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Smaller housing project advances

Oshkosh Herald

The city's Plan Commission voted to recommend a zone change of a 5.5-acre lot east of Farmington Avenue for the development of a small community subdivision of affordable single-family homes.

At the site, city documentation states it is marked for general commercial use. And according to the applicant, Mitch Nordahl of the Wildflower Development Group, the project will be higher-density, single-family subdivisions with smaller lots "not typically found in new residential subdivisions."

A neighborhood meeting regarding the possible development was held Dec. 16, and Nordahl reported residents were supportive of the proposal and were "relieved the proposal was not a more intensive use."

Commissioners Justin Mitchell and Kathy Propp both commended city staff and the developer for bringing the project forward, as the demand for single-family development in that area has risen. The group voted unanimously for the zone change to move forward to the Common Council.



Photo by Michael Cooney

The view from Andy Gratton's iceboat, which he estimates is 90 years old, is behind Michael Kroll's class D stern steerer on Lake Winnebago.

Iceboat tradition back in action

Oshkosh Herald

Andy Gratton and Michael Kroll were the first in the Oshkosh area to iceboat this year off south shore, launching from the Fugleberg Park landing recently.

Both live nearby in Oshkosh so when any equipment breaks or needs replacement, it is a quick trip home for the needed parts.

Kroll's boat is smaller and has two cockpits, which can limit mobility and probably a rougher ride than Gratton's boat, which is wider and has two trampoline spaces for riding.

Photographer Michael Cooney said he was able to freely move about to shoot forward and backward. He encouraged the two to engage in some close maneuvering that he described as "almost dance like."

Gratton, who started iceboating about 43 years ago, uses a 26-foot class C stern steerer, sloop-rigged with original cotton sails.

"My boat needs new paint, so the nameboards are off it," he said. "It is called Wisconsin and is probably about 90 years old. Nobody knows for certain who built it or when."



Photo by Michael Cooney

Andy Gratton's class C stern steerer (left) and Michael Kroll's class D stern steerer take to the lake.

"The ice right now is rough in the snow, great to sail on the black ice. The snow is stiff and tough to go through. If we have a day of melt or rain, everything will change and likely smooth out. Most of the racing iceboats won't even consider sailing in these conditions. It's a very weather dependent sport."

Gratton and Kroll hope the ice boating community can find a suitable square mile of ice and good access for a weekend regat-

SEE **Ice boating** ON PAGE 3

Transition to America underway

Afghan refugees prepare for new lives

By Kaitlyn Scoville
OSHKOSH HERALD

After the downfall of Kabul in August, thousands of Afghanistan refugees made their way to eight military camps across the U.S. – including Wisconsin's Fort McCoy – to be resettled into new communities.

Once they finish intake processes over the coming weeks many of them will begin integrating into communities such as Oshkosh and Appleton. World Relief Fox Valley is a main connection with Fort McCoy and proposed that 100 of the emigrees settle in this area between September and March among an estimated 400 statewide.

World Relief Fox Valley director Tami McLaughlin didn't think her chapter would be of much help as there are larger Afghan populations elsewhere, such as Washington, California and Texas.

But now they're taking in double what they had expected.

Since 2012, World Relief Fox Valley has helped more than 1,000 refugees from several countries get settled with the aid of strong relationships with organizations throughout the region. The group's efforts include an intense 90-day resettlement plan to get refugees in living arrangements and job opportunities.

"We started contacting our established Afghan community members and did what we could," McLaughlin said. "But then as a country we realized the magnitude of the evacuation and the number of people who were (coming)."

"The Refugee Resettlement Contract with the Department of State reached out to resettlement agencies and asked if all of us could participate in welcoming and resettling some of the Afghan refugees."

SEE **Afghan refugees** ON PAGE 9

Disputes find results outside courtroom

Conflict resolution seeks better outcomes

By Cheryl Hentz
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Millions of lawsuits are filed against people and companies every year, but in Winnebago County there's a way to settle lawsuits – and other disputes – instead of going to court, and often before they get filed with the court.

Since 1990, the Winnebago Conflict Resolution Center (WCRC) has been giving people an opportunity to settle their disputes privately, using professional mediation instead of going before a judge or jury.

WCRC was started by a group of local people from the legal, business and church communities – known as the Oshkosh Peace Project (not to be confused



Rust

with the Oshkosh Civility Project) – who strived to find ways to create and promote more peace within the community. Eventually, they thought it might be good to stretch those efforts to the court system and make it countywide.

They received professional mediation training at one of the longest-standing

conflict resolution centers in the country from Dick Blackburn, "a legend in the mediation world" according to Michael Rust, JD and the executive director of WCRC for the last nine years.

Because of the Oshkosh Peace Project's efforts, Winnebago County was at the forefront of this mediation process and today remains one of the few counties in Wisconsin to have a professional mediation process for dispute resolution.

The process works like this: If you have sued someone or are being sued, you and the opposing party will be required to listen to a mediation orientation. After that,

SEE **Conflict resolution** ON PAGE 21

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Photo by Michael Cooney

Roe Park rink season

The Roe Park Ice Rink at 408 Washington Ave. will be open from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily as weather conditions permit. Special events are planned for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights from 4 to 7 p.m. Dr. Eric's Skate Club will provide free skate rentals depending on availability of volunteers who can sign up at tinyurl.com/bdfwmnh. The city asks that people stay off the rink when the posted signs say closed because skating on poor ice creates more work to smooth it out and keep the rink open.

Top air show performers commit to AirVenture

Some of the world's top air show performers have committed to fly at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2022 as part of the afternoon and night air show lineups.

Aerobatic champions and Oshkosh favorites for the 69th Experimental Aircraft Association fly-in convention, set for July 25-31 at Wittman Regional Airport, are among nine air shows over seven days.

"This is already an outstanding all-star air show lineup and we're just getting started," said Rick Larsen, EAA's vice president of communities and member programs. "There are returning performers, new air show acts, and particular aircraft connected with specific events and anniversaries."

Among the returning performers and aircraft:

- AeroShell Aerobatic Team (T-6)
- Chuck Aaron (helicopter aerobatics)
- Eric Edgren (T-Clips)

- Kyle Fowler (Rutan Long-EZ)
 - Kyle Franklin Comedy Act (Piper Super Cub)
 - Mike Goulian (Extra 330C)
 - Nathan Hammond (Super Chipmunk)
 - David Martin (Beechcraft Baron)
 - Patriot Parachute Team
 - Jim Peitz (Beechcraft 33C Bonanza)
 - RAD Aerosports Jet Waco w/ Dell Coller
 - Red Bull Air Force (Kirby Chambliss, Aaron Fitzgerald, Kevin Coleman, and more)
 - Red Line Air Shows (RV-8 and Extra)
 - Bill Stein (Zivko Edge 540)
 - Skip Stewart (Pitts S2S Prometheus)
 - Trojan Phlyers (T-28s)
 - Patty Wagstaff (Extra 300S)
 - Matt Younkin (Twin Beech)
- Other participants will be announced at later dates.

ThedaCare staffing loss goes to court

Oshkosh Herald

ThedaCare health system needs to replace a majority of its 11-person interventional radiology and cardiovascular team in Neenah who have accepted positions with Ascension Wisconsin, which led ThedaCare to seek a temporary restraining order that was ended Monday in Outagamie County court.

ThedaCare gained a temporary injunction last week against Ascension to provide time to replace seven nurses and technicians who provide Level II Trauma and Comprehensive Stroke care at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center.

"We understand and respect that people have choices in the current highly competitive job market," said Dr. Imran Andrabi, ThedaCare president. "The decision by Ascension Wisconsin to hire away such a significant portion of ThedaCare's interventional radiology specialty support team all at once, and at the height of a pandemic surge, will disrupt access to critical care for the people in our region."

Ascension spokesperson Kathleen Crean said in a statement last week that Ascension Wisconsin did not initiate the recruitment of the employees as claimed in the injunction and declined further comment on the court action.

"To the extent such individuals met the job qualifications, Ascension Wisconsin made offers of employment to the individuals who applied as a part of Ascension Wisconsin's routine process of hiring qualified associates at a fair and just wage," Crean stated. "It is Ascension Wisconsin's understanding that ThedaCare had an opportunity but declined to make competitive counter offers to retain its former employees."

Andrabi said Ascension was unwilling to further delay the turnover of staff who they recruited with employment offers. He said the action puts at risk patients and potentially forces the diversion of trauma victims from a 17-plus county area to Madison, Milwaukee or Green Bay.

Candidate forums seek questions

The League of Women Voters of Winnebago County will be holding candidate forums Monday ahead of the Feb. 15 primary to introduce voters to the candidates.

The public is encouraged to submit questions by this Friday to wclwvinfo@gmail.com or calling Margy Davey at 920-216-2322. Name the candidate seat that the question is directed toward in the subject line of the email.

School and county board forums will be shown live beginning at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 31 on OshMedia Channel 10.

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Submitted photo

Warm wishes

Covey, a nonprofit that creates opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, recently made and delivered fleece tie blankets for the Day By Day Warming Shelter. Covey board member Cheryl Sina is shown holding a blanket with Curtis Wesner. "People underestimate and don't understand the value our clients bring to our community," Covey CEO Pam Schutz said. "By working together, this project brings awareness to two groups of marginalized citizens."

Altrusa International of Oshkosh offers five scholarships

Altrusa International of Oshkosh, part of the volunteer community since 1949 with literacy as its focus, is awarding five scholarships totaling \$7,500 this spring to individuals pursuing a degree or advanced training.

Applicants must be a resident of the Altrusa Foundation service area and have ei-

ther high school senior status or be an undergraduate or graduate student planning to attend a university or technical college. Service areas include Oshkosh, Neenah, Menasha, Omro and Winneconne.

Application forms can be found at districtseven.altrusa.org and must be completed and postmarked by April 15.

Railroad adds Wisconsin lines

By Randall Davidson
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The federal Surface Transportation Board has authorized the transfer of more than 600 miles of railroad routes in Wisconsin and Michigan from Canadian National to Watco, a holding company that operates more than 40 regional and shortline railroads nationwide.

Watco operates the Wisconsin and Southern Railroad, which serves the industrial park on Oshkosh's southwest side. Watco also owns the transload terminal there, allowing area businesses to ship by rail.

The Wisconsin lines being transferred to Watco were part of the regional Wisconsin Central Limited, which began service in 1987 on former Soo Line and Milwaukee Road lines. In 1993, it added some lines originally owned by the Chicago and Northwestern and the Green Bay and Western. In 2001, WCL was purchased by Canadian National and is operated as a subsidiary.

The lines in Wisconsin will be operated by a new Watco railroad, the Fox Valley and Lake Superior. Once in operation, the railroad plans to immediately transfer operations on three

segments to Wisconsin and Southern. The segments are Fond du Lac to Eden (7.34 miles), Granville to West Bend (14.92 miles) and North Milwaukee to Saukville (19.62 miles).

Among the segments going to the new Fox Valley and Lake Superior in northeastern Wisconsin are three lines radiating from Appleton: one to Black Creek and Shawano, one to New London and Manawa and one via the Appleton industrial "flats" to Kaukauna. The new railroad will take over operation of the rail yard in Appleton and will also service two branch lines out of Green Bay.

Some of the transferred lines in far northern Wisconsin have not seen regular train service for several years. Watco officials say they are working to identify local shippers who would ship by rail before performing the necessary work to restore service on these lines.

The transfer was initially delayed after some shipper groups raised concerns about rates and reliability of service as well as the lack of rail competition, particularly in northern Wisconsin.

The new operations are scheduled to get underway this year.

Ice boating

FROM PAGE 1

ta that could attract a dozen similar boats.

Kroll, who was riding a "Slick Trick" class D stern steerer built in the 1990s, said he picked up his first iceboat in 2014 from a family friend "and it snowballed from there." He now has five boats of various types, including three stern steerers

and two bow-steering models.

"This seems to be a typical year searching for suitable ice to sail on. Needing snow-free ice is pretty important, especially for smaller boats," he said. "The snow we have now is about the maximum we can get through when it turns hard, with our larger stern steerers. They typically can go through the snow because we have more power with the larger sails."

Oshkosh Jazz Festival starting to take shape

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

It's still months away, but that doesn't mean the team planning the second annual Oshkosh Jazz Festival isn't busy.

With an Aug. 27 date set and emcee John O'Hurley in place for this year's event, next up is putting together a lineup of performers and making sure the festival proves to be another successful showcase.

"We are in negotiations with a couple of people who are going to be real exciting, no matter which way we go," said festival president Erin Boehme. "Because of COVID, things are moving back and forth and we are sort of looking to see how people are feeling about booking things this far out. For the most part, we are trekking along."



O'Hurley

Boehme said that last year's emcee Joe Piscopo was booked in the same timeframe as the headline acts. That was not the case with O'Hurley.

The well-known actor, who may be most recognized for portraying J Peterman on "Seinfeld," was someone Boehme thought about serving as host shortly after last year's event and didn't waste any time getting him on board.

"We are so excited to have John a part of this year's event," Boehme said. "I talked to him about the first one last year and how much fun everybody who came had and he was just gung-ho about doing it. He is excited to come and see what Oshkosh is all about."



Photo by Michael Cooney

Erin Boehme is seen at last summer's Oshkosh Jazz Festival that she helped organize and is already working on this year's edition.

Boehme said that the emcee plays a key role in the event and not just in their responsibilities with performances.

Having a well-known figure as part of the festival will draw people in and can open the door to a musical experience that they might not otherwise have had.

"People who hear Oshkosh Jazz Festival and think, 'Well, that's not my thing,' that's why we bring in people like Piscopo or John O'Hurley," Boehme said. "They are a fun, friendly, familiar thing to look forward to and then they hear the music that is so great and so accessible. So even

though they might not have come originally for the music, they hear it and think this is really great music and these are really talented people."

Boehme said the setup for this year's event will be similar with two different performance areas near the Opera House Square downtown. Performances at the free event are expected to start after the weekly farmers market.

But there will be differences for this year's event.

"We heard from our attendees on our different forums and some of the concerns they had and addressing those concerns are first and foremost," Boehme said. "This is a free and family event so it's in our best interest and our highest desire to make our guests comfortable and give them an atmosphere they are able to have fun in. So, we will be doing some different things to improve their experience this year."

Boehme emphasizes that as great as the music is, the Oshkosh Jazz Festival is about more than notes or songs being played.

"Yes, it's great music, it's great entertainment but it's about bringing our community together. I think coming out of last year, that's what really resonated with people," Boehme said. "It was a beautiful coming together of the community. People had fun, our artists had fun. Our downtown businesses, which we are really going to put a lot of emphasis on this year, did well."

"My dream for the Oshkosh Jazz Festival is for people to know this is a great thing to come to because it is family-friendly, it is fun, it is a memory maker, it is educational, we put money into downtown and we meet neighbors we might not have met."

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Photo by Sara Rahmer

The fishing pier on Lake Winnebago at Menominee Park was chosen for Discover Wisconsin's 2022 calendar.

Menominee Park pier gets calendar cover

Oshkosh Herald

A scenic photo of the fishing pier at Menominee Park graces the cover of Discover Wisconsin's 2022 wall calendar, and the Otter Street Fishing Club couldn't be more proud of drawing some statewide attention to it.

Professional photographer Sara Rahmer's photo was used for the calendar cover shot as well as the September art. She had entered the Discover Wisconsin contest previously but this August was informed her pier photo had been chosen but didn't know until later it had also received the grand prize to make the calendar cover.

"As you can imagine, I was quite happy and surprised to see that," Rahmer said.

Longtime club member and past president Scott Engel said he wasn't aware of the new calendar before city parks director Ray Maurer let him know and Engel

said he quickly bought up a dozen of them.

The Otter Street Fishing Club initiated the fishing pier project on the park's north side and raised the \$35,000 needed for the city to get it built in 2004. Engel said his group was able to get past some neighborhood concerns over potential traffic and DNR requirements to create a public pier for everyone.

Engel said the club was able to donate another \$25,000 in 2018 for needed repair updates. "It had some issues with some ice moving out there that we've addressed since then," he said.

The club supports water recreation projects through its tournaments and fundraisers, including donations made along with the Battle on Bago organization for the Bowen Street fishing dock's deck replacement in 2020 and the railroad bridge fishing pier.

Otter Street fisheree is back

Oshkosh Herald

The Otter Street Fishing Club's annual all-day Winter Fisheree is set for Feb. 5 on Millers Bay at Menominee Park with cash and other prizes drawn from those registering their catches, along with a hockey tournament, live music, concessions and raffles.

This being the 61-year-old club's major fundraiser that supports a variety of water recreation projects and operations, long-time club member and Jerry's Bar owner Scott Engel said they're proud to be able to put on a fun event and continue a long winter tradition.

"It's a cultural experience," Engel said of the ice fishing community and how it celebrates the cold of February with this tournament along with the upcoming Battle on Bago and sturgeon spearing season. "It's kind of how we're raised."

Otter Street Club donations have helped fund the construction and upkeep of local fishing piers and docks, along with a hovercraft for the Oshkosh Fire Department's ice rescue team, among its fundraising efforts.

The PreBattle Challenge requires fishing tickets purchased by midnight Feb. 4 for anglers to fish anywhere on the Winnebago system. Fish must be registered between



Submitted photo

The Pond Hockey Nationals tournament is one of the other events open to the public at Menominee Park during the Winter Fisheree.

10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. that Saturday. Tickets are \$10 each with cash payouts per category and can be purchased at Jerry's along with raffle tickets.

Other winter fisheree events include music by Grand Union, children's games, food, bar and the Pond Hockey Nationals tournament on eight rinks. Grand raffle prizes will be drawn at 5 p.m. and Pre-Battle fishing contest winners announced about 5:30 p.m.

Hockey team registration information and other fisheree details can be found on the Otter Street Fishing Club's Facebook page.

Social media documentary to be aired at schools

The Oshkosh Area School District will hold screenings Feb. 10 and 11 of the documentary "Like" to open up a dialogue among families, community leaders and experts about the balanced use of social media.

"Like" describes why social media is so irresistible, examines who is controlling whom, and offers tools to pivot to a more balanced and contented relationship. The film features Silicon Valley entrepreneurs, including the co-creator of the "Like" button, experts in brain science and regular teenagers. The film trailer can be viewed at www.thelikemovie.com.

The district's first screening will be at 6 p.m. Feb. 10 in the Webster Stanley auditorium. The second will take place at 6 p.m.

Feb. 11. in the Alberta Kimball Auditorium at Oshkosh West. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The content is geared toward middle and high school students, parents, caregivers, and community members.

Limited virtual access is available by contacting Jean Manecke, district SEL coordinator at 920-424-0170 ext. 4339 or jean.manecke@oshkosh.k12.wi.us.

Each screening will feature a viewing of the film, followed by an informative discussion centered around supporting the mental and emotional health of students.

The district will host screenings of "Angst," a similar film-based education program in April.



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Landmarks Commission highlights our living history

By Kristopher Ulrich
OSHKOSH LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Have you ever found yourself driving down the street suddenly thinking, “Wow, that’s a gorgeous building” and then start to ponder its history? Did you cry when they demolished Longfellow School to make way for a short-lived parking lot, or rejoice when they saved Smith School to convert into historic lofts?

Do you love going into Greene’s Pour House in the former Granary (Schmidt Milling) building and marveling at the exposed timbers and exquisite framework? If any of this strikes a chord in your soul, you might have a knack for historic preservation and promotion.

Welcome to a new column from the



Oshkosh Landmarks Commission, a monthly submission covering a wide range of topics from research techniques and local architectural styles to construction sustainability and historic tax credits for responsible home renovation.

The commission is a certified legal government, CLG, backed by the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation office. We were established in 1983 to foster the protection, enhancement and perpetuation of important historic structures and districts that reflect elements of the city’s cultural, social, economic, political

and architectural history. We endeavor to safeguard and foster civic pride in our historic and cultural heritage as embodied in our buildings and spaces.

In recent years, commissioners have been integral to, if not directly responsible for, a wide variety of projects. We helped create historic districts like the most recent North Main Street Bungalow District and the Washington Avenue Neoclassical District. We also created a robust historic plaque program to honor homes and buildings throughout the city whose owners seek to show their pride in the integrity of these spaces.

The work is rewarding, but not always successful. We couldn’t save the historic water tower, the Coles Bashford House,

and we might not be able to save Merrill School, one of the most outstanding pieces of art deco architecture in the city.

Landmarks commissioners have a wide range of expertise, and we all engage in continued education through the Wisconsin Historical Society. We are librarians, entrepreneurs, current and former Common Council members, real estate experts, and educators, all united by a passion for historic preservation.

This year we will be promoting the excellent historic preservation work being done throughout the city by homeowners, small business owners and city workers. The commission meets at City Hall every second Wednesday of the month and meetings are open to the public.

Michigan man sentenced in sex sting

Oshkosh Herald

A Michigan man was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for traveling to Oshkosh with the intent to have sex with a 15-year-old.

U.S. Attorney Richard G. Frohling of the Eastern District of Wisconsin said that on Jan. 18, Scott D. Sundberg, 42, of Ishpeming, Mich., was sentenced by Senior District Judge William C. Griesbach.

According to court filings, Sundberg began corresponding in August via a popular messaging platform with a 41-year-old woman in Oshkosh, who said she was the mother of a 15-year-old daughter.

During these conversations, Sundberg sent videos containing child pornography and stated his desire to have intercourse with the girl. On Aug. 13, Sundberg traveled from Ishpeming to Oshkosh to meet

the woman and child at a local motel. Sundberg, a retired firefighter, brought a fire helmet for the child to wear during the proposed sexual activity.

The “woman” was, in fact, an undercover law enforcement officer and Sundberg was arrested upon his arrival at the meeting point.

Griesbach noted the serious nature of the charge and the need for just punishment. After his release from prison, Sundberg will spend six years on supervised release and will be required to register as a sexual offender.

Sundberg’s indictment and subsequent conviction were part of Operation Kick Boxer, a collaborative effort involving the Milwaukee and Green Bay divisions of the FBI, the U.S. Attorney’s Office and Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office.

Police officers named

The Oshkosh Police Department recently hired a new community service officer, Taylor Schulze, who is from Van Dyne and a 2021 graduate from Oshkosh West High School. She is in the associates forensic program at Fox Valley Technical College.

Also hired this month was Damita Buss as a police officer. She is originally from Appleton and was in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years, completing a tour of duty in Bahrain. Buss has an associate degree in criminal justice from Fox Valley Technical College and graduated from FVTC’s Recruit Academy in October.



Submitted photo

The Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting for Celerity Staffing Solutions and its new offices on West 9th Avenue. Branch manager Wendy Wiedmeyer (left center) and branch manager Mataya Welak are shown holding the scissors next to co-owner Tyler Emerick, who are joined by chamber ambassadors, family and friends.

Staffing specialist has office ribbon-cutting

Celerity Staffing Solutions, a Wisconsin-based employment recruiter with seven locations, opened its Oshkosh branch at 2036 W. 9th Ave. in early August and had its ribbon-cutting ceremony last Tuesday.

Celerity's stated focus is manufacturing, skilled and clerical job placements. Wendy Wiedmeyer is the Oshkosh branch manager and Mataya Welak was named

account coordinator.

The office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and can be reached at 920-651-1230 and on Facebook.

The locally owned staffing agency was started 27 years ago and has other locations in Middleton, Sun Prairie, Watertown, Shawano, Beaver Dam and Janesville.

Main St. businesses move, update

Oshkosh Herald

Great Estates Fine Furniture, which moved from its Neenah location to 217 North Main St. in November, recently began sharing its 9,000-square-foot of space with Soiree Home Decor and Boutique Clothing by Urban Esque.

Soiree had been in the 500 block of North Main previously with its giftware boutique that also includes women's apparel, locally roasted coffee, plants, reclaimed and upcycled barn board items, and antiques. Boutique by Urban Esque, owned by Autumn Urban, features jeans, dresses, tanks, sweatshirts, mugs and jewelry.

Great Estates, which took over the long vacant Kline's building, features American-made sofas and chairs with antique and estate items mixed in. Temple's Tailor Made program allows customers to custom design their own furniture.

The store also carries hardwood furniture from Crescent, Lyndon and Elm Crest. Delivery is available to Oshkosh and throughout the Fox Valley.

Great Estates owner Mike Russell said he was looking for a larger retail space than he had in Neenah, as were his new neighboring owners Kia Simon and Urban.

Also along North Main, Divine Beauty LLC has a new storefront at 513 North Main St. After three years in business, they



Submitted photo

Great Estates shares its space in the former Kline's building with two other retailers on North Main Street.

are moving into the former Soiree space at 513 N. Main and opening Feb. 1.

The new location will feature lash artists, an aesthetician, a skin bard, brow artists, areola medical tattooing and offer private parking

"Without all of the support of our loving clients, family and friends – and of course all of my girls that work so hard at Divine – this wouldn't have been possible," owner Rebecca Dailey posted on the company's Facebook page. "So thank you to everyone for making our dreams possible."

Miravida Living names administrator at Eden Rehabilitation Suites, Green House Homes

Miravida Living has named Lauren Fetrow as the new administrator for Eden Rehabilitation Suites and Green House Homes.

Kelly Fitzpatrick, Fetrow's predecessor, moved into the role of administrator for

Bethel Home.

Fetrow is a health care management professional with 15 years of experience, including managing multidisciplinary medical operations and facilities while serving in the U.S. Air Force.

She has a bachelor's degree in clinical health sciences from George Washington University as well as a master's degree in health care management from Western Governors University in Salt Lake City.

Miravida Living has been serving Oshkosh since 1963.

Prepandemic census levels allowed for Miravida to employ 375 people while caring for a community of more than 700 residents.

Blue Door Consulting announces new hires

Blue Door Consulting, an Oshkosh-based marketing firm, has added two new team members – Chris Boudreaux, senior full stack developer, and Jack Buechel, marketing coordinator, to its marketing and programming teams.

Boudreaux has extensive experience using web development and programming within marketing. Buechel interned with Blue Door Consulting last summer and recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse with a degree in marketing and minor in graphic design.

The company added a content marketing consultant, Rebekah Bianco; an associate marketing consultant, Kari Sain; and a marketing coordinator, Madison Smith, to its consulting services team.



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Student coach helps even the playing field

By Natalie Johnson
UW OSHKOSH TODAY

A love of all things sporty inspired new University of Wisconsin Oshkosh physical education graduate Jordan Miller to help an eighth-grader with Down syndrome find success on the basketball court.

Miller jumped at the chance to provide support to 14-year-old Levi Kiefer, a member of the Carl Traeger Middle School basketball team.

The opportunity served as a required field experience for her Physical Education and Sports for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities class taught by Chris Stratton, a human kinetics and health education lecturer at UW Oshkosh.

"I am extremely passionate about the sport of basketball, and I knew that it would be an incredible experience to share my love of the game with a student and to make it more equitable for him," Miller said.

Levi's mom, Julie Kiefer, a UWO outreach program manager with Online and Continuing Education, is grateful for Miller's commitment to assisting her son at every practice and game from mid-October until the first week in December.

"It was very important to us that Levi participate just like every other student. We didn't want practice taking place on one side of the gym and Levi practicing with Jordan separately. That isn't inclusion. Jordan took an active role in coaching the whole team, so that Levi was not singled out," she said.

When practice drills got hard, Miller



UW Oshkosh photo

Jordan Miller helps coach the Traeger Middle School basketball team, including Levi Kiefer.

found alternatives for Levi.

"The goal was to get him to participate fully at practice, which he worked up to. Jordan was very intuitive in knowing when to assist Levi and when to step back and let his peers encourage him, which is a huge motivator for him," Kiefer explained.

At games, Miller advocated for Levi with the referees and opposing coaches.

"She asked the refs not to call him for double dribble or traveling, which he tends to do. He participated fully in games. Everyone got equal playing time, including Levi. He scored four times in games and the entire gym erupted in

cheers for him, including the opposing teams' players and fans," Kiefer said.

Miller took note of Levi's growth over the season.

"He went from sitting out for over three quarters of the practice and skipping drills to participating in 100 percent of the practice activities. He scored baskets in multiple games this season, and the entire crowd cheered each time. I don't know who was more excited ... me, Levi, his teammates or the crowd? The atmosphere was incredible," she said.

Miller said Levi taught her that progress is not always linear. Their relationship started off slowly. They moved forward and then hit some bumps in the road.

"I learned that the ups and downs of the journey didn't really matter. It was the outcome and the fact that Levi had fun that mattered," she said.

When one game in particular did not

go their way, Miller said she felt frustrated. "I don't think Levi knew if he won or lost, but he knew that he had a good time playing. I let go of my disappointment and took a moment to appreciate Levi's outlook on life," she said.

As Miller was finishing up her field experience and the rest of her coursework this fall, she learned of a physical education position in her hometown of Marinette. She applied and was offered the job even though she was not expecting to graduate until May.

Instead, Miller wrapped up her UWO physical education degree from UWO in December, with additional licensure in adapted physical education, health education and coaching. She applied for an emergency teaching license, so she quickly could start at Garfield and Park elementary schools in Marinette.

She will swap out a semester of student teaching for an on-the-job placement and apply for a regular license at the end of the school year.

The journey has truly come full circle for Miller.

"When I was in middle school and high school in Marinette, I loved sports, being active and everything to do with the capabilities of the human body. In addition to my interests, I had many amazing teachers who inspired me to become a physical educator," she said.

Miller's college career began at UW-Green Bay, Marinette Campus, where she played basketball and volleyball and earned an associate degree. She then picked UWO to continue her education.

"I had heard many great things about the physical education program here, and my experiences have lived up to those recommendations," she said. "My professors went above and beyond to make sure I got the most out of the program to become a quality physical educator."

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Love of woodworking creates special educational journey



FVTC photo

Oshkosh West graduate Patrick Volkmann took his woodworking career aspirations to Fox Valley Technical College.

Fox Valley Technical College

Patrick Volkmann of Oshkosh discovered his fascination for woodworking in seventh grade when he took his first class. Now, at the age of 18, he is already turning his passion for building furniture into a career.

"I took every possible woodworking course that I could get my hands on from seventh grade through 10th grade," Volkmann said. "When there were no more options at Oshkosh West, I thought I'd get an apprenticeship my senior year of high school."

But as that last year approached, Volkmann still had two high school credits to complete and no apprenticeship lined up. With help from his mother and a West counselor and FVTC adviser, Volkmann was able to dual enroll and start the program at FVTC. He spent his senior year at the S.J. Spanbauer Center in Oshkosh working toward a technical diploma, which also satisfied his two final high school credits.

In June, he graduated from Oshkosh West. In August, he graduated from FVTC's Wood Manufacturing Technology program.

"Getting the technical diploma is more

than what I planned to do after high school," Volkmann said. "But the program led me to many opportunities and I had a job at Black Wolf Design in Omro before I graduated.

"I think the program is great for anyone who has even a slight interest in woodworking. The instructors each have different skill sets so you get their expertise in different areas."

His greatest joy in his new profession is the idea of taking a piece of wood that came straight from the sawmill, so rough you can't even see the grain, and creating a one-of-a-kind piece of furniture.

"Having a customer say they can't find what they want and asking me if I can make it, that's a great challenge," Volkmann said. "I have to think about the process and how I'm going to build it. Then, knowing what I made for the customer could stay in their home for generations, that's exciting."

FVTC said the secondary wood processing industry accounts for 40,000 jobs in the state, and that its program typically places 100 percent of its graduates in positions such as project manager, cabinet maker, millwork fabricator and aircraft interior fabricator.

Afghan refugees

FROM PAGE 1

Initially, World Relief Fox Valley said they could accommodate 100 refugees. But after more had arrived than anticipated, agencies nationwide were asked to reassess.

Between October and the new year, McLaughlin said World Relief had begun helping 100 refugees and are expecting the other half to arrive by the end of the month.

"We're preparing as this will happen very quickly," she said. "The military bases determined they need to clear up and shut down this program, which created even more urgency of getting people assigned to resettlement agencies around the country."

McLaughlin and her colleagues are now searching for housing options and volunteers to pair with families and individuals. The top priority is making sure they get to a safe space.

"It's challenging but also a truly collaborative effort playing out in a significant way because of the number of people who are arriving so quickly," McLaughlin said. "(Our) partners have been incredible. This initiative has allowed us to recognize these

are great communities to welcome people who just need some extra help right now."

Meanwhile, the Oshkosh Area School District has officially enrolled two families among the refugees settling here. In a report from the district, current and incoming refugee families with school-age children will be supported through grant-supported programs that focus on life skills, navigating the new school system and connecting families to resources.

Through this and the district's new multicultural outreach coordinator, multicultural outreach navigator, the English speakers of other languages (ESOL) coordinator and other staff, the district "will work to meet the needs of the incoming students and families with refugee backgrounds."

The biggest challenge is finding adequate housing. A lot of refugees are staying in hotels or temporary housing, which McLaughlin said is not unusual.

"These people want to start moving forward and get established, and that's difficult to do without a permanent place to live," she said.

Landlords or those who know one who may be interested in assisting refugees with housing should contact McLaughlin at 770-377-1850 or TMcLaughlin@wr.org.

Information for donations or volunteering opportunities is at worldrelief.org/fox-valley. Background checks, vehicle checks and an orientation are required to volunteer.



McLaughlin

FVTC sees spring enrollment up

As Fox Valley Technical College welcomed students back to class last week for the spring semester, school officials are encouraged to see enrollment numbers on the rise compared with a year ago.

FVTC reported an increase in full-time equivalents (FTEs), which is 30 credits in an academic year. By offering flexible coursework and part-time options, the college has seen a 26 percent increase in the number of students taking courses and has driven up total enrollment by just over 1 percent.

The Business division, along with Manufacturing, Agriculture and Construction Technologies, and Transportation Technologies started the semester with higher numbers in FTEs and headcount. Several programs in the Ser-

vice division, including Aesthetician, Therapeutic Massage, Cosmetology, as well as Fire Protection are starting the semester at capacity.

Demand for in-person learning is also up at almost all campuses and regional centers.

"Given recent national data showing there are more than 900,000 fewer students enrolled in college now than before the pandemic started, we're pleased to see student enrollments moving in a positive direction at Fox Valley Tech," said Jennifer Lanter, interim chief academic officer. "We know that being flexible by offering a range of instructional methods, including online and in-person learning, is key to helping us maintain and gain our student enrollments."

FVTC events

Feb. 15


Oshkosh Riverside Campus Experience, 150 N. Campbell Road, 3:30-6:30 p.m. (application fee waived)

Feb. 17

Aviation, Construction, & Wood Manufacturing Experience

S.J. Spanbauer Aviation and Industrial Center, 3601 Oregon St., 3-6 p.m. (application fee waived)

Oshkosh Welding Experience
Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, 4200 Poberezny Road, 3-6 p.m. (application fee waived)



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Winter Flight Fest offered by EAA

The Experimental Aircraft Association's annual Winter Flight Fest set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 12 features family activities, virtual flight simulators and the skiplane fly-in at the EAA Aviation Museum and Pioneer Airport with the regular museum admission price.

An airplane model building contest will be open to all ages with no entry fee charged.

Contestants can build their models ahead of time but must have the models registered by 1 p.m. Judging begins at 2

p.m.

Pilots will land on the snow-covered airstrip at Pioneer Airport and visitors can walk among the parked airplanes. Shuttles will operate from the museum to Pioneer Airport throughout the day.

EAA is offering a family membership discount for first-time members of \$40, which includes free year-round entry to the EAA Aviation Museum and other museums as part of the Association of Science-Technology Centers' Travel Passport Program.

Fox Fitness Center open house set

The Oshkosh Seniors Center is partnering with Network Health to offer a Fox Fitness Center Open House at the center from noon to 3 p.m. Thursday.

The afternoon will include equipment demonstrations, door prizes, healthy snacks and staff ready to answer questions.

Center staff said that while there are many options for fitness, they believe the

facility is the best and safest place for older adults.

Fitness coordinator is Alec Jensen, who holds a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and human performance, and will be organizing classes.

Residents are encouraged to develop a strategy that includes a visit to the Oshkosh Seniors Center at 234 N. Campbell Road, 920-232-5300.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Jan. 31, 1967

Jay & the Americans to Appear at Winter Carnival: The popular rock 'n' roll group Jay & the Americans will kick off the 1967 Winter Carnival festivities at UW-O tonight at the Oshkosh Civic Auditorium at 8 pm. The group features Jay Black as the lead singer

and soloist and a vibrant rock beat supplied by his three colleagues. Their first hit "She Cried" hit the charts in 1962. Since then, the group has appeared in night clubs and on television. Their fame was secured in 1965 with their hit "Cara Mia." Other hits to follow included "This Magic Moment," "Let's Lock The Door," "Come A Little Bit Closer" and several others. Tickets for the show can be purchased at the Main Street Mueller-Potter Drug Store and the Reeve Memorial Union.

Source: Oshkosh Daily Northwestern, Jan. 21, 1967

Calendar of events

Ongoing

White Christmas: The Exhibition, Oshkosh Public Museum, through Feb. 13

Wednesday, Jan. 26

Wisconsin Herd vs. Cleveland Charge, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Thursday, Jan. 27

"9 to 5 the Musical" by West High, 7 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

Fox Fitness Center open house, noon, Oshkosh Seniors Center, 234 N. Campbell Road

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

Friday, Jan. 28

OASD 8th Annual Trivia Night, 6:15 p.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

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

"9 to 5 the Musical" by West High, 7 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

Saturday, Jan. 29

Toward Harmony with Nature conference, 8:15 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

"9 to 5 the Musical," 7 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

Chili Cook Off 2022 with Winneba-

go Bicycle, 11 a.m., Winnebago Bicycle, 502 N. Main St.

Wisconsin Herd vs. Greensboro Swarm, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Curious Crow, Fletch's Local Tap House, 9 p.m., 566 N. Main St.

Sunday, Jan. 30

"9 to 5 the Musical," 2 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

Thursday, Feb. 3

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

Friday, Feb. 4

Otter Street Pond Hockey Nationals, 5 p.m., Menominee Park

First Friday: Downtown Date Night, 5 p.m., downtown

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

Saturday, Feb. 5

Otter Street Fishing Club Winter Fish-eree, 10 a.m., Millers Bay at Menominee Park

Otter Street Pond Hockey Nationals, 5 p.m., Menominee Park

Oshkosh Winter Farmers Market, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Arena

Chili Cook-off, noon, Bare Bones Brewery, 4362 County S

Handmade Urban Craft Fair, 10 a.m., Becket's, 2 Jackson St.

American Platinum, 8 p.m. Revs Bowl Bar & Grill, 275 N. Washburn St.

Sunday, Feb. 6

Wisconsin Herd vs. Fort Wayne Mad Ants, 2:30 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Illustrator contributes to new children's book

Oshkosh illustrator Sonja Oldenburg's work is featured in a new children's book recently published, "Roly-Poly and the Light" by L. Leigh Love.

Barringer Publishing released the story of a child's chance encounter, and then friendship, with an unusual roly-poly who shares wisdom of valuing self, differences and connecting with others. The book includes discussion and talking points for parents and teachers, and fun facts about

roly-polies and frogs.

Love's writing focuses on the inspirational and spiritual areas of life using artistic mediums of nature photography, acrylics and alcohol ink.

Oldenburg's work is inspired by botanical illustration, Art Nouveau, intricate motifs and insect charts.

"Roly-Poly and the Light" is in soft-cover, hardcover and e-book on Amazon, Kindle and BarnesandNoble.com.



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piggly wiggly SODA Headquarters

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| When you buy 3 - LIMIT 3 - 12-Pack, 12-oz. Cans or 8-Pack, 12-oz. Bottles Coke, Sprite or Diet Coke \$5.78 WITH CARD | 12-Pack, 12-oz. Cans Klarbrunn or Bubly Sparkling Water \$8.98 WITH CARD | 1-Liter Bottle Polar Seltzer 88¢ WITH CARD |
| 6-Pack, 12-oz. Cans Jolly Good Soda \$4.98 WITH CARD | 24-Pack, Half-Liter Bottles Ice Mountain Water \$4.28 WITH CARD | 6-Pack, Half-Liter Bottles Nestle Pure Life Splash \$2.98 WITH CARD |

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| <p>64-oz. Bottle - Healthy Balance Only Old Orchard Juice Blends \$1.88 WITH CARD</p> | <p>5-lb. Bag Food Club Flour \$1.88 WITH CARD</p> | <p>8 to 10-Count Package Sunbelt Bakery Granola Bars \$1.68 WITH CARD</p> |
| <p>30-oz. Jar Food Club Salad Dressing or Mayonnaise \$1.88 WITH CARD</p> | <p>32-oz. - Select Beef, Chicken or Vegetable Swanson Broth \$1.98 WITH CARD</p> | <p>16-oz. Bottle Henri's Salad Dressing \$1.88 WITH CARD</p> |
| <p>8 to 10-Count Package Better Oats Instant Oatmeal \$2.28 WITH CARD</p> | <p>Select - 8-Count Package Swiss Miss Hot Cocoa Mix \$1.88 WITH CARD</p> | <p>1.5-oz. Single Pot Berres Brothers Coffee 98¢ WITH CARD</p> |
| <p>8.2-oz. Jar Bonne Maman Fruit Spread \$3.18 WITH CARD</p> | <p>Select - 10 to 12-oz. Package Nestle Baking Morsels \$2.98 WITH CARD</p> | <p>12 to 13-oz. Package Campbell's Slow Cooker Sauce \$2.98 WITH CARD</p> |
| <p>14-oz. Can LaChoy Chop Suey Vegetables \$1.88 WITH CARD</p> | <p>16-oz. Bottle - Mild Food Club Taco Sauce \$1.98 WITH CARD</p> | <p>16-oz. Can Food Club Refried Beans 98¢ WITH CARD</p> |
| <p>19 to 24-oz. Package Milk-Bone Dog Biscuits \$3.28 WITH CARD</p> | <p>8-Count Package Simply Done Basic Paper Towels \$5.48 WITH CARD</p> | |
| <p>24-oz. Bottle Ivory Original Dish Soap \$2.68 WITH CARD</p> | <p>40 or 50-Count Package Simply Done Zipper Snack or Sandwich Bags \$1.48 WITH CARD</p> | <p>8-oz. or 16-Count Top Care Cold & Flu \$3.98 WITH CARD</p> |
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|  <p>Thin Sliced Sandwich Steak \$5.88 lb.</p> |  <p>Smithfield Seasoned Pork Steak \$2.28 lb.</p> |  <p>QUICK TO FIX! Cube Steak \$5.88 lb.</p> <p>Stuffed Cube Steak... \$5.98 lb.</p> |
|  <p>Bulk Homemade Italian Sausage \$2.48 lb.</p> |  <p>16-oz. - Hot or Sweet - Butterball Fresh Italian Links \$4.88 lb.</p> |  <p>Smithfield Pork Cube Steak \$2.88 lb.</p> |
|  <p>8-9-oz. Oscar Mayer Deli Fresh Lunchmeat \$3.98</p> |  <p>20-32-oz. - Assorted Varieties Claussen Pickles \$3.98</p> |  <p>22-oz. - Assorted Varieties Buddig Lunch Meats \$6.98</p> |
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|  <p>16-oz. - Supreme Choice Tilapia Fillets \$5.88</p> |  <p>Individually Vacuum-Packed - Whole Norwegian Salmon Fillets \$9.88 lb.</p> |  <p>Fresh Catfish Fillets \$9.88 lb.</p> |
| | |  <p>26-30-Count - 16-oz. - Supreme Choice EZ Peel Raw Shrimp \$7.88</p> |

Deli ¥ Homemade Taste

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|  <p>Assorted Varieties Kretschmar Ham \$6.88 lb.</p> |  <p>Brick & Muenster Cheese \$5.48 lb.</p> |  <p>Loaded Ranch Baked Potato Salad \$2.88 lb.</p> |  <p>Meat Lasagna \$6.48 lb.</p> |
|  <p>Assorted Varieties - Kretschmar Chicken Breast \$7.88 lb.</p> |  <p>Original and Dill 6-oz. - Roth Havarti Cheese \$3.88</p> |  <p>Cheddar & Pea Salad \$3.68 lb.</p> |  <p>Macaroni & Cheese \$4.88 lb.</p> |
| | |  <p>Parmesan Peppercorn Salad \$4.48 lb.</p> |  <p>Cranberry & Almond Chicken or Chicken Salad \$6.48 lb.</p> |

Bakery ¥ Homemade Fresh

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|  <p>8-oz. Mini French Bread 88¢</p> |  <p>6-Count French or Egg & Onion Sandwich Rolls \$1.88</p> |  <p>12-Count Potato Dinner Rolls \$2.48</p> |  <p>24-oz. - California Goldminer Sourdough Loaves \$3.48</p> |
|  <p>14-oz. - Assorted Varieties Skinner Strip Coffee Cake \$3.88</p> |  <p>8-Inch Apple Pie \$3.88</p> |  <p>6-Count - Assorted Varieties Mini Turnovers \$2.88</p> |  <p>3-Count - Salted Caramel or Maple Pecan Danish Braids \$3.88</p> |
| | |  <p>6-Count - Assorted Dessert Bars \$4.48</p> |  <p>10-Count Kimberley's Frosted Cookies \$3.48</p> |

piggly wiggly Beverage Headquarters

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
|  <p>24-Pack, 12-oz. Cans Budweiser or Bud Light \$15.98</p> |  <p>6-Pack, 12-oz. Bottles Summit \$6.19</p> |  <p>30-Pack, 12-oz. Cans Michelob Ultra \$18.99</p> |  <p>30-Pack, 12-oz. Cans Pabst Blue Ribbon \$14.99 ea.</p> |
|  <p>1.75-Liter Bottle Chi Chi's Cocktails \$2.98</p> |  <p>1.75-Liter Bottle Mr. Boston Vodka \$8.98</p> |  <p>1.75-Liter Bottle J. Bavit Brandy \$14.98</p> |  <p>750 ML Bottle Knob Creek Bourbon \$25.98</p> |
| | |  <p>750 ML Bottle CK Mondavi Wines \$3.98</p> |  <p>750 ML Bottle Dark Horse Wines \$6.98</p> |
| | |  <p>4-Pack, 187 ML Bottles Sutter Home Wines \$5.48</p> |  <p>3-Liter Box Bota Box Wines \$16.98</p> |

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Haliburton all smiles in return to Oshkosh North

Former Spartan, current NBA player sees prep jersey retired

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

That familiar smile was back home Friday night.

Tyrese Haliburton, the former Oshkosh North standout and now a member of the NBA's Sacramento Kings, returned to his alma mater to have his high school jersey retired in a ceremony that brought more than 1,000 people to the gym where he once starred for the Spartans.

"It means a lot that I'm being recognized as an athlete here," Haliburton said in a brief press conference before the hourlong ceremony. "But it means a lot more that a lot of people are showing up because of who I was as a person and the relationships I created when I was here."

Even with all he has accomplished since leaving Oshkosh, Haliburton proudly admitted that being back in his old stomping ground was a special experience.

"I've spent a lot of time in that gym and have had happy tears, sad tears, everything in between in there," Haliburton said. "It just brings back a lot of memories. It's fun to reminisce and think back because high school was a lot of fun for me."

In talking to the crowd – which included the entire Sacramento Kings roster and traveling group as the team played in Milwaukee the following night – Haliburton recounted his days at Oshkosh North and how his experiences there and growing up in Oshkosh set the foundation for his rise to NBA fame.

He said that making it to the pinnacle of professional basketball was what he was working toward from a young age and always believed in the dream. Not that others were on the same page.

"There would be those times when it would be like 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' And I would say I want to be an NBA player and (the response) would be that I needed to pick something more realistic," Haliburton said. "My whole life, this has been my dream."

Haliburton is the first Oshkosh native to play in the NBA and hopes that his reaching that goal can blaze a trail for others to follow.

"The fact I was able to reach my goal, I hope it shows the kids that are next up and the kids after that it can be done. I hope I am a figure that people can look to as a person who has achieved something nobody from here has done before and I hope more are able to do that," Haliburton said. "Whatever your dreams are, your as-



Oshkosh Herald photos

Tyrese Haliburton, currently a member of the Sacramento Kings, returned to his alma mater, Oshkosh North, for a ceremony Friday night to retire his jersey. Haliburton, among others, spoke to the crowd of about 1,000 people who attended the event at the North Fieldhouse.



pirations are, it's possible."

Haliburton started his speech to the crowd by thanking his parents, Brenda and John, as well as his brothers. He also highlighted the influence of former head coach Frank Schade and current head coach Brad Weber, as well as his coaches with the Wisconsin Playground Warriors, the AAU program he played with.

He also mentioned the teachers that helped guide him on his path and how thankful he was to be involved in the community as a whole.

The ceremony was set up around Sacramento's only trip to Milwaukee this season but almost had to be put on hold.

Less than a week before his planned visit, Haliburton entered the NBA's health and safety protocols for COVID-19 but was cleared to return to the team in time

to make the trip.

"I was a little worried," said Haliburton, who posted 24 points, 12 assists and five rebounds the following night in a loss to the Bucks. "I just kept the positive

thoughts and prayed and prayed. I just did everything I could in hopes I would be able to make it today. I'm just really excited that we didn't have to push it back another year or anything."

In addition to Haliburton, the ceremony – which was conducted by Weber – including a handful of speakers. State Assembly member Gordon Hintz, who also played basketball at Oshkosh North, Schade and Oshkosh North athletic director Craig Lieder each spoke of Haliburton's abilities and accomplishments.

Oshkosh City Manager Mark Rohloff then announced a proclamation from Mayor Lori Palmeri that recognized Jan. 21, 2022, as Tyrese Haliburton Day in the city.

"The community is what we are all about. What you see is real," John Haliburton said. "This day is very, very special. Tyrese worked hard. He did a lot within the community for the young people. It's wonderful the people came out to show the love and it doesn't get any better than that."

Haliburton was a two-time Fox Valley Association Player of the Year during his time at North and led the Spartans to the program's lone WIAA state championship as a senior when he averaged 22.9 points, 6.2 assists and 5.1 rebounds per game and was named the state's Gatorade Player of the Year.

He finished his career at North second on the program's all-time scoring list with more than 1,400 points.

Haliburton earned a scholarship to Iowa State University where he played two seasons and also earned a spot on the U.S. gold-medal-winning U-19 basketball team at the 2019 FIBA World Championships.

He was drafted by Sacramento with the 12th pick in the 2020 NBA Draft and has played a key role with the team ever since. He finished third in the Rookie of the Year voting last season and is averaging about 16 points, seven assists and four rebounds per game this year.



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Titans hold off Falcons behind Borchert's 32

By Dustin Riese
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh men's basketball team knows what it takes to be on or near the top of the WIAC for the better part of six years. That sometimes comes with a price as the Titans know they are going to get everyone's best shot.

Coming off their upset win against UW Platteville on Wednesday night, the Titans welcomed River Falls on Saturday and kept their winning ways going with an 89-84 victory.

The Falcons possess one of the toughest offenses in the conference and it showed with their 10-point win against the Titans in their earlier meeting this season. Despite a hot start from the Titans, River Falls continued to battle back and matched the Titans scoring most of the game, closing the gap to two points with less than two minutes to go.

Levi Borchert led the Titans with 32 points but teammate Eric Peterson delivered the final dagger with his only triple as it pushed the lead to two possessions, which proved to be too much for River Falls to overcome.

"It wasn't pretty, but a win is a win in the WIAC," head coach Matt Lewis said. "That is a very good offensive team on the other side, and they threw everything at us. I am proud of my guys and how they battled through a ton of adversity tonight. We do have a lot of things to clean up, but you can never be upset with a win in this league."

River Falls coach Jeff Berkof said the loss stings given the effort they made.

"I was proud in how we fought tonight," he said. "Getting back into the game after



Photo by Dustin Riese

UW Oshkosh's Eddie Muench goes inside and converts on a layup as part of his 21 point night.

a rough start and then to do it again the last five minutes when things didn't look all that good was huge for us. We really like how we competed tonight."

Eddie Muench opened the game with a deep three, then Borchert scored the Titans next eight points for an 11-4 lead.

Cole Booth followed that with a triple to push the lead to 10 before another Muench three had Oshkosh in front 17-6.

"We came out with incredible energy to open the game and started to get Levi involved right away," Lewis said. "When he can get going like that it opens things up for our shooters and the rest of our offense. We were in a nice groove early, and to be able to build a strong lead like that goes a long way for the duration of the game."

The Falcons started to turn things over to their freshman Terence Anthony-Larmouth. The Minnesota native showed terrific toughness with several drives in the middle of the paint. Add in some buckets from Dylan Parker and Rodrick Payne and the Falcons started to make a game of things pulling within 23-18.

Peterson picked up a layup on the inside, but that was his only score until late in the second half. Since being in the starting lineup, Quinn Steckbauer has played at an incredible level and has continued to improve as he teamed up with Borchert over the next several minutes to build the Oshkosh lead back to 12 at 35-23. Add in another triple by Muench and the Titans had their biggest lead of the game at 40-23.

The Falcons had a nice run in them to close out the first half. While Oshkosh was going with the inside out combination, River Falls was attacking the interior with Payne and Noah Hanson to cut the deficit to 46-39 at the half.

"We just talked about handling their ball pressure a little better," Berkof said. "We were allowing them to speed us up

and conversely, we needed to apply better ball pressure on the defensive end."

Steckbauer started the second half by scoring the first six points for his team and helping the Titans build their lead back to double digits. But whenever the Titans started to settle in, the Falcons had an answer with Payne going inside for two before stepping out to knock down a deep three to close the deficit to six and get within three at 63-60.

"We started to do some uncharacteristic things towards the end of the first half and beginning of the second half which led to a ton of errors," Lewis said. "Credit the River Falls defense for that. They were able to slow us down a little more than we liked, and it took some of the momentum away from us."

Borchert helped extend the Titans lead back to nine by scoring inside the paint as he was a matchup nightmare for River Falls.

"Levi is a tough matchup especially when they can surround him with a bunch of shooters," Berkof said. "I thought we did a better job in the second half, but it's a tough assignment to stop him 1 on 1."

Lewis knew that Borchert was going to be a special player, but couldn't have predicted some of the things he has done this season.

"Borchert is an incredible player, and we are very lucky to have him," he said. "Unless you are in the program you only see him for what he does on the court. However, inside the program he is so much more than that. He is one of the most selfless individuals I have ever been around and sometimes you need to push him a little bit to get him to be more aggressive. He is a team first guy who still has a couple years left."

A couple more buckets on the inside from Borchert, mixed with Steckbauer, who finished with 16 points, saw the Titans lead soar to 81-66 but they had to weather another late-game run for the win, capped off by Peterson's late three-pointer to push the lead to 87-83. Steckbauer would add two free throws in the final seconds before a Muench steal sealed the deal.

The loss drops River Falls to 9-7 on the season and 2-5 in WIAC play. After having two games postponed due to COVID, the Titans have responded with a pair of wins and now sit at 15-2 on the season including 6-1 in conference play to remain tied for first.

"Our best basketball is still in front of us and that is what we are focusing on right now," Lewis said. "Was everything perfect tonight? No, but we still found a way to win this game. Dealing with COVID two weeks ago and now having a game takes a toll on you, but I credit this group of players for getting ready for this week and responding."

Oshkosh returns to the floor tonight (Wednesday) at UW Eau Claire, followed by a two game homestand against No. 2 ranked UW-Platteville and UW-Stout.

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Lake Winnebago ice conditions

By Jim Nobbe
PAYNE'S POINT HOOK AND SPEAR FISHING CLUB

As of Sunday we were seeing between 11.5 and 12 inches of ice on the new ice that runs north-south along the west side of Lake Winnebago.

Stockbridge Fishing Club had a tree line out 4 miles, Pipe Fishing Club has a tree line out 5 miles, and Quinney Fishing Club has a truck bridge out and will be putting a tree line out midweek – all on the east shore of the lake. I heard a report that Friend-



ship Fishing Club put out its truck bridges and a tree line off of Cemetery Road south of Oshkosh.

PPHSFC will be putting our truck bridges out midweek after this cold snap passes. The reason for waiting is because the "new ice" seems to be cracking in random spots daily with the subzero temperatures. Once it makes a couple of more inches of ice, hopefully it will crack in one spot and continue working there, instead of a new crack forming 40 feet away every day.

Remember the ice is never 100 percent safe.

School district extends mask mandate to Feb. 25

To continue in-person learning at Oshkosh Area School District facilities, Superintendent Bryan Davis announced to families that a mask mandate will continue through Feb. 25.

"The latest modeling and guidance from local health officials point to an expected peak of COVID cases in our area occurring in late January and early February, with a return to COVID levels similar to our

December data by late February and early March," Davis said in a release. "Once the surge ends, we expect to be able to implement our optional face coverings protocol."

The announcement also said student isolation and quarantine has been reduced to five days from 10 in certain situations.

For more information about the district's response to COVID, visit oshkosh.k12.wi.us.



Submitted photo

Patriotic recognition

A special recognition award was presented to the Military Veterans Museum and Education Center in Oshkosh for its outdoor patriotic flag display by the Wisconsin Society of the Sons of the American Revolution's Capt. Hendrick Aupaumet Chapter. Dave Kersztyn, museum vice president, is shown accepting the award Jan. 15 at its 4300 Poberenzy Road location.

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Spartans win on Fiserv Forum court

Oshkosh North felt right at home at Fiserv Forum as the Spartans pulled out a 71-68 win over Hortonville on the Bucks' home court Saturday afternoon.

Zay Mitchell and Steven Clark led the way in the victory with 26 and 23 points, respectively, while Kaden Lasee also reached double figures with 10 points.

The Spartans, who are ranked ninth in Division 2, improved to 14-3 overall, 8-3 in the Fox Valley Association, and avenged a two-point loss earlier this season to the Polar Bears.

Wildcats fall on road to Kaukauna

Oshkosh West was unable to keep the high-scoring Ghosts in check in dropping a FVA contest, 95-67, on the road on Friday.

Ethan Shefchik was the lone player to finish in double figures for the Wildcats, putting up 15 points in the loss.

Mason Rohr added nine points, followed by James Bradley and Tristan Johanknecht with eight and Alex Schlichting with seven.

The Wildcats, who slipped to 4-10 overall and 2-8 in the FVA, trailed 49-32 at halftime.

McKellips paces Knights' win over Johnson Creek

J.J. McKellips knocked down seven 3-pointers and finished with a career-high 27 points in leading Lourdes Academy

to an 80-56 win over Johnson Creek in a Trailways Conference crossover game at Fall River High School on Friday.

The sophomore also finished with seven rebounds and five assists in the victory for the Knights (8-4), who are ranked 10th in Division 5.

Dominic Kane added 22 points and Jack Seibold chipped in 15 points as the Knights hit 15 3-pointers in the game. Adam Arnoldussen finished with seven points in the win.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Oshkosh West tripped at home by Ghosts

Paige Seckar scored a season-high 23 points but Oshkosh West came up short against Kaukauna, 62-50, in a home FVA contest on Friday.

The Wildcats trailed by five points at halftime, but couldn't overtake the Ghosts in the second half.

Braelee Jodarski added eight points for Oshkosh West, with Lauren Best and Maddi Choinski each scoring six.

Oshkosh North can't keep pace with Polar Bears

FVA-leading Hortonville, the state's top-ranked Division 1 program, was too much for Oshkosh North on Friday as the Polar Bears handed the visiting Spartans a 70-12 loss.

Ava Hanson scored 10 of the Spartans' 12 points in the game, while Emma Niemczyk scored North's other two points while finishing with a team-best seven rebounds.

WRESTLING

Oshkosh West fourth at Herb Tyler Invitational

Edwyn Schroeder captured the 113-pound title to lead the way for West at the Herb Tyler Invitational hosted by Sheboygan North on Saturday.

Schroeder pinned his first two opponents before stopping Random Lake's Grant Gibson by a 16-1 technical fall in the title match.

Jasiah Williams (132) posted a runner-up finish for the Wildcats, while Ryland Schneider (120), Elijah Geffers (126) and Ben Buehring (220) were each fourth in their brackets.

West totaled 142.5 points at the 16-team tournament, behind only Germantown (199.5), Random Lake (184.5) and Oconto Falls (152).

Wildcats, Spartans drop FVA dual meets

Both Oshkosh West and Oshkosh North fell short of notching wins in FVA dual meets last Thursday.

The Wildcats fell to Kimberly, 50-22, at home, despite getting pins from Edwyn Schroeder (113) and Ben Buehring (220). Ryland Schneider (120) added a major decision, while Jasiah Williams (138) won by forfeit for West.

North fell to Appleton West, 42-21, in its dual meet. Caleb McKay (126) and Jonathon Molash (132) each posted pins for the Spartans, while Jamaul Ragland-Schreck won a decision at 182 pounds.

North also got a forfeit win from Carson Johnson (195).

Herd surges in fourth to stop Skyhawks

The Wisconsin Herd beat the College Park Skyhawks at home Sunday, 117-107, with the help of a 34-point fourth quarter while holding the Skyhawks to 15.

Rayjon Tucker led Wisconsin with 23 points and 16 rebounds. Jordan Nwora,

BOYS HOCKEY

Ice Hawks split pair of contests

The Oshkosh Ice Hawks split a pair of games over the weekend, topping Chequamegon/Phillips/Butternut, 6-3, in Park Falls on Friday before getting shutout, 8-0, by Tomahawk in Sauk Prairie on Saturday.

Five different players scored in Friday's win with Armani Fisher tallying two goals and Kaleb Winter, Ethan Hoodie, Will Versteegen and Evan Neitzel each netting one. Hoodie also picked up a pair of assists.

Gage Bauer finished with 12 saves in the game for the Ice Hawks, who scored three goals in a little more than a minute in the third period to extend a 3-2 lead.

Against Tomahawk, Oshkosh was out-shot 32-16 and trailed 5-0 after the opening period. Bauer made 24 saves in the loss.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Big second period lifts Warbirds to easy win

A five-goal eruption in the second period helped boost the Fond du Lac co-op Warbirds to a 7-2 win over Viroqua on Saturday.

Chloe Tobin scored 31 seconds into the second stanza for the game's first goal before Viroqua would tie the game. The Warbirds then rattled off four straight goals – by Kendra Dogs, Hannah Wilson, Emily Brown and Allison Waara – to seize control.

Brown and Josie Kooima added third-period tallies to help close out the win.

Hailee Scheier earned the win in goal, finishing with 11 saves.

an assignment player from the Milwaukee Bucks, added 20 points and 12 rebounds.

Former Nicolet High School standout-Jalen Johnson, an assignment player from the Atlanta Hawks, led the Skyhawks with 25 points.



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Dominating second half propels Lady Knights

By Dustin Riese
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Coming off a tough win against Winneconne earlier in the week, the Lourdes Academy Lady Knights returned to the home floor Thursday looking for another Trailways Conference win.

Dodgeland gave the Knights quite a battle in their first meeting of the season where the Knights came away with a 50-40 win. In this rematch Lourdes played from behind early as the third-place Trojans opened up a comfortable lead in the first half and three-point advantage at the break before Lourdes cruised to a 70-45 victory.

Miranda Firari had the hot hand early for the Trojans connecting on two triples to help Dodgeland race out to an early 6-0 lead. After Lourdes buckets by Abby Hafemeister and Ella Slusarski to pull within two, Dodgeland continued to dictate the tempo early. Firari continued her impressive first half with another bucket as the Knights continued to trail by three 12-9.

Delaney Ruedinger knocked home a triple to tie things up only to see Dodgeland's Elizabeth Knueppel and Adrienne Bader score on the inside before Ally Roberts added another basket to give the Trojans their largest lead of the night. Lourdes began to chip away with Slusarski putting an end to the 6-0 run with a basket.

Slusarski would add another in the final minutes of the first half as she joined forces with Ruedinger and Hailee Bauer to pull the Knights within 23-22. Firari ended her great first half with a buzzer beating runner to send Dodgeland into the break

up 25-22.

Unlike the first half, offense was not an issue for the Knights with Slusarski and Hafemeister each scoring to tie things at 26-26. A steal and finish by Firari gave Dodgeland the lead once again as they were able to push that lead back to 34-28.

Hafemeister brought the Knights within four before Charley Mullen knocked down a free throw line jumper to close the gap to two. Mullen then knocked down her first three of the night to tie it at 35. That shot seemed to awaken the Knights offense as Ruedinger followed with consecutive threes of her own to give the Knights their first lead of the night 41-35.

The Lourdes defense responded in a big way by limiting Dodgeland to tough looks at the hoop and forcing turnovers. A game changing 28-2 run had Lourdes running way with a 60-37 lead.

Dodgeland's Bader was doing her part to get on the inside and bring the deficit under 20 but Hafemeister answered with a basket of her own followed by a triple by Madison Peerenboom and the Knights were back up by 24.

Lourdes knocked down seven triples and outscored Dodgeland 48-20 in the second half

Other Lourdes players got a chance to see the floor with the big lead. Ryan Williams and Sara Saiyed each connected in the final minute helping the Knights cap off a dominating 70-45 win. The win moves the Knights to 11-4 on the season and 5-1 in Trailways play as they remain one game behind conference leader Oakfield.



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Lourdes' Delaney Ruedinger drives to the basket against Dodgeland in a Thursday game.

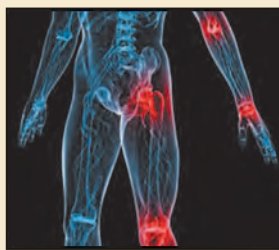
Public library notes last year's top checkouts

The Oshkosh Public Library's most checked-out printed books last year:

- Fiction**
1. The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
 2. A Time for Mercy by John Grisham
 3. The Return by Nicholas Sparks
 4. Sooley by John Grisham
 5. Deadly Cross by James Patterson
 6. Fortune and Glory: tantalizing twenty-seven by Janet Evanovich
 7. Golden Girl by Elin Hilderbrand
 8. A Gambling Man by David Baldacci
 9. Before She Disappeared by Lisa Gardner
 10. (Tied) The Bounty by Janet Evanovich; The Sentinel by Lee Child
- Nonfiction**
1. Walk in my combat boots: true stories from America's bravest warriors by

- James Patterson
2. A Promised Land by Barack Obama
 3. Untamed by Glennon Doyle
 4. Caste: the origins of our discontents by Isabel Wilkerson
 5. Till murder do us part: true-crime thrillers by James Patterson
 6. Just mercy: a story of justice and redemption by Bryan Stevenson
 7. The last days of John Lennon by James Patterson
 8. Broken by Jenny Lawson
 9. Murder of innocence: true-crime thrillers by James Patterson
 10. (Tied) Keep sharp by Sanjay Gupta; Think again: the power of knowing what you don't know by Adam Grant; This time next year we'll be laughing: a memoir by Jacqueline Winspear

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West's Shefchik develops into one of FVA's top players

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Like most basketball players, Ethan Shefchik has an impressive vertical jump. But his hops pale in comparison to the quantum leap he's made as a player.

The 6-foot-2 wing guard might be the most improved player in the Oshkosh area.

The Oshkosh West senior has put together a breakout season and emerged as one of the top players in the Fox Valley Association after putting up modest numbers his junior year.

Shefchik ranks among the FVA's leading scorers with a 15.7-point average. But he's more than a scorer. He's a complete player who is also averaging 5.2 rebounds and 1.5 assists.

Not bad for a supporting player who didn't exactly stuff the stat sheets last season. Shefchik has nearly tripled his scoring average of 5.6 points and has drained a team-high 26 3-pointers – nine more than last season's total of 15. He's also improved on last year's rebounding average of 3.7.

"Ethan has made an incredible jump as a player over the last couple seasons," said West coach Mike Johnson.

Shefchik's ascent wasn't magical. He spiked his numbers by doing it the old-fashioned way: through countless hours of working on his game and body in the gym and weight room.

"Ethan has one of the best work ethics I've ever seen," said Johnson. "He's extremely coachable. He's earned all the success he's seeing this year."

Shefchik, a starter for most of his junior season, knew the Wildcats would have a scoring void with the graduation loss of last year's leading scorer, Jacques Over-



Submitted photo

Ethan Shefchik has developed into one of the top basketball players in the Fox Valley Association and has been a key to the Wildcats' efforts this season.

street. So he became a gym rat and put in the extra time needed to sharpen the rough edges of his game. He's evolved into an inside-outside player who can get to the rim and drill the three.

"I knew I had to step up and fill Jacques' role," Shefchik said. "So I put a ton of work into the offseason. I worked a lot on contested shots. I've always been a de-

cent shooter and could hit the wide-open shots, but I really wanted to hit the contested ones.

"Plus, I hit the weight room. The FVA is a tough conference, so you have to be there, physically, too."

Shefchik is also one of the Wildcats' best defenders. He leads the team in steals (29) and is tied for the team lead in blocked

Senior Spotlight

shots (three).

"I used to consider myself to be more of a defensive player," Shefchik said. "But my offense has come around. I just try to be the best player I can be – on both ends of the floor."

Shefchik seems to be accomplishing that. He's been playing the game since the age of five and is driven by a competitive nature and a constant desire to upgrade his game.

"I just love the competitiveness of basketball," Shefchik said. "I'm a very competitive person and I love the idea of always improving. I want to be the best player in the gym and I know there's always work to be done to get there. That's what keeps me going."

Shefchik is also thriving in the classroom, carrying an impressive 3.95 grade-point-average. He will attend college next fall and is interested in a business major, but hasn't nailed down his choice of school. He's also uncertain if he will be playing basketball at the next level, but he knows he'll stick with the game, even if it's just for fun.

"I really want to keep playing in college, whether it's in a rec league or as part of someone's college basketball team," he said.

In the meantime, Shefchik will keep grinding and doing all he can to upgrade his game and make West a stronger team.

"This conference is so competitive," Shefchik said. "Every team has athletes and players who will keep playing after high school. You have to come into each and every game ready for that."

YMCA Miles that Matter event planned for April 2

The Oshkosh YMCA's first Miles That Matter 10K Race and Family Walk are set for April 2 to support local cancer survivors, veterans and Parkinson's disease warriors – along with community members, families and youth.

Participants can partake in either a chip-timed 10K (6.2 mile) run or a 2.5-mile family fun walk/run. Children under age 5 walk for free and dogs can join

in the fun.

The 10K will begin at 8 a.m. at the 20th Avenue YMCA and the family walk will begin at 8:45 a.m. in South Park. Both events will end at the downtown Y. Shuttle buses will be available after the event.

Register at oshkoshymca.org/programs. Early registration discounts run until Jan. 31.

Oshkosh Youth Soccer Club seeks season signups

The Oshkosh Youth Soccer Club has open spots in all of its divisions leading up to the May 5 season opening.

Teams are formed by age and grade in five divisions: Pre-K and kindergarten; first and second grade, third, fourth and fifth grade; middle school; and high

school co-ed.

The season is scheduled to run from May 5 to July 6, with middle school beginning June 3 and high school co-ed on June 6.

For more information and to register, visit oysc.org/registration.



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Conflict resolution

FROM PAGE 1

both parties will be given an opportunity to mediate their differences with a professional volunteer mediator. If both parties choose to do that, you begin mediating right then; if not, your case will be scheduled for a later date before a judge or jury, depending on the type of case.

In mediation any resolutions the parties come to are legally binding and because the parties have settled things out of court, the suit is dismissed – and it hasn't cost them any more money to do so. If someone defaults on the agreement the parties reached, the court will enter a judgment against the party that defaulted.

Pat Nichols has been volunteering as a mediator since the center was founded and was one of those who was trained by Blackburn.

"I think the greatest benefit of mediation is that the parties make the decisions. They're the ones who come up with something that's going to work for them," she said. "As mediators, we approach it from a non-legalistic standpoint. What we look at is what's going to solve the problem; not what the law says."

People come to WCRC in two different ways, said Rust.

"The more common way is that people are referred to mediation by the court system – either because they've filed a small claims suit against someone or someone has filed one against them; the other way is to call the center directly."

Say you're having a dispute with a roommate, friend or family member. People can call the center and talk to them about mediation. One of the reasons most people don't know about this option, Rust guesses, is because they've not heard of the center.

The center does about 500 mediations every year – about two-thirds of those are small claims actions. "Of that amount, landlord-tenant disputes make up a good percentage of them. We also see other collection cases such as unpaid credit card bills, or unpaid medical bills," Rust said. "But we also see cases, for example, where

someone had some work done on their house and didn't like the result; we sometimes see roommate disputes. The small claims arena is ripe for all different kinds of cases."

That includes disputes over property when a couple splits up, even including dog custody issues.

"Courts can't do some type of joint custody arrangement for a dog or cat, but that is something that we have done and have become very good at crafting with the parties involved," he said.

"We have a legal system, but not a justice system. Things may be legal, but they may not be just. The rulings that the Courts have to give are ones that follow the law, by what's been set down by the Legislature. They may not take into account the very real and very important factors about why you didn't do something, or why you didn't pay. Those are very important factors, but the court isn't allowed to consider them."

They do not do mediations for placement and custody. Those issues are mediated through Family Court Services.

Nate Olson of Olson Legal Group has frequently used the center's mediation services. He said that in the vast majority of issues, it's effective and people settle.

"They realize they can have a hand in the settlement, and it takes away the unknown (about the court system and how it works and might end up). It also gives them some finality," Olson said. "It's a relaxed environment and you don't have all the formalities of a courtroom. You're sitting across from the other party and

sometimes someone just has to get something off their chest. Once they do that, they get affirmation from the other person that they've heard your concern, and then they're in a place where they're ready to settle."

One of the main points Rust wants to emphasize is that people do not have to file suit or be sued by someone to use mediation services. And, as a resident of Winnebago County, a person could be eligible to receive up to three hours of mediation free.

If you would like to volunteer as a mediator, there is a process to go through, but it's one that's thorough and rewarding overall. The center is one of the few places in Wisconsin that trains mediators.

"Legally in the state of Wisconsin, you need a license to give a \$5 haircut, but you don't have to have a license to be a mediator for a multimillion-dollar case," Rust said. "There's no regulation or licensing of mediators in Wisconsin at all. If someone wants to be a mediator for us, they're going to be professionally trained. It's the same training we provide for professionals who want to become mediators."

The training is 40 hours and is usually held during a week in June. Rust said

training is an intense process where they go over a variety of topics: communications skills, listening skills, approaches to conflict, the process of mediation, how to handle disruptive behavior and power dynamics.

"We cover all sorts of factors that can come up in the process of mediation. And we give the trainees an opportunity to try it, in which we have a lot of hands-on skill-building, as well," he said. "Once they've completed that 40-hour training, we require them to observe eight hours of actual mediation with our volunteers. They then have to co-mediate with an experienced volunteer mediator for an additional eight hours. So, it's not until they've finished that 56 hours do we consider our volunteers ready to actually try to mediate cases."

"The cost for training is \$825, however, if people are willing to guarantee that they're going to volunteer with us for a year, we are willing to underwrite most of the cost of the training, so they would only pay \$150," Rust added.

Those either interested in using the center's services or interested in becoming a mediator can contact 920-236-4925 or mediationwrc.org.

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Obituaries

Elmer E. Johnson

Elmer E. Johnson, 86, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday morning,



January 15, 2022 after a long battle with COPD and emphysema. Elmer was born in Oshkosh on July 23, 1935 to William and Ida (Grunsk) Johnson. He graduated from Oshkosh High

School and entered the U.S. Navy. Elmer served two years of active duty aboard the USS Champlain. Upon his Honorable Discharge, he served an additional four years in the Naval Reserve.

Elmer married Barbara Ann Raymond in Omro on June 27, 1961. They spent many happy years at their home on the water in Rivermoor, before moving to Oshkosh in 1976. Barbara preceded Elmer in death on April 1, 1988.

On September 29, 1989, Elmer married many uncles, aunts, nieces, and nephews.

Todd was preceded in death by his father, Clarence Kwasny; younger sister, Kelly Kwasny; and father-in-law, Clyde Proctor.

A celebration of Todd's life will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Homes - Westside (100 Lake Pointe Drive) on Friday, January 28, 2022, at 1 p.m. Visitation will be held on Thursday, January 27, 2022, at Konrad-Behlman - Westside from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. and again on January 28, 2022, from 10 a.m. until the time of service.

The family would like to thank the paramedics and staff at Mercy Medical Center for their care and compassion.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributing to the family's GoFundMe (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-kwasny-ladies-in-their-loss-of-todd>) or make a donation to the Oshkosh Youth Choir (donations can be mailed to 545 Grove St., Oshkosh, WI 54901).

In the interest of public safety, the family kindly requests that all visitation and service attendees wear a mask while inside the funeral home.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN FUNERAL HOMES in Counseling. She employed this knowledge working in the Counseling Office at Marion College, Fond du Lac, WI.

She is survived by her husband, children, grandchildren, and many friends.

Plans for memorial and burial have not been finalized. Please contact silvr3k@icloud.com for information.

Anne Maki in Oshkosh. Elmer was employed by the Leach Company for nearly 40 years, beginning as a welder and retiring as a Foreman in 1997. He loved working with his hands. As a young man, Elmer completely restored an 18-foot wood hull boat and enjoyed fishing and cruising the Fox River with family and friends. Together, Elmer and Anne ran a snow removal and lawn mowing business for many years. Elmer loved reading, working on his model trains and collecting John Deere replica tractors.

Elmer was preceded in death by his parents, William and Ida (Grunsk) Johnson, two sisters, Josephine and Gladys and his first wife Barbara. He is survived by his wife Anne of Oshkosh, five brothers; George, CA; Albert (Audrey) and Floyd, both of Oshkosh; Ralph, and Donald (Mona)

both of Friendship; brother-in-law Larry (Diane) Maki of Winneconne; and special cousin Marvin Grunsk of Neenah. Elmer is further survived by close friends John Epprecht, Kathy Karl, and RC, Julie, Lucas and Edwin Schroeder, all of Oshkosh; as well as many nephews and nieces, friends, co-workers and other relatives.

Friends and family may offer their memories and condolences on Saturday, January 29 at Kwiatkowski Funeral Home, 425 Jefferson Avenue, Omro from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. A service celebrating Elmer's life will start at 3:00 pm. Burial will take place at Omro Cemetery at a later date.



Tina was best known for enjoying crossword puzzles and was an avid reader. She loved spending time with her family, camping and spending other holidays with them.

Tina is survived by Andy (Kelly) Thomas - brother, of Oshkosh, Brian (Diane) Thomas - brother, of Kentucky, Chad Thomas - brother, of Oshkosh, Blake (Jennifer) Prenot - son, and their children Serenity and Alex, all of Oshkosh, and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Tina is preceded in death by her brother, Craig Thomas.

The service for Tina will be held on Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 10:00 AM at Lake View Memorial Park. Visitation will be held at 9:00 AM at Lake View Memorial Park until the time of service.

Tina was very much a social butterfly and made many friends throughout her life. She will be sadly missed by her family and many friends. After discovering her illness, she made it a point to tell everyone she knew that "if you smoke, quit. if you don't smoke, don't start."



Tina Bays

Tina Bays, 64 passed away on January 14, 2022, in Oshkosh, WI.



Tina was born on October 16, 1957 in Appleton, WI, to David and Mary Thomas.

She graduated from Oshkosh North High School in 1976. She started her career as a Sales Associate and

went on to work for many different companies.

Tina married Jack Prenot. The couple had one child, Blake Prenot, of Oshkosh. Tina and Jack traveled throughout the world following his military career. They spent a few years in Germany, while Jack served in the Army and she made very fond memories there.

Later in life she married William (Bud) Bays and moved to Berlin, Wisconsin, and opened and ran her pizza restaurant, Bays Corner Pizza, for several years. After selling that business, she opened The Upper Crust pizza restaurant in Oshkosh with her brother Brian Thomas.

Todd A. Kwasny

Todd A. Kwasny, age 51, passed away suddenly at Mercy Medical Center on Monday,



January 17, 2022. He was born to Clarence "Butch" and Carol (Price) Kwasny on December 7, 1970, in Kewaunee, WI. Todd met the love of his life, Judy Proctor, on March 26, 1988, at a high school forensics meet. He and

Judy were married on June 4, 1994, in Flintville, WI. Together they had two daughters. For 28 years, Todd worked in audio sales at The Exclusive Company in Appleton, WI. Todd was a quintessential family man who also loved music, football, Dungeons and Dragons, golf, and any opportunity to use his tools. Todd's super power was making people laugh. And telling dad jokes.

Todd is survived by his wife, Judy; daughters, Taylor, and Sarah Kwasny; mother, Carol Kwasny; brothers, Brian, and Brad Kwasny; Brad's children, Dakota, and Anika; special family friend, Shawna Schwalenberg; and

Margaret Crawford

Margaret Newman Crawford, born 1935, Mason City, Iowa died 2022, in Watford WI with family in attendance.

Margaret raised her six children in Oshkosh with her husband, Dr. William, finding time to attend the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, earning a Master degree

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Obituaries

Janice Fay Lenoir Cozort

Janice Fay Lenoir Cozort, November 25, 1933 – January 18, 2022. Fay was born in Ferriday, Louisiana, the third of four children, to Leon and Verda Lavendera Lenoir. She attributed many of her pleasing personality traits to her “middle-child” status. She grew up in Hattiesburg and Gulfport, Mississippi, with experiences during the Great Depression and World War II shaping her childhood. Many happy times were spent with extended family in Picayune – large Sunday lunches at the Lee farm followed by singing of hymns around the piano afterward.

After graduating from Gulf Park College and Mississippi State College for Women, Fay moved to Houston to teach at Lanier Junior High. As part of the “space race” of the late 1950s when the U.S. sought to train more science teachers, she was one of fifty scholars selected by the National Science Foundation to study at the University of Texas. While at UT, she met bright women who became wonderful lifetime friends. She returned to Houston to teach at Jackson Junior High, and married a fellow educator, William James (Bill) Cozort. They enjoyed five happy years together, welcoming two children, Caroline and Will, before Bill’s untimely death in an automobile accident in 1966.

Fay returned to teaching, enjoying many fulfilling years in the science department at Bellaire High School. She had great colleagues at Bellaire, many of whom were also cherished friends. They prided themselves on providing an excellent educational experience to their students. While continuing to work full time, Fay earned an M.Ed. from the University of Houston. She became an assistant principal at Bellaire and enjoyed chaperoning students on trips to Russia, France, and Germany. But Fay’s most significant sources of pride and joy were her children, to whom she was fiercely devoted and for whom she maintained a loving and secure home.

On holidays and in the summers during her children’s youth, they enjoyed visiting family from the Gulf Coast to the Mississippi Delta, in Louisiana, and at the Cozorts’ farm in Lamar County, Texas. Fay remained close to Bill’s family – a special gift to his family and her children.

After her retirement in 1994, Fay enjoyed traveling, playing bridge, exercising with friends at Chancellor’s, finding treasures at estate sales, and tending her yard and many plants. She volunteered as a docent at Bayou Bend, devoted time to others through Corpus Christi Catholic Church, and was an officer and active member of Delta Kappa Gamma. She also took great pleasure being on her porch

swing with a glass of wine while visiting with neighbors. “Mi Casa es Su Casa” was her motto; she opened her home several times to friends and family receiving care at the nearby Texas Medical Center. She loved being with her five grandchildren, and many joyous times were had together, especially beach vacations.

Twenty wonderful years in retirement passed before Fay moved to an assisted living facility in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, as most of her beautiful memories slowly began to fade. Despite leaving her Houston home of almost 50 years, Fay made the most of her final years, spending time with her family, and remained a “glass half-full” optimist until the end.

Fay was preceded in death by her parents; her siblings, Dr. Leon Lenoir, Jr. (Martha Lenoir), Elaine Lenoir Murphy (A.G. “Pat” Murphy), Larry Lenoir; and her husband, Bill. Surviving family members include her children, Dr. Caroline Cozort McDonald (Dr. Robert McDonald) and William James Cozort, Jr. (Sharon McCord Cozort); grandchildren, Patrick Murphy McDonald, Anne Claire McDonald Stacey (Alex Stacey), Michael Hugh McDonald, John Andrew “Jack” Cozort, and William McCord Cozort; great-granddaughter, Maria Rose Stacey; in-laws, Roger Cozort, Mary Winslow, Paula Kay Cozort, and Judy Lenoir; and many beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins. She also leaves behind many friends and former students whose lives she touched.

The family’s deepest gratitude goes out to the many angels of mercy who cared for Fay in her final years at Gabriel’s Villa and Westbrook Manor.

A Memorial Mass will be held at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, 9900 Stella Link Road in Houston, Texas on Saturday, February 26 at 11:00 a.m. Friends are cordially invited to visit with the family beginning at 10:00 a.m. A reception will follow at a venue to be announced during the service. A private interment will be held at Meadowbrook Cemetery in Paris, Texas. In lieu of flowers, a donation to one of the Principal’s scholarships at Bellaire High School would honor Fay’s life.

“Well done, my good and faithful servant.” Mt 25:23

Myrtle Lee Nelson Scholarship Fund, 515 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1000, Houston, TX 77027. Make payable to “Greater Houston Community Foundation” and please note the fund name on the check.

David S. McLure Scholarship Fund, 1200 Smith Street, #1400, Houston, TX. 77002. Attn: Barry Adkins

Harlan G. Andrews Scholarship Fund, 5115 Patrick Henry St., Bellaire TX 77401-4905.



Fred Lowther

Fred, age 58, died peacefully at Aurora Medical on January 16th. He was born in Oshkosh on December 1st, 1963, to Larry and June Lowther. He is survived by his son Jacob Lowther, his parents, his brothers Mark Lowther (Nicole Frank) and Matthew (Audry) Lowther, his niece and nephews Kaelyn, Konner and Luke Lowther as well as his uncle Edwin Stieben and cousins Ronald Stieben, Margaret Mary, and Anne Lerch. Fred is also sur-



vived by his fiancée Luann Jensen.

Fred’s many friends were a testament to his easy-going and good-natured personality. He was happiest being outdoors hunting and fishing, and he enjoyed going “Up North” to the family cottage on the lake. He learned to love the Wisconsin tradition of hunting and fishing from his dad, Larry. He enjoyed a trip to Alaska with Luann and her family.

Fred was a wonderful dad to his son and will be greatly missed by his family and friends. A private service for relatives and close friends was held at Lake View Memorial Park on January 21st, 2022.

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