Wellness days sought for school staff

Board of Education will consider February time off
By Kaitlyn Scoville
Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Area School District recently heard a report that could give teachers and district staff two mental health and wellness days in February to offset COVID-19 stressors.

Director of learning Kim Brown said the two days would essentially be pulled from the allotted five and eight-tenths for inclement weather and emergencies. It is only being considered for the 2021-22 school year and is “not to be seen as a precedent for the future,” staff reports state.

However, a virtual school day option would be implemented for high school students during the ACT testing that occurs for students in 11th grade, allowing the district to maintain the five and eight-tenths days.

“February 17 and 18 will become a mental health and wellness break from the stressors as a result of post-COVID,” the report continues. “Overwhelming feelings of stress and anxiety can cause people to feel exhausted, which leads to reduced productivity.

“For a one-year solution, the two mental health days would allow staff to decompress and recover from burnout. This is an incentive similar to what businesses and universities across the country are offering.”

See Wellness Days on Page 17

Battle for the ball

Oshkosh North and West players go for the loose ball in their Friday night basketball game that went to overtime before the Wildcats came out on top. See Page 20 for game coverage and other sports coverage starting on Page 19.

Lidtkes make it a family affair at Herd contests

By Steve Clark
Oshkosh Herald

It’s a family affair when it comes to what most fans see and hear at Wisconsin Herd games this season.

Paul Lidtke is the well-known announcer for Herd games and has held that position since the inception of the G-League franchise. But this season, his son, Bryan, has joined him at the scorer’s table as the head of game-day operations, in charge of the music resonating inside Oshkosh Arena, the videos playing on the boards and all the entertaining in-game activities.

“It’s unique, but it’s not as unique as some people think,” Paul Lidtke said. “It’s not a big deal for us.”

In fact, this is not the first time these two have been in this position.

In the inaugural season for the Fond du Lac Dock Spiders, a Northwoods League baseball team, the Lidtkes were also side-by-side in the press box taking care of their duties. That season, in 2017, Bryan was also in charge of all that happened around the field during the game.

That made it an easy transition to this season with the Herd where the son is essentially in charge of what his father does.

“We deal with two different sides of the whole thing. I am the PA announcer, and he handles the music and everything else.”

Although this is Bryan’s first season with the Herd, he has had plenty of experience working with minor-league sports franchises. In addition to interning with the Dock Spiders, he has also worked for the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers and the Staten Island Yankees in handling in-game entertainment.

Yet, the Marian University alum credits his start in the field to his youth and following his father around when he announced at Wisconsin Herd games as the team’s PA announcer and head of game-day operations, respectively.

Bryan (left) and Paul Lidtke work side by side at Wisconsin Herd games as the team’s PA announcer and head of game-day operations, respectively.
Overdose deaths spike in county

Oshkosh Herald

A jump in suspected drug overdose deaths last month in Winnebago County has county health and law enforcement officials continuing to encourage prevention education and expanded use of a drug to counter the deadly potential of the synthetic opioid fentanyl.

The county coroner’s office reported eight suspected overdose deaths from Nov. 18-27, which continues a growing trend that saw a record 37 unintentional overdose deaths last year. That number was almost double that of 2019, according to the Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review team.

Winnebago County public health supervisor Ashlee Rahmlow said that among the eight deaths — three were in Oshkosh — where drug substances were present, they all tested positive for fentanyl. She also said authorities reported all the deceased were alone at the time.

“Fentanyl is a very potent synthetic opioid that is being found in many types of drugs, even those that people would not expect,” Rahmlow said. “The synthetic opioid that is 80 to 100 times stronger than morphine and a common culprit in overdoses nationwide, which first responders have been counteracting with the expanded use of naloxone, or Narcan.

Rahmlow pointed to three main over- dose prevention strategies:

• Encouraging people who use substances to do so with another person or by using services like neverusealone.com.
• Technical assistance from the Medical College of Wisconsin and DVS.

New city clerk named with Ubrig retirement

The city of Oshkosh has named Jessi Balcom as its next city clerk to replace Pamela Ubrig, who will be retiring Jan. 3 after 41 years with the city.

Balcom will oversee the office responsible for elections, issuance of city licenses and maintaining legislative records for the Common Council.

“We are pleased Jessi Balcom will be our next city clerk,” City Manager Mark Rohloff said in a statement. “Ms. Balcom has broad experience in local government and has been a valuable member of the Public Works Department for the past two years.”

Balcom has been a management analyst in the city’s Utility Division since July 2014 after 41 years with the city.

Analysis

The synthetic opioid fentanyl is being found in many types of drugs, even those that people would not expect. The synthetic opioid that is 80 to 100 times stronger than morphine and a common culprit in overdoses nationwide, which first responders have been counteracting with the expanded use of naloxone, or Narcan.

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Help resources

• co.winnebago.wi.us/health under Community Health tab
• Solutions Recovery, 621 Evans St.
• Nova, 3240 Jackson St. (inpatient and halfway house)

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Downtown stores share in their seasonal success

By Kaitlyn Scoville
Oshkosh Herald

Some of Oshkosh’s small businesses are seeing record sales when this year’s holiday shopping season kicked off after Thanksgiving.

Within the city’s business improvement district (BID), manager Jessica Meidl noticed changes in both marketing and buying habits since she started her position amid the pandemic in 2020.

“I know what my predecessor did in the past but this was new for me,” Meidl said. “I think social media played a big part in a lot of people’s marketing efforts. We had an (online) event made and we’ve been boosting it with specials on Black Friday and Small Business Saturday.”

Connie Day, owner of Market Boutique on Main, said Black Friday and Small Business Saturday were her highest sales to date after 11 years in business. Market Boutique opened around the same time Small Business Saturday became an official celebration.

“It started minimally but it just exploded,” Day said. “It’s almost overwhelming.”

“I think people wanted to show support one way or another,” she said. “I feel like I’m in a Hallmark movie; I’m so grateful to have support all year long and I appreciate that just as much as I appreciate it during Christmas.”

Wolk said shopping local, especially during the holidays, encourages consumers to explore special items they would have a hard time finding elsewhere.

“Each business I work with is a local owner; they’re usually the ones who are in the store,” she said. “When you go shopping downtown, they’ll have their own stories, are great people, are creative and are really fun to get to know.”

“Though each business fared differently this year, Day said the support from one owner to another regardless is outstanding.

“If somebody is looking for something I send them to other places if I don’t have it,” Day said. “The more successful one of us is, the more successful we all are.”

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“Each business I work with is a local owner; they’re usually the ones who are in the store,” Day said. “When you go shopping downtown, they’ll have their own stories, are great people, are creative and are really fun to get to know.”
Residents came out to see what all the commotion and lights were about last Tuesday and were delighted to learn it wasn’t a fire call but rather the Oshkosh Fire Department out collecting food and toys for the Salvation Army.

Firefighters flashed lights and loud sirens as well as playing Christmas music, all in an effort to get people out of their homes.

Santa, who came in riding a vintage fire truck, was joined by the Salvation Army truck, a ladder truck and ambulance. A happy team of firefighters and their families walked alongside collecting items.

The truck and ambulance were on duty and the firefighters ready to “bug out” in a moment’s notice if they were needed.

The toy drive is a tradition that has gotten bigger over the years. In 2020 the event helped 700 families, and more than 2,000 children.

New unopened toys, nonperishable food items and gift cards for teenagers are being donated at any of Oshkosh’s six fire stations or when Santa comes through other neighborhoods this Thursday, Monday and Tuesday. Details on the toy drive can be found on the Oshkosh Fire Department’s Facebook page.
County deer harvest numbers down for gun season

By Steve Clark
Oshkosh Herald

Wisconsin DNR state deer program specialist Jeff Pritzl had one word to describe the nine-day statewide gun deer season that ended Nov. 28: Quiet.

Despite friendly conditions for most of the hunt and a plentiful herd, the number of deer harvested during the annual hunt was down around the state. In fact, only one of the four regions—the Northwest Forest Region—saw an increase in the number of deer registered compared with last year’s hunt.

A total of 175,667 deer were harvested during the gun deer season, according to the DNR, including 84,952 antlered deer and 90,715 antlerless deer. That signifies a drop of 7.9 percent statewide, including a 13.2 percent drop in antlerless deer.

In Winnebago County, which is part of the Central Farmland Region, a total of 965 deer were registered, with 515 bucks and 450 antlerless deer harvested. That’s a slight drop from 2020 when 1,031 deer were registered, but higher than the 2019 total of 832.

The number of bucks shot in Winnebago County was nearly identical to last year—515 in 2021 compared to 500 in 2020—but the number of antlerless deer dropped from 531 in 2020 to this year’s total of 450.

Among the 35 counties that make up the Central Farmland Zone, which stretches across the full width in the central part of the state, Winnebago County had the third fewest deer registered ahead of only Adams County (945) and Calumet County (608). The 450 antlerless deer harvested were the second fewest among the counties in the zone, ahead of only Calumet County (343).

Josh Jackl, a wildlife biologist for the DNR who is based at the Oshkosh Service Work Station, echoed Pritzl’s description received was a mixed review.

Jackl, who spent the first four days of the hunt at Beck’s Meats in Oshkosh collecting deer heads for aging surveys, said he heard the full range of what hunters saw.

“Obviously the hunters are bringing deer to the processor so most of them (I talked to) were pretty happy,” Jackl said. “But the answers varied from: ‘This is the only one’ to, ‘I saw a bunch more and this is the one I shot.’”

Jackl was also pleased that there were no gun-related incidents involving hunters in Winnebago County. There were six reported incidents around the state involving hunter-related shootings with one of the incidents resulting in a fatality in Iron County.

Andrew Hopkins of Oshkosh took this 9-point, 193-pound buck in Winnebago County with a bow from his tree saddle.

“Archery overall has been taking a larger portion of the deer harvest every year,” Jackl said. “It’s taking a larger chunk of the herd, so by default you have to assume the nine-day gun season will decrease because of that.”

Jackl said that in order to judge the overall harvest, waiting until the end of the full slate of deer hunting seasons—it culminates in Winnebago County in early December—will give a better look at the overall deer harvest in the county.

Still, the feedback from hunters Jackl received was a mixed review.

There weren’t a whole lot of crops in the fields anymore. But the general consensus is that it was quieter than usual.”

A number of factors could have contributed to the drop, according to Jackl.

Winnebago County is one of the smaller counties in the region when it comes to available land for hunting, which decreases the opportunities for hunters, while the number of licenses sold this year was down from a year ago, which means there were fewer hunters in the field.

“Obviously the hunters are bringing in a fatality in Iron County.
Tips for effective communication with government

Over the Thanksgiving holiday a family member asked me what I thought was the hardest part of serving on City Council. My answer was easy: It is hearing from people who feel they do not have a voice in their government. During the debates over mask policies, special assessments, and, most recently, the Clearwell tank project, multiple residents have told me they are resigned to the fact that the city is just going to do what the city is going to do. In other words, they feel their voice did not matter.

Locally, it bothers me that anyone feels like their opinion on issues does not matter. Broadly, I worry how our democracy can survive if people feel they do not have a voice. Part of democratic governance means understanding that your opinion, no matter how passionate you express it, may be in the minority, and may not carry the day. But that does not mean minority opinions should be dismissed. Even the perception that government does not care about the opinions of those it serves erodes trust, and ultimately, capacity.

In my role as an elected official I can listen, provide factual information and work to elevate voices that feel unheard. But that is not enough. Yes, government officials must listen, provide factual information and listen to, and validate, the concerns of all government officials. I think those tips are helpful to anyone seeking to influence their government.

First, set your expectations so the government official knows what you want to happen after the communication. A vague ask is really no ask.

Second, always strive for economy of force, i.e. minimizing the energy spent on obtaining secondary objectives. Do not nitigate the past, do not question other’s intent, and do not spread rumors. I cringe when someone engages in whataboutism or tells me what an issue is “really” about. Why? It gives the government official space to dismiss your legitimate concern on the grounds that you are still mad about some unrelated issue. Third, ignore personalities. When policy issues get personal, good ideas are ignored. Why? The person who is vulnerable to impact of the decision and who is in a defensive posture. Logically it also makes the staff member less likely to prioritize your issue. Focus on the desired outcome and do not take steps to make it less likely. Even the best policy will fail if the people implementing it do not have buy-in.

Finally, do not negotiate with yourself. If you are not sure of what you want to happen, a government official is unlikely to invest much political capital in the issue. I find social media is problematic in this regard, as well-intentioned efforts to spread awareness about a pressing issue can quickly collapse into infighting among advocates.

A common message, or even better a common ask, gives a government official clear guidance on your goals, and limits their ability to dismiss your concerns as too disorganized for action.

Democratic governance requires that everyone has a voice. Government officials need to work proactively to listen to, and validate, the concerns of all residents. But residents can take simple steps too. Don’t engage in personal attacks. Simple, specific, focused communication is a powerful tool for influencing government policy.

Appeals judge named for county

Gov. Tony Evers has appointed Lori Kornblum to the Wisconsin District II Court of Appeals after the resignation of Judge Paul F. Reilly, effective in early January. District II covers cases in Winnebago, Waukesha, Racine and Kenosha counties.

“With decades of faithful service defining the rights of those who are the most vulnerable, Lori has demonstrated her commitment to building strong communities by supporting the well-being of every community member,” Evers said in a press release. “With Lori’s experience and values, she will be a great appellate judge for the people of Wisconsin.”

Kornblum is an attorney in private practice focusing on disability law, children’s welfare and guardianships, and holds faculty appointments at Milwaukee Area Technical College, Marquette University Law School and Northeastern University Law School.

Kornblum served in the Milwaukee County District Attorney’s Office for more than 20 years, handling adult criminal, juvenile delinquency cases, protective services cases and termination of parental rights cases. She is a graduate of Yale University and the University of California-Berkeley School of Law.

“I am honored to be appointed to Wisconsin’s Court of Appeals,” Kornblum said. “As a judge, I will listen carefully and apply the law faithfully, mindful of the fact that our courts make decisions that affect lives, businesses and our state’s future. Everyone should be treated equally when they step into a courtroom.”

NOTICE OF CITY OF OSHKOSH SNOW SHOVELING REQUIREMENTS

Residents are reminded of the following snow removal regulations:

PER SECTION 25-68 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE –

Property owners are required to clear sidewalks abutting their property of snow and/or ice within 24 hours after the end of precipitation or accumulation. These requirements include all handicap ramps/crosswalk accesses which are adjacent to their property.

When ice cannot be removed, the sidewalk and handicap ramps/crosswalk accesses shall be kept sprinkled with material(s) to accelerate melting and prevent slipping. The ice must be removed as soon as possible.

Depositing snow from private property onto any public right-of-way, public property, or fire hydrant is also prohibited.

PER SECTION 25-69 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE –

Failure to clear the sidewalk or handicap ramps/crosswalk accesses will result in the City completing the work and invoicing the property owner for the snow or ice removal.

THE MINIMUM CHARGE FOR THE COST OF SNOW REMOVAL IS $99.

Property owners also face a potential citation for violation of the Municipal Code.

THIS FORFEITURE IS $232 FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE.

Violators can be reported to the Engineering Division of the Department of Public Works at (920)236-5065.
Kid Scoop Puzzles

Snowman Puzzles

Chill out with this cool collection of brain-teasing teasers.

What does the snowman put on a nose?

WC6HA1YBL
TYPB0E0QJ
PNWIMDRS
C

What’s a snowman’s toe-gicle?

YDGTVLD
WLNHEUS
P

Scrambled Snowmen

How many snowmen can you find in this puzzle?

Whoops! This snowman lost his head. Can you find it?

Extra!

Winter Words

Look through the newspaper for words that could be used to describe a cold winter. Use them in a sentence to describe the weather today.

Find the two identical snowmen.

Double Word Search

Christmas Holly
Snowman Fuzzy
Food Winter Cone
Kiddie Pool Hot
Cold Lost
Cozy Find

Hints:

1. Frosty wears one on his head.
2. Taking a tiny drink, hot cocoa.
3. The opposite of happy.
4. What’s left after a fire.
5. Find 15 in another puzzle.
6. A weak light, not bright.
7. In batter, often with another.
8. The opposite of hot.

No Money Gifts

What can you give as a Christmas present that doesn’t cost money to buy?

Proudly sponsored by
98 Degrees ready to heat up Oshkosh Arena

By Steve Clark

98 Degrees is back doing what it loves and can’t wait to bring its show to the Oshkosh Arena on Dec. 18.

Founding member Jeff Timmons said the group always valued its opportunity to perform live shows but that regard has taken on another level since resuming performances after the COVID-19 pandemic cut all musicians on a bit of a hiatus.

“It certainly feels great to have the opportunity to get up in front of a live audience,” Timmons said in a recent phone interview. “We have always been appreciative and grateful for the opportunities we have but still, you don’t really get a grasp of how much you love what you do until you can’t do it like we experienced during the pandemic. So, to get back in front of these crowds, we are relishing every moment.”

Timmons, along with fellow band members Nick and Drew Lachey, and Justin Jeffre, were a sensation in the late 1990s performing R&B hits. The band has sold more than 10 million records and had eight top 40 hits in their heyday before taking a break from the group in 2003 as all four members pursued other endeavors.

The band reunited in 2012 and has performed together steadily since then—all four members still branch out with other projects—and Timmons said the group brings more than that to the stage.

The band didn’t enjoy those days, but there is just a different feel to the experience when the band performs now.

“For us from a performing standpoint, we are having more fun. We’ve had many more years to get experience and get better at it and there isn’t any pressure anymore,” Timmons said. Just have a blast up on stage. I have had more fun since our comeback than I did when we were really rambunctious and wild than they were, but we love that.”

Timmons believes that touring now is much more enjoyable compared to when the group was at its height of popularity.

“Not that the band didn’t enjoy those days, but there is just a different feel to the experience when the band performs now.

“For us from a performing standpoint, we are having more fun. We’ve had many more years to get experience and get better at it and there isn’t any pressure anymore,” Timmons said. “We just have a blast up on stage. I have had more fun since our comeback than I did when we were really ultra-popular in the 1990s and early 2000s.”

The biggest hits for the band were from those early days, though, and Timmons said the group certainly incorporates their biggest hits like “Give Me Just One Night.” “Because of You” and “The Hard- est Thing” into their shows—“We’re not too cool for our hits and we know what got us to the level of success we have been blessed to have,” Timmons said—but the group brings more than that to the stage.

In addition to a live drummer and DJ to back the band, the group also performs songs from the era when they were big.

“We have some nostalgia plays from the era we are from that are kind of fun and surprises where we engage the fans and get them to participate with us as well,” Timmons said. “Although we sang a lot of long songs and ballads, the show is full of amazing energy.”

The show also includes new music.

The band released “Where Do You Want To Go?” in July and that single climbed into the Top 40 and is currently working on other songs as well that they break out for the fans.

“The fact that they are producing new content and generating new followers, means that Timmons expects a wide range of fans in the audience in Oshkosh.

“We have the fans of the new material and Nick’s on television and all of us are doing things that are cultivating new fan bases. Some of us are doing things with the Backstreet Boys and the N’Sync guys so there is a mixed batch of those fans. And then of course there are the fans who have been there since the beginning and have grown with us throughout the years who are now introducing us to their kids,” Timmons said. “It’s an interesting dynamic with the crowd and an interesting diversity with regard to the age groups. We’re excited to have anybody out there and excited that they are excited to see us.”

The show at the Oshkosh Arena was originally scheduled for October. For that date, the band members—all noteworthy sports fans—were planning to make their first visit to Lambeau Field as part of their stop in Oshkosh.

Timmons, who said he was a Cowboys and Raiders fan, added that he might have to remind his fellow bandmates— all huge fans of the Cincinnati Bengals—that the Packers knocked off the Bengals earlier this season.

“Yeah, I might be bringing that up at some point,” Timmons said with a laugh. “(Going to Lambeau) is something we would love to do, actually. We try to take advantage of that as much as we can. Every time we are in a city if there is a chance to catch a game, we do.

“We didn’t have time back (in the 1990s) to do those things. When we rolled into a city, we would do an in-store (autograph session), visit the local radio stations and do meet-and-greets and interviews, and then when the show was over, get on the bus and go to the next city. We try to take advantage of the time we have as much as we can. Every time we are in a city and there is a chance to catch a game or visit a museum or some landmark, we do. We like to indulge in that and learn more about the places we go.”
Package security a matter of time, delivery options

By Kaitlyn Scoville

As the holiday season fast-approaches, local officials are reminding consumers what they can do to keep their packages and presents secure this year.

ASSIS, a security management organization, said in an article that “the time between a package delivery and when the consumer acquires it is the most vulnerable time in the supply chain.”

“Shorter holiday season between Thanksgiving and other holidays such as Christmas have consumers tuning to e-commerce as a quick shopping alternative, thus increasing the amount of packages delivered to homes this time of year,” the article reads.

According to a 2020 C+R Research study, 40 percent of American consumers have claimed to have had a package stolen from their property, with most incidents occurring during the holidays season. All house types – apartments, condos, single and multifamily homes – are at high risk.

By November 2020, the same C+R Research survey of 2,000 online shoppers showed that 43 percent — up from 36 percent a year earlier — said they had had a package stolen in the last 12 months. The average value of stolen packages was about $136.

According to the AARP, common times for package thefts are during the day, because homeowners are less likely to be present. And in a study cited by the AARP, many of the perpetrators were operating some kind of motor vehicle.

Most of the stolen packages were also visible from the street.

Winnebago County Sheriff’s detective Todd Christi said rural parts of the community don’t see package thefts as often as in the city.

Over the past five years in the county, only eight reports of package thefts were on file, not including reports in the city limits of Oshkosh, Neenah or Appleton. Two of the reports were concluded as faulty deliveries to wrong addresses, and one resulted in charges due to the homeowner having a doorbell camera, Christie said.

Christie said there are several ways to keep a package protected this time of year. If someone has Walmart or Amazon deliveries, they can rent a storage locker or have it delivered to UPS or FedEx and pick it up later. Security cameras on the front porch can help and so can lock boxes attached to mailboxes.

Christie also recommended having the packages shipped to someone’s workplace so they can retrieve it upon arrival instead of waiting to get it once they get home.

In 2020, the Oshkosh Police Department received four reports of stolen packages in December alone.

Officer Kate Mann also offered similar points of advice for online shoppers this season, including using store curbside or indoor pickup options, installing security cameras, having packages delivered to the workplace, and requesting packages be delivered to a spot on the property that is not visible from the street.

Scientific studies have proven that if hearing loss goes untreated, a condition called “auditory deprivation” occurs. The longer hearing loss goes untreated, the more likely the brain will actually “forget” how to hear.

That’s why many doctors recommend an Annual Hearing Screening to their patients.

Beltone is offering Free Hearing Screenings this holiday season for you or a loved one who may be experiencing these warning signs:

1. Difficulty hearing in noisy situations, such as holiday parties
2. Hearing, but not understanding all the words in a conversation
3. A need to ask people to repeat themselves

The screening is accurate, easy and quick, and you will know if we find any issues right away.

Trade up to new Beltone Technology today and receive back up to 50% of the original price you paid for your current instruments with purchase of any two Beltone Imagine Instruments.

*Offer is good for one customer. Must purchase a set of Imagine 10’s or 14’s Instruments. If hearing aids are returned, the value of the Gift Card will be deducted from your refund. Cannot be combined with other offers or coupons. Not valid on prior purchases. Void where prohibited by law. Benefits of hearing instruments vary by type and degree of hearing loss, noise environment, accuracy of hearing evaluation and proper fit. Beltone Hearing Care Centers are independently owned and operated. Participation may vary by location. See individual centers for details. ©2021 Beltone.

Feel & Move Better Before The Holidays - And The New Year!

Are you worried that your pain and weakness will cause more stress and have a fear that this will keep you from enjoying your holidays?

We help you achieve greater strength, mobility, and independence for your active lifestyle without medications, injections, or surgery, even when nothing else has worked.

• Neck Pain & Headaches
• Back Pain & Sciatica
• Hand & Wrist Pain & Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
• Balance / Vestibular Disorders
• Edema/Lymphedema & Chronic Swelling
• Shoulder Pain & Rotator Cuff Tears
• Knee Pain & Arthritis
• Hip Pain

Come see how over 1,000 have found relief and gotten back to enjoying their every day lives!
Menominee Park welcomes in the holidays

Celebration of Lights, an annual Oshkosh holiday tradition of a million twirling lights through Menominee Park that runs through Jan. 1, is in its 20th year with a donation focus on hygiene products for those in need.

Completely run by volunteers, the ongoing event features more than 120 trees, additional sculpted scenes and animated light displays that stretch a full 1.2 miles through the park. Santa is also there every night through Dec. 23.

Admission is $10 per carload or $9 with a hygiene product donation. Visitors are asked to bring exact change for admission and not to bring canned goods.

In 2020, more than 16,000 vehicles experienced the display. Hours are from 5:30 to 9 p.m. with Santa visits available until 8:30 through Dec. 23. Either Oshkosh Media (101.9 FM) or WRST (90.3 FM) will be playing holiday music throughout the park.

Visitors enter on Washington Avenue, hug the lakeshore to Merritt and follow the signs to Pratt Trail. Check the Oshkosh Celebration of Lights Facebook page for updates and to tag the page and on Instagram.

In a separate Salvation Army collection effort, the Oshkosh Public Library is seeking donations of new or handmade children’s mittens, hats and scarves that can be placed on the Mitten Tree in the library’s Children’s Department by Dec. 15.

There will also be various special nights at the celebration, which can be found at oshkoshcol.org.
Chamber Singers prepared to present ‘Lessons and Carols’

“A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols,” an Oshkosh tradition for more than 30 years, will be performed Dec. 18 by the Oshkosh Chamber Singers.

Two performances will be presented at 4 and 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, Algoma at Division. Audience members are encouraged to be vaccinated. Masks will be required upon entering.

Tickets are $15 for adults and $5 for students, and are available from singers, at Heid Music on South Park, Garudina’s on Main Street and at the door. More information is at oshkoshchambersingers.org or by calling 920-312-8290.

Herk Berendsen is director of the Oshkosh Chamber Singers. The group will be accompanied by Jared Stellmacher on organ and a brass ensemble led by Marty Robinson. Audience members will join the choir in song. Community members will read Scripture passages celebrating the Advent and Christmas stories.


Oshkosh history
by the Winnibago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Dec. 12, 1868

New Cemetery is Ready: The Common Council passed a resolution instructing the clerk to advertise three weeks in the official paper of the city, giving notice to all persons having resi-
dents buried in Locust Grove Cemetery, located at the corner of Wisconsin Street and Algoma Boulevard in an oddly shaped lot that extended to Elmwood Avenue. The property later became the site of the First Ward School and then Lincoln School. The new cemetery is today’s Riverside Cemetery.

Note: The first city cemetery in Oshkosh was known as Locust Grove Cemetery, located at the corner of Wisconsin Street and Algoma Boulevard.
Local author to release new novel ‘Shatter’

In “Shatter,” a new novel by local author Thomas Cannon being released Dec. 31, readers meet oversized comic Mikey Haskell who believes he is turning into an animal.

Cannon explores the slippery definitions of good and evil, love and betrayal, revenge and redemption in the intense drama mixed with humor set in 1995. Published by Tumbleweed Books, find details on the author and book at thomascannonauthor.com.

Cannon was recently selected as the inaugural poet laureate of Oshkosh. His poems and short stories have been published in journals such as Midwestern Gothic and Corvus Review, and he helped establish the Lakerly Writers Conference.

Cookie Walk sale set at United Methodist Church

The annual Cookie Walk of the United Methodist Women of Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in Paine Hall of the church, 1174 Algoma Blvd.

Homemade holiday treats will be available for $10 per pound. Plastic gloves, masks and social distancing will be required. Proceeds from the sale are used to fund the group’s mission projects for the coming year.

Oshkosh housing market a mix of risk, opportunity

Oshkosh was about $134,000. There were 219 active homes for sale on the market, and 51 homes that sold.

Care to take a gander at what those numbers looked like for November 2021? According to the Realtors Association of Northeast Wisconsin MLS, the average sale price of a home in November in the city was $174,000. There were 142 active homes for sale on the market, and 68 that sold.

So, what does this mean exactly for the homeowners of Oshkosh? It means that the average home that has sold on the MLS has gone up in value by about 30 percent over a small span of four short years from 2017 to 2021. Inversely, the number of active homes for sale on the MLS has decreased by 15 percent, and the number of homes that sold rose by 33 percent.

The supply of homes for sale on the market has gone down, while prices have gone up. This sounds like a recipe for success if you plan to sell your home, right? Maybe. Also, maybe not.

Does past precedent always predict future behavior? Now that we know what the market has been doing in the recent past, what does the market look like for 2022? If you ask seven different real estate companies, you will certainly receive seven different answers. According to Fortune.com, Zillow predicts that home values will increase by 13.6 percent in the U.S. over the next year. Redfin and CoreLogic put the growth at 3 percent and 1.9 percent respectively. Mortgage Bankers Association predicts a 2.5 percent decline. Goldman Sachs predicts 16 percent. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac predict increases of 7.9 percent and 7 percent respectively.

So where does this analysis ultimately leave us as a homeowner? The truth is, nobody really knows what the market will look like a year from now. Every home is different and each one needs its own personalized analysis to really see what the true value is in today’s real estate market.

If the real estate crash of 2008 has taught us anything, it’s that there is no time like the present.

Church pictorial blends history, faith

“Pioneer Churches of Wisconsin,” a visual and historic look at some of the state’s earliest churches. What Cooney describes as part passion project, part statewide scavenger hunt documents more than 100 historic churches representing 34 different faiths. He started the project in 2008 to show the state’s strong ties to its immigrant faith heritage.

Small and carefully preserved churches were built by Wisconsin’s first immigrants and maintained by individuals, families, historical societies and cemetery associations. Many of these churches were the first of their respective denomination and in several cases the last remnant of that faith tradition.

While some locations have national historic status or recognized by their counties’ historical societies, many are without any formal recognition.

“St. John’s Lutheran Church, located west of Algoma, is one of the Lost Churches of Wisconsin,” Cooney writes.

The churches included in this book are more than just old buildings. They are historic reminders of the spirit-filled believers, who settled on the land and founded churches to gather like-minded believers to express their common spiritual beliefs, build community and help preserve their cultural heritage,” Cooney writes.

Cooney visited a total of 162 locations, including the Friends Church on Zoor Road southwest of Oshkosh, to document their history, photograph both the exterior and interior and record each location’s unique story. The book has detailed directions and information that permits the reader to go out and visit the church and experience it themselves.

“Pioneer Churches of Wisconsin” will be available for loan at the Oshkosh Public Library and for sale at the Winter Oshkosh Farmers Market.
Russell's Reserve
10-Year-Old Straight Bourbon Whiskey
$20.99
750 ML Bottle Only
$17.99 After Additional $3 Mail-In Rebate.

6-Pack, 24-oz. Bottles

3/$9 With Card
Columbian, French Roast or Donut Blend
Victor Allen's Single Serve Coffee Cups
42-Count Box

$10.99

From the Deli
Barbecue Franks, Smokies or Meatballs
$6.49 lb.
Produce

- Jumbo Honeydew, Pineapple or Cantaloupe $3.99 ea.
- 4-oz. Fresh Blackberries $2.99
- Washington State Bartlett Pears $1.49 lb.
- Fresh Raspberries........... 3.49 lbs.
- Jumbo Sweet Onions $9.99

Organic

- Washington State Envy Apples $1.99 lb.
- Washington State Red Delicious, Fuji or Gala Apples $1.49 lb.
- Fancy Lemons $69¢ ea.
- 2-8 oz. California Navel Oranges $3.99
- 5-8 oz. Wisconsin Russet Potatoes $2.49
- 1-lb. Bag - California Celery $1.79
- Bolute House Farms Cello Carrots $1.49

Gluten Free

- Kemp's Simply Crafted Ice Cream.... $4.99

Bundles

- 12-oz. Package - Organic Full Circle Organic Steamed Vegetables.... $1.99
- Post Cereal 2/$6
- Nabisco Oreo Crackers $3.49
- Nature Valley or Fiber One Granola Bars 2/$5
- Welch's Sparkling Grape Juice $2.6
- Old Dutch Potato Chips $2.5

1800 Pig Points

- 1800 Pig Points SAVE 6¢ per Gallon of Gas!
- 900 Pig Points SAVE 3¢ per Gallon of Gas!
- 900 Pig Points SAVE 3¢ per Gallon of Gas!
- 2700 Pig Points SAVE 9¢ per Gallon of Gas!
- 1500 Pig Points SAVE 5¢ per Gallon of Gas!
- 1800 Pig Points SAVE 6¢ per Gallon of Gas!
- 1800 Pig Points SAVE 6¢ per Gallon of Gas!
- 1800 Pig Points SAVE 6¢ per Gallon of Gas!
12-oz. Package - Individually Wrapped Slices
Food Club American Singles
$1.69

2% Milk
$2.99

6-oz. Package
Just Crack-an Egg Omelet
$2.99

8-oz. to 10-oz.
Brummel & Brown or I Can't Believe It's Not Butter
$2.79

8-oz. to 10-oz.
Country Crock Spread
$2.29

6 to 8-COUNT or 12.75 to 16-oz. Package - Select
Campione Garlic Breadsticks, Knots, Texas Toast or Garlic Bread
2.5

Blue Ribbon Ice Cream
$5.79

17 to 19-oz.
Home Run Inn or Gino's East Deep Dish Pizza
$6.99

Birds Eye Steamfresh or Premium Vegetables
$1.99

8-oz. Bottle - Tartar Sauce or Hoffman House Shrimp Sauce
$2.29

24-oz. Jar - Red Sauce Only
Classico Pasta Sauce
$2.4

5-lb. Bag
Brownberry Italian Bread
$1.99

8-oz. Bag
Crystal Granulated Sugar
$1.99

2-lb. Bag
CrystaL Puffed or Brown Sugar
$1.49

12 to 16-OZ.
Solo Pie or Pastry Filling
$2.29

Chicken of the Sea Pink Salmon or White Albacore Tuna
$1.29

12-in. Pack or 6-oz. Can
Bear Creek Soup Mix
$2.79

6-oz. Package
Better Brothers Coffee Cups
$5.99

14.5-lb. Bag
Purina Cat Chow
$13.49

16-oz. Bag
Purina Beneful Dog Food
$14.99

2% Fat Milk
$2.5

9.5 to 10-oz.
Tuna Cans, Meat or Fish Pasta
$1.99

2-lb. Bag
Rice-a-Roni
$1.99

New! - Regular or Mild
Food Club Meatballs
$3.99

12 oz. Bottle
Fridges Dry Cat Food
$11.99

16-oz. Bag
Simply Done Zipper Pancake or Frayless Bag
$2.99

7 to 11-oz. Package
Rana Pasta or Pasta Sauce
$2.99

10-oz. Bottle
Salad Dressing
$2.29

12.76 to 13.71-oz.
Bellatoria Ultra Thin Pizza
$2.10

10.5 oz. Can - Select
Wendy’s Smart Chicken Nuggets
$2.99

44-oz. Can
Lobstermen’s Lobster
$6.99

31-oz. Package
French's French's Fried Onions
$2.99

69-oz. Box
Blue Diamond Almonds
$5.99

12-oz. Package
Tender-Tip Turkey
$4.99

7 to 11-oz. Package
Tomato Sauce
$3.1

10 to 12-oz. jar
Open Country Salad Dressing
$2.99

15-oz. Can
Coleslaw or Kettle Brand Chip Dip
$2.99

18-oz. Can
Tomato Soup
$1.3

8-oz. Bottle
Arm & Hammer Detergent
$7.99

9-oz. Bottle
Broiler Sauce
$2.99

3-pack or 14-oz.
Frisch’s Big Boy Collector Series
$11.99

5.5-oz. Can
Simply Done Zipper Parmesan or Frayless Bag
$2.99

8-oz. Can
Cheez-It Baked Snack Crackers
$3.99

10.5oz. Bag
Simply Done Dinner Yummies
$3.99

5.5oz. Bottle
Creamy Caesar Dressing
$3.99

11.5oz. Can
Baked Potato Soup
$3.99

13.5 oz. Bottle
Curly Fries
$2.99

12-oz. Can
Milk Chocolate Chips
$2.99

12.5 oz. Can
Dr Pepper
$2.99

10 oz. Bottle
Little Debbie Zebra Cakes
$2.99

12-oz. Can
Root Beer
$2.99

12 oz. Bottle
Tostitos
$3.99

12 oz. Bottle
Long Beach
$3.99

16-oz. Bag
Simply Done Shredded Cheese
$2.99

17 to 23 oz.
Dean’s Mashed Potatoes
$1.8

15-oz. Can
Cheetos Puffs
$1.99

20-oz. Bag
Tom’s Confections
$3.99

12 oz. Can
French’s Potato Chips
$2.99

24 oz. Can
Cheez-It Baked Snack Crackers
$3.99

16 oz. Bottle
Paragon’s Original Pizza Sauce
$2.99

16 oz. Can
Root Beer
$2.99

12 oz. Bottle
Cheez-It Baked Snack Crackers
$3.99

12 oz. Bottle
Dr Pepper
$2.99

12 oz. Bottle
Milk Chocolate Chips
$2.99

20-oz. Can
Simply Done Shredded Cheese
$2.99

14 oz. Can
Root Beer
$2.99

15 oz. Can
Cheetos Puffs
$1.99

3 oz. Can
Cheez-It Baked Snack Crackers
$2.99

15 oz. Can
Cheetos Puffs
$1.99

15 oz. Can
Cheez-It Baked Snack Crackers
$2.99

12 in.
Simply Done Shredded Cheese
$2.99

15 oz. Can
Cheetos Puffs
$1.99

15 oz. Can
Cheez-It Baked Snack Crackers
$2.99
Wellness days

A committee of educators, administrators and clerical staff worked on the development of the calendar, representing all three school levels of elementary, middle and high school.

“Our teachers are doing an amazing job of working with our students and supporting them but it’s taking a toll on our teachers to do all that they are with our students,” Brown said. “I think they would feel as if they’re being heard and seen if we were able to provide them with two mental health days.”

The committee that put together this recommendation suggested Feb 17 and 18 to work itself into a five-day weekend for both staff and students. This would also allow adequate time to collaborate with food service providers, travel agencies and day care providers to work on accommodations for students. “Everybody in our system has gone above and beyond,” said district Superintendent Bryan Davis.

Several board members expressed their support for the incentive, citing mental health days as a way to give back to staff. “It’s been a crazy year and we need to make sure our teachers and staff are in a good place so they can move forward and do one of the most important jobs around - teach our children,” board member Chris Wright said.

Through pushback, member Stephania Carlin said, “our teachers have been through so much in this past year that they deserve more than two days; I wish we could give them more.”

Chris Wright said.

Nie Carlin said, “our teachers have been through so much in this past year that they deserve more than two days; I wish we could give them more.”

District face mask rule extended

The Oshkosh Area School District will continue to require students, staff and visitors to wear face coverings inside district buildings through Jan. 7 to keep students learning in person amid a rising level of COVID-19 cases.

“The increased availability of the COVID vaccine for all children ages 5 and up is certainly encouraging, and has become one of our greatest mitigation efforts amid the ongoing pandemic,” said Bryan Davis, superintendent of schools. “With that understanding, we remain cautiously optimistic about our ability to safely modify our masking requirement in the near year.”

Vaccinations are available for anyone ages 5 and older at local clinics and listed on the Winnebago County Health Department’s website at wcvaccine.org/vaccination-sites. Community opportunities include Walk-In Wednesdays at Sunnyview Expo Center from 1 to 6 p.m.

Elise Lukie, a student representative for Oshkosh North High School, spoke in support of giving teachers the time off. “I think it’s a great way for students as well to step back and relax during such a complicated time of the year,” she said. “It would be a good time for students to recognize their mental health as well.”

Oshkosh West’s student representative also supported the initiative. “This is a great way to show appreciation toward the staff at our school who are working overtime to make sure students go above and succeed,” she said. “And it is a great way for students to recollect their thoughts and rethink, relax and work hard again.”

There was no official vote at the board meeting on the mental health days and a date to do so has not been decided.

School board meeting complaint denied

The Oshkosh Board of Education’s president issued a statement Friday about a Aug. 25 board session that was halted before it started and led to a complaint that school officials were in violation of the state Open Meetings Law.

The Winnebago County District Attorney’s Office received a complaint from the Wisconsin Transparency Project and decided last week not to pursue a case after reviewing the allegation.

Bob Poeschl, speaking on behalf of the Oshkosh Area School District board, offered details on the scheduled meeting that did not get underway after some public attendees refused to wear face masks in compliance with district requirements. “The board also understands that transparency is critical and rejects any confusion caused as a result of its response to the disruption that occurred before the Aug. 25 board meeting,” Poeschl said in the statement.

He said board members exited the board room and entered the superintendent’s office to remove themselves from the meeting room, left the door open and did not discuss school business. Poeschl said he and Superintendent Bryan Davis separated themselves from the rest of the board in a nearby office, called the district’s legal counsel, consulted with Oshkosh police and decided to postpone the meeting.

Poeschl said board members were told the meeting would be postponed and they left the building, and then returned to the board room to announce the postpone. The meeting was rescheduled to the following Monday and was held in a virtual format.

UWO adds after-hours mental health service

Help is a phone call away for University of Wisconsin Oshkosh students dealing with a mental health crisis.

UWO has partnered with ProtoCall, an after-hours mental health emergency service, to extend the Counseling Center’s capability to assess and provide immediate action in a crisis.

Any student may contact the service directly and anyone may call on behalf of a student in need of crisis services. To access this service, call the Counseling Center at 920-424-2061 and when directed select option 2 to connect with the after-hours emergency service. “ProtoCall does not offer therapy in a traditional sense. It is a company that triages a college student in crisis, identifies a plan of action and loops back the student to the Counseling Center for follow-up and continued support,” said Art Munin, interim vice chancellor of student affairs and dean of students.

That extra layer comes as the end of the fall semester approaches and the pandemic continues.

“ProtoCall provides access to a counselor after hours to assess and provide interventions and suggestions for crisis stabilization. This is helpful to students who engage in services at the center and for all students in distress,” said Sandra Cox, Counseling Center director.

“The current times have created many challenges for most human beings. It is hard to know for sure if this is the most challenging time in history for college students, but it has been in my 25 years in a college counseling center.”
eAcademy signup deadline nears

The Oshkosh Area School District is offering a midyear enrollment period for its eAcademy, a tuition-free virtual school for K-12 students, that has a 3 p.m. Friday signup deadline. Families interested in enrolling in this local school option can complete an eAcademy application at www.oshkoshschools.k12.wi.us or call 920-424-0395.

The eAcademy offers access to specific local opportunities and resources. The OASD’s eAcademy provides students and families with access to an exceptional education, virtually, as well as access to valuable local opportunities and resources,” explained Julie Conrad, OASD director of Curriculum and Assessment. “Students enrolled in the OASD eAcademy are able to participate in OASD co-curricular activities and athletics, receive an OASD digital device, work with OASD teachers, access OASD student support services, and receive their diploma from Oshkosh North or Oshkosh West high school upon completion of graduation requirements.”

In recent years the district expanded eAcademy to include a full-time option for students. The eAcademy is partnered with the Wisconsin eSchool Network, a collaborative network of online programs developed in collaboration with online learning experts.

Student loan debt relief scams warned

With the final extension of the federal student loan payment pause running until Jan. 31, the state’s Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) and Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) encourage student loan borrowers to be cautious of offers from questionable student loan debt relief companies.

The state agencies also note to be aware of fraudsters taking advantage of this transition period and recommend creating a repayment plan before their student loan payments are due.

“Student loan debt relief scams target borrowers with false offers of loan forgiveness or savings from consolidation,” said DATCP Secretary Randy Romanski. “There are many resources consumers can access without paying a fee. I encourage borrowers to utilize the resources at DFI for information about repayment services and report any fraud to our team at DATCP.”

DFI Secretary Kathy Blumenfeld added, “With student loan payments resuming in February, it is more important than ever for borrowers to explore their student loan repayment options and make a plan for repayment today. Borrowers should take time now while payments are still paused to look into repayment options such as income-driven repayment plans, which lower monthly payments, and check their eligibility for student loan forgiveness.”

Loan borrowers should be wary of phone calls, emails, letters and texts claiming relief from federal student loans or warning that student loan forgiveness programs are immediately expiring. These solicitations are used to scam borrowers with fees for services that are often free and can be used to steal money and identities.

Loans for borrowers should be wary of phone calls, emails, letters and texts claiming relief from federal student loans or warning that student loan forgiveness programs are immediately expiring. These solicitations are used to scam borrowers with fees for services that are often free and can be used to steal money and identities.

Bryan (left) and Paul Lidtke working side by side at Wisconsin Herd games is nothing new for this father-son duo. The two held similar positions with the Fond du Lac Dock Spiders in 2017.

Lidtke’s

nounced basketball games at Winnebago Lutheran Academy in Fond du Lac. “I would follow him to the games and help set up the scorer’s table and watch how he was doing the announcing. I wanted to do that when I got into high school,” Bryan said. “That’s when I realized I had a passion for the game day behind the scenes work.”

And with all that Bryan is in charge of during Herd games, there is one responsibility he is sure will go off without a hitch. “It’s been easier for me because I know I am his biggest fan – that honor is bestowed on his wife and Bryan’s mom, Stacey – Paul has been impressed with what his son is doing with the Herd.”

“I always knew he was good with the in-game stuff. I’ve witnessed enough of that,” Paul said. “I hear him doing all of the stuff my former bosses doing and he does it really well. My biggest thing is to stay out of his way and do my job because he does a really nice job.”
Clark’s hot shooting keeps North unbeaten

Spartans top Wildcats to open FVA action

By Dustin Riese
Herald contributor

Unbeaten No. 8 ranked Oshkosh North looked to keep its unblemished record intact against an Oshkosh West boys basketball team that has struggled early this season — but if there is one certainty when these two teams meet up, it’s that records do not matter.

That was the case as the Wildcats came at them with everything they had, leading several times throughout the game. Sophomore standout Steven Clark had a game-high 33 points and took over in the second half as the Spartans stayed unbeaten, winning 82-67 on West’s home court.

“Very rarely can you fault our guys’ effort,” head coach Brad Weber said. “We were not the smartest and most together team in the first half. Second half, we communicated more and made our defense work. What I loved the most out of our team was our bench’s energy and communication. It really helped us on the court and shows how much these guys are willing to sacrifice for each other.”

As far as things go for West, it was a nice bounce-back game as they are still figuring things out as a group.

“We had great effort tonight and bounces back well from a rough opening night against Xavier,” head coach Michael Johnson said. “Proud of our guys for stepping up in a high-pressure situation. We are learning how to play together, and guys are stepping into new roles without Jacquez (Overstreet). It doesn’t help that our schedule is difficult, but more than anything we are focusing on competing and getting better every day.”

It was back and forth early as North held their own, jumping out early with Clark scoring the team’s first nine points. West took back the lead after Ethan Shefchik got to the line and connected for eight consecutive points putting the game away. Clark was 15-for-17 from the free throw line while adding eight rebounds. Mitchell finished with a thunderous two-handed slam. Mitchell finished with 13 points.

Looking to put the game away, Clark connected for eight consecutive points to stretch the lead back to 13. A pair of Mitchell dunks late in regulation put an exclamation point on what was a closer game than what the score shows. Clark was 15-for-17 from the free throw line while adding eight rebounds. Mitchell had a team-high 11 rebounds for the Spartans while Seckar added 13.

“I wouldn’t say I am surprised with this start, but more that I am pleased,” Weber said. “I am pleased with how we handle adversity. I am pleased with how we hang tough until our runs come. I am pleased with how well these guys get along with each other and enjoy their time together. I am pleased with the progress we are making. 4-0 is nice, don’t get me wrong, but it can make things difficult on them, but their individual talent shows up over the course of a game. They also forced some turnovers that led to easy transition baskets and got them going.”

Seckar’s scoring seemed to awaken the Spartans offense as Clark began to put his scoring on the back of 13 of his team’s next 19 points. His play late, mixed with Ari Giannopulis and Cooper Juedes getting involved, saw the North offense build a 69-57 lead.

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Seckar’s scoring seemed to awaken the Spartans offense as Clark began to put his team on his back scoring 13 of his team’s next 19 points. His play late, mixed with Ari Giannopulis and Cooper Juedes getting involved, saw the North offense build a 69-57 lead.

“We had great effort tonight and bounces back well from a rough opening night against Xavier,” head coach Michael Johnson said. “Proud of our guys for stepping up in a high-pressure situation. We are learning how to play together, and guys are stepping into new roles without Jacquez (Overstreet). It doesn’t help that our schedule is difficult, but more than anything we are focusing on competing and getting better every day.”

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Wildcats earn first victory of season in FVA contest

By Dustin Riese

Herald contributor

In what was a defensive struggle for much of the game, the Oshkosh North girls led by three points late in the game only to see the West Wildcats tie things up and force overtime. In the extra frame, the Spartans got off to a strong start but the Wildcats secured a 49-47 win at home for their first of the season.

"The girls never stopped playing," West head coach Kenisha Phillips said. "It didn't matter the score or what was happening; they played through it. Very proud of their energy tonight. It would be easy to give up once we were down 5 in overtime, but we just continued to never give up and believe in ourselves.”

Jodarski finished with seven points on 2-of-3 from the field while Best had a team-high 15. Seckar chipped in 10 for the Wildcats. Leading all scorers was North's Hanson, who had 21 points – going 6-of-9 from the field and 7-of-11 from the line.

West's Lauren Best knocked down one of her biggest shots of the night with a three from the corner, cutting the lead to 47-46. The Wildcats clinched the game from the free throw line with Jodarski knocking down the game winners.

"We have a very athletic group, so we are able to do different things," Phillips said. "We also have a team of girls that are willing to fight down low and challenge people bigger than them and they continue to never give up and believe in themselves.”

Engen continues to be happy with the effort his girls are putting forth on the offensive end.

"We are working through a brand-new offense and are still learning," he said. "We got exactly what we thought we would get from West with switching screens. We didn't take advantage as well as we should have. I think the whole environment affected the game a bit as well.”

Facing that 10-point deficit, the Wildcats started use their defense and forced the Spartans into several tough looks. That led to some plays on their offensive end as Best and Jodarski brought the Wildcats within four. Once again, North was able to stretch the lead out a bit further until Best led West back to a 33-32 lead. She was responsible for eight of her biggest shots of the night with a three from the corner, cutting the lead to 47-46. The Wildcats clinched the game from the free throw line with Jodarski knocking down the game winners.

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It was a closely contested game throughout the first half as neither team held a large lead with North ahead 18-13 at the break.

"I thought we made them hit contested outside shots and did a decent job limiting them to give the Spartans a 41-38 lead. West responded with an aggressive approach, earning four free throws from Braelee Jo-

Three of those four found the bottom of the net as the Wildcats evened things at 41 and forced the overtime.

"We started off a little slow again," Engen said. "Rebounding was OK, but didn't get the big ones to potentially close out the game in regul-

ation.”

As the second half got underway, the Spartans went after the Wildcats defense potentially close out the game in regula-

Jodarski and Paige Seckar.

The Wildcats left Gabriella Kempf free throw before North began to take the lead at 41 and forced the overtime.

"Our kids have been bringing the energy and effort all season," he said. "We still need to figure some things out. We are working through a brand-

new offense and are still learning," he said. "We got exactly what we thought we would get from West with switching screens. We didn't take advantage as well as we should have. I think the whole envi-

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"We started off a little slow again," Phillips said. "The girls stuck with it and kept attacking the rim and crashing the boards.”

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Prep sports roundup

BOYS HOCKEY

Ice Hawks dominate in season’s first win

The Oshkosh Ice Hawks boys hockey team dominated in its win over Shawano/Bondadelt/Clinetown on Thursday, winning 11-0.

Oshkosh (1-1) got off to a hot start, scoring four goals in the first period, followed by five more in the second. Winston Knobloch had four goals in the game while Ethan Hoodie added a hat-trick. Arman Fischer chipped in two goals while Marshall Koch and Kevin Lynch added goals. Hoodie added two assists in the win while Gage Bauer recorded 14 saves in the shootout.

WRESTLING

North competes in Slinger Gunslinger Invite

The Oshkosh North wrestling team competed in the Slinger Gunslinger Invitational on Saturday and the Spartans finished 15th out of 16 teams.

Jeremiah Chmielewski led the way for the Spartans at 220 pounds, finishing second. He lost the championship match to the Spartans at 220 pounds, finishing second.

Drew McKay (170) was seventh while Hunter Grose (160) and Alex Barrera (156) each added eighth-place finishes.

West goes 3-2 in duals

The Oshkosh West wrestling team competed in the Luxemburg-Casco duals on Saturday and the Wildcats finished 3-2.

The Wildcats picked up wins over Port Washington (51-24), Bay Port (50-27) and Sheboygan Falls (66-16) while falling to Holmen (51-24) and Luxemburg-Casco (57-15).

Leading the way was Roman Martell and Edwin Schroeder, who went 5-0 for West. Jaiush Williams, Max Carlin, Lukas Schroeder, Ben Buehring, Garth Martell and Jaiden Pronczak all went 3-2.

BOYS SWIMMING

West hosts Wildcat Invitational, takes third

The Oshkosh West boys swimming team hosted its annual Wildcat Invitation- al on Saturday and finished third while Oshkosh North/Lourdes was fourth out of eight teams.

Neenah won with 620 points while Bay Port was second (519). West finished with 203 points with North/Lourdes behind them at 200.

The Wildcats performed well in the diving competition as Tiernan Deppe finished third with a score of 291.45 while Carter Roloff was fourth with a 274-40.

Leading the way for the Spartans was Chase Pecore, who had two second place finishes. He was second in the 500 free (5:14.24) while finishing runner up in the 200 free (1:57.17). Owen Konop added a third place finish in the 50 free with a time of 24.68.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Knights fall to Oaks for first loss 63-53

The Lourdes boys basketball team lost its first game of the season Thursday, losing 63-53 to Oakfield in a Travailas Conference game.

Malith Liabwell led the Knights with 18 points, while Dominic Kane and Jack Seibold each added 14 points.

Princeton/Green Lake pulls away from Warriors

The Valley Christian boys basketball team was downed by Princeton/Green Lake on Friday night, falling 70-47 on the road.

Isaiah Humiston led the Warriors with 15 points while grabbing seven rebounds. Alexandros Giannopoulos added 11 points and eight rebounds.

Lake on Friday night, falling 70-47 on the road. Jaiush Humiston led the Warriors with 15 points while grabbing seven rebounds. Alexandros Giannopoulos added 11 points and eight rebounds.

Compiled by Alex Wolf, Herald contributor
Herd splits pair of road games with Grand Rapids

Oshkosh Herald

The Wisconsin Herd split a back-to-back series Friday and Saturday on the road against the Grand Rapids Gold with two close G League contests.

The Herd won Friday night 131-127 after Grand Rapids led the majority of the game by as much as 17 points with only one lead change until the fourth quarter. In the last four minutes there were six lead changes until Tremont Waters and Lindell Wigginton made two free throws each to seal the win for the Herd.

Waters set a team and career high earning 31 points, with Wigginton adding 27 points and Wenyen Gabriel scoring 26 along with a team-high 16 rebounds. The Herd’s 131 points was a season high.


The Herd plays next at home Sunday against the Cleveland Charge with a noon tip-off.

Winter program signups underway

The Oshkosh Recreation Department has opened registration for its Winter 2021-2022 season with activities and programs for people of all ages.

Online registration is at www.oshkoshrecep.com and clicking Register Online. Activity guides and program activities are also available by calling 920-424-0150 or stopping at the ORD Office at 425 Divi-

Circulation Audit Report

Based on our 2021 CVC Audit: 75% or more of Herald Readers FREQUENTLY purchase products & services from ads in the Oshkosh Herald

After seeing the ad in the Herald: 59.92% (17,283) Visit the Advertisers Website 51.91% (14,973) Visit Actual Location

32.44% (9,357) Visit the Advertisers Facebook Page

Photo by Andy Ratchman

Madrigal dinner

The Renaissance returned to Lourdes Academy as the school’s Madrigal Dinner resumed after last year’s absence. The musical group, guided by director Julie Ringlien, performed Friday and Saturday evening. They will also perform at various events through the holiday season.

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UW Oshkosh athletes honored

Postseason honors for University of Wisconsin Oshkosh athletes were announced recently.

Junior defender Mackenzie Bennett, freshman midfielder Molly Jackson and senior forward Mallory Knight were named to the 2021 United Soccer Coaches National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III All Region IX Women’s Soccer Team.

Bennett was voted by region coaches to the first team, Jackson to the second and Knight to the third. It was the first all-region award for all three players.

A total of 12 players were chosen to both the first and second all-region squads and 14 to the third. Players from schools affiliated with the American Rivers Conference, Midwest Conference, Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference were eligible to receive All Region IX mention.

In a separate recognition, UW Oshkosh senior Hannah Lohrenz was chosen as the 2021 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Women’s Cross Country Athlete of the Year by the league’s eight head coaches.

Lohrenz competed in six races for the Titans this fall and closed an outstanding season with an All-America performance at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Championship. She finished 31st among 293 runners at the meet with a personal best 6,000-meter time of 21:41.6.

Snowplows need room on the roads

Snowplow drivers throughout Wisconsin work long hours to clear nearly 115,000 miles of roads. The State Patrol’s December Law of the Month reminds drivers of the importance of giving snowplows the space they need to get the job done.

There were almost 3,400 crashes involving snowplows in the past 10 years. Four people died and 533 were hurt in those incidents, many which could have been prevented with careful driving.

Many crashes between snowplows and other vehicles happen when a plow is rear-ended, often by a driver traveling too fast for conditions.

State law requires drivers to stay at least 200 feet behind a plow clearing ice or snow, or laying salt or sand on a highway with a speed limit more than 35 miles per hour. Drivers should stay at least 75 feet back from a plow on a road with a slower speed limit.

Titan men pick up win over Eagles

The No. 10 UW Oshkosh men’s basketball team picked up a big 56-53 win over UW-La Crosse on Saturday on the road. The Titans (8-1, 2-0 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) knocked down a pair of free throws from Cole Booth and Jonah Rindfleisch in the final seven seconds to secure the win.

Levi Borchert led a balanced UWO attack with 15 points, seven rebounds while Eric Peterson had 13 points and seven rebounds and Quinn Steckhauser chipped in 10 points.

The Titans struggled from the field, shooting 31 percent while going 6-for-28 (21 percent) from deep.

Women prevail over La Crosse

The UW Oshkosh women’s basketball team held on to secure a 55-49 win over UW-La Crosse on Saturday at home. UW-La Crosse pulled within three points with 1:23 left to play, but Ava Douglas went 3-for-4 from the free throw line to help keep the Titans’ (7-2, 1-1 WIAC) lead.

Douglas led UWO with 13 points while Nikki Arnesson and Leah Porath added 12 points each.
Wildcats open wrestling season with convincing victory over North

By Dustin Rease
Herald contributor

The 2021-22 wrestling season kicked off Thursday and there was no better way to start the season than with a crosstown battle between Oshkosh North and Oshkosh West.

Led by new head coach Matt Cuadra, the Wildcats wasted no time proving that they could be one of the best teams in the Fox Valley Association this season – taking 10 of their 14 matches en route to a 59-24 win.

“It was a great way to start this off as a first-year head coach and as a team,” Cuadra said. “I couldn’t be prouder of the team’s effort and how they went out there and expected to win. Not everything went the way we wanted it to, but everyone battled to the end of the match. As a coach, one of the only things you cannot teach an athlete is how to give everything you got. After tonight, I know this isn’t something I have to worry about.”

Despite the loss, there is a lot to look forward to when it comes to the Spartans this season as they should have plenty of wrestlers capable of making things happen.

“The kids’ effort was good,” North coach Val Zemke said. “We just need more mat time. Every wrestler that took the mat to the pin was followed by a trio of pins by Max Bunk with two seconds remaining in the second period. Alex Barrera followed that up at 106 pounds pinning Joshua Booth at the 4:33 mark and just like that, things were tied up 12-12. From that point it was all Wildcats as they went on a long run to seize control of the match.

That run started at 113 pounds when Edison Schroeder needed just 1:45 to take down Phillip Thao and gave the Wildcats the lead for good 18-12. Following a forfeit at 120 pounds, the lone match that didn’t result in a pinfall took place at 126 pounds. This pairing saw Ryland Schneder pick up a 17-2 technical Fall victory over Caleb McKey to push the lead to 29-12 at that point.

“I loved how the kids responded, but there were too many pins overall tonight,” Zemke said. “The kids just need more time to come into their own and figure out who they want to be on the mat.”

Jasiah Williams was locked in a battle with Jonathan Bunk at 132 pounds, but managed to emerge victorious, pinning Bunk with two seconds remaining in the second period to add six more points. That pin was followed by a trio of pins by Max Carlin (138), Lukas Schroeder (145), and Clayton Eckstein (152) as the Wildcats were in complete control 53-12.

“Some of the matches that stood out to me were all the matches we sent our freshmen out at,” Cuadra said. “It’s not easy to be a freshman in your first match, first dual, first road match, first varsity match and compose yourself like they did. They trusted what they have been working on and it showed last night that they are doing the right things.

“Other matches that stood out were when our team was getting us extra team points. All year we have been talking about how we need to score more team points when we can, and they definitely took advantage of getting those points.”

With the Wildcats already clinching the match at this point, the Spartans did not back down. At 160 pounds, Hunter Gruse took to the mat against Zach Bars and was not about to lie down – securing a pin at the 1:38 mark, giving the Spartans their first points after West went on a 4-0 run.

One match later at 170 pounds, Drew McKay went at it with Eli Strasser and the result worked in his favor. After they went toe-to-toe in the first period, McKay was able to capitalize on an early mistake by Strasser in the second period that resulted in a pinfall 24 seconds into that period to give the Spartans their final points of the night making things 53-24.

Jaiden Fronczak capped off the great night for the Wildcats by pinning Nick Lemmons at the 48-second mark in the first to secure the win at 182 pounds.

EAA members top 250,000

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), the aviation organization that began in 1953 as a group of individuals dedicated to grassroots aviation, has surpassed 250,000 members for the first time, which the organization said marks 25 percent growth in the last five years.

“EAA’s founder Paul Poberezny created a culture nearly 70 years ago where anyone who wished to enjoy the freedom of flight was welcome to participate, and our mission of growing participation in aviation has thrived under that vision,” said Jack J. Pelton, EAA chairman. “The dedication of EAA’s members, chapters, and staff have made it possible to grow the organization to new levels.”

Pelton said EAA continues to grow its offerings to its core of builders, restorers and pilots while exploring regulatory matters and getting more young people engaged in aviation. EAA’s chapter network has also received increased support and resources as the home of grassroots aviation in hundreds of communities.

“General aviation has grown increasingly complex over the past 70 years, but EAA’s goal has been to find ways to break down the hurdles in as many places possible to nurture that dream that has always been a part of human imagination – the desire to fly,” Pelton said.

New work featured at Band-O-Rama

The Oshkosh Area School District is presenting its first Band-O-Rama event at 6 p.m. Saturday with all band students from the five middle schools and two high schools performing in the North High School Field house.

Composer Randal Standridge has been commissioned to write a new piece of music for this event, which will be the premiere of this music. The piece is written to have beginner band students play along with experienced and students. Through grant support and from organizations like the Oshkosh Community Education Foundation and Heid Music, Standridge is meeting with every band virtually to work with students on his piece.

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By Dustin Riese
Herald contributor

Heredia carrying out dream as dual sport collegiate star

The hard work and dedication that comes with playing a sport can take a lot out of a person. Competing in multiple sports magnifies that hard work.

Edgar Heredia had the opportunity to grow up in an environment where sports mattered and was a part of everyday life. With a group of competitive siblings and a father pushing them to be their best, it was the best possible situation for a sports-loving individual.

"With everything in my life, my father Jose was always the one pushing my siblings and I to be the best," Heredia said. "Since we were kids, we watched my dad play soccer, which is why we fell in love with it. Sports have been around all my life and I'm hoping they can be around for many more years to come."

Soccer was always going to be Heredia's first love but there were other sports that brought out the best in him, including wrestling and basketball.

"Growing up, I also played basketball, first time in fifth grade in a YMCA league in which I enjoyed it, but I did not perform like the rest of my peers," he said. "I continued playing organized basketball up until eighth grade. I've improved a lot throughout the years and can play pickup games without being picked last."

The older Heredia got, the better he became as he had hard work started to pay off when he got to high school. During his days at Oshkosh West, Heredia was a significant piece for the soccer program. His 44-goal junior season was a breakout year and helped the Wildcats bring home a conference title. He was a two-time all-Fox Valley Association player, four-time team MVP and a two-time Fox Valley Association Player of the Year.

In wrestling, he qualified for the WIAA State Tournament three times. The success he held at West is rare and former head coach Matt Callahan has a great deal of respect and appreciation for everything Heredia has meant to the program and the community.

"Edgar is one of the best soccer players in the history of the Oshkosh West soccer program," Callahan said. "Edgar is one of the few athletes we have had that has played varsity all four years. Throughout his time at West Edgar was always positive and was a great role model."

Sometimes high school success doesn't translate at the next level, but the sophomore is excelling in multiple sports at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside -- as he just wrapped up a spectacular soccer season.

"The Rangers soccer team is coming of a 15-4-1 season, including 10-3-1 in conference while advancing to the NCAA Div. 2 tournament where they fell to Fort Hays St. 2-1. He has netted nine goals and two assists.

With soccer ending, the hard work doesn't stop as Heredia is again participating on the mat this winter where he will wrestle at 174 pounds. Unlike high school where you knew exactly how much time you had between sports, Heredia is finding out what it is like to play two sports at the collegiate level.

"In high school, each sport was easy to transfer from since most sports didn't overlap into another," he said. "Compared to college, I miss about 1.5 months of wrestling competition due to soccer, but I continue to attend wrestling practice when I have time so that I'm not too far behind when I start practicing full time."

"Another thing that I can compare is school. During college it is hard to find a time to relax with sports and schoolwork. School is tough as it is but when you're going for your major, teaching, you make use your time wisely and help you become skilled in time management. Definitely a lot more difficult at Parkside than high school."

Last year, Heredia finished with a 5-11 wrestling record. Heredia has already made plenty of memories in college. He is convinced he made the right college decision.

"During my time here at Parkside I have met so many new friends that has been the reason I enjoy Parkside so much," Heredia said. "After that, my favorite memory was scoring a hat trick in the 2020 soccer season against Upper Iowa. Not only did I score three goals, but it was also on my birthday with my whole family there which made it much more significant and memorable."

"As for wrestling, my favorite memory would be hanging out with the guys for an evening or playing Mafia until we are all out of control. A bunch of cool men that will always be there for each other no matter what.“
North swimmer takes on new challenge as diver

By Tim Froberg
Herald contributor

Diving is all about taking a plunge. Trey Pecore is fine with that, even though he’s springing off a diving board overlooking uncharted waters.

Pecore isn’t playing it safe his senior year. He’s a key returning athlete for the Oshkosh North/Lourdes Academy swimming and diving team as a fourth-year member who has been highly successful in swimming events like the 200 intermediate, 500 freestyle and sprint relays.

However, Pecore has chosen to bypass them this winter. Instead of leaning on his swimming experience and expertise, he’s boldly taking on a new challenge as a diver, despite limited experience.

“I just wanted to try something new,” Pecore said. “I’ve been swimming for quite a while now and I just wasn’t enjoying it as much as I could. So, I figured, why not try something else and see if I enjoy it? It’s a lot more thrill in jumping off that diving board.”

Despite limited experience, he’s highly productive swimmers and the Pecore triplets have been the backbone of the team the past three years.

“My brothers were a little hesitant for me to do it (switch to diving),” Trey said.

“We like to race and compete against each other. And I feel like I might be letting the team down by not competing in events where I’d probably get points. But you know what? At the end of the day, I think everyone is OK with it as long as I try my best.”

North/Lourdes diving coach Max Zellmer won’t be surprised if Pecore emerges as a skilled diver.

“Trey has been working very hard and brings a great attitude to the pool each day,” Zellmer said. “We’re all looking forward to his success on the diving board – just like he’s had in the pool in the past.”

Senior Spotlight

400 free relay team and an eighth-place 200 free relay. He received second-team all-conference honors in the 200 IM and honorable mention in the 500 free and 400 free relay.

Yet, he didn’t want to just go through the motions this season. So, he’s walked away from those familiar events and embraced something new.

“I figure, I’m still young – it’s my senior year so why not?”, he said.

The North/Lourdes swimming team still figures to get plenty of Pecore points. Trey’s brothers, Chase and Pierce, are highly productive swimmers and the Pecore triplets have been the backbone of the team the past three years.

“Trey has been working very hard and brings a great attitude to the pool each day,” Zellmer said. “We’re all looking forward to his success on the diving board – just like he’s had in the pool in the past.”

Trey Pecore is expanding his water sports talent into diving this season for the Oshkosh North/Lourdes team.

Trey is technically the youngest of the Pecore triplets. He was born roughly two minutes after Pierce and after Chase. The triplets have been swimming together since elementary school on the YMCA OSHY swim team and have comprised various North/Lourdes relay teams the past three years.

“It’s been a nice ride,” Trey said. “I’ve always had someone to work against and a reason to get better. We’ve always been competitive in whatever we do, but that’s what has made it fun. You see not only yourself grow up, but your brothers as well.”

Trey, Pierce and Chase are multisport athletes. All three run cross-country and track and field at Oshkosh North. In the latter sport, Trey and Chase compete in the 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs, while Pierce focuses on the 3,200.

“I love to run and it definitely keeps me busy during the school year,” Trey said.

Trey, an honors student at Oshkosh North, will attend the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh next fall and plans to run track and field at Oshkosh North in the future.

“Right now, I’m learning the six different dives. We’ll see how it goes. ”

Submitted photo

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U.S. military orders more JLTVs, trailers

The U.S. Army Contracting Command has awarded Oshkosh Defense a $591.6 million order for an additional 1,669 Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTVs), 868 companion trailers, and associated packed and installed kits.

Since winning the contract in 2015, Oshkosh Defense has built more than 14,000 JLTVs.

The order includes JLTVs for the U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy. As part of the order, 125 vehicles will also be delivered to NATO and allied partners, including Brazil, Lithuania, Montenegro and Slovenia.

“Our team takes great pride in designing and building a versatile platform that can survive the extreme demands of future combat,” said George Mansfield, vice president and general manager of Joint Programs for Oshkosh Defense.

The company noted that international momentum surrounding the JLTV continues to grow as customers seek a tactical vehicle with lethal capabilities, fleet commonality and design flexibility.

“Integrated lethality on an agile and protected vehicle like the Oshkosh JLTV is quickly filling capability gaps that exist in many international militaries,” said John Lazar, vice president and general manager of International Programs for Oshkosh Defense.

Oshkosh Herald

Police department gains accreditation

The Oshkosh Police Department recently announced its continued accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) as the only law enforcement agency in the state to be nationally recognized by the organization.

CALEA was organized to develop standards on public safety best practices, and the accreditation process includes how law enforcement agencies voluntarily demonstrate how they meet criteria for excellence in management and service delivery. Oshkosh’s department was first accredited by CALEA in 1994.

In 1979, the commission was created through the combined efforts of four major law enforcement organizations: the International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, National Sheriffs’ Association and the Police Executive Research Forum,” a press release states. Some benefits of participation in CALEA accreditation are increased community advocacy, staunch support from government officials, stronger defense against civil lawsuits, reduced risk and liability exposure, and greater accountability with the agency.

“We want to thank all of our community members that participated in our CALEA accreditation process. We appreciate all of your continued support for our agency,” the release concludes.

Correction

DEC. 1, PAGE 3: In a story about a Nov. 29 motions hearing for the defendant in the November 2019 stabbing incident at West High School, the change-of-venue motion was not ruled on but will be taken up in a Dec. 16 hearing in Winnebago County Circuit Court.

Verve surprises club youth with supply bins

More than 250 Verve, a Credit Union team members at their 21 locations in eastern and western Wisconsin and the Chicago region assembled 38 bins of supplies for children at Boys & Girls Clubs.

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Gerald E. Steinhilber
Gerald E. Steinhilber died peacefully at Aurora Hospital in Oshkosh on Friday, November 12th. Jerry was born November 9th to Edward and Leah (Fischer) Steinhilber. He worked 42 years at the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern as a pressman. He served his country in the Army in Germany during the Berlin Wall Crisis. His hobbies were golfing and watching sports. He leaves behind his wife of 60 years, Nancy Jean Anderson (Bertz) passed away suddenly at home on December 26th, 1967 in Oshkosh, WI.

Northwestern as a pressman. He served his country in the Army in Germany during the Berlin Wall Crisis. His hobbies were golfing and watching sports. He leaves behind his wife of 60 years, Nancy Jean Anderson (Bertz) passed away suddenly at home on December 26th, 1967 in Oshkosh, WI.

Don is survived by children, Diana (Tom) Schultz, Appleton; Larry (Karen) Williams, Oshkosh; Bruce (Carol) Williams, Oshkosh; Karen Sue Williams, Livingston TX; John (Deb) Williams, Hartford; daughter-in-law, Chris Williams, Oshkosh; 18 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, other relatives and dear friends.

Don was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Betty Lou; son, Gary G. Williams; parents George and Adeline Williams, a sister Jean Schlaeger; mother and father-in-law, Donald and Leona Laudenklos; sister-in-law, Delores Brunover; and brothers-in-law, Donald A. Laudenklos and Gerald Laudenklos.

A visitation will be held at Seefeld Funeral Home, 1025 Oregon Street, Oshkosh on Friday December 10, 2021 from 10am to 12pm with service to follow.

Don will be laid to rest at Greenlawn Memorial Park in Neenah.

The family would like to extend special thanks to the wonderful staff at Theda Care at Home Hospice for the excellent care and compassion shown to Don.

Evelyn M. Draeger, 90, Kokomo, passed away at 8:39 pm on Thursday, November 25, 2021, at Waterford Health Campus. She was born in Oshkosh, WI on July 3, 1931. She was the daughter of the late Arnold and Irene (Springboro) Draeger.

Evelyn was a 1949 graduate of Oshkosh High School. She received her bachelor's degree in teaching from Oshkosh State Normal School and her master’s in counseling at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She taught English and Drama in Oshkosh Schools for 35 years. After moving to Kokomo, she became a member of Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer. Evelyn loved to read, and she enjoyed playing tennis and golf.

Evelyn is survived by her brother, Arden (Jan) Draeger; Winifred Baxter; nieces, Nancy and Jerry Warren, and Cortney (Jason) Murphy; and 8 great-nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, and niece, Karen Draeger.

A private family memorial service will be held. Shirley & Stout Funeral Homes & Crematory has been entrusted with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Evelyn’s memory to Habitat for Humanity or the Kokomo Humane Society. Messages of condolence may be left online at www.shirleyandstout.com.