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Photo by Michael Cooney

Happy sledding

Families were having fun on the Red Arrow Park hill last week while enduring the wind chill up top and hoping for a little more snow.

Apartment obstacles navigated

Rent Smart program helps meet challenges

By Cheryl Hentz
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Anyone looking for a place to live these days knows that rents seem to be at an all-time high. And if you've had any kind of credit problems with a previous landlord, especially if they filed – and won – a court case to have you evicted, renting can be a real struggle, if you're able to rent at all.

"When somebody does have an eviction on their record, that is kind of that scarlet letter that goes with them for quite some time because these cases are active on CCAP (Circuit Court Access Program) and searchable on CCAP for a very long time," explained Michael Rust, chief executive of the Winnebago Conflict Resolution Center. "This can be an eight-, 10-, 12- or 20-year time period that these can be searchable."

Rust did reference a change made by the director of state courts, which oversees CCAP, that any eviction case dismissed, either because the tenant won at trial or a settlement was reached, would only be viewable for two years.

"It's still a matter of public record, but it's no longer viewable on CCAP," Rust said. "That has been a massive benefit to the tenant community" if they're able to work something out with their landlord through a means, such as mediation, before a judgment is entered.

Some landlords won't rent to anyone

SEE **Rent Smart** ON PAGE 13

Autism services expand with Caravel opening

Oshkosh health center opened doors last month

By Kaitlyn Scoville
OSHKOSH HERALD

A new location for autism health services recently opened in Oshkosh to help close a gap found by families in the Fox Valley searching for treatment.

Caravel Autism Health was first opened in 2009 in Green Bay by Eric Lund and Christopher Van Dyke to deliver applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy to children on the autism spectrum and has since opened locations in five states.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1 in 44 children have been identified with autism spectrum disorder and is about four times more common among males than females.

"Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges," the CDC website

reads. "There is often nothing about how people with ASD look that sets them apart from other people, but (they) may communicate, interact, behave and learn in ways different from most others."

Learning, thinking and problem-solving capabilities among those with ASD can range among a wide spectrum from gifted to severely challenged.



Amacher

Caravel Fond du Lac and Oshkosh director Abby Amacher said that the autism spectrum is large.

"Children are profoundly impacted by their diagnosis and engage in very few independent skills and communication," she said. "What I think is important for people to know is that if you've met one child with autism you've met one child with autism. You cannot make assumptions that every child or every adult is the same."

Amacher has been with Caravel for 10

years to continue her passion of serving the underserved. Some families may have to travel far to get necessary treatment for their child.

"There was this gap where people didn't know autism treatment existed in this area," Amacher said. "We found a lot of kids were slipping through the cracks. Some families live farther out from metropolitan cities – driving 30 minutes here is a lot easier than an hour and a half to Madison."

Caravel acquired a new space at 1306 S. Main St. in April, and Amacher stepped up to lead both Fond du Lac and Oshkosh locations in September. However, its services did not begin until last month.

Opening the Oshkosh location expanded overall access to treatments, Amacher said. That will always be her goal: reaching the underserved. Through Caravel, she's able to provide ABA treatment for children without their families having to travel to Green Bay, Milwaukee or Madison.

SEE **Autism help** ON PAGE 13



Oshkosh Herald Photo

Caravel Autism Health recently opened a location in Oshkosh to help families of those affected by autism.



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We share our gratitude after four years

Four years ago, the Oshkosh Herald was introduced to the community. Launching a brand-new paper when you have no idea what you are doing except you're on a mission to provide local, relevant news doesn't go without a few incidents.

We laugh now, but were scratching our heads when the first issue didn't show up in 26,500 mailboxes. After a slight meltdown and some research, we learned it was because the printer delivered to the wrong U.S. Postal Service facility.

At least we had a printer! It was a challenge to get anyone to take us seriously and give us a quote because who would start a newspaper now?

Tom Ekvall, one of our contributors, shared back issues of Alberta Kimball's The Paper. Tom's father was an editor there and he did his thesis on how competition impacts newspapers' local coverage. The data was interesting in how coverage of local sports, government and UW Oshkosh increased in



Karen Schneider

Herald publisher

the local daily paper during The Paper's existence and how it declined when it closed after 36 months.

Oshkosh is fortunate in the news outlets we do have with a daily, the Herald and other online news sources. News deserts are increasing across America with nearly a quarter of the counties without a newspaper of any kind.

In 2021 we increased our distribution and added a bit more depth to our newsroom. This was possible thanks to

you, the readers. Your support of us and our advertisers allow us to continue to bring local news home to you. And we cannot forget our advertisers, without whom we wouldn't exist.

I'd want to say an extra thank-you to all Herald members who continue to renew their support. It can be difficult to pay for something you receive for free, and that monetary support motivates us and helps with operating expenses.

Thank you for sharing part of each week with the Oshkosh Herald. We will continue to work hard to keep you informed.

Happy New Year to you and your loved ones. Cheers to 2022!

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Jan. 16, 1961

"Dial-A-Prayer" Starts Tuesday: The "Dial a Prayer" daily program which will be sponsored by the Oshkosh National Bank, will begin Tuesday (Jan. 17), it was announced today by Joseph L. Metz, local manager of the cooperating Wisconsin Telephone Company. Persons feeling the spiritual need of prayer at times when it may not be available otherwise will be able to dial their telephone BE 5-**** at any time. The

one-minute prayers will be different each day with members of Oshkosh Council of Churches taking turns alphabetically each week. (Note: the first day of service more than 1,000 calls were answered with another 3,000 calls receiving a busy signal, as it was only a one-wire service. Callers were encouraged by a follow-up ad in the newspaper to try again later). A similar service was also offered by the Wisconsin Telephone Co., which gave the time and temperature. That service is STILL available today at the same number since its inception. 920-235-0123.

Source: Oshkosh Daily Northwestern, Jan. 16, 1961

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County Board likely to have plenty of new faces in April

Oshkosh Herald

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors will have a different look after elections in April.

More than a third of the current roster of supervisors will not be running for re-election as a total of 13 supervisors have filed non-candidacy notifications. Five of those supervisors who have filed those notifications represent wards in Oshkosh, with Kevin Konrad (District

14), Vicky Schorse (District 15), Bill Wingren (District 18), Larry Lautenschlager (District 19) and Joel Rasmussen (District 31) making up that group.

Two of the three longest tenured supervisors will be stepping away from the board as well. Jerry Finch of Neenah has served on the board since 1992, while Wingren has been a supervisor since 1998 and both have filed non-candidacy papers.

Oshkosh's David Albrecht is the longest serving supervisor having joined the board in 1986 and will run for re-election in District 11.

County Board Chairman Shiloh Ramos of Neenah has also announced he won't be seeking another term.

Despite the departures, there were only three districts that did not have someone declare candidacy, including District 16 in Oshkosh, which currently is vacant.

The other districts that didn't have a candidate ahead of Tuesday's filing deadline were District 2 in Menasha and District 14 in Oshkosh.

According to an email from County Clerk Sue Ertmer, 21 individuals have filed declaration of candidacy papers and had until the deadline to complete the nomination process.

The spring election is April 5.

Home funding programs offered

The city of Oshkosh offers loans and incentives designed to encourage home improvements, home ownership and investing in eligible housing stock. Online presentations are set for 6 p.m. Jan. 12 for potential home buyers and at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 13 for real estate agents, bankers, contractors and investors.

Presenters will share details on programs such as Sold on Oshkosh, a \$5,000 grant for a home purchase that is forgivable after five years; and the Curb Appeal program for those who own an eligible property and want to make improvements to the exterior with a 10-year loan up to \$10,000 with no interest.

Additional programs can be found at ci.oshkosh.wi.us/PlanningServices.

Those attending will hear from a panel of city planning staff and members of Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

Register by Jan. 11 with Anne Schaefer, marketing and fund development coordinator, at aschaefer@ci.oshkosh.wi.us or 920-232-5306.



Photo from Jaime Gibbs

Comforting project

Jaime Gibbs and her family and friends were able to collect 27 bedding sets of twin sheets, 29 comforters and 30 pillows for the local Sleep in Heavenly Peace program that serves children in the community. She posted the results of what she plans to be an annual drive on her Facebook page, noting, "This is an awesome program we have here in Oshkosh and I'm glad we all pitched in and helped out."

Learn about City of Oshkosh Loans, Grants, and Incentives during these FREE Online Sessions

Please register to attend
All programs will be discussed at both sessions

Home Buyers/Owners Session - Wednesday, January 12th at 6 pm
or
Realtors, Bankers, and Investors Session - Thursday, January 13th at 11:30 am



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COVID policies updated amid latest surge

Oshkosh Herald

The Winnebago County Health Department enters a new year of maneuvering its response to a continuing pandemic by asking the public to take “urgent action” to prevent hospitalizations that are straining health care systems’ abilities to serve patients.

With the holiday get-together and travel surge ending, WCHD officials continue their focus on the Omicron variant of COVID-19 that is now dominant in the United States.

“This variant spreads much more easily than previous COVID-19 variants and will become the predominant strain of COVID-19 in Wisconsin if it isn’t already,” the WCHD stated. “The best protection from Omicron is vaccination, plus a booster, and wearing a mask when recommended.”

As of Monday, the Food and Drug Administration approved Pfizer-BioNTech booster shots for children between ages 12 and 15. With this, the organization also shortened the time between the completion of primary vaccination and a booster dose to five months

from six, according to National Public Radio.

The FDA also allowed for a third dose of vaccine in immunocompromised 5- to 11-year-olds.

The county remains at a very high burden status and activity level, coming off a Delta peak as the Omicron surge is underway. There were 123 COVID-19 patients hospitalized in area hospitals as of last Thursday, with local health systems reporting they are at a crisis point and severely strained.

State COVID-19 hospitalizations are at the highest levels since December 2020.

About 60 percent of the county’s 170,000 residents have received at least one dose; one-quarter have received a booster dose.

The state Department of Health Services noted Omicron cases are surging at the same time schools are returning from holiday.

“There is considerable concern that the number of children becoming infected with COVID-19 will increase – having major ripple effects for community transmission and COVID-19 hospitalizations,” said Dr. Ryan

Westergaard, DHS chief medical officer and state epidemiologist.

Among recent updates on safety recommendations and policies:

- The WCHD issued a face mask advisory Dec. 23 for inside public enclosed spaces — businesses, health care settings, public transportation — and gathering with individuals who do not live in the same household.

- The Oshkosh Area School District will move to mask-optional learning Jan. 15 as vaccines and booster shots become more widely available, extending its current face covering requirement for a week to allow for an adequate amount of time to pass after holiday activities.

- The city will continue to require employees and visitors inside city-operated buildings to wear face coverings, regardless of vaccination status. This requirement will remain through Jan. 31 and be re-evaluated.

- The CDC shortened the recommended isolation time for those exposed to the virus to five days and if they are asymptomatic or

their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours), followed by five days of wearing a mask when around others to minimize the risk of infecting people. Science is demonstrating that the majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness, generally in the 1-2 days before onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after.

- For people unvaccinated or more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (two months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, the CDC now recommends quarantine for five days followed by strict mask use for an additional five days.

- It’s best to wait five to seven days from exposure to get tested. If you test too early, the viral load may not be enough to show up on a test. Anyone with symptoms should get tested immediately.

Sunnyview Expo Center PCR test results currently take about two to three days. Go to co.winnebago.wi.us/health for a list of county testing locations. Vaccines are available for anyone 5 and older any day of the week.

ADA access updates reviewed by Common Council

By Kaitlyn Scoville
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Common Council recently reviewed public building and facility accessibility compliance in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at a workshop with SRF Consulting Group.

ADA was enacted in 1990 and regulations have been in place since 1992. Since then, there have been changes to code that need to be dealt with to ensure accessibility indoors and outside for everyone.

Some public buildings and parks – such as Stevens Park, the public library, boat launches, fishing piers, the convention center, city hall – underwent an accessibility audit last summer to determine what the city can do to bring some shortfalls to updated ADA code.

Joe Kapper, planner and project manager with SRF, said Oshkosh performs well in both the maintenance and development of accessible features. He also said this allows for great flexibility in how departments move toward full compliance.

“There is evidence that designers have kept up with changes to accessibility standards and the city has a great deal of flexibility with how they would like to move forward with improvements,” Kapper said. “It doesn’t matter what’s happening inside the building if you can’t get to the building.”

Kapper also noted that partial compliance is not accessible with ADA standards – if one thing is off, it is technically noncompliant.

Some key deficiencies noted:

- The slope of parking spaces and access aisles were greater than the 2 percent limit in any direction.
- Many entrance doors required more than five pounds to open and did not take at least five seconds to close.
- Facilities without enough accessible parking spots.
- Some restrooms did not have clear accessi-

ble spaces to amenities.

- Curb ramp flares do not meet design requirements.

One example discussed was City Hall’s ADA compliant restroom being on the fourth floor.

Kapper said other communities he has worked with have implemented these changes slowly over time, prioritizing low-cost, low-maintenance fixes.

In the city’s 2022 capital improvement program (CIP) plan, which was passed in early November, \$100,000 is allocated per year between 2022 and 2026 to ADA improvements.

General services manager Jon Urben said next steps recommend department heads review the information and prioritize projects to maintain up-to-code compliance.

“We’re on our way but there’s still some fine-tuning that needs to be done,” Urben said.

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UWO anthropology team helps bring close to cold case

By Laurie Schlosser
UW OSHKOSH TODAY

A stunning announcement last month confirmed the human remains found at High Cliff State Park on Sept. 29 are those of Starkie Swenson, a Neenah man who disappeared and was presumed murdered in 1983.

"I was there and helped identify him," said University of Wisconsin Oshkosh anthropology professor Jordan Karsten, who has been working for nearly a year to locate Swenson's remains. "I knew it was an older male skeleton and saw the clothes and personal effects."



Swenson

The Calumet County Sheriff's Office said DNA tests confirmed Swenson's identity. Karsten said he determined the skeletal element turned over to authorities was from a human. Initially, there was a question of whether it was part of an archaeological burial site, but that possibility was quickly discounted due to modern items found with it.

"It feels great. It feels so nice to know the family can have this closure," Karsten said about the discovery 38 years after Swenson's disappearance. "We had been searching for the better part of the past year."

A pair of hikers using the High Cliff trails discovered the remains after Karsten and anthropology students searched earlier this year for Swenson's remains in a field and wooded area in Omro.

Eric Tillman, grandson of Swenson, was 4½ when his grandpa disappeared. He now lives in north-central Wisconsin and was part of the effort in Omro.

"I'm immensely grateful to the university," he said. "I'm grateful to professor Karsten and the students for their tenacity and never-ending hope."

"It was something really special — their hope and commitment to it," he added. "It was a personal thing for Jordan and the class."

Karsten said he considers Tillman a good friend.

John C. Andrews of Chilton plead guilty to the August 1983 murder of Swenson, even without recovery of Swenson's body. Swenson, who was 67 years old, was romantically involved with Claire Andrews, the ex-wife of Andrews.

When the case was prosecuted in 1994, the first-degree intentional homicide charge was amended to homicide by negligent use of a motor vehicle. Andrews halted his trial by accepting a plea to the lesser charge. It was believed Andrews ran over Swenson, who had been riding a bicycle near Shattuck Middle School in Neenah. Andrews was convicted and ordered to 24 months in the county jail.

Karsten said UWO alumni and archaeology lab employees Trisha Jenz and Hayley Hintz assisted with excavation and analysis.

Earlier this year he created a podcast, "Cold Case: Frozen Tundra," about the Swenson disappearance and plans to add another segment about the discovery at High Cliff.



Photo from Oshkosh Beer

Lost on Parkway

A saloon and grocery store was built in 1908 on the southwest corner of Parkway and Monroe by Theodore Kitz. The seed of that Oshkosh enterprise was planted decades earlier by his father, Frank Kitz, who arrived in the city in 1856. Read Lee Reiherzer's "Lost on Parkway: Theodore Kitz and the Treasure Chest" at oshkoshbeer.blogspot.com about the saloon that once captured the essence of the east side.

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Lake Michigan shrinks beaches, smashes boardwalks

By Mario Koran
WISCONSIN WATCH/WPR

Lake Michigan's winds and waves have sculpted the landscape of Whitefish Dunes State Park, a must-see treasure along Wisconsin's Door Peninsula. Water delivers fine sand to a shoreline that supports threatened plants like the dune thistle. Wind stacks that sand into the mighty dunes that inspired the park's name.

Summer visitors splash on its beach or hike to Old Baldy, the park's tallest dune that rises nearly 100 feet above the lake. Come winter, gazers marvel at erupting ice volcanoes — cone-shaped mounds formed when waves shoot slush and water through cracks in ice. These shores have attracted humans for thousands of years; evidence lies in the Native American pottery, bone tools and thousands of other artifacts that Lake Michigan's forces are increasingly unearthing from the dunes.

But those same winds and waters are also whittling away the park's landmarks — eroding dunes, toppling trees, damaging amenities and, at times, swallowing the beach whole.

In 2018, those elements undermined a walkway leading to the park's beach. The ramp remains closed three years later, preventing people with disabilities from accessing the beach. And record-high waters in 2020 left only a narrow stretch of beach at Whitefish Dunes for people to sunbathe. That threw a wrench into social distancing protocols during a coronavirus pandemic that drove people outdoors.

Visitors have flocked to Whitefish Dunes and other Wisconsin state parks



Door County Pulse photo

High water and a closed boardwalk are seen at Whitefish Dunes State Park in Door County in September. Lake Michigan's high waters in recent years have limited beach access and damaged amenities at state parks along the shoreline.

in record numbers during the pandemic, seeking fun and relaxation while public health measures limited indoor options. But Lake Michigan's volatile waters have imposed their own limits along the shoreline. While beaches have somewhat recovered as water recedes from 2020 levels, the state Department of Natural Resources — which oversees a state system of 49 parks, 15 forests and 44 trails — has yet to repair many amenities destroyed in the surge.

North of the Door Peninsula, water swamped the dock at Rock Island State Park, closing the island to campers for

most of 2020 and reducing admission revenue that funds the park system. At Point Beach State Forest, about 60 miles south of Whitefish Dunes, a winter storm hammered the beach three years ago and mangled the ramp leading to the beach. Its metal carcass lies twisted on the beach. No one knows when it will be fixed.

Just as local homeowners have watched waves flood and erode their lakefront, Wisconsin may see more damage to its shoreline parks. Scientists expect erosion to worsen as climate change brings more volatility to Great Lakes water levels. That would only lengthen a backlog of thousands of needed repairs that one DNR official pegs at nearly \$1 billion. But the agency's funding remains scarce, and even greenlighted repairs can take years to complete.

The DNR is looking for grants and

external funding sources for repairs, but it can only prioritize the most serious damage unless lawmakers invest more in a park system that currently ranks among the country's worst-funded. State parks have largely relied on revenue from admissions and campsite reservations since 2015, when then-Gov. Scott Walker eliminated general-purpose spending on park operations.

"We need to increase funding for state parks and we also need to look for additional ways to support homeowners and municipalities along the shoreline," said state Rep. Deb. Andraca, D-Whitefish Bay, who has proposed legislation to finance shoreline protection projects.

The powerful waves that have gobbled up the beach at Whitefish Dunes have sent nearby homeowners scrambling to build walls to protect their beaches.

Just south of the park, Bo Ellis in 2020 stacked rocks along his shorefront to deflect the waves amid worries that his home would topple into the lake. Nearly all of his neighbors now have riprap — slopes of rock or concrete that absorb force from waves — or some other kind of barrier, most of them constructed last year, he said.

The trend extends along the Door Peninsula, where the DNR is seeing a surge in applications to construct such barriers along the shoreline. That includes a more than 830% increase from 2018 to 2020 in "emergency self-certifications" to protect structures facing imminent danger from accelerating erosion; residents filed 280 applications last year, up from fewer than 30 in 2018.

Lake Michigan's water levels have swung dramatically over the past decade. From record lows in 2013 to record highs in 2020, Lake Michigan swelled by more than 6 feet. Climate scientists attribute the volatility to a complex interplay of rising temperatures as humans emit more greenhouse gases and increased

SEE **Lake Michigan** ON PAGE 7

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Lake Michigan

FROM PAGE 6

precipitation from more frequent and intense storms over the Great Lakes region.

While artificial barriers can protect the property immediately behind them, they can disrupt the natural movement of sand that replenishes beaches downstream. A seawall meant to save a beach-house can cost another homeowner their beach, said Guy Meadows, a professor at Michigan Technological University and director of its Marine Engineering Laboratory.

DNR officials face additional complications when weighing how to protect state parks from flooding and erosion, including fundamental questions about land preservation.

At Whitefish Dunes, park manager Sarah Stepanik said her colleagues have discussed adding an offshore barrier to break up damaging water currents. But doing so would disrupt the forces that created the popular dunes.

“The unfortunate thing is, those currents are part of the mechanism that formed the dunes. So if you put (barriers) in place, you’re protecting them, but you’re stopping their formation,” she said.

Instead, the DNR is considering structures that can survive fluctuating lake levels, she said. That might include ditching a fixed dock for one that floats.

“We do want to figure out how to make it more usable even in years when the lake isn’t agreeing with us,” Stepanik said.

Stepanik’s observations underscore fundamental questions about whether to protect parks or conserve land in its natural state, said Michael Bergum, a DNR district park and recreation supervisor.

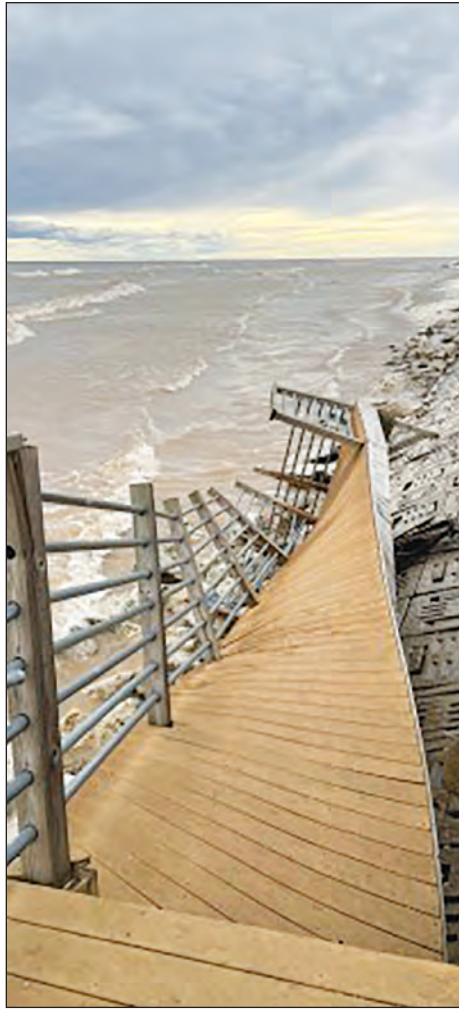
“Do we look at it as protecting the land, or simply understanding that this is a natural process that takes place — whether it be a high water level year or a low water level year?” he said.

Besides, Bergum added, even an “endless amount of money” may not be enough to solve the problem.

“It’s just too vast,” he said. “You would have to literally riprap the entire Lake Michigan shoreline to address erosion everywhere.”

A sign greets visitors walking toward Lake Michigan from the parking lot at Point Beach State Forest, just north of Two Rivers in Manitowoc County. “Where no two visits are ever the same,” it says. Ice, wind and water continue to sculpt the fragile landscape.

Like at Whitefish Dunes, high water swamped most of the beach in 2020, said park supervisor Erin Dembski-Rodriguez. As the swollen lake limited beach



Wisconsin Watch photo

A mangled ramp is seen at Point Beach State Forest in Manitowoc County in September. The ramp has gone unfixed since a winter storm hammered the beach in 2018.

access, visitors often traipsed across dunes or trampled endangered plants.

But one sight has remained constant for three years: The storm-twisted ramp. A lonely section of wood and metal stands about 100 yards away as waves lap at its edges.

That leaves most of the beach inaccessible to people with mobility issues “until the water recedes or we can come up with another solution,” Dembski-Rodriguez said.

Visitors occasionally complain about the damage, calling it an eyesore and lamenting the DNR’s delayed repairs. Dembski-Rodriguez submitted a repair request soon after the winter storm walloped it three years ago, she said, but the agency’s bureaucracy moves slowly.

Projects must compete with thousands of other repairs and improvements across the park system — often getting bumped to a future budget cycle to make room for higher priority projects.

“Money is always an issue,” Dembski-Rodriguez said. “But in this case it’s not the only issue.”

The DNR must also consider the timing of repairs, waiting for water levels to drop before embarking on shoreline projects, said Missy VanLanduyt, a DNR capital development coordinator.

“Part of what we need to understand is the pattern of the water. We don’t want to go in and repair something just to have it ripped out or damaged again,” she said.

Fluctuating lake levels cost the park system in multiple ways, although calculating the full price tag is difficult. High waves mean high water tables ashore, said Dembski-Rodriguez. These higher levels flooded the Point Beach State Forest campground in 2020 and forced park managers to close campsites for three months, costing \$19,000 in revenue.

At Door County’s northern tip, Rock Island State Park’s dock flooded in 2020, keeping out the 40,000 annual visitors it typically sees, Bergum said.

Bergum estimated close to \$1 billion in repair and improvement needs have stacked up.

In her 11 years at the agency, VanLanduyt has never seen the DNR fund all needed repairs within a single budget cycle. The DNR leans on external funding — welcoming the millions raised by groups of private citizens who support the parks and exploring state and federal grants.

But grants often have specific terms that many of the highest-priority projects don’t meet, VanLanduyt added.

Wisconsin in 2017 ranked 49th in the country, ahead of only Alabama, when it came to per-resident spending on operations for parks and recreation, according to a recent report from the Wisconsin Policy Forum.

Andraca, the state lawmaker, called lakeshore erosion and high-water damage a key issue for many of her constituents. Aside from calling for more state parks funding, she has proposed a bill to create a loan program that would help homeowners and municipalities pay for projects to protect shoreline properties from storm damage.

Democratic Gov. Tony Evers included that program in his last budget proposal, but Republican lawmakers on the powerful Joint Finance Committee stripped it from the budget Evers ultimately signed, along with many other items the governor proposed.

“Climate change is an issue that’s not going away anytime soon,” Andraca said. “I think it’s in the best interest of the state to be aggressive about finding cost-effective ways to deal with shoreline erosion and damage from high water.”

This story was produced as part of the NEW (Northeast Wisconsin) News Lab and in partnership with the Door County Pulse. The nonprofit Wisconsin Watch (wisconsinwatch.org) collaborates with Wisconsin Public Radio, PBS Wisconsin, other news media and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

City welcomes public board participation

Oshkosh Herald

The city of Oshkosh is looking for individuals to help support the community by applying to take part in its boards and commissions.

“Most Americans have more frequent contact with their state and local governments than with the federal government,” the White House website reads. “Police departments, libraries and schools — not to mention driver’s licenses and parking tickets — usually fall under the oversight of state and local governments. Each state has its own written constitution, and these documents are often far more elaborate than their federal counterpart.”

The White House site also says local governments take responsibility for several other things, including park and recreation services, police and fire departments, housing services, emergency medical services, transportation services and public works — streets, sewers, snow removal and signage.

These responsibilities are often reviewed and action is advised by subcommittees, boards and commissions — led by community members — to be implemented by the Common Council.

Several positions are open for groups that meet once a month with some exceptions, such as the Plan Commission and the Redevelopment Authority who meet twice monthly and every other month, respectively.

“No special skills are needed to serve on any of the various boards, commissions or committees,” a release from Oshkosh Media said.

To apply to a board, commission or committee, visit onboard.ci.oshkosh.wi.us and click “Online Application” listed under the group’s name.

Man, 40, found deceased outside

Police are investigating the death of a 40-year-old Oshkosh man whose body was found in the 2100 block of South Main Street.

The Oshkosh Police Department said they received information Monday morning that a person was lying in some bushes and was not responsive. Officers who arrived on scene reported he was deceased.

Police said his death does not appear suspicious at this time while authorities continue to investigate.

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The year in beer: 2021 saw output rebound

By Lee Reiherzer
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

It's been a good year for beer in Oshkosh. In 2021, the beer scene here rebounded from the wounds inflicted in 2020 by the pandemic. Despite this latest wave of COVID, the future looks more promising than it did at this time last year.

The most tangible element of that promise is the sharp rise in output at Oshkosh's three breweries. By midyear, total beer production here was up 80 percent. And the breweries continued to gain momentum as the year wore on. The final numbers aren't in yet, but Bare Bones, Fifth Ward, and Fox River will all break their previous production records this year.

But we also lost a brewery along the way. In September, HighHolder Brewing officially ceased to exist. HighHolder was Oshkosh's first and only nano-brewery. But its failure isn't indicative of what's happening here. The brewery's end was caused by internal issues. It was intentional. It could have been otherwise.

Beer Garden

The June 9 beer garden in Menominee Park may have been the highlight of 2021.

It was the first time in 150 years that a beer garden on Lake Winnebago in Oshkosh served local beer. It was an undoing of the dourness that had loomed over 2020. It was a celebration of what had gone missing.

Each of Oshkosh's three breweries had their beer on tap. The Society of Oshkosh Brewers provided homebrewed beer. It wasn't enough. The lines were long, and



most of the beer ran out an hour before the scheduled end. People enjoyed themselves anyway. It was an encouraging start to what is likely to become a renewed tradition.

The beer here

The number of unique beers released here in 2021 is unprecedented. Combined, Oshkosh's three breweries released over 125 different beers this year. I tried keeping track. By April I had given up.

Fifth Ward's release schedule has been blistering. It wasn't unusual to see the brewery release two new beers a week. Most of those were small batches of either fruited sour or flavored IPA.

Like everywhere else, there's a prominent share of customers here who want something different each time they step into a taproom. And they usually get it. But there are downsides to all the variety.

First, when the customers are so intensely focused on the next new thing, there's little incentive for a brewer to develop a beer and make it truly excellent over time. We'd probably have better beer here if there was less insistence on novelty. Second, the recurring hype around new releases leads to its own kind of tedium. When almost

everything is "special," the uncommon becomes commonplace. It leads to an odd, dulling effect.

That said, there were several beers released this year that were authentically unique and worth calling out.

The first of those was released in February by Bare Bones. The brewery's Native Grisette was the first beer produced by a commercial brewery that was fermented entirely with wild yeast captured and propagated in Oshkosh.

Bare Bones followed up in April with a barleywine named Inoculator. At 24.8 percent ABV, Inoculator may have been the strongest beer ever produced by a Wisconsin brewery.

June saw a collaboration between 10 breweries and a meadery; all of them from our 920 area code. The beer they made was in commemoration of their businesses having survived the shutdowns and restrictions inflicted upon them in 2020. All three Oshkosh breweries had a hand in the cucumber-dosed Kolsch that came out of that project.

Lager beer underwent a revival this year. At Fox River, head brewer Drew Roth released a series of novel lagers that were well received. Included among them were dry-hopped pilsners, and bock beers brewed with honey and chocolate.

At Bare Bones, lager beer became a mainstay this year with the brewery turning out a set of distinctive lagers throughout the year. In 2021, Oshkosh Lager became Bare Bones' best-selling beer.

Between Bare Bones and Fox River, there hasn't been this kind of variety in lager beer brewing here since the early 1890s. That was celebrated in November with the release of The Fox and The Hound, a dry-hopped lager brewed in collaboration by Fox River and Bare Bones.

At Fifth Ward, their barrel-aged beer program came into full bloom this year. The brewery had more than 40 spirits barrels in production, far and away the most ever employed here. The results were showcased at Fifth Ward's anniversary party in November. The barrel-aged releases included imperial stouts, barleywines, and fruited sours.

Homebrewing

Homebrewing continues to be the linchpin for the beer scene in Oshkosh. What's happening here at the commercial level is a direct outgrowth of the city's homebrewing culture, which continues to thrive.

The Society of Oshkosh Brewers homebrewing club had an active year, and got back to having in-person meetings. Beginning in spring, the SOB celebrated its 30th anniversary by brewing beers made from club-member recipes at Bare Bones, Fifth Ward, and Fox River. It was illustrative of the sense of community that exists between the pro-brewers and homebrewers in Oshkosh. That bond is tighter here than in any other Wisconsin city.

This year also saw the election of Scott Westphal as the new president of the SOB. Westphal, who has been part of the club since 2008, replaces longtime SOB president Mike Engel, who moved to North Carolina.

Changing scene

We're getting deep into a period of transition. The pandemic has accelerated changes that began more than a decade ago. It's become especially pronounced at local taverns.

The beer scene here used to be framed by neighborhood taverns serving beer made by the city's breweries. That's over. Today, the neighborhood taverns are disconnected from locally made beer. And those neighborhood taverns are becoming fewer every year. This year, the city of Oshkosh revoked the liquor licenses of four more small taverns that couldn't present viable plans for re-opening post-pandemic.

Historic Witzke's had its liquor license rescinded in June after having been closed for more than a year.

The tavern was built by the Oshkosh Brewing Company in 1902.

Are we headed for a place where brewery taprooms and craft-centric beer bars and restaurants such as Dublin's, Oblio's, and Ruby Owl take the place of those dwindling neighborhood taverns? If that's the trend line, then Oshkosh – with its enthused drinking culture – will need more than three breweries.

The flux is also on vivid display at stores that carry craft beer. The pandemic greatly increased the amount of craft beer going into cans and retailers have yet to adapt to the torrent. Their shelves are packed with high-priced beer cans wrapped in cartoonish labels. Those cans may look good on Instagram, but it looks like clown vomit when they're huddled on warm shelves with the beer inside turning to sludge. At a mere \$24 a four-pack, what's not to love? I'm guessing this is just another part of the journey; that we are nowhere near anything resembling a destination. One can only hope.

Beer is culture

Perspective is a hard thing to come by when you're surrounded by what you're trying to see. With that in mind, here's something I've been thinking about...

It was 50 years ago this year that the largest brewery Oshkosh has ever known went bankrupt and closed. The Oshkosh Brewing Company failed in 1971. Nobody could have seen that coming when the brewery was in its prime. And in 1971, nobody would have imagined that the beer culture here would rebound the way that it has. But now it's grown familiar again. It gets easier and easier to take it for granted.

Fox River Brewing is heading into its 27th year. Bare Bones is approaching its seventh year. Fifth Ward just celebrated its fourth anniversary. The Society of Oshkosh Brewers has been around for 30 years. Then there are places like Oblio's and O'Marro's, still with us and vital, that were trying to drum up interest in good beer back when that meant nothing to most people here.

This is what it looks like when a beer culture matures and when local breweries make their way into the fabric of a community. But like the Oshkosh Brewing Company, this too will end. Make the most of it!

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

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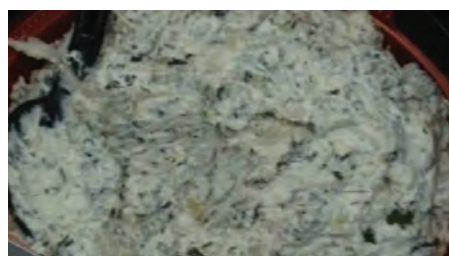
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<p>3-Pack Ortega Taco Seasoning Mix \$1.99 WITH CARD</p>	<p>10 to 12-Count Package Ortega Fiesta Flats, Taco or Tostada Shells \$1.49 WITH CARD</p>	<p>16-oz. - Butterball 85% Lean Ground Turkey \$3.49 WITH CARD</p>	<p>64-oz. Bottle - Liquid That's Smart Bleach 99¢ WITH CARD</p>
<p>8-oz. Bottle - Select Ortega Taco Sauce \$1.69 WITH CARD</p>	<p>1.25-oz. Package Ortega Fajita or Taco Seasoning Mix 89¢ WITH CARD</p>	<p>16-oz. Can Ortega Refried Beans \$1.49 WITH CARD</p>	<p>8-oz. - Regular Only Dean's Sour Cream 99¢ WITH CARD</p>
<p>8 to 10-Count Package Chi-Chi's Flour Fajitas or Tortillas \$1.69 WITH CARD</p>	<p>2.25-oz. Can Food Club Sliced Ripe Olives 99¢ WITH CARD</p>	<p>8-oz. - Regular Only Dean's Sour Cream 99¢ WITH CARD</p>	<p>From the Deli ... Spanish Rice \$2.99 lb.</p>
<p>Roma Tomatoes 99¢ lb.</p>	<p>8-oz. Package Fresh Express Lettuce Shreds! \$2.49</p>		

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 <p>Smithfield Boneless Center Cut Pork Loin Chops \$2.99 lb.</p>	 <p>CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF Top Round Steak \$4.99 lb.</p>	 <p>CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF Thin Sliced Sandwich Steak \$5.99 lb.</p>
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 <p>OVEN READY Smithfield Stuffed Boneless Pork Chops \$2.99 lb.</p>	 <p>OVEN READY Stuffed Chickens \$1.89 lb.</p>	 <p>16-oz. - Butterball Fresh - 85% Lean Ground Turkey \$3.49 WITH CARD</p>
 <p>Previously Frozen Hand Cut - Split or Whole Turkey Breast \$2.99 lb.</p>	 <p>Previously Frozen Hand Cut Turkey Drumsticks or Thighs \$1.99 lb.</p>	 <p>14-oz. - Assorted Varieties Klement's Ring Bologna \$3.99 WITH CARD</p>
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 <p>Patrick Cudahy Virginia or Honey Ham \$5.99 lb.</p>	 <p>Northwoods Chili \$3.99 lb. Beef Stew... \$7.99 lb.</p>	 <p>Bacon & Cheddar Macaroni Salad \$3.99 lb.</p>	 <p>4-oz. - Roth Buttermilk Blue Cheese Crumbles \$2.99 WITH CARD</p>
 <p>Cobb Pasta Salad w/Chicken \$3.99 lb.</p>	 <p>4-oz. - Montchevre Goat Cheese Logs \$3.49 WITH CARD</p>		

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 <p>8-Pack, 12-oz. Bottles or 12-Pack, 12-oz. Cans Coke, Sprite or Diet Coke \$5.79 WITH CARD</p>	 <p>16 oz. Bottle Body Armor \$4.75 WITH CARD</p>	 <p>6-Pack, 16-oz. Bottles Snapple Straight Up Tea \$4.99 WITH CARD</p>	 <p>8-Pack, 14.9-oz. Cans or 12-Pack, 11.2-oz. Bottles Guinness \$14.29 WITH CARD</p>	 <p>12-Pack, 12-oz. Cans or Bottles Michelob Ultra \$11.99</p>	 <p>12-Pack, 12-oz. Cans White Claw Hard Seltzer \$17.29</p>
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Autism help

FROM PAGE 1

ABA treatment is evidence-based and has 70 years of research behind it as a treatment for autism, but it's not exclusively just for that, Amacher said.

"Some sports teams have behavior analysts that work for them to increase safety on the field or reduce injuries," she said. "Nursing homes use ABA for dementia patients to arrange their environment. There's a lot of different ways it can be used.

"We can break down observable, measurable skills, rearrange them and provide positive reinforcement to increase desirable skills in the future."

All of Caravel's programs are taught in a controlled environment, from classroom models to one-on-one engagement.

There is also a stations room where the children can broaden their imagination with different activities. Amacher said one of Caravel's focuses is communication and requesting, so the stations room helps with that.

"The ultimate goal is working on what

we call generalization and maintenance. We want children who are learning a skill in our setting to be able to go into any setting and complete it," Amacher said. "The biggest thing is making sure we're teaching those skills to generalize in all environments."

Sometimes, helping kids generalize their skills to all environments requires Caravel's staff to leave the office and help where they're needed.

Another piece of their services lies in family treatment guidance, which trains parents so they can help their child outside of the controlled classroom environment.

"We're not out here creating little robots; not every child gets the same goals. There are going to be things one child needs to work on and another child doesn't," Amacher said. "Plans are individualized and reviewed with the family; it's a living document that can have changes made to it at any time."

Caravel asks families for a one-year commitment, but intensive program children should commit to anywhere from one to three years. Their focused model program narrows a child's goals and can last anywhere from a year to 18 months.



Generally, more children who enter the program at a later age have fewer language deficits, Amacher said. In these cases, Caravel staff might do more in-home treatments.

"If we can teach kids to communicate, whether through verbal speech, sign language, or using an alternative communication device, we often see those problem behaviors go down and communication goes up," she said.

They also work a lot with pediatricians and birth-to-3 day cares to identify early signs of autism and make sure referrals are in place.

"Some old-school pediatricians say they'll mature, and that's not really best practice," Amacher said. "If you have an 18-month-old that has problem behaviors

that are atypical, and you're seeing sensory needs or lack of communication – they're not meeting those developmental milestones – the best thing a family can do is get in for an evaluation right away and not wait."

Most Caravel clients are in their early intervention ages between 2 and 4, but they work with ages 18 months to 18 years.

"The recommendation is the second you have a concern, let's get that evaluation scheduled and see where it takes us," Amacher said.

But she also said treatment for children with autism is not the same as discipline.

"They don't (need discipline) – it's a skill deficit and a disability," Amacher said. "What we come in to do is help teach those skills that are missing to make sure they can live a better life for whatever that child wants to live their life as.

"Our jobs are not always easy – there are hard things we deal with but being able to focus on the positive and the progress the kids make is what keeps us coming back day after day. Caravel is my home."

Rent Smart

FROM PAGE 1

with an eviction in the last two years, said Lu Scheer, affordable housing director for Advocap, at the December meeting of Oshkosh's Rental Housing Advisory Board.

"Or they're requiring income three-and-one-half-times the amount of rent," said Scheer, whose agency is able to help pay rent and utilities for individuals or families who qualify. "It doesn't matter that their (rental) income is coming from a different source. They're not interested in that, or if their rent is being paid by a third party."

One thing that can be helpful for tenants in this kind of situation is a Rent Smart class. Rent Smart helps individuals who have little to no rental experience and have had difficulty obtaining rental housing. Participants may be first-time renters as they graduate from school, homeowners transitioning to renting, individuals with poor rental or credit history, or residents with other issues that may cause potential landlords to perceive them as high-risk tenants.

Rent Smart provides practical education to help people find, get and keep safe and suitable housing. The program focuses on the knowledge and skills essential for a successful renting experience. It helps participants know and understand their rights and responsibilities as a tenant, as well as those of their landlord. Emphasis is on forming a strong partnership between the two.

The class has six different modules during which participants specifically learn about: planning for and meeting monthly expenses; tips for finding and maintaining affordable housing; how to complete an application and why landlords screen applicants; strategies for building positive relationships with landlords and neighbors; and rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants. Participants must complete all six modules to earn the Rent Smart certificate.

"The Rent Smart program is a great opportunity for tenants who may have had a prior eviction on their record to show to a potential landlord that they have now learned how to be a better tenant," Rust said. "It can, in some ways, repair some of that reputational damage that may have been done – if the landlord is in a position where they're willing to hear about what the tenant has done to repair their record."

WERA rental help

Wisconsin Energy Rental Assistance (WERA) still has federal funding available to provide one-time rental assistance for those especially impacted economically by the COVID-19 crisis. View the qualifications on Agencies Operating WERA (wiscap.org) and for those in Winnebago County struggling to pay rent can contact Advocap at call 920-922-7760 or go to advocap.org.

Rust noted that tenants who've had an eviction, but subsequently took and completed the program and asked would-be landlords if they would now consider them, have gotten mixed responses.

"Some landlords have been willing to consider that (a prospective tenant has taken the Rent Smart program); others have not," he said.

Still, it can't hurt to take the class, according to Timothy Ernst, chair of the Rental Housing Advisory Board and who, at one time, helped teach the Rent Smart program.

"I think the program in general is well researched, well constructed and well presented. I also think it definitely helps potential renters, especially if they're leasing their first place or if they've rented before but had some issues," he said. "For those renters it shows the landlord or housing provider that they've been proactive in wanting to understand their rights and responsibilities. That is always important in starting a rental relationship off strongly for both landlord and tenant."

"Finally, if the class is large enough, people taking the class have the opportunity to potentially meet other tenants who have had similar situations, which is good for community-building and helps make the program more robust and successful in general."

Ernst recommends anyone signing up to complete all the sessions to get the most information and to obtain the certification that may help them secure housing that otherwise may not be possible.

The Rent Smart class is free, and all modules are currently taught via Zoom because of the pandemic. For more information, email todd.wenzel.wisc.edu or call 920-232-1982.

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Boys & Girls Club completed busy mission in 2021

By Tracy Ogden
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF
OSHKOSH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

While there were many hardships in 2021, the Club chose to look at the positive and we had a lot to celebrate. We've been working hard to do whatever it takes to serve our mission to improve the lives of children and families.

We've expanded our after-school programming into South Park Middle School and began our Quest Program to focus on the tween population in grades third through sixth at the Club.

We started offering Club programming during students' lunchtime and after-school time at Oshkosh West and North high schools. An additional staff person was added so that we could expand our Be Great program at North into West High School as well. This allows us to serve 60-plus teens onsite at these high schools.

We opened a new year-round after-school care/summer site at Omro Elementary School. We purchased two

more vans to bus more children to the Club from area elementary and middle schools, including the newly added route from Oaklawn Elementary School. This is amazing as it allows us to transport 94 kids after school to the Club.

Our academic coordinator revamped our STEM programming this year by adding weekly themes to enhance members' interest in STEM and to encourage children to find their niche. She also started traveling to bring Club STEM programming to our after-school care sites.

Our Big Futures Mentoring program partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters kicked off this year, allowing us to utilize the best of both organizations and serve more than ever. Our middle school mentoring program will go from 30 to 70 tweens.

We hired a full-time director of social and emotional wellness to increase our mental health programming and have someone on the floor day-to-day with our members to help them navigate challenges and train our staff.

We had the second year of being able to serve more youth by having an additional summer site at Peace Lutheran.

We increased the number of teens in our Drivers Education program. 30/32 teens got their license last year.

Our Basic Needs Program did wonderful things for both kids and families this year. 150 showers and 250 loads of laundry were done at the Club. We gave out more than 300 basic needs items, 200 Club scholarships, adopted out a record 215 children through the Adopt a Family Christmas program, not to mention provided breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner, field trips, academic support, kept Club members active outside and in our gym space, and adapted together to serve our children and families in the best way possible.

If it sounds like a lot, it was, and we are very grateful and proud to be able to do so many things for our community.

We are now looking toward the future and our expansion of the Club. We've taken down 12 houses on Monroe Street in preparation. We have been working with Habitat for Humanity to salvage building materials for reuse. In addition, the Oshkosh Police Department has been able to use the houses for training purposes. We are extremely excited for these next steps for the Club and what it means for kids and families in our community.

It seems too easy to focus on the negative side of this last year. It has brought additional hardship and uncertainty to many. It makes us feel extra grateful for what we have been able to accomplish together. Thank you to our Oshkosh community, friends of the Club and our staff for helping us serve our mission to improve the lives of children and families every single day. We are hopeful that 2022 will be another year of celebrations.

Calendar of events

Ongoing
White Christmas: The Exhibition, Oshkosh Public Museum, through Feb. 13
Nutmacker in the Castle, Paine Art Center, through Monday

Friday, Jan. 7
Super Hero Night at Roe Park ice rink, 5 p.m., 408 Washington Ave.
Community Worship Night, 7 p.m., Dwelling 2:22, 222 Church Ave.

Saturday, Jan. 8
Oshkosh Winter Farmers Market, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Arena

Sunday, Jan. 9
Thank-you Letters to Veterans, 1 p.m., Oshkosh Public Museum

Veteran of Year award presented

Roy Rogers is the 2021 recipient of the Fox Valley Veterans Council's Veteran of the Year Award.

Rogers is considered a vital member of the county's veterans community. He serves on the Winnebago County Veterans Service Commission and is also in-

cluded in Vietnam Veterans of America - Chapter 351, VFW Post 2126, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. He is a U.S. Marine Corps combat veteran.

The Fox Valley Veterans Council accepts annual nominations for Veteran of the Year that are narrowed down to finalists and a winner chosen by the committee.

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Prep sports roundup

BOYS BASKETBALL

Oshkosh North edges Sheboygan North

Xzayvion Mitchell poured in 26 points as Oshkosh North edged host Sheboygan North, 79-77, in the title game of the Raider Shootout Championship on Thursday.

Steven Clark added 21 points for the sixth-ranked Spartans, who improved to 8-1 on the season. Reed Seckar also reached double figures for North with 11 points. Cooper Juedes added six points and Evan Chopp finished with five.

Mitchell and Quintin Fisher each finished with seven rebounds in the game to pace North.

The Spartans advanced to the title game with an 80-64 win over Medford the night before.

Mitchell finished with 30 points, nine rebounds and seven steals to lead the way for the Spartans, while Clark totaled 27 points. Juedes added nine points in the win.

Medford hit 12 3-pointers in the game,

but North racked up 12 steals and finished with a 28-15 rebound advantage.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Strong first half propels Knights past Pirates

Lourdes Academy jumped to a nine-point halftime lead and kept the advantage intact the rest of the way in a 52-43 win over Fall River on Thursday.

Hailee Bauer led the way with 20 points for the Knights, who improved to 7-2 on the season.

Addy Hafemeister also reached double figures with 14 points, while Molly Moore chipped in seven points.

Balanced effort carries Wildcats to victory

The Oshkosh West girls basketball team used a balanced attack to pick up a 72-50 nonconference win over Sussex Hamilton on Thursday at home.

The Wildcats (4-6), which led by 10 at half, had four different players all score

14 points in the win: Brenna Gehri, Paige Seckar, Maddi Choinski and Meredith Posanski.

Lauren Best added six points for West, Braelee Jodarski had five, Sabrina Pickart had three and Eleisha Schimmel added two to round out the scoring.

WRESTLING

Martell, Schroeder lead Wildcats at tourney

Oshkosh West finished 4-3 overall after placing second in their group at the two-day Northern Exposure Tournament hosted at Merrill High School on Dec. 29-30.

The Wildcats opened up group compe-

tion with wins over Merrill (75-4), Sauk Prairie (59-24) and De Pere (42-30). West then beat Tomahawk, 46-27, in the group semifinal before falling to powerhouse Shakopee, 67-9.

In the crossover matches against the other group, Oshkosh West lost to Wisconsin Rapids (61-11) and Beaver Dam (48-29).

Edwyn Schroeder and Roman Martell each finished 6-1 to highlight the tournament for the Wildcats. Martell racked up four pins among his wins, while Schroeder registered two pins and two major decisions.

Vincent Bird finished 5-2 at the tournament with a pair of pins, while Ryland Schneider and Nelson Fournier each posted 4-3 records.

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By Dustin Riese
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

This season hasn't started off the way the Oshkosh North wrestling team would have liked, but there is still plenty of time to go. With a 1-3 mark in Fox Valley Association play, the Spartans have been showing signs of improvement even if the results haven't always translated into wins.

With a golden opportunity to gain confidence heading into the second half of their season, the Spartans were one of 63 teams taking the mat for the On the Water tournament in Oshkosh. From a results side of things, North settled for a 49th-place team finish but came away with 47 total points. When you look at the competition at this tournament and the effort his kids put forth, head coach Val Zemke couldn't have been more pleased with what he saw on the mats.

"I'm happy with how we took the mat to compete," he said. "We still need more mat time, but these guys have been working hard and continue to get better each day."

North's Caleb McKay at 126 pounds secured two wins in four matches. The first of those wins came in his first match against Colton Flatoff of Wautoma. With neither gaining much of an advantage through two periods, McKay went to work in the third to secure the pinfall and advance to the winner's side of the bracket.

After a quick 13-second pin by Brady Gross (Coleman) in his second match, McKay was back at it against Olivia Ramirez (Winnebago Lutheran Academy) where he scored another pin 10 seconds into the second period. McKay saw his weekend come to an end against Dylan Bramstedt (Valders) when he was pinned



Photo by Andy Ratchman

North's Hunter Gruse takes control of Pittsville's Archer Kissner in his third match win.

with just over a minute to go in the second period.

At 132 pounds Jonathan Burk went 0-2 during his two matches. Burk received a bye in his second match after getting pinned in his first and then went the distance against Sean McConnell (Brillion) in his third. Burk wasn't able to rack up enough points to move on as he fell 9-2.

Jonathan Molash (145 pounds) and Ben Boelter (152 pounds) each received wins in their weight class with Molash knocking off Doug Laux (Menasha) via 7-2 decision in his third match and Boelter taking down Landon Cashmore (Kenosha Christian Life) 6-0 in his fourth match of the week after being awarded a pair of earlier byes.

Hunter Gruse (160 pounds) put his 10-8 record on display, needing just three minutes to pin Alex Yang (Christian Life) to secure the win in the opener. After a hard-fought battle with Owen Kinziger (Coleman) that saw Gruse get pinned with a second left in the second period, he would respond in a big way in his next two matches.

He pinned Dohnyvan Biertzter (Plymouth) in less than a minute, then against Archer Kissner (Pittsville) earned an 8-0 major decision win and secure his third victory of the tournament. Gruse would fall in his final match 10-2.

"Hunter is a tough kid that is in every match," Zemke said. "He is giving himself a chance to win matches; he just needs to turn the corner."

Another wrestler who had some moderate to good success was Jamual Ragland-Schreck at 170 pounds. Much like Gruse at 160, Ragland secured a first match pin, needing just 30 seconds to dispose of Logan Hansman (Chippewa Falls). That pin was followed by Ragland getting

pinned by Donovan Vigue (Bonduel) with 24 seconds left in the first period.

Ragland received a bye in his next match before putting together another strong effort against Tyler Schoneman (Random Lake), emerging victorious 8-7. His tournament came to an end against Hayden Jeanquardt (Southern Door) when he was pinned late in the first period.

"Jamaul is a fun kid to watch wrestle," Zemke said. "He has not wrestled since eighth grade, and he is really catching on and getting better and better."

Jeremiah Chmielewski had the most success for North at 220 pounds and came the closest to making the championship matches. Chmielewski took down William Apland (Princeton) in his first official match of the day, needing just 24 seconds into the second period to secure the pin. After getting pinned in the next match, Chmielewski emerged victorious with a third-period pinfall.

His tournament came to an end against Connor Thomas (Peshtigo) via a 5-0 decision, but he still earned 11 of the team's 47 overall points.

"Jeremiah made it to day two, that is a big accomplishment," Zemke said. "He was still not satisfied with how he did, but he is getting better and better."

The final wrestler to see the mat at On the Water was John Klinger in the 285-pound heavyweight division. Unlike most of his teammates that had an early-round bye, Klinger had to wrestle immediately, taking down Hunter Suehs (Manawa) in just 39 seconds for a strong showing. Then up against conference rival Bryce Fochs (Neenah), Klinger fell victim to the 16-2 Fochs in just 1:15 in the first period via pinfall. Klinger was pinned in his final match.

"I like that they are coming to practice getting better and working hard," Zemke said. "I also like how we are giving our best and want to win. We need more time to understand wrestling situations better and to continue learning technique as we go."



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Carpenter leads his Lourdes team on the mat

Fifth-place finish paces Knights at On the Water

By Dustin Riese
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

When it comes to wrestling in Wisconsin, there are two regular season tournaments that stand out: the Cheesehead Invitational in Kaukauna and On the Water Invitational in Oshkosh, which took place last week.

With 63 schools attending and hundreds of wrestlers filling up the Kolf Sports Center, fans were treated to two nonstop days of great wrestling action. Lourdes Academy was a part of it this season and despite being much smaller, the Knights continued to battle.

It is more about the development of wrestlers this season as the Knights continue to improve with each meet. Led by Mason Carpenter, the Knights were able to come away with 33 points on the weekend.

"I thought both boys wrestled hard the last couple of days," head coach Stephen Heinzl said. "For Dalton (Smith) this was about the experience of wrestling in a tournament of this caliber for him. For Mason it was about wrestling some of the best wrestlers in the state and seeing where he's at. I was really happy with how both did."

Carpenter continued to lead the way for the Knights in the 120-pound weight class and came away with a fifth-place finish overall. The sophomore participated at state as a freshman last season and is determined to get back there again.



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Mason Carpenter (right) of Lourdes finished fifth in the 120-pound bracket last week in the On the Water Classic with a 4-2 record.

After securing a bye in his first match, Mason Waters of Hartford was able to take Carpenter into the second round before Carpenter came away with a pin at the 2:44 mark. For his second match, Carpenter faced off with Brady Shepard (Wabeno-Laona) and came away with an 18-1 technical fall win.

In the quarter round of competition, Carpenter faced off against Dandre Mixon (Green Bay United) and managed to pick up another tech fall win 16-1 to send him

to the semifinals. In the semifinal match against Slinger's Noah Tonsor, Carpenter had his first loss as he was pinned with less than 20 seconds remaining in the second period.

Carpenter took on Drake Mullenbach of Campbellsport and again was on the wrong side of a pin in the third period. Carpenter was able to finish his week on a high note earning a forfeit win against Griffin Jens (Hortonville) to secure fifth place.

"Mase started the season a little slow," Heinzl said. "We had a couple of tournaments canceled and didn't get the matches I wanted for him before we got to the bigger tournaments around Christmas. This was the first time all season I've seen him wrestle at the level that he can."

"He went out and dominated some good wrestlers the last couple of days and the ones he lost to are special and he was in those matches for most of the match. I wouldn't want to be his opponent in a tournament right now with how he's looking. It's going to be a fun second half of the season with him."

The only other wrestler to take the mat for Lourdes was Dalton Smith at 138 pounds. Unlike Carpenter, Smith hasn't had the same success quite yet but results are starting to come. Coming off the Little Chute quad meet where Smith wrestled extremely well, this was a chance to show his overall improvement.

Against Easton Dammann (Pittsville) to open, Smith gave it a great effort throughout the first period only to fall victim to a pin with 22 seconds to go in the first period. He was rewarded a bye in the second match, sending him against Nolan Jerde (Green Bay United), who got after Smith early and pinned him in under 30 seconds to put an end to his tournament.

"I'm not sure anything really stood out," Heinzl said. "I got the results I was hoping for from both guys. Dalton was a little more aggressive and kept fighting until the end. Mase wrestled like we knew he could and ended up on the podium like we all expected. Both guys learned a lot and have things to work on."

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West's Ellison aims to follow father's footsteps

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Advancing through a maze of difficult challenges is what gets Wisconsin prep wrestlers to Madison.

Clayton Ellison's father, Rick, navigated that tricky obstacle course years ago and Clayton is determined to follow his dad's path.

The Oshkosh West senior wrestler is looking to put together a breakthrough season after a strong junior year on the mat.



Ellison

Clayton Ellison went 15-6 last season in the 106-pound division, placing fifth in his weight class at the WIAA sectional at Hartford Union. He received all-Fox Valley Association honorable

mention.

Ellison is off to a promising start this season. He entered Christmas break with a perfect 6-0 record at 113.

Ellison is a product of hard work. He's a self-driven athlete who has no problem putting in the extra time and energy needed to excel.

"Clayton is a guy that comes to practice every day ready to work and do whatever the team needs him to do," said West coach Matt Cuadra.

Like most Wisconsin high school wrestlers, Ellison's individual goal is to reach the WIAA state individual tournament which returns to Madison in late February. It's something he's never done, but his father accomplished the feat back in his prep wrestling days at Fond du Lac High School.

"Madison is the goal - it's a huge goal," said Ellison. "It would mean a lot to me and my dad. It's been a goal I've had pretty much my whole life."

Ellison started wrestling at the age of four. His older brother, Spencer, also competed on the mat for the Wildcats before



Submitted photo

Oshkosh West senior Clayton Ellison placed at sectionals last season and hopes to take another step during his senior campaign and make the trip to the state meet.

Senior Spotlight

graduating in 2020.

"We used to wrestle all the time around the house," Ellison said. "He (Spencer) would always get the best of me."

Ellison also runs cross country at Oshkosh West, but wrestling is clearly his preferred sport.

"I do it because it keeps me in great shape for wrestling," Ellison said.

Ellison loves the challenges involved in wrestling and the commitment needed to excel. He also enjoys the confident feeling of being in tip-top shape.

"I like the physical exercise involved," he said. "It's a really hard workout - one of the harder practices you can have in a sport. And it makes you not only a better athlete, but a better person. It helps you build stronger relationships."

Even though he's been heavily wrestling for several years, burnout has never been an issue.

"I've been wrestling for a long time, but I still get really excited about wrestling,"

he said.

Ellison makes good use of his technical knowledge gained from his 10-plus years of wrestling experience.

"I try to use a little bit of everything out there," Ellison said. "If a guy is bigger than me, I use more technique. If he's smaller than me, I might try and muscle him."

Ellison is wrestling a class higher this season at 113.

"I'm a little bigger this year and there isn't that much of a difference between the two classes," he said. "At the lower weights, it's a really fast pace and you need to be in great shape. You can't run out of gas. Otherwise, you're going to get punished by the other guy."

Ellison is excited to be part of a solid Oshkosh West squad that won't be pushed around by many opponents this season.

"It's pretty cool to be part of a team that is super committed to wrestling," he said. "In my previous years, the freshmen really didn't care that much. This year, our freshmen really care about the sport. It's a great atmosphere."

Titans roll past pair of foes

The UW Oshkosh men's basketball team improved to 12-1 by winning a pair of games at the BSN Winter Classic held at the Oshkosh Arena last week.

The Titans opened with a 78-56 win over Calvin College on Dec. 29 and followed it up with an 86-59 rout of Ripon College the following night.

UW Oshkosh used a huge second half to pull away from Calvin College, outscoring the Knights 43-19 after intermission to post the comfortable win.

Eddie Muench led three-players in double figures with a career-best 30 points in the game, while Levi Borchert chipped in 17 points and 14 rebounds. Quinn Steckbauer finished with 11 points for the Titans.

Muench finished with 23 points and Steckbauer added 20 points in the win over Ripon, as the Titans rattled off a 24-4 run over the final six minutes of the first half to take a 47-35 lead at the break. Ripon never got closer than 10 points in the second half.

The Titans will resume play in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference today (Wednesday) at home against UW-Whitewater.

Women post two wins

The UW Oshkosh women's basketball team blitzed a pair of opponents at a tournament in Northfield, Minn., thumping the University of Dubuque 60-36 on Dec. 29 before topping Carthage College 67-40 on Dec. 30.

The Titans (11-2) never trailed in the win over Dubuque with Leah Porath leading the way with 17 points, while Jenna Jorgensen chipped in 10 points off the bench in the win.

Nikki Arneson scored 15 points and Julia Silloway added 13 in the win over Carthage, as the Titans hit 11 3-pointers in the victory. UW Oshkosh led 29-19 at halftime before pulling away in the second half.

The Titans return to conference play today (Wednesday) at UW-Whitewater.

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Obituaries

Constance Joy Thern

Constance Joy Thern (Connie) died peacefully on December 21, 2021, at the age of 87, surrounded by her children. Connie was born Constance Joy Mahan, in Chicago, IL, on December 18th, 1934, the daughter of Hazel E. Spink. Connie was very proud of her mother who was head nurse at the Morningside Sanatorium in Madison, WI, which specialized in the treatment of tuberculosis patients. Connie's life flourished in Madison, with her involvement in music and theatre during high school. She was



the lead actress in musical classics including "H.M.S. Pinafore" and "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers."

Connie graduated from high school in 1952, continuing her education in music at UW-Madison. In 1953, she met Richard (Dick) Thern at the University Book Store. They married in 1954 and were together for 55 years until his passing in 2009. Dick was an architect and structural engineer. Together, they formed a design firm in Oshkosh - Thern Associates, Inc., with Connie as the office manager and interior designer. Her eye for color coordination made her an integral member of the team. She completed interior design coordination for numerous schools, churches, and municipal buildings throughout Wisconsin and in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Dick and Connie moved their business to Waupaca, WI, and built their dream home on beautiful Long Lake in Waushara

County in 1975. In their leisure time, they enjoyed boating and snowmobiling and were active members of the Long Lake sailing club and Waupaca Country Club.

In 1990, after decades of hard work, Connie and Dick retired to Naples, FL. Connie loved Naples where she volunteered at the Lely Elementary School and was an active member of the Mayflower Congregational Church. In 2016, she decided to return to Oshkosh to be closer to family. Connie lived at the Evergreen Retirement Community - Courtyard Apartments, where she participated in the Evergreen choir, "The Lemonettes" and "What's up with Edie?"

Connie, often referred to as "Little Mom," will always be remembered for her kind heart and great sense of humor. She possessed a disarming ability to laugh at herself.

Preceding Connie in death is her son, Gary Thern, mother, Hazel Spink, hus-

band, Richard Thern, and in-laws Phillips and Luella Thern. Connie is survived by her children: Randall Thern, Brian Thern, Tracy Landerman (Bernie Landerman) and Kimberly Burns (Brian Burns), and her seven grandchildren: Natasha Thern (Ishaq Lachin), Ryan Thern (Kennedy Thern), Solia Thern, Marina Thern, Sydney Burns, David Burns, and Katelyn Landerman.

The family wishes to express gratitude to the staff at Eden Meadows for their tender care of Connie during her last days.

"If life was a song, Connie could sing it." Visit Constance "Connie's" memorial page below to share a memory or send condolences to the family, read the obituary, and find the upcoming events at <https://www.fissbillspoklasnyfunerahome.com/obituaries/Constance-Connie-Thern>

A private family graveside service at Riverside Cemetery in Oshkosh will be held at a future date.

Darryl "Butch" Nourse

Darryl "Butch" S. Nourse, age 77 of Oshkosh, passed away at his residence on Saturday, December 18, 2021. He was born on September 26, 1944 to the late Sherwood and Juanita (Beulen) Nourse. His mother passed away when he was a child and he was raised by his stepmother, Virginia (Leckner).



Darryl was a United States Navy vet-

eran. He married his first wife, Valerie, while stationed in Scotland. He later married Lorna, who preceded him in death.

Darryl worked at the foundry for many years. He was a talented carpenter, he enjoyed fishing, playing pool, and socializing with friends. He was an avid Packer fan, and loved animals, especially his cat, Sassy.

He is survived by his children: Sean (Cindy) Nourse, Darrin (Diane) Nourse, Christina (Bill) Devlin, Cheryl (Todd) Simons, Amy Madsen, Troy (Catie) Stadler,

Jason Nourse, and Michelle Nourse; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; siblings: Darlene (Donnie) Nelson, Ginger Bosquez, Rosemary Bosquez, Eddie (Julie) Nourse, and Joann (Larry) Zentner; many nieces, nephews, extended relatives, and friends.

In addition to his parents, and wife, Lorna, he was preceded in death by his infant son, Darryl; siblings: Anita (Edwin)

Knight, Benny Nourse; brothers-in-law: Nacho and Lorenzo Bosquez.

Military Honors for Darryl will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, January 8, 2021 at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Eastside, 402 Waugoo Avenue. A celebration of life will follow at the B & E Lounge, 1022 Oregon Street.



Jerome E. Schueler

Jerome (Jerry) E. Schueler of Oshkosh, age 91 passed away peacefully on January 1st, 2022.



Son of Erwin and Verona (Wettstein) Schueler, he was born August 22, 1930 in Appleton WI.

Jerry graduated from Winneconne High School. He married Jean Hauert August 5, 1950.

Jerry joined the Air Force during the Korean War. He was proud of those service years and enjoyed watching EAA plane shows. He worked at Rockwell International for 34 years as manager of administration.

He enjoyed many sports, bowling on a team until he was 88. As an avid Packer, Cubs and Badger basketball fan he cheered on victories for all. The occasional trip to the casino with his wife was one of his many pleasures. He and Jean loved their traveling throughout the states and where they seemed to end up, at a casino somehow was the norm.

Vacationing at a Shawano lake house for many years and inviting the whole family to join them offered many wonderful memories for all. Reading, doing crossword puzzles and playing cards with friends and family occupied many retirement hours.

Survivors include five children: Tom (Cherry) Schueler of Berlin, WI; Richard (Becky) Schueler of Garden Grove, CA; Steve (Linda) Schueler of Oshkosh; Donna (Steve) Ratliff of Ferndale MI; and James (Dawn) Schueler of Troy MI. One brother Ronald "Skip" Schueler of Germantown, WI.

Jerry had 15 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Jerry was preceded in death by his loving wife Jean; two brothers, Bob and Chuck Schueler; and 1 great-grandchild.

The mass of resurrection will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, January 8th at St. Gabriel Catholic Church, 900 Geiger Street, Neenah with Fr. Bob Kollath officiating. A visitation will be held at church from 9:00 A.M. until the hour of service.

Entombment will be 12:30 pm at Highland Memorial Park in Appleton.



Local business owner, veteran Mueller dies

Oshkosh business owner and retired U.S. Marine Col. Norman D. Mueller, 88, died Dec. 29 at Aurora Medical Center.

Mueller owned and operated Mueller Chrysler Plymouth Lincoln Mercury and was a member of the Westside Association.

He was born on May 29, 1933, in Oshkosh. Funeral services were held Monday.

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