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## City successes given spotlight

By Kaitlyn Scoville OSHKOSH HERALD

Oshkosh Media debuted its 2022 State of the City virtual presentation last week, highlighting accomplishments in several sectors of Oshkosh, including infrastructure, neighborhoods and quality of life.

City Manager Mark Rohloff cited some of the largest developments in the works along

the Oshkosh Avenue corridor, where several businesses are starting to take shape, and in the southwest industrial park.

Rohloff also noted the city is taking advantage of its access to railways. Through a partnership with transportation service company Watco and with federal grants, Oshkosh has developed the state's first publicly owned transload facility.

With this, businesses in Oshkosh and across northeast Wisconsin now have the ability to easily ship products via railway.

"You may not see it but it's something that has added a great feature for businesses even if they're not located in the southwest industrial park," Rohloff said, noting Watco's

SEE State of the City on Page 16



Photo by Michael Cooney

Farm show visitors walk among the new machinery and equipment on display last week on the EAA grounds.

## Farm Show returns to mark 60th anniversary

Farmers and fresh ideas came together for the Wisconsin Public Service's 60th anniversary WPS Farm Show at the Experimental Aircraft Association grounds last week near Wittman Regional Airport.

An estimated 17,000 people attended the event over three days that was held for the first time in three years. About 400 ex-

hibitors from 18 states and two other countries showcased products and innovations to help farms run more efficiently, including large farm machinery, robotic milking systems and precision planting technology.

Farm show manager Rob Juneau said that after two years off everyone was happy to be back. He said some vendors were not able to attend with staffing challenges and the availability of machinery.

"It's fun to see happy people who like what you do," he said.

There were about 35 new exhibitors displaying items such as animal feed pushers, animal nutrition products, farm machinery software and corn harvesting equipment.

All farm show proceeds go to the Wisconsin FFA Foundation.

## Hope Fridge fights food insecurity

By Cheryl Hentz HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Food insecurity is a stark reality for many, and while there are options such as food pantries, those may not be of help for some individuals or families because they don't



meet the income or other requirements. That's where Hope Fridge comes in.

The mutual aid network of community-sustained refrigerators provides free food for all. Through donations, contributions, crowdsourcing and commu-

nity involvement, Hope Fridge puts fresh food directly into some Fox Valley neighborhoods. It is entirely volunteer run and com-

According to "Mutual Aid, Building Solidarity During This Crisis (And the Next)" by author Dean Spade, mutual aid is a "collective coordination to meet each other's needs,

#### **Oshkosh locations** Wagner Market, 502 N. Main St.,

(behind building), all hours

Bowen Street Repeats, 2837 Bowen St., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday

More information: HopeFridge.com

usually from an awareness that the systems we have in place are not going to meet them."

"This system helps to catch some of the folks falling through the cracks at other systems, where there are a lot of forms to fill out, or you have to meet certain income requirements, etc.," said TJ Hobbs, one of several co-founders of Hope Fridge.

Refrigerators are donated or purchased, then placed on properties of those who welcome the program. A wooden hut is built around the fridge to protect it from the elements and keep it from blowing over. Volunteers make or donate food to stock the fridge and those in need come and take what they

The group initially put out a feeler to see if anyone was willing to host a fridge. All of the founders rent, so were unable to put one on their lawns. They began getting some replies from folks who wanted to know more and were willing to host a fridge. The group's Facebook page started last April and two months later they had their first location in Neenah at 160 Curtis Ave.

Two Oshkosh locations followed with one behind Wagner Meat Market, 502 N. Main St., and then at Bowen Street Repeats, 2837 Bowen St.

The idea came about because the founders were inspired by other communities across the country that were doing similar things and are thriving. The Love Fridge in Chicago shared its build plans with Hope Fridge founders, who made their own creative tweaks. Hope Fridge has since shared those

SEE **Hope Fridge** ON PAGE 16



Photo by Cheryl Hentz

The Hope Fridge's downtown Oshkosh location is behind Wagner Market.

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## Board accepts, disperses \$10.3M from grant

By Steve Clark OSHKOSH HERALD

At a special meeting of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors held March 29, the board approved a resolution to accept more than \$10 million from the Neighborhood Improvement

It was the only item on the agenda of the meeting - the final act of the board before this week's elections - and passed by a near unanimous vote. Only two supervisors abstained from accepting the resolution.

The resolution called for acceptance of \$10,351,686.15 through the American Rescue Plan Act and for those funds to be divided among six programs around the county to help address homelessness. The six recipients all have proposed projects to help fight the increasing number of homeless.

The Day By Day Warming Shelter in Oshkosh received the largest portion of the funds to build a year-round homeless shelter for 50 to 60 residents per night. That project, including land costs and construction, will total \$3,587,720.

Three other recipients topped the \$1 million mark with Habitat for Humanity of Oshkosh drawing \$2,425,680 for acquisition of six lots and construction costs for two homes; Solutions Recov-

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ery awarded \$1.5 million to acquire land and build five to six additional sober-living properties as well as upgrades to the recovery center; and Covey will receive \$1,063,124 for building family housing for those with cognitive disabilities in Oshkosh and Menasha.

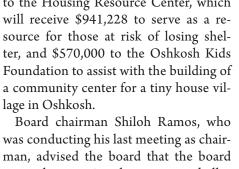
The rest for the funds were dispersed to the Housing Resource Center, which will receive \$941,228 to serve as a resource for those at risk of losing shelter, and \$570,000 to the Oshkosh Kids Foundation to assist with the building of a community center for a tiny house vil-

was conducting his last meeting as chairman, advised the board that the board was only accepting the money and allocating it to the different organizations. He reiterated that the board was not doing anything related to location, specific planning or zoning or sustainability with the projects, which would be up to the specific organizations.

"We, tonight, are simply deciding whether we want to accept that \$10.35 million from the state and allocate it to those organizations," Ramos said. "That's really what we are debating tonight."

Although the resolution passed without any votes against, there was plenty of debate from supervisors and a number of





against the resolution but opted to back Other supervisors to voice concerns included Donald Nussbaum, Brian Defferding, Bryan Stafford, Vicki Schorse and Joel Rasmussen. Schorse and Rasmussen each said they planned to abstain.

"The last thing I think anyone wants to see is someone struggle because of actions we took today," Stafford said.

them who expressed some reluctance in

Some of the concerns revolved around

the process taken to get the resolution in

front of the board, what the county's fi-

nancial responsibility would be in the fu-

ture and whether these programs would

be able to curb homelessness issues in

"I can't see an end result. This is just

a feel-good thing," Supervisor Maribeth

Gabert said. "I have not received enough

information nor heard enough that there

is a plan. I have many, many reservations."

Gabert said she considered voting

voting for the measure.

Winnebago County.

Ramos spoke to wanting this version of the county board - before elections - to have the opportunity to adopt this resolution and so the timeline had to be condensed from a normal resolution. He also said that had the board not heard the resolution when it did, the resolution would not be considered until the end of April.

One other concern brought by Supervisor Thomas Borchart of Menasha was that the majority of the money was going toward programs in Oshkosh. He would have liked to have seen more representation around the rest of the county.

"I wish the peanut butter was applied more liberally to all of the bread," he said.

One amendment to the original resolution was proposed by Supervisor Morris Cox to make sure each entity that received funds from the grant would come before the board every six months to discuss their projects.

That motion was carried by a majority of the supervisors.

The next meeting of the County Board is slated for April 19, which will be an organizational meeting for the new board after the elections. The first business meeting for the new board will be the following week.



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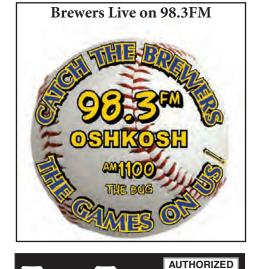
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# 1950 census details open door to ancestry searches

By Randall Davidson

The National Archives released the entire 1950 U.S. Census to the general public Friday. That detailed information can only be made available 72 years after it is collected due to privacy concerns, so the individual-level information from that era is now accessible.

The federal government has taken a national census every 10 years since 1790. The records are used by social scientists and historians but have particular value for those doing genealogy research.

Local history and genealogy librarian Michael McArthur at the Oshkosh Public Library said that along with vital records on births, marriages and deaths, the census is the "cornerstone" for family research. He said the release of the 1950 census is exciting in that it's the first to contain names of those in the baby boomer generation.

The 1950 Census had a few changes from the 1940 effort. One was that college students were now counted where they lived while attending school, rather than in their parents' household. Similarly, members of the military who lived "offpost" were counted as members of their community rather than at the base where they were stationed.

Also new for 1950 was "sampling" where only six individuals on each census page were asked additional questions regarding birthplace of parents, education, employment, earnings, military service and if they had moved in the past year. If

the last person on a census sheet was older than 14, he or she provided further information regarding previous employment, marriages, divorces and, if the person was female, how many children they had.

While the release date was April 1, McArthur said it will be several months before it's indexed. Initially, researchers will only be able to easily find a person on the 1950 Census if it's known where they were living at the time. Searching for someone with an unknown location will only be feasible once the index is completed.

The 1950 Census was the last one where most people were counted in-person by enumerators. Starting in 1960, individuals completed a form they received in the mail that was collected by a census worker.

McArthur warns that no document is completely error-free. Even though the census is an official record, the information is often a function of "who answered the door" when the enumerator arrived, so things like ages can be incorrect and even the spelling of names can vary. He said it's important for genealogists to cross-reference census information with other records.

The 1950 Census will be available online in the Oshkosh Public Library through the National Archives website and through Ancestry.com. Free online access to the records is also available on the FamilySearch.org website.

The Oshkosh Public Library helps those doing genealogy research. Patrons are asked to set up an appointment in advance for one-on-one assistance.



From city of Oshkosh

An architect's rendering depicts the Lakeshore Park's pavilion being constructed.

## Pavilion project breaks ground

Oshkosh Herald

A four seasons pavilion – a developing centerpiece at Lakeshore Park – is under construction despite funding issues that arose late last year.

The city's Common Council, in December, deferred funds from other projects to keep the Lakeshore development on track for completion, after bids came in \$1.5 million over what was originally budgeted because of supply chain shortages.

A memo from city staff noted the plan "is merely a reallocation of limited resources."

The year-round, multipurpose pavilion was proposed in early 2020 at the east end of Lakeshore Park at the site of the former municipal golf course. In mid-November,

city staff received notice that one company – the lowest bidder – withdrew as a result of "an error in the calculation of the bid."

The next lowest came in just below \$4.5 million, \$1.5 million above the city's original budget.

The facility is proposed to have a large, multipurpose event room that can hold up to 150 people, terraces and a plaza for year-round use.

Lakeshore Park was previously a golf course before Oshkosh Corp. purchased the middle third of the land to build its global headquarters.

Developers of the pavilion are expecting the construction to be completed by the end of this year.





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## Workforce challenges seen in DWD report

## GO-EDC president notes investment transitions

By Kaitlyn Scoville Oshkosh Herald

Wisconsin's Department of Workforce Development (DWD) recently released data pertaining to state and county workforces in all industries.

"Every two years, DWD's Office of Economic Advisors compiles and distills local data on all 72 counties," a DWD spokesperson said. "The snapshots have become an essential tool for economic development professionals, regional planners, researchers, business leaders, policymakers, students and workers considering new employment opportunities."

The new profile on Wisconsin and specifically Winnebago County is an update from 2019 and overviews effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the last two years. In March 2020, the world essentially shutting down for two months ended the longest economic expansion on record.

While Wisconsin's unemployment rate rose to nearly 15% at the start of the pandemic, it had returned to the state's historic lows by November 2021.

For Winnebago County, the population growth in the 2010s was attributed to both the cities of Neenah and Fox Crossing at 49.7%. Oshkosh, on the other hand, accounted for only 17.9% of the growth in the last decade.

Over the course of 2020 alone, employment in the county decreased by nearly 3,700 jobs across all industries, according to the DWD profile. With this, employment in the county's three largest industries – education

and health services, manufacturing and trade, transportation and utilities – declined by 1,800 jobs in the same year.

"The most rapid rebound occurred in the spring and early summer of 2020, but the following winter experienced more employment declines than normal in the midst of a new COVID wave at the time," the workforce profile reads. "As of June 2021, Winnebago County recovered nearly 93% of those lost jobs."

Tricia Rathermel, Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corp. president and chief executive, said manufacturing was among the hardest-hit industries in the area as they are not as flexible as those in the leisure and hospitality industry.

"(Manufacturing businesses) have had to adjust to this crunch," she said. "It's now a bit easier for employees to shift from position to position. It's been interesting for them to have to make some of these transitions to move forward."

For other small businesses in the area, Rathermel said the pandemic had essentially exacerbated one's situation, whether they were successful or not.

"People are being very careful with their investments to make sure they have enough product on hand," Rathermel said. "The pandemic caused an economic downturn similar to what a natural disaster would do. In those situations, we always see that people who are on the rise tend to rise faster and if they're on the decline they tend to decline faster.

"It just pushes you in the direction you're in at a significant pace."

Though future surges of COVID pose a possible threat to continuing economic growth in the state and in Winnebago County, there are also continuing oversights of people in the baby boomer generation retiring and continuing to leave the workforce in great capacity.

"The number of retiring baby boomers nearly matches the influx of new workers, resulting in a slow-growing workforce and placing constraints on the ability of employers across industries to secure talent," the workforce profile reads. "Many businesses report that the lack of available workers has hindered expansion, and in some cases, even curtailed the ability to meet current business needs."

Fox Valley Regional Economist Ryan Long attributes this slow-growing workforce to a decreasing labor force participation since

"The primary factor at work here is the continued aging of the population and retirements by the baby boomer generation," Long said. "The rubber hits the road when this is combined with other decades-long trends such as low fertility and near-zero net migration, resulting in a declining share of the population that is of working age."

Rathermel echoed Long and added that younger people are also entering the work-

force later in life to attend college or other trainings, and others are leaving their work earlier.

"We also have people who are living longer than we have people being born," she said. "So we're going to have this shift where even though they're retiring they are still consumers. They're going to consume at the same pace as they were when they were working.

"That means our demand doesn't go down but our workforce supply does, and that creates what I think is going to be a crunch for the next 20 or 30 years."

With this, the DWD suggested four possible solutions to the macroeconomic labor equality challenge, including offshoring production, hiring immigrants, mitigating barriers to employment of the chronically unemployed and advancing today's technology.

"Worker skills must align with skills demanded by the position. If you have the talent and not the job, the talent goes elsewhere," the report reads. "For Wisconsin to successfully compete in the global economy, the state needs to attract and retain everybody it can and educate and train everybody to match the requirements of the new technologies."

#### County sets plan for mock tornado drill

Winnebago County will test its outdoor warning sirens Thursday during participation in two scheduled statewide tornado drills.

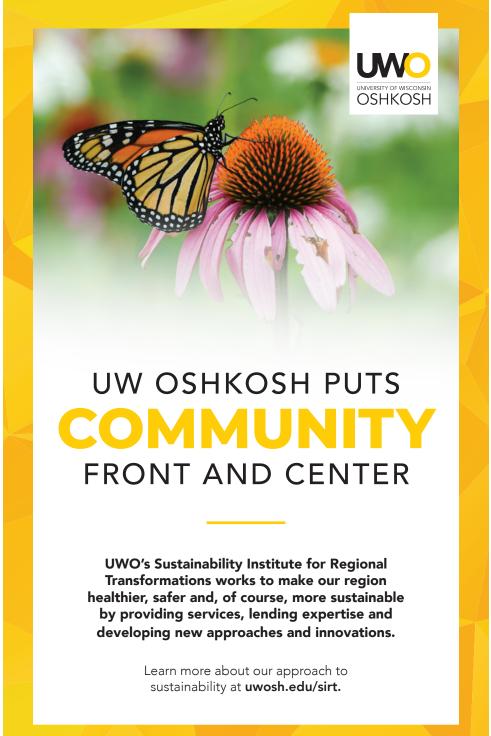
The Wisconsin 2022 Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness week campaign runs through Friday, which is the backup date for the statewide drill in the event of severe weather. The drills will take place even if the sky is cloudy, dark or rainy.

At 1:45 p.m. the National Weather Service will issue a mock tornado warning

that will last 15 minutes. Than at 6:45 p.m. it will issue a mock warning for all of Wisconsin that ends at 7 p.m.

Drills no longer include a live EAS test and mock tornado watch/warning issued by the National Weather Service.

Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week is meant to encourage people to take time before severe weather season begins to create or review their plans and emergency kits.







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Former bank building becomes new gathering place

By Kaitlyn Scoville Oshkosh Herald

A historic bank building at 404 N. Main St. has finally celebrated its grand opening as a wedding and event venue after providing its services for three years.

The site of Venue 404 has been occupied by three different bank buildings, the current First National Building having been constructed in 1926. Before then, according to Historic Oshkosh, it began as a private bank under the name of Darling, Wright, Kellogg and Co. in 1852.

"In 1857, it became the Bank of Oshkosh and in 1863 the First National Bank of Oshkosh. In 1876, a building was erected for the bank at what is now 404 North Main Street," the site reads. "The bank erected a new building in 1911, and in 1927 replaced that building with the current eight-story First National Bank building."

Co-owner Jim Robl said he and his brothers were purchasing old buildings around the city and were attracted to the structure's neoclassical revival architecture. It's currently part of the North Main



The former bank's vault area is being expanded to offer more space to the venue.

Street Historic District and has been on the National Register since March 1996 and state register since August 1995.

"It's very unique and one of a kind with its character. There's a lot to like about it," Robl said. "It's been a pleasure owning the building; it's a lot of work, upkeep and maintenance but it's enjoyable."

The eight-story, 54,500-square-foot building provides views of Lake Winnebago, the Fox River and Oshkosh as a central anchor to the downtown and history.

Waymarking.com notes the building's marble walls, elegant chandeliers, and unique brass doors and fixtures. The style fit the filming of the 2009 movie "Public Enemies" that starred Johnny Depp, Christian Bale and Channing Tatum that was set in the 1930s.

The International Movie Database (IMDB) describes the film as "the Feds try to take down notorious American gangsters John Dillinger, Baby Face Nelson and Pretty Boy Floyd during a booming crime wave."

Kevin McHugh, sales and marketing manager for Venue 404, said he and colleagues are working hard to maintain the vintage style and make the facility better suited for a variety of events.

A bar was added for receptions with a countertop made with marble taken from the building.

The infamous bank vault seen in "Public Enemies" has been turned into a cocktail lounge called "The Speakeasy." Staff is currently working on expanding the vault for a higher capacity.

After taking a wall out in the vault, McHugh said items were back there nobody had known about such as memora-



The former bank building at 404 N. Main St. will be hosting events as Venue 404.

bilia and photography equipment.

The venue recently began participating in the Downtown Oshkosh First Friday events and McHugh said they plan to continue by providing drinks, music and vendors.

The bank hasn't been in operation since the 1970s," McHugh said.

"We have a hard time finding any history on the building; we just can't find anything. People didn't really see it as history because they just saw it as a place where people work," he explained. "A lot of people say they have a connection to the building either through friends or family having offices here, or they were an extra in 'Public Enemies.'"

McHugh moved his photo studio there a few years ago and was approached by the owners to try to attract some weddings and other events.

"It's just been an evolving project," he said. "We just slowly started hosting

"We were learning as we went," McHugh said, "but we're pretty efficient now. It's the same crew, same staff, same family-owned business."

They were doing quite a few events through COVID but not to the same capacity because of restrictions. McHugh noticed that smaller weddings have been a recent trend in the last couple of years.

Turnout for the grand opening March 19 was above 300, McHugh said. The building is open to the public to visit Monday through Friday during business hours.

The venue is also expanding its staff to reach a wider audience throughout the community, and they anticipate starting happy hours this summer.





with the donation of a non-perishable food item. Donations benefit the Food Pantry.



## Literacy needs studied for elementary schools

By Kaitlyn Scoville Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education reviewed and discussed a reading audit for elementary schools conducted by Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) 6.

Schools Superintendent Bryan Davis, who started his position last year, was able to review literacy curriculums with a fresh set of eyes. He said even before he started he took high interest in improving math and literacy scores in Oshkosh schools.

Among his initial observations was that early literacy is the greatest opportunity for students to achieve academic growth from a young age, noting a high need for resources and support for students with dyslexia and other reading disabilities.

As it stands, the district's action plan around dyslexia and other related conditions includes a collaboration with CESA 6's Early Literacy Academy, phonetic awareness and trainings, purchasing decodable textbooks and focusing on interactive writing and shared reading.

CESA 6's elementary literacy audit was done to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the district's current resources and identify goals for continuous improvement.

In a survey of teachers in all elementary schools, a majority of them have at least some understanding of phonetic awareness and teaching strategies for students with dyslexia and related conditions. Most of them have also been

implementing these strategies in their classrooms.

However, only 43.5% of elementary teachers in the district noted having decodable texts in their classrooms. But most have implemented shared reading, interactive writing and guided reading into everyday teaching.

The CESA 6 literacy audit suggested three recommendations for the district to improve early literacy success: leveraging the strongest curriculum resource; engaging in a core reading curriculum review process with a teacher leadership team; and implementing a current resource of interactive read-aloud in K-5 classrooms.

School board member Beth Wyman asked if these teaching strategies could also help students that may need to be challenged further, to which presenters assured they are practices suitable for all reading levels.

"We owe (upgrading the curriculum) to all of our children; it's been a long time coming," Wyman said. Board vice president Barb Herzog echoed Wyman's sentiments and said there's urgency on this matter.

"I'm expecting that within three years we're going to see some closing of learn-

ing gaps," Herzog said. "We have got to get this right."

The study will be reviewed by the board's policy and education subcommittees

The board also unanimously approved refinancing the debt from the November 2020 referendum, saving taxpayers more than \$9 million in interest.

The debt, at \$42 million, was converted from a 20-year-bond to a five-year bond. The referendum approved by area voters totaled about \$107 million to implement the district's long-range facilities plan and consolidate schools across the city.

A large portion of the funding will be used to build Vel Phillips Middle School – set to be open for the 2023-24 school year – and a new elementary school to begin construction in 2024.

Director of business services Drew Niehans said the refinancing will allow the district to continue with funding phase two of the facilities plan to consolidate schools on the city's west side.

The board also approved paying off \$2.1 million in debt by using available funds, which in turn saved almost \$120,000 in additional interest.

## Father Carr's sets Easter Sunday meal

Father Carr's Place 2B is again providing free meals April 17 on Easter Sunday, this year distributed either by local delivery or dine-in option.

The meal deliveries and luncheon will include deliveries to private and group residences from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The dine-in meals will be served from noon to 1 p.m. in the Mother Teresa Center, 1062 N. Koeller St.

Advance reservations are required by April 13 by calling 920-231-2378. Individuals can request multiple meals for those in their household or fellow neighbors in need when making a delivery reservation.

"We are looking forward to delivering free holiday meals to our community and

we are excited to once again welcome those in need to gather for a meal at Father Carr's," said John Nieman, Father Carr's Place 2B executive director. "Our amazing volunteers and donors make this event possible and we are so grateful for their support."

Preparation for the meal is underway. Father Carr's is seeking donations of packaged Easter candy/treats, fresh bread and rolls that can be dropped off at the Mother Teresa Center. The organization is also looking for volunteer drivers to deliver meals.

For more information, contact Nieman at johnnieman@fathercarrs.org or 920-231-2378.

## Lourdes president, teacher honored

Lourdes Academy System President John Dinegan has received the Stephen Mosling Excellence in Education Award by the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce, honored for his leadership during the pandemic, expanding facilities and building the Catholic community.

Dinegan started as system president in March 2017 and was instrumental in partnering with the Diocese of Green Bay and Oshkosh Catholic parishes to launch the One by One capital campaign to raise \$10 million to expand and renovate the existing facility.

Lourdes science teacher Barb Muza

Reed was recently honored with the Dr. Stanley J. Spanbauer Education and Leadership Award for her work in the classroom and beyond.

Reed embraces the concept of "Hands On, Minds On" learning in all that she teaches through the work she and her students do as part of the Lower Fox River Watershed Monitoring Program through UW Green Bay.

She is a member of the American Chemical Society and has developed curriculum and labs to teach about climate modeling, gene therapy for disease prevention and cancer research.





#### **Paola Kent**

Manager of Patient Care Services PCU 2 at Ascension Mercy Hospital

Paola shares why Mercy Health Foundation is so important to the community:

"Mercy Health Foundation provides our inpatient care units with important equipment to make it easier for nurses and doctors to do their jobs more efficiently and safely. The Foundation also gives associates and the community ways to contribute to the success of Ascension's mission."



50

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## Earth Month activities underway at UWO

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh's Earth Month 2022 celebration is underway with a mix of events, discussions and outdoor activities divided into themes.

"Most people, especially students, understand that we face a lot of serious challenges - climate change, social and economic inequality, environmental degradation and war. People often feel overwhelmed, disempowered and even hopeless in the face of such big, global problems. Earth Month is a chance to engage with these issues in an empowering way-to learn about the amazing things people are doing to help their communities and the Earth, to have discussions and build community with like-minded folks and to learn about things you can do," said Stephanie Spehar, director of the UWO Sustainability Institute for Regional Transformations.

The month kicked off with e-waste re-

cycling, a climate justice teach-in and a Think Oshkosh community networking at Becket's Restaurant.

A trash collection challenge continues all month, with a goal of 500 pieces collected among the three UWO campuses. More information is available at litterati. org/how-it-works.

This week features a presentation Thursday about two community groups that come together to grow and share indigenous foods and seeds; and a workshop Friday on heirloom apple tree grafting with the chance to make a tree to take home.

Next week includes campus cleanup from 1:30 to 3 p.m. April 11 and a talk by Oshkosh Mayor Lori Palmeri on April 12 on how maps can be storytellers or fact-finders that inform local decisions.

That night, the campus will hold the LGBTQIA+ Ally March. Attendees should join at Reeve Ballroom at 5 p.m.

An evening with best-selling author Michelle Alexander, which starts online at 7 p.m. April 14 will include a talk about her work breaking silence on racial injustices in the modern legal system. Alexander is author of "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness."

Week four includes a keynote discussion by Venice R. Williams, executive director of Alice's Garden Urban Farm in Milwaukee, at 5:30 p.m. April 20 at Sage Hall 1214. Williams will speak on citizens serving as stewards of the planet and some of the things to be more aware of when it comes to caring for the earth.

The final week, themed Let's Get Outside!, is capped with an Arbor Day Observance and tree planting on the Oshkosh campus, tentatively set for April 27.

Earth Month concludes with a bike tour of Oshkosh between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. April 30.

The COVID-19 pandemic has high-

lighted the significant role nurses play in

safeguarding health and wellness in soci-

said.

ety, Chung said.

# FRAGILE HABITAT AREA PLEASE STAY OUT APRIL 15 - SEPTEMBER 15 www.winnebagowaterways.org Joint protection effort by the Winnebago Waterways Program at Fox-Wolf Waiershed Alliance and the Winnebagoland Conservation Alliance

Winnebago Waterways

#### Habitat signs

Volunteers will be installing new signs on Lake Winnebago that mark important habitat just south of TJ's Harbor to keep people out of critical habitat areas from April 15 through Sept. 15. The signs replace an older version that volunteers have been temporarily installing each year for the open water season for almost two decades. The new signs were paid for by the Winnebago Waterways Program at Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance.

## County Democrats schedule annual Indigo Dinner

The Winnebago County Democratic Party's Annual Indigo Dinner is set for April 23 at La Sure's Hall, 3125 S. Washburn St.

Guest speaker is Matt Rothchild, executive director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign and former editor and publisher of The Progressive.

A social hour with jazz by the Marc

Sackman Quartet and networking is from 4 to 6 p.m. followed by a dinner.

Supporter tickets are \$45 per person by April 17, then \$50. Tables of six are available. Tickets are available at secure. actblue.com/donate/indigo2022 or at the Winnebago County Democratic Party office, 480 N. Main St. Call 920-410-3373 for more information.

## UWO's college of Nursing names new dean

Seon-Yoon Chung will be the new dean of the College of Nursing (CON) at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, effective July 1.

"Dr. Chung brings to UWO a wealth of

knowledge and experience that I am confident will help our College of Nursing faculty and staff members enhance student success. I look forward to welcoming her to the institution and seeing how her leadership helps take our nation-



Chung

ally recognized program to new heights," UW Oshkosh Chancellor Andy Leavitt

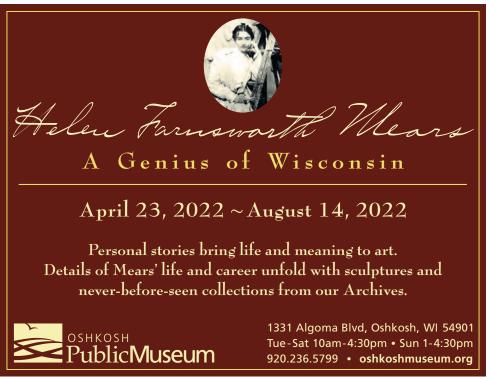
Chung currently serves as associate dean and faculty member in the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University in Normal. She is a registered nurse in both Illinois and Maryland and is a certified nurse educator and healthcare simulation educator.

"Dr. Chung brings an excellent record in teaching, scholarship and practice; and a strong, diverse range of experience in college, university and professional service," said UWO Provost John Koker. "I believe her understanding of issues faced by higher education, experience as a teacher and administrator in undergraduate and graduate nursing programs, her commitment to student success and experience working with faculty and staff will make her an effective leader."

Chung said she looks forward to meeting, working with and contributing to the UWO community.

"I am looking forward to joining a strong team of faculty, staff and administrators at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh who care deeply about students' success, who are dedicated to developing caring and scholarly leaders who positively impact contemporary and future healthcare," she







April 6, 2022 Page 8 I oshkoshherald.com

## Affordable housing project reviewed by joint authority

By Kaitlyn Scoville OSHKOSH HERALD

The joint Oshkosh and Winnebago County Housing Authority reviewed the progress of the Tiny Homes project, initially funded by Oshkosh business owner T.J. Rodgers.

Housing Authority executive director Stuart Kuzik said from what he understands the 400-square-foot homes are under construction and direction is needed to assign ownership of the property for maintenance and upkeep of the tempo-

While Rodgers funded the construction of just the homes, \$570,000 has been allocated for construction of a community center at the home village after the county's approval of \$10.3 million in state neighborhood grants.

Kuzik also said he is continuing communication with the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation and Oshkosh Kids Foundation, which is looking at the Housing Authority for committing to the project and subsequent ownership of the land the homes will be on.

"They're intending for the Housing Authority to take ownership of the property post-construction," he said. "The partnership would be that we shoulder the assets as well as the liabilities for operating (the homes). The Housing Authority would have to decide whether to (take ownership) or not," but there was no discussion of a future meeting to address a decision.

## Firefighter benefit teams up to show support for Fahrenkrugs

By AJ Mikkelson HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Firefighting is often called a brotherhood. Many firefighters consider their

co-workers brothers and sisters.

As a result, it is not uncommon to find multiple members of one family serving as career firefighters.

In the history of the Neenah Fire Department and now Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue, only one family has had three generations of firefighters. Bill Fahrenkrug was originally hired in 1965. His son, Mark, was hired by the department in 1993. In 2015, Mark's son, Ben, was hired

by Neenah Menasha Fire Rescue.

This made the Fahrenkrugs the first



Fahrenkrug

three-generation family to serve Neenah. Bill has another son, Pete, who was hired by the Oshkosh Fire Department as a firefighter/paramedic in 1994 after serving in the U.S. Army for 11 years.

Pete Fahfrom the Osh-

renkrug retired kosh department in 2021. In January

2022, he was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer that has metastasized to his liver. Fahrenkrug is a married father of six children and 11 grandchildren. After a lifetime of service to others, his family is "determined to provide the support Pete and his family need during this critical time of illness, treatment and recovery."

A benefit held March 26 at the Old 41 Saloon in Neenah drew about 300 people, including many Oshkosh and Neenah-Menasha firefighters.

There were more than 60 gift baskets donated, custom T-shirts were sold and the event raised more than \$21,000 to

support the Fahrenkrugs.

"My whole life is flashing before my eyes, seeing all the people here that have been in my life from childhood to now," Fahrenkrug told the crowd, adding that seeing the colleagues, friends and family come together was more important than the funds raised. He said the event's positive vibe was good for the entire family.

Fahrenkurg's family says he is their rock and is always looking for the positive in everything.

The tight-knit group is facing this challenge the same way firefighters face any challenge – as a team.



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## Chamber president set to retire

Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce president and chief executive John Casper announced his plans to retire by the end of the year after 35 years with the organization.

He began his career at the chamber in 1987 as director of commercial develop-

ment and took on his current position in 1990, making him the longest-tenured chamber chief executive in the state.

During Casper's time with the chamber, membership grew by more than 50% to an alltime high and earned



the organization's first accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in 1993.

"Over the past 35 years, I have had the distinct privilege to have worked for an outstanding organization and with some of the finest people I know," Casper said. "I appreciate the confidence and the support of the chamber's board of directors and the business community during my time with

"I am very proud of the many accomplishments of the organization and the positive direction that our community has taken."

Chamber board chair Joan Woldt said Casper will leave the organization in a good

"He leaves our chamber in excellent organizational and financial condition, positioning the organization and his successor with opportunity to further invest in strategic priorities," Woldt said. "We hope (Casper) knows how grateful we are for his years of service and resilience. We are proud of him and the contributions he has made to our community."

A transition committee has been established among the board of directors to develop a process and succession plan to hire a new president.

#### Send business bits

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#### Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

#### April 4, 1979

Goyke Concedes Victory to Petri, Four Council Seats are Filled: Republican Thomas Petri won a close victory over his Democratic opponent Gary Goyke yesterday with Goyke conceding at 10 a.m. this morning. The unofficial count now stands at Petri 71,473 and Goyke 70,134. A recount of the results is expected. The race between the

candidates was held to determine who would fill the Sixth District Senate seat left vacant by the unexpected passing of Rep. William Steiger in December. Steiger had been elected to a seventh term less than a week before his death. In the same election the following were elected to the Oshkosh City Council - Floyd Chapin, Don Kutchera, James Mather and Kenneth Schiefelbein. Losing their bid for a seat on Council were Jacquelyn Wagner, Arthur Salomon and Duane Moore.

> Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, April 4, 1979







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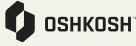
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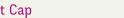


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## Recent changes affect intercity bus services

By Randall Davidson HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Intercity bus connections in Oshkosh have recently changed.

Green Bay-based Lamers Bus Lines has dropped several routes in Wisconsin, including its daily Green Bay-Oshkosh-Madison route, which has been taken over on a similar schedule by Megabus. The Lamers run from Wausau to Milwaukee via Oshkosh continues to operate.

Megabus is a division of Coach USA, which also runs Wisconsin Coach Lines. In 2019, WCL instituted two daily Green Bay to Milwaukee round trips via Oshkosh connecting to Amtrak's Milwaukee-Chicago trains. The new Megabus schedule from Green Bay to Madison connects with Amtrak trains in Columbus. All Megabus, Wisconsin Coach Lines and Lamers buses accept Amtrak tickets.

Lamers has also dropped its Campus

Connect service. This included a round trip on Fridays and Sundays from UW-Green Bay to UW-Madison, stopping only at Appleton and UW Oshkosh. The Campus Connect schedules were targeted at the college student market and only ran during the school year.

The main stop for all intercity buses serving Oshkosh is the Gruenhagen Conference Center on the UW Oshkosh campus, where passengers board on Osceola Street. The Lamers and Megabus trips will also stop at the Downtown Transit Center at 110 Pearl Ave.

Megabus has also taken over Lamers routes from Milwaukee to Green Bay via Manitowoc and the Wausau to Madison run. Also being run by Megabus is the Milwaukee-Green Bay-Minneapolis round trip via Manitowoc, Wausau and Eau Claire that had been run by Jefferson Lines, a Minnesota-based carrier.



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7-oz. Drink or 4.50-oz. Flip or 5.3-oz.

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8.50 to 9.25-oz. Crav'n Flavor





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APRIL 6, 2022 OSHKOSHHERALD.COM | PAGE 15

# Calendar of events

#### **Ongoing**

Oshkosh Craft Beer Week, through Sunday

"Ubuhle Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence" through May 22, Paine Art Center

#### Wednesday, April 6

Business Expo 2022, noon, Oshkosh Convention Center

#### Thursday, April 7

The Linda Ronstadt Experience, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

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

#### Friday, April 8

Father Carr's Place 2B drive-thru food pantry, 10 a.m., 1062 N. Koeller St.

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

#### Saturday, April 9

Egg-Citing Day at the Zoo, 11 a.m., Menominee Park Zoo

Breakfast with the Bunny, 8 a.m., Web-

The Oshkosh Garden Club's spring

plant sale will take place from 8 a.m. to 2

p.m. May 21 on the grounds of the Osh-

kosh Public Museum, 1331 Algoma Blvd.

ster Stanley Middle School

Mac 'n Brew, 6 p.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

National Physique Committee (NPC) Fox Cities Showdown, 4 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

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

James Garner's Tribute to Johnny Cash, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

"Silence of the Lambs," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

#### Sunday, April 10

Lenten Meditation, 3 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. 2450 W. 9th Ave.

#### Thursday, April 14

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

#### Friday, April 15

Father Carr's Place 2B drive-thru food pantry, 10 a.m., 1062 N. Koeller St.

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

#### Saturday, April 16

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

Star Six Nine, 7 p.m., Revs Bowl Bar & Grill, 275 N. Washburn St.

Ruby's Pantry, 9:30 a.m., at St. John's Lutheran Church, 419 Old Oregon Road

Plants featured at the sale are gar-

den-tested and suited to the Wisconsin

climate. Proceeds will fund gardening

projects in the community.



Photo by Michael Cooney

## **Faces of recovery**

Quilts with the faces of hundreds of Wisconsin residents affected by addiction in different ways were displayed at last Wednesday's We Heart You: Recovery in Our Community event at UW Oshkosh's Culver Family Welcome Center. "Wisconsin Faces of Addiction and Recovery quilts shatter perceptions and demonstrate that addiction affects everyone, whether personally or professionally," said event organizer Jennifer Skolaski. "There is hope, but our community has to come together if we are to save lives."



Garden Club's annual plant sale set for May 21





Special thanks to Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce. Created in partnership with Big Bark Media

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April 6, 2022

#### **State of the City**

FROM PAGE 1

efforts to help bring more industrial developments.

Survey responses throughout the presentation added both compliments to the completed projects and suggestions for improvement around Oshkosh.

Other developments in the works are in the south Sawdust District, leading with the T. Wall Enterprises' multiunit housing project called Mill on Main. Rohloff said there was a high demand for housing along Main Street amid efforts to revitalize that sector.

Rohloff addressed a survey response suggesting that a portion of North Main Street be closed off to vehicular traffic and converted to a pedestrian mall.

"I think that's one of those ideas that warrants a discussion," he said. "I don't know if it will necessarily lead to closing Main Street but I think if you take a look at other communities, it's a discussion we need to have if we want to talk about making downtown a vibrant place for people to come down and visit"

Through a partnership with the Downtown Business Improvement District, city officials are working on a pilot program for small businesses to put benches and flowerpots on sidewalks to enhance the pedestrian experience.

Another thing Rohloff mentioned is to enhance the economic vitality of the city, noting the quality of life must be high to attract and retain employees and businesses.

"We all want Oshkosh to be a place we love to come home to," he said.

Annual awards also were presented to recognize city staff and residents.

City staff members Kodi Parker and Wendy Hamilton were issued Employee of the

Year awards for each noticing an issue in the city's water distribution system not long ago.

According to Public Works director James Rabe, a contractor for a utility company hit an 8-inch service line on the southwest side, which resulted in significant water loss through the broken pipe and almost draining the water tower.

Parker was observing the construction of a sanitary sewer nearby and noticed the utility crew having issues with the water, and Hamilton was operating the Water Filtration Plant and noticed the tower's water levels rapidly dropping. Both employees contacted the proper parties, which triggered an emergency response.

"Through the actions of (Parker), (Hamilton) and all those involved, our community was spared from a greater crisis," Rabe said.

Environmental Leadership awards were granted to the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance and the late Jan Scalpone, who died in June. She served nearly a decade on the Sustainability Advisory Board as one of its founding members and helped create the Winnebago Lakes Council in 2007.

The Bent Woods Neighborhood Association was recognized as Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods' newest association in the last year.

Several city board members noted milestones in their service in 2021. Anthony Dirth, John Kiefer, Carleen Christianson and Koby Schellenger have served for five years. Those who have served on boards and commissions for 10 years include Kris Larson, Catherine Osburn, Kathryn Larson, Jason Lasky and Kyle Clark. Dennis Arnold, in 2021, celebrated 15 years of service.

Community partnership awards were granted to the Oshkosh Food Co-op and the Oshkosh Celebration of Lights for continued work with nonprofits and other organizations

#### Hope Fridge

FROM PAGE 1

same plans with others in Wisconsin and even a group in Australia that's trying to start a project.

"We're empowering anyone who contacts us to do it because it's so needed," said Hobbs, who after moving here for college was struggling financially, something that can easily affect one's emotional, physical and mental health. "I couldn't afford to live my life, and I would've loved a place like this when I was struggling. I'll never forget how horrible it felt to be working two jobs – 15 hours some days – and still not making it."

Two main principles guide Hope Fridge: Everyone deserves to know where their next meal is coming from; and people in need know best what they need.

Sandwiches are popular items to stock, especially for people who don't have homes.

"Other meals might need to be cooked in a stove or heated up in a microwave, but if you don't have a home, you can't do that," Hobbs

Many other food items are welcomed.

"We just ask that people prepare food for us like they would for a friend or a loved one. We encourage gloves and hairnets be used, and hand-washing and other basic hygiene be practiced if people are preparing food items for us," Hobbs said.

"We also ask that donations be individually packaged and labeled with all ingredients used and the date the meal was prepared. That's for safety reasons, especially if someone getting the meals has food allergies and so we don't have food sitting there longer than two or three days; though in reality, the food rarely sits in a fridge longer than a couple hours."

That means food items are always wel-

come. Certain household goods are also collected and a list of those along with the kinds of food or meals they need is at HopeFridge. com/guidelines.

The group's directors are now promoting a "Filling the Fridge" effort that encourages businesses, groups and individuals to sign up for a day at HopeFridge.com to stock any one of the three locations.

A ribbon-cutting and unveiling of Neenah's first Hope Fridge Hygiene Hutch took place in February. This idea was conceptualized and constructed by Girl Scout Troop 2032 from Appleton. Natalie Starr, a troop leader said, "The girls came up with the idea on their own. I and our other troop leader just let them run with it. The girls bought the lumber themselves, assembled it themselves and painted it themselves."

The Hygiene Hutch is right next to the Hope Fridge. Items that can be donated to the "hutch" include feminine hygiene products, oral health products, deodorant, wet wipes and body/hand soaps (including liquid soaps). No aerosol products are accepted.

"We are beyond proud of the dedication and teamwork the girls have shown, and so grateful for their compassion towards the betterment of our community," Hobbs said, adding that at some point, they may explore the possibility of a Hygiene Hutch at every fridge location. For now, if someone wants to donate such items, they can just leave them adjacent to the fridge.

Starr offered this piece of advice: "They shouldn't always be concerned about thinking big. Instead, think little because it's the little things that help the community. And if everyone does a little something, the results can be huge."

Founders are always looking for more sites, and this summer hope to expand into Appleton. But they want to grow at a rate that's sustainable.







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## Biotech partnership searches for new treatments

**UW Oshkosh Today** 

A new research collaboration between the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and the California-based biotech company Fauna Bio seeks to translate disease resistance strategies found in the animal kingdom into new treatments for human disease.

Fauna Bio has provided a \$500,000 sponsorship that increases UW Oshkosh's capacity for biomedical collaborations and helps establish the university as a des-



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tination for researchers looking to study emerging animal models.

"This partnership will advance the work already being done at UWO. It's an opportunity for our faculty to solidify their position as leaders in this field and to expand our educational opportunities for students," said UWO Provost John Koker.

In the first two years, the partnership will grow the research impact of UWO and Fauna Bio, said Benjamin Sajdak, Fauna

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Bio's director of emerging animal models and a UWO adjunct biology professor.

"We also will create new educational opportunities to foster the next generation of scientists in regeneration and disease resistance from local scientific seminars to research and biotechnology internships for students," he said.

The collaboration will increase Fauna Bio's capabilities "centered on our beloved hibernating 13-lined ground squirrel as well as expanding to other species with unique adaptations."

Neurophysiologist Dana Merriman began UWO's 13-lined ground squirrel breeding colony in 2003 to support the work of her visual system research. The ground squirrel is a promising animal model for studying human diseases, including Merriman's research on retinal diseases like the genetic disorder known as Usher Syndrome.

"While traditional animal models like rats and mice have the stability provided by big businesses, breeding colonies of emerging model organisms are developed and maintained by individual scientists committed to them, as in my situation," she said.

Hibernating animals are known to be hard to raise in captivity, and Merriman is the only scientist to have been successful with the squirrels.

She said the collaboration with Fauna Bio offers UWO global visibility and the opportunity to connect with scientists around the globe.



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## Former Lourdes star makes quick impact at Valparaiso

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The plan for Preston Ruedinger was to sit out his freshman basketball season as a red-shirt.

Plans change, and Ruedinger didn't do much sitting during the second half of the season at Valparaiso University.

Plan B started for the former Lourdes Academy star when his redshirt was lifted in early January. He came off the bench initially before quickly becoming the Beacons' starting point guard. The walk-on replaced another former Wisconsin prep standout, Trevor Anderson, who missed the final two months of the season with a back injury.

Ruedinger proved that he belonged in Division 1 hoops. He started 13 games down the stretch and performed with the poise of a veteran. Ruedinger made the Missouri Valley Conference's all-freshman team, averaging 3.3 points, 1.7 assists and 1.5 rebounds in 19.9 minutes per game. He drilled 13 3-pointers and made a strong contribution on defense (14 steals).

Ruedinger wasn't asked to be a scorer so his numbers in that department weren't special. But the way he handled the ball, avoided mistakes and ran the team was exceptional. As the Beacons' primary ballhandler, Ruedinger had a mere eight turnovers and didn't have more than one turnover in any of his 19 games. He was turnover free in 11 of those contests and was the only player in the nation with 30 or more assists (32) and 10 or fewer turnovers.

Ruedinger also earned a full athletic scholarship after opening the season as a non-scholarship player. He made his first start on Jan. 8 against Southern Illinois, becoming only the second Valparaiso walk-on to start a game in Matt Lottich's nine years as

Beacons coach.

"It was really nice to hear they were giving me the scholarship," Ruedinger said. "It was a tough situation when Trevor went down. He was a huge leader for us. I just focused on playing defense and being solid with the ball."

Ruedinger was rock-solid with his floor



Ruedinaer

game and impressed teammates with his savvy, leadership and high basketball IQ.

"Preston from day one has been poised," said Beacons senior guard Kobe King in a postgame interview with Tom Timmermann of the St. Louis

Dispatch. "And when he got the call, he was ready to step up. I forget he's a freshman sometimes. There's nobody I'd rather have lead and go to battle with.

"He fights, competes and knocks down shots. I want him to stay aggressive and keep improving and I know he will."

The redshirt was actually lifted before Anderson's injury – upon Ruedinger's request. Anderson, a senior, played his final game Jan. 26.

"I went into the year thinking I was going to redshirt all season," Ruedinger said. "After 11 games, I talked to my family and the coaches and we all thought it would be a good idea to pull the redshirt. I thought I could help the team and we'd be better with me on the floor. I was sick of sitting on the bench and felt I was ready to play.

"And then Trevor went down. I knew going into the season that I could play at this level. I didn't want to be treated like a walkon. I just worked hard every day and my op-

portunity came."

Ruedinger will get the chance to build on that seized opportunity for a Beacons team that finished 14-18 overall and 6-12 in league play. Barring injury, he will likely open next season as starting point guard.

Expect his scoring numbers to jump because he can clearly put the ball in the hoop. The 6-foot-2 Ruedinger was an Associated Press first-team all-state selection in 2020-21 at Lourdes, averaging 25.8 points, 6.9 rebounds. 5 assists and 2 steals for the Division 4 state champs. He averaged 27.2 ppg as a junior and is 12th on Wisconsin's all-time boys' basketball scoring list with 2,349 points.

"People that know me know that I like to shoot the ball," said Ruedinger, who scored a season-high 12 points in the Beacons' 81-59 Missouri Valley Conference tournament win over Evansville March 3. "At some point, they're going to need me to score and I think I'm pretty good at it. It was a good year overall for me, but there's room to grow."

Ruedinger won't get much down time. Weight training workouts have already started and one of Ruedinger's goals is to get stronger physically.

"The game is at a different speed than high school," Ruedinger said. "But the biggest thing is your body and how physically demanding this is. We really kind of beat the crap out of each other for 40 minutes. There are some days when your body is like, 'I don't want to even get out of bed.'

"It's pretty much basketball 24/7 and it's almost like a job in some ways. You just don't show up for games. It doesn't work that way."

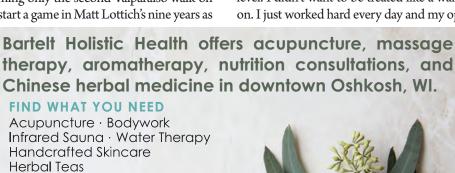
Ruedinger plans to major in business at Valparaiso and likes the small-school atmosphere. Although Valparaiso has a Division I men's basketball program, the Indiana school has an enrollment of under 3,000 students

"With it being a small school and small town, it kind of reminds me of Lourdes and I like that," Ruedinger said. "You get to know everyone."

Valparaiso is less than a four-hour drive from Oshkosh, allowing Ruedinger's parents, Dennis and Kellie, to attend most home games. Dennis served as Lourdes head coach when Preston and the Knights won the state title, rallying from a 20-point deficit to edge The Prairie School, 43-41, on a buzzer beater.

"Getting the opportunity to do it with my dad made it even more special," he said. "I'm still the closest of friends with a lot of my teammates. We do Face Time almost every day. I'll absolutely never forget that."







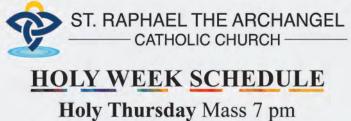
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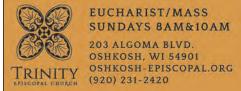




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## West hoping to get over sectional final hump

By Dustin Riese HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Oshkosh has been known to have a great high school softball tradition that will continue this year. From the North High state years to the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh making the College World Series last spring, softball in the community continues to thrive.

And you can't forget about Oshkosh West as they have been putting together impressive runs over the past few seasons. Although they haven't gotten over

SOFTBALL PREVIEW

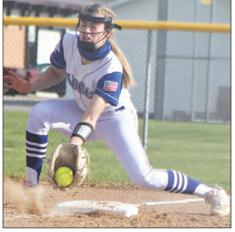
the hump to punch their tickets to state, the Wildcats continue to play well going 14-4 last

season in Fox Valley Association play and 23-6 overall as they fell in the sectional finals for the third straight season.

"Last season was a lot of fun for our team and anyone that came out to watch us play," West head coach Tim Kohl said. "We pulled out some big wins and had a couple of tough losses. The loss to Beaver Dam to end our season stung the most, and I am sure that this year's team remembers how that felt. We would love to make it back to that sectional final game again this year to give us a chance to go to state."

The Wildcats are going to have to get there without some key pieces. Starting pitcher Tatum Duff was the ace of the staff and is now pitching at the collegiate level.

But West has the pieces and leadership to keep rolling and that all starts with seniors Abby Curtis and Brieann Kitchen. Losing senior Dominique Bauer to an off-season injury will hurt the offense a bit, but look for Chloe Tritt to replace her



Junior Breanna Bougie is one of the key returning players for West this season.

at third base.

Junior Breanna Bougie is expected to handle most of the pitching duties after emerging as one of the better pitchers in the league in 2021. Add in sophomores Braelee Jodarski and Laina Hammen, juniors Kadance Saladin and Kathryn Bergin, along with senior Madelynn Fuller, and there is strong supporting cast.

#### Spartans softball looks to surprise the FVA

Oshkosh North has a rich softball tradition that is filled with conference titles and state championships. At some point you had to think a rebuild was going to come through that program. That was the case for second-year head coach Keith Koslowski, who found out how hard the FVA can be.

After a losing season in 2020, Koslowski took the reins of the Spartans program in 2021 and posted a 6-15 overall mark and

5-13 in conference play. It was a lesson that most coaches find out the hard way when they come from one conference and land in the FVA.

"Last year I learned a lot about the FVA and how competitive this conference is," Koslowski said. "Teaching and coaching at North has been great. It all begins with the support of the parents and the students at North have great character."

Now in his second season, Koslowski and his staff are aiming for better results. As expected, the league will bring challenges to the surface but something Koslowski is sure his team can handle.

"A new season brings with it new challenges," he said. "Gone are the temperature checks and student logins. Our culture is driving our expectations. It is a different feeling than last season. We made some small changes in how we approach practice and incorporated some different drills, and the players are improving and having fun while working hard."

North will need to replace the leadership of Noelle Frank, Emma Phillips and Mollie Bittner. They were part of the last state championship team and that experience is difficult to replace.

It will fall on others to pick up the slack with Ashley Borowitz being one of those leaders. She is going to set the tone as she often does, which is a big reason she is one of the better pitchers in the conference.

Lauren Geer returns to the infield and will look to use all the changes she worked on this winter to her advantage. Joining her in the infield will be Ava Hanson.

"We are young, so we might take a little while to get things going," Koslowski said. "It all starts with pitching, and we have a very good one. We will need to play solid defense and get timely hitting from the middle of our lineup. If our pitchers limit their walks and can get some ground ball outs, and we get some runners on base, we could be competitive. And that is our goal, be as competitive as we can be and if things go right, we can win at the end of each game."

#### **Knights hoping young** roster leads to success

The 2021 season was a challenge for the Lourdes/Valley Christian Warriors as wins were tough to come by. A large part of that had to do with the youth within the program, but the Knights still managed to go 3-5 in Trailways play and 5-19 overall.

Things are looking up for the Knights as they bring back talented players from top to bottom. Leading will be seniors Madison Peerenboom, Camille Clark, Adri Geddes and pitcher Saraah Blanchard as they will look to take on a bigger, more defined leadership role.

The cupboard is far from bare for the Knights with others returning from last year. Juniors Noel Carpenter (OF), Riley Kuklinski (3B/P/C), Lily Wolff (OF) and Amelia Lindahl (OF/INF) join the mix as will be returning sophomores Ella Slusarski (3B/OF), Reagon Proud (SS), and Faith Blanchard (C/OF).

Look for Proud to again be one of the better offensive players on this team as she led in most categories last season. Saraah Blanchard will get a majority of starts in the center circle, but Lourdes will have more options than in the past when it comes to pitching.



#### Apr 7 @Cedar Grove-Belgium 4:30pm @Randolph 10:00am Apr 9 **Pardeeville** 5:00pm Apr 12

@Pardeeville 5:00pm Apr 14 @Cambria Apr 18 5:00pm @0akfield Apr 19 5:00pm Apr 21 5:00pm **Wayland Academy DH** 10:00am Apr 23 Apr 25 5:00pm St. Mary Catholic 5:00pm **Oakfield** 5:00pm **Princeton/Green Lake** May 3 5:00pm

@Princeton/Green Lake 5:00pm @Markesan 5:00pm May 12 Markesan 5:00pm

 $\label{thm:long_equation} \mbox{Home games played at Spanbauer Park until UWO is available.}$ 

**Oshkosh West** 4:30pm at Appleton North at Bay Port at Manitowoc Lincoln Apr 9 12:00pm Apr 12 Kimberly 4:30pm at Appleton East Menasha 4:30pm **4:30pm** Apr 18 Fond du Lac 4:30pm Apr 19 Apr 21 Neenah 4:30pm @Kaukauna Apr 26 **Appleton West** 4:30pm @Hortonville @Oshkosh West May 3 **Appleton North** 4:30pm @Kimberly May 6 Appleton East 4:30pm i:uuam @Fond du Lac May 10 5:00pm May 12 @Neenah 4:30pm May 13 Kaukauna 4:30pm **Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln (rescheduled)** 4:30pm May 16 5:00pm May 17 @Appleton West May 19 Hortonville 4:30pm

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#### **Obituaries**

#### **Thomas Baier**

Thomas John Baier, age 74 of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully on March



30th. He was born May 2, 1947, to Ruth (Last) and John Baier in Oshkosh, WI.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Barbara & Cynthia Baier,

nephew Christian Baier, and sister-inlaw Karen Baier.

He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Jenny; daughter, Carla; son, Lawrence (Karla); granddaughters, Addison, Ella and Lauren; son, William (Desiree); grandson, Preston. He is further survived by his brothers, Bruce, Charlie (Pam), Phil, Doug (Diane), Pete (Anjie), and Ted (Cindy); sisters Louise, Amy and Jennifer Baier, Jean (Jack) Thierman, Ellen Poeschl and Nancy (Monty) Montgomery, and many nieces and nephews.

Tom worked in field service most of his life. His last and favorite job was in Cairo, Egypt from 2003 to 2019. He was a lifetime member of Knights of Columbus. He was proud to serve his country in the U.S. Army and he served in the Vietnam War. He was a member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. He loved taking pictures of everything and everyone. He loved cruising and traveling with his wife, living in bib overalls, passing out two-dollar bills, drinking craft beer, & spending time with his granddaughters, grandson & friends. He also enjoyed being Santa's helper. He had a kind heart and would help anyone.

There will be a visitation on April 7th from 3:30 to 5:30 at St. Jude the Apostle Parish, 1225 Oregon St., Oshkosh with a mass to follow.

Jox Cities

#### **Linda Lentz**

Linda S. Lentz, age 73 of Oshkosh, passed away at Edenbrook of Oshkosh



on Sunday, April 3, 2022. She was born on September 15, 1948 to the late Arlow and Elaine (Schneider) Lentz.

Linda was a hardworking woman who worked various jobs throughout her life.

She loved her children and grandchildren deeply. She enjoyed crafting, sewing, cooking, and going out to lunch with her friends.

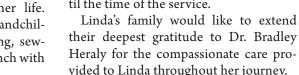
She is survived by her children: Nicole (Anthony) Jarvey, Chris Kaufman, and Paul Kaufman; grandchildren: Raven Dexter and Jensen Kaufman; sisters: Lisa Lentz and Amy (Brian) Frank. She is further survived by many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Linda was preceded in death by her brother, Dan Lentz, and sister, Nancy Mugerauer.

A memorial service for Linda will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, April 9, 2022 at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Dr. Visitation will be held from 1:00 PM until the time of the service.

their deepest gratitude to Dr. Bradley Heraly for the compassionate care provided to Linda throughout her journey.

## KONRAD-BEHLMAN





Wayne G. Eiden, 63, left us peacefully after health issues on March 27, 2022,



he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer only three days before passing. He was born on October 19, 1958 to Joseph and Beverly (Kiefer) Eiden in the town of Winneconne. He attended Winneconne

school, and worked for Buckstaff and a variety of restaurants until he was unable due to health reasons.

Wayne loved everything to do with space, especially Star Wars. He also loved to fish, and garden with his father.

He is survived by his son, James; daughter, Jessica; former wife, Deborah; sister, Cynthia Eiden-Friez (Ali); brother, Matt (Elaine) Eiden; nephew, Ryan Bierman; and two aunts, Barb Lett and Pat Schroeder; he is further survived by many cousins, and a very special friend, Joe Manske.

Wayne is preceded in death by his parents, and numerous aunts and uncles.

The family would like to give special thanks to Arborview and their staff for the wonderful care they gave to Wayne.

**Funeral & Cremation Services** 

#### **Mary Hesek**

Mary Hesek (Kinney), age 71, passed away on Thursday, March 31, 2022. She



was born in Oshkosh on August 30, 1950, daughter of the late Edward and Mary Ann Kinney. On July 14, 1999 she married Wayne Hesek. They had their ceremony at St. John Catholic Church in Oshkosh

on July 14, 2000.

Mary was proud to be a school bus driver for over 40 years. She enjoyed making ceramics, gardening and watching things grow, butterflies, lighthouses, and especially Elvis Presley. Further, she was an avid bowler and enjoyed playing cribbage on Tuesday nights.

Mary will be remembered for the love she had for children and her family.

Mary is survived by her husband, Wayne; children: Heather (significant other, Brian) Kinney, Ryan (Sandy) Kinney, Neil Hesek and Thomas Hesek; grandchildren: Jasa Kinney and her son Landen Longsine, Lucian Grahn and Amalthea Kinney; numerous great-grandchildren; and sister-in-law, Judith Kinney and her sons: Patrick, Mike, Danny and Kevin and their families. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Lawrence Kinney; and sister, Delores Kinney.

A visitation will be from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the memorial service at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at Seefeld Funeral Home Seefeld Funeral Home, 1025 Oregon St., Oshkosh. Online condolences may be expressed at www.seefeldfuneral.









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#### **Obituaries**

#### **Tracey Dettlaff**



passed away Tuesday, March 22, at the Sharon Richardson Hospice Center in Sheboygan after a long battle with lung cancer.

She is originally

from Racine County, the daughter of James and Edith Willis.

She resided in Oshkosh and was employed by City Cab of Oshkosh for several years, both as a driver and later as a dispatcher.

She is survived by her husband of 34 years, Wayne Dettlaff of Oshkosh; siblings James Willis, Laura Rouse, Edith Slater and Pamela Shulz. Preceding her in death was her sister, Dawn Sus.

She was a loving daughter, wife, sister, aunt and friend. Family was extremely important to her. Tracey was a major part of the lives of her 17 nieces and nephews as well as several great-nieces and nephews. Her family, friends and loved ones feel deep sorrow at our loss, though are grateful that she is no longer suffering but finally at peace.

Her family wishes to say a special thank you to her dear friends who helped and were with her to the very end. We would also like thank her hospice caregivers.

Tracey was one of a kind, who will be forever loved and missed.

The family will be honoring her wishes; there will be no traditional funeral





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April 6, 2022 OSHKOSHHERALD.COM | PAGE 23

#### **Obituaries**

#### Ronald Krenz Akin

Born in New London, WI on May 18, 1937, to George and Esther Akin. He mar-



ried Kenlynn Mae Heydon on June 25, 1960 in Madison, WI. Kenlynn was his cheerleading sweetheart where they met "on the court" and never were apart again. They were approaching 62 years of

togetherness and love. He attended Hortonville Senior High School, then Oshkosh State College. He later graduated from Northern Michigan with his master's degree, followed by his PhD from Indiana University.

Ron earned 10 athletic letters in four sports while attending Hortonville High School. He led his football and basketball teams in scoring, playing in several conference championships while winning the honor of Boys Senior Athlete.

He then attended Oshkosh State College, achieving eight athletic letters in track and basketball. He placed in all four WI State Conference meets and was the basketball team's Captain and leading scorer his junior year.

He began his teaching and coaching career at Reedsville High School. They won two conference championships and several tournaments. There was only one division in Wisconsin high school basketball. His team beat De Pere in the Sectionals eventually losing to Manitowoc who won the State Tournament. He also started a boy's track team at Reedsville High School. He then moved to Chilton, WI continuing to teach and coach.

Following his pursuit of a Doctorate Degree, Ron was on the staff at UW-Oshkosh where he was a Full Professor plus; he coached basketball, cross country, and track & field over a span of 29 years. His track teams brought many All-American athletes (13) and one National Champion (Max Harn – Berlin, WI). Ron eventually was named Track & Field Coach of the year in the WSUC. Ron was inducted into the UW-Oshkosh Hall of Fame in 1986 for his tremendous accomplishments as an athlete and coach.

His academic interests in teaching younger people at UW-Oshkosh were significant. He developed academic curriculum for the Therapeutic Recreation Program. He also served as Chairman of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department and chaired many committees at UW-Oshkosh.

Ron also had been active in many community organizations. He volunteered as Boy Scout Cub Master, Special Olympics, the Oshkosh YMCA, and the Oshkosh Parks Advisory Committee. He managed Camp Marietta at Lawrence University which he led for many summers. He was very active in Oshkosh churches serving on councils and committees. He was a current member of Calvary Lutheran Church of Oshkosh. He was also President of the National "O" Club at UW-Oshkosh. His Breweriana collectible hobby included memberships to NABA and ABA where he frequented conventions often. He was also an active member in the Trout Unlimited group to uphold stream habitat.

Ron's great love was his dedication to his family. He enjoyed sharing with them America's West, along with Hawaii & New York City. He also enjoyed immensely the family cottage in Forest County where he fished and hunted. He spent much time fishing trout on the Wolf River and hunted deer and ruffed grouse. Ron was blessed to be able to hunt and fish throughout North America including Alaska, Manitoba, Ontario, Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota. With his beloved wife, Kenlynn, they were able to enjoy Europe, Mexico, Canada and most of the 50 states. We all celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. Ronald also enjoyed gardening, cooking, bonfires, Broadway theaters, sunsets, working with stained glass and quiet family time.

Since his retirement in 1994, one of his keen interests was to learn the history of the Oshkosh & Hortonville Breweries. He shared his collections, donating a large collection to the National Breweriana Museum in Potosi, WI. He made many presentations and publications of the history of the Oshkosh Breweries. He also co-authored a sold-out book, "The Breweries of Oshkosh – Their Rise & Fall."

Ronald was preceded in death by his mother and father, George and Esther Akin, his in-laws, Orland and Alice Heydon, his brother George (Joey) Akin Jr. and his brother-in-law Charles Kubitz.

Ronald is survived by his beloved wife Kenlynn and three children David (Paula) Rhinelander, WI, Daniel (Judy) Marshfield, WI, and Julie (Peter) Steinert

Kohler, WI. Grandchildren Zachary (Leah Carpenter) Akin, Apple Valley, MN, Jacob Akin (special friend Leah Martin), San Jose, CA, Ben (Nicole) Steinert, Minneapolis, MN, Chelsea (Jeff) Patnode, Bloomington, MN, Christian Steinert, Columbus, OH and Nick Akin, Plymouth, MN. Plus, his brand-new gift from God great granddaughter Sadie Rose Patnode. He is also survived by his two sisters and nieces and nephews: Susan (John) Nielsen Alliance, OH (Steve & Toni, Christine and Chris, Anne and Matt) and Carolyn Kubitz Hilton Head Island, SC (Kim and Tom, Kubi and Tree).

Ron's family would like to thank Dr. Weston Radford, staff at Aspire Memory Care - Oshkosh, WI including; Shawnee and her RN Staff, as well Moments Hospice Care.

The funeral arrangements are as follows: Visitation prior to the service Saturday April 9, 2022, from 10:00 - 11:30 with a service officiated by Reverend Doug Holtz to follow at Calvary Lutheran Church, 2580 W. Ninth Avenue - Oshkosh, WI 54904.

In lieu of flowers a Memorial Fund will be established by the family.

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#### **Bernard Pitz**

Heaven must have been in need of another good carpenter. On Thursday, March 31,



2022 Bernard "Bernie" W. Pitz joined Heaven's carpenter crew to help with the next build. He was born the fourth of five children on September 27, 1936 in Oshkosh to Gilbert and Cecelia (Cannon) Pitz.

He was united in marriage to Nancy Davies on August 13, 1960 at St. Mary's Catholic

He attended St. Mary's School, and attended the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, and Institute of Technology in Michigan. Bernie was drafted into the United States Army in 1959 and began his service with the HQHQ 61st Group, eventually receiving the JFK extension. After being honorably discharged, he became a partner in the family business, August Pitz & Sons General Contractors. Later, in 1984 he bought out Pitz Realty, and renamed it B.W. Pitz Rentals.

Bernie was a lifetime member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. He ushered there for over 50 years, served on the parish council, and served on the building and grounds committee during the last church renovation.

He was a past member of the Knights of Columbus and the Oshkosh Builders Association where he served as an officer several times prior to the closure of the association. Through Bernie's assistance, the Oshkosh Builders Association was instrumental in providing numerous scholarships for the building trades in the Oshkosh area.

He is lovingly survived by his wife, Nancy Pitz; children: Tim (Suzanne), Jeff, James (Ana Burkham) Pitz, and Rebecca (Michael) Federico; grandchildren: Stephanie, Benjamin, Alexis, Joshua, Samuel, Olivia, and Emma; sisters: Elizabeth Pitz and Kath-

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Noon on Friday, April 8, 2022 at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish- St. Mary site, 605 Merritt Ave. with Fr. Jerome Pastors officiating. Visitation will be held from 10:00 AM until the time of Mass. Military Honors and interment will follow at Riverside Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a contribution to a charity of your choice in

The Pitz family would like to extend their deep appreciation to Compassus Hospice and Home Care Assistance of the Fox Valley for the loving care provided

> to Bernie. Your compassion meant so much at such a difficult time.



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In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, August Pitz II, and sister, Rosemarie Pitz

honor of Bernie.

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April 6, 2022 Page 24 I oshkoshherald.com



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ressor Worm's

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answer.

While we are quiet and shy, we are good to have around. We don't have eyes, ears or legs, yet we provide an important service.



Worms are master recyclers!

As earthworms burrow or dig into the ground, they swallow soil. They eat rotting plants and leaves. As this debris passes

through the worm's body, it is ground up by tiny stones in the worm's gizzard and leaves the body as waste.

This waste is called worm castings. Castings are dark and fertile and enrich the soil. Each day an earthworm produces its weight in castings. That's a lot of recycling!

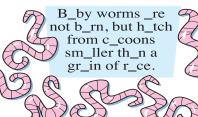
How long was the longest earthworm ever found? 9 + 6 + 7 =feet

How many different kinds of earthworms are there? 300 + 700 + 800 =

How strong are earthworms? They can push things up to 3+3+4= times their own weight. That would be like you being able to push four refrigerators at one time!

#### Amazing Worm Facts

Replace the missing vowels to learn more about earthworms



An \_arthw\_rm br\_ath\_s thro\_gh its sk\_n and has f\_ve h\_ \_rts.

Th\_re ar\_ e\_rthw\_rms verywh\_re except d\_s\_rts and p\_les

n one \_cre, th\_re can be m\_re than a m\_ll\_on e\_rthw\_rms.



\_lm\_st all \_f the \_rthw\_rms in N\_rth Am\_ric\_ are n\_t n\_tive, but w\_re

intr\_d\_ced fr\_m the \_ld W\_rld.

#### Yum! Love that Garbage!

Garbage is for worms! You might think it is gross, but certain kinds of worms think garbage is yummy. Instead of tossing leftover salad, melon peels and apple cores into the trash or disposal, build a worm bin and start raising





Scientists must be observant, watching things very carefully. Try this game to improve your powers of observation.

1. With a partner, pick a newspaper picture. Study it for one minute.

2. Cover the picture and write down everything you remember about it. Who can remember the most details?

Standards Link: Science/Investigation: Follow instructions for an investigation

#### Double Double

#### Scratchy Worms

**Coop** Puzzler 📣

Do you think you can hear an earthworm move?

If you put an earthworm on a clean, dry sheet of paper and listen very carefully, you will hear a little scratching noise. This noise is made by the eight small bristles an earthworm has on nearly every segment of its body. These bristles help earthworms move.

Standards Link:



RECYCLERS DISPOSAL **GARBAGE SERVICE STRONG DEBRIS STONES BURROW** WASTE WORMS **GROSS COVER** SOIL DARK

DIG

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

WKOGNORTSN DRSIRBEDRD EAELRGCSEI WDIVAIYETS FOUBODCNSP S E R V I C E O A O LAWMORRTWS GMWOSGSSRA WORRUBLDSL

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identica words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns

## Kid Scoop Together:

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the articles below and correct the nine spelling errors you find. The first one is done for you.

#### Worm Grunting

Worm grunting is done buy driving a stake into the ground Ъу and pulling a flat metal rod across the top. This creates a bullfrog-like grunting sownd. Within minites, hundreds of earthworms crawl out of the ground, where fishermen gather them up for bait.

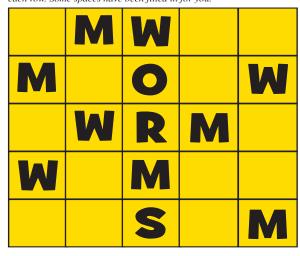
Why do the worms come up? Researcher, Ken Catania of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. has an explanation. He believes that worm grunting is similar to the vibrations moles make as they digg through the ground. Moles eat wormz, so when the worms feel those vibrations, they scurry to get out of the ground and away from the mole. A DOWN

Every Arpril, the citizens of Sopchoppy, Fla. hold a one-day Worm Grunting Festival. In addition to dancing, eating good food, a hula hool contest and other games, the festival includes a Worm Gruntin' Contest and the crowing of a Worm Grunter King and/or Oueen.

Standards Link: Writing: Edit work to check for correct spelling.

#### Kid Scoo-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word WORMS in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.



#### Write On! **Cutest Animal**

What do you think is the cutest animal on earth? Why? How would you try to convince others?

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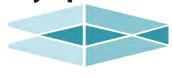
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