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INSIDE



Boys basketball Spartans aiming high entering season
Page 14

New shelter County purchases property for youth home
Page 3



Submitted photo

Jim Boehm took over as executive director at Father Carr's Place2B earlier this year.

Father Carr's director refocuses shelter goals

By Cheryl Hentz
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

If you've been around Oshkosh for any length of time, you are no doubt familiar with Father Carr's Place2B on the eastern frontage road of Interstate 41. Originally started in May 1974 by the Rev. Martin Carr in St. Peter's Catholic Church basement, and relocated to the 1900 block of North Main Street, Father Carr's has been on the city's west side for most of its nearly 50-year existence.

What started as a youth center – a safe, supervised place for teens to hang out, play games and be themselves – the Place2B eventually expanded to become a

homeless shelter. As the needs of residents and families grew, so did Carr's dream to fill those needs.

He eventually purchased more property and opened a free clinic, a dining facility where people could get a free meal three times a day and have fellowship with others, a chapel for weekly Mass, and a food bank.

Though Carr died on Father's Day in 2007 due to complications related to diabetes, his dream to serve the community lived on. With so many dedicated volunteers who shared Carr's devotion to help-

SEE **Father Carr's** ON PAGE 7

Hospital, hotel plans advanced

Plan Commission backs riverfront medical center

By Kaitlyn Scoville
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Plan Commission paved the way for two development projects, including a new hospital with a partnership between ThedaCare and Froedtert Health and an additional hotel near Oshkosh Corp. headquarters.

At a previous commission workshop, group members discussed the 58,000-square-foot medical campus development at the former Morgan Door Co. site, situated on the northwest corner of 6th Avenue and Oregon Street.

The Morgan District is identified as a 36-acre blighted area that was previously set to become apartment buildings. After those plans fell through, ThedaCare and Froedtert came forward with intentions to build a third hospital in the city.

The project is expected to have emergency care and inpatient beds, including a retail pharmacy, three operating rooms and an onsite medical office for primary care and specialty needs. It is proposed to take up about 21 acres of the district.

The applicant has noted that the proposed location was chosen to deal with needs for urgent care within the core areas of Oshkosh. The new 24-hour hospital will provide local access to acute treatments, including emergency calls within the city's central district.

Staff and commissioners were supportive of the development as it aligns with the Imagine Oshkosh center city investment plan introduced by Houseal Lavigne in the 2010s.

Commissioner Kathy Propp noted her

SEE **Plan Commission** ON PAGE 4

Acute child care needs spark education initiative

FVTC program seeks to answer demand

By Kaitlyn Scoville
OSHKOSH HERALD

The need for child care has resumed to pre-COVID referral request numbers. Parents who worked from home during COVID are now returning to the office. Parents tried watching their children while working from home in some cases because their child care program closed temporarily but have found that is no longer a suitable option.

Grandparents or other relatives who stepped in to help with child care during COVID are finding it to be too much work and are seeking child care for their grandchildren. As the children become toddlers and are more active, grandparents have a challenging time caring for them.

According to a Winnebago County Family Child Care survey from March, 65% of children up to 24 months old are on a waiting list for child care.

The survey, conducted by Fox Valley Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR), also noted that 20% or more of Winnebago County residents have experienced four or more adverse childhood experiences, whereas the state average is 14%.

Eleven percent of Winnebago County's 170,000-person population are ages 0-9, according to Census Reporter, an independent organization unaffiliated with the U.S. Census Bureau that



Olson

SEE **Child care** ON PAGE 8



Photo from FVTC

FVTC's Early Childhood Education department will add an apprenticeship program starting next year.

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Veterans gain VA support on ailments

By Dan Roherty
OSHKOSH HERALD

The PACT Act, a new law expanding Veterans Administration health care and benefits for those exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxic substances, has the potential to impact many of the estimated 12,000 veterans in Winnebago County.

The PACT Act signed in August by President Biden adds to the list of health conditions presumed to be caused by exposure to these substances and helps provide generations of veterans and their survivors with the care and benefits they have earned, according to Kevin Jurgella, Winnebago County veterans benefit specialist.

"If you are a veteran that lives in Winnebago County, the county Veterans Services Office is standing by to assist you with filing VA paperwork or answering any questions you may have related to the 2022 VA Pact Act," he said.

Burn pits were used in Iraq, Afghanistan and other overseas locations until the mid-2010s to dispose of waste collected on military bases, including items that produced dangerous toxic smoke when burned: plastics, rubber, chemical mixtures and medical waste.

When Oshkosh resident Austin Phillips returned from Afghanistan more than a decade ago, he had a letter in hand stating he and fellow service members had been exposed to some of the worst air quality in the world. A visit to the VA for a pulmonary exam found he had moderate to severe asthma.

"There were multiple times I hacked up black tar overseas, and I was not a smoker,"

he said.

Since military enlistees suffering from asthma are usually disqualified, Phillips thought the service connection to the ailment would be clear as he left the VA with inhalers in hand – but it was initially denied.



Phillips

Phillips said the Winnebago Veterans Services office took up his appeal and the paperwork, which a year and a half later was again denied. The office recommended another appeal to a review board, which eventually approved it.

"Remembering this process, I think it took between 5.5 and 6.5 years to conclude, but the CVSO did all the legwork for me. I would have given up after the first one if it wasn't for them," he said, noting that at the time it was unusual for veterans to get service connected for asthma due to exposure.

Veterans Services officer Jeff Bucholtz and his staff have two locations open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Oshkosh, 220 Washington Ave. (third floor) and Neenah, 211 N. Commercial St. Call 920-232-3400 in Oshkosh and 920-729-4820 in Neenah with questions or to make an appoint-

Annual exam leads to lung cancer diagnosis

From Aurora Medical Center

"I thought I was going to die," said Peter Platten after hearing he was diagnosed with lung cancer. The Oshkosh resident's story started when he came in for a routine annual checkup that eventually led to a lifesaving discovery.

With the 68-year-old being a former smoker, his primary care provider ordered a routine lung screening even though he did not show symptoms. The screening then led to a biopsy, which confirmed Platten had lung cancer.

ment to complete paperwork and apply for benefits.

The Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act is one of the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history, adding eligibility for VA health care for veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras.

More than 20 presumptive conditions have been added for burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxic exposures with more locations, and the VA is now required to provide a toxic exposure screening to every enrolled veteran.

"I am glad they are doing something, but I am disappointed it took this long to be addressed," Phillips said. "It is also very indicative of our 'representative' democracy that it was blocked due to our contentious political atmosphere and their need (both Democrats and Republicans) to use groups of people as political footballs."

To get a VA disability rating, the disability must connect to military service but for some conditions it is assumed the service caused the condition. Those "presumptive conditions" are ones established by law or regulation, which the PACT Act falls under.

Another source of information is by calling the VA's direct number at 800-698-2411 (TTY: 711).

He met with the oncology team and was referred to Aurora Health Care thoracic surgeon, Dr. Bill Tisol, who does outreach at Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh. Tisol recommended Peter undergo a robotic lung surgery.

Tisol performed the robotic, minimally invasive surgery at Aurora Medical Center in Grafton to remove the lung cancer from his lower left lobe. The successful cancer operation left Platten completely cancer-free.

With this being Lung Cancer Awareness Month, Tisol is emphasizing the importance of early detection and talking with a doctor.

Out of all cancer types, lung cancer causes the most deaths in the U.S. Take an online lung health quiz at aurora.org/assessments.

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Obituary Deadline

Mon., 11/28 Noon

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County purchases property for youth shelter

By Bethanie Gengler
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved purchasing property for a shelter for troubled youth at its meeting Tuesday.

The property, at 2831 Harrison St. in Oshkosh, is currently owned by Lutheran Social Services (LSS) and being operated as Winnebago County Shelter Care. It is listed for sale and the county was given the first option to purchase.

Last November, shelter services were temporarily suspended and the youth and staff had to go to Outagamie County. Shelter services have temporarily been restored but the county has until Jan. 1 to establish its own facility and program.

Human Resources director Bill Topel said if the county doesn't purchase the property, there will be no youth shelter care available. He said there are no other entities or counties willing to provide shelter care services to the county.

The county currently rents the building from LSS and has been in informal negotiations to purchase it. It is zoned, licensed and passed city inspection. The appraised value of the 9,320-square-foot, 16-bed property is \$850,000.

Topel wrote in an agenda item report that the building needs about \$150,000 of repairs in the roof, siding, parking lot and garage, and another \$150,000 to bring the building up to code as a public building. He worked with LSS to bring the asking price to \$700,000.

The total cost for the youth shelter with repairs is \$1 million. Topel said the acquisition will allow the county to run the shelter care program for many years to come.

In other action, the board:

- Discussed authorizing a transfer of \$175,000 to the county executive's office for assistance with strategic planning and priority-based budgeting. According to the resolution, the county lacks direction on how to allocate and spend resources, with specific mention of American Rescue Plan Act funds. The board voted 25-10 in favor of approving the funds to be used for planning, consultants and other expenses.

- Appointed county coroner Cheryl Brehmer to be the first leader of the new medical examiner's office, which will be created Jan. 9.

- Delayed approving a social media policy for county employees based on the request of Supervisor Paul Eisen, who asked that a special orders meeting be held to



Oshkosh Herald

Winnebago County Shelter Care in Oshkosh has been purchased by the county from Lutheran Social Services.

educate the board on the policy.

- Voted to continue COVID hazard pay for employees at Park View Health Center at a reduced rate. The staff is currently paid an additional \$10 per hour to maintain a safe environment for the residents. The board voted against a motion brought by Eisen to keep the hazard pay rate at \$10 per hour in 2023, and instead passed a motion to reduce the rate to \$5 per hour.

- Voted 27-6 with two abstentions to add a supervisor role description to the board's rules. According to the description, supervisors are required to participate in debating and voting on proposed ordinances, resolutions and motions, provide direction to the county's management, be responsive to their constituency and establish priorities for delivery of services through the budget and tax levy.

- Passed a resolution requesting the state review and revise its policy on foreign ownership of farmland. State law al-

lows for ownership of up to 640 acres of agricultural or forestry land per foreign company or foreign individual. The board is asking the state to further limit that amount because they "routinely abuse human rights, violate international trade law and labor standards and seek to upend fair markets through state owned enterprises, monopolization or means that otherwise threaten food security and the Wisconsin family farming tradition."

- Passed a resolution brought by District 16 Supervisor Jacob Floam to ask the state to review and revise the entry-level compensation rate for assistant district attorneys in order to remain competitive with similar positions around the country and keep up with the rate of inflation. The entry-level compensation rate for assistant DAs is about \$55,000 per year, which is not competitive in today's workforce, accelerates staff turnover and endangers the public, according to the resolution.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Nov. 25, 1964

Local Game Warden is Wounded: State Conservation Warden Frank Deringer of Oshkosh was hospitalized the day before Thanksgiving after getting hit by a stray bullet. The locally well-known game warden was on special assignment during the statewide deer gun season in Marquette County when the incident occurred around 11

am on Wednesday in a marsh west of highway 22. The bullet struck Deringer in the left leg below the knee. Three department personnel that were with Deringer on assignment quickly called for an ambulance, then rigged a stretcher made of coats and logs and began the trek to an access point located about a third of a mile away. An ambulance from Marquette County met the group and transported the injured warden to the Wautoma hospital. Physicians praised the fellow wardens for their excellent emergency first aid in handling the situation.

Source: *Oshkosh Northwestern*, Nov. 27, 1969

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Delayed parks projects set for spring completion

By Kaitlyn Scoville
OSHKOSH HERALD

The city's Parks Advisory Board received a couple of updates on major projects it oversees, including Lakeshore Park's four seasons building and the addition of five plaques at the Chief Oshkosh statue in Menominee Park.

This comes a short time after the Common Council passed the city's 2023 operating budget, which has allocated some funds for the continuation of these projects.

Four seasons building

Parks director Ray Maurer told board members that progress is still slow for the year-round pavilion at Lakeshore Park after supply issues arose earlier this year. Despite not knowing an exact date for completion, he said he hopes to have it open by June 1.

The multipurpose pavilion was proposed in early 2020 at the east end of Lakeshore Park, which is being developed on the former municipal golf course.

Construction began earlier this year and came with shortages and higher supply costs, which has been common nationwide amid the pandemic. Bids at the end of 2021 came back \$1.5 million higher than originally anticipated.

The four seasons building was deemed



Oshkosh Herald

Work continues at the site of the pavilion on the east end of the new Lakeshore Park park.

a catalyst for Lakeshore Park, with key features aimed at sustainable construction practices. The park itself is slated to include around 80 parking spaces – at least four with electric vehicle chargers – a splash pad, multipurpose lawn and the

public pavilion stemming from the main building.

The building will be rentable for private gatherings and open to the public for community events. It will be locked at all other times, with the exception of the

pavilion and two exterior one-stall family restrooms.

Chief Oshkosh plaques

Maurer told the Advisory Parks Board he received proofs of the first two of five informational plaques and began cross-checking them with the Menominee Nation before approval and engraving.

He said he hopes to receive the proofs for the last three within the next few weeks, aiming for a spring installation.

The project has been ongoing since former Mayor Steve Cummings expressed his desire to add additional information to the monument in 2015. At that time, the plaque additions were passed as part of a larger project by the city's Landmarks Commission and have since resurfaced.

Controversy arose in 2021 after city staff had concerns over the verbiage of the signs for their targeted audiences. Wording on one of the five plaques that adds the tribe's perspective on the Italian sculptor's 1912 depiction of the Menominee tribal leader who died in 1858 had been a topic of contention during the approval process.

The statue was originally dedicated in 1912 but this addition marks a new era of the relationship between the Menominee Nation and city of Oshkosh.

Plan Commission

FROM PAGE 1

initial reservations about the hospital on premiere riverfront property but said as the site has proven difficult to develop,

ThedaCare had come prepared.

Residents who attended a previous neighborhood meeting also expressed support for the site development.

The group voted unanimously to approve the general development plan at the site. The specific implementation plan will

return to the group at a later date.

A new \$11 million hotel project – a Tru by Hilton – was also proposed to commissioners as an addition to the continuing redevelopment plan along Oshkosh Avenue that was sparked in 2019 with the new Oshkosh Corp. global headquarters.

The four-story, 42,663-square-foot development is slated to share parking with the new TownePlace Suites by Marriott that opened earlier this year. The hotel is proposed to hold 90 guest rooms, an expansive lobby and breakfast area, indoor swimming pool, outdoor fire pit and a

cardio exercise room on 2.18 acres of land.

A general development plan had been approved in 2018 for a commercial/retail space and a restaurant, and the application requested that it be updated to support the changed course of action.

City staff also approached the applicant to reconsider the use of a specific kind of sign that is prohibited within the corporate business park district and will be discussed with commissioners under a separate building permit.

It is anticipated that construction will begin on the property next spring and expected to be complete within 14 months.

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Alliance finishes seasonal work against invasives

Oshkosh Herald

While the weather trends cooler, the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance closed its season of boat inspections, logging more than 1,600 hours of efforts to curb invasive species in area waterways.

The Clean Boats, Clean Waters program is state-run by the DNR. It's been coordinated locally since 2017.

FWWA's Boater Education staff inspected more than 5,000 boats and contacted over 9,000 people to expand awareness of aquatic invasives during boating season.

Last year, FWWA Clean Boats, Clean Waters staff contacted 11,400 people and inspected more than 6,000 boats.

Lake Winnebago and the pool lakes have a variety of aquatic invasive species present already. Some that people might recognize are zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, curly leaf pondweed, phragmites, and purple loosestrife, according to Alyssa Reinke, FWWA Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium coordinator.

"In August a newly verified population of Brittle Naiad (*Naias minor*) was found in Lake Butte des Morts by Fox-Wolf Watershed staff," Reinke said. "This is the first finding of this species in the Winnebago waterways area and the ninth verified occurrence in Wisconsin."

Reinke said the people FWWA staff work with are aware of the risks aquatic invasives bring to the environment, humans and the economy.

The Clean Boats, Clean Waters program helps reduce the risk of new invasive species being introduced into the Winnebago lakes by educating boaters and other recreational users on prevention methods such as:

- Inspect boats, trailers, push poles, an-

chors, and other equipment for attached aquatic plants or animals.

- Remove all attached plants or animals.
- Drain all water from boats, motors, live-wells and other equipment.
- Never move live fish away from a waterbody.
- Never release aquarium plants or animals into your local waterways.

"While our Clean Boats Clean Waters staff have finished for the year, we ask water recreationists to be extra vigilant checking their equipment to ensure they don't accidentally spread aquatic invasive species," FWWA said in an announcement. "Help protect your lakes and rivers throughout the year by taking two minutes before leaving the launch."

Reinke said one of the main issues stemming from aquatic invasives is that they tend to "outcompete" native species. Invasives typically will not have a natural predator or one in the area that can prey on it enough to properly manage its population.

Most invasive species reproduce often, Reinke added, which means they impact areas by outcompeting for food and shelter. In addition, invasives impact water quality. Reinke said, for example, zebra mussels are selective filter feeders, which in turn can increase the presence of blue-green algae. Furthermore, they can also pose a higher risk of making waterways and bodies of water less navigable for humans and wildlife.

"While our Clean Boats, Clean Waters staff have finished for the year, we ask water recreationists to be extra vigilant checking their equipment to ensure they don't accidentally spread aquatic invasive species," Reinke said.



Submitted photo

A Clean Boats, Clean Waters program worker rakes vegetation at Nagy Park.

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Indigenous writer featured at Caramel Crisp program

Native American author Louis V. Clark III will host a meet-and-greet at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 30 at Caramel Crisp Corner at 200 City Center, Suite D, in recognition of Indigenous People's month.



Clark

Born and raised on the Oneida Reservation in northeastern Wisconsin, Clark turned to poetry to continue the oral tradition of his people, the People of the Standing Stone.

A member of the Iroquois Confederacy and Bear clan, Clark's first short publica-

tion, titled "Two Shoes," was published in 2011 by the Sequoyah National Research Center at the University of Arkansas.

His memoir "How to Be an Indian in the 21st Century," published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press, received the Midwest Booksellers Choice Award for 2017 and was recognized by the Wisconsin Library Association.

Clark's second book, "Rebel Poet, More Stories of a 21st Century Indian," delves more deeply into the themes of family, community, grief and the struggle to make a place in the world.

Louis will be sharing his stories and have his books available for purchase.



Photo by Michael Cooney

Fresh holiday start

Adam Grund from the city Parks Department was joined by volunteers Dale Eichorst and Anthony Kanter from the Business Improvement District last week in decorating the new Christmas tree that was planted in Opera House Square. The spruce tree replaced the balsam fir that had a fungal infection and was replanted at Menominee Park.



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Father Carr's blessings extended to its new leader

By Cheryl Hentz
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Jim Boehm was named executive director of Father Carr's Place2B Life Enrichment Center earlier this year. Quite a change of pace for someone who had spent 40-plus years as a salesman in the beer and alcohol industry. And not bad for someone who only started volunteering at Father Carr's about four years ago.

Just as Father Carr's has been a blessing to hundreds of people over the years, it has been a blessing for Boehm. His being there saved his life – literally.

It was his first night of volunteering at Father Carr's. He had not been there an

hour when he suffered a sudden cardiac arrest, and it was a major heart attack in every sense of the word.

"I was literally dead on the floor and had no pulse for somewhere between eight and 10 minutes," Boehm said. "Bob (Lang, the then executive director) literally saved my life. He recognized what was happening with me and started CPR. If he hadn't started doing CPR when he did, I would not have survived."

Boehm credits everyone at Father Carr's for playing a role in helping save his life, from the person at the front desk who dialed 911 to someone running over to the on-campus clinic to get a doctor who

came over with the AED defibrillator.

"He also performed CPR on me. There were also a couple of nuns there that night who went in the chapel and started praying," Boehm said, believing there truly was divine intervention that night.

He was rushed to the hospital where three stents were put in during surgery. As those at Father Carr's went through emotional hell that week, Boehm remembers nothing.

"I remember going to Father Carr's that first night and going to Mass a week later, which was Mother's Day," he said. "I don't remember having the heart attack, going to or coming home from the hospital, or

any of the week I was there."

When up to it, Boehm talked to the EMTs who responded to the call. They told him they usually only try to revive someone with a defibrillator four or five times. They tried six or seven times with him and finally got a pulse.

"I'm glad they went one or two times more," he said. "We talk about this place working miracles for some people and I truly believe that was a miracle for me that night. The doctors told me afterward that with the shape I was in, less than 5% of the people in a similar condition make it. And now, here I am running the place!"

Father Carr's

FROM PAGE 1

ing those in need, the shelter and all its entities continued on uninterrupted.

Today, its nearly 10-acre campus includes four buildings that serve as a community center, free medical clinic, community food bank, retreat center, dining rooms for daily meals, chapel, and housing for the homeless. The 501(c)3 nonprofit group is supported by private donations.

The 48th annual Thanksgiving Day meal will be served to more than 1,200 residents, of which some 1,000 will have it delivered. They'll do it again at Christmas to a lesser extent.

Father Carr's has expanded again in recent years and undergone extensive remodeling. It is also under the leadership of its third executive director since Carr was at the helm.

Jim Boehm, who started volunteering at Father Carr's in 2018 and took over as executive director earlier this year, said most people probably don't know everything the organization does.

"We operate the St. Martin de Porres Food Pantry, but when COVID hit in 2020 it became a drive-thru pantry only. Up to 200 families are helped each week by the pantry," Boehm said. "Our Daily Bread is our daily meal program and between 40 and 80 people come in every day to eat. Our free wellness clinic is open to anyone who needs it, whether they're staying at our shelter or not."

It is a completely free clinic staffed with general physicians for adults, pediatric doctors for children, psychologists and dentists.

"People can just walk in and get what they need. We also do wellness checks for the children who are staying here and offer complete physical exams for adults,"

Boehm said, adding that they also have the Community Cafe and the Mother Teresa Center, both of which are free and open to the public.

The Community Cafe can accommodate about 50 where folks can have a cup of coffee, tea or some other beverage. The large community room in the Mother Teresa Center can accommodate closer to 200 and is available for reunions and public meetings. The center also houses offices, chapel, food pantry, the Daily Bread and community center. It allows volunteers and residents to build community through conversation.

In his first couple of years, Boehm wants to refocus on community and getting the word out about what they have to offer.

"Father Carr initially started this place as a place for teens to gather and have fun in a safe, drug- and alcohol-free environment. I want to get back to those roots for teens. They can come no matter who they are, where they come from and no matter what their backgrounds. They can be safe and interact with each other," Boehm said. "We want the community beyond these walls to know we're here for them, as they've always been there for us."

His second major focus is the free clinic and trying to raise additional funds to expand its hours.

"The clinic is only open about 10 to 12 hours a week. We'd really like to get the clinic open with more consistency, five days a week," Boehm said. "It wouldn't be full days, but maybe five or six hours a day so we can be there for more people. But it would take \$25,000 to \$30,000 more a year to do that."

Another major change in the last year is their collaboration with COTS of Appleton, which also serves the homeless but focuses on a longer-term relationship and more transitional housing for men. Its focus includes employment, health and



Photo from Father Carr's

Sister Angela Dassinor works with the meal program at Father Carr's Place2B.

dental care, as well as behavioral health services and pro-social activities.

COTS took over Father Carr's former women's and children's homeless living facilities last year as Father Carr's moved all of its shelters into one building. That created space for COTS, whose program service coordinator is Father Carr's former

executive director John Nieman.

"So now we've got everybody in one building," Boehm said. "The men are on the third floor, the women and children on the second floor, and the main floor is the kitchen, dining area and housing for the sisters who help us run the women's shelter."



Photo from Oshkosh West

Oshkosh West and North high schools culinary classes combined to make 300 pumpkin pies for Father Carr's Place2B Thanksgiving meal program, something the school district has been doing for more than 25 years.

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Child care

FROM PAGE 1

helps the data be easier to use for Americans.

The stresses to find child care for parents of children of all ages has been attributed to a worker shortage occurring even before pandemic times, according to CCRR executive director Judy Olson.

“There were already staff shortages before but COVID (exacerbated) the problem,” she said.

CCRR was founded in 1987 as a not-for-profit organization with intentions to support families and child care providers through various modes, such as free child care referrals in eight counties, professional development and training, and business start-up services.

Kathy Meetz, Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) early childhood education department chair, said the shortage of workers is due to limited wages and benefits for its employees. Olson said that in addition to this, child care centers are unable to afford higher pay for staff and higher-educated talent due to the costs of managing

such a business.

“Bottom line is that they can work for higher wages in almost any other field. Many have left the field due to burnout because the teachers who did remain are stretched so thin,” Olson said.

The domino effect of staff shortages – and the long waitlists – are causing parents to lack child care services that can allow them to work.

“Just think about the economy and all of the individuals who need to have child care in order to work,” said Meetz, who had been in the early childhood education industry for 30 years. “Children need to be cared for. It’s not just a problem with a family; child care is infrastructure. Some people understand that and some don’t.”

Meetz said not having these opportunities for children may lead to adverse situations.

“There’s no place for them to go and their parents still need to work,” she said. “What does that look like for them? Is it a hodgepodge of care arrangements? What kind of stress are they feeling, then, in their home environment? It’s not a problem that’s just isolated to the family unit – it’s a societal problem as it affects everybody regardless of whether they think it does or not.”

From birth to age 5, a child’s brain develops more than at any other time in life, making early learning critically important.

At birth, the average baby’s brain is about a quarter of the size of the adult brain. It doubles in size in the first years and once a child reaches age 3, 85% to 90% of their core brain structures have been formed.

“Children are born learning, and what they learn in those first few years can change the course of their lives,” Olson said. “Research demonstrates that high-quality early care and education is a crucial component of a child’s healthy development. High-quality child care makes a difference in the lives of young children, particularly those that are the most vulnerable.”

In a Wisconsin Public Radio article, Ruth Schmidt, executive director of the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, said it’s likely that two-thirds of child care programs in the state are looking to hire full-time staff right now.

Olson said one way that early childhood educators could be better compensated is to increase public investments into local child care programs to offer livable wages and benefits to employees, “which, in return, will result in more child care slots available to families in the community.

“Improving compensation for early childhood educators would support a healthy, stable workforce so the early childhood professionals can do the most important work: care for and shape the minds of our youngest children.”

FVTC’s Early Childhood Education

department has been working to better accommodate students in its program, including the addition of an apprenticeship program that begins in January, and the option to complete the program completely online starting next fall.

The apprenticeship program is in direct partnership with the state Department of Workforce Development and child care centers in the district that can provide training for students. They come to FVTC for instruction – which is paid for – and continue to work for both credit and income.

Students are also able to complete their practicum at their place of employment to prevent workers from losing income while care centers retain the much-needed work.

“We’re constantly looking at ways we can support students and families. It’s mostly women that enroll in our program – though we have some fantastic men who have performed just as well – and they’re not taking classes full time,” Meetz said. “So many of them are balancing life. You can enter our program any semester, part time, in a multitude of modalities.”

But out of the entire struggle, Meetz said those who are passionate about helping children will get the job done.

“If people have any desire or goal that is to work with children, we can help them meet that,” she said. “We can help them get there in a much cheaper way. If you’re passionate about it, you’re going to make a difference.”

Questions regarding the Early Childhood Education program can be sent to kathy.meetz8829@fvtc.edu.



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Photo by Corey Parollina

School support effort

Members of the AT&T Dairyland Telephone Pioneer Club visited the Teachers' Closet at 240 W. 9th St. recently to deliver school supplies for the Oshkosh area. Shown are Clara Dorsey (sitting), Teachers' Closet director Kay Kuenzi-Stenerson, Dairyland Club president Mimi Meyer and Alan Stenerson, Kay's husband. Funds also are donated to efforts by the Wisconsin state chapter of the AT&T Pioneers and the Dairyland Club. Dorsey, who turned 100 this month, has headed up the club's effort for many years.

Rapid COVID test kits available free

The state Department of Health Services (DHS) is encouraging Wisconsin residents to order free at-home rapid COVID-19 tests and have them delivered directly to their house through the state-supported Say Yes! COVID Test program.

All Wisconsin households are eligible to place an order every month for one free test kit that contains five rapid antigen COVID-19 tests at sayyescovidhometest.org.

"With the holidays coming up, we want

to give Wisconsin residents the tools they need to safely celebrate with their loved ones," said DHS Secretary-designee Karen Timberlake. "These free self-tests are delivered right to the door, allowing people to take a COVID-19 test at home and make decisions that will keep those around them safe."

Members of BadgerCare Plus and most Wisconsin Medicaid programs can also receive COVID-19 tests from Medicaid-enrolled pharmacies using their ForwardHealth ID card.

Students at radio station earn national honors

WRST-FM, within the Department of Radio TV Film at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, was honored in four production categories at the recent College Broadcasters annual convention in Baltimore.

The station took first place for best radio sports play-by-play for coverage of the Feb. 16 UW Oshkosh vs. UW Whitewater men's basketball game by game announcers Calvin Leverenz and Brady Meyer.

Andrew Hansen's image package for the WRST program "The Jazz Wire" received second-place honors for best station imaging, while Miles Schmidt's work on the WRST website earned second place for best student media website. Fourth-place honors were awarded to Bryce Holtman in the best DJ category for hosting the alternative music program "The Shuffle."

WRST is heard in the Oshkosh area at 90.3 and streams at wrst.org.

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Calendar of events

Ongoing

Manufacturing Victory: The Arsenal of Democracy, Oshkosh Public Museum, through Dec. 30

Thursday, Nov. 24

Festival Foods Turkey Trot, 8 a.m., Oshkosh Seniors Center

Friday, Nov. 25

Celebration of Lights, 5:30 p.m., Menominee Park (through Dec. 31)

Downtown for the Holidays: Black Friday & Small Business Saturday, 10 a.m., 100 to 700 blocks of North Main Street

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

Saturday, Nov. 26

Holiday Market & Bazaar, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

Triple Threat Blues Review, 4 p.m., Twisted Roots Tavern, 693 N. Main St.

Wisconsin Herd vs. Sioux Falls Skyforce, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Sunday, Nov. 27

Pouring for Pets fundraiser, 3 p.m., Lyon's Den, 760 W. 6th Ave.

Wednesday, Nov. 30

Meet and greet with author Louis Clark III, 5:30 p.m., Caramel Crisp Corner, 200 City Center, Suite D

Thursday, Dec. 1

Oshkosh Tree Lighting Ceremony featuring Oshkosh Jazz, 5 p.m., downtown

Downtown Oshkosh Holiday Parade, 6:15 p.m., 100 to 700 blocks of North Main Street

F Stop: Joy Photo Exhibition, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Public Library first-floor Reading Room

Friday, Dec. 2

Starship featuring Mickey Thomas, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

John Berry Christmas Tour, 8 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

December First Friday: Downtown for the Holidays, 5 p.m., 100 to 700 blocks of North Main Street

Oshkosh Gun Show, 3 p.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Winnebago County Historical Society holiday tours, 5 p.m., Morgan House, 234 Church Ave.

Saturday, Dec. 3

Oshkosh Gun Show, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Winnebago County Historical Society holiday tours (kids' day), 2 p.m., Morgan House, 234 Church Ave.

Craft Fair, 10 a.m., Winnebago Detachment Marine Corps League, 4715 Sherman Road

EAA Christmas in the Air, 10 a.m., EAA Aviation Museum, 3000 Poberezny Road

Howliday Craft Fair of Catastrophic Proportions, noon, Oshkosh Area Humane Society

Martin Luther Live Nativity, 4 p.m., Martin Luther Church, 1526 Algoma Blvd.

Race for the Light 5K Fun Run, 4 p.m., Menominee Park

Sunday, Dec. 4

Oshkosh Gun Show, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Snow Ball, 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., Algoma Club, 103 Algoma Blvd.

March-Torme, Bailey holiday concert at Grand

Steve March-Torme will bring his annual holiday show, "For Kids From 1 to 92," with fellow singer Michael Bailey for two shows Dec. 8-9 at The Grand Oshkosh.

Son of famed singer/songwriter Mel Torme and stepson of actor and comedian Hal March, March-Torme has been a singer, entertainer, recording artist and TV host who also has his own radio show at 91.1 The Avenue.

Bailey is a founding member of Vic Ferrari and a current member of the group Steem.

The title of the show is taken from Mel Torme's famed 1945 single "The Christ-

mas Song." The show includes holiday classics, joyful family favorites, and pop, rock and original songs.

The show will be performed in 15 different venues this year. One of the featured songs will be the original holiday song March-Torme co-wrote, "I Remember Christmastime," which garnered airplay last year on more than 50 radio stations.

March-Torme has recorded and released nine albums since 1979. In 2006, his "Torme Sings Torme," release won Best Vocal Dual Disc at the EMX DVD Awards show.



Submitted photo

Shown with a donation check from Culvers are (from left) Sarah Thompson and Dana Berger from 4-H, Brett Dille from Culvers and Julie Davids from the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce.

Culvers donates to 4-H ChickQuest Program

Oshkosh Culvers co-owners Josh and Amber George, and Brett Dille recently donated \$5,000 to the Winnebago County 4-H ChickQuest program.

ChickQuest takes elementary school classrooms on a six-week journey through the life cycle of a chicken. Students engage in lively activities that pique curiosity, encourage collaboration and communication, and provide the opportunity to become budding young scientists. They learn that food does not originate from a box or bag, but by the hands of people working in the agricultural industry. Culvers is a great supporter of Wisconsin agriculture.

Dana Berger, Winnebago County 4-H program coordinator, said the funding will enable the purchase of additional incubators, supplies and consumable items to teach the program in multiple school districts within the county. Sarah Thompson, 4-H youth and science educator, leads the classrooms through their ChickQuest adventure.

"Each ChickQuest classroom forms a mini 4-H club, which opens the door to our remarkable positive youth development program," Berger said. "Even though ChickQuest focuses on science and agriculture, 4-H has so much more available for youth to learn about."



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Photo from Lakeside Marina

On the Fox Boat Club offers the use of new boats through a membership program.

Lakeside Marina launches boat-sharing group

Lakeside Marina is promoting a new way for people to go boating in Oshkosh with On the Fox Boat Club memberships that provide use of new boats to be enjoyed with friends and family on the Winnebago water system.

Members can reserve a date and pick out a boat. Cleaning, fueling, launching, loading and maintenance are handled by Lakeside Marina.

“Oshkosh has such amazing access to local boating hotspots and we want more people to be able to enjoy those,” said marketing manager Sawyer Erickson. “This is a really easy way for more families to make memories out on the water.”

On the Fox Boat Club at Lakeside Ma-

rina is positioned along the shores of the Fox River between Lake Butte des Morts and Lake Winnebago. Membership information, pricing, and applications are available at OnTheFoxBoatClub.com for the 2023 season.

Members-only boat-sharing groups have become a popular option in recent years as inflation and enthusiastic demand have driven the price of new and used boats higher than ever.

“We have a passion for enjoying our local waterways and we knew we had to offer an alternative to buying a boat that still gets people out there enjoying the same things,” said Lakeside Marina owner and president Joe Honsa.

Business news roundup

Oshkosh Corp. announced its acquisition of Hinowa, a privately held international company and leading manufacturer of track-based aerial work platforms, mini dumpers, lift trucks and undercarriages. Once complete, Hinowa will become part of the Oshkosh Access Equipment segment. Hinowa was founded in 1987 in Nogara, Italy, and has nearly 230 team members.

Jeremy West, owner of **Fletch’s Local Tap House** and **The Varsity Club**, announced earlier this month he was selling the businesses to Adam Carlson, John

Carlson and Julie Wolk. Adam Carlson is the general manager of Ruby Owl Tap Room while his father and aunt run Gardina’s Kitchen and Bar. Adam said Varsity Club’s 15th anniversary is coming up and something may be planned to celebrate.

Jordan Destree of **Verve, A Credit Union** has been promoted to assistant vice president of brand and design, according to a release from the organization. He has been with Verve since 2009. As AVP of Brand and Design, Destree will incorporate mindful design into all areas of the Verve experience.

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Talented Spartans take aim at top finish in FVA

By Dustin Riese
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Oshkosh North sports a couple of headliners this season in junior Steven Clark and sophomore Xzayvion Mitchell.

Now the goal for the Spartans is to make some headlines.

Led by their talented duo, North looks to improve on last year's 19-8 record, which included a trip to the sectional semifinals, as the Spartans take aim at the 2022-23 season.

"This year is like many other years, we expect a lot out of ourselves," head coach Brad Weber said. "Our program has always been in tune with ourselves and our expectations rather than listening to others' opinions. Depending who you ask, we may be a highly ranked team in state or an honorable mention team. We might be picked to win our conference or finish 3rd. We buy into our definition of success: being better today than we were yesterday and fulfilling who we need to be for ourselves and our team to be successful."

Mitchell and Clark certainly give the Spartans something to build around.

The 6-foot-7 Mitchell averaged nearly 22 points per game last year and 8.4 rebounds in his freshman season. Clark put up 19.6 points per game, shooting 43 percent from 3-point range, while doling out 2.5 assists per game.

This season, Weber expects even more from the duo, mainly because of the work the pair did in the weight room.

"They both have added physical strength to their games," Weber said. "That strength has allowed them to be more prolific scorers. The added strength and experience makes them more ef-

Boys basketball PREVIEW

fective at the end of games after getting pushed around at times last season."

North certainly is more than just the talent of those two players, though, as the Spartans will return plenty of experience to the roster.

Senior Ari Giannopoulos is the top returning scorer after Mitchell and Clark having averaged 5 points per game last season. He is a three-year varsity player for the Spartans along with Christo Giannopoulos.

Add to that duo seniors Drake Moxon, Quintin Fisher and Luke Sonnleitner and North will be one of the most experienced teams in the Fox Valley Association.

North figures to contend for a top finish in the rugged FVA against the likes of Appleton East, Neenah and Kaukauna. It won't be easy and Weber knows the team will have to work hard to improve in order to be in the hunt at the end of the season.

"Staying healthy is always one of those X factors in a team's success," Weber said. "Our ability to develop our depth will be at a premium in the first two months of the season. The other piece will be our comfort in letting go of the traditional view of individual success (stats) and drinking deeply from the Fountain of Team Success."

New voice comes to Oshkosh West

Dan Weisse has first-hand knowledge

SEE **Boys basketball** ON PAGE 16



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Sophomore Xzayvion Mitchell goes up for a dunk against Oshkosh West last year. Mitchell averaged nearly 22 points per game and 8.4 rebounds and will play a key role for the Spartans again this season.



2022-23 Oshkosh High School Boys Basketball Schedules



| LOURDES ACADEMY | OSHKOSH NORTH | OSHKOSH WEST | VALLEY CHRISTIAN |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Nov 26 @ Laconia 7:15pm | Dec 2 Oshkosh West 7:45pm | Nov 29 @ Xavier 7:15pm | Nov 22 @ Elkhart Lake/Glenbeulah 7:15pm |
| Nov 30 @ Oakfield 7:15pm | Dec 3 @ Milwaukee South TBD | Dec 2 @ Oshkosh North 7:45pm | Nov 29 Rio Community School Dist 7:30pm |
| Dec 5 Dodge land 7:15pm | Dec 9 Hortonville 7:30pm | Dec 6 Adams-Friendship 7:30pm | Dec 1 Hustisford 7:15pm |
| Dec 9 @ Horicon 7:15pm | Dec 13 Appleton North 7:30pm | Dec 9 @ Kaukauna 7:30pm | Dec 3 Green Lake/Princeton 2:30pm |
| Dec 12 @ Wayland Academy 7:15pm | Dec 16 @ Kimberly 7:30pm | Dec 10 @ Menasha 2:30pm | Dec 6 @ St. Lawrence Seminary 6:00pm |
| Dec 15 Valley Christian 7:15pm | Dec 20 @ Fond du Lac 7:30pm | Dec 13 @ Kimberly 7:30pm | Dec 8 Winnebago Lutheran 7:30pm |
| Dec 23 Omro 7:30pm | Jan 3 Kaukauna 7:30pm | Dec 20 @ Appleton West 7:30pm | Dec 9 @ Wayland Academy 7:15pm |
| Jan 3 Winneconne 7:30pm | Jan 6 @ Neenah 7:30pm | Jan 3 Appleton East 7:30pm | Dec 15 @ Lourdes Academy 7:15pm |
| Jan 5 Hustisford 7:15pm | Jan 10 @ Appleton West 7:30pm | Jan 6 @ Appleton North 7:30pm | Dec 19 Oakfield 7:15pm |
| Jan 10 Central WI Christian 7:30pm | Jan 13 @ Appleton East 7:30pm | Jan 10 @ Fond du Lac 7:30pm | Jan 5 @ Dodgeland 7:15pm |
| Jan 17 @ Wautoma 7:00pm | Jan 20 @ Oshkosh West 7:45pm | Jan 13 Hortonville 7:30pm | Jan 10 @ Horicon 7:15pm |
| Jan 24 @ Central WI Christian 7:15pm | Jan 24 Appleton West 7:30pm | Jan 14 Wausau East 2:30pm | Jan 26 @ Hustisford 7:15pm |
| Jan 26 Oakfield 7:15pm | Jan 26 @ Hortonville 7:30pm | Jan 20 Oshkosh North 7:45pm | Jan 31 @ Central WI Christian 7:15pm |
| Jan 31 @ Dodgeland 7:15pm | Jan 31 Kimberly 7:30pm | Jan 24 Fond du Lac 7:30pm | Feb 3 Wayland Academy 7:15pm |
| Feb 3 Horicon 7:15pm | Feb 3 Appleton East 7:30pm | Jan 27 Kaukauna 7:30pm | Feb 7 Central WI Christian 7:15pm |
| Feb 6 Randolph 7:30pm | Feb 9 Germantown 7:00pm | Jan 31 @ Neenah 7:30pm | Feb 9 Lourdes Academy 7:15pm |
| Feb 9 @ Valley Christian 7:15pm | Feb 10 Fond du Lac 7:30pm | Feb 3 @ Hortonville 7:30pm | Feb 14 @ Oakfield 7:15pm |
| Feb 14 Wayland Academy 7:15pm | Feb 14 @ Appleton North 7:30pm | Feb 10 Appleton West 7:30pm | Feb 16 Stockbridge 7:30pm |
| Feb 17 @ Hustisford 7:15pm | Feb 17 @ Kaukauna 7:30pm | Feb 14 Kimberly 7:30pm | Feb 17 Dodge land 7:15pm |
| Feb 20 North Fond du Lac 7:30 pm | Feb 23 Neenah 7:30pm | Feb 17 @ Appleton East 7:30pm | Feb 20 @ Ozaukee 7:15pm |
| Feb 23 @ Coleman 7:00 pm | | Feb 21 Neenah 7:30pm | Feb 23 Horicon 7:15pm |
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Mathe won't return at West

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh West will have a new varsity head football coach next fall.

Ben Mathe was not retained as the team's varsity head coach after only one season with the Wildcats. A press release from the school last Monday announced that the position had been posted with the school looking to hire someone for "the 2023 season and beyond."

Mathe posted on Twitter that afternoon that he was shocked by the move and that he was told that "due to not being the right fit for Oshkosh West," he wouldn't be coming back as coach.

"First and foremost, thank you to all my players. It was truly an honor to be your head coach and leader. I will always be here for you and I love each (and) every one of you," Mathe wrote in an email to the Oshkosh Herald. "Thank you to all the parents for the tremendous support. Your sacrifices and commitment over this last year was truly incredible. Thank you to my coaching staff. It's rare to come together as such a large group with no experience

working together and accomplish what we were able to do in only one season. And finally, thank you to my wife and sons for allowing me to chase after a lifelong dream. You were and will always be my inspiration."

School officials did not respond to emails asking for comment about Mathe not being rehired.

The Wildcats finished 1-8 under Mathe this past season, with the team's win coming over Appleton East in Week 4. Only two of West's losses were by fewer than 10 points – including a 14-7 defeat against rival Oshkosh North – and the Wildcats were held to less than 20 points in seven of the nine games.

Mathe was the fifth head coach in the last four seasons at West. He replaced the head coaching duo of Andrew Dittburner and Cole Yoder, who led the team much of the 2021 season after Duane Hartkopf's departure.

Hartkopf coached the Wildcats during the alternate spring season in 2021 after taking over for longtime coach Ken Levine.

Basketball Game of the Week



Oshkosh North hosts Eau Claire Memorial
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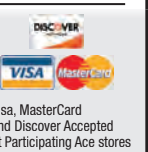
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Boys basketball

FROM PAGE 1

of the kind of tradition that Oshkosh West brings to the table and now he looks to bring that success back to the school where he starred on the basketball court.

“Our No. 1 goal is simple, get better every day,” said Weisse, who coached at Minnesota-Crookston before taking the job at West. “To do this we must put the team first, have an attitude of gratitude, be humble, and compete. I am looking for consistent energy in practice and consistent behavior. I want our upperclassmen to set the tone for our younger guys. We will have a lot to put in in a short amount of time and that keeps me up at night.”

The Wildcats also have one of the biggest returning players in the conference in 6-foot-9 senior Tristan Johanknecht.

Expected to be the go-to guy offensively this season, Weisse has been very impressed with what he has seen from him thus far.

“I have been very impressed with Tristan Johanknecht,” he said. “With the short time I have been able to watch him closely I’m impressed with how he handles himself and how he leads our guys. I’m excited to work with Tristan and help him reach his goals. I’m not sure how many guys in the league are like him. He’s a true five man that can move his feet, has a physicality about him, and is always up for a challenge.”

While Johanknecht may be the biggest name returning, West also has plenty of other pieces on the roster.

Dylan Taylor had a strong summer and will bring his ball-handling abilities and a solid perimeter shooting game to the court, while Zach Chastek has been a leader in the early-season practices. Sophomore Benjy Bell could also figure into the varsity mix, according to Weisse.

In a conference as deep and talent-laden as the FVA, Oshkosh West will be one of the teams looking to take a big leap forward.

“To start, we need to focus on ourselves,” Weisse said. “Everything will be new to this group. We have to have a consistency about us each and every day. The more the year goes on, our players will get more comfortable. We also have a good group of younger guys that I believe will keep getting better as they learn the system and get stronger. The older guys will set the tone and the younger guys will follow.”

Baehman set to take over Knights

Brett Baehman knows what it takes to be a part of a successful program for the Knights.

He experienced it as a player when he starred for the Knights during his prep days and as part of the coaching staff last season when he led the junior varsity team. Now, with the retirement of former head coach Dennis Ruedinger, Baehman is anxious to step onto the varsity sidelines and get to work.

“That is one thing I have learned to love about being a part of this program,” Baehman said. “The expectations are always high and everyone is going to bring their A-game when you play them. We are a fairly young team when it comes to experience. My main goal is for my players to understand what it means to be a part of a program that has been so successful for the better part of the past two decades.”

It will be a bit of a different look for the Knights this year, who will go with a bit of

younger roster instead of the senior-dominated lineups over the past few years.

Leading the way is junior JJ McKellips, who has played varsity the past two seasons in a supporting role but now will be looked at to carry more of the load.

“JJ had a very good summer,” Baehman said. “He learned how to lead on the court and really took on the role of being a go-to scorer for us. He had an aggressiveness to him and a purpose. It allowed him to see different defenses and let him create opportunities for other guys on the court.”

Although limited in terms of experience, Mitchell Wing, Calvin Tollard, Jok Machiros and Dominic Bauer are some of the players from last year’s 16-5 JV squad. Lucas Schettle joins McKellips with varsity experience after providing a scoring punch off the bench last season..

As long as Lourdes has the tradition and expectations they have shown over the past two decades, they are going to be one of the favorites to come out of the Trailways Conference..

“We need to buy into being a complete program,” Baehman said. “We have plenty of talent but we have to learn how to play at a varsity level for 36 minutes, especially on defense. To truly be a great team, you can never let up and you have to play for each other. Every day you have to be ready to get better.”

Warriors look to climb ladder in Trailways East

Wins have not been easy to come by for the Valley Christian Warriors in recent seasons, but it hasn’t come without

Knights top Weyauwega-Fremont to improve to 2-0

Ten different players scored as the Lourdes Academy girls basketball team posted a 63-36 win over Weyauwega-Fremont last Thursday to improve to 2-0 on the season.

Ella Slusarski led the way for the Knights with 16 points and was the lone player in double figures.

Hailee Bauer and Charley Mullen each

trying. Over the course of the last five seasons, Valley Christian has been towards the bottom of the league despite putting together several competitive and talented clubs. That is something Louis Giannopoulos is looking to change this season as Valley Christian is putting some nice expectations in place.

“We have put a lot of emphasis in strength and conditioning this off-season and we have put a lot of work in shooting and ball handling skills as well,” Giannopoulos said. “Our hope is that this is going to translate into better results. Our expectation is to be more competitive for longer periods of time during games.”

Eli Humiston, Dennis Thur, Josiah Lehman are some of the key players returning this season as juniors. Their leadership and hard work ethic will be very influential to the rest of the team. Senior Caleb Stertz will be counted on to play a key role with the team, while Giannopoulos will also rely on some sophomores to play important minutes.

Valley Christian has more depth and experience than in the past and if they can do the little things better, Giannopoulos likes his team’s chances.

“If we limit our turnovers and shoot the ball better, we should be able to be more successful this year,” he said. “We don’t have the talent that some of these other teams have, but we do have experience. That is something you can’t replicate in practice. We are hoping by correcting the little things and improving on the basics that our experience will take care of the rest.”

added eight points, with Molly Moore chipping in seven. Delaney Ruedinger led the team with seven rebounds, while Bauer chipped in eight assists and five steals.

Lourdes Academy bolted to a 10-point halftime lead and then outscored Weyauwega-Fremont 35-18 in the second half.

The Knights opened the season with a 67-18 win over Hilbert on Nov. 15.

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Experienced Warbirds have lofty goals entering season

West's Binder, North's Bukor eye role in co-op team's success

Oshkosh Herald

The Warbirds co-op girls hockey team has high hopes entering the 2022-23 season and will rely on a dash of Oshkosh help in order to reach their goals.

Junior Kristi Binder of Oshkosh West and senior Petra Bukor of Oshkosh North are the only two Oshkosh players on the roster, but head coach Duane Woeshnick believes that both players will be contributors to the team this season.

"They are both going to be forwards for us," Woeshnick said. "Kristi was an all-conference player for us last year and Petra is a foreign exchange student who has played a lot of hockey."

Bukor, from Hungary, is a versatile skater that could play forward or on defense, according to Woeshnick. The team's scrimmage, which was held Monday, and the season-opening tournament this weekend in Fond du Lac will help determine where she can help the team the most.

Binder, who finished fourth on the team in scoring last year with seven goals and 10 assists, is one of three forwards who received honorable mention all-conference honors last season. Junior Josie Kooima and sophomore Allison Waara also gar-



Binder

Girls hockey PREVIEW

nered recognition.

"We return some players up front and we will be looking to them for offense," Woeshnick said. "Hopefully we will be able to score some more goals this year."

The strength of the Warbirds may be on the other end of the ice where senior goalkeeper Hailee Scheier and senior defender Ella Spies are both four-year varsity performers. Spies is also the top returning scorer from last year, followed by Waara and Binder.

"We will rely heavily on Scheier in goal and we have a great group of defensemen led by Ella Spies," Woeshnick said. "They are going to be relied upon to keep us solid back there."

The Warbirds will have to be solid on both ends of the ice in order to compete in the Eastern Shores Conference.

Bay Area and Fox Cities shared the league title last year, followed by University School and the Warbirds and Woeshnick see a similar race playing out this year. All four teams are also in the same post-season sectional.

"Our conference is getting better over the years depth wise and so our sectional is going to be strong," Woeshnick said. "Our outlook is very positive. We return a lot of players and have added some new players for depth. We are looking to get to the state tournament and see what happens from there."

Obituaries

Jeffrey O. Krohn

Jeffrey O. Krohn, age 78 of Oshkosh, passed away at Evergreen Retirement



Community on Tuesday, November 15, 2022. He was born in Monmouth Beach, NJ on January 25, 1944 to the late Norris and Dorothy (Johnson) Krohn. Jeffrey married Cheryl Beyer and had two sons.

Jeffrey attended the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. He worked at Oshkosh Title and also worked for the family business managing apartments. He worked as a mason for over 20 years. Jeffrey was a sports fanatic who was very active throughout his life. He played on the Tommy's Angels, Oregon Clothing, Ehlike Welding and Draeger Electric fastpitch softball teams and bowled for Mabel Mur-

phy's for many years. He loved shooting pool at The Magnet with his good friend Larry Backus.

He is survived by his sons: Jeff (Amanda) Krohn and Brian Krohn; brothers: Pat (Donna) Krohn and Norris (Susan) Krohn II. He is further survived by nieces, nephews, previous wife Cheryl Krohn and dear friend Patti Adkins.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Per Jeffrey's wishes, cremation will take place and a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Donations may be made in Jeffrey's name to the American Cancer Society.

The Krohn Family would like to thank the staff and caregivers of Ascension Mercy Hospital as well as Evergreen Retirement Community for the wonderful care provided to Jeffrey.

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Obituaries

David A. Grunwald

David A. Grunwald, age 78, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by his loving family, on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, ironically the first snowfall of the year since he was known to love warm summers. He was born in Oshkosh on July 31, 1944,



the son of the late Alton and Dorothy (Nigl) Grunwald. On August 22, 1970 he married Carla Rumlow at Christ Lutheran Church, Oshkosh. David was proud to serve as a Marine for over four years at Camp Pendleton. He was a firefighter for the Oshkosh Fire Department for 27 years. Further, he ran David Grunwald Construction for many years. David was active and enjoyed jogging, swimming, shooting pool, muscle cars, racing and was an avid fan of professional wrestling.

He will be remembered for being a handyman and always willing to help family and friends.

David is survived by his wife of 52 years, Carla; and children: Sean (Colleen Saunders) Grunwald and Kristi (Zane) Smoot; brothers-in-law, Al Rumlow and Don (Nancy) Rumlow; sisters-in-law, Barbara (Gary Egnoski) Litjens and Linda (Chuck) Rohloff; good neighbors: Jane, Jack and Phyllis, and Sharon; many nieces and nephews; and grand-dogs: Max, Millie and Little

G. He was preceded in death by his parents; and sister, Audrey (Bob) Hable.

There will be a private celebration of life held at a later date.

The family extends a special thank you to Compassus Hospice for their wonderful care, and family and friends for reaching out and being there for the family.



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David R. Strohschein

David R. Strohschein, age 73 of Oshkosh passed away on Wednesday, November 9, 2022. He was born on February 12, 1949, to the late Ralph and Ruth (Arndt) Strohschein. David was united in marriage to Sandra "Sandy" Schram on October 14, 2006, at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.



David was a member of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. He was an avid golfer who didn't let his health complications get in his way of playing a round. He enjoyed the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing.

David is lovingly survived by his

wife, Sandy Strohschein; daughter: Teri Strohschein; stepchildren: Donna Jannke, Zander Heller and Davina Heller; step-grandchildren: Kimberly, Jason, Maxwell and Bradley; sister: Debra (Herb) Scharfenberg; brothers-in-law: John (Carol) Schram, Bruce (Gretchen) Schram and Jeff (Karen) Schram.

He was preceded in death by his parents. A memorial service for David will be held at 1:00 PM on Thursday, December 1, 2022, at Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, 913 Nebraska St. with the Rev. Chadwick Graham officiating. Visitation will be held from 11:00 AM until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established.



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Obituaries

Peter M. Allen

Peter Merrick Allen, 78, of La Crosse, died on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at the Gundersen Health System in La Crosse. He was born on January 30, 1944 in Oshkosh, WI to Edwin Bemis and Ruby Helen (Anderson) Allen. Peter graduated from Oshkosh High School and enlisted in the US Army on March 3, 1965. He was deployed to Vietnam in June of 1966 and returned in February of 1967. He married Joan Lippert on April 4, 1970. He enrolled in nursing school at the Milwaukee County General Hospital School of Nursing, graduating in 1972 and working in surgery at Milwaukee County General Hospital. Peter returned to the Milwaukee County General Hospital and graduated in 1974 from the School



of Anesthesia as a CRNA. Peter and Joan moved to La Crosse in 1974 and he went to work at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center. He joined the US Army Reserves in August of 1978 until he retired from both the Army Reserves as a Lieutenant Colonel and Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center on January 30, 2004.

Peter was called back to active duty and twice served in Germany. First with several co-workers from Gundersen Lutheran with the 44th General Hospital out of Madison during Operation Desert Storm, and secondly with the 5501st out of San Antonio, TX during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Peter was an active member of the YMCA, American Legion Post 52, D.A.V. and the Tomah VA. He served as President of the Wisconsin Association of Nurse Anesthetists from 1982-1983 and was a van driver for the D.A.V. Peter was a master's swimmer, and enjoyed gardening, vacations with his family, and the

Betty J. Stevenson

Betty J. Stevenson, age 98 of Oshkosh, passed away on Saturday, November 13, 2022 at the Residence at Oshkosh. She was born to the late John and Flora (Mischke) Bartelt on May 20, 1924 in the Town of Wolf River, WI. After her family relocated, she lived her childhood and school years in Kiel WI. Betty married Gordon Stevenson in Oshkosh on June 28, 1946. In her younger years she was employed at Wisconsin National Life Insurance Co, in Oshkosh. She enjoyed making crafts, and was in several bowling and golfing leagues in Oshkosh.

Betty is survived by many nieces and

nephews.

In addition to her parents, Betty was preceded in death by her husband Gordy, infant daughter Karen, sister Eva Stelzner, and brothers Melvin and John Jr. Bartelt.

Betty was very thankful for and spoke fondly about her special friends and caretakers at the Residence at Oshkosh and Heartland Hospice that she became close to.

Per Betty's wishes there will be no funeral or grave side services. Burial will be in Lake View Memorial Park.



boathouse on Lawrence Lake.

He is survived by his wife Joan, son Nate (Jody) Allen of Manassas, VA, daughter Emily (Morgan) Farmer of La Crosse, five grandchildren, Amelia and Aaron Allen, and Avery, Caleb, and Micah Farmer, sister Judy (Dave) Leslie of Racine, WI and brother Tom (Marianne) Allen of Oshkosh. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, November 19th, 2022 at 12:00 Noon at English Lutheran Church in La Crosse. Pastors Mark Kvale and Becky Goche will officiate. Friends may call at the Schumacher-Kish Funeral & Cremation Services of La Crosse on Friday from 4:00 – 7:00 PM and at the church on Saturday from 11:00 AM until the time of services. In lieu of flowers memorials may be given to English Lutheran Church, Parkinson's Research organizations, D.A.V., or American Legion Post 52 in La Crosse. Online guestbook is available at www.schumacher-kish.com.

acher-Kish Funeral & Cremation Services of La Crosse on Friday from 4:00 – 7:00 PM and at the church on Saturday from 11:00 AM until the time of services. In lieu of flowers memorials may be given to English Lutheran Church, Parkinson's Research organizations, D.A.V., or American Legion Post 52 in La Crosse. Online guestbook is available at www.schumacher-kish.com.



Ralph E. Geurts

Ralph E. Geurts, age 77 peacefully passed away Monday October 31, 2022 at home with his wife of 58 years and family by his side. Ralph was born in De Pere, WI to the late Louis and Stella (Van Duyse) Geurts.



Ralph is survived by his wife Janice and their children Stephanie (John) Marek, Andrew (Robin) Geurts, Trina (Steve) Procknow, Adam (Stephanie) Geurts. 13 grandchildren and

21 great-grandchildren, his brothers: John (Pat) Geurts, Richard (Mary) Geurts: and nieces, nephews and many good friends. Ralph is preceded by his parents: Louis and Stella Geurts, sisters: Bernice Tarkowski, Betty Hazaert.

Ralph's family would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Heinzen, Amanda Haack, NP, and Compassus hospice especially nurse Sherry.

Ralph enjoyed fishing, hunting, Green Bay Packers, spending time in Marco Island, FL.

A celebration of life will be Thursday December 8, 2022 from 2-6pm at LaSure's Banquet Hall 3125 S. Washburn Oshkosh, WI 54904.

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Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



RENNING
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THANK YOU, CHARLES M. SCHULZ!

COMIC STRIP GETS STAMPED: The United States Postal Service has created the **Charles M. Schulz Forever** stamps to celebrate the fact that the creator of the **Peanuts** comic strip would have been 100 years old on November 26, 2022. Find out more about this legendary cartoonist on today's *Kid Scoop* page!



WHO WAS CHARLES SCHULZ?

When Charles Schulz was a child, people called the newspaper comic pages "the funnies." And Charles was a boy who really *loved* the funnies.

Schulz read his local newspaper every day and wanted to make his own funnies one day. He started drawing as a youngster and kept drawing cartoons every day.

SLOW START

Later in life, Schulz became one of the world's most successful cartoonists. But as a young man, he had a hard time finding a newspaper or magazine to buy his comic strip. He worked odd jobs to pay his bills.

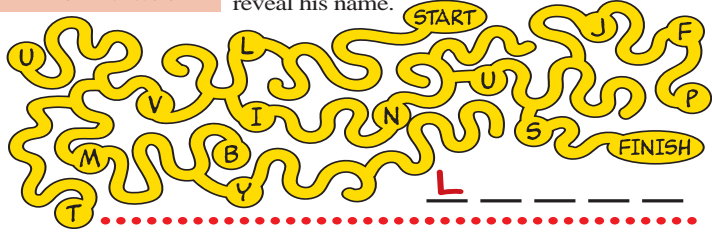


"The only thing I ever wanted to be was a cartoonist. That's my life. Drawing."
—CHARLES M. SCHULZ

ARMY TO ART SCHOOL

During World War II, Charles was drafted into the United States Army. He brought a sketch pad and kept on drawing.

When he came home to Minnesota, he got a job teaching at the art school where he had studied. It was there he met a man who would become a friend for life. The letters on the correct path reveal his name.



PEANUTS BEGINS

In 1947, the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* bought his comic strip, which was called *Li'l Folks*. In 1950, the strip's name was _____ to **Peanuts** because another comic strip had a name that was too _____.

From that small start, Peanuts became very _____. It was eventually _____ in more than 2,600 newspapers and 75 countries!

Charles Schulz wrote and _____ every single Peanuts comic strip himself for the next 50 years, inspiring generations of _____ cartoonists.

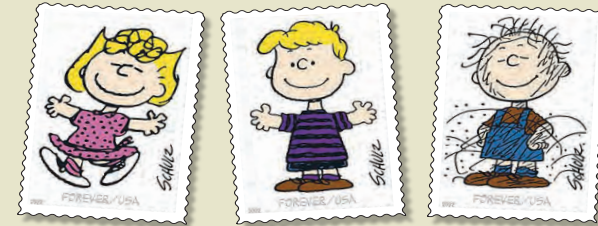
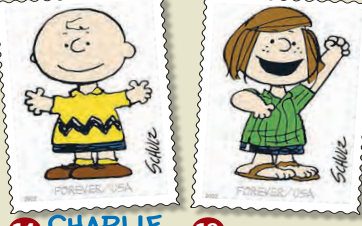
Replace the missing words.



PEANUTS CHARACTER MATCH

Do you know the names of these famous Peanuts characters featured on U.S. postage stamps? Do the math to label each character.

- 7 + 7 = Charlie Brown
- 8 - 2 = Schroeder
- 11 + 7 = Peppermint Patty
- 13 + 3 = Lucy
- 18 - 6 = Franklin
- 9 - 4 = Linus
- 8 + 5 = Pig-Pen
- 4 + 4 = Sally



PEANUTS BY THE NUMBERS

- Charles drew **17,897** Peanuts comic strips.
- There have been **5** feature-length Peanuts movies.
- There have been **45** Peanuts television specials.

SNOOPY

The Peanuts character **Snoopy** is based on a pet dog that Charles had as a child. Use the code to find out the name of this pet.

- = A
- = C
- = E
- = H
- = I
- = K
- = P
- = S



Extra! Extra! Make a Comic Book

Every day, cut out your favorite comic strip from the newspaper. Glue the strips onto blank paper and make your own comic book!

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

BEYOND COMIC STRIPS

The Peanuts characters were so popular that they were made into books, TV shows, a musical stage show, greeting cards, toys and even movies! Circle every other letter to find out the name of the first Peanuts television special, which aired on CBS in 1965.



A V O D H N A S R
T L W I K E J B U R
I O Z W X N Q C
B H P R D I V S
R T L M U A I S Y

CH A

Double Double Word Search

- NEWSPAPER
- CHARLES
- SCHULZ
- PEANUTS
- SNOOPY
- DRAW
- COMIC
- SKETCH
- DOG
- BOOKS
- LUCY
- LINUS
- SALLY
- PET
- TEACHING

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



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

Kid Scoop Together

Charles' Favorite Sport: Hockey

Because Charles Schulz made so many comics featuring hockey, he was admitted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame.

Growing up in St. Paul, MN, Charles used a hockey stick to hit tennis balls in his grandmother's basement. His mother helped him make goalie pads out of gunny sacks with rolled-up newspaper sewn inside. His father made an ice rink in their backyard where Charles and his friends played hockey whenever they could — even by streetlight at night.

Charles' love of hockey lasted his entire life. His five children all learned to skate.

In 1969, when a local ice arena closed, Charles bought it and opened the Redwood Empire Arena near his studio in Santa Rosa, CA.

Today, the ice arena is called Snoopy's Home Ice and is located next to the Charles M. Schulz Museum.

How many differences can you find between these two hockey players?



To learn more about Charles M. Schulz, visit www.schulzmuseum.org

Write On!

Happy Birthday, Charles M. Schulz

Write a short "Happy Birthday" note to Charles M. Schulz who would be 100 this year.

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- Local newspapers can strengthen communities.
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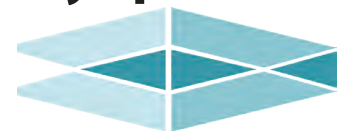
According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in NIE groups performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary than nonreaders. Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

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