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Airport update Wittman projects are taking off Page 4

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City rivalry Spartans stop Wildcats in close contest Page 20



Photo by Michael Cooney

Special holiday delivery

Oshkosh Fire Department members load donated toys Thursday into a Salvation Army truck during the department's 22nd annual Food and Toy Drive. Last year about 450 families signed up. This year there are 740, including 2,010 children. Donations can be dropped off at any fire station through Friday.

South Park principal closing long tenure

McLaughlin praises staff and families

By Dan Roherty

spring with the rise of the pandemic.

"Last spring was shocking to everybody. I really wanted to help the staff and the students and families through that," she said.

McLaughlin said the hybrid learning mode that started this fall went well with students overall considering its unprecedented challenges, while also providing future lessons. She credits Deputy Superintendent David Gundlach for his leadership on virtual teaching tools and said staff were able to offer an improved virtual model after last semester's emergency plan. The sixth- through eighth-grade students who make up the student body require extra understanding from teachers regardless of the circumstances, and Mc-Laughlin said South Park staff have that quality while keeping learning fun. "They are looking for positive role models," she said of middle school students in their formative years. "They are very emotional; their friend groups change so quickly."





VOLUME 3, ISSUE 49

Local case rate remains at 'critical'

School district report details burden status

By Jack Tierney Oshkosh Herald

For the past two-week period the COVID-19 case rate within Oshkosh Area School District boundaries was 1,032, which places this area in the critically high category, director of pupil services Matthew Kaemmerer reported to the Board of Education last week.

"The OASD remains the only school district in the county that continues to have its burden status in the critically high category," he said. "All others are considered to be in the very high category."

The Winnebago County Health Department sends out a weekly data summary based on confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the geographic boundaries of each school district in the county. The summary looks at the case rate — positive cases per 100,000 people — over two weeks.

The case rate is used to determine burden status for each school district, which is categorized as either low, moderate, moderately high, high, very high or critically high.

SEE **District rates** ON PAGE 18

Rapid testing effort extended

Oshkosh Herald

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh's COVID-19 rapid testing program available to the public will continue into January depending on availability of the free tests, the campus announced Monday.

UW Oshkosh Police Chief Kurt Liebold, who is a lead facilitator for campus-based testing programs, said the Culver Family Welcome Center site will be closed from Dec. 24 through Jan. 4, then resume its 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. hours Monday thru Friday. Adjusted holiday hours for Dec. 19 and 20 are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Culver site is offering the antigen tests with about a 15-minute turnaround on results. If an individual has symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive, they may also get a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result. The results of the PCR test are typically available within two to five days. U.S. Surgeon Gen. Jerome Adams, acting UW System President Tommy Thompson and state Department of Health Secretary Andrea Palm were on campus Nov. 6 to announce the opening. The UW System received 250,000 rapid antigen tests and the centers are the first of their kind in the nation to conduct free surge testing with the BinaxNOW tests.

Oshkosh Herald

South Park Middle School's principal is stepping down this month after more than two decades as its leader, looking forward to more family time while knowing she will miss the other special relationships she is leaving.

Lisa McLaughlin has been a part of the Oshkosh Area School District since 1992 — she was an assistant principal at North High before taking over at South Park in 1997 — and has kept a steady focus on a positive school environment that she wants to carry to the end of her tenure.

"When your staff is happy, and loves coming to work every day, there's a trickle-down effect to students," she said of her leadership philosophy that has earned her a district administrator of the year award.

McLaughlin is confident that South Park staff are now comfortable with the shifting school modes that started last

She also has reminded first-time parents of middle-schoolers to have extra patience with their children during that evolving Submitted photo

Lisa McLaughlin is leaving her position as principal of South Park Middle School after leading the school since 1997.

time, for which she has personal experience with a 14-year-old son.

McLaughlin came into the position in the late 1990s by taking a general survey of what staff liked best and what needed improvement. She said that similar to many other schools and districts, anti-bullying and positive intervention programs helped create a more positive environment that she had set as a personal priority.

SEE **Principal** on Page 19



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

Publisher

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

Credit union on Oshkosh Ave. advances

By Tom Ekvall Herald Contributor

The Oshkosh Plan Commission unanimously recommended approval last week of a plan for Fox Communities Credit Union to build a new financial institution at 1870 Oshkosh Ave. near Oshkosh Corp. global headquarters.

Along with a general development plan and specific implementation plan, the commission recommended approval of an access control variance that deals with traffic flow on the property. The variance will reduce the lateral clearance from Rath Lane to 46 feet from the required 75 feet and a reduced driveway spacing to 63 feet from the normally required 105 feet.

The credit union will acquire two adjacent parcels as part of the development with much of the land to be green space with no projected development.

The building will be 4,668 square feet with a four-lane drive-thru on the west side of the building. The credit union will have 28 parking spaces, based on 12 employees, 14 customers and two spaces for vendors.

Planning staff had recommended approval of the project, which they said is consistent with what has been done in the area. They added that landscaping changes will need to be made to comply with city requirements.

The Plan Commission also recommended:

• Approval of a general development plan and specific implementation plan that will enable development of Woodstock Village, a multifamily townhouse project on Logan Drive just west of Jackson Street.

The developer plans to build six townhomes, most of them with three-bedroom units, which will be rented at market rates. There will be no one-bedroom units in the 46-unit development. The project will help meet a demand for three-bedroom housing in the northern part of the city.

• Approval of a request for a conditional use permit to make a legally established

nonconforming use for a property with two duplexes (3850-3852 and 3849-3851 Parkview Court). The property is north of East Snell Road, one-fourth mile east of Jackson Street.

The property owners, Barbara and Jean-Claude Renoux, want to move from their present residence in Arizona to one of the duplexes, with the adjacent unit in the duplex to be occupied by a relative. The property was originally in the Town of Oshkosh but annexed in 1991 and classified as a legal nonconforming use. Planning staff supported the proposed change and noted there will be no adverse impact to the surrounding area.

• Approval of removing a planned development overlay for a central mixed-use zoned building at 500-502 N. Main St. The city had petitioned for the zoning change because a sign attached to the side of the building occupied by Winnebago Bicycle and Wagner Market had been removed and therefore the planned development stipulation was no longer needed.



EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Dec. 30th Issue - Space and Copy Deadline Display Ad Deadline - Noon, Wed., 12/23/2020 Classified Ad Deadline - 3 p.m., Wed., 12/23/2020

Jan. 6th Issue - Space and Copy Deadline Display Ad Deadline - Noon, Wed., 12/30/2020 Classified Ad Deadline - 3 p.m., Wed., 12/30/2020

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2946 Manor Drive \$349,900 3BR/2.5BA Melodi McGuire 410-0818



2058 Crest Court \$519,000 3BR/3BA Jim Poeschl 410-5723

Editor

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

Corrections

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

About the newspaper

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Senior living facilities on front line of prevention

Safeguards can't always keep out COVID-19

By Joseph Schulz Herald contributor

Robin Wolzenburg, director of housing and clinical services for the senior living advocacy group LeadingAge Wisconsin, recently received an email that broke her heart.

The November message from a Wisconsin senior living provider read: "Hi Robin, I want to let you know we have a COVID



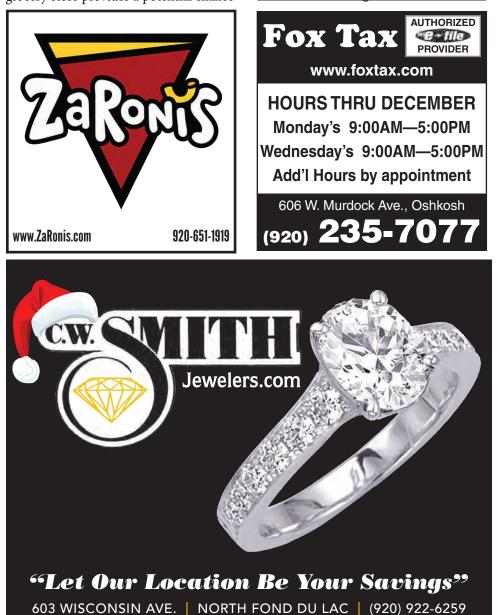
now we have a COVID outbreak in our facility. I have 13 residents, two have already tested positive earlier this week, with eight more today. Two of them have already died. I have three staff members who are positive and I have no one to staff my building."

Over the last month, Wolzenburg, who helps senior living facilities stay up to date with rapidly changing public health guidelines, said emails like that are "becoming the norm" as senior living facilities struggle to contain COVID-19, despite the array of safeguards in place meant to prevent

its spread. "I'm hearing desperation and a lot of really defeated feelings in a lot of ways, going into the fall surge," she said. "It didn't feel as close to home until the last 10 weeks, when we just started seeing this awful increase with the community spread."

That's because senior living facilities throughout Wisconsin are either bracing for a potential outbreak, recovering from a previous outbreak or currently experiencing one, according to Wisconsin Assisted Living Association CEO Michael Pochowski.

"Because of community spread, even simply going to the gas station or to the grocery store provides a potential chance



that you could be exposed to COVID," he said.

Locally, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) reported public health investigations at six nursing homes in Winnebago County.

The DHS list included inquiries at Bethel Home, Eden Meadows, Edenbrook of Oshkosh, Evergreen Retirement Community, Park View Health Center and Peabody Manor.

Any nursing home with a case among residents remains on the DHS website for 28 days as an active investigation.

To prevent coronavirus outbreaks in nursing homes, Wolzenburg said Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is requiring all staff members to be tested in nursing homes twice a week because the COVID-19 positivity rate is so high in Wisconsin. Residents are tested if they become symptomatic or if there is an outbreak.

Additionally, she said DHS is requiring nursing homes to test staff for COVID-19 at least every other week, regardless of positivity rate.

If a staff member tests positive, Wolzenburg explained that they are immediately sent home. The facility then begins contact tracing to locate people who were in close proximity to the positive case and then immediately test those close contacts.

Testing presents another problem as most of the tests being used take three days for results because most nursing homes do not have access to rapid testing, she noted.

Wolzenburg added that nursing homes have "some access" to COVID-19 tests

Send Business Bits

Breaking ground? Opening a new business? Promotions? Expanding staff? Send in business news to businessbits@oshkoshherald.com. Our readers are looking for information on what businesses are doing in Oshkosh. Help us share the news by emailing businessbits@oshkoshherald.com or calling 920-508-9000. that produce results within hours, but those are not as accurate on asymptomatic carriers.

At assisted living facilities, Pochowski said if a resident or a staff member tests positive for COVID-19 it is considered an outbreak.

Once an outbreak occurs, the facility contacts its local public health department to confirm the outbreak and order testing supplies, he added. Assisted living facilities then test residents and staff members for COVID-19 based on recommendations from public health officials.

While the pandemic has created new pressures for nursing homes and assisted living facilities, it has also magnified a problem that existed before the pandemic, according to Wolzenburg and Pochowski.

Even before the pandemic, there was a shortage of workers in senior living facilities, which combined with staff contracting the virus has created the perfect storm of staffing shortages.

"Prior to COVID, we had a very significant staffing caregiver crisis going on," Pochowski said. "Then when COVID hit, it really intensified, so we just are in dire need of having caregivers come to work for our facilities."

Beyond increasing the quality of care for residents, Wolzenburg said increased staffing in nursing homes specifically could help take pressure off the health care system.

"Even hospitals are trying to think about how they can help nursing homes with staffing because nursing homes could take more of their residents and free up some of those hospital beds for COVID," she said.

However, nursing homes are not al-

lowed to accept new residents until 14 days after their last positive case, Wolzenburg explained.

"The problem is most facilities in Wisconsin right now are in some kind of constant outbreak," she said. "They're having at least one staff member test positive every time they test, especially in nursing homes, because they're doing the regular testing."

Aside from staffing concerns, Wolzenburg and Pochowski said the acquisition of personal protective equipment (PPE) remains an issue for many senior living facilities as it's become more accessible but also more expensive.

"We were in dire need of any PPE when the COVID-19 pandemic first broke around February/March; and the supply chains have gotten better, but the prices are just unbelievable," Pochowski said. "There's some stuff that ebbs and flows in terms of availability."

Wolzenburg added that the pandemic has taken an emotional toll on the staff in senior living facilities, who are "working tirelessly" to care for our most vulnerable population.

"They have to meet their own needs to homeschool their children too," she said. "They're also meeting the emotional, spiritual and psychosocial needs of all these residents in absence of having contact with their families."

Going forward, Wolzenburg hopes people can start acting more selflessly in taking the pandemic seriously.

"We all have grandparents — we all have great aunts and uncles — think about them getting sick," she said. "We need to really think about our actions, especially going into the holidays."



All are invited to celebrate the birth of Jesus ... in person or online!

Wittman Airport improvements on steady pace

By Dan Roherty Oshkosh Herald

Wittman Regional Airport will have the framework of its new general aviation terminal completed this month after it recently reopened a reconstructed taxiway ahead of schedule and under budget.

Structural steel is being put in place for the new terminal building on West 20th Avenue that is scheduled for completion in June. The \$4.9 million project will produce a 12,500-square-foot building for air traffic out of Oshkosh and the Fox Valley and provide space for Basler Flight Service, airport administrative offices, rental car services and meeting rooms.

Airport director Jim Schell said the terminal's footings, foundation walls, and interior and exterior masonry walls are all in



Construction of the new general aviation terminal is progressing with exterior framework being completed before winter.

place. They have also replaced water and sanitary sewer lines from 20th Avenue to the work site.

Taxiway Alpha (A) was a \$7,521,894 re-

Ogden take reins at Boys & Girls Club

Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh chief operating officer Tracy Ogden has been named the organization's new chief execu-

tive after the retirement of Marc Dosogne.

Ogden, who will officially take the CEO role Jan. 1, has been with the local club for more than a decade, leading fund development and marketing, fundraising events,

Ogden

grants and its annual campaign while cultivating donor relationships. She has also helped lead facilities renovations in the club building and at the summer day camp in New London. Odgen works with Boys & Girls Clubs of America on conferences and committees, including as a member of The Professional Association, currently its vice president. She has been recognized by Boys & Girls Clubs of America with regional and national awards.

"I am truly honored and privileged to have been given this opportunity to serve the kids and families in Oshkosh," Ogden stated. "I am excited to continue to strengthen our community partnerships and work together to build more great futures for the next generation."

Board president Heather Holly-Pinnow said, "We are excited at all of the possibilities and growth opportunities the future holds and with full support of the board, we know Tracy will confidently lead us into the next 50 years." construction project accomplished in two phases and well before its original June completion timetable.

"Throughout all of the challenges associated with undertaking this project in 2020, that is a direct testament to the skill of our general contractor, Vinton Construction, our engineer, Omnni Associates, and close coordination throughout the project with airport staff," Schell said.

Funding contributions came from the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program and the matching support from the Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics and Winnebago County. The project included 8,000 linear feet of concrete for the 60-foot-wide taxiway, upgrading to LED lighting and signage improvements, and a drainage system with 4,100 linear feet of concrete storm drain gutter. It replaces pavement that was constructed around 1967.

Officials said Taxiway A is heavily used year-round and operates as a third runway during the Experimental Aircraft Association's AirVenture. The airport can now operate three non-intersecting runways that will improve arrival and departure rates at the event.

State jobless benefits extensions offered

State residents who have exhausted their regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) may now apply for Extended Benefits (EB), the Department of Workforce Development announced last week.

EB provides up to 13 additional weeks

of payments to individuals who have exhausted 26 weeks of regular UI benefits and 13 weeks of PEUC. The EB program does not apply to individuals collecting Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. For more information, visit dwd.wisconsin. gov/uiben/eb.



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COVID-19 survey details business prospects

Business as usual in Wisconsin is likely to include measures to help ensure the health of employees and customers alike.

The majority of businesses responding to the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh's November COVID-19 business and economic impact survey reported introducing significant changes in their operations in the last several months, according to Jeffrey Sachse, interim director of UWO's Center for Customized Research and Services (CCRS).

Changes in hours (31 percent), addition of physical barriers (21 percent) and changes in layout (18 percent) are the most common adaptations. Many respondents suggested that the last two accommodations were impractical given space limitations. This continues to be a challenge, especially in the restaurant and retail sectors, Sachse said.

"Businesses were asked to identify the steps they were taking to ensure the safety of their operations for employees and customers. These are of particular importance

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as we have continued to see an increase in positive cases across the country," he said.

However, two popular strategies for pivoting business operations — delivery services and e-commerce — remain low with only 10 percent of businesses adding each. This comes as growing national interest in these customer services has increased.

Sachse said the low rate of adoption may be a function of customer expectations.

"The results here are not unexpected as there has been substantial guidance during the pandemic on the importance of space and limited contact. The adaptations that are the most popular are those that also are the easiest to reverse. Hours can be extended and barriers removed," he said. "Once a business establishes a completely new service, whether it is an e-commerce front-end or a delivery partnership, customers expect those services to continue even after their necessity wanes. This is a more difficult investment for most business owners to make."

Nearly 480 Wisconsin businesses re-

106 E. Huron St.

Berlin

sponded to the eighth survey administered by CCRS since the pandemic began. Respondents reported top-level impacts for October that included inventory losses of \$804,000, income gains of \$9.5 million, wage and productivity losses of \$1.8 million, and other financial losses of \$5.2 million.

"The income gains reported here are largely confined to the construction and manufacturing sectors and are largely the result of either the ongoing clearance of the state's construction backlog or advance sales into 2021," Sachse said. "We know that there is growing optimism in several sectors that news of the first effective vaccines and other treatments will spur a resumption of normal business activity next year."

Responding businesses also reported adding 52 new employees last month. He said this remains abnormally low in light of typical holiday season hiring.

The November survey also showed continued concern regarding business survivability, with 30 percent of businesses reporting viability under six months with current conditions.

The survey is a partnership of UWO, the state's nine Regional Development Organizations including New North and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. The results are reported from voluntary responses at a 5 percent margin of error.

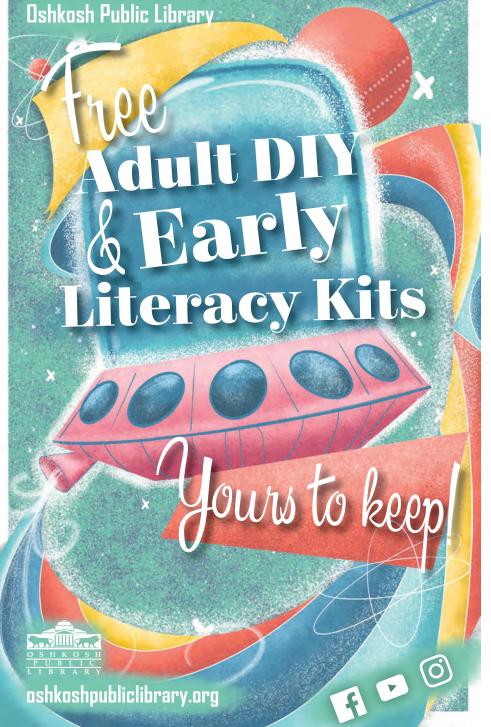
The final survey of the year was sent to a sample of 4,500 businesses Thursday.



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State deer hunt permit increase first in three years

Oshkosh Herald

As hunters put another gun deer season in the books, preliminary license sale, harvest registration and hunting incident numbers for the 169th nine-day gun season were made available. Preliminary figures indicate more deer hunters in Wisconsin this season compared with the same period for the previous two years.

"It's good to see people getting back out in the woods and enjoying it, whether it be gun season or bow season," Badger Sportsman's Chase Larson said. "Overall it's been a successful 9-day gun season for our party and parties around us."

Female hunters remain the largest growing demographic in 2020, with their permit numbers reaching nearly 92,312, up 12 percent from last year. Nonresident licenses decreased this year, likely due to COVID-19, the Department of Natural Resources reported.

Preliminary figures show that hunters registered 188,712 deer during the nineday gun deer hunt, including 45,060 ant-



Chase Larson shows his success in this year's deer hunt.

lered deer in central farmland zone that includes Winnebago County (85,340 statewide) and 63,077 antlerless deer in the central farmland zone (103,372 state-



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wide). Since archery season opened Sept. 12, hunters have registered 305,171 deer statewide, showing the growing impact of earlier seasons on cumulative harvest.

Deer harvest trends since the beginning of the archery season were above 2019 levels, and this trend continued through the gun deer season. Compared with 2019, the total nine-day gun deer harvest was up 15.8 percent, with buck harvest up 12.2 percent and antlerless harvest up 19 percent. All management zones showed harvest increases from 2019.

As of Nov. 29, sales for gun, bow, crossbow, sports and patron licenses reached 820,299. Of that total, 569,203 were for gun privileges, including gun, patron and sports licenses. The year-to-date sales for all deer licenses are up 3.5 percent from

Hunting seasons

• Dec. 10-13: Statewide four-day antlerless-only

• Dec. 24-Jan. 1: Nine-day antlerless-only in select farmland zones • Until Jan. 3: Archery and cross-

bow seasons • Jan. 4-31: Extended archery

and crossbow seasons in select farmland zones

the same time last year.

While opening weekend saw mild temperatures throughout the state with some snow in the northwest, DNR staff across the state reported excellent hunting conditions and weather throughout the season except for a day or two of rain and wind midweek.

The DNR is hosting virtual public meetings in each county to discuss deer management until Dec. 18, with a separate hearing today (Wednesday) on the current white-tailed deer hunting season. Every three years, County Deer Advisory Councils provide recommendations to the DNR that help determine the herd size objective for each county.

The DNR Bureau of Law Enforcement reported nine firearm-involved injuries and one fatality for the gun deer season. An accidental gun discharge killed a 65-year-old man Nov. 22 in Door County on Washington Island.

In Waushara County's Coloma Township on Nov. 26, a 26-year-old woman was treated at a hospital after being struck by a bullet in the thigh by a 51-year-old man reportedly shooting at what he thought was a deer.



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A rendering of the future TownPlace Suites by Marriott on 1365 N. Westfield St.

Hotel developers gain energy loan

The developers of a future hotel at 1365 N. Westfield St. near Lakeshore Park have been approved for a \$4.2 million Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) loan through the state and Winnebago County Board.

North Koeller Street Hotel Associates is developing a 103-unit, 60,483-squarefoot hotel called TownPlace Suites by Marriott. The PACE financing enables property owners to obtain low-cost, longterm loans for energy efficiency, renewable energy and water conservation improvements.

PACE financing is sourced from an open lending market and secured through a voluntary PACE Special Charge, repaid directly to the lender. Like property taxes, PACE financings may be transferred to the next property owner if sold.

TownPlace Suites is scheduled to open in late 2021 or early 2022. Kinseth Hospitality Cos. will manage the hotel.

Police officers promoted

The Oshkosh Police Department has announced three promotions within its ranks. Lt. Kevin Konrad was promoted to the rank of captain, Sgt. Michael Hotter was promoted to lieutenant and Officer Kyle Roberts was promoted to sergeant.







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An order for 2,738 Joint Light Tactical Vehicles from Oshkosh Defense by the U.S. military will go to its armed forces and other nations.

U.S. military makes large order for JLTVs

The U.S. Army Contracting Command has ordered an additional 2,738 Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTVs), 1,001 companion trailers and associated kits from Oshkosh Defense to be supplied to branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and a select group of NATO and non-NATO allies.

This will be the second largest order of Oshkosh Defense's JLTVs with a contract value of \$911 million.

The JLTV is designed with reconfiguration capabilities to meet the military's evolving mission requirements, including protection, off-road mobility, network capability and firepower options.

"The men and women of Oshkosh Defense take great pride in what they do," said George Mansfield, Oshkosh Defense's vice president and general manager of joint programs. "Designing, building and delivering the world's most capable light tactical vehicle is one of our greatest accomplishments."

As part of the order, 59 vehicles will be delivered to allied nations that include Lithuania, North Macedonia and Brazil.

Oshkosh Defense was selected by the U.S. Army Contracting Command in 2015 as the winner of the JLTV program and awarded an initial production contract for up to 16,901 vehicles to replace and complement the Humvee. The Army approved full-rate production in June 2019.

Rodgers launches special IPO for tech company

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh native T.J. Rodgers, founder and former CEO of Cypress Semiconductor, is forming a special purpose acquisition company (SPAC) to take public an undisclosed technology company through a \$200 million offering launched last week.

Also known as a blank check company, the SPAC offers private companies a merger option that can take less time than raising money through a traditional IPO. The plan filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is to target companies that compete in green energy, electrification and storage, Internet transformation industries, artificial intelligence and next-generation manufacturing, according to a story in PV Magazine.

The group's IPO filing said the company would not be limited by a particular industry or geography while seeking a Silicon Valley-based technology company. The Rodgers Silicon Valley Acquisition Corp.'s initial public offering (IPO) last Wednesday offered trade units to investors to be listed on Nasdaq under the symbol RSVAU, according to a report from Renaissance Capital.

Rodgers, who led Cypress Semiconductor from its 1982 beginning until 2016, is named as CEO for the SPAC and Emmanuel Hernandez as its chief financial officer, who previously served as CFO of SunPower and is current chairman of BrainChip.

Rodgers' business credentials and background are in line with such a venture and

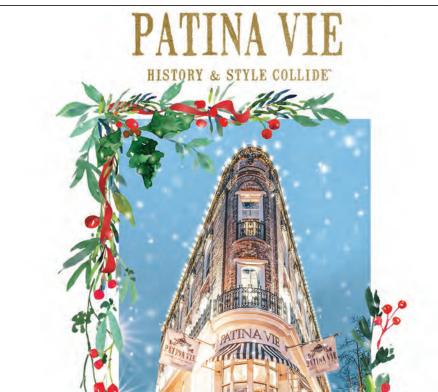


Oshkosh Herald T.J. Rogers went public on Nasdaq last week on a software company venture.

shows strong support from his board of directors, according to Deb Allison-Aasby, a financial planner with Carl M. Hennig Inc.

"I just think anytime you have someone from Oshkosh that steps out and tries to do something like this certainly deserves all the kudos in the world," she said, "and especially with investing back in his home community, that just speaks volumes about us."

The 72-year-old scientist and entrepreneur, who holds a variety of patents that include semiconductors and winemaking, purchased the Oshkosh Country Club and opened its TJ's Highland Steakhouse in 2018. He also owns TJ's Harbor Restaurant and bought Ardy & Ed's Drive-In earlier this year.







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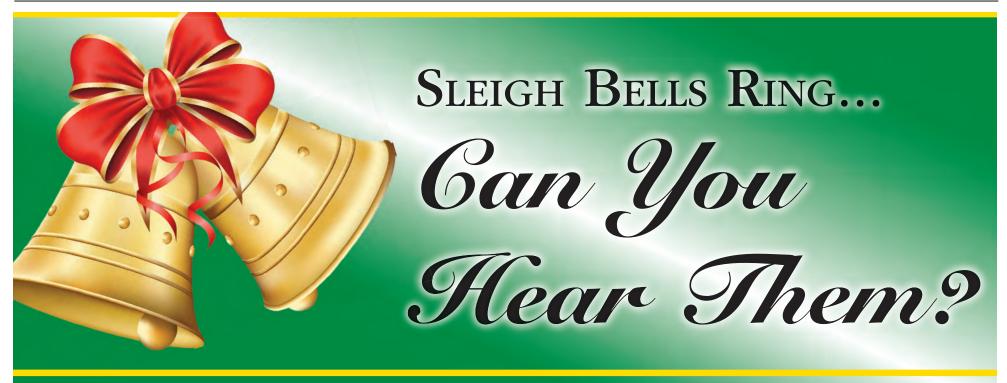


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Vaccines coming for health care personnel

Oshkosh Herald

Northeast Wisconsin could see its first shipment of COVID-19 vaccines as early as mid-December after vaccine authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration with health care personnel first in line.

Medical groups who are at high risk for exposure and those working in essential roles on the COVID-19 response will be offered vaccines in the first phase of the program, starting with hospital workers, emergency responders and long-term care staff.

ThedaCare officials said in a press release that they expect the program will expand to all health care personnel soon, as well as community members at high risk of infection and complications, along with all other area health care systems.

"This may be a new vaccine, but we are by no means new to the practice of consistent, reliable and effective distribution of vaccines to our ThedaCare caregivers and those we serve throughout all corners of our service area," said Dr. Imran A. Andrabi, ThedaCare president. "We will follow federal and state guidelines to continue our long history of delivering vaccines safely and effectively."

Personal protective equipment (PPE) will continue to be required at current levels regardless of members' decisions to receive the vaccine.

"The health and safety of our team members, patients and communities, are our number one priority. As we approach this promising milestone, we urge all members of our communities to continue safe behaviors to slow the spread of the coronavirus, including masking and avoiding gatherings with those outside your immediate household," Andrabi said.

An online tool developed by Surgo Foundation and Ariadne Labs to help state and county decision makers estimate the number of vaccine doses that may be available can be found at covid19vaccineallocation.org. The New York Times created a tool that individuals can use to estimate where they would fit in the priority list for the vaccine.



Christmas beacon

The Christmas tree and American flag shine brightly Thursday in Opera House Square.

Phyllis Leach remembered as nurse, community icon

By Dan Roherty Oshkosh Herald

Phyllis Leach was remembered as a sophisticated woman who did whatever was needed in her work with the city's nonprofit community.

Karlene Grabner, director of donor services at Oshkosh Area Community Foun-

dation and executive director of the Women's Fund, was a young girl when she first met Leach, who died Nov. 28 at age 89 at Evergreen Retirement Community from Alzheimer's disease.

Grabner volunteered with her mother for the Leach Mercy golf outing that Leach chaired on behalf of the Leach



Leach

Co. to benefit Mercy Medical Hospital. She remembers Leach as a graceful leader while also taking extra time for things like auctioning off her homemade popcorn mix that everyone wanted.

"She spent hours making that mix as

she knew it would raise additional dollars for the cause she was passionate about," Grabner said.

For the last 15 years Grabner worked with Leach professionally, including with



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the Women's Fund for which Leach contributed financially and as a board member for nine years. She was hostess for the fund's annual meeting at her home and started what has become the Power of the Purse raffle.

"I learned how to be more graceful in how I dealt with donors on a professional level and I learned that it was also always important to have fun and laugh," Grabner said.

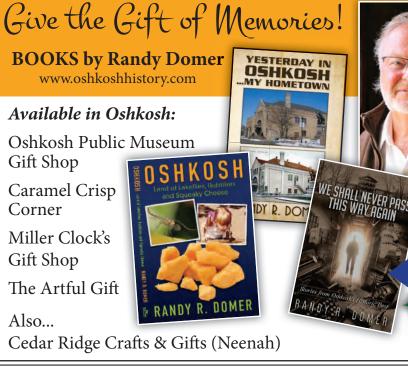
There are plans for a public celebration for Leach to mark the community supporter who with her family donated millions of dollars to benefit Oshkosh organizations and the city. Funeral services were private.

The Leach Amphitheater may be the most visible legacy of the family's philanthropy, which it made possible through a funding gift in 2003 before its first concert in May 2005.

She was a longtime nurse at Mercy Medical Center — earning a Nurse of the Year honor — and later serve as a hospital board member along with her work with the Visiting Nurse Association and UW Oshkosh School of Nursing.

Born Phyllis Liethen in Appleton, she married David C. Leach in 1955 and had two sons, Frederick and David. Her husband preceded her in death in 1992.



















Nursing students offered tuition credit amid pandemic

UW Oshkosh Communications

Beyond gaining valuable real-world experience, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh nursing students will now be eligible for a tuition credit of \$500 for working to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

The new incentive announced by the UW System means the more than 850 students in the UW Oshkosh College of Nursing (CON) can take advantage of this opportunity offered through the winter break.

"This is an exciting opportunity for students to work with other healthcare professionals to tackle the challenges presented by COVID-19," said CON Dean Judy Westphal. "The UW System is providing a win-win situation. Our students will gain valuable experience and individuals in the community benefit from the help students provide."

Westphal estimated more than half of nursing students are already working in health care, but that doesn't mean there aren't openings. Many health care systems in northeast Wisconsin have postings for nursing assistants, registered nurses and more, she said.

UW Oshkosh enrollment dip detailed

UW Oshkosh Communications

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh saw only a slight decrease in enrollment for the fall semester, according to November data.

The 3.1 percent decline is in line with demographic shifts and national estimates and far below projections made last spring when the pandemic forced universities across the country to send students home and switch to online learning.

The data shows a decrease of 485 students from fall 2019 to fall 2020. Enrollment is 15,035.

"We have worked hard during the pandemic to ensure UWO remains an institution that safely engages students in a quality education that transforms their lives," said UWO Chancellor Andrew Leavitt. "I am particularly proud of our faculty and staff members' focus on student retention as they adapt to new modes of teaching and service roles in this remarkable time. They are making certain Titans are supported in their continuous pursuit of degrees."

UWO saw an increase of 30 percent in first-year students on the Fond du Lac campus, the largest increase of all twoyear campuses in the UW System.

"The tremendous increase in the firstyear students at the Fond du Lac campus is a result of both our strong relationships as well as the students' recognition of the value of a campus close to home," said Aggie Hanni, UWO's assistant vice chancellor for enrollment management.

In total, 164,494 students are enrolled at UW System's 13 universities for fall 2020, the preliminary data show. UW System campuses experienced an enrollment decrease of 6 percent among first-year students, far less than the estimated 16 percent drop nationally.

"Amid the pandemic, and with fewer high school graduates, we expected a slight dip in enrollment," said UW System President Tommy Thompson. "I'm gratified by these enrollment figures, which show that our students want to be able to continue their education as much as possible."

According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, enrollment across the U.S. dropped 3 percent for fall 2020 and 16 percent among firstyear students.

Overall, the data shows 3,194 fewer students in the UW System in fall 2020 compared to fall 2019. About one-third is attributable to the two-year branch campuses.

The UW System as a whole has about 4,000 nursing students. While many of them already are putting their skills to use in hospitals, clinics and other facilities, the tuition credit will offer a new incentive at a time when healthcare workers are in high demand-including with COVID-19 vaccine production ramping up and distribution expected in the coming weeks and months.

"The UW System continues to look for ways to help the state during the pandemic, and this proposal is another example of the Wisconsin Idea in action," said System President Tommy Thompson. "We have worked closely with Wisconsin's health care providers and nursing homes to identify this need and are glad we can help."

In addition, Thompson said he is working with Gov. Tony Evers and Department of Health Services Secretary Andrea Palm, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos and incoming Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu. UW System has taken a lead role in ex-

Father Carr's Christmas meals offered

Father Carr's Place 2B will be providing drive-thru meals on Christmas Day from 10:30 a.m. to noon at its 1062 N. Koeller St. location in an adjustment to its normal in-house annual dinner.

Advance reservations must be made by Dec. 20, where multiple meals can be requested for those in their household and or fellow neighbors in need. To make a reservation call 920-231-2378.

Father Carr's will also be coordinating one-time group meal deliveries to seven select low-income apartment complexes for those unable to access the event. There will be no in-person dining or residential deliveries this year.

panding COVID-19 testing in the state. Earlier this month the System's 13 universities opened new "surge testing" sites in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which has provided 250,000 Abbott BinaxNOW rapid-results antigen tests.

It is the first time a federal surge testing operation is using Abbott BinaxNOW rapid point-of-care tests that provide a result within 15 minutes. Federal surge testing provides additional temporary federal support to areas that have seen a recent spike in coronavirus cases.

The testing sites are free and open to the general public, and so far more than 55,000 tests have been administered across Wisconsin. An additional 10,000 confirmatory PCR tests have been provided by the state Department of Health Services. Community members can register at doineedacovid19test.com.

"Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with our community, especially those who are struggling this year," said John Nieman, Father Carr's Place 2B executive director. "While gathering in person is not possible, we are committed to doing everything we can to spread Christmas cheer and make sure that our neighbors can experience the love and true meaning of the Christmas season."

The organization is in need of donations of ham, butter, No. 10 canned corn, and packaged or store-bought Christmas cookies. Donations can be dropped off at the Mother Teresa Center.



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Patti Yana receives the 2020 Clarence J. Jungwirth Award from WCHAS President Randy Domer.

Local historian's efforts honored

Patti Yana was recently presented with the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeology Society's Clarence J. Jungwirth Award, given annually to a group or individual who has taken great measures to preserve local history.

"Patti is a former board member with our society so we are very familiar with her commitment and work," said society president Randy Domer.

In addition to her work with the Winnebago County Society, Patti is secretary/ treasurer for the Butte des Morts Historical Preservation Society and a member of the Winneconne and Winchester historical societies. She also volunteers at the Oshkosh Public Museum.

The award, dedicated to the memory of historian Clarence "Inky" Jungwirth, was created to recognize the efforts made in the community to research, report and preserve local history. Past recipients include Jungwirth, Dean Sandeman, Dan Radig, J and Julie Karner, and the Kuenzl Foundation.



UWO junior juggles studies with business

By Amanda Rice UW Oshkosh Today

Nursing school in itself is no easy feat. But for University of Wisconsin Oshkosh junior Becca Dailey, it's just one of the many things on her plate.

Dailey, of Omro, balances being a fulltime student with owning her own business in Oshkosh. Divine Beauty provides beauty services to clients, including eyelash extensions and makeup application.

Although she had been doing freelance makeup jobs since high school, Dailey officially started Divine Beauty in January 2019, after she became certified to do eyelash extensions.

"Ever since I was little I loved playing with my mom's makeup and everything girly. In high school, my obsession grew. By the end of my senior year, I had begun doing makeup for special occasions, such as dances, senior pictures and weddings. As this grew, so did my interest in providing other services, such as eyelash extensions," she said.

Dailey attributes much of the success in her business to her involvement with the Titan Accelerator Program through the College of Business. She came across the program after participating in the Culvers' Business Competition in 2019, where she shared her business and future plan and subsequently won the People's Choice Award.

"After the competition, I applied to be a part of the Titan accelerator program.

Because I have no business background at all, this program allowed me to expand my knowledge. It also helped me get my own studio space here in Oshkosh and bring on two members to my team," she said.

Dailey hired UWO first-year students Amber VanOss, a biology major from Winneconne, and Madigan Carlson, a nursing major from Ripon.

While beauty has always been her passion, Dailey wanted to find other ways to help people as well. She was inspired by her mother, a psychiatric nurse practitioner.

"I wanted to help those struggling with mental illness. After some research, I learned that many people who suffer from mental illness can benefit from services, such as Botox and other non-invasive aesthetic procedures. I genuinely believe that my love for beauty and helping people is what has brought me to this point today," she said.

For Dailey, juggling college and work has been a difficult, yet rewarding experience.

"Although I would love to say it has been easy, I have had to grow and learn to balance everything in my life. Time management is one of the biggest things that I have had to improve on over time," she said. "Luckily, I have an amazing family and group of friends who support and understand me. They have been here through every step of the way telling me how strong I am and that if I put my mind to it, I can achieve anything."

New North to offer economic outlook

New North, the regional economic development corporation for 18 counties, is presenting an economic outlook for Wisconsin and the region from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. today (Wednesday) through a free webinar.

Peter Barca, secretary of the state De-



partment of Revenue; and Marc Schaffer, St. Norbert economics professor and Center for Business & Economic Analysis; will be joined by economists and research students for the discussion on where the state and regional economies are headed in the wake of the pandemic, prospects for recovery and key indicators of economic health.

The event will unveil the IntelTracker tool, which shows vital statistics, labor market and talent availability, livability, economic vitality, industry clusters, education, capital investment and retail sales.

Opening remarks will be provided by St. Norbert President Brian Bruess, a New North board member and co-chair of the New North Business Intelligence Council; and Phil Flynn, CEO of Associated Bank, sponsor of the event.

Registration is available at schneiderschool.snc.edu for live Zoom access.



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Grand gets \$20,000 matching donor gift

Lynn and Roger Van Vreede will match all giving up to the first \$20,000 total to support The Grand Oshkosh's year-end campaign as it finds new solutions amid the pandemic.

The Van Vreedes have challenged individuals, organizations and businesses to support the venue and its programs in the campaign that runs until the end of the year or when the \$20,000 is fulfilled.

"We don't want to see premier experiences at The Grand Oshkosh disappear for good because of temporary gaps in income," said Roger Van Vreede. "With this match, Lynn and I would like to see the people of not only Oshkosh, but the Fox Valley give The Grand their support. The Grand is a unique venue and the performances are beyond entertaining."

Director Joseph Ferlo expressed the organization's gratitude. "Now more than ever, we're grateful for community leaders like the Van Vreedes, who are stepping up to raise the stakes. Beyond the financial support, we're thankful for the confidence that The Grand will continue to be innovative with programming and livestreaming opportunities."

Built in 1883, The Grand is the oldest live performance theater in Wisconsin.

Donor levels are available at \$50 and above. Donations of \$1,000 or more will enroll donors into the Producers Circle with additional benefits. Details are at thegrandoshkosh.org.

Orbis eye hospital plane returning to AirVenture

The Orbis Flying Eye Hospital, which has been saving sight and training eye care professionals in more than 95 countries, will return to AirVenture in 2021 as part of a salute to humanitarian aviation at the 68th edition of the Experimental Aircraft Association's annual fly-in convention.

Next year's convention is set to run from July 26 to Aug. 1 at Wittman Regional Airport.

A McDonnell Douglas MD-10 was donated to Orbis by FedEx, which had used the airplane as a cargo aircraft. The Orbis team then outfitted the aircraft with a fully accredited ophthalmic teaching hospital, including an operating room, recovery room, classroom, and some of the world's most advanced ophthalmic training equipment. This aircraft, which took its first sight-saving flight in 2016, replaced a DC-10 airplane that Orbis had used since 1994 after beginning its work with a donated DC-8 airplane in 1982.

The Orbis team works with local hospitals in countries where access to eye care, such as cataract surgery and glaucoma treatment, is often limited or nonexistent. The Orbis team trains eye care professionals at each of its stops. Orbis' telemedicine platform, Cybersight, which has been even more important during the COVID-19 pandemic, provides long-distance mentoring and education to more than 35,000 eye care professionals.

"The Orbis story is one of a unique and lasting alliance between aviation and medicine. Our previous trips to Oshkosh allowed us to tell that story to thousands of aviators, many of whom had never heard of our work," said Bruce Johnson, director of aircraft operations at Orbis. "We are eager to return to AirVenture and share the latest developments in our mission."





Submitted photo

Elves are back

The annual elf hunt at the Oshkosh Public Museum is expanding this year to include the Extreme Elfish Expedition along with other elf-inspired activities. Also new will be the museum's tree display featuring decades of ornaments along with the challenge of an Ornament I Spy game. Holiday Elf Quest will be available through Jan. 3 during regular hours from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Sundays.

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Passing it forward

Staff at the Edward Jones financial office at 141 Church Ave. normally hold a client appreciation open house, but adviser Nick Jensen said they decided for this Thanksgiving to dress up while serving pies and La Sures lunches with curbside pickup.



District rates

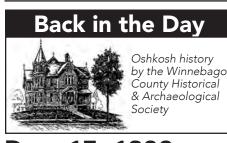
from Page 1

The OASD also calculates the case rate and burden status for elementary, middle and high school students. For the past two weeks, the burden rate for elementary and middle school students was in the very high category, while for high school students it was critically high, Kaemmerer said.

The district website has a COVID-19 dashboard to keep students, families, staff and the community informed about case rates and cumulative number at each school.

As of Nov. 23, the district had 321 confirmed cases among its students and staff since the start of the school year. There have been 3,282 students and staff members quarantined during that time due to having symptoms, testing positive or being in close contact with someone who has tested positive.

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh rapid testing program is now open to all district staff members, spouses or dependents, as well as students. The center is using antigen tests that will allow them to receive results within about 15 min-



Dec. 17, 1932 Children to be Guests of Elks at Annual Party: The Oshkosh Elks Lodge will play host to 670 needy boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 10 years old on Sunday at the Elks Twelfth Annual Christmas party. 134 cars have been arranged to pick up the children and bring them to the party. The children's names have all been checked through the Bureau of Family Service and the children have all received their invitations. A 20-foot tree gay with 275 electric lights utes. If the individual has symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive, they may also be given a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result of the an-

tigen test. The results of the PCR test are typically available within two to five days. The testing program is free for participants and there is no cost to the district. Testing signup is offered at doineedacovid19test.com. All participants from the district should sign up as "Community

Members." It was anticipated that the number of positive cases across the state would drop due to a lack of access to community testing over the holiday weekend and likely increase again as testing resumes. Additionally, the county health department said there is a possibility of a surge in cases over the next two to three weeks stemming from gatherings related to the holidays.

The county health department is considering recommendations for changing quarantine times from 14 days to 10 or seven days for individuals in close contact with a positive individual and will share that information with the school district when consensus has been reached, Keammerer said.

is already in place to provide the proper setting for the much-heralded arrival of Santa Claus. As children arrive, they will be escorted upstairs where each will be presented with an ice cream cone. The highlight of the afternoon will be the arrival of Santa Claus from the North Pole. Each child will be given a bag containing candy, nuts, oranges, apples, a doll or a game, a popcorn ball, two bus tickets and a ticket to the movie theater. Following the program, the children will be safely escorted back to their homes.

> Source: The Daily Northwestern, Dec. 17, 1932

Correction: The storm event recalled in the Dec. 2 issue was in November 1940, not December. Source: Oshkosh Northwestern)



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Toys for Tots drive needs extra help

The annual Toys for Tots campaign will come to a close Friday and COVID-19 has shown its impact. Salvation Army Lt. Trisha Anderson said the number of families with children signed up for holiday assistance increased from 450 last year to more than 700 families.

Other families who contact the Salvation Army at this time will be placed on a wait list as the goal is to serve as many families as possible this season, Anderson said.

Adding to the challenge was the decrease in toy collection locations, said Winnebago County Toys for Tots coordinator Jodi Vandermolen, who is executive director for Winnegamie Home Builders Association. Many businesses who had participated as collection points have limited or no access for the public to drop off donated gifts due to COVID-19.

The campaign historically also receives funds from national Toys for Tots donors for the local programs to purchase toys. These funds have nearly disappeared this year.

Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army are hoping for some extra help so all the children who are signed up have a present under the tree. For information on how to donate and keep it local, go to https://oshkosh-wi.toysfortots.org or contact Vandermolen at 920-235-2962 or Salvation Army at 920-232-7660.

The Oshkosh Herald is a toy collection site. Donations can be dropped off through Friday at 923 S. Main St. Suite C.



South Park Middle School staff members celebrate its School of Distinction honor during the 2014-15 school year.

Principal

from Page 1

The former Menasha High School math teacher followed another longtime South Park principal when she took over for Bill Holm after his 28-year tenure there.

"If you added up all the middle school principals who have come and gone during the time, Lisa McLaughlin has been a steady influence at South Park, the number is amazing," said Sue Meyer, a former teacher and mother of South Park teacher Mark Meyer.

Dean of students Matthew Wiebel has worked with McLaughlin for nine years and said he learned from his boss how to lead and motivate people to do their best.

"She cares about the staff and the students so much. She was so good about building those relationships with everyone," he said. "That's reflected in the way everyone treats each other there. It's truly like a family for everybody." Wiebel said it's also a testament to her how long so many of the staff have stayed at South Park while noting "it's a challenging school."

"She led by example," he said. "She was the hardest worker."

The daughter of educators, McLaughlin said her father, Bill Ott, a middle school principal and curriculum director, and mother Gloria had a major influence on her career. She added that Bob Kellerman, the late Oshkosh North principal, and other assistant principals shared important knowledge and special ways to show appreciation to staff and students.

McLaughlin called South Park, which

Rebel Alliance Theatre shoe drive concluding

Rebel Alliance Theatre has been working over the past month with Funds2orgs, collecting new and gently used shoes to help micro-entrepreneurs in developing countries while generating funds to help bring live theater to the Fox Valley area.

The shoe drive concludes Sunday.

has ranged from about 425 students to the current 350 — largely due to online enrollment shifts — "just a great neighborhood school."

"In my heart I hope sooner than later we're back to normal and I also hope that we continue to have options for students where maybe face-to-face is not a good fit for them. So I think it has broadened our horizons a little bit on what options we have for kids."

She said she will continue to have one foot in the job as retired administrator Randy Hughes fills in while she is able to spend vacation and holiday time with husband Mac and teenage son Cooper.

Drop off donations at Frugal Fashion in Oshkosh, Red's Piggly Wiggly in Omro or Half Price Books in Appleton or contact a theater member through Facebook, at mamagreystoke@gmail.com or texting 920-658-5042.



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North defeats West in hard-fought city rivalry

By Dustin Riese HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The Oshkosh cross-town rivalry is one of the best in the Fox Valley Association and the state as the two teams have been battling it out for years. This season things look a lot different as they played in front of an empty gym with just teammates and coaches in attendance.

Despite the lack of energy from fans, the two sides seemed to play with the same intensity expected in normal circumstances. In the end, it was North taking round one from the Wildcats as they earned a hardfought 66-62 win to move to 1-1 on the season while West dropped to 0-2.

"I thought we were better than we were versus Hortonville," North head coach Brad Weber said. "The key to our season will be the way we continue to evolve. Since we are shy on game experience with our youth we have to continue to learn on the fly in this league."

Wildcats coach Michael Johnson said about his team's effort, "I thought we played a better game than we did on Friday, but we need to be more consistent. We gave up too many easy baskets and had too many unforced turnovers.

"There were also two different points in the game where we went through long scoring droughts. We need to find ways to get easy baskets when we are struggling."

It was a two-man show to begin as North's Jalen Keago, who scored a gamehigh 24, put in the first five for his side with West's Ethan Shefchik putting in the first nine points for his. Shefchik led the Wildcats with 20 points.

The Wildcats had an 11-8 lead when it began raining 3's, with Christo Giannopoulis tying things up from the corner at 11 before Mike Stack answered with a three of his own to make it 14-11 West. Mason Day of North followed with a three of his own.



Oshkosh West's Tristan Johanknecht and North's Christo Giannopoulis fight for a loose ball in Saturday's game. The Spartans held on to win a close 66-62 contest.

An 8-0 West run gave them a 22-14 lead before Steven Clark, Keago, Cooper Juedes and Day all got involved turning an eight-point deficit into a seven-point lead with a 15-0 run.

"Once we started attacking the rim, I thought the tide turned a bit," Weber said. "We had a tendency to settle for some shots early but were more patient with our looks as the game went on."

North led 46-42 at halftime. Johnson was not happy with how things played out after his team built the early lead.

"We got into some foul trouble in the first half that forced us to play some line-



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ups that weren't ideal against North's zone," he said. "When we stopped scoring, they were able to push the ball and cause us problems in transition."

Unlike the first half, scoring in the second was difficult to come by as neither team had the same success. Whether the defenses adjusted or just some sloppy play, the tempo drastically slowed and the sides were pressing for offense. Keago had two baskets early among his 12 in the half.

West went away from the outside game and started using both Johanknecht and Alex Schlichting's size to keep things close. Once North started playing more in the paint on defense, the outside shots opened back up and Shefchik took advantage. After finding themselves down by seven, Bradley helped bring things back to 53-53.

North made another adjustment on defense and Keago continued to get inside. Coupled with Day and Juedes getting some buckets, North opened its biggest lead 62-53 as that 9-0 run was a gut punch to the Wildcats.

Johnson said his team could have done a lot of things differently during that rough stretch.

"Both teams shot much worse and had more turnovers in the second half," he said. "I think that was primarily due to fatigue, as both teams had also played Friday night and playing a back-to-back just two weeks into the season is very difficult."

The Wildcats continued to go inside to Schlichting. After a steal and bucket from Shefchik, Jacquez Overstreet connected from deep as the Wildcats responded with a 7-0 run to cut things to 62-60. Keago and Reed Seckar knocked down clutch free throws at the end as the Wildcats were unable to get a decent look down the stretch falling 66-62.

In what was a much different rivalry game than in seasons past. Weber gave his take on the atmosphere without fans.

"Definitely did not have the same feeling tonight with no fans," he said. "One bonus was I did get a front-row parking spot. That hasn't happened in my 22 years of being a part of this rivalry."

Johnson had his take on the crowdless contest.

"As a coach during the game I am so focused on what is happening on the floor that I don't really notice the fans either way," he said. "The biggest difference for me was just that it is much easier for my players to hear my instructions on the court."

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Prep sports roundup

GIRLS BASKETBALL Wildcats trail early in loss to Kaukauna

The Oshkosh West girls basketball team fell behind early and never recovered as it dropped a 62-39 Fox Valley Association contest against Kaukauna at home Friday night.

The Wildcats turned the ball over 20 times and trailed 29-16 at the break.

Senior Kiersten McNulty led the Wildcats with 16 points and had a game-high 11 rebounds while junior Meredith Posanski chipped in six points and seven rebounds.

Kaukauna had 14 steals in the win and had 17 points from Graysin Hartjes.

The Wildcats will travel to face Neenah on Thursday and will host Marshfield at 6 p.m. Saturday.

Knights edge Omro for their first victory

The Lourdes girls basketball team won a tight 40-39 game Friday against Omro, picking up its first win of the season.

The Knights, who trailed 25-22 at the half, got 13 points from Hannah Fedderly and nine points from Lily Derleth.

The Knights (1-4) will host Heritage Christian at 7 p.m. Thursday and Hustisford at 6:15 p.m. Saturday.

BOYS BASKETBALL Big second half lifts Horicon over Warriors

The Valley Christian boys basketball team was outscored by 19 points in the second half as it lost a 66-54 game against Horicon on Saturday night.

The Warriors led 33-26 at halftime but Horicon outscored them 40-21 in the second half.

Nickolai Thur led Valley Christian with



Oshkosh West's Kiersten McNulty lays up a shot against two Kaukauna defenders in Friday night's game. McNulty led all Wildcat scorers with 16 points in the loss.

16 points while Elijah Wade had eight points and 11 rebounds. Taylor Westphal and Jaden Francis each chipped in seven points while William Kehoe had five points, four rebounds and seven assists.

Second-half surge puts Kaukauna over West

Kaukauna went on a 14-0 run in the second half to help pick up a 72-63 win over Oshkosh West in a Fox Valley Association contest Friday night.

West, which trailed 32-27 at the break, outscored the Ghosts 36-30 in the second half but that big run proved to be the dif-

High school athletics livestreamed

Oshkosh North and West high schools will be streaming their home athletic events during the winter season to their YouTube channels.

Viewers will see a "Live now" section on the channel. Events streamed from the main gym will begin automatically 15 minutes before tipoff. Events filmed outside of the main gym will be scheduled in advance and a link to those streams will be visible in advance.

Away events will be streamed as well,

and links to all Fox Valley Association school sites can be found at www. fvasports.net. Live-streamed events are added to the school's athletic YouTube channel after the stream ends and the video processes. The FVA conference will keep videos visible for at least a week after the air date.

The decision on allowing spectators at home competitions will be re-evaluated before Jan. 1.

ference

Jacquez Overstreet led the Wildcats with 25 points while James Bradley and Mike Stack each had three 3-pointers, combining for 18 points.

North falls in opener

The Oshkosh North boys basketball

team lost its season opener, falling 87-74 to the Hortonville Polar Bears in a Fox Valley Association contest Friday night in Oshkosh.

No statistics were available. Compiled by Alex Wolf, Herald contributor







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Knights boys crush Oakfield to open campaign

By Dustin Riese Herald contributor

The Lourdes Academy Knights entered this season with a ton of confidence and high expectations. When you enter the season ranked No. 2 in the state, return nearly the entire roster from a 22-3 season a year ago and haven't lost a conference game in more than three seasons you can see why they have confidence.

Knowing they will get everyone's best shot every game, the Knights kicked off their 2020-21 season with a trip to Oakfield on Saturday hoping to send a message to the rest of the Trailways East in the process. Knights dominated the Oaks from start to finish for the 89-48 win.

"First and foremost, it is just great to be playing," head coach Dennis Ruedinger said. "We have a group of young men who are very passionate about the game of basketball and it is a great release for them. Having something positive to look forward to is something we can all use in our lives right now."

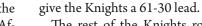
After Grant Bass gave the Oaks an early 2-1 lead, it was all Lourdes from there as their offense was on point. Starting with a Jack McKellips bucket, Preston Ruedinger connected for five straight including a put back slam on the other end for an 8-2 Knights lead. Jack Huizenga and Josh Bauer got in on the first-half barrage to give the Knights a 22-6 lead.

Up 26-11, the Oaks began to chip away to make things interesting. Mason Tapp and Hunter Sabel played huge roles in that run as their inside-out combination had the Knights defense chasing and the lead was cut to 29-21 after a 10-3 run. After Ruedinger went down and connected for another three, Bart Bill and Tapp answered and it was a 34-27 lead.

Lourdes put the clamps down to end the half as tough defense led to buckets from Thomas Derleth and J.J. Mckellips, with Josh Bauer tipping one in at the horn giving the Knights a 42-27 lead. McKellips got the offense rolling as his defense led to several easy buckets.

"I thought we were very good in transition tonight and it was great to be back on the floor with these guys," McKellips said. "What got me going in the first half was how we really pushed the ball up the floor and found open players in transition. We turned great defense into easy offense, and we love to get out and run the floor. That led to not only easy buckets from me, but for the rest of the guys on the floor."

For the second straight half, the Knights used a huge run across the first five minutes to separate themselves with Ruedinger and Huizenga sparking a 19-3 run to



The rest of the Knights roster started chipping in, showing how deep and dangerous this team can be. The end of the bench started getting some action with J.J. McKellips, Malith Liabwell and Jack Seibold getting in on the scoring.

Oakfield still played hard as their offense was getting contributions from Cody Liebelt and Michael Sanderson to reach the 40-point mark. Siebel led the Oaks with 16 points as he and Liebelt capped off the scoring in the game, but it wasn't nearly enough with the Knights continuing their unbeaten streak in conference play. Jack McKellips knows how deep this team is and he feels that it could be a special year.

"We are a very talented and deep team, and it is always tough to defend us," he said. "Our chemistry seems to be the best attribute as we play extremely well together and use that to our advantage. When everyone gets involved like they did today, it is hard to beat us. We are excited to keep growing and getting better as a team and see where this season takes us."

Ruedinger seconded that and knows what it takes to be a great team.

"Having multiple weapons is a key to any great team," he said. "We maximize that by being an extremely good passing team. As a team we had 23 assists and only 10 turnovers. We know we can score, now we need to make sure we can defend and rebound. That will continue to be our focus throughout the year."

Lourdes hosted Dodgeland this Tuesday before a pair of weekend road games against Horicon on Friday and Ripon on Saturday.

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North, West apply for football move

Oshkosh programs seek entry to Fox River Classic

By Dustin Riese HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

As the COVID-19 pandemic lingers into 2021, schools will continue to make tough decisions on their sports seasons. Oshkosh North and West were able to restart their winter sports, but what happens next could change things.

With fall sports getting pushed to next spring, North and West found themselves out of the Fox Valley Association Conference to play in a 20-team super conference. What looked to be a one-year alignment may turn out to be longer as both schools have applied to leave the FVA for football starting in 2022.

Schools are given the opportunity to apply for conference realignment every two years. Even if schools apply now, their requests won't be reviewed until the early part of 2021. With the most recent realignment this past spring, any future changes wouldn't take place until the beginning of the 2022 season.

That means both North and West could essentially play in three different confer-

ences across the next three years. North and West are just two of 18 schools applying for some sort of conference realignment in the next go around. All requests will be reviewed by the 17-member WIAA Conference Realignment Task Force with ultimate authority resting with the WIAA Board of Control.

If the task force rejects a proposal, the school can appeal to the group and eventually to the Board of Control directly depending on the procedure schools need to follow.

Schools that apply for realignment need to provide the WIAA with significant documentation as to why they intend or want to make a move, such as district demographics, participation data for their sports, enrollment trends, letters of impact from teams affected and a proposal for a solution they would like to see happen.

The FVA went down to eight teams this fall for football only, with Hortonville and Appleton West heading to the Wisconsin Valley Conference.

Most of the other schools looking to make a move are in rural areas or with small enrollments. Apart from Sun Prairie becoming two schools and West Allis requesting a move, Oshkosh North and West are the largest schools looking for a

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new alignment.

The Spartans and Wildcats are scheduled to play in the newly formed Fox Valley Classic Football Conference for the alternate spring season before moving back to the FVA in the fall. Once 2022 begins, both schools hope to join the Fox River Classic Conference (FRCC).

The FRCC consists of Green Bay area schools along with Manitowoc and Sheboygan North and South. Menasha and West De Pere were added this season for football only, but those schools didn't play a fall season. On paper the move doesn't make sense for travel and geography, but diving a little deeper the move makes some sense.

If you look at the conference West will be playing in this spring, they will see the likes of De Pere, Green Bay Southwest and Manitowoc. North will be playing with Green Bay East and West, along with Sheboygan North and South. All seven are part of the current FRCC so it could just be a case of the Oshkosh schools wanting to remain with the newly formed conference beyond this spring.

North and West would be losing FVA football rivalries, but ultimately creating new ones in the process.

Obituaries

David R. Reabe

David R. Reabe, age 91, of Oshkosh passed away on November 10, 2020 at his home. Mass of Christian burial was held on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 11 am at St. Raphael's Catholic Church in Oshkosh. Fiss & Bills Funeral Home assisted the family.



West senior will play volleyball at Western Colorado

Oshkosh West senior Randi Wellhoefer recently signed a letter of intent to play college volleyball at Western Colorado University, starting this next fall.

Her junior season, Wellhoefer was a second-team all-Fox Valley Association middle blocker, helping the Wildcats to a 31-13 record. As a sophomore, she earned honorable mention.

Because of COVID-19, the Wildcats did not compete this past fall.

The NCAA Division II school, located in Gunnison, Colo., competes in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

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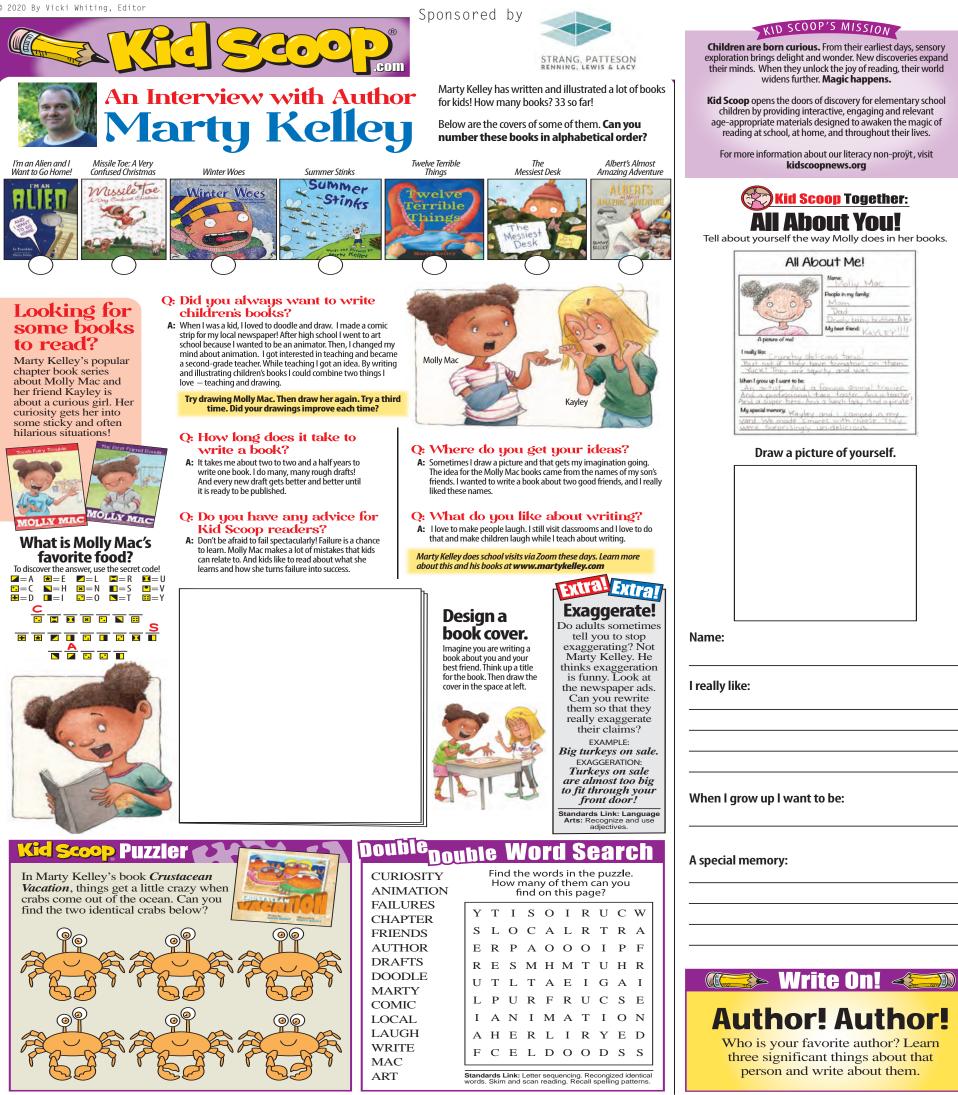
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