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City begins to narrow \$20 million priorities Page 5



## Pumpkin harvest

Brian Trebiatowski's farm on County FF in Fisk is in its third generation with pumpkins being grown for the last 20 years. The site has been expanded to almost 10 acres this year, producing about 20,000 pumpkins for wholesale production and limited farm sale. Brian's mother, Lucy, is shown picking in the field with family friends who frequently help with the harvest. The carving pumpkins are the most popular for families to purchase. Trebiatowski's farm also raises pie pumpkins that have a higher sugar content and darker color.

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 40

# State 21 crossings on work list

# Omro route work will lead to roundabouts

By Kaitlyn Scoville Oshkosh Herald

West-side locals and those who frequently drive State 21 between Oshkosh and Omro can expect a series of changes to the roadway in coming years.

According to Mark Kantola at the state Department of Transportation, a recently completed traffic analysis concluded that the intersection of highway 21 and Leonard Point Road met the needs for a multilane roundabout due to high rates of crashes and strong public support for one.

Their original outreach efforts in May, resulted in 23 members of the community responding.

Project manager Bill Bertrand indicated that public opinion from these virtual outreach efforts this spring helped show the DOT that the public wanted an improvement at the intersection.

Locals around this highly frequented intersection have cited concerns of speeding, crashes and the overall safety of its users.

Before construction began at Omro Road, the Leonard Point intersection with 21 consisted of two-way stop signs on the side street.

Temporary traffic signals are in place until the construction project along Omro Road is complete by early to mid-November. Others who live in the area said some

SEE West-side traffic ON PAGE 16

# Digital skills unlock life options for seniors in isolation

By Kaitlyn Scoville Oshkosh Herald

Grocery shopping, looking at menus



sessions as far as three weeks out. "It's been so fun and rewarding to watch people blossom under this," Schaefer said. "Some people have had transformational effects. Every day, people come in for something they want to know more about." Since the program's inception, Schaefer, Carlin and other teachers have helped more than 450 participants. It has been so successful that senior centers in other cities have reached out to replicate it. Both Carlin and Schaefer have heard participants say they prefer to use the program because they feel as though they'd be interrupting friends, family and neighbors if they were to ask for help. "People kept saying to us that they felt so stupid for not knowing these terms," Carlin said, "but they are learning a foreign language with its own hieroglyphics. They shouldn't feel stupid - if nobody taught them these things, how would they

through QR codes and even getting into Green Bay Packers games are becoming reliant on digital means.

With intentions to pull seniors out of isolation and familiarize them with today's technology early last year, Connect through Tech program organizers Stephanie Carlin and Anne Schaefer didn't realize they would have to scrap their original plan and cater to connecting them during a pandemic.

"Everything we had initially planned started over," said Carlin. "We were going to do a virtual tour of Paris and other things, but everything shut down. Our work suddenly became urgent."

Connect through Tech is a series of oneon-one sessions and classes aimed to help seniors learn technology to enhance their quality of life. While the implementation of the program has changed dramatically from initial plans due to the pandemic, the Oshkosh Herald

Program facilitator Stephanie Carlin (left) helps a participant of the Connect through Tech program with voice control on her smartphone during a recent class.

overall goal of getting seniors connected has not.

Having been awarded a \$150,000 grant from Bader Philanthropies, Schaefer with

the Oshkosh Seniors Center said it would be transformational for the facility.

Now, a year later, the program is seeking further funding as they are still booking

SEE Tech assistance ON PAGE 17

KISS, keep it simple stupid. No online application process to complete. Just a

direct phone number attached to the

This idea has been percolating since

Mother's Day weekend when my friend

Dave was telling me about his part-time

didn't have direction to get going in the

morning during retirement, so he picked

retired guy and he was going to leave. His

job at a local retailer. Dave found he

up a job. However, the position was

working more than he wanted to for a

supervisor asked Dave what he would

like to do, and he really was looking for

something to get him up and going in

the morning. So, Dave works a few hours

every morning stocking shelves and then

joins the rest of us as we are all just start-

All you "Daves" out there, local busi-

ing our days. A win-win for both Dave

and his employer.

nesses want to meet you.

position to talk with a real person.



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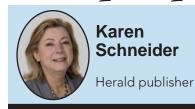
Karen Schneider, 920-858-6407 karen@oshkoshherald.com

# SHARP connects people to businesses

Have you noticed an uptick in local businesses adjusting their hours to a point that the only reaction is to shake your head? Restaurants with a good fish fry closing on Fridays, or others closing for the entire weekend? Looking to go out to eat on a Monday? Call first to make sure your destination is open.

We hear about the labor shortage and how difficult it is to find new workers. There are several theories on why, but ultimately, I believe it's a numbers game. Boomers are retiring and many retired at the onset of COVID. Others took the opportunity of the last year and learned new skills and have got higher paying jobs than the service industry position they saw dry up during COVID in 2020.

One thing is for certain, we won't all agree on the cause or the effect, but we can try to connect people who may have a couple hours to work a part time or second (or third) job. Not enough for a 20



hour a week part-time job, but someone who may be able to put in a few hours a day to fill a gap a business has.

And that is what the Oshkosh Herald's SHARP program is designed to do connect people with a few hours on their hands to businesses who need someone to work those hours to stay open and in business. SHARP is an acronym for Short Hours for Available or Retired People so whether you are retired or a stay at home parent with a bit of time on your hands, I hope you'll take a look in our classified section to see if something sounds interesting or fun to you.

The idea follows another acronym,

## Job fair returns to arena with range of positions

#### Oshkosh Herald

The Fox Valley Workforce Development Board is returning to an in-person job fair from 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 12 at the Oshkosh Arena with a variety of work opportunities - entry level, skilled, seasonal, temporary, full and part time.

"Job seekers can expect the companies attending to be searching for a wide range of talent in a number of industries and occupations," the event flyer reads.

Through the pandemic, employers have struggled to fill positions vacated by retiring baby boomers and stay-at-home mothers, said FVWD business solutions manager Bobbi Miller.

"We all see the demographics of what has happened," Miller said. "There's a lot of challenges for our companies; but we also know there's a good work ethic in our area, and I think people need to see all the opportunities available to them."

The past two Oshkosh-based job fairs were canceled due to COVID. With this event, Miller hopes to be back on a regular schedule in 2022. They have sold out the vendor booths available in the Oshkosh Arena. "Given the number of manufacturers in the Oshkosh area, we have quite a few of them coming," Miller said. "People should look at them because they're hiring more than just production.

Sometimes job seekers have a picture in their head about what a job is and isn't. I would encourage everybody who is thinking that they are interested in a better future to come and talk to these companies."

Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corp.'s chief executive Tricia Ratherme said connecting businesses with potential employees in a direct way is crucial to the economic strength of the region.

From 1 to 4 p.m., prospective employees can visit the arena and more than 80 participating companies to see who the right fit for them may be. For more information, visit foxvalleywork.org and click the link under "Job Fairs."



100 High Avenue, Oshkosh Box Office Hours | 11:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. | M-F

## **CHAD THORNSBERRY** OCT. 16 | 7:30 P.M.

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public school teacher, so call (920) 424-2350 for an exclusive educator discount!

#### 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 920-479-6301.

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If there is a hearing problem, hearing tests may reveal that newly developed methods or correction will help, even for those who have been told in the past that a hearing aid would not help them.

If you suspect you have hearing loss, call for a free hearing test appointment. Our licensed specialists are trained in the latest auditory testing methods and will be the first ones to tell you if you don't need a hearing aid. If you do have a hearing loss, we will explain your results and provide you with a list of options.

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## School, city mask mandates extended through October

#### Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Area School District is continuing to mandate mask-wearing through Nov. 5.

"The Oshkosh Area School District remains committed to providing in-person instruction for our students for the 2021-22 school year in a healthy and safe environment," Superintendent Bryan Davis told families in a letter last week.

As per data from the Winnebago County Health Department, COVID-19 case counts among those 18 and under steadily rose within district geographic boundaries from late July to late September.

Since the beginning of the 2021-22 school year, the OASD has been able

## **NEW Top Dog contest** draws shelters, brewers

#### Oshkosh Herald

Some of the coolest and cutest dogs in northeast Wisconsin are again the stars of an Oshkosh Mid-Morning Kiwanis contest that raised more than \$50,000 locally last year and has been expanded to support six humane societies in the region.

The NEW Top Dog competition opened last month for local voting in the Fox Valley, Shawano and the lakeshore area that ends Oct. 9 with local-round winners crowned. Championship round voting runs Oct. 10-16 to crown the overall NEW Top Dog.

Outgoing Oshkosh Kiwanis president Heather Winscher said the expanded fundraiser could raise between \$150,000 and \$200,000 this time around for the regional shelters and their communities.

During the local phase, dog owners pay \$10 to enter their favorite shelter's photo contest and encourage friends and family to support their canine companion with \$1 votes. The top 10 dogs from each of the six contests move into the championship round.



The winning dog from each of the six local contests will become the face of their own beer produced by one of six microbreweries, including Fifth Ward Brewing and Bare Bones Brewery. Runners-up also get their photos featured on the beer can or bottle.

The top three dogs in the championship round earn cash prizes and gift cards from among \$15,000 in overall prizes. The shelter with the most votes will win \$5,000.

Contest details are at newtopdog.com.

to keep all schools open with in-person learning using mitigation measures and a new on-site testing program.

This decision also followed a quarantine of a classroom at Lakeside Elementary School, where five students of the 20-pupil classroom tested positive not long ago.

"The district review process will be ongoing throughout the school year as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve," an OASD release states. "Mitigation measures including, but not limited to: continued face covering requirements, extended quarantines, event capacity limits and increased sanitization protocols,

may be put in place during the year to allow students to stay in schools safely."

The city of Oshkosh also will continue to follow guidance from the county and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to require face coverings for staff and visitors in any city-operated building regardless of vaccination status through Oct. 31.

As of Sept. 29, 52.5 percent of Winnebago County residents have received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine. Information about the vaccine and how to find vaccination sites is at wcvaccine.org or calling the WCHD at 920-232-3026.

## Parenting seminars offered

The Winnebago and Brown County extensions will be providing Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) seminars through October to encourage parents to foster a positive growing environment for their children.

The three seminars on the first three Tuesdays of the month "will provide parents of children ages 0-12 with strategies to raise confident and healthy children, build strong family relationships, manage misbehavior and prevent problems from happening in the first place," the announcement reads.

Participants can attend the seminars

virtually. At no cost, those interested can attend all three or just one.

Extension educators Mandi Dornfeld and Todd Wenzel will facilitate the seminars alongside UW Oshkosh Head Start family resource specialist Katie Polzin.

This week's seminar discussed the power of positive parenting. From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 12 it will delve into raising confident and competent children, and Oct. 19 will focus on raising resilient children.

Registration can be found at winnebago.extension.wisc.edu. For more information, contact Amy Hendrickson at amy. hendrickson@wisc.edu or 920-232-1973.

## Short power outage affects 3,200 residents

Wisconsin Public Service quickly resolved a power outage in Oshkosh that affected 3,200 residents early last week.

The outage began around 6:15 p.m. Sept. 27, which a WPS spokesperson said was caused by an issue that affected a circuit in a substation of the plant. Crews were able to reroute power and turn lights back on for the affected customers by 7:35 the same night.

Outages can be reported at Wisconsin-PublicService.com.



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## Rescue plan funds targeted at infrastructure needs

By Kaitlyn Scoville OSHKOSH HERALD

Guidelines are in place for how city staff will spend \$20 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the federal government with a resolution approved at last Tuesday's Common Council meeting.

Formatted by council member Michael Ford, the plan allots 75 percent of ARPA funds toward infrastructure needs outlined in the city's capital improvement plan (CIP) and 25 percent toward direct-response input from the community.

## 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 920-479-6301.



## Since announcing our plans to close, the love and support we've received has been outstanding.

The high order volume on our last days was tremendous, with many of our loyal customers unable to get their last taste of Red's. Although the restaurant is closed, we are offering an opportunity to pick up **take 'n bake** pizza. Orders will be taken while supplies last.

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

those goals." Ford explained the formatting considers the amount of savings the city would get from paying CIP projects directly with cash rather than through debt, and ensures the city considers areas of the community most impacted by the pandemic.

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

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

Council member Bill Miller agreed, saying the city owes it to residents to spend it "appropriately and frugally."

You

+

Mayor Lori Palmeri disagreed, saying the allocations should be reversed - 25 percent to infrastructure needs and 75 percent to direct responses from the public.

"I think about the title – American Rescue Plan. To me, that means people," she said, also pointing to workshops she has attended that emphasized the act's purpose to consider those directly impacted, "and especially those more so than others."

Ford reassured Palmeri that the capital improvement projects deal with the four broad guidelines that public input gave for using ARPA funds: water, streets, bicycle and pedestrian needs, and broadband.

After discussion, the ARPA guidelines resolution passed unanimously.

In other action:

• The council passed 5-0 a symbolic resolution raised by member Aaron Wojciechowski to show the city's support of a statewide ban on conversion therapy. The resolution states its opposition to practices that seek "to change an individual's gender expression, gender identity, or sexual orientation, including efforts to change behaviors or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same sex."

• The city will be paying council member Miller's \$5,000 annual salary directly to the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh, which Miller said eliminates taxation on the funds. "By the city donating this money, they get 100 percent of it," he said.

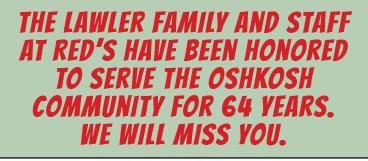


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## Broadband expansion study launched in region

New North has partnered with a Midwest broadband planning firm and state engineering firm for a broadband internet gap analysis of the 18 counties in the economic development group's region.

Funded by a \$500,000 EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant and \$125,000 in matching local funds, Design Nine will oversee the project with help from consulting firms MSA Professional Services and GEO Partners. The work will include asset evaluation, gap analysis and data collection, ownership and governance, and business and financial planning.

"We understand the necessity of affordable broadband to collective economic success," said Barb LaMue, president and CEO of New North. "We also were attracted to the 'clean sheet start' approach of Design Nine, which will deliver a custom plan specific to the New North region. It also understands our desire for the work to be completed on an accelerated schedule."

The program will assess service areas with an emphasis on coverage gaps, mapping infrastructure routes, evaluating community readiness and barriers, and preparing a regional broadband access study report. The report will include a map of existing fiber routes and infrastructure; local government facilities that may need improved access; K-12 and higher-education facilities; hospitals and other health care facilities; and major commercial and industrial areas. It also will have a gap analysis of current and future bandwidth needs.

County and municipal leaders, along

with broadband service providers, in the New North region are to be contacted in the coming months by the consultants, while residents are encouraged to respond to survey requests and broadband speed tests as those are launched.

October 6, 2021

New North also recently named College of Menominee Nation president Christopher Caldwell to its board of directors. Caldwell has been president since June and served as interim president for the prior 17 months.

## New North presents prized business innovation contests

Local business pitch events across northeast Wisconsin leading up to regional competition will be featured during New North's StartUp Week set for Nov. 14-20.

In-person and virtual qualifying events across Northeast Wisconsin are being hosted by New North partners with an Oct. 26 deadline to upload a pitch idea at www.thestartuphub.org/pitch.

"New North is proud to be working with local partners again this year to provide an opportunity for creative business ideas to be shared through these pitch competitions," said New North president Barb LaMue.

The local contests are open to all area residents or those who will be launching their businesses in the region. Contestants must be at least 18 years of age and the business must have generated less than \$300,000 in either capital raised or revenue received. Winners from the last two years are not eligible.

For Winnebago, Outagamie and Fond du Lac counties, the fast-pitch event is set for

Nov. 17 through the FVTC Venture Center, Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce and Envision Greater Fond du Lac at the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers-Fox Den in Appleton. The Oshkosh contact is Rob Kleman at rob@oshkoshchamber.com with a Nov. 3 workshop planned at the Venture Project, 210 N. Main St.

The top two winners from each local contest receive \$1,000 cash for first place, \$500 for second place and advance to the NEW Launch Alliance Hatch Event on

Dec. 2. Prize money at the regional event is \$3,000 for first place and \$2,000 for second place. The winners will give an update at the New North Summit at Lambeau Field on June 9.

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and UW-Green Bay have been active in the event planning and separately will be hosting pitch contests for student participation.

For more information about this contest please visit the New North website, www. thenewnorth.com.

## Community leader to speak on idea generation at online TELTalk

Brenda Haines, co-owner of Blue Door Consulting, Oshkosh Food Co-op's board president and this year's Oshkosh Area United Way campaign co-chair, is fascinated with the art and science of idea generation.

She will be speaking Oct. 26 at the quarterly Today's Emerging Leader TELTalk on the topic titled "Creativity Wins: How Leaders Champion New Ideas," and how her expertise can help new leaders in the



community.

"It is important to understand how ideas are born and why some flourish while others wither," Haines said. "I'm excited to share the latest research on the science of ideation and offer practical tips for how you can generate and spur adoption of your ideas for growth personally and professionally."

TELTalk seminars allow business and nonprofit leaders to positively impact their community.

"There is a saying, 'To whom much is given, much is expected.' United Way makes it possible for all of us who are grateful to pay it forward for the good of the community," Haines said. "And that can be game-changing for the giver and the individuals and families who benefit from United Way programs and the community as a whole."

The talk will take place online over Zoom from noon to 1 p.m. Those who wish to attend must register at oshkoshunitedway.org/octoberteltalk. More information is on Oshkosh Area United Way's Facebook page.



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## Teaching program at UWO re-energizes participants

By Shane Nyman UW Oshkosh Today

"The stars must be aligned because this is all coming together."

Michael Czerwinski remembers that line well. It was written to him in an email by Tammy Ladwig, then the director of the Alternative Careers in Teaching



(ACT) program at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, back in January. It came as part of an exchange that began when the Milwaukee man reached out to the University in hopes of enrolling last minute in the ACT program, initiating a major life

change for the 58-year-old.

Czerwinski had a 27-year career in marketing and advertising end abruptly early in the pandemic. After months of fruitless job hunting, he decided enough was enough—it was time to change course, go back to school and become a teacher. In a way, it was time to embrace what might always have been calling his: education.

Fast-forward to late August and, less than a year after firing off that first email to UW Oshkosh, he's in front of classrooms full of students, teaching math at St. Thomas More High School in Milwaukee.

In just seven short months, the results of a "gut-wrenching decision" leading to a major life change are clear.

"Sometimes I have to pinch myself," said Czerwinski about a week before students began filing into St. Thomas More for the first day of school. "I'm sending photos to my friends of this classroom, and they've

all had the same reaction. Generally, they're like, OK Michael, we know you and we knew you were going to end up on your feet eventually but holy cow, this thing is happening right away. This is real."

It took half a year of silence from prospective employers to bring Czerwinski to a crossroads.

"I don't know if it's because I'm an older guy or I was looking for a higher-level position, but I just wasn't getting any responses to any of the many job openings I applied for," he said. "For six months I just applied for job after job after job and didn't hear back from a single one. By the time I got to the end of the year, it was in December, I just decided I had to make a life decision to say I'm going to go back and get back on track to what I really wanted to do from the start. And that was to teach."

His search for the best route to a teaching license led him to the ACT program at UW Oshkosh's College of Education and Human Services. The program lays out a pathway to a teaching license in Wisconsin. It's designed for adult learners with a bachelor's degree or higher who are looking to become middle or high school teachers. So, as Czerwinski put it, people in his exact situation.

Before beginning his marketing career, Czerwinski studied physics at the University of Chicago and earned master's and doctoral degrees from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York. He thought he was then in the early days of a career in higher education and, at the time, envisioned a future as a college professor.

But the Chicago native wound up moving back to the Midwest to marry his high school girlfriend, and he spent more than two decades in a far different industry-only to find himself this year with the opportunity

to, in a way, get back on the path on which he'd started.

With a tight window before the start of a new semester, Czerwinski sent off a hopeful email to the ACT program that Ladwig answered. She remembers it well. It was a Friday evening and he included his phone number. She called him soon after and listened to his story.

"In our conversation it was clear he was on a new professional trajectory that was to give back to the community and the stars were aligned," she said. "We conversed multiple times that weekend and within a week his paperwork was approved and he was admitted and taking courses towards licensure within that month."

Czerwinski said he was sold from the start on UWO because of how Ladwig sprung into action.

"She couldn't have been more helpful, more friendly, more proactive," he said. "Not only did she get me in the program, she got me in right away. Classes were starting in a week or something like that. ... It really made me feel like OK, this could happen and I have an ally."

Despite already having landed the new job, he still has to finish the program. He's taking two classes this fall-on top of the full-time teaching job-and will be observed in the classroom to fulfill the student teaching requirements.

It all happened faster than he imagined. Over the summer he's played the role of local handyman, repairing decks and painting houses.

"I'm surrounded by friends and family who are nothing but supportive and that's been great," he said. "It's a win-win. They've been giving me all these projects they've been meaning to take care of."

That's the lifestyle he thought he was in for through the rest of the year and into 2022. The expectation was if all went as planned he'd be getting his big break next summer and then starting a new gig next fall. But then came the St. Thomas More opening, a few successful interviews and-what do you know?-the career reboot was fast-tracked.

"It really is a dream job," he said. "I'm so thankful for this opportunity."





## Wednesday October 13th from 6pm - 7pm

Is your Nagging, Annoying Shoulder Pain keeping you awake at night?

Do you notice more weakness & pain lifting and difficulty doing everyday tasks?

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Have you been let down by past treatment and want another option than surgery, pills, and injections?

If you answered yes to any of these (or have a stubborn spouse experiencing these) and want to learn more about Natural Healing, come join us for a



Winnebago County Board of Supervisors 112 Otter Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901 920-232-3430 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **Accepting Applications for:** Winnebago County Board Supervisor, District 8

Winnebago County Board Chairman Shiloh Ramos is accepting applications for Winnebago County Board Supervisor, District 8. To be eligible for this position, you must be a qualified elector and reside in District 8.

District 8 is comprised of Wards 7, 10, 11 & 16 in the City of Neenah. For a map of the district, please contact the Winnebago County Clerk's Office at 232-3430. If you are eligible and interested in applying for this position, submit your resume by Friday, October 8, 2021 to:

Chairman Shiloh Ramos Winnebago County Board of Supervisors 112 Otter Avenue Oshkosh, WI 54901 Submitted this 17th day of September 2021 Susan T. Ertmer Winnebago County Clerk



Winnebago County Board of Supervisors

112 Otter Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901 920-232-3430

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Accepting Applications for:** Winnebago County Board Supervisor, District 21

Winnebago County Board Chairman Shiloh Ramos is accepting applications for Winnebago County Board Supervisor, District 21. To be eligible for this position, you must be a qualified elector and reside in District 21. District 21 is comprised of Wards 13 & 14 in the City of Oshkosh. For a map of the district, please contact the Winnebago County Clerk's Office at 232-3430.

If you are eligible and interested in applying for this position, submit your resume by Friday, October 8, 2021 to:

> Chairman Shiloh Ramos Winnebago County Board of Supervisors 112 Otter Avenue Oshkosh, WI 54901

Submitted this 17th day of September 2021 Susan T. Ertmer Winnebago County Clerk

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- The 5 most common causes of Shoulder Pain.
- How to avoid the #1 common mistake people with Shoulder Pain make.
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# Suspicion, right to control care create clash

Wisconsin COVID-19 deaths by group housing setting

# Vaccine resistance by care workers divides facilities

By Madeline Fuerstenberg WISCONSIN WATCH

Hannah Miller, a nursing student and employee of a long-term care facility in Eau Claire, received her first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine on Aug. 23 – and not voluntarily.

"(The vaccine) hasn't been out long enough to know what long-term effects are," Miller told Wisconsin Watch. "We don't know if it could cause bigger health issues in the future or cause issues, such as fertility."

Miller said she was required to receive the vaccine by the hospital where she is completing her clinicals for school. She said she would not be able to graduate without getting it. Miller asked that her school and her workplace not be disclosed in this article.

Increasingly, health care facilities in Wisconsin and around the country require their employees to be vaccinated. Yet in long-term care facilities such as nursing homes – where residents are highly susceptible to severe illness and death from COVID-19 – some workers refuse the shot.

As of late August, Wisconsin's rate of fully vaccinated nursing home employees was around 60 percent. Wisconsin's total rate of fully vaccinated individuals between the ages of 18 and 64 is about 58.4 percent. By contrast, the rate among residents 65 and older is around 95 percent.

In mid-August, President Biden ordered long-term facilities that receive federal Medicare or Medicaid funding to require their workers to be vaccinated, citing studies that show having a highly vaccinated nursing home staff is associated with a 30 percent reduction in COVID-19 cases. Of the 355 nursing homes in Wisconsin, 353 are Medicare and Medicaid certified. Still, some Wisconsin nursing homes are not requiring staff to be vaccinated, a spot check of facilities by Wisconsin Watch showed.

Then Biden upped the ante, ordering all hospitals, home health care companies and other medical facilities that receive Medicare or Medicaid to mandate that their staffs be vaccinated. The move will affect an estimated 17 million workers at 50,000 locations across the country. The mandate was later expanded on all companies employing 100 or more people.

Nationwide, more than 134,000 longterm care facility residents have died from COVID-19. In Wisconsin, 3,220 people have died in such facilities as of early September – or 42 percent of all COVID-19 deaths in the state, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services reports. In one of the worst outbreaks in Wisconsin, DHS found 191 residents and workers were infected in a single unnamed nursing home.

The president's decision to issue the mandate was prompted by a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study that found the effectiveness of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines is waning among nursing home residents — among the first to be vaccinated in early 2021.

Decreasing vaccine-induced immunity and the emergence of the highly infectious Delta variant may be to blame, the researchers said.

"Because nursing home residents might remain at some risk for ... infection despite vaccination, multiple COVID-19 prevention strategies, including infection control, testing, and vaccination of nursing home staff members, residents, and visitors, are critical," the study recommended.

As a health care employee, Miller said she will continue to do her part to keep the people around her safe by wearing a mask and washing her hands. However, Miller pointed out that the vaccines "didn't eradicate the disease," and she could still catch it even if she's vaccinated.

She believes it's too soon for a mandate. Miller said she has family members who work in health care who have quit their jobs instead of getting a required shot.

The CDC finds in a new report that unvaccinated people are 29 times more likely to end up hospitalized with COVID-19 than vaccinated people. As for Miller's concern about her ability to have children, the CDC advises that "currently no evidence shows that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause fertility problems (problems trying to get pregnant) in women or men."

"I fully encourage vaccines once they have been tested and are FDA approved," Miller said. "Vaccines are valuable and are needed, but I don't want to be the guinea pig. I still believe everyone should have their freedom on whether to be vaccinated or not."

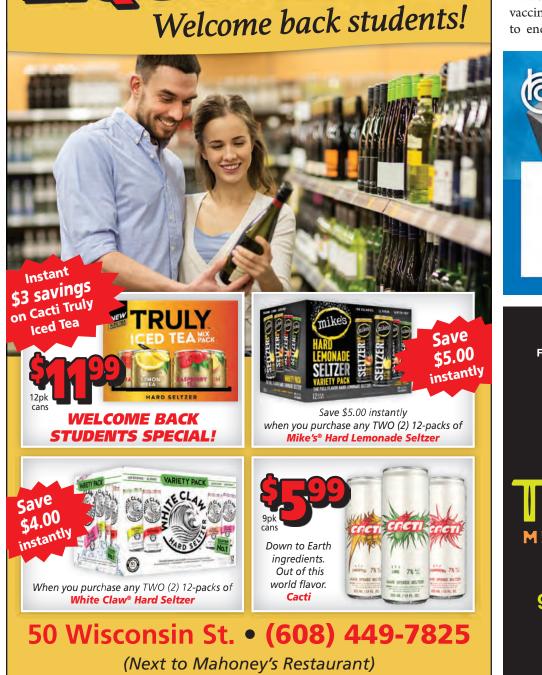
Days after Miller spoke with Wisconsin Watch, the Pfizer vaccine was granted full approval by the Food and Drug Association. Still, she hesitated to endorse it.

"I feel better now that they have approved it, but I'm still nervous about what could possibly still happen in the future," Miller said of the change. "It usually takes years for the FDA to approve a vaccine and this one was done so fast that I feel it may have been rushed to convince more people to get it and I feel like there is still information missing."

Miller isn't the only long-term care facility employee concerned about vaccine mandates. In recent weeks, health care workers have protested at the state Capitol and outside their places of work.

And the nation's leading nursing home

SEE COVID vaccine ON PAGE 9



	Residents of long-term care facilities comprise 42% of the 7,68	52 COVID-19 deaths in the state	
ong-term care facility			42%
Other group housing	3%		
Not group housing		27%	
Unknown		28%	
	Graphic via the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Data valid as of Sept. 3, 2021.		



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## **COVID** vaccine

#### FROM PAGE 8

association worries the existing severe labor shortage in long-term care will only grow with a vaccine mandate. In Wisconsin, nearly one out of every four jobs remains unfilled, according to the Wisconsin Health Care Association and Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living.

Rock County's Rock Haven nursing home in Janesville is one example of a facility that tried to implement such a policy. In December, the county-run nursing home mandated staff vaccinations, prompting legal action from some employees. They claimed the rule was a violation of their rights to "decide whether to accept or refuse administration of the COVID-19 vaccines." In response to the legal challenge, the Rock County Board rescinded the mandate in late May.

Marilyn Burns, Rock Haven's infection preventionist, released a statement confirming there is no vaccine mandate at the nursing home, which is currently battling a COVID-19 outbreak.

"We understand some members of the Rock Haven community are unhappy with Rock Haven employing unvaccinated staff," the statement said, adding, "We are unsure how this (Biden) mandate will affect our facility."

Wisconsin's rate of fully vaccinated nursing home employees was around 62 percent by late August. The state is ranked 32nd among the 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam and the District of Columbia.

Hawaii leads the country with a long-term care facility staff vaccination rate of around 88 percent. Louisiana was last at 49 percent.

The Wisconsin DHS said vaccines are the "most important tool" to protect people from COVID-19 and that "it is vitally important" that employees of long-term care facilities get vaccinated.

As of Sept. 5, the agency had conducted 2,678 public health investigations related to COVID-19 at long-term care facilities around Wisconsin. It found the median number of confirmed cases per investigation is three, the average is 11, with one unnamed facility reporting 191 confirmed cases of COVID-19.

In Wisconsin, an investigation of a long-term care facility is automatically launched whenever a case of COVID-19 is detected, including an examination of how the person may have gotten infected, said Elizabeth Goodsitt, DHS communications specialist.

## Hearing aid raffle benefits families

Hear in the Fox Cities, a nonprofit group established in 2017 to provide hearing aids for children in need, is holding its annual fall hearing aid raffle.

All net proceeds will help purchase hearing aids for kids in the area with Fox Valley Hearing Center one of the sponsors. The raffle will be drawn Oct. 30 at Acoca Coffee in Appleton. Winners do not need to be present to win.

A set of Oticon and set of Widex hearing

aids being raffled - each valued at about \$5,000 – are programmed with open software that an audiologist can reprogram if necessary. The raffle information and details can be found at hearinthefoxcities. org/hearing-aid-raffle.

The program is aimed at parents with no insurance, face large deductibles or have multiple children with hearing loss. The group has helped 22 children ages 3 months to nearly age 21.

Although the total number of active investigations has declined over the past year, DHS has reported a steady uptick over the course of the summer.

Also rising are concerns in the long-term care industry around Biden's vaccine mandate. In a statement, Mark Parkinson, president and CEO of the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living, objected to Biden singling out one health care provider group.

"Focusing only on nursing homes will cause vaccine hesitant workers to flee to other health care providers and leave many centers without adequate staff to care for residents," the statement said. "It will make an already difficult workforce shortage even worse. The net effect of this action will be the opposite of its intent and will affect the ability to provide quality care to our residents."

Ultimately, Miller said she believes all people — including health care workers - should be allowed to control their own health care, not the government.

"In nursing school we are constantly taught that the patient has rights," Miller told Wisconsin Watch. "They can choose to not take medications, decline treatment or refuse exams. We are patients in our own way, so why don't we have those same rights to refuse?"

Madeline Fuerstenberg's work on this story was sponsored by the Ann Devroy Fellowship at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. The nonprofit Wisconsin Watch (wisconsinwatch.org) collaborates with Wisconsin Public Radio, PBS Wisconsin, other news media and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication.



#### Submitted photo

## **Alzheimer's team**

Individuals and teams from across the area participated in the Sept. 25 Walk to End Alzheimer's at Menominee Park that returned after being an individual and virtual event last year. The Oshkosh walk was expected to raise more than \$42,000 to fund research and area services including support groups, education, information and referral services, advocacy efforts and a 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900. Donations can still be made through Dec. 31 at act.alz.org/Oshkosh.



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# Governing in a divided society must face truths

Resources are finite, needs are infinite, and values are contested. Every fall I share these three statements with my students as a way to frame the challenge of government budgeting.

I am keeping these truths in mind as the city of Oshkosh prepares for our budget workshops next month. But I think these three truths have broader relevance to the overall task of governing in a community with diverse political preferences.

**Resources are finite:** There are only so many resources to go around. In local government we are dependent on shared revenues from the state. That is, what Madison decides to give us, our local tax levy, and a variety of local fees for services. All of our revenues come with strings attached, and our ability to find new revenues is very limited.

What does this mean? First, no city can fund every community desire. Second, and related, it means some people are always going to be disappointed by government funding decisions. By definition, more resources for one thing means fewer





#### for everything else.

Needs are infinite: I love looking at municipal budgets because they give the reader an idea of just how much we ask of our government: public safety, recreation, snow removal, economic development, elections, roads, etc. When things are going well we tend not to notice. When needs are not met, we definitely notice.

But government cannot meet every community need. Sometimes it is because of limited resources, limited capacity, a lack of community buy-in, or because the private or nonprofit sector is a better option. The larger point is that unlimited need means a level of perceived government failure is inevitable.

Values are contested: Here is where the governing task gets interesting. Suppose we did have unlimited resources. Suppose we did have unlimited govern-

## Free science activity kits at library

The Children's Section of the Oshkosh Public Library is offering patrons a free National Chemistry Week Activity kit along with a copy of "Celebrating Chemistry."

Each kit contains light sticks and packets of Pop Rocks. "Celebrating Chemistry" describes science activities around the National Chemistry Week theme, "Fast or Slow ... Chemistry Makes It Go!" The library also has information about

Gutter

ment capacity. Could Oshkosh, or any community, agree on how to use those resources? Could we ever agree on the appropriate size and scope of government? I say no.

But that is not a problem, it is the reality of governing in a democracy in which public opinion exists, and public debate is encouraged. To put it another way, we do not all agree on what is best for Oshkosh (take a look at Facebook if you want proof).

It is easy to be discouraged by the reality of governing, but as I tell my students, there are ways to ensure we make the most of a challenging situation. First is a commitment to transparency. Government uses public resources, and the public has a right to know where those resources are going and why.

The budget is the vehicle for transparency. It serves as the contract between the government and the governed. Though not everyone will be happy with spending decisions, they should not be blindsided by them.

Second, and related, is a commitment to process. Process can be frustrating for the public, and there is a point where

the 2021 National Chemistry Week Illustrated Poem Contest. Local winners will win cash prizes and advance to the national level. Kits and magazines will be available as long as supplies last.

National Chemistry Week (Oct. 17-23) is sponsored by the American Chemical Society to reach the public, especially elementary and secondary school students, with the message that chemistry is fun and useful.

process grows into needless red tape. But process ensures everyone is treated the same by their government.

Consider the city's recent call for ARPA funding applications. Every organization seeking funds filled out the same form with the same information. Not everyone will get funding, and certainly not everyone will be happy with funding decisions, but the process itself is consistent for all. The goal is to prevent even the perception of favoritism in funding decisions so as not to erode public trust.

Finally, a commitment to professionalism should inform every difficult decision. Professionalism is baked into our form of government via the city manager position, but the concept goes beyond government structure. It means being competent, and having a customer service orientation when working with the public.

People's perceptions of government are formed through direct interactions with public employees. Quality interactions create credibility, and ultimately makes it more likely the public will accept the legitimacy of government action.

In summary, just about everything government does is bound to generate some conflict. Ideally, we can establish trust to a level where that conflict is productive, and where residents can understand and accept the legitimacy of decisions even when there is disagreement.

Michael R. Ford is an associate professor of public administration at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, where he teaches graduate courses in budgeting, state and local government, and nonprofit management. He currently serves on the Oshkosh Common Council.









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#### Wednesday, Oct. 6

NEW Food Truck Mash-up, 4:30 p.m., 1600 S. Koeller St.

#### Thursday, Oct. 7

American Veterans Traveling Tribute, 3 p.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Comedy Open Mic, 7 p.m., Bare Bones

Brewery, 4362 County S Bingo, 7 p.m., American Legion Cook-Fuller Post 70, 1332 Spruce St.

"Barnstormers," 6:30 p.m., EAA Aviation Museum

#### Friday, Oct. 8

Bingo for a Cause, 4:30 p.m., La Sure's Banquet Hall, 3125 S. Washburn St. "Manos: The Hands of Fate," 7 p.m., Time

Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

American Veterans Traveling Tribute, 3 p.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

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

#### Saturday, Oct. 9

EAA Space Day, 10 a.m., EAA Aviation Museum

98 Degrees in concert, 7:30 p.m., Oshkosh Arena, 1212 S. Main St.

Indigenous, 8 p.m., O'Marro's Public House, 2211 Oregon St. Oshkosh Farmers Market, 8 a.m., downtown

Sawdust City Fright Fest, 1 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Lumberjack & Jill run and walk, 8:30 a.m., Dockside Tavern, 425 Nebraska St.

American Veterans Traveling Tribute, 3 p.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

#### Sunday, Oct. 10

Fall Craft Show, 10 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

American Veterans Traveling Tribute, 3 p.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Jazz Orgy, 9 p.m., Fletch's Local Tap House, 566 N. Main St.

#### Wednesday, Oct. 13

NEW Food Truck Mash-up, 4:30 p.m., 1600 S. Koeller St.

#### Thursday, Oct. 14

Funny Bones Comedy Show, 7 p.m., Bare Bones Brewery, 4362 County S Bingo, 7 p.m., American Legion Cook-Fuller Post 70, 1332 Spruce St.

#### Friday, Oct. 15

Ray Scott, 7 p.m., Bare Bones Brewery, 4362 County S

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

#### Saturday, Oct. 16

Zooloween Boo, 520 Pratt Trail, Menominee Park Zoo

Chad Thornberry comedy, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Oshkosh Farmers Market, 8 a.m., downtown

#### Sunday, Oct. 17

Casting Crowns with Matthew West, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Zooloween Boo, 520 Pratt Trail, Menominee Park Zoo

Jazz Orgy, 9 p.m., Fletch's Local Tap House, 566 N. Main St.

# Netflix's 'The Chair' features former UWO professor

By Shane Nyman UW Oshkosh Today

It might be set at a fictional university in the Northeast, but there's a little bit of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh in the new Netflix series "The Chair."

The comedy-drama series, released on

## Back in the Day





Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

## Oct. 1, 1962

**Tyriver Hurls:** Oshkosh native Dave Tyriver, a right-handed pitcher for the Cleveland Indians, pitched three innings in relief in the second game of a doubleheader on Sunday afternoon against the Los Angeles Angels. Tyriver gave up no hits, walked two and struck out one.

Source: Oshkosh Daily Northwestern, Oct. 1, 1962





the streaming service last month, includes in its cast former UW Oshkosh professor MeeWha Alana Lee.

Lee was a professor in the art department from 1991 to 1996. Her husband, Richard Masters, also taught at UWO. He left in 2015

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and is now professor emeritus.

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"The Chair" landed on Netflix Aug. 20. The season of six half-hour episodes is set at the fictional Pembroke University, where Ji-Yoon Kim (Sandra Oh) has just taken over as chair of the struggling English department. To put it broadly, Kim attempts to bring the department into the 21st century amid a public scandal and other chaos, while also navigating a complicated personal life.

Lee shows up in the fifth episode, titled "The Last Bus in Town." (Her character is listed in the credits as simply Grandma.)

It wasn't Lee's history in higher education that landed her the role, but a relationship with series lead. Lee and Oh got to know each other while working on the upcoming horror film "Umma," which stars Oh and Dermot Mulroney and is planned for release in 2022. (The Umma gig she won as a result of a traditional audition process.)

Oh "knew my personal history and specifically requested that I join her to tell the story of academia, immigrants, women and especially women of color," Lee said.

The series touches on themes of diversity, privilege and accountability in higher education.

"I think it is just scratching the surface," Lee said. "There are so many more stories to tell to make academia healthy in this country and everywhere else in the world."

"The Chair" was shot in the spring in Pittsburgh. After leaving UWO, Lee and Masters moved to New York City. They've both continued careers in the arts.

Lee began her acting career in 2017. She's had a lead role in an off-Broadway production of "Twelve Angry Women" and small roles in TV's "Ramy and "Awkwafina Is Nora from Queens."



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Oshkosh's Dave Tyriver pitched in the Major Leagues for the Cleveland Indians.

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# Toxic algae study engages students, researchers

UW Oshkosh Communications

Not all algae are created equal.

The good green stuff produces oxygen in healthy waters, while the harmful bluegreen kind grows rapidly and can be toxic to humans and animals.

That second type is the subject of a new interdisciplinary research project underway at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh's Sustainable Institute for Regional Transformations (SIRT) in partnership with the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance.

The project, funded by an Ignite grant for applied research made possible by a collaboration between the nonprofit WiSys and the UW System, is focused on understanding public perceptions of harmful algal blooms in Lake Winnebago and associated waterways.

Seven UWO faculty and staff members (Kevin Crawford, chemistry; Shannon Davis-Foust, biology and environmental studies; Marcel Dijkstra, environmental engineering and technology; Jim Feldman, history and environmental studies; Heidi Nicholls, anthropology; Stephanie Spehar, anthropology and SIRT; and Bob Stelzer, biology) and four UWO students are collaborating on the project, which combines biological and social science data to develop a comprehensive picture of what the public thinks about the harmful blooms and why.

The Winnebago pool lakes - Lake Buttes des Mort, Lake Poygan, Lake Winnebago and Lake Winneconne - provide drinking water for more than 250,000 people in Appleton, Neenah and Oshkosh. The blooms, primarily caused by excess nutrients from agricultural and urban runoff, threaten public health as well as the local economy.

Korin Doering, Winnebago waterways program director with the Fox-Wolf Alliance, said tackling the problem requires a strong partnership approach.

## After-school programs set by club

#### Oshkosh Herald

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh recently announced two new after-school programs for South Park Middle School and Omro Elementary School for which registration is now open.

South Park Middle School has programs available for sixth- through eighth-grade students, which will go through Nov. 18. Its second session will be from Jan. 10 to March 4.

Registration forms for South Park can be picked up and completed at the school, the club or downloaded and returned to Middle School coordinator Lauren Nich-

olls at 920-233-1414, ext. 137, or laurenn@bgcosh.org.

Session fees are income-based, and scholarships are available. Contact Nicholls about the fees before filling out the forms.

Omro Elementary and students from HB Patch from kindergarten through fifth grade are welcome to attend the after-school program that will run through June 8.

The program costs \$10 per student per day on the days the students attend. The program will also accept child care assistance similar to other licensed centers.

> BARRACUDA NOV. 5 | 7:30 P.M

"The Ultimate Tribute to Heart"

"Understanding the mismatch between the risks and impacts of HABs and the public perception of these risks is critical for developing, implementing and communicating effective policy and outreach efforts," Doering said.

Throughout the summer, UW Oshkosh students involved with the project—junior Trinaty Caldwell, senior Keara Halliday, junior Shawna Jackson and sophomore Rachael Luedtke-collected information from the public at boat launches, fishing locations and public beaches.

"There's a real lack of understanding about the harmful algal blooms," said Spehar, SIRT director and project lead. "We are talking to people along the shores and finding out how they engage with the lakes. We want to determine how well their perceptions of the blooms match the risk. Our goal is to use the information to form better policy and improve education to help address this serious problem."

More in-depth interviews will follow with Nicholls, a cultural anthropologist and lead social scientist on the project. Water and bloom sampling is taking place weekly throughout the summer.

## West-side traffic

#### from Page 1

drivers have blown through the red lights at this intersection.

Once the Omro Road project is finished, temporary traffic lighting will be removed and signage will be put up in 2022 to alert State 21 users of traffic directions. Bertrand said it will essentially highlight the intersection to promote safety and has worked well at other locations.

He also said regarding the timeline of the State 21 project that the roundabout at Leonard Point Road is slated for 2027 along with two other roundabouts at the 21 intersections of County FF and Sand Pit Road.

Property acquisition and temporary limited easements for the Sand Pit Road

The project also involves a more light-hearted social media component that encourages the community to document blooms they encounter by posting photos or video and tagging with the location and using hashtags like #UWOHABS and #WIHABS.

Halliday, a double major in biology and anthropology, helped with the sampling, survey and social media work over the summer. "This project is essentially a combination of both of my majors, which is why I enjoy it so much," she said. "I am learning how humans respond to their environment and how their responses can affect the environment."

Collecting samples appealed to Halliday's love of biology.

"Now, I am looking forward to being able to process each sample further in the lab," she said. "In addition, algae is one of my favorite subjects within biology/ecology, and I love that I can learn more about algal blooms through an anthropological perspective. I am very grateful to have this amazing research opportunity and hope that we can provide useful suggestions regarding environmental policies in the future."

and County FF roundabout locations are anticipated to begin in 2023, and 2024 for the Leonard Point Road intersection, according to the Wisconsin DOT website.

Design plans will be ongoing in 2026, and construction is set for 2027. The organization's real estate staff will be in contact if one's property is affected by this project.

"The DOT certainly values public input," Bertrand said. "The involvement we had earlier this year played a big role in moving forward with the roundabout on Leonard Point Road. The DOT is making a significant investment in the overall route to both improve safety and operations along that stretch."

More on the State 21 project can be found by searching for "WIS21-Winnebago County" on WisconsinDOT.gov.







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#### October 6, 2021

# University opens center for governance, policy

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh's new Whitburn Center for Governance and Policy Research was announced last week as a way to reinvigorate Wisconsin's "good government" tradition with public service ideals.

"A strong commitment to good governance across all levels of Wisconsin's governmental units has always been important, but it has never been more critical than at this point in time," said Gerald Whitburn, the namesake of the new center. "Although Wisconsin's good government reputation has consistently been a unique strength for our state, it mustn't be taken for granted."

The Whitburn Center will produce an-

## Oregon Street work near 28th underway

Oregon Street between West 28th Avenue and West Waukau Avenue is now closed to all but local traffic for sanitary interceptor sewer construction for about 12 weeks.

The intersections at 28th Avenue, Waukau and 29th Avenue will remain open to eastwest traffic during this work. A second-phase

## **Tech** assistance

know?"

Participants are now able to keep in touch with their children and grandkids, store and send photos, or even turn on a cell phone flashlight.

FROM PAGE 1

Carlin said the average Connect through Tech student attends at least 13 classes or individual sessions to learn everything they need.

"We walk them through (how to do

nual reports, research briefs, fee-for-service consulting projects and leadership training related to state and local government.

Whitburn is the retired chief executive officer of Church Mutual Insurance Co. and served as secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services along with three senior positions in Wisconsin government.

Whitburn also served as a UW System Regent for nine years. He and wife Charmaine, who met as undergraduates at UWO, reside in Wausau.

Michael R. Ford, department chair and associate public administration professor, will direct the day-to-day operations of the

full closure of Oregon, need for the Gallups/ Merritts Creek culvert replacement, is anticipated to last 12 weeks starting the week of Oct. 18.

The final Oregon Street closure will include the West Waukau intersection and take about five weeks.

something) and try to make it as relatable as possible," she said. "I don't see the demand for this going away.

"It's so rewarding when you first show them how to do something and they figure it out. You've just opened up this whole new world for them. Some people say it changed their lives. This is the gateway in creating a sense of community."

One participant has been attending classes and individual sessions for more than a year. She came in never having used a smartphone.

Now, she can use her iPad for fun things such as playing music on Pandora, using center. Samantha Larson, assistant public administration professor, will serve as deputy director.

"How we do things in government matters," Ford said. "Through the power of our network of MPA alumni and friends, we will connect high-quality governance research to practice. We will demonstrate UWO's positive impact on Wisconsin."

The launch of the center will be overseen by an initial advisory board chaired

## **Commander Cody singer Frayne dies**

The lead singer for the band Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen and

former University of Wisconsin Oshkosh faculty member, George Frayne IV, recently passed away at age 77.

The band formed in 1967 and Frayne scored a hit in 1972 with the song "Hot

Frayne

Google Lens to look things up and take photos of her nieces with her phone camera. She said it's been helpful and that she isn't as scared of technology now as she was a year ago. Another participant said she was at the point of either "throwing her phone in the lake or getting help.

"They were just wonderful from day one. It's helped me keep my sanity and confidence up. I feel like I'm back in the world again," she said.

Jim Bolek started attending courses last August. They helped him purchase an iP-

by former Wisconsin Gov. Scott McCallum. Other advisory board members will be Ellen Nowak, Wisconsin Public Service commissioner; Raymond Taffora, former deputy Wisconsin attorney general; Mark Rohloff, Oshkosh city manager; Benjamin Krumenauer, Osceola village administrator; Kathryn Schauf, Eau Claire County administrator; and Sachin Shivaram, Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry CEO.

Rod Lincoln," a remake of Charlie Ryan's 1955 rockabilly song.

Sources say he had been battling cancer and receiving treatment for several years.

Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen released seven albums between 1971 to '76 with Paramount and Warner Bros. The group broke up in 1976 but Frayne continued to record and tour under the alias Commander Cody.

He taught the arts at UW Oshkosh prior to beginning his musical endeavors.

He's now comfortable ordering groceries online, texting friends and attending webinars. "I'm becoming aware; that's the fun part," Bolek said.

Carlin said the program also helped her stay out of isolation.

"I call this my happy place," Carlin said. "During the pandemic, I had somewhere to go. We would sit in front of the fireplace and work with technology in a very relaxing atmosphere. It kept my spirits up."

Group classes are offered once a month and individual sessions are held three days a week. The easiest way to set up a time is to

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#### October 6, 2021

## North secures first conference win over Patriots

By Dustin Riese Herald contributor

It has been six weeks since the Oshkosh North football team could say they were in the winning column as they entered Friday night with a 1-5 mark, including 0-4 in the Fox Valley Association.

While the results may not be what the Spartans were hoping for this season, their hard work paid off Friday night – picking up a 20-14 win over Appleton East.

Looking to put their high-powered offense on display early, Peyton Lyon hooked up with Drake Moxon over the middle for a big gain as that duo has been lights out all season. Not only can the Spartans pass the ball, but they can run too with Hunter Carlson showing a bit of everything in the backfield rushing for several first downs to move the ball into Patriots territory. Just like the Patriots first possession, North's opening drive stalled out as Lyon overshot his intended target on fourth down and turned it over on downs. Not only did North get the ball back quickly, but they did so with great field possession taking over at the East 11. A few plays later it was Carlson going up the middle for the five-yard touchdown putting the Spartans on top 6-0 with 1:12 left in the first quarter.

The Patriots responded immediately as a Sam Austin 1-yard touchdown run gave them a 7-6 lead.

Over the next few possessions, neither team was able to do anything with the ball, but it was North who ended the half in a big way. With less than four minutes to go and a chance to take the lead, the Spartans offense went to the ground as Carlson continued to do his thing finishing with nearly 100 yards

Titans start fast in win over UW-Platteville

In its first game since September 11, the UW-Oshkosh football team improved to 3-0 this season with a close 35-32 win over UW-Platteville in a Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference game played on the road.

The Titans started fast, scoring 21 points in the first quarter as UW-Platteville made a late rally – cutting it to three points with just over three minutes left in the fourth quarter. The Pioneers had a chance to tie or win the game with a couple of minutes left, but the Titan defense held on.

UWO will face 20th-ranked UW-La Crosse on Saturday on the road.

Kobe Berghammer led the Titans with over 300 yards of offense, passing for 216 with two touchdowns while adding 83 yards on the ground with a touchdown.

Peter MacCudden led all rushers with 96 yards on 13 carries while catching a touchdown and Tony Steger had four catches for 87 yards and a touchdown.



on the ground. Lyon also got in on the fun as he showed the ability to run just as successfully as he could pass which makes him tough to defend. With less than two minutes to go, Lyon capped off the Spartans possession by finding Moxon for the five-yard score to make things 12-7. Lyon added a two-point conversion to build a 14-7 lead as the defense stole the show in the first half.

North made it 20-7 a few possessions later

when Lyon hooked up with Moxon for a 30yard touchdown.

After doing little offensively in the third quarter, East needed to figure out a way to score points and were aided by a personal foul penalty to keep their drive alive. That wasn't the only penalty the Spartans defense would commit on that drive as they not only gave the Patriots one, but two first downs via the penalty.



Oshkosh Media photo

## Ready to serve

The new South Park pickleball courts have been completed and open for competition. The four courts are in addition to the park's tennis courts and the city's Parks Department will keep them open through October, weather permitting.

## 'Women of Oshkosh' book released

Oshkosh author Ron LaPoint's new book "Women of Oshkosh" has been released for publication.

The 27 women featured are names from the past and present who have dedicated to helping others, including those who fought for the right of women to vote on the state and national levels. LaPoint has authored five previous Oshkosh-titled history works.

The book will be available at Hometown pharmacies on Sawyer and Murdock, Oaks Candy, 2Blondes, Caramel Crisp, Oshkosh Public Museum, Olive & Rose Boutique, New Moon Cafe and Miller Clock.



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the lead to 23-17. A kill by Ewert set the Fal-

cons up with the match point which they

cashed in on to take care of the first set 25-

The second set was much different for

Lourdes as Hustisford jumped out to a 13-1

lead en route to a 25-10 win. Lourdes would

start better in the third set as it was back and

forth early, the Falcons closed the match out

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on a 21-6 run to take it 25-10.

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## Lady Knights fall to Hustisford in straight sets Pieper put down a massive block to extend

By Dustin Riese HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

One of the toughest things about being a young team at the varsity level is that every mistake will be that much more noticeable. For the Lourdes volleyball team, wins have been a struggle this season, but the overall growth and improvement from day one hasn't been an issue.

Thursday saw Lourdes with perhaps its toughest opponent of the season as conference leading Hustisford came to town looking to remain unbeaten. Despite the Knights taking them to the wire in the first set, the Falcons made quick work of them the rest of the way finishing them off in straight sets.

Charley Mullen, Maggie Peterson, and Delaney Ruedinger started to find holes in the Falcons end of the floor which helped them close the gap to 11-10 in the first set. A trio of points from Kelsey Ewert and Jada Pieper helped the Falcons maintain their lead before Riley Becker came through with a massive kill to push the lead to 17-13.

Once again, the Knights wouldn't let Hustisford get on a big run as they wanted to show the first place Falcons that they were not a pushover. Kate Johnson and Mullen managed to keep things close as the two of



Delaney Ruedinger takes a shot in Lourdes' match against Hustisford.

them had the Knights within striking distance at 20-17. Unfortunately, that is when the Falcons started to take over with Becker picking up a point off a lucky break before

## Two youth sports competitions offered

The Knights of Columbus Council 614 is sponsoring a soccer challenge and a punt, pass and kick competition from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday at Lourdes Academy athletic field, 110 N. Sawyer St.

The soccer contest is open to any Oshkosh student ages 9-17 and the PP&K contest is for ages 8-12. Contestants can

compete at any time during the two-hour period for either competition. Winners will be announced later.

Each participant must submit a release and waiver form, which will be available to fill out during registration at the contest.

Contact Mark Nielsen at 920-203-1939 for more information.





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# West's Taylor is up to speed as offensive weapon

By Tim Froberg Herald contributor

Speed is one of the top assets needed to play running back.

Riley Taylor has plenty of the necessary zip, but has learned that speed thrills only when used properly. The senior running back is one of the primary weapons for an Oshkosh West team fighting for the playoffs.

Seven games into the season, Taylor has produced 400-plus rushing-receiving yards, while scoring two touchdowns and averaging 5.8 yards per carry. He leads the team in receptions (11) and receiving yards (183) and is second behind Roman Martell in rushing.

"Riley is a super-talented kid," said West co-coach Andrew Dittburner. "He's an ex-

## **Senior Spotlight**

plosive athlete who is a threat to score every time he touches the ball."

Taylor contributes on special teams and on defense as a player in the secondary. Running back, though, is where he's a difference maker. He's played the position since the sixth grade with the Oshkosh Flyers and it's been a natural spot for Taylor, who has always been one of the fastest runners in his class. But Taylor will be the first one to tell you that speed alone doesn't get it done as a running back. Speed demons who can't read blocks don't get far on the football field.

"I've learned how to slow down, be patient and wait for those blocks to happen," Taylor said. "When I was younger, I'd try and run







Photo by Jim Koepnik

West running back Riley Taylor has produced 400-plus rushing-receiving yards while scoring two touchdowns and averaging 5.8 yards per carry.

outside, outside, outside - all the time. As I got older, I realized you can't just be running outside as fast as you can.

"I've learned how to read blocks, understand the defense, know when to hit the hole and either bounce it outside or hit it up the middle. You need to know if the safety is overpursuing and if you can get a nice little cutback."

Taylor is a third-year starter who broke into the starting lineup as a sophomore.

"Pass blocking is probably the biggest area where I've improved," Taylor said. "I'm not the biggest guy on the field, but I've learned that if I can chip a guy or get a cut block, I can bleed out and maybe catch a pass. You don't need a big blowout, knockout punch with a block. Sometimes, you just need to slow guys down."

Taylor's speed serves him well in another sport. He's a sprinter in track and field and was a prominent member of the Wildcats' 400-meter relay team that placed second at the WIAA Division 1 state meet. Taylor was also part of West's state-qualifying 800-meter relay.

Taylor comes from an athletic family. His father, Steve, was a prep basketball player, while his mom, Mary (Leivian) Taylor, was a prolific all-American gymnast at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. She competed from 1986-89 and is considered to be one of the top female gymnasts in school and WIAC history. "She was really good," Taylor said. "I think that's where I get my speed and agility from."

Taylor will attend college next year and hopes to play college football. He is a high-honors student at West with a 3.7 grade-point average. He plans to major in physical therapy.

Taylor's current focus is pushing West (3-4) into the WIAA playoffs for the first time since the 2017 season. The Wildcats need to beat Oshkosh North and Fond du Lac in their final two games to clinch a playoff spot. West had to adapt to the sudden departure of head coach Duane Hartkopf, who resigned following the Wildcats' season-opener to accept an athletic director position at Appleton North. Dittburner and Cole Yoder have stepped in as co- head coaches.

Taylor's outgoing personality has helped him fill that senior leadership role.

"He's well-liked by his teammates," Dittburner said. "Most people don't get to see his sense of humor. He keeps the team laughing and doesn't let the moment get too big for his teammates."



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## Prep sports roundup

## FOOTBALL

## Lourdes sneaks past **Johnson Creek**

The Lourdes football team used a strong defensive effort as the Knights picked up a 12-7 win over Johnson Creek on Friday.

The Knights didn't get on the board until the end of the first half when Gabe Bohn scored from 11 yards out with just seven seconds to take a 6-0 halftime lead.

Johnson Creek took a 7-6 lead with 1:40 left in the third quarter but then the Knights took the lead for good when Wade Lindahl found Mason Carpenter for a 11-yard touchdown as time expired.

Lindahl finished 16-for-22 for 199 yards and a touchdown while Bohn led the way on the ground, finishing with 75 yards on 14 carries. Marshall Koch added 55 yards rushing while Adam Anoldussen and Dominic Kane combined for 11 catches and 109 yards.

The Knights improve to 7-1 this season and will host Deerfield Thursday night at Titan Stadium.

## **Offense quiet as West** falls to Appleton North

The Oshkosh West football team struggled to get points Friday night, falling 35-7 to Appleton North in a Fox Valley Associate duel.

The Wildcats only had 154 yards of total offense, throwing for 99 yards while rushing for 55 yards on 41 carries.

Roman Martell was 4-for-5 for 61 yards and was responsible for the lone touchdown as he found Jasiah Williams for a 5-yard touchdown in the second quarter. He also rushed for 50 yards.

## St. Mary Catholic/VC runs through Crawford

The St. Mary Catholic/Valley Christian 8-man football team dominated the second and third quarters en route to a 76-28 win over North Crawford on Saturday.

The Zephyrs put up 28 points in the second and 24 more in the third as they totaled almost 600 yards of total offense.

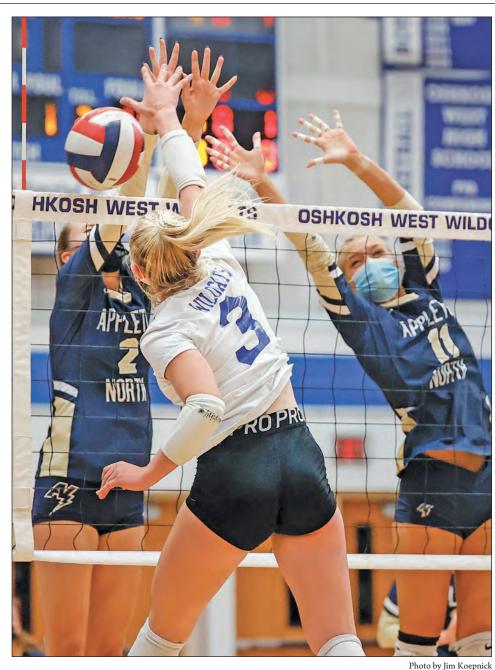
Danny Griffith was 14-for-20 for 334 yards through the air with six touchdowns while Luke Steffen had 157 yards on the ground with two scores.

Ethan Campbell had a monster day, catching eight balls for 210 yards with four of them being touchdowns.

## VOLLEYBALL

## Lightning stop Wildcats

The Oshkosh West vollevball team wa dios SPORT CENT **MARINE - SPORT - SKI** 



Emily Blaskowski led the Wildcats with six kills in a loss against Appleton North on Thursday.

shutout at home on Thursday, falling 3-0 (25-13, 25-14, 25-12) against Appleton North in a Fox Valley Association match. Maddi Choinski had 14 digs to lead

West while Avery Pakula and Emily Blaskowski recorded six kills. Rylie Tiptow had 12 assists and two blocks in the loss.

## Warriors keep it close despite sweep

The Valley Christian volleyball team lost a 3-0 match against Central Wisconsin Christian on Friday night, but played much better despite the shutout - keeping all matches close as they lost 25-20, 25-23, 25-20.

Ellie Dinkelman led the Warriors with eight kills while Camryn Hass and Anna Giannopoulos added four apiece.

Maliha Demler had 18 assists while Hass had 14 digs. Grace Rolston, Katie Wallace and Dinkelman chipped in six

## Lourdes tops Palmyra

The Lourdes volleyball team picked up a 2-0 win over Palmyra-Eagle on Saturday, winning 25-22, 25-20.

No individual stats were available.

## Fondy shuts out North

The Fond du lac volleyball team shut down Oshkosh North on Thursday night, winning 3-0.

No individual stats were available.

## **BOYS SOCCER**

## **Omro cruises to win**

The Omro boys soccer team scored four first-half goals en route to a 7-0 win over Lourdes/Valley Christian in a Flyway Conference game on Thursday.

Ryan Gehrke had three goals in the win for Omro - who ended up with 22 shots on goal compared to Lourdes' two.

## Menomonee Falls prevails

The Menomonee Falls boys soccer team did just enough on Thursday as they picked up a 1-0 win over Oshkosh West on Thursday.

No individual stats were available.

### **GIRLS GOLF**

## Curtis going to sectionals

The Oshkosh West and Oshkosh North girls golf teams competed in the WIAA Division 1 regional on Wednesday in Fond du Lac, which was held at Rolling Meadows Golf Course.

Oshkosh West finished seventh with a

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 22



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## Prep roundup

from Page 21

432 while Oshkosh North was ninth with a 538.

West's Abby Curtis was the lone golfer to qualify for sectionals, sneaking in with a 98. The top four teams and top four individuals not on a qualifying team advance.

Haley Hammen added a 107 for the Wildcats while Kate Smith fired a 112. For North, Maggie Lynch led with a 119.

## <u>GIRLS TENNIS</u> Wildcats finish third in FVA tournament

The Oshkosh West girls tennis team finished third in the Fox Valley Association Tournament on Thursday, finishing behind Kimberly and Neenah.

Neenah won all seven flights en route to its ninth straight conference championship.

No. 2 singles player Ella Nguyen took second for West, losing 6-0, 6-0 in the title match while No. 3 and No. 4 players Keagan Potter and Anika Lasrson also took second. Potter lost 7-6, 6-3 in the title match while Larson lost 7-6, 6-4 in two close sets.

## Pacelli stops Lourdes

The Lourdes girls tennis team lost a 6-1 non conference match on Thursday against Pacelli.

Picking up the lone win was No. 2 singles player Olivia Nielsen, who won her match 7-6 (6), 6-4.

## **CROSS-COUNTRY**

## West 10th in FDL invite

The Oshkosh West boys and girls cross-country teams participated in the Fond du Lac Memorial Invitational on Friday and both teams finished 10th.

Elijah Geffers had an eighth-place finish for the Wildcats, finishing his race in 16:53.4. Homestead won the meet with Germantown and Manitowoc following.

On the girls side, Kaukauna won while Neenah and Appleton North followed.

Compiled by Alex Wolf, Herald contributor



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## Obituaries

## Brian J. McBriar

Brian J. McBriar, age 50, lost his 7-month battle with a Glioblastoma brain tumor on



astoma brain tumor on Thursday, September 30th, 2021 at home surrounded by his loving family.

He was born to Neil and Karen (Trochinski) McBriar on November 10th, 1970, in Berlin, WI. Brian played base-

ball and football for four years at Oshkosh West High School. He obtained his Journeyman's degree in welding and metal fabrication from Fox Valley Technical College, and later earned his Certified Welders Inspector License. He worked at Basic American Metal Products and most recently as a welder and fabricator at SMC. Brian jokingly would say he retired from SMC in February of 2021.

Brian married the love of his life, Lori Lemiesz, on April 24th, 1993. Together they had two children, Emily, and Michael, whom he loved and was very proud of.

Brian coached the kids in sports from the dugout to the stands. He enjoyed all sporting events when the kids were growing up. Baseball was his favorite sport but was a big fan of the Pittsburg Steelers.

Brian loved spending time with his family and friends, especially with his grandson Liam. He enjoyed game nights, ax throwing, bags, goose hunting, and thirsty Thursday.

Brian is survived by his loving wife, Lori; children, Emily (Jon) and Michael; grandson, Liam; mother, Karen (Ward) Newell; sister, Wendy (Eric); two nephews, Brady, and Jacob. He is further survived by his stepmother, Donna McBriar; his mother and father-in-law, Vicky and Butch Lemiesz, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. He is also survived by his three dogs: Bentley, Stella, and Remington.

Brian was preceded in death by his father, Neil McBriar; his grandparents, Neil (Marion) McBriar and Marceela (Carl) Trochinski.

A service for Brian will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Homes westside (100 Lake Pointe Dr) on Thursday, October 7th, 2021, at 8PM. A visitation will be held from 4PM until the time of service.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff at Compassus Hospice Care.





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## Families can sign up for coats, toy programs at Salvation Army

Under this year's theme of "hope marches on," The Salvation Army of Oshkosh has begun sign up for families in need of seasonal assistance with its Coats for Kids and Toy Shop programs, providing warm clothes and Christmas toys for low-income families.

"With 20 million Americans facing food insecurity and another 7.1 million behind on rent, the role of The Salvation Army in supporting low-income families has never been greater," said Major James Mungai. "Regardless of what the pandemic throws at us, we want to reassure the community that hope marches on and that The Salva-

## that hope marches on and that Obituaries

## **Dorothy Whitney-Eilertson**

Dorothy G. Whitney-Eilertson, age 91, passed peacefully into God's heavenly





September 29, 2021. Dorothy was born on March 13, 1930 in Mountain, WI to the late Omer and Dora (Larsen) Belongia. Dorothy attended Mountain Elementary and High School, graduating in 1947. Growing up on the family farm she also worked at the family restaurant called Dot's Café - "Something Superior for Your Interior."

arms on Wednesday,

She met and married a handsome young fella, Charles (Chuck) D. Whitney, also of Mountain. Dorothy and Chuck had three children, Carla Marcell of Green Bay, Craig (Robin) Whitney of Oshkosh and Chris (Linda) Whitney of Oshkosh. Dorothy and Chuck moved from Mountain to Ripon and eventually to Oshkosh.

Dorothy had many jobs while raising her family. She worked in the Mountain Post Office, was a dental assistant, worked at Rippin' Good Cookies (she put a toy in the cookie boxes-sometimes she put more than one toy in the box), grocery store clerk, Avon Lady, Union pharmacy clerk and a clerk at Walgreen's before her retirement in 1995.

She enjoyed dancing, ceramics, working in the garden, bowling, watching softball and basketball games, assisting in the total restoration of a '29 Buick roadster and '36 Ford truck. She had a great sense of humor and always appreciated a funny joke. She was a wonderful caregiver having taken care of her mother and father, mother-in-law and her second husband in their final years. As a mother and grandmother, she made sure we were all well taken care of as we grew up and became adults.

tion Army will be there to ensure every

Families may visit SAOshkosh.org and

sign up for the Coats for Kids program

and/or the Toy Shop program on the

Programs and Services page. The Coats

for Kids distribution will take place Nov

6. The Toy Shop program with multiple

other community partners-will take place

New or gently used coats, hats, scarves

or mittens can be dropped off in a dona-

tion box at any Coats for Kids participat-

ing business, among them Fox Valley Sav-

ings Bank and Papa Murphy's.

Dec 15-17.

local family gets the support they need."

After Chuck passed away unexpectedly in 1968, she married Carl H. Eilertson in 1990. Dorothy and Carl spent many years going to swap meets, antique stores, restoring two old vehicles and doing some traveling. She was able to take trips to Mt. Rushmore, Mackinac Island, Florida, Hershey, Pennsylvania, and take the Agawa Canyon train in Canada.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, Omer and Dora; first husband, Chuck; second husband, Carl Eilertson; five brothers; Wilfred (Dorothy) Belongia, Rueben (Coreda/Helen) Belongia, Orville (Gertrude) Belongia, Eugene (Elva) Belongia, and Blair (Phyllis) Belongia; a sister, Doris (Bob) Painter; a sister-in-law, Lorraine Flynn; and a sonin-law, Fred Marcell.

Survivors, besides her three children, include many nieces and nephews, seven grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, a brother-in-law, Louis "Corky" Flynn and a stepson Cary (Sharon) Eilertson.

The family would like to thank the staff at Oakwood Manor and Generations Hospice for assisting Dorothy in her final years of life.

A visitation was held between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 4, 2021 at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home, 402 Waugoo Avenue, Oshkosh. Private family services were held. Burial took place in Mountain Cemetery.



## **Classifieds Call 920.479.6301 to place your ad** Private party ads deadline is 4 p.m. Friday. \$15 for first 20 words

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> Ground Round at River's Edge Daytime Dishwasher M, W, F 10am-2pm Cindy 920-230-6293

Ground Round at River's Edge **Evening Dishwasher** Wed, Fri, Sat 5pm-9pm Cindy 920-230-6293

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## Miscellaneous

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## Real Estate/ Rental

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## Legal Notices

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY In the matter of the name change of: HANNAH ELIZABETH GEIB BY JENNYALLEN BARTZ Case No. 2021CV000638

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#### NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: Hannah Flizabeth Geib To: Hans Elizabeth Felix Rosa Geib Birth Certificate: Hannah Elizabeth Geib IT IS ORDERED: This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin: Judge's Name: Hon. Teresa S. Basiliere Place: Winnebago County Courthouse, 415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Date: October 25, 2021 Time: 8:15 am IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Oshkosh Herald a newspaper published in Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin. BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: September 22, 2021 /s/ Hon. Teresa S. Basiliere Run: October 6, 13 and 20, 2021 WNAXLP



