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City native tops 100th marathon

By Tim Froberg

Kevin Croninger is the Energizer Bunny brought to life. When it comes to distance running, he just keeps going and going.

The Oshkosh native is just 34 years old but he's celebrating 100 these days.



CRONINGER

Oshkosh West graduate has finished every one of the grueling 26.2-mile challenges.

Croninger's love of distance running has taken him across the

One hundred is the

number of full mara-

thons that Croninger

has run and the 2002

country. He's completed full marathons in 23 states and his ultimate goal is to run one in all 50.

"I've had a lot of fun doing them and met so many nice people in the running community along the way," said Croninger.

Croninger doesn't consider himself to

SEE **Croninger** ON PAGE 12

Longtime planner steps down

Plan Commission member reflects on 35-year service

By Tom Ekvall
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

David Borsuk is passionate about one thing: helping make Oshkosh a better place to live, work and play. For 35 years Borsuk has been an active member of the Oshkosh Plan Commission and vocal about what he thinks should be done to improve the community.

The city will be losing his expertise as



he and his wife will be moving to Durham, N.C., primarily due to Wisconsin's winter weather. As an employee of Sadoff Iron and Metal, he said he will continue to be an adviser while there on pertinent matters impacting the industry,

such as being engaged with national trade association issues.

"Durham is a working community, not

a retirement community," he says, adding that he hopes to get involved in the civic aspects of the city.

Borsuk has been a lifelong resident of Oshkosh except for the year he spent in Lincoln, Neb., where he was a VISTA volunteer.

Commenting on Borsuk's departure from Oshkosh, Jason White, executive director and president of the Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corp. (GO-EDC) said: "He was chair of the

SEE **Borsuk** ON PAGE 12



Photos by Ryan Clausen

A reindeer arch spans the vehicle route for the Oshkosh Celebration of Lights featured at Menominee Park during the holiday season.

Community groups shine in park display

Celebration of Lights returns with volunteers' dedication

By Amy Knoll-Owen HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Every year from late November through the end of December, Oshkosh Celebration of Lights at Menominee Park spreads holiday cheer and encourages support for local nonprofits.

The event was the brainchild of Tom Stephany, former Oshkosh Parks Department director. Stephany had seen a similar light show in another state and saw an opportunity to showcase the park during the off-season while giving back to the community. Together with fellow Oshkosh Rotary Southwest members, Stephany put on the first event in 2001.

Featuring more than 2 miles of light displays coupled with music played on local radio stations, Celebration of Lights puts the spotlight on area nonprofits. Attendees who bring nonperishables can save \$1 on the \$10 admission, and each night a different organization collects the donations.

Food pantries are the main focus but other organizations also participate, including the Oshkosh Area Humane Society and Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services.

Celebration of Lights partners with



One of the light displays at Menominee Park marks the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah.

nonprofits in other ways as well. For instance, Christine Ann's Race for the Light 5K route takes participants through the light show before it opens.

Now in its 17th year, the event is organized by a committee of volunteers, who work year-round to prepare for and run the show. Setup begins in October and takedown lasts through the end of January, said Phyllis Kratzer, one of the committee members.

During warm months, volunteers repair lights and fashion displays. The cold weather is hard on the displays and they require significant upkeep. Admission fees provide the funds for maintenance, electricity and other event costs.

One of the main challenges is recruiting enough volunteers each year, according to Kratzer, but many do return year after year. For some families, volunteering at the event has become a holiday tradition.

Some organizations also provide teams of volunteers. And because the event has become well known, said Kratzer, the committee is often able to recruit volunteers through word of mouth.

The event serves many purposes. It brings attention to all Menominee Park has to offer, provides a volunteer opportunity to community members and gives nonprofits a venue to share their mission.

"There's something there for every-body," said Kratzer. In addition to the light displays attendees can take carriage rides, visit Santa's workshop or browse the gift shop. And local organizations sponsor community nights during which people can enter free of charge.

During the 2017 Celebration, nonprofits collected about 14,000 pounds of food with 15,000 vehicles entering the event.

Kratzer credits this success in part to Stephany's passion, which current chairman Leon Thompson shares. Thompson "is the driving force, I think, now," said Kratzer. "He shares Tom's dream of putting on a good show."

Thanks to this passion, Kratzer said, Celebration of Lights has become "part of the foundation of the community. It reaches so many people."

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Sacred Heart neighborhood to Rock the Block

By Tom Ekvall
Herald Contributor

A proposed Rock the Block program will be held April 25-27 to benefit residents in the Sacred Heart Neighborhood Association.

Rock the Block is part of a Habitat for Humanity effort to improve the quality of neighborhoods through revitalization and is co-sponsored by Habitat for Humanity of Oshkosh, Greater Oshkosh Healthy



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Neighborhoods Inc (GO-HNI) and the city. The program is volunteer driven with the aim of improving a neighborhood's appearance along with assisting residents with upkeep and needed home repairs.

Tom Simon was introduced at the Nov. 19 informational meeting about the program as the new executive director for the

Oshkosh chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Simon had previously served as development director at the Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity for six years.

Simon said the Rock the Block program should signifi-

cantly benefit the neighborhood through residents volunteering their time to improve the exterior of their homes and yard in cooperation with other residents and the community as a whole. Additional improvement efforts will take place after the three-day project.

SIMON

The neighborhood boundary includes the north side of 9th Avenue, south side of 4th Avenue, both sides of Knapp Street and west side of Dakota Street.

People interested in becoming part of the revitalization effort to their properties need to submit an application to the Habitat for Humanity office at 1640 S. Koeller St. by Dec. 15. Those interested can also contact the office at 235-3535 for more information about the program. Applications are available at www.habitatoshkosh. org.

The Habitat project will include beautification projects such as mulching, raking, edging, tree and bush trimming, weatherization projects such as caulking and storm doors, and home preservation such as porch repairs and painting. Many of the beautification projects during Rock the Block are free to the homeowner.

People do not have to be a member of the Sacred Heart Neighborhood Association to participate but need to be a resident in the Sacred Heart area.

"This is a neighbor-helping-neighbor project restoring pride in the neighborhood," said Pam Ruder, executive director of GO-HNI. "Lots of things are coming together to make this event happen."

Another potential project within the neighborhood initiative may include cleanup of Stoegbauer Park.

City staff at the informational meeting explained that residents can qualify for rehabilitation programs through the City Community Development Department. One new program is the Curb Appeal Mi-

cro Grant, which encourages homeowners to invest in their properties. Eligible projects can include uncovering and restoring historical features, replacing facade materials with more appropriate and attractive designs, painting, cleaning and tuck-point masonry, step replacement, awnings and landscaping.

The city will provide a reimbursement grant to the applicant for up to 50 percent of the total cost of the project, with a maximum grant of \$500 that is not available through other city funds.

The grant is not only available to participants in the Rock the Block program but to other areas where an organized neighborhood revitalization program is taking place.

Other city-funded programs that are part of a Housing Rehabilitation Program to enhance the image, market and physical conditions include no-interest loan and grant programs available for homeowners, rental rehab and curb appeal.

Rock the Block funding was provided through a Basic Needs Giving Partnership supported by the U.S. Venture Fund for Basic Needs within the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation the J.J. Keller Foundation and other community partners.

Those interested in volunteering can email their interest to volunteer@habitatoshkosh.org.

Two injured in High Street apartment fire

Two people were injured in a fire that officials say was caused by unattended cooking at a residence early Saturday at 145 High Ave. that damaged a commercial business and attached apartments.

Fire and police departments responded at 1:13 a.m. and reported heavy smoke coming from the building and filling the street. Oshkosh firefighters rescued one

Teachers' Closet gets boost

The Oshkosh Fine Arts Association recently donated \$500 to the Teachers' Closet to use for art supplies. The Teachers' Closet provides supplies and materials to teachers in the Oshkosh area at nonprofit schools from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. The closet is open to teachers two afternoons a week at Peace Lutheran Church, 240 W. Ninth Ave.

person trapped in the building through an upstairs back window and Oshkosh police officers helped a second person get out of the building.

The structure houses The High Image salon and had six apartment units above it. One resident sustained second-degree burns while another suffered smoke inhalation. Both were transported to a Milwaukee hospital and were still being treated there as of Monday.

Fire crews initially attempted to enter the building but were turned back by high heat and falling debris. The fire was controlled by 5:30 a.m.

Other fire departments responding included the Village of Fox Crossing, Town of Algoma, Town of Oshkosh and Winneconne/Poygan. The Neenah/Menasha Fire Department filled an Oshkosh station and the Omro/Rushford Fire Department filled the Town of Algoma's station.









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PHOTOS BY MICHAEL COON

Fun on the run

The 11th annual Festival Foods Turkey Trot drew 3,220 participants to downtown Oshkosh on Thanksgiving Day to brave the elements and take part in either a timed 5-mile run or 2-mile fun run/walk. The runs were open to all ages and abilities and participants also brought their pet companions for the 2-mile Dog Jog. The YMCA and Boys and Girls Clubs in each of the race's 10 locations across the state benefit from the event. The statewide total was reported as a record 32,479 participants.





UW-Oshkosh adds canine officer to help serve campus

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh is enhancing public safety and security by welcoming K9 Skylar to the University Police team.

The detection dog recently joined the campus community and was sworn in as a member of the UW-Oshkosh Police Department team Nov. 19. K9 Skylar is paired alongside and lives with officer Ben Kohlman, who serves as her handler. Kohlman has been on the force for more than three years.

The 2-year-old lab is trained to sniff out explosives, track individuals and find evidence at crime scenes. Skylar will also serve in a role to help provide a sense of calmness and de-escalate stressful situations when people may be struggling. The dog is not trained or used for drug detection, suspect apprehension or crowd control

For Kohlman, being a police canine handler is a great opportunity personally and professionally.

"I've always wanted to be a K9 handler but we didn't have a program at UWO,



HOTO FROM UW-OSHKOSE

UW-Oshkosh officer Ben Kohlman is shown with his K9 partner Skylar at the dog's swearing-in ceremony last week on campus.

so my options were limited. Fast forward to now, with a lot of hard work, we have a highly trained specialty tool in our K9, Skylar, and I am so proud to be a part of bringing this service to UW-Oshkosh and the greater community," Kohlman said. "Her purpose is simple—to increase safety."

Historical Society hosts holiday gala event

The Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society is hosting its annual holiday open house with a Victorian Christmas theme at the Morgan House.

Refreshments and holiday music along with tours of the historic home of the John R. Morgan family will be offered from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday and continue from 1 to 5 p.m. Dec. 8 and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 15.

An early 1900s Christmas display do-

nated by the David Schultz family of Oshkosh that features moving parts with a rotating Christmas tree will be shown.

The display was created by David Schultz's great-grandfather, John W. Schultz, who came to Oshkosh from Bublitz, Prussia. Schultz worked as a foreman at the Pine-Ihrig Machine Co. in Oshkosh during World War I and built the mechanically operated item by hand.



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South Main residential project moves forward

By Tom Ekvall HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The Oshkosh Plan Commission unanimously approved plans Nov. 20 for a conditional use permit that will enable turning a vacant industrial building at 913 and 915 S. Main St. into a multifamily residential development.

The owners of Titan Commercial had requested the permit to convert the historic three-story building into loft-style apartments. The first floor would be converted into five "live-work" apartment units that will have high ceilings and large storefront glass windows facing Main Street. The storefront glass facades will allow for home offices, galleries and meeting spaces on the street side of the building with movable partition walls to separate the more private living spaces from the home office section.

The two upper floors will have 18 loftstyle apartments, including one- and two-bedroom units.

The buildings date back to between 1890 and 1903 and continue to house items from previous businesses such as old industrial sewing machines.

The developers plan to pursue WHEDA affordable housing tax credits as well as federal and state historic tax credits. The property is in the South Shore East (Sawdust District) planning area.

In requesting the approval, the developers note that they envision artists and other craftspeople taking over the apartments and enlivening the storefronts to generate interest on the street as the city promotes



A vacant industrial building in the 900 block of South Main Street is being proposed for a residential development that would offer living and work spaces.

plans to create an entertainment district in the area.

Planning Services director Darryn Burich said the proposal is welcomed as he does not see the area now as "ripe for potential retail use." He noted that the developers will still have to come back before the Plan Commission with specific

There is a shortage of public parking in the area, which also has heavy industrial use that does not promote retail activity. Planning staff would like the area to eventually become a thriving pedestrian-oriented district.

The buildings were home to clothing manufacturer Charles A. Nueberger Co. starting in 1918 and managed by Oscar R. King for 56 years before his son Burt King bought the business in 1977 and it became King Industries. One of the largest independent garment manufacturers in the Midwest, King Industries served the fashion industry and added outlet stores in the Fox Valley before its closing

At its peak, King Industries was one of Oshkosh's largest employers with more than 300 employees with the factory on the second floor of the building.

In another action, the Plan Commission laid over a proposal to its next meeting for a specific implementation plan that would allow vehicle sales at Loren's Truck Plaza at the southwest corner of Interstate 41 and West Snell Road.

Several commission members expressed opposition to the proposal but later said the Plan Department would need to come up with a suitable framework that could be enforced and ensure compliance.

The site has been the subject of violations for maintaining an unlawful junkyard and failure to carry out city requirements for previously approved conditional use permits. Resolution of the complaints are awaiting court action.

Mayor Steve Cummings said the building site is the "worst eyesore in our community." Plan Commission member Kathleen Propp agreed.

Burich said his staff is recommending approval subject to the owner making required changes. He said the property owner is storing unregistered, unlicensed and inoperable vehicles in the open.

The present development consists of a 13,900-square-foot auto/truck repair shop and towing service. A Planning Division staff report states "the applicant has established a history of being unable or unwilling to follow through with the conditions placed on the site related to outdoor storage."

Fit Oshkosh produces videos tied to Giving Tuesday

Fit Oshkosh celebrated Giving Tuesday this week by creating a series of brief educational videos on how the collective power of individuals, communities and organizations is used to encourage philanthropy and celebrate generosity world-

As a provider of racial literacy training to businesses and organizations, Fit Oshkosh is looking to create a series of brief educational videos and make them available online free to community members. Video content is drawn from Fit Oshkosh race equity training materials, research and the accumulated personal experience of Fit Oshkosh educators and people of color living in the area.

Terrace Davis, Fit Oshkosh Color-Brave community educator and a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, said giving is a perfect way to be involved in

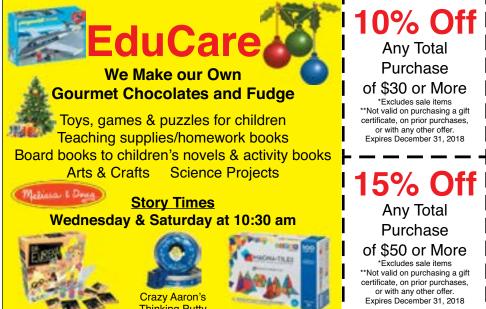
the community and support organizations critical to its development.

To cover the costs of producing the video series, Fit Oshkosh is seeking donations with a goal of \$2,500. Those interested in contributing to the project can contact Tracey Robertson at 920-267-8687.









(920) 233-6500 1950 Venture Dr., Oshkosh, WI

EduCare's Store Hours: Mon-Fri 10-7 Sat 10-4 Sun Closed www.EduCareOshkosh.com on Facebook as "EduCare Oshkosh" November 28, 2018 OSHKOSHHERALD.COM | PAGE 5

Decades-long goal of ordination becomes reality

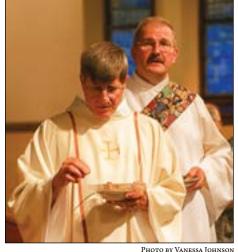
An Appleton man was ordained to the priesthood at his Oshkosh church last Friday, more than three decades after he completed his seminary education.

The ordination for Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer was at Emmaus parish, 1250 Leonard Point Road, one of 44 congregations in the United States that belong to the ECC, the Ecumenical Catholic Communion. The congregration is co-located with St. Paul United Church of Christ.

The longtime deacon at Emmaus parish earned his bachelor's degree in religious studies at St. Norbert College in De Pere in 1977. He then completed his master of divinity degree in 1984 at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn.

"I had finished my graduate studies in divinity, and I was teaching in a Milwaukee high school, planning to pursue ordination, when I had a change of heart," said Czarnik-Neimeyer, "and I decided instead to marry and raise a family.

"Then about a decade ago I affiliated with the ECC, which permits its clergy to marry, and I began to reconsider my longago decision."



Deacon Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer (right) follows Emmaus pastor the Rev. Mike Bober as they begin to distribute communion at a recent service in Oshkosh.

Bishop Raphael Adams, who leads the Mid-America Diocese of the ECC, traveled from diocesan headquarters in Chicago to conduct the ordination.

Jake and wife Cindy have four adult children, and all were there to witness the ordination, traveling from San Francisco,

Seattle, Washington, D.C., and Duluth.

Czarnik-Neimeyer is director of fundraising for Crossways Camping Ministries in Appleton.

The ECC, described by Newsweek as "a group of churches that decline to recognize the authority of the Pope, but who see themselves nevertheless as Catholic" operate 44 churches in 20 states. Membership in the United States is estimated at 6,500, with 100 members in Oshkosh.

Emmaus pastor the Rev. Mike Bober has led the congregation since 2011, succeeding founder Tom Altepeter who started the parish in 2009 but later left Oshkosh to become an ECC bishop in Spokane.

Bober describes the ECC as a "North American descendant of a group of Dutch Catholics at Utrecht who broke away from Rome in 1870," and put down roots in the United States in 1998, establishing their first parish in suburban Los Angeles.

The ECC also belongs to Church World Service, a ministry sponsored by 37 Christian denominations to "provide assistance to the hungry and to the poor, around the

Back in the Day



Nov. 3, 1961

Penney founder to visit Oshkosh – 86-year-old merchant prince to attend opening of new store on Main Street: J.C. Penney, 86, founder and currently a director of the 1,700 retail department store chain which bears his name will be in Oshkosh next Wednesday and Thursday. He'll be meeting Oshkosh people and even waiting on them at the new J.C. Penny Company store, 427 N. Main St., which has its grand opening on Thursday. Penney, who multiplied a \$500 investment into a \$40 million personal fortune, lost almost all of it in the depression. He kept the chain above water, but never regained the same personal wealth. Penney will arrive in Oshkosh on Wednesday evening on North Central Airlines.

> Source: Oshkosh Daily Northwestern, Nov. 3, 1961

Live nativity at church

Martin Luther Church at 1526 Algoma Blvd. is presenting a live nativity from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday. Visitors can drive through or walk through, entering on Algoma Boulevard.

Symphony Orchestra to open 77th season at Grand

The Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra opens its 77th anniversary season with Orchestral Presents, its annual holiday concert, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at The Grand Oshkosh.

The concert will feature soprano soloist Anna Hersey and several members of the community.

Conductor Dylan Chmura-Moore will lead selections by Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Debussy and Corelli, while Hersey is featured in Mozart's Exsultate Jubilante and other classical favorites. Community members will make their orchestral debut and perform Haydn's Toy Symphony.

Musicians will share the stage with Mayor Steve Cummings, UW-Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt, Bemis North America President Fred Stephan and School Superintendent Vickie Cartwright.

This year the orchestra is partnering with the Alzheimer's Association to help raise awareness of its mission with representatives from the organization to be at the performance.

The orchestra is a nonprofit organization that started in 1942 and evolved from a civic symphony to a full professional orchestra. Tickets and more information are at www.oshkoshsymphony.org.



Sat, Nov 17 - Sun, Dec 30

Make your holiday season a hygge one, a Danish concept of savoring life's simple pleasures. Experience the Museum set aglow with a nostalgic display of holiday décor, combining ambient interiors, cozy settings and conviviality – all the makings of a happier hygge holiday. Visitors can also have fun finding the mischievous little elves hidden throughout the Museum.



1331 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Tue-Sat 10am-4:30pm • Sun 1-4:30pm 920.236.5799 • oshkoshmuseum.org

GOOD SAMARITAN MATCH CAMPAIGN



With a \$150,000 match gift from the John E. Kuenzl Foundation, the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation is looking to raise an additional \$150,000 for the Good Samaritan Fund. This fund supports efforts that maintain and amplify the excellent quality of life in the communities we serve, today and in the future.

Donate today!

www.OshkoshAreaCF.org/fund/good-samaritan-fund/ or call 920.426.3993

Gifts to the Good Samaritan Fund are unrestricted, which allow the Foundation to support impactful projects like the renovations of the Downtown YMCA, the Oshkosh Convention Center and the Leach Amphitheater.



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Bus fare increases advance to council

By Tom Ekvall HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The Transit Advisory Board recommended to the Common Council that bus fare rates be increased to \$1.50 as part of its adoption of a transit development plan at its Nov. 21 meeting. The council will take up the proposal in December with implementation of the new fares to begin in January if approved.

Two people spoke in favor of maintaining the present \$1 rate during the public input portion of the meeting.

The fare increase will also likely result in

paratransit fares going up by \$1.

Transportation planner Nick Musson with the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission presented highlights of the transit development plan (TDP), stressing that his agency actively sought public input in the process. The typically short-term strategic plan assists the efforts of a transit system and updates the previous plan completed in 2011.

"The TDP is intended to provide transportation options to better connect everyone," Musson said in describing the plan. He said almost 500 comments were

received from the public through online surveys, voting boxes on local buses, community events such as the Oshkosh Farmer's Market and Oshkosh Senior Expo, Housing Authority properties, and local media and Facebook.

The TDP also recommends making changes to Route 9, which serves the region west of Interstate 41. Musson said the route is the lowest performing route. For 2016, Route 9 had a total of 33,929 riders as compared with the highest-performing route at 158,528.

As a no-cost alternative, Route 9 would

exclude the YMCA unless specifically requested by a rider while improving connections to the outlet mall and Southwest Industrial Park. The route would include two early-morning and one late-afternoon stops at Traeger Elementary School.

Musson said a fare increase is needed to maintain the level of service that residents value. The proposed increase would still keep Oshkosh as having the lowest fare in

The TDP also proposes an increase in technology upgrades and development of a revised marketing plan.

Richter leads Silver Star campaign

For more than 20 years, Dave Richter with Silver Star Brands has consistently given to his local United Way. Just out of college, Dave worked in the upper Fox Valley where there was an established culture of giving. This made it easy for him to participate and create a giving habit for himself.

He strongly believes in the philosophy of giving.



"If you are in a position to give a little, give a little. If you are in a position to give a lot, give a lot," Dave said.

He has exemplified this as his career has

progressed. Now the vice president of operations, he not only gives monetarily, but has shared leadership of the campaign at Silver Star for the past few years. In addition, he is participating in the Leadership Council recently established by the Oshkosh Area United Way.

Dave understands that to have a successful internal United Way campaign in a company, two ingredients must be present: Build enthusiasm among all employees and the business or organization must show its support as one unit.

Dave and his campaign co-chair at Silver Star have implemented group activities to increase engagement year over year. Activities include

simple meetings in small groups to talk about the importance of the campaign and share the needs in the community.

"It surprises a lot of people about how great the need is," Dave said. "If we can give a little and help people get back on their feet, it goes a long way. We also discuss how the Oshkosh Area United Way influences a lot of really good organizations; to pick one would be a challenge. Giving to the United Way is efficient, as they vet the organizations and the programs to be funded."

He continues, "We encourage payroll deduction giving because it is so easy and convenient. We also encourage our young employees to become Emerging Leaders (under 40) in the campaign by giving at least \$250 annually. I give through payroll."

While the business of giving is important, Dave and his co-chair work to make participation fun for the employees. They create competitive internal events such as penny wars, bingo, host bake sales and brat fries, where all proceeds benefit the Oshkosh Area United Way. This has created a spirit of giving within the company.

Groups of employees from Silver Star have worked concessions at Waterfest and donated the proceeds earned to United Way. Dave believes that giving and volunteering together is a fun way to support the United Way.

Public library calendar

Choir, noon

Dec. 3: Homework Helpdesk, 5 to 7 p.m.

Dec. 4: Online Anytime Book Club: Topic: Best Books I Read in 2018. OPL Facebook page, 7 p.m.

Dec. 5: Wonderlab: Reindeer toothpaste and candy cane slime, 6 p.m. Ages 6-9. 236-5208 to register.

Evening Book Club (adults), 6 p.m. Dec. 6: DIY: Ornaments for Kids, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Ages 3 and older.

Homework Helpdesk, 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 7: Smart Starts Play Stations, 9 to 11 a.m. Ages 1-4. Siblings welcome.

Teen Book Club: Invisible Emmie by Terri Libenson, 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 8: Ho-Ho-Horrible Sweaters (teens and adults), 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oshkosh Youth Choir Holiday Concert, noon

Knitting for the Mitten Tree, 1 to 3 p.m. All ages.

Dec. 9: Sunday Movie Matinee (all ages), 2 p.m. Free.

Dec. 10: Santa Storytime, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Lourdes Academy Madrigal Singers, 5:30 p.m.

Homework Helpdesk, 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 11: Oshkosh Area Music tion, 11:15 a.m.

Dec. 1: UW-Oshkosh Handbell Teachers Association Presents: Winter, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 12: Memory Cafe, 1 p.m.

Dec. 13: Afternoon Book Club, Seasonal Titles (adults), 1:30 p.m.

Homework Helpdesk, 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 15: DIY: Ornaments for Kids,

10 a.m. to noon Dec. 16: Night Before Christmas Storytime, 2 p.m. All ages.

Dec. 17: Monday Movie Matinee (adults), 12:30 p.m.

Ornaments for Kids, 5 to 7 p.m.

Homework Helpdesk, 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 18: Legal Assistance Clinic,

4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Dec. 20: Morning Book Club, Topic: The School of Essential Ingre-

dients (adults), 10 a.m. Homework Helpdesk, 5 to 7 p.m.

Dec. 21: Teen DIY: Snowy Slime, 4:30 p.m. Wild Winter Read-Off begins.

Children's Department Dec. 26: Brick by Brick, 10 a.m.

Kids of all ages welcome. Dec. 27: Sensory Friendly Movie and More (kids and families), 10 a.m.

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Community events

Thursday, Nov. 29

Charlie Berens, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh, 100 High Ave.

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

Winnebago on Tap Series, 7 p.m.,

Cookie Walk, 9 a.m., St. Johns Lutheran Church of Nekimi

Friday, Nov. 30

Family Aerial Playground, 6 p.m., Inner Sun Yoga Studio, 716 Oregon St.

Amy Jo and The Down Glow, 8:30 p.m., Screwballs Sports Pub, 216 N. Main St.

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

Saturday, Dec. 1

Christmas in the Air, 8 a.m., EAA Aviation Museum, 3000 Poberezny Road

Race for the Light, 4 p.m., Boys and Girls Club, 501 E. Parkway Ave.

Oshkosh Gallery Walk, 6 p.m., down-

Holiday Memories: Winter Wonderland Holiday Art Installation, 6 p.m.,

Celebrate Christmas Tour: Natalie Grant and Danny Gokey, 7 p.m., Menominee Nation Arena

Tunnel Gallery, 321 Market St.

Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra presents Orchestral Presents, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

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

Holiday Market, 10 a.m., The Howard, 405 Washington Ave.

"White Christmas," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Sunday, Dec. 2

Holiday Market, 10 a.m., The Howard, 405 Washington Ave.

Wednesday, Dec. 5

Badger State Beer Dinner, 6 p.m., Becket's, 2 Jackson St.

Thursday, Dec. 6

Independent Racket Night, 7:30 p.m.,

Fletch's Local Tap House, 566 N. Main St.

Friday, Dec. 7 Wright Brothers Memorial Banquet, 5

p.m., EAA Aviation Museum

Wisconsin Herd vs. Raptors 905, 7 p.m., Menominee Nation Arena

Swinging in the Holidays: Janet Planet and the UWO Jazz Ensemble, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Between the Low and Fools and Lovers, 7:30 p.m., Jambalaya Arts, 413 N. Main St.

"Santa Claus Conquers the Martians," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Birds of Chicago, 8 p.m., The Howard, 405 Washington Ave.

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

Saturday, Dec. 8

Oshkosh Youth Symphony Holiday Concert, 2 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium, 375 N. Eagle St.

Wisconsin Herd vs. Maine Red Claws, 7 p.m., Menominee Nation Arena

Harmonious Wail Holiday Spirits, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

"Home Alone," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

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

Harmonious Wail to lift holiday spirits at The Grand

Gypsy jazz trio Harmonious Wail will ring in the holiday season with a Holiday Spirits concert at The Grand Oshkosh on

The Madison-based trio, which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, defines their genre as "Americana infused gypsy jazz." The group blends an eclectic array of styles to create distinctive sounds. Their album "Holiday Spirits" features numbers fit for the season including "Let It Snow," "What a Wonderful World" and "Sleigh

Sims Delaney-Potthoff is a mandolin virtuoso, bandleader and vocalist; Maggie Delaney-Potthoff a vocalist whose percussive instrument of choice is a cardboard box and explores the musicality of any household object; and Jeffo Weiss is a master bassist on both upright and standing bass.

The show begins at 7:30 p.m. and tickets start at \$25.

FVTC events

Dec. 6: Fabtech open house – Learn about becoming a Fabick Cat technician, FVTC Fabtech Education Center, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Welding Boot Camp Test Drive, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dec. 11: FAFSA completion assistance, FVTC Oshkosh Riverside Campus, Room 101G, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

AMVETS ceremony set

The Oshkosh AMVETS post will sponsor a remembrance ceremony at 7:55 a.m. Dec. 7 at the Elks Lodge

Guest speaker will be Robert Kinderman, who will talk about the experiences of his father, Robert R. Kinderman, a Pearl Harbor survivor and member of the USS Oklahoma crew who was trapped below decks when the Oklahoma capsized from Japanese torpedo hits.

Master of ceremonies will be Angela Hill, AMVETS state executive director. Members from the United Veterans Honor Guard will fire a rifle salute. The public is welcome and veterans organizations are invited to bring their colors.

Birds of Chicago group in concert at Howard

Folk rock artists Birds of Chicago, with their recently released album "Love in Wartime," take The Howard concert stage at 8 p.m. Dec. 7

Recorded in Chicago against what the band called a backdrop of bewilderment, deep divide and dread, "Love in Wartime"

is described as a rock 'n' roll suite with a cinematic sweep

Built around the chemistry between Allison Russell and JT Nero, the band formed in 2012 and took to the road full time in 2013.

Tickets for the concert range from \$20 to \$50. More information on the concert can be found at www.thehowardoshkosh.

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Borsuk

FROM PAGE 1

Chamco board and involved in economic development for the past 40 years in Oshkosh. He has seen, experienced and participated in so many projects, developments and initiatives over the years that make Oshkosh what it is today."

Chamco had been the industrial development organization for the city until responsibilities were taken over by GO-EDC.

Since being a member of the Plan Commission, Borsuk said he has seen a positive effort to make Oshkosh a "more livable community."

"We need to look at the survival of our community today and the challenges to make the community viable," he said.

The biggest challenge, he projects, is having people who want to live in the city.

"There are so many choices that face people today," he said. "How do we attract people to move into and stay in the com-

Positive reasons for someone to move into Oshkosh, he said, are a good school system, the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, a great health care system and the value of the Fox River.

He said there is greater integration of community and university interests in the future of the city. Borsuk added that university staff are actively participating in



Planning Services director Darryn Burich (right) presents David Borsuk with a reproduced map from the 1860s signed by members of the Plan Commission and Planning Services staff.

community affairs.

Often proclaimed to be the historian on the Plan Commission, Borsuk said he credits fellow commission member Kathleen Propp for getting him involved on the commission while she was mayor.

"We need to have a reason for people to stay in Oshkosh," he said. "We do have forward-looking organizations that can assist with economic development and who are successful in retention and expansion of industry in Oshkosh. We also have a solid and diverse workforce as well as plenty of job opportunities available."

Major focuses have been on central city housing and economic development.

One thing that excites him has been an effort to create housing for workers in the central city.

"We need housing for them and associated services." Borsuk said, adding he foresees more risk-taking by those doing

development in the city. "There are a lot of opportunities to see new developments happen."

One example he cited is the development of the Menominee Nation Arena on South Main Street, which he said will spur more developments in the Sawdust District. "I see the energy there," he said.

Borsuk credits efforts by the city's Community Development Department in taking a leadership role for promoting the redevelopment of the community. His vision for the future is that the east side will not look as it is now.

"There is more openness and willingness to explain the vision for the future,"

For the last year he has lived in the multiuse building known as 100 North Main. "We have a true neighborhood there," he said referring to the mix of people in the apartments, some with children and others who are older adults. The building had previously been a bus depot as well as a collection of commercial enterprises.

"People today are so mobile," he said. "They are not afraid to change jobs."

He said another positive element has been the development of industrial parks within the city such as the Southwest Industrial Park.

"But we cannot change the weather," he said of his motivation to move to Durham.

His message for the future of Oshkosh: "Keep the passion going and growing."

Croninger

FROM PAGE 1

be in the elite class and describes himself as a "middle-of-the-pack runner" who usually completes marathons in 4-5 hours. He had a solid 4:25.34 time at his most recent marathon - the Milwaukee Lakefront Marathon on Oct. 7 - and ran a 4:58.41 at the Fox Cities Marathon on Sept 23. Croninger's personal best is a swift 3:51.17 that he recorded April 29 in the Oshkosh Marathon.

"He runs with a lot of heart," said Mike Croninger, Kevin's brother and running partner at some of the events. "He's one of those runners who can run through adversity. And you get adversity in marathons. Even if you have the perfect day or perfect weather, there's what runners call 'The Block,' where you hit a spot where you feel like: I don't want to do this anymore."

Kevin ran his first full marathon — the Fox Cities Marathon — in 2005 at the age of 21 and hasn't broken stride. He supports state and local races but enjoys hitting the road and lacing up his running shoes for out-of-state marathons.

"I guess some of my favorites are the destination races - like in Hawaii where you're running in Maui alongside the



Kevin Croninger (right) and his brother Mike are shown at the finish line of the 2012 Fox Cities Marathon, which was Mike's first.

ocean and you can see the whales jumping," said Croninger. "Or at Catalina Island in California just because of the scenic beauty. But if I had to pick a favorite, it would be either Oshkosh or Fox Cities because you're running close to home in an area where you grew up, and with your family watching."

Croninger also competes in at least one Ironman (which combines 2.4 miles of swimming, 112 miles of biking and a full marathon) per year. He and Mike usually do the Fox Cities Marathon together along with at least one Iron Man competition. Mike is a year older than Kevin and his interest in endurance events initially got Kevin hooked.

"It's a lot of fun when we run together," said Mike, a chiropractor at Gateway Chiropractic in Appleton. "He's a good runner and there's always a little bit of competition

between us, but it makes the race go that much faster. If one of us is having a rough day, we help each other out. We support one another."

Kevin resides in Sparta and is a district attorney for Monroe County. He finds endurance running to be a terrific stress-buster for his demanding job.

"I really picked up the pace as a runner when I became an attorney," he said. "Work can be pretty stressful for me and distance running really takes your mind off work. It's an outlet for me and a healthy one."

Croninger dabbled in cross-country in junior high but played soccer his four years at Oshkosh West because the two sports intersected during the fall season.

His training regimen is nothing extraordinary. Croninger tries to run between 4 and 8 miles three or four times per week and understands the dangers of overtrain-

"I know a lot of people who run a lot more than I do," he said. "I'm just trying to maintain my body in a way that I don't get injured."

While marathon running is an energy-sapping and physically challenging sport, Croninger feels that it doesn't require a top-notch, running-obsessed individual. What it takes more than anything is a strong will to match basic running skills.

"I think just about anyone can do a marathon," he said. "If I can do one, anyone can. It's a matter of putting your mind to it."

And if he continues that mentality, it wouldn't be a surprise to see him rack up 100 more marathons.

"When Kevin first told me he was going to try to do 100, I was a little skeptical," said Mike. "But then I started thinking about it and thought, 'Knowing him, he'll probably make that happen.' He's that kind of guy. He puts his mind to something and makes it happen."





Prep sports roundup

BOYS BASKETBALL

West tops Madison West 74-59 to open season

The Oshkosh West boys basketball team's season got off to a good start Friday as the Wildcats picked up a 74-59 win over Madison West in a game played in Wisconsin Dells.

Karter Thomas had a monster day scoring 37 points while grabbing seven rebounds and seven assists.

Caleb Fuller added 19 points while Jacquez Overstreet chipped in five.

Results from Tuesday's game against Neenah were not available before publi-

Spartans split games over weekend in tournament

The Oshkosh North boys basketball team went 1-1 in its home Thanksgiving Tournament, beating Pacelli 75-37 while falling to Madison East 62-47.

Results from Tuesday's game against Hortonville were not available before publication.

Knights open season with win over Laconia

The Lourdes boys basketball team opened up the season with a 72-57 win over Laconia on Saturday, getting 24 points from Henry Noone.

Noone went 4-of-7 from 3-point land while Benny Huizenga added 13 points and Preston Ruedinger chipped in 12.

Hayden Jones added nine in the win for the Knights.

Reed Gunnink led Laconia with 26.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

West rally not enough against New Berlin West

The Oshkosh West girls basketball team trailed by double digits at half and made a comeback in the second half but fell short in a 49-46 loss against New Berlin West on Saturday in the Brookfield Central Thanksgiving Shootout.

Ella Tigert led the Wildcats (1-2) with 13 points while Anelise Hammonds added nine. Six others scored in a balanced effort with Kiersten McNulty chipping in

Results from Tuesday's game against Neenah were not available before publication.

From Alex Wolf, Herald contributor

Wildcats return with veteran team

By Charleigh Reinardy HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Oshkosh West's Duane Hartkopf returns for his fifth year as head wrestling coach of the Wildcats and is excited to be returning a team full of varsity letter winners, nine sectional qualifiers and three state qualifiers.

So expectations are high this season.

"Our biggest strength this year is experience and depth," Hartkopf said. "Nearly everybody who will be in our varsity lineup has varsity experience from previous years. The team was battle tested many

WRESTLING think they are con-**PREVIEW**

times last year and I fident as we move forward."

Hartkopf leads a team of 44 wrestlers this season with 11 seniors that include returning state qualifiers sophomore Alec Hunter and seniors Connor Collins and Edgar Heredia.

"We have a very talented team this year," Collins said. "As a team we put in a good off-season and I'm excited to see how far we will go this year. This is my 12th year wrestling and my fourth year on varsity. I wrestle because I love working really hard and the feeling when you win. I love it because no one can go out there and wrestle for you — you have to do it for yourself."

As a team the Wildcats sit down and discuss their goals before the off-season. The Wildcats have set a goal to not only send five or more state qualifiers to Madison but to qualify for the team state tournament as well.

"As a staff, our goal is always to make sure we provide our team with the tools needed to achieve their goals," Hartkopf said.

Oshkosh North

Spartans wrestling coach J.R. Zemke also returns for his fifth season looking to improve his team throughout the season and to help his wrestlers grow as people through the sport.

Zemke is coaching a team of around 30 wrestlers with only two seniors. Senior A.J. Besaw will be returning this season after an ACL injury and senior Travon Lee will be returning for his third year with his quick and dynamic wrestling.

Zemke is also excited to have junior Cade Schmitz return to the Spartans after qualifying for the state tournament his freshman year.

"(Our) strengths are they are a hard-working group," Zemke said. "They are becoming closer through hard work. (A) weakness (is) we are young and will have holes in our lineup."



PHOTO BY EMIL VAJGRT

Oshkosh West coach Duane Hartkopf demonstrates wrestling techniques to his Wildcats team in preparation for the upcoming season.

Lourdes Academy

Lourdes coach Steve Heinzl is looking forward to coaching his close-knit team of eight wrestlers this season.

Heinzl has been pleased to watch his returning wrestlers look better than they did at the end of last season and see new wrestlers make huge jumps in just a few weeks. Heinzl shared he has never seen a group learn as quickly as this team.

"We have a couple of really good leaders in (senior) Cam Kelly and (junior) Keagan Stelzer," Heinzl said. "They may not be vocal but (they) both lead by example and the guys want to follow them. Every one of the guys pushes themselves."

Heinzl hopes to have a wrestler in Madison at the end of the season and to place in the top half as a team at the conference tournament.



College volleyball signings

Three Lourdes Academy seniors recently signed to play college volleyball next year. Morgan Thiel (from left) will go to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Rachel Aasby is headed to UW-Oshkosh and Ellie MacKenzie will play for Ripon College.



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7:00PM on the 1st & 3rd MONDAYS of each month. Page 14 | oshkoshherald.com November 28, 2018

Former Packers great brings empowering message to Read

Former Green Bay Packers safety Le-Roy Butler visited Read Elementary School on Nov. 20 to share his message against bullying.

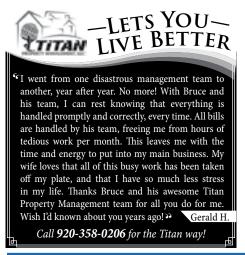
His "Butler vs. Bullying" campaign reached more than 6,000 students at 20 schools in its first year and intends to reach an additional 10,000 in its second year.

The Read second-grade team sponsored this month's school assembly and was funded by Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Teacher Teri Schulze said Butler had a strong message of overcoming obstacles, perseverance and following dreams by working hard and staying in school.

Spudfeed slated at Peace

Peace Lutheran Church, 240 W. Ninth Ave., invites the community to a free Spudfeed from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Dec. 5 in the church's lower-level Social Center. The main course will be baked potatoes with a variety of toppings.



Butler brings together professionals, teachers and families to discuss in an open format the social problems that derive from bullying.

"This approach allows the kids to learn to be leaders and not followers," Butler states on his website promoting the effort.

Butler's book "The LeRoy Butler Story" tells of his life growing up with clubbed feet in the projects of Jacksonville, Fla., to playing in the NFL.

Butler was a member of the Packers' 1996 championship team that won Super Bowl XXXI and was a four-time All-Pro. He was named to the 1990s NFL All Decade Team and was later inducted into the Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame in 2007. Butler also was recently named a Pro Football Hall of Fame semifinalist for the second straight year.



LeRoy Butler gives a presentation to Read Elementary School students last week on how to deal with bullying. Shown with Butler is second-grade teacher Teri Schulze.

Brighton Acres volleyball tournament cited

Sports Destination Management, a leading publication for event planners and tournament directors in the sports tourism market, picked the Waupaca Boatride Volleyball Tournament as one of its 2018 Champions of Economic Impact in Sports Tourism.

"It is a great honor and speaks to the hard work and dedication the organizers invest to make this an award-winning tournament," said Amy Albright, executive director of the Oshkosh Convention and Visitors Bureau. "We are very lucky to have this tournament in our community."

The Waupaca Boatride Volleyball Tour-

nament is one of five events in the country to be recognized in the Innovations in Sports Tourism category.

In 2018, the total economic impact of the tournament was estimated at \$1.1 million, accounting for 125 hotel rooms and 500 campsites per night and spending amounted to an average of \$156 per person, per day.

"Sports tourism is growing substantially across the country," Albright said. "Having an event of this caliber recognized as a champion of economic impact is a huge win for sports tourism in Oshkosh."

The tournament, also known as the U.S.

Open of Grass Volleyball, is a grass-surface tournament held each July at Brighton Acres. The event, which moved to Oshkosh in 2010, has grown 17 percent year over year. A record of more than 1,600 teams participated this year.

The tournament features juniors, men, women and co-ed divisions. Junior skill clinics, as well as Friday and Saturday night entertainment have been added over the years.

The 2019 tournament is July 12-14 at Brighton Acres with registration opening in February. It is open to the public and spectators are encouraged to attend.

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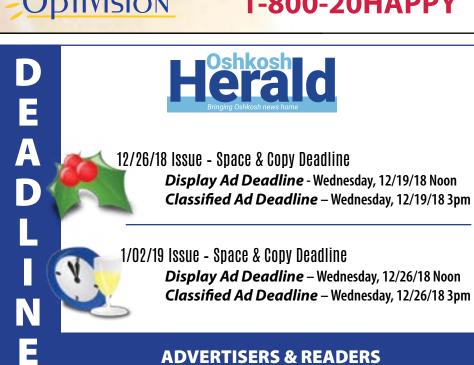
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Handbell ensemble in concert

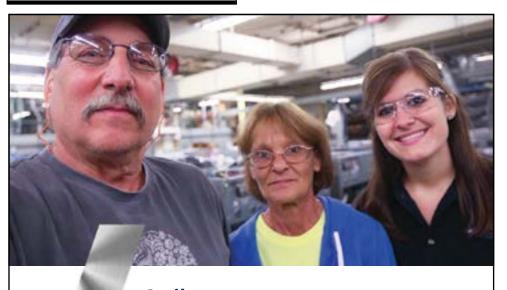
Encore Handbell Ensemble presents Christmas favorites, including arrangements of familiar secular, sacred and traditional songs, in two upcoming concerts.

Evergreen Retirement Community will be hosting a concert by the ensemble at 7 p.m. Nov. 30 in its new Worship and Performing Arts Center. Seating will be limited and reservations can be made at 920-233-2340 during weekday business hours. A suggested \$10 donation will be accepted.

Another ensemble concert will be presented at 7 p.m. Dec. 8 at First Presbyterian Church. Admission is \$10 and tickets will be available at the door.

The handbell ensemble has been entertaining audiences since 2008 when it was established to promote the appreciation of handbell music, provide quality performances and to build a reputation in the art of handbell ringing.

The ensemble is made up of musicians from communities throughout northeastern Wisconsin.



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Spartans finding new identity after title run

HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Last year was a spectacular one for the Oshkosh North boys basketball team.

The Spartans went 27-1 and captured their first Gold Ball in program history with a dominating 61-44 win over Brookfield East in the WIAA Division 1 State Championship game, capping off great careers for the handful of seniors that led the team for many years.

"It obviously was a special year and postseason run," head coach Brad Weber said of last year. "I think the sense of team,

BOYS BB PREVIEW

belief and love of each other, and impact that these guys made on their community tran-

scended their success on the court. To win a championship you need top level talent and skill. The difference maker for last year's group was their 'how.' Their how in the classroom and in the community enhanced their how on the court."

Losing six seniors for any team is hard but for North it will be even harder. Led by Tyrese Haliburton and Quincy Anderson – two players that averaged 40 points per game combined - Weber doesn't expect his players to fill their shoes.

Haliburton, who now plays – and starts - for Iowa State was the Fox Valley Association's Player of the Year and Gatorade Player of the Year while Anderson is playing for Division II Minnesota State University Mankato.

So instead of filling their shoes, Weber is taking a different approach on finding a new identity for this year's team.

"We don't talk about trying to fill those shoes. We have spent our off-season redefining our roles, identity and sense of team," Weber said. "No one is going to fill Ty and Quincy's shoes. We aren't looking for someone to try and be Wesley (Schiek) or Gout (Deng). We have redefined and established a new identity. An identity that is steeped in our tradition and culture but born out of the talents and personalities of our current group."

The Spartans do have a senior returning who has that starting and playoff experience in Matt Hickey - so he will be relied upon quite a bit. Hickey averaged 8.3 points per game a season ago.

"Matt Hickey is a three-year starter and primed to take on a major role," Weber said. "He has learned and competed against some of the best basketball players in our state day in and day out. He is central to our offensive identity. His toughness, post scoring and leadership will be key to our success this year."

Along with Hickey, Abe Schiek and Matt Berger played meaningful minutes last season and Weber expects greater things out of them.

Weber said junior Josh Dilling has grown into the team's point guard and floor general and said he has had a phenomenal offseason and is poised to run the show for the Spartans.

Senior Brennon Colburn had to play behind Haliburton and Anderson a season ago so Weber said he should get to see the court quite a bit and likes his game.

"He played behind two of the best guards in our state last year," Weber said. "He developed a ton over last year's season, he just didn't get the game experience. He has a lot of offensive ability, more than he gives himself credit for."

Others expected to make contributions



Oshkosh North coach Brad Weber works with his new Spartans squad as they prepare to follow up their Division I title championship.



Oshkosh West coach Mike Johnson is building on an experienced team that returns four Wildcat players from last year's varsity.

for North include Garang Deng (junior), Jalen Keago (sophomore) and Luke Salzsieder (senior).

Weber said he expects his team to be strong on the defensive side this season and if his team can rebound they will be in most games and believes his offense is balanced and knows that six to seven players can lead the team in scoring any given

Winning the FVA will be a tall task but North will definitely have a target on its back. Weber thinks his team will be competitive and stated that the conference has a lot of teams that are similar so if the Spartans can finish games and handle the adversity his team will be fine.

Oshkosh West returns with battle-tested squad

After playing a grueling schedule a season ago, along with returning all-conference players, Oshkosh West head coach Mike Johnson hopes that experience a season ago will help them this year.

"We may have had the toughest schedule in the state as we played in a conference that produced two state champion teams, our nonconference schedule was four teams who finished first or second in their leagues, and we were eliminated in the playoffs by the three-time defending state champs (SPASH)," Johnson said. "We were competitive throughout the

year and my hope is that playing such a tough schedule last year will have us battle tested and confident for this season."

The Wildcats return four players who have played varsity for at least three years and will be led by Luke Haasl and Karter Thomas – two all-conference players from a year ago who Johnson said have made significant strides this offseason.

Thomas, a junior who made second-team all-Fox Valley Association last year, was second on the team in scoring at 16.4 points per game while Haasl, a senior who was honorable mention, averaged 9.6 points and 8.4 rebounds per game.

Also returning for West, who finished 11-13 overall last year with an 8-10 mark in the FVA, includes four-year varsity players in Tony Lancaste and AJ Ambroso. Johnson said both are capable ball handlers, scorers and defenders who can make plays when needed.

Johnson said that Caleb Fuller will catch a lot of teams by surprise this season, an outstanding shooter who has a great feel to the game.

Lourdes Academy draws from playoff experience

The Lourdes boys basketball team was one game away from being the second team in the area to make it to the WIAA State Tournament but fell to an experienced Deerfield team in the sectional final.

Returning most of their players back from last year, head coach Brad Clark hopes that the experience from last year's game can help his squad this year, including winning that big game.

'We lost in the sectional final to a veteran Deerfield team who was more experienced," Clark said. "That sectional final game was important for us because I believe it taught us many things. Those things learned in that game will make us a better team for this upcoming season. We take the season one week at a time. You never want to look ahead, but the ultimate goal for everyone is to get to Madison and play for a state championship."

Some of the returning players include seniors Benny Huizenga and Henry Noone - two players that Clark said have developed more of an all-around game instead of just shooters. Clark also noted Preston Ruedinger, who was a first-team all-Trailways player as a freshman, got bet-

Ruedinger averaged 15.1 points per game last season. Noone led the team at 15.8 points per game (earned second-team all-conference) while Huizenga averaged 10.7. With those three it will be tough to beat the Knights this season.

"We have a great core of guys who all have the same goal," Clark said. "They are great kids who all get along and enjoy being in the gym together. I feel that is half the battle with coaching high school kids now days, most kids can't wait to leave the gym after a practice, where these guys stay and put in extra time."

Other returners that saw core minutes last year, that Clark said should have a big impact on the team include Jack McKellips, Caden Chier, George Muench, Jake Kreger and Nathan Kaull.

The Knights also landed a senior transfer in Hayden Jones, who will help the Knights from an athletic and shooting

Lourdes finished 19-7 last season and captured the Trailways-East Conference with a perfect 14-0 record.

Valley Christian features new coach, young team

Louis Giannopoulos has taken over as the new head coach for the Valley Christian boys basketball team, filling in for Eric Lehocky.

Finishing 7-15 overall with a 3-11 mark in the Trailways-East Conference a season ago, Giannopoulos is taking over a team that lost four seniors – three of them being starters - so it will be a challenge early on.

"We are going to be a very young team looking for different individuals to step up to the challenge," the new coach said. "Our goal is to keep working hard throughout the season and improve as we go along."

The Warriors do return two starters in juniors Isaiah Wade and Yianni Giannopoulos and the first-year coach hopes that his other varsity players with experience will help the team grow in David Curtis (senior), Luke O'Brien (senior), Andew McFarlane (junior) and Jaden Francis (sophomore).

Wade was the second leading scorer from last season at 11.5 points per game while Yianni Giannopoulos averaged 7 points per game. Wade - an honorable mention selection a season ago - also led the team in rebounding at just over 9 rebounds per game.