire truck, tow truck, utility vehicle, or highway maintenance vehicle that is stopped on the side of a road with its warning lights flashing.

In December, Evers signed Act 115 into law, expanding protections by banning cellphone use in an emergency response area and creating new penalties for drivers who injure or kill a worker on the side of the road. The law defines an emergency or roadside response area as the section of road within 500 feet of an authorized emergency vehicle with a visible signal, or a tow truck with flashing red lights.

Emergency responder safety is also the Wisconsin State Patrol's November Law of the Month, which educates drivers on the importance of protecting first responders.

This year's awareness efforts include message boards on Wisconsin highways, a DOT social media campaign, a DOT Transportation Connects Us podcast and an interactive quiz on the Move Over Law.

Visit wisconsindot.gov/staysafe to learn more about safe driving tips and the Move Over Law.





For more information, contact Kim Stelzer Phone: (920) 252-3458 Email: stelzerks@yahoo.com



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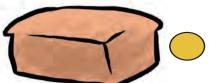
Work with a family member to number the pictures in order to show how wheat grows from a seed to become bread. It takes workers at every step to get the bread to people.

- 1. Seeds are planted.
- 2. Wheat grows from seed.
- 3. Grain is removed from the plant.
- 4. Wheat grains are ground into flour.
- 5. Flour is made into bread.











#### Erntedankfest

Germany calls its Thanksgiving Erntedankfest. People take to the streets in parades. Some carry harvest crowns made of grains, fruit and flowers.

#### Write On-I'm Thankful! Think back on things that have happened

since last Thanksgiving. What are you thankful for that happened this past year?

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# Governor at Oaklawn

Gov. Tony Evers visited students at Oaklawn Elementary School in Oshkosh last week in one of his first public visits in the state after winning re-election.

# Volunteer needs

Aurora Medical Center - Oshkosh is looking for volunteers for the Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP). Designed to maximize the experience of older patients and speed up the recovery process, HELP strives to keep patients' minds and bodies

LOCAL

active. A six-month minimum commitment is required with one 3- to 4-hour shift per week. To apply, visit aurorahealthcare.org/ patients-visitors/volunteer. Aurora is also seeking a front entrance ambassador. Contact Angela at angela.christenson@aah.org.

### Broadband access group adds New North member

Barbara Koldos, vice president-business development for New North Inc., has been named to the Governor's Task

Force on Broadband Access with the goal of improving that access in Wisconsin through well-informed recommendations.

New North co-chair Michelle Schuler also is a member of the Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access,

representing TechSpark Wisconsin, Microsoft.

Koldos

Koldos joined new and returning members of the task force Sept. 21 for the first meeting of its third year of work, where the group reviewed past accom-

# Obituaries

#### **Kathryn J. Brownlow**

Kathryn J. Brownlow, 92, passed away November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 following a brief time in hospice care. She was predeceased by her parents and oldest son, Andrew. She is survived by her sister and brother in law, Mary and Bob Dance of Yuma, Arizona, as well as by her sons and her daughter in laws; Jim and Eileen Brownlow, Ed Brownlow, and Bill and Chris Brownlow. Additionally, she is survived by numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces and their extended families.

Kathryn was born in Wisconsin as the daughter of a farmer and schoolteacher. During her life, in addition to Wisconsin, she resided in Maryland, Egypt, and Haplishments and set this year's goals.

She oversaw the multi-month Regional Broadband Access Study of the 18 counties within the New North region, fully completed this past May. The report provided 10 strategic recommendations centering around the goal of delivering high-performance internet in all areas of the region.

Significant projects designed to improve internet access and quality since have been initiated within the New North. Over the past three years, grants from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin have awarded a total of \$22,185,313 to internet service providers and communities, leveraging an additional \$39,748,387 in private investment for broadband expansion in the region.

waii before settling in Virginia for good in 1972. She was a librarian by trade and retired from her final job as a school librarian for the lower school of Norfolk Academy in the mid 1990s. Throughout her life she was an avid artist and writer who enjoyed playing bridge and completing crossword puzzles. She was an amazing mother and though she had a long, full life, she will be sorely missed.

There was a viewing at Hollomon Brown Funeral Home, Bayside chapel on Monday, November 14th from 5pm to 7 pm. The family attended a private service after which she will be interred at Woodlawn cemetery in Norfolk, Virginia near her eldest son.



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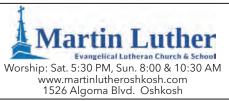
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# Obituaries

#### James E. Blake

James E. Blake, age 94, of Oshkosh, passed away on Saturday November 5,



2022 at his home. He finished the race and collected the checkered flag surrounded by his entire family. He was born in Oshkosh on January 27, 1928 the son of the late

Phillip and Francis (Lord) Blake. Jim married Marie Harnitz on May 3, 1953. She preceded him in death on August 9, 1992. He served his country in the U.S. Army during WW II. Jim was the flagman at Leo's Speedway for decades and also flagged at WIR in Kaukauna, WI. He drove for Kieckhefer in the Mexican Road Race. He owned a bar and gas station.

Jim had a pack of pals he ran with for years. Jim sold cars, liquor and truck parts. The endeavor that made him most proud was his job as promoter, agent, prop maker and coach of his grandson, Mike Price Juggler. He played Mike's sidekick as "Spare Tire the Clown" when Michael began entertaining. In 2000 his efforts paid off when Michael won the world championship Juggling Competition in Montreal, Canada.

Jim was a member of the SSIYC for 50+ years. He was a commadore several times and volunteered many hours at the club. His favorite pass time was telling stories and drinking peppered beer at the club. His stories, laugh and enthusiasm were unforgettable. He enjoyed boating and snowmobiling and followed NASCAR (Brian, you owe him a buck!), MMA fighting and spending time with his great-grandchildren.

He was very proud of his Irish heritage. His lifelong wish to avoid entering a nursing home was made possible by his daughter (Kim) and caregiver, Sue King who made sure he had everything he needed during his final years. Heaven gained one class act when you left our side, we will miss and love you always,

#### Grandpa!

Jim is survived by one daughter; Kim (Mark "Rock") Blake-Jungwirth, Oshkosh, WI, one son Paul (Holly) Tod of Lohrville, WI, three grandchildren; Mike (Stephanie) Price, Las Vegas, NV, Melissa "Lisa" (Brian) Winter, La Crosse, WI, Jim Jungwirth, Oshkosh, WI, three great-grandchildren; Olivia and Bennett Winter and Bleu Price, one brother; Daniel (Bev) Blake, one sisterin-law; Jeanne Blake and one brother-inlaw; Kenny Kovar all of Milwaukee, WI. Jim is further survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by two brothers; Tom Blake, Bud (Pauline) Blake, three sisters; Mary (Arnie) Bradshaw, Judy Kovar, Patsy Blake, and one grandson; Zach Jungwirth.

Funeral services for Jim were held in the Fiss & Bills-Poklasny Funeral Home (865 S Westhaven Oshkosh) on Thursday November 10. Burial was in Peace Lutheran Cemetery.

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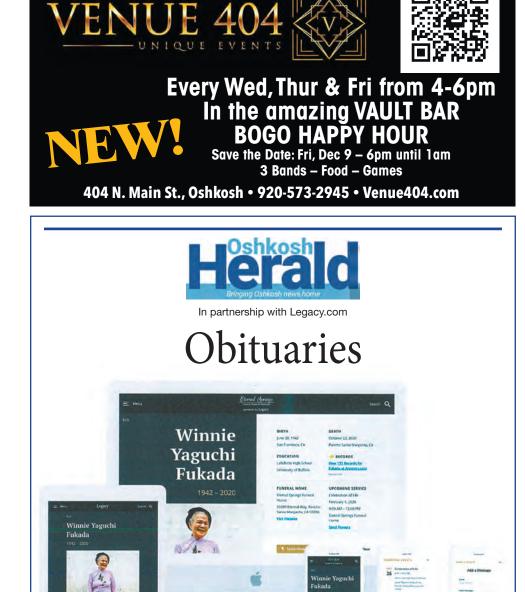
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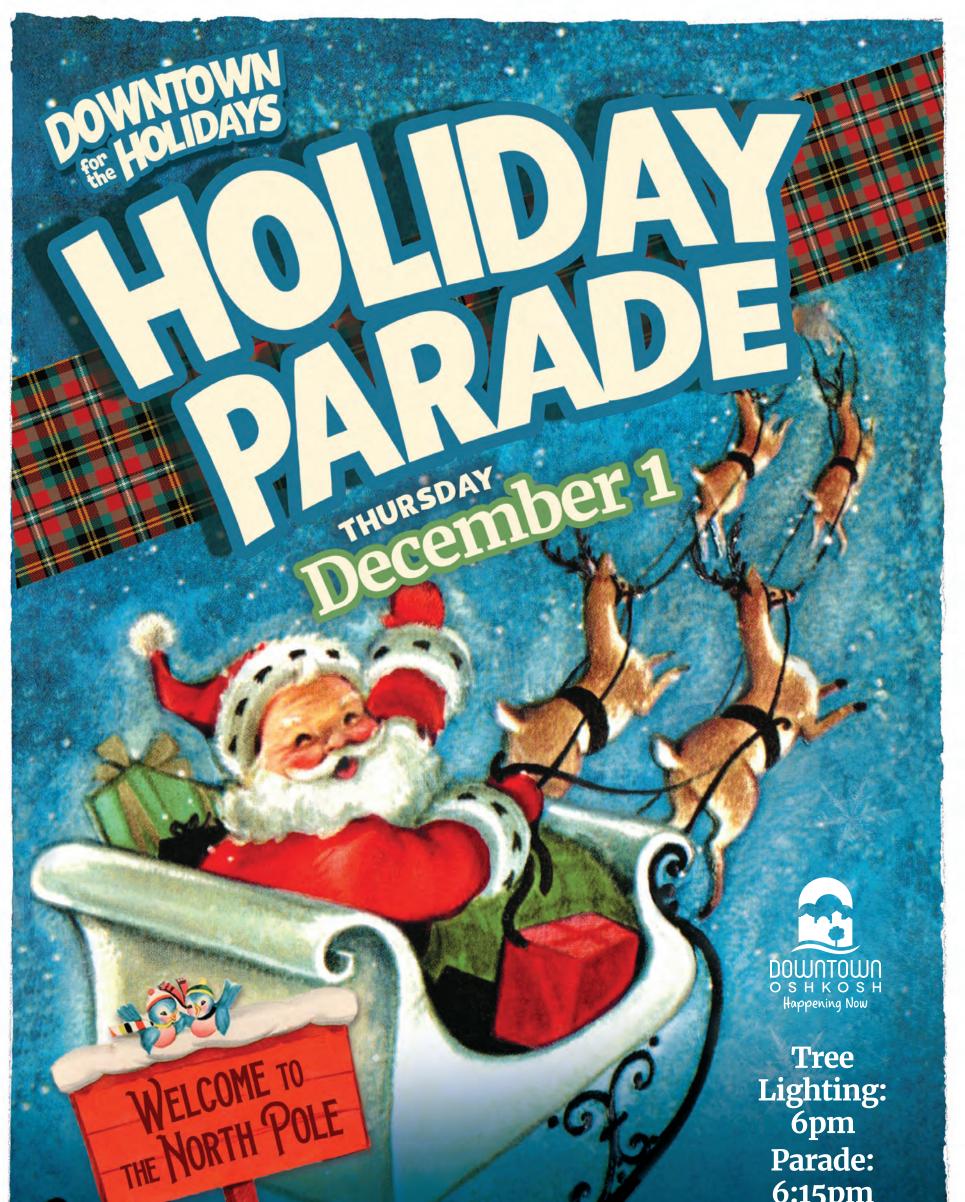
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