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Police funding holds steady

City, county budgets stay below average

By Miles Maguire
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Amid national and local calls to defund the police, both the Oshkosh Common Council and Winnebago County Board of Supervisors are starting to turn their

attention to law enforcement budgets for next year.

But even while acknowledging the need to reckon with racial disparities in the community, local officials show little enthusiasm for cutting the amount of money spent on police.

Bill Wingren, chairman of the county's Judiciary and Public Safety Committee, said he saw "no problem" with the 2021 budget proposed by Sheriff John Matz.

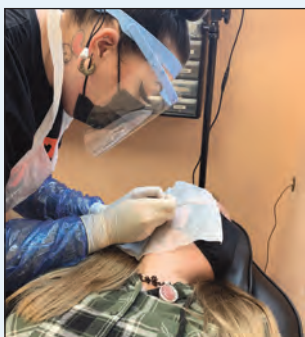
"It's a very large budget, obviously."

For next year Matz is asking for \$21.7 million, up slightly from the \$21.6 million that was approved for 2020. Because it includes more than \$11 million to run the jail, the county's law enforcement budget is significantly larger than the city's.

Oshkosh police spending, at \$14.1 million, represents the largest single expense

SEE **Police budgets** ON PAGE 19

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Photo by Michael Cooney

Exploring the creeks

It was a perfect Saturday afternoon for brothers Danny and Chris Schierl to kayak on the channel creek that runs off Candlish Harbor into the Oshkosh Country Club grounds.

City, county officials work to combat isolation impacts

By Samantha Strong
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Social isolation affects the physical and mental health of an individual but can also create a lasting impact on a community, which is something Oshkosh and Winnebago County officials are working to combat.

Beth Roberts, Winnebago County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) director, said nearly 30 percent of Oshkosh seniors are socially isolated, which she defined as when someone spends 10 or more hours alone in a day.



Part 3 of a series

Wisconsin is ranked seventh in the U.S. in its rate of socially isolated seniors, and Roberts said there's been a "staggering" increase in these numbers due to COVID-19. Most commonly, someone begins to self-isolate because of a decrease

in mobility, cold weather or a loss of a relationship, she said.

Physical health

Isolation has been proven to lead to heart disease, decreased mobility and an increase in vulnerability to infectious illness. In turn, these physical effects can take a toll on city services and the Medicare system, Roberts said. With more older adults self-isolating, due to fear of the virus or other reasons, more are at risk of serious health problems.

"The 30 percent of seniors who are so-



Roberts

cially isolated is pre-COVID," Roberts said. "COVID has really exacerbated the situation because of the number of seniors who are considered more vulnerable."

Another health impact COVID has had on isolated seniors, according to Roberts, is through nutrition.

SEE **Isolation impact** ON PAGE 18

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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.

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Corrections

It is the policy of the Oshkosh Herald to correct all errors of fact. For correction information, call 920-508-9000.

About the newspaper

Published weekly and mailed free of charge Tuesdays for Wednesday delivery (may vary based on U.S. Postal Service and holidays) to more than 28,500 homes and businesses in the Oshkosh area.

Oshkosh Herald LLC,
923 S. Main St. Suite C, Oshkosh.
An E-edition of the newspaper can be accessed at www.oshkoshherald.com.

Jackson Street corridor plans reviewed

Oshkosh Herald

A final public input workshop was held last week on the Jackson Street Corridor Study, at which time consultants recommended a full redesign of the roadway's historic district corridor south of Murdock Avenue.

Three options were offered that consultants said would create a safer area for drivers and pedestrians, along with the benefits and drawbacks of each model. The redesign option would better control traffic speeds, upgrade and move some pedestrian crossings, and improve driveway access and snow storage. The other two options would either maintain the existing traffic flow or do a partial redesign.

The use of two-way left turn lanes (TWLTLs) would be a redesign feature added to reduce lane crossings on turns, and subsequently accidents. There was a high of 75 crashes reported in that stretch in 2016.

The presentation followed two public meetings during the last year to hear from the public about their concerns. The cost

range placed on the redesign option was between \$160,000 and \$220,000.

Results of the study noted that 68 percent to 92 percent of travelers exceeded the 30 mph speed limit and that the Murdock and Jackson Street roundabout, New York Avenue, and Irving Street had the three highest incidents of vehicle damage through accidents.

An earlier presentation on the North Jack-

son Street corridor focused on development trends and related traffic control. Attention was paid to pedestrians needs in the Fairacres Center neighborhoods, the North Park District and the Interchange District.

Any sidewalk additions or improvements recommended in the north corridor would need the coordination of city, town and county jurisdictions that intersect in that area.



Photo by Michael Cooney

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Cruising into new era

Ardy & Ed's Drive-In on South Main Street held an End of Season Cruise In on Saturday where new owners T.J. and Valeta Rodgers, shown here, were on hand as the restaurant's 72nd season winds down. T.J. credited Ardy & Ed's homemade root beer helping seal the deal when he visited the location. T.J. sees his role as supporting the current managers and making sure they have the resources needed to be successful. Rodgers purchased a vacant lot across 24th Street as a location to hold car events, family movie nights and other community activities.

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Riverwalk's Lakeshore Park segment dedicated

Oshkosh Herald

The city's Riverwalk segment from Rainbow Park to the Tribal Heritage Crossing Trail was dedicated with a ribbon-cutting last Wednesday at Oshkosh Corp. Global Headquarters, where the trail runs along the Fox River in the new Lakeshore Park.

City Manager Mark Rohloff and Mayor Lori Palmeri spoke at the event and tied together the native and pioneer history of the area where Lake Butte des Morts meets the Fox River with the more recent development of a trail system connecting the larger region.

"The vision for the Riverwalk goes back many decades," Rohloff said, citing long-time community activist Lurton Blassingame, who died earlier this year, with proposing the recreational trail idea. The first segment of the Riverwalk was dedicated

in May 2013.

The public trail segment was funded through Oshkosh Corp.'s \$600,000 donation, the state Department of Natural Resources providing \$793,000 in grants and the city's \$200,000 input from the sale of the former municipal golf course that had occupied the site.

Oshkosh Corp. president and chief operating officer John Pfeifer also spoke at the ceremony to praise the project collaboration and its completion.

"I have the advantage of working in this building and being able to look out at the beautiful environment that it sits on," Pfeifer said. "We see people, families, we see joggers, we see walkers, we see bikers coming down this path every day and we're so happy to have been involved with you in making this a reality."

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Dr. Eric Koehler PT, DPT

Dr. Eric Koehler is a Physical Therapist and owner of Physical Achievement Center. He has lived in Oshkosh since 1991 while raising three children. He is an expert in both in person and digital communication to deliver care where patients choose-in the safety & convenience of home or in the clinic. His goal is to help you achieve greater mobility and strength to stay independent without medications, injections, or surgery.

and money, and possibly unnecessary surgery. Who would want to go through surgery and the long painful recovery without considering all non-surgical approaches have been considered BEFORE QUICKLY scheduling surgery?

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Tattoo shops continue to make artistic marks

By Jack Tierney
OSHKOSH HERALD

Demand for tattoos has not wavered during the historic coronavirus as local shops are reporting backlogs of booked appointments and increased requests for new sittings.

In an industry that generates \$1.65 billion a year nationally, parlors in Wisconsin were forced to close under Safer at Home orders March 21. The state Supreme Court overruled the shutdown in May and parlors reopened under their own discretion.

Oshkosh Tattoo and Good Girl Piercings opened after a collective agreement among employees and management that guidelines and health screening would be in place but gave customers the choice of whether to wear a mask.

920 Tattoo Co. has not reopened completely as the business is renovating its store and catching up with previously booked appointments.

A more widespread establishment, Big Guns Tattoo with locations in Fond du Lac, Oshkosh and Appleton, is open by appointment only and the new guys emphasizing fine lines at Easy Street Tattoo at 703 Oregon St. are open by appointment.

For clients hesitant about making a tattoo decision, measures that should be taken to protect themselves and artists include washing hands, wearing a face covering, limiting the number of guests (preferably zero) who attend a session, and putting phones away as they host many germs.

Customers should stay home if showing symptoms of COVID-19. Artists will be happy to reschedule.

Oshkosh Tattoo and Good Girl Pierc-



Photo from Big Guns Tattoo

Paige Amber takes precautions, ensuring safe piercings at Big Guns Tattoo Oshkosh.

ings, now months after the initial anxiety surrounding reopening decisions, are seeing business better than usual.

"We are unable to keep up with our emails," shop owner Kris Wilz said. "We have them coming in from our website, Facebook and Instagram and it is impossible to respond to even 10 percent of them."

Wilz said keeping up with emails has always been challenging for the business at 223 N. Main St. She said specific COVID-19 health guidelines have added to workloads and slowed other areas of business operations, such as responding

to clients.

"We are all running around getting to clients, doing their service, checking temperatures, tending to the added release forms for COVID, our regular release forms, keeping customers 6 feet apart as best we can while they wait, making sure people are using the right doors for exit and entry, et cetera, et cetera," she said.

She encouraged people to "please stop down" if they are feeling isolated. For services, call 920-230-6611. For tattoos, send image ideas to oshkoshtattoo@gmail.com or direct message the artist on social me-

dia. Instagram tends to be the best place for artists to promote their work.

Wilz said plans are set to remodel the historic tattoo shop building. She added she is looking forward to welcoming back employees released during shutdowns.

At 920 Tattoo Co., 578 N. Main St., two tattoo artists offer customized tattoos and claim to be the only by-appointment, fully custom shop in northeastern Wisconsin. They are following virus infection rates closely and said that letting science guide reopening decisions was important for them and customers.

920 Tattoo is only taking previously booked appointments with reduced shop capacity and no walk-ins for the foreseeable future, piercing artist Molly Moon said.

The small shop features two artists, Steven Anderson and Carrie Olson, working on independent schedules. Anderson delayed his reopening to October because he's renovating the shop. Olson had many previously booked appointments and hopes to reopen in November.

"The upside is that nobody will have to wait that long to get tattooed once we start booking again," Moon said.

Call 920-479-6144 for information about piercings, booking appointments, hours and procedures, or on Facebook for updates and information about piercings. Loosely fitting gaiters or bananas used for face coverings are not allowed, and temperatures will be taken.

Wilz said tattoo artists always look to prioritize their customers' health in what's normally a tightly regulated industry. She said having customers back in shop is important.

"We're here for you and want to provide a safe place for you to get your tattoo or piercing," she said.




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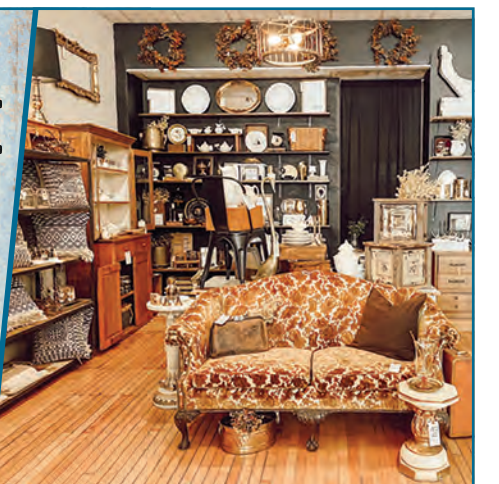
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Ramp Up project hopes to generate access work

By Kaitlyn Scoville
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Oshkosh Student Association president Ian McDonald has been working with students and faculty members since early summer to make the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh campus accessible to disabled students and visitors.

McDonald was going through some of his old coursework and noticed this renovation project had been among some of the things he wanted to see the student government accomplish.

The Oviatt House was the initial building in question when McDonald pitched the idea to Patricia Schrader, senior Equal Employment Opportunity specialist and deputy Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator, this spring.

"The Oviatt House is the most beautiful and oldest-standing house on campus," McDonald said in an email to Schrader. "Currently, it's a part of the Wisconsin Historical Society, but is inaccessible to (individuals) who are disabled."

Schrader responded to McDonald's pitch by identifying that "the building is not required to be brought up to current day standards unless it is going through a more than 50 percent renovation," and that it is not in UWO's top 50 projects list of the campus master plan.

"While we know it is not ideal, our office has been successful in ensuring that staff at the Honors College know they must be offering alternative accessible meeting locations to individuals," Schrader added.

The project request expanded in mid-August to include all three Wisconsin Historical Society federally recognized



Photo by Carter Uslabar

The Oviatt House (shown here), Pollack House and Multicultural Education Center are all Wisconsin Historical Society federally recognized historic buildings on the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh campus in need of access for the disabled.

historic buildings at UWO: Oviatt House, Pollack House and the Multicultural Education Center (MEC).

The MEC needs ramp repairs, whereas both Pollack and Oviatt houses need accessibility ramp and handlebar installations.

McDonald said there are some roadblocks in the way of renovating UWO's three oldest buildings on campus.

"They each have their own individual challenges when it comes to getting an accessibility ramp," McDonald said. "Oviatt is extremely difficult because it's the oldest building on campus. Pollock will be slightly simpler because it's not elevated 6 feet in the air to get into the building.

"The MEC House would probably be

the easier one seeing that there's a ramp that just needs repairs and needs to be brought up to code."

Along with the project proposal being submitted to the UW System's Office of Capitol Planning and Budget for review, it requires the approval of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

McDonald said the proposal will not be submitted to the historical society until more information is gathered.

Laurence Carlin, Dean of the Honors College situated in the Oviatt House, said adding a ramp may not be as easy as it seems.

"If you make a structural change to the building then you might have to also bring all of it up to code. And suddenly, this is a

really big project that might outstrip our resources," he said.

He said that having a ramp is more important than any change they might have to do to the building.

McDonald stated in an email that the project could cost around \$2 million and require fundraising efforts that will be discussed at a later OSA meeting.

Kev Kollmann, OSA Students with Disabilities Advocacy senator, said that building a cheaper wooden ramp with continuous upkeep over the years would be more expensive than building something more permanent and long-lasting.

"There will be an architect and an engineer that will have to get brought in to get those plans all figured out," he said.


McDonald said that he is optimistic with the progress of the initiative thus far while keeping note of the project's complexity.

"This is bigger than any other project that I've taken on before," McDonald said. "There's a lot more hoops to jump through in this than there has been in any other project. This is going to be a marathon, not a sprint."

Additionally, McDonald said that the public's perception of the project may be aiming higher than its reality.

"People will assume that these projects need to be done by the end of the year; that's not true," McDonald said. "Hopefully not far, but a couple of years down the road after I'm done we'll be fully completed to where all three houses are accessible."

He is hoping the project will be complete by December 2021.





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Beer collectibles show illustrates local history

By Lee Reiherzer
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Beginning at noon Sunday, Fifth Ward Brewing Co. will host a brewery collectibles trade show featuring beer-related memorabilia that spans more than a century of American brewing history.

It's been almost 40 years since the last time a show like this was held in Oshkosh. The man who's working to organize it wasn't even alive then.

Jared Sanchez is 32, and despite having a full-time job, a wife, and young daughter, he manages to make time for his obsession: collecting items related to American brewing history. Or as hobbyists like Sanchez call it, breweriana.

"My interest in brewing history began when my college roommate, Zach Clark, started brewing beer in our college house basement with Ian Wenger," Sanchez said. Clark and Wenger went on to establish Fifth Ward Brewing. Meanwhile, Sanchez was studying up on Oshkosh brewing history and searching for remnants of the city's old breweries. But his pursuits grew more focused after a 2014 chance encounter with fellow collector Ron Akin.

Akin is co-author of the book "The Breweries of Oshkosh" and has amassed the preeminent collection of Oshkosh-related brewery memorabilia.

"I had bought a Tonka truck off of eBay and I had no idea that the seller was Ron Akin," Sanchez said. "When I arrived to pick up my purchase we talked for a few minutes and he asked if I collected anything else. I told him I collected Chief Oshkosh Beer items and his face lit up. He asked me if I wanted to see his collection.



Photo from Lee Reiherzer

Jared Sanchez is shown with some of his local beer memorabilia, some of which will be on display at Fifth Ward Brewing on Sunday.

The moment I saw his basement, my life was never the same."

Now, Sanchez wants to pay the inspiration forward.

"I wanted to set up this show as a way to promote the hobby and bring collectors together in the area and spark some local interest in the brewing history of Osh-

kosh," he said. "I wanted to put something together where we could all gather and enjoy time together and share our interests."

Many of the items displayed will have ties to Oshkosh, but Sanchez says the scope of the free show will be broad.

"People can expect to see items from breweries all across the state and country,"

he said. "There will be items from before Prohibition all the way up to more current things."

At least 15 vendors will be on hand to display their items. Sanchez encourages those who might be interested in showing their collections to contact him at 920-410-7073. His goal is to generate enough interest to ensure that it won't be another 40 years before the next breweriana show happens here.

"I hope to host this event annually," Sanchez said. "I want to keep the hobby alive so that brewing history is never forgotten."

Lee Reiherzer has been writing about Oshkosh's beer and its brewing history since 2010 when he launched the Oshkosh Beer website. He is co-author of "The Breweries of Oshkosh" and author of "Winnebago County Beer."

BID office moves downtown to CVB

The Downtown Oshkosh Business Improvement District (BID) manager's office is relocating this week to the Oshkosh Visitors & Convention Bureau at 100 N. Main St. from the Chamber of Commerce building after more than 30 years.

The chamber assisted in the formation of the BID and provided office space and support to the BID manager. The BID and chamber's strong relationship and partnership will continue. The move gives the BID manager a physical presence in the downtown, an objective identified in their recently adopted 2021-2025 strategic plan.

The BID Board approved the office move at its Aug. 18 meeting and it officially opens Thursday.

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Skilled jobs in demand after low-skill employment return

By Joseph Schulz
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

After exceeding Great Recession levels in April, the unemployment rate in Winnebago County has normalized as issues that plagued the economy before the pandemic have been amplified in its wake.

The jobless rate gradually declined throughout the summer as businesses continued reopening, according to preliminary statistics from the state Department of Workforce Development (DWD).

The August unemployment rate in Winnebago County was 5.1 percent with roughly 4,620 people collecting benefits, meaning 7,280 jobs have been added since April when unemployment was 13.2 percent, the DWD reports.

Even so, industries such as leisure, hospitality, government, education, health services and other services have not fully regained jobs lost during the statewide safer at home period, according to DWD Economist Ryan Long.

“Leisure and Hospitality, as of August, is still down 3,300 jobs from March,” Long said. “But the biggest loser is actually government, particularly at the state and local levels.

“Paradoxically health care is also down 1,700. Retail is actually up 1,500,” he said.

While the economy has proven resilient as unemployment has gone down, Fox Valley Workforce Development Board (FVWDB) CEO Anthony Snyder noted employers struggle to find highly skilled workers, a problem they faced before the pandemic.

“If you’re a large manufacturer, you are still seeking skilled labor now just like you were in March,” Snyder said. “Nothing has changed.”

The pandemic has forced manufacturers to continue to explore Industry 4.0, according to Ann Franz, director of the Northeast Wisconsin Manufacturing Alli-

ance, the organization that conducted the Industry 4.0 survey.

As low-skill factory jobs have become less abundant, Snyder says a larger chunk of people have transitioned into low-skill, low-wage service jobs.

“We now call them ‘essential workers’ in many cases,” he said. “The delivery driver bringing your food to you is an essential worker. The worker stocking shelves at the grocery store is an essential worker. A lot of the time, these essential workers are the lowest paid people out there.”

To improve the quality of life for many of those workers, Snyder believes the United States government needs to reinvest in workforce development to “upskill” our labor force for the jobs of tomorrow.

He said workforce development boards such as FVWDB are significantly underfunded to provide retraining programs because the federal government had slashed workforce development funding.

“Some people never fully launched a career, they got a job after high school and they never were able to advance because of a lack of skills or a lack of education,” Snyder said. “Ideally, what I would like to do is take the underemployed cashier or the now unemployed bartender and get them into a retraining program that we will pay for.”

Beyond covering the cost of a program, Snyder said he would like to cover living expenses to allow participants to focus on their education.

However, FVWDB’s funding has shrunk to the point where Snyder either has to “serve fewer people” or “serve as many people as possible with fewer dollars,” meaning the workforce board cannot afford to pay for retraining programs without more help.

Ultimately, Snyder believes increasing the pool of skilled workers during the pandemic will put the economy in a position to thrive in a post-pandemic society.



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Council defers to state mask mandate extension

By Tom Ekvall
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

After an executive order by Gov. Tony Evers that extended the mask-wearing requirement into November, the Common Council last Tuesday withdrew an ordinance proposal that would impose a local version of the mandate the same day.

The action came at the council's meeting held at the Oshkosh Convention Cen-

ter to accommodate an expected crowd speaking about the requirement. The council opened its meeting by proposing to withdraw the ordinance and stating that no public discussion on the issue would be allowed.

City Manager Mark Rohloff noted that the city and Winnebago County have been experiencing a rapid increase in those testing positive for the coronavirus.

After passage of the motion, the council took a break as many of those in the audience were not wearing masks. Council member Matt Mugeraurer said he felt "troubled" by the decision to declare the short break so that those citizens present could be "shamed." Mayor Lori Palmeri said she disagreed with those observations.

The council set a special meeting for this Tuesday on business issues related to pandemic restrictions with representatives from the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce, Convention & Visitors Bureau, Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corp., Tavern League and Winnebago County Health Department.

Palmeri said last week she would like some discussion on capacity limits in bars and restaurants due to the recent surge of cases, saying that some business owners feel disadvantaged in limiting customers while others are not.

In other action:

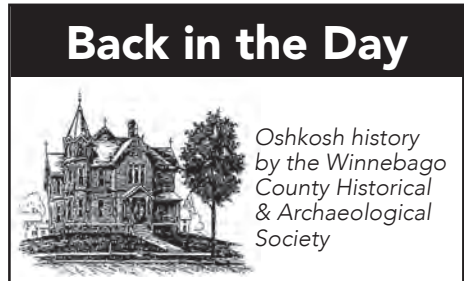
- The council passed a motion authorizing the city and other agencies to renew its partnership with Healistics Inc. for health coverage through the Three Waves Health Clinic and Wellness Center and with Robin HealthPartners. Mugeraurer had asked for a separate vote on the item that had been included in the council's consent agenda. City officials said that switching to an alternative provider would have meant that

70 percent of those covered would have to switch doctors for their care.

- The council approved a resolution requested by U-haul to amend a specific implementation plan to allow additional parking, shunting areas and several structures at its facility at 900 N. Koeller St. The Plan Commission had recommended approval of the amendment.

- Rohloff announced that a workshop dealing with Transitional Living Placement housing for those who had been incarcerated will be held this Tuesday at City Hall with the state Department of Corrections and the housing agency Triniteam Inc. participating. Residents near 1105 Jefferson St. had appeared before the council requesting information about the property and have expressed their disappointment with management of the property and its residents.

- Held a workshop before the regular meeting on affordable housing in the community, at which time Community Development Director Allen Davis said a complete study on affordable housing could be accomplished with existing funds available. The scope of the new study could include livability information, conversion of single-family homes into rental units, adaptive reuse housing opportunities, impact of local ordinances, special needs housing and ADA accessibility.



Sept. 24, 1918

Local Magician Dies of Disease at Navy Station:

Taken at the height of his career, John Harold Oaks is dead at the Naval training station at Great Lakes, Illinois. The son of John Oaks, the candy maker, was stricken by Spanish Influenza which has been raging in a number of Army and Navy camps across the country. He died on Monday, September 23. Oaks was 29 years of age and his profession was that of a professional magician known as "The Mighty Oaks," the handcuff king. He worked the vaudeville circuit until finally giving it up to open the Oaks Magic Company at 47 Main St. in Oshkosh. As a performer, Oaks performed an escape at the Oshkosh jail on March 15,



Photo from Bill Oaks

John Harold Oaks was a professional magician known as "The Mighty Oaks."

1911. He was handcuffed to a cell and was successful in his escape. John Oaks will be laid to rest at Riverside Cemetery alongside his parents and sister.

Source: *The Oshkosh Daily Northwestern*, Sept. 24, 1918

Caregiver classes offered through county ADRC

The Powerful Tools for Caregivers Class is a free six-week course offered by the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Winnebago County that focuses on helping to support participants so that they can continue to be a strong caregiver.

The program helps reduce stress, guilt, anger and depression while improving emotional well-being. Classes begin from 3 to 4 p.m. Oct. 12 via Zoom. Contact Rebecca Groleau at 236-1227 or rgroleau@co.winnebago.wi.us for details. RSVP by Oct. 5.



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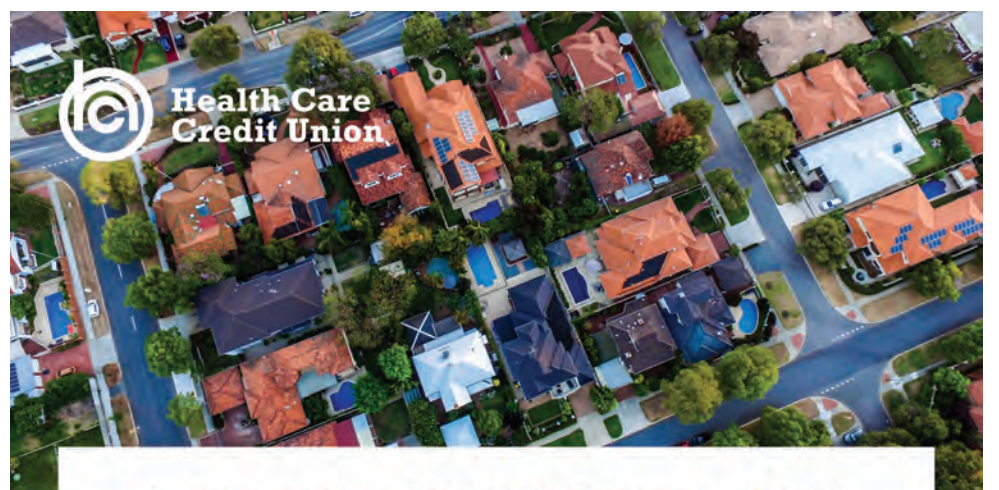
Source: *Holiday Trends 2020 Insights*, Criteo.com

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6-oz. Sweet Blackberries \$2.49	California - Extra Large Green Seedless Grapes \$2.49 lb.	9.7-11.75-oz. - Fresh Express Chopped Salad Kits 2/\$6.50	Large Avocados 79¢ ea.
Fresh Cut Seedless Watermelon 79¢ lb.	Golden Pineapple \$2.99 ea.	Jumbo Sweet Onions \$1.29 lb.	16-oz. - Giorgio Whole or Sliced Baby Portabella Mushrooms \$3.99
Fresh Limes 3.99¢	Washington State Premium Granny Smith or Gala Apples \$1.29 lb.	2-lb. Bag Yellow Onions \$1.29	2-lb. Package Bolthouse Farms Carrots \$1.49
Washington State Bartlett Pears \$1.29 lb.	2-lb. Bag Juicy Sweet Mandarins \$3.99	5-lb. - Wisconsin Red Potatoes \$2.29	2-lb. Package Bolthouse Farms Baby Carrots \$2.49
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Fresh Baked **16-oz. Assorted Varieties Wheat Breads** **\$2.49**

Fresh Baked **12-Count Seeded Rye or Wheat Dinner Rolls** **\$2.69**

Fresh Baked **18-oz. Old World Italian Bread** **\$2.49**

Fresh Baked **12.3-oz. Pretzella Pretzel Bite Tubs** **\$4.99**

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School referendum decision underway

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Area School District residents are already voting on two school funding requests — one for \$7.95 million to renew existing operating funds and the other for \$107 million toward long-term facility improvements — that will shape the future of local classrooms at all levels.

With absentee voting underway ahead of the Nov. 3 general election, the referendum questions will decide whether the public investments asked for new school facility upgrades and replacements gain the majority support needed to move ahead.

The district is holding information sessions on the referendum, the next one set for 6 p.m. Thursday at Webster Stanley Middle School along with a virtual pre-

More information

www.oshkosh.k12.wi.us/referendum
 Email referendum@oshkosh.k12.wi.us
 Call 920-966-0343

sentation at 6 p.m. next Tuesday at www.oshkosh.k12.wi.us/referendum.

The long-term facilities plan was developed starting in 2017 by the community-based Facilities Advisory Committee and unanimously approved in February by the Board of Education. The two questions on the ballot:

Question 1: Renew \$7.95 million in annual operating funds previously ap-

proved by the community in 2014 and 2016 with no tax increase. Funds would help enable the district to continue to advance its community-developed strategic plan, while following its guiding principle of students first by sustaining academic programs, technology for learning, and student support services.

Question 2: Invest \$107 million in capital funds to advance the first phase of a long-range facilities plan by building a new middle school and a new elementary school, closing three aging/outdated facilities, enhancing school safety and security, and addressing deferred maintenance and infrastructure needs. The result would be consolidated and modern schools that are more efficient, effective and equitable — with fewer school buildings to maximize use and efficiency, district reports state.

For every \$100,000 of home value, the monthly property tax increase from passage of the capital funds investment is estimated at \$4 next year, \$6 in 2022 and \$7 in 2023 through the rest of the bond term.

Among the areas where district officials are emphasizing the need for backing the referendum include better consolidation of school buildings and staff, keeping the district competitive with surrounding communities that are improving their facilities, dealing with equity concerns by improving older east-side schools, and current low interest rates and a competitive construction market.

The district's last capital funding request was in 2012 to build Oaklawn Elementary School. Before that was 1999 to build Jefferson Elementary School.

Advisory vote challenges Citizens United ruling

Oshkosh Herald

Among the ballot items for Winnebago County voters in the Nov. 3 general election is an advisory referendum seeking public opinion on whether to overturn a 2010 U.S. Supreme Court decision that allowed unlimited election spending by corporations, labor unions and other associations.

The County Board passed a resolution submitted by supervisors Michael Norton and Stephanie Spellman on Aug. 4 that is being spearheaded by Wisconsin United to Amend, a nonpartisan network of citizens



seeking to minimize the corruptive influence of money on the political process.

"We seek to overturn Citizens United and related Supreme Court decisions so we may reclaim the liberties and privileges guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution for real people," the group states on its wiuta.org website.

The group said 820 communities across

the U.S. have passed resolutions calling for a constitutional amendment, including more than 160 governmental bodies in Wisconsin and 20 state legislatures, that would overturn Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission. The U.S. Supreme Court voted 5-4 in favor of Citizens United that struck down the 2002 Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act that found independent expenditures from corporate treasuries as violations of the First Amendment.

The advisory referendum question on the Winnebago County ballot reads:

"Should the state Legislature enact proposed legislation to support passage of an

amendment to the U.S. Constitution that seeks to reclaim democracy from the expansion of corporate personhood rights and the corrupting influence of unlimited political contributions and spending?"

A yes answer indicates the voter believes there should be a limit to political contributions and spending and the expansion of corporate personhood rights.

County Clerk Susan Ertmer said the referendum has generated phone calls and emails to her office looking for more information. She posted some basic information at www.co.winnebago.wi.us/county-clerk/election-information.

School district gets \$375,000 federal safety grant for facilities, equipment

The Oshkosh Area School District has been awarded a \$375,000 safety grant through the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) School Violence Prevention Program to enhance facility safety measures and equipment.

"We appreciate this grant from the COPS Office to help the Oshkosh Area School District enrich and expand our existing safety protocols," stated Superintendent Vickie Cartwright. "These funds will allow us to improve school security infrastructure and further partner with our local law enforcement agencies to ensure that our students, staff and schools remain safe."

Grant funds will be used to purchase

digital intercom systems at both North and West high schools, facility mapping software, and portable and hand-held metal detectors to be used periodically to increase entry security at schools and events. Intercom systems at all OASD middle and high schools will be enhanced to allow for remote access during an emergency situation.

"The Oshkosh Police Department has had a long-standing partnership with the Oshkosh Area School District with the focus of keeping our students safe and building relationships with our students," stated Police Chief Dean Smith. "Any opportunity to enhance the safety of our students is an opportunity to embrace."



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Assembly candidates answer questions from Vote411

Oshkosh Herald

Candidates for state Assembly District 54 — incumbent assembly minority leader Democrat Gordon Hintz and his challenger Republican small business owner Donnie Herman— answered questions posed by Vote411 at www.lwv.org, part of the League of Women Voters' Education Fund.

Here are some of the questions and responses:

Please describe your priorities for your term in office and your specific qualifications to effectively address those issues.

Donnie Herman: My first priority is to bring small business perspective into the Legislature. What happened to small businesses at the onset of COVID-19 can never happen again. The financial impact on small businesses will take years to recover from and some businesses will not recover at all. This was a complete infringement on our constitutional rights.

Gordon Hintz: The coronavirus has dramatically changed our lives creating uncertainty for many. As the world works to contain the virus and develop an effective vaccine, state government has a key role in addressing the public health and economic crisis. I am committed to doing everything possible to support the people and businesses in Oshkosh during this time.

I helped craft the state's COVID legislative package that helped keep people employed, provided additional health benefits, and allowed the state to receive federal funding. As a WEDC board member, I approved \$1.8 million in grants to over 700 area small businesses to support them during the public health crisis.

I'm running for re-election because I believe our state government has an important role to play in creating opportunity for all people in Wisconsin. I am committed to making state government a partner with local government in Oshkosh to address the issues facing our community.

Do you support a transparent, non-



The drop box outside Oshkosh City Hall is available for absentee ballot submissions.

partisan redistricting process? Please explain your rationale.

Herman: This is something that almost naturally occurs depending on who controls the majority of the Legislature and the Senate. Really, nothing is nonpartisan.

Hintz: Yes. Gerrymandered maps deprive the public of a representative government. The current Republican majority doesn't have to listen to public opinion because they're likely to win re-election despite any votes they take in Madison. We need to bring common sense back to our legislative redistricting process. Politicians drawing maps that can so easily be slanted in their favor doesn't work in the polarized political environment we live in. We are seeing these abuses of power more frequently in blue states and red states. In 2009, when Democrats were in the majority, I co-sponsored a nonpartisan redistricting plan. I continue to do so today.

Wisconsin communities have seen increasing water contamination issues from lead pipes, PFAS, and agricultural pollution. What do you think needs to be done to ensure clean, safe drinking water for all Wisconsinites?

Herman: This is something I would

support. We need to consider funding for homeowners to help homeowners replace their lead laterals. This would cost individual homeowners \$4,000-\$5,000. I would support legislation to help pay for this; everyone deserves clean drinking water.

Hintz: Water needs to be a bigger priority across the state. Lead pipe replacement requires a long-term plan and capital investment, but the costs of inaction are too big to ignore. In the meantime, up-to-date and accurate testing and a public education campaign needs to be made so families know what is in the water they are drinking.

Agriculture run-off mitigation requires a partnership between the state and the AG industry. Working with farms on nutrient management systems and monitoring manure spreading with clear rules and goals can improve things. While farms are getting larger, they are also using technology and design systems to increase production. The same can be used for waste management.

PFAS presents a real challenge as we continue to learn about the effects of contamination. Government needs to protect public health, and industry needs to develop and moves towards a safer alternative.

What is your position on Medicaid

Election 2020

expansion in Wisconsin? Please explain your rationale.

Herman: Medicaid is one of the biggest expenses in the legislative budget. Since this already takes up so much of the budget we cannot afford to expand. We need to expand our job programs. Every able bodied person needs to have a job. This would cultivate self-worth and the ability to provide for themselves and their families.

Hintz: Expanding Medicaid coverage to 138 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) for childless adults and parents/caretakers enables an estimated 82,000 individuals to access affordable health coverage. For reference, a single person working full time, earning between 100 percent of the FPL to 138 percent FPL, makes about \$12,000 to \$17,000 per year. Accepting the Medicaid expansion funding will generate more than \$300 million in state taxpayer savings over the biennium. This savings is invested in Wisconsin's health care system and leveraged to draw down a total of \$1.6 billion in new additional federal dollars for health care. By covering those without health insurance, there will be less uncompensated care for providers and fewer medical bankruptcies for individuals. Increased reimbursement will reduce cost shifting to private insurance. One study referenced by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that ACA Marketplace premiums are actually 7 percent lower in expansion states compared to non-expansion states.

Prisons are the third most expensive item in our state budget, and Wisconsin incarcerates more of our population than any neighboring state. What

SEE **Assembly race** ON PAGE 17

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Assembly race

FROM PAGE 16

are your ideas to reform the criminal justice system and reduce the prison population?

Herman: We pay about \$32,000/year/prisoner. Wisconsin has 37 prison facilities and \$2.6 billion is spent every cycle. This clearly has to change. We need to spend more money on treatment and diversion programs. Drunk driving for example; putting someone in jail for drunk driving will not stop the problem for that person. Alcoholism is a disease that needs to be addressed through treatment. We would need to thoroughly examine incarceration data to see where treatment programming and job skill development.

Hintz: After a decade of inaction, Wisconsin took the first steps to meaningful corrections reform with the bipartisan juvenile corrections reform bill signed into law in 2018. This would have closed Lincoln Hills and implemented more effective interventions to reduce future recidivism. Unfortunately, once Governor Evers was elected, Republicans refused to fund the next steps necessary to keep things moving, jeopardizing any changes from occurring. Looking at decriminalization of minor marijuana possession, reconsideration of technical violations that don't risk public safety, and incentivizing

drug and alcohol treatment and diversion programs all should be part of a broad approach. Again, it needs to be a priority, and the workforce shortage and competing budget priorities provide even more reasons for action.

Racial disparities exist in child poverty rates, educational opportunity, infant mortality rates, incarceration rates, and other issues facing Wisconsinites. What will you do to reduce racial disparities throughout Wisconsin?

Herman: A strong education system is crucial to bridging people out of poverty. We need to make sure we are providing equal opportunities and programming to help families remain intact. We need to educate and work together to instill strong family units and opportunities for employment.

Hintz: Commit. Governor Evers has prioritized bills that would begin to move the needle on law enforcement and criminal justice reform. Educational and employment opportunities require investment and a recognition of disparities that exist now. We need to make sure existing state and local policies aren't making things worse. But the reality is that a lot of change that is necessary will need to be cultural. I am encouraged by the broad support of younger people of all races who appear to value diversity and equity, to addressing racial disparities and injustice that are at the forefront in 2020. Inaction is not an option.

GO Transit runs free on Election Day

Each year, Oshkosh's GO Transit declares a "free fare day" or a "try transit" day, historically on the Friday before school starts to promote public use of transit. This year due to COVID19 limitations and the new student fare program, the Transit Advisory Board declared that

day to be Election Day, Nov. 3.

All riders will be able to ride GO Transit's fixed route service to get to the polls or just to experience the safety and convenience of public transit. For questions, contact Transportation Director Jim Collins at 920-232-5342.

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Isolation impact

FROM PAGE 1

Some are afraid of going to the grocery store so instead order food. Being able to order groceries online and healthy food options has helped, but only for those who have the technology or knowledge to do so.

“You think about our community and eating; eating is such a social thing and our eating habits are very much based around our social life,” Roberts said. “So with people not having the social contact, it’s impacting their nutrition.” She said the effects of that isolation can begin to be noticed in as early as a month.

Falls and isolation

While conducting research for another initiative, the Oshkosh Fire Department found a correlation between isolation and falls, which make up a good portion of service calls in a given year. Fire Chief Mike Stanley said those in isolation can be more prone to falls due to the increased time spent at home.

“The effects of isolation can lead to a fall, I would say,” Stanley said in citing decreased muscle memory and strength, in addition to spending more time in unsafe home environments. “The longer someone is isolated, there are going to be health ramifications.”

The most common reason for a senior to fall is clutter around their house — rugs, piles of books, pets, throw pillows. Stanley has been working with other organizations in the county to increase education around fall prevention, but some of these initiatives have been put on hold due to COVID-19 precautions.

Stanley said Oshkosh Fire Department ambulances were assigned 897 hours for fall calls in 2019, which adds up to more

than 37 days.

Mental health

Isolation can also lead to depression, anxiety, dementia and substance abuse. Beth Clay, executive director at NEW Mental Health Connection, said COVID-19 created the “perfect storm” of increasing health risk factors and decreasing preventive measures for those in isolation.

“There’s a lack of access to regular preventative health care, social support and more,” Clay said. “It’s exacerbated something that was already a problem before this happened.”

Clay emphasized that while depression is not a normal part of aging, many older adults have depression or anxiety, which can and often leads to isolation.

“Losing friends and family is very common among older adults, which can lead to depression,” she said. “They start realizing they don’t have a lot of time left and may start to shut down and isolate themselves. After being isolated for a while, someone might develop social anxiety and not want to be around people, which can lead to further isolation, depression and other mental health impacts.”

Clay emphasized the importance of integrating mental and physical health, and though many mental illnesses are treatable, screening and diagnosis can be difficult because of the stigma still surrounding it.

“We have tons of access and capacity inside the mental health system of care,” Clay said. “The public perception is I can’t access it, but mental health providers are saying, ‘We’re here, open and ready to help.’”

Effects on a city

Isolation was on City Manager Mark Rohloff’s radar before COVID-19, but he said the pandemic has made it a more important issue. Oshkosh has a growing

senior population and a reputation of valuable resources, a strong seniors center and proximity to supplemental health services.

Rohloff said one of his goals is to keep residents living independently and is proud of the services the city provides to enable people to do that much longer than they could otherwise.

“Our goal is to keep seniors independent and that has a greater societal value too, because the cost of serving somebody in a care facility is expensive,” he said. “It can potentially take away a lifetime of savings from an older adult.”

COVID-19 has created a cyclical problem because one of the components of older adults maintaining their independence is to have a healthy and active lifestyle, including social connections. With COVID, there are limited opportunities for seniors, a population vulnerable to the virus, to maintain their social and physical activity without the knowledge of and access to technology.

Rohloff is proud of the work the seniors

center is doing to help adults remain connected through technology and believes it’s a valuable part of the solution.

“We want to prevent (older adults) from going down that de-escalation that impacts quality of life,” he said. “Technology can help until we’re all able to be together again.”

The area’s senior population will continue to increase as the baby boomer generation is hitting its peak now and demand for services and care subsequently grow. Rohloff said the key to the city being able to sustain this type of activity — an increased reliance on technology — is to implement plans and resources now.

“It may not be your loved one today, but it will be in the future,” Rohloff said. “We need to get this infrastructure built so we can build and grow our senior population, and we need to keep them independent.”

This article is part of a series exploring the issue of Oshkosh seniors in isolation, why it’s a problem and how the community can help. Prior week’s stories are available at oshkoshherald.com.

United Way program grants awarded

The Oshkosh Area United Way has awarded 39 community programs with Community Investment grants funded by the annual OAUW community campaign serving residents in the area on mental health, childhood development and living wage impact areas.

Each impact area is overseen by a volunteer committee that reviews and interviews each program applying to ensure measurable outcomes and strong financials. More than 40 volunteers are involved in the grant process, giving about 1,000 hours of their time to the community.

Funding for next year went to these programs:

- Bridges, Skills Enhancement Program, Homeless Job Placement and Oshkosh Home Delivered Meals for ADVOCAP
- Mentor 2.0 and Youth Mentoring Programs for Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Back to School Fair, Radford Kids, Trees from Seeds Mental Health and Great Futures Start Here Mentoring for Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh
- BFI Driver’s Education Support Program for BreatheFree
- Empowerment Agency and Emergency Shelter for Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services

- Community Engagement and Respite for Covey Resource Coordination for Day by Day Warming Shelter
 - Home Visits for Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin
 - Financial Counseling for the Financial Information and Service Center
 - Connections to Success for Forward Services Corp.
 - Membership and Reaching Out for Girl Scouts of Northwestern Great Lakes
 - Eviction and Homelessness Prevention for Legal Action of Wisconsin
 - Making the Ride Happen for Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan
 - Kids Programming for Oshkosh Area Community Pantry
 - Member Scholarships for Oshkosh Community YMCA
 - OFD Mental Health Initiative for Oshkosh Area Fire Department
 - Kindergarten Plus for Oshkosh Area School District
 - Education, Counseling, Advocacy and Sexual Abuse Treatment Training for Reach Counseling
 - Robert Glass Focus on the Children Program for Tri-County Dental
 - VITA for University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
 - 2-1-1 and Be Well Fox Valley Food As Medicine for United Way Fox Cities
 - Road to Work for Winnebago Literacy Council
- For more information, contact oauw@oshkoshunitedway.org.

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Pamela Lang, Owner

Police budgets

FROM PAGE 1

in the city's budget. Law enforcement accounts for 29 percent of general fund expenditures, compared with, for example, just 4 percent for community development.

But calls for defunding the police locally are falling on deaf ears — in no small part because both the city and county have been exceptionally frugal. Compared with their peers around the state, local law enforcement agencies spend far less than average.

Out of nearly 200 municipalities that report data to the Department of Revenue, Oshkosh ranks 41st from the bottom for outlays on a per capita basis. Of the state's 72 counties, Winnebago ranks fifth from the bottom.

In August, a group calling itself the Community Change Team for Dismantling Racism sent an email to members of the Common Council. The message included a list of specific ways in which police funding could be reduced and reallocated.

For example, the group called for ending the school liaison program, in which five Oshkosh police officers are assigned to middle and high schools. While the Oshkosh Area School District pays \$170,000 to cover half the cost of four officers, the other half — plus full funding for the fifth officer — comes from the city.

Instead of having sworn police officers in schools, the group's email said this money should be used to hire additional social workers. While some council members have expressed support for some version of this concept, implementation would be difficult.

That's because of the way that local government is structured in Wisconsin. Theoretically the council could cut off funding for what are called school resource officers, but it has no way of requiring the Board of Education to hire social workers in their stead, or to prevent the board from finding another way to bolster security in school buildings.

The same holds true for another of the demands in the email. This one called for creating an alternative team to respond to

911 calls where the underlying problem is more of a mental health issue than a law enforcement matter.

While many agree that there can be a mismatch between law enforcement tools and disturbances in the community, here again the problem is that the city does not employ social workers or deliver human services. In Wisconsin those jobs and that responsibility belong to county government.

"In Wisconsin, and this is not an Oshkosh thing, human services are the function of county government," said City Manager Mark Rohloff. "We have to recognize that we are putting a lot on the plates of police officers, and the answer lies in the human services world."

But police are called because there are no other personnel to turn to. The only city workers who are on duty for a mental health crisis 24 hours a day are in public safety, either police or firefighters, he and other city officials said.

"Why are they involved?" Rohloff asked. "Well, who else? We don't have social workers available at 2 o'clock in the morning." The problem is "so complex and so broad," he said.

"It seems to me there has to be a creative way of addressing that gap," said Mayor Lori Palmeri.

She envisions some kind of crisis intervention group "that floats between police and fire in public safety." Many situations that these agencies currently respond to, perhaps involving domestic violence or substance abuse, "dial back to mental health issues," she said.

"Both (fire and police) end up doing a lot of social work that they are not specifically trained in," she said. But because the city dissolved its social work positions when it transferred its Health Services Division to the county in 2012, putting together that kind of team is more easily said than done, she said.

Police Chief Dean Smith said he "absolutely" agrees with the idea of sending social workers to "co-respond" to mental health incidents along with police officers. "But the problem you have is that these are difficult situations."

When circumstances have gotten to the

point where someone has called the police, "this is not someone who is seeing a counselor and just having a bad day," he said. "This is someone who has lost some faculties, someone who is not able to be the person they would normally be."

Mental health issues, including substance abuse, are more prevalent in Oshkosh than many residents may realize. Reviewing a recent police blotter, Smith said there were 50 calls for service during a single shift.

"Where else are you going to put that call when you start to reduce available funding?" he asked.

The email that the council received was similar to one that was sent to the Green Bay Common Council and was not signed by anyone with obvious ties to Oshkosh. "Some of the things on the list are uninformed," Palmeri said.

Efforts to get the group to comment for this story were unsuccessful.

Palmeri said she doesn't want the city to become divided between those who support social justice and those who support law enforcement. "I'm proud that we offer as much service as we do with as little that we do spend," Palmeri said.

"I think it's OK to say 'Black Lives Matter' and 'Blue Lives Matter' here," she said. "I'm OK with holding both of those things together. I don't want to pick a lane."

One area where she thinks the council will focus attention during budget workshops next month is the school resource officer program. While the city can't force the school district to replace those officers with social workers, she said the council may reconsider the level of financial support that it provides, an issue that has come up before.

Last year's shooting at Oshkosh West High School, in which both a student and a school resource officer were injured,

complicates the discussion. Some view the incident as evidence of the need to have armed police to provide protection while others question whether the presence of a gun contributed to the outcome.

Both the county sheriff and the city police chief are taking steps to deal with issues that have intensified since the death of George Floyd during an arrest May 25 in Minneapolis.

As one of his goals and objectives for next year, Matz says his office will "focus on de-escalation strategies and multicultural awareness when providing annual use-of-force training to deputies." Some of this training has already taken place, and Matz said he expects to build on it in the future.

His department brought in Alonzo Kelly, a Green Bay-based consultant, "to talk about what it's like to grow up as a Black male, and especially as a Black male in northeast Wisconsin," Matz said. "There were some really eye-opening things, some techniques to use to defuse racially tense situations."

Statistics his department collects show that sheriff's deputies are already restrained in their use of force. In 2019 deputies used force in just 32 of the 50,000 incidents that they responded to, Matz said.

The city has also been working on multicultural awareness. Smith has had all members of his department attend a training session with Pastor Joe Butler, an African-American who heads the Bethel Worship Center on East Tennessee Avenue.

The one area where Smith is seeking an increase in funding is for additional body cameras so that patrol supervisors and detectives would be able to wear them.

"I want to equip everyone who has direct interaction with the public," he said. "I think that's very important."

Miles Maguire is editor of the Oshkosh Examiner (www.oshkosexaminer.com).

Jazz duo to take Grand Oshkosh stage

Vintage jazz duo Sundae + Mr. Goessl will perform on The Grand Oshkosh stage at 7:30 p.m. Saturday for live and livestream audiences.

The group features vocalist Kate Voss, Earshot Magazine's Vocalist of the Year and a two-time Seattle-Kobe Vocal Jazz Princess, and guitarist Jason Goessl.

The recently married duo incorporates humor, vintage style, interesting instrumentation, nostalgia and musicianship. The couple have put out six albums and performed more than 1,000 shows, en-

compassing jazz, pop, Americana, country, fashion, comedy and vaudeville.

The Grand debut follows performances for "The Grand at Home" series in June. Voss and Goessl are touring the U.S. in a recreational vehicle with their rescue chihuahua, Jackie.

Tickets can be purchased at thegrandoshkosh.org. In-person tickets can be purchased in advance. The Grand Box Office is open from 2 to 6 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

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Kaukauna too much for Lourdes in volleyball sweep

By Dustin Riese
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

It was a David-and-Goliath matchup on paper as Kaukauna, a Division 1 school, went up against Lourdes, a Division 4 team, Saturday night.

Filling in for head coach Trudi Woods, varsity assistant Nick Brown knows this season will be a challenge for the girls as the Ghosts made quick work of the Knights 25-5 25-19 and 25-6 for the straight-set sweep.

"I think as a team we know we can play better than we did tonight, but everything this season is going to be a challenge," Brown said. "We are a very young team this season and we continue to improve from one week to the next. If we continue to do that the rest of the season good things will come."

Lourdes found out the hard way how good Kaukauna can be in the first set as Avery Torrey and her 6-foot-2 frame made her presence felt early. With her size up front, the Ghosts were able to jump out to a commanding 14-3 lead.

After a brief timeout, the Knights had



Photo by Dustin Riese

Adrianna Geddes digs to save a possession for Lourdes in their match against Kaukauna.

some chances to get back into the set, but a few close misses from Knights saw themselves continue to fall behind eventually down 19-5. That is when the front line of Chloe Van Zeeland, Brynn McDaniel, Tetzlaff and Makenzie Michael took over

as their size proved to be the deciding factor in the 25-5 first set.

Looking for better results in the second, the Knights showed some early fight when Lauren Hamill and Paige Droessler teamed up for a big block early giving Lourdes the momentum. Droessler continued to lead the way early with the Knights holding a 5-3 lead. After Kaukauna rallied to take the lead, Madison Peerenboom dropped a perfectly placed tip to tie the game 8-8, only to see Kaukauna go on a 9-4 run to take a 17-12 lead.

Down, but not out, both Amelia Lindahl and Carmen Lowe began to pace the offensive end for the Knights as they cut things to 19-18. That would be as close as Lourdes would get as the Kaukauna offense used several perfectly placed serves to close out the set on a 6-1 run to win game two 25-19.

"I think the biggest thing for us in that second set was our communication," Brown said. "Unlike what we had in the first set; our communication was great in the second set which showed up in our play. Being that we are a younger team, it is imperative that we communicate together."

Hoping to finish out the night on a positive manner, Kaukauna had other ideas with Torrey and Tetzlaff helping Kaukauna jump out to the 7-0 lead. Despite Lowe picking up the first point for Lourdes shortly after, the front line of Kaukauna responded with some massive kills putting the Ghosts back in front 10-3. The Ghosts were just getting started as they used a 9-1 run to seize command of the game 18-5.

The Knights were never able to recover from that point as Kaukauna showed up in game three to knock off Lourdes 25-6 for the sweep. Lourdes fell to 0-6 with the loss, but Brown knows the girls will only continue to grow from these experiences.

"Like anything we do in life, the more we push ourselves the better we will be," Brown said. "Given the challenges we have all faced this year, losing those first three weeks of practice it is up to the girls to push themselves to get better. We are not where we want to be yet, but we are getting better."

Corrections

SEPT. 23, PAGE 6: The Public Library's fall hours are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

SEPT. 23, PAGE 10: The Oshkosh Garden Club's next annual scholarship luncheon will be in November 2021, not this November.

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70 YEARS

Roger and Joanne (Hansen) Stecker were married at Peace Lutheran Church in Oshkosh, Wisconsin on September 30, 1950. Both Roger and Joanne were born and raised in the Oshkosh area. In 1954 they moved to Milwaukee for job opportunities. Upon retirement, they moved back to Oshkosh and have resided in Oshkosh for the past 28 years. God has blessed them in their marriage with 10 children, 8 in-laws, 17 grand children and 22 great grandchildren.

Together, they have been actively involved over the years as volunteers in Church, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Rangers, Rangerettes, Senior Center Activities and Local Food Pantries. Roger and Joanne's life together has always revolved around "Faith, Family and Friends."

West volleyball star excelling on court and in classroom

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Athletics and academics can be a tricky balancing act.

Morgan Yenter pulls it off like a Wallenda on a tightrope: no slips, stumbles or snafus.

The Oshkosh West senior setter is one of the area's top returning girls' volleyball players. She was a first-team all-Fox Valley Association selection as a junior and sophomore, and a second-team choice as a freshman.

As impressive as she is on the court, Yenter performs even better in the classroom.



Yenter

Her grade-point-average is a stellar 4.0.

"It's challenging, but I think volleyball and the work ethic involved has helped me in the classroom," said Yenter. "I have to manage my time very well."

Yenter currently has more time on her hands than she would prefer. Oshkosh West is one of the WIAA schools not playing fall volleyball because of the coronavirus pandemic. Instead, the Wildcats will launch their season in the winter of 2021.

"It's frustrating," Yenter admits. "It's your senior year and it's supposed to be your best year."

Yenter, though, keeps her volleyball skills sharp by playing for West in a fall volleyball league for varsity and junior varsity players sponsored by Prep Dig. Action takes place at the new Champion



Submitted photo

Oshkosh West's Morgan Yenter is shown in action last season for the Wildcats.

Center in Appleton.

"It's a lot more laid back," said Yenter. "We don't have our regular coaches and you're playing with girls a lot younger than you."

Yenter's only prep sport is volleyball, and she's very skilled at it. She's a fourth-year varsity player who has been a setter most of her career, although she was an all-conference player two years ago as a

Senior Spotlight

right-side hitter.

"I really like it because you're setting everyone else up for success," she said. "You're controlling the flow of the game, so you need to be a good leader. When I was younger, I was more of a hitter, but one of my club coaches told me that since I was left-handed, setting would be good for me. I tried it and stuck with it."

With Yenter leading the way, West went a solid 31-13 last season and took third in the rugged FVA at 7-2.

"Morgan has great knowledge of the game and can read the court very well," said West coach Jillian Pakula. "Not only is Morgan a great setter, but she's also an offensive threat when she attacks the ball."

When she's on the court, Yenter and her teammates are required to wear masks – something she's still adjusting to.

"I'm getting used to it, but at first it was pretty challenging," she said. "It's hard to breathe and when you get sweaty, the mask sticks in your face more."

Yenter hasn't decided on a college and isn't sure whether she will play the game at the next level. She is considering political science as an undergraduate major and has interest in eventually attending law school and pursuing a career as a lawyer. Her mother, Jackie Yenter, is a paralegal at the law firm of Reff Baivier Lim Muza Sundet and Dunham.

"There's been times on the weekends, where I'll go to work with her," Yenter said. "I've been doing that since I was young and it's something that has always interested me."



Submitted photo

Tennis seniors

Senior tennis team players Paige Droessler (left) and Brooklyn Baker were recognized recently at Lourdes Academy.

Josh Dukelow

Listen to 106.3 Wednesday morning at 8:35am as **Josh Dukelow** and **Karen Schneider** discuss local Headlines from the **Oshkosh Herald**

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Prep sports roundup

FOOTBALL

Lourdes cruises past Bonduel in opener

The Lourdes football team got off to a good start and used a solid defensive effort as it opened the season with a 34-6 win over Bonduel on Friday.

Led by Joshua Bauer, who completed 16-of-24 passes for 194 yards and two touchdowns, the Knights scored in each quarter before giving up six points in the final 3 minutes of the game.

Bauer rushed for a score to open things off as Lourdes led 7-0 after one quarter. He connected with Adam Arnoldussen in the second quarter from 30 yards out

to give the Knights a 14-0 halftime lead. A Tim Kaull rushing touchdown made it 20-0 going into the third before Bauer found Preston Ruedinger for a score and Gabe Bohn added a rushing touchdown.

Ruedinger caught six passes for 78 yards while Arnoldussen had two catches for 45 yards. Kaull led all rushers with 107 yards on 14 carries.

St. Mary/Valley Christian starts slow in loss

The St. Mary Catholic/Valley Christian 8-man football team started slow in its opener Friday in a 45-14 loss to Belmont.

Belmont scored 16 points in both the first and second quarters as they ended up leading 45-0 after three quarters. St. Mary



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Lourdes defenders take down Bonduel's quarterback during Friday's victory.

Catholic/VC scored all 14 points in the fourth quarter – a 10-yard pass from Danny Griffith to Noah Bublitz and a 25-yard pass from Griffith to Atticus Johnson.

Griffith threw for 123 yards and two touchdowns – with two picks – while rushing for 38 yards.

GIRLS TENNIS

Lourdes takes third in conference tournament

The Lourdes girls tennis team finished third out of four teams in the Wisconsin

Combined Tennis Conference Championships this past weekend.

The Knights finished with 28 points, trailing St. Mary's Springs (55) and St. Mary Catholic (71). Clintonville came in fourth with 7.

Olivia Nielsen finished third in No. 1 singles, defeating Aubrey Malotky 6-2, 6-2 of Clintonville while Melanie Tushar also finished third at No. 2 singles. She also picked up a 6-2, 6-2 win for third place.

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 23

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Kid Scoop

Ask a Tasmanian Devil

What if you could ask an animal any question you wanted? What would you ask? Today, learn all about Tasmanian devils in this imaginary Kid Scoop interview!



Q: Just what kind of animal is a Tasmanian devil?

A: We are not bears or dogs. We are **marsupials**, just like a kangaroo or a koala. Mama devils carry their babies in their pouches. When the babies grow too big for the pouch, they ride on mom's back.

To find out what a baby Tasmanian devil is called, write the letter that comes after each letter in the empty boxes.

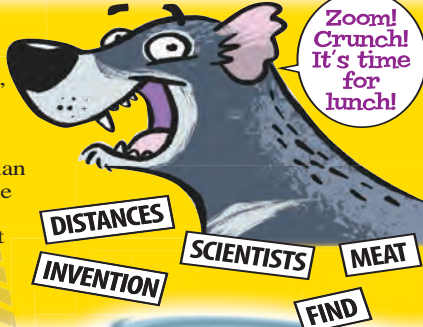
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Q: What do Tasmanian devils eat?

A: We are **carnivores**. That means we eat _____ . And we're also **scavengers**, which means we mostly eat dead or dying animals we _____ .

_____ believe that Tasmanian devils were once good runners. But since the _____ of cars, we get plenty of food by eating the animals that get run over. So, we don't have to cover large _____ searching for food like we did back in the old days.



Q: Why are you called devils?

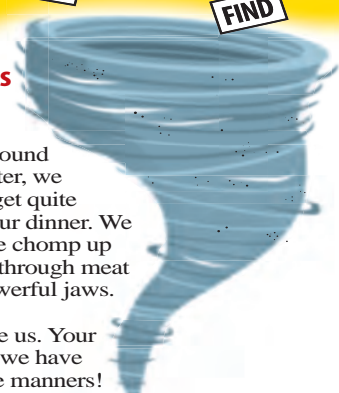
A: That's a great question! Tasmanian devils aren't dangerous to people. We're actually shy animals.

The name "devil" may come from the sounds we make. We make eerie growls at night when looking for food. I guess it scares some folks. Sorry! We can't help it.

Q: Do Tasmanian devils really spin like the cartoon one does?

A: While we don't spin around like the cartoon character, we Tasmanian devils can get quite excited as we devour our dinner. We make loud noises as we chomp up fur and bones and tear through meat with our incredibly powerful jaws.

But don't try eating like us. Your parents would say that we have absolutely terrible table manners!



Q: Are Tasmanian devils strong?

A: Well, we have incredibly strong jaws. In proportion to our body weight, we have the strongest bite of any living animal!

We store fat in our tails. We use that energy when food is hard to find. So if you see a Tasmanian devil with a plump tail, it means that animal is in good condition.

Q: Where do Tasmanian devils live?

A: We live on an Australian island called Tasmania. At one time, we lived throughout mainland Australia.



About 400 years ago we disappeared from the Australian mainland.

Standards Link: Geography: Recognize countries and continents.

Q: How big is a Tasmanian devil?

A: We're about the size of a grain of rice when we are born. Tiny! Do the math to see how big we are when full grown.

Average length (head and body):

_____ inches
11 + 10 + 5
_____ centimeters
25 + 25 + 15

Extra! Extra! Noisy Words

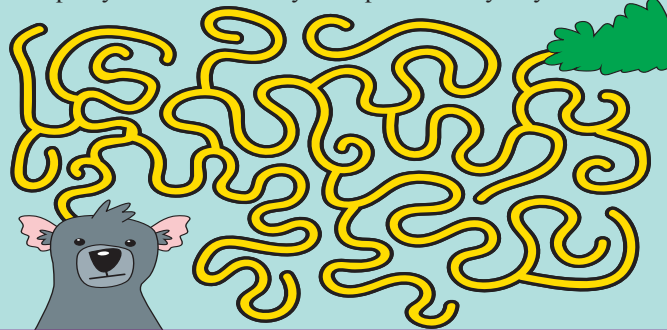
Look through the newspaper for five or more words that describe sounds. (Hint: Check the comic strips, too.) Write a paragraph about sound using those words.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Q: Are Tasmanian devils friendly?

A: We are **solitary** creatures, which means we like to be left alone. We sleep under bushes in the daytime. And as **nocturnal** creatures, we are out and about at night—way past your bedtime. Can you help me find my way to bed?



Double Double Word Search

TASMANIAN
SOLITARY
RUNNERS
DEVOUR
CHOMP
DEVIL
KOALA
POUCH
SHARP
WHITE
BLACK
COVER
JAWS
BEAR
SHY

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

D	P	S	O	D	W	B	E	R	H
E	R	O	F	U	E	K	E	Y	C
V	R	L	L	A	O	V	H	N	U
O	U	I	R	A	O	S	I	B	O
U	N	T	L	C	I	P	W	L	P
R	N	A	I	N	A	M	S	A	T
S	E	R	G	H	T	O	H	C	J
U	R	Y	E	T	I	H	W	K	N
T	S	H	A	R	P	C	E	R	S

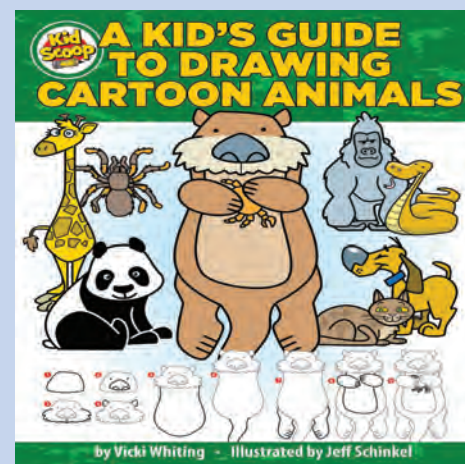
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop Together Scoop the News

Can you find the answers to all of the questions below? The answers can all be found on today's Kid Scoop page!

- Tasmanian devils are a kind of bear.
 - TRUE
 - FALSE
- Tasmanian devils like:
 - to be active in daytime
 - to be alone
 - to play with kangaroos
- When a Tasmanian devil sneezes, it is:
 - feeling sick
 - scaring away a predator
 - hungry
- Tasmanian devils have incredibly strong:
 - breath
 - jaws
 - tails
- Tasmanian devils live in:
 - Madagascar
 - Tasmania
 - Texas
- Tasmanian devils are marsupials. That means they:
 - walk on tiptoe
 - carry their young in pouches
 - sleep underwater
- A Tasmanian devil stores fat in its:
 - teeth
 - tail
 - ears

Learn to draw lots of animals in **Kid Scoop's A Kid's Guide to Drawing Cartoon Animals** from Happy Fox Books. It's available now at amazon.com or order it at your local bookstore.



Visit www.oshkoshherald.com/kid-scoop every week for the weekly learning packet with printable, educational activity pages.

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