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Energy rate increases OK'd by PSC

Area power customers getting 8.8% hike in 2023

Oshkosh Harald

Wisconsin Public Service customers in Oshkosh and other parts of Winnebago County will see their electricity bills rise by about 8.8% percent – about \$9 more per month – after state approval of a rate package that is lower than what was being sought.

The rate increase, which according to parent company WEPCO will help fund new utility-scale solar and natural gas generation, was approved last week by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission

(PSC) after a nearly 15% increase was originally proposed earlier this fall. We Energies cus-

tomers in Neenah and other parts of northern Winnebago County will see their electricity bills rise by nearly 11 percent, about \$11 to

\$12 more per month.

Initial data from the Public Service

Commission show the two utilities combined can collect roughly \$503 million more next year despite commissioners voting 2-1 to reduce profit margins, which are expected to save ratepayers \$20 million.

The proposals are in line with recent decisions by the PSCW for other utilities, according to WEC Energy Group's senior communications specialist Matt Cullen, who noted that the typical residential customer's electric bill will remain well below the national average.

SEE **Rate increase** ON PAGE 9



Photo by Michael Cooney

Christmas cookie

The Downtown Oshkosh BID Holiday Parade added some big balloons this year sponsored by the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, including this gingerbread man that made its way down Main Street on Thursday night. There was happy interaction between parade participants and those who came out to brave the cold and be part of the festivities.

Water treatment facility updates under review

20-year plan includes new building at plant

By Kaitlyn Scoville
OSHKOSH HERALD

The city recently held a public meeting to discuss a 20-year plan for its wastewater treatment facilities, totaling about \$250 million in project costs throughout the timeframe.

Oshkosh's public works director James Rabe said the creation of the facilities plan stemmed from updated phosphorus level regulations by the state Department of Natural Resources and the Clean Water Act.

Rabe emphasized this plan is different from ongoing work with the city's Clearwells water storage facility, which holds treated, drinkable water for residents.

"To put it a little bit in perspective, (the Clearwells and the wastewater treatment facility) are opposite ends of the pipe," he said. "At the Clearwells, you take water and make it drinkable. Here at the wastewater plant, after you drink it and flush it down the toilet, it



Oshkosh Herald

The city's wastewater treatment facilities are at 233 N. Campbell Road.

ends up here to get treated before it gets put back into the Fox River."

The Federal Clean Water Act requires the DNR – and other states' equivalent organizations – to enforce its set conditions every two years. In Wisconsin, the DNR updates its impaired waters list. Lake Winnebago is on that list for not meeting water quality use parameters.

"The facility plan as it pertains to the treatment plant itself outlines the plant and the treatment process," Rabe said. "We can't add a new process to the treatment without having that facility plan updated."

The city has been through about three and a half years of analysis on phosphorus compliance, Rabe said. Now that the city has a method for how to meet the new phospho-

rus regulations, the wastewater facilities plan can move forward.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has identified that high levels of phosphorus in bodies of water may cause increased growth of algae and large aquatic plants, "which can result in decreased levels of dissolved oxygen. High levels of phosphorus can also lead to algae blooms that produce algal toxins which can be harmful to human and animal health."

Oshkosh's Wastewater Treatment Plant services nearly 28,000 acres of land throughout 260 miles of sewers in city limits and surrounding sanitary districts such as Algoma and Black Wolf.

The facility, at 233 N. Campbell Road, was originally constructed in the 1930s with major upgrades in the 1970s and 1990s.

The main project in this 20-year plan is the addition of a new building at the treatment plant, which is estimated to be about 10% of the total projected expenditures.

SEE **Facility updates** ON PAGE 8

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December 7, 2022



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Corrections

It is the policy of the Oshkosh Herald to correct all errors of fact. For correction information, call 920-385-4512.

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Nutcracker in the Castle returns to Paine

The 16th season of Nutcracker in the Castle is being presented at the Paine Art Center and Gardens through Jan. 9 with more mesmerizing sights, sounds and sur-

prises than ever.

The holiday fairy tale unfolds throughout the ornately decorated rooms of the historic mansion, from the opening Party

Deer hunt numbers released for county, state

Oshkosh Herald

The gun deer hunt in Wisconsin had preliminary numbers released by the state Department of Natural Resources showing that hunters registered 203,295 deer for season that ended Sunday. That included 98,397 antlered and 104,898 antlerless deer. Since archery seasons opened Sept. 17, hunters have registered 301,540 deer statewide.

Compared with 2021, the total firearm deer harvest was up 14.4% statewide, with the antlered harvest up 14.7% and antlerless harvest up 14.1%.

In Winnebago County, 526 antlered deer and 521 antlerless deer were registered, totaling 1,047 for this year's gun season so far.

This fared slightly above the county's five-year average from 2017-2021 of 513

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antlered and 496 antlerless, totaling 1,009. Winnebago County's 2022 numbers had a 1.9% increase in harvests compared

with last year, according to the DNR. This year's archery and crossbow deer seasons have been ongoing since September and will last until Jan. 8. Winnebago County has harvested 284 deer by archery and 430 by crossbow this season, which is about halfway complete.

The youth season, which ran early October, yielded 44 deer in the county.

Statewide, sales for gun, bow, cross-bow, sports and patron licenses reached 795,072. Of that total, 436,423 were for gun privileges only and 554,898 were for all gun privileges including gun, sports and patron licenses. Year-to-date sales for all deer licenses are down 1.6% from last year.



Scene with a giant Christmas tree to the magical Land of Sweets and the enchanting Sugar Plum Fairy. More than 2,000 people attended the opening weekend, which featured free admission for children and family photos.

There is a self-guided tour, candlelight tour and guided tour. Along the way, the presentation features more than 80 Christmas trees and some unexpected surprises. Visitors can follow the story of Clara and the Nutcracker as you read the story from giant storybooks in each room.

For more information and hours, go to www.thepaine.org/events/nutcrack-er-in-the-castle.

Narcan training offered

The Winnebago County Health Department is hosting virtual training on recognizing the signs of an opioid overdose and using Narcan (naloxone) to reverse such an overdose.

The training from noon to 1 p.m. and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday is free and available to anyone in the community. Register at wchd.pub/narcantraining22 or call 920-232-3000.

"We have seen an increase in overdose deaths in our county over the past two years, and Narcan is one tool we have to save lives," said Danielle Florence, community health strategist for the Health Department. "The more people in our community who have access and training in Narcan, the more effectively we can keep each other safe."

Narcan is easy to use and available free at the Winnebago County Health Department's Oshkosh office, Solutions Recovery, Vivent and Unity Recovery Services.



Residents are reminded of the following snow removal regulations:

PER SECTION 25-68 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE -

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

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

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

PER SECTION 25-69 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE -

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

THE MINIMUM CHARGE FOR THE COST OF SNOW REMOVAL IS \$164.

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

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County to vote on reworking ARPA fund status

By Bethanie Gengler Oshkosh Herald

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors will consider a proposal next month to rename the ARPA Strategy & Outcomes Commission to the Spirit Fund Commission and establish a new Spirit Fund in an effort to prevent the federal government from auditing the county's use of the money.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) authorized the federal government to deliver \$350 billion to state, local, territorial and tribal governments to bolster their response to the COVID-19 pandemic and deal with its economic impacts. The funding can be used for investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure, essential workers and other expenditures related to the pandemic.

Winnebago County was allocated \$33.3 million. In October, the county board passed a resolution to disperse the entire \$33 million to cover lost revenue from the

Specifically, the money was earmarked to cover wages incurred between March 4, 2021, and Sept. 30, 2022, for departments that included sheriff, coroner, emergency management, parks, information systems, facilities and property management, and Park View Health Center.

Although the money was passed off as lost revenue, the designation appears to be an accounting maneuver that allows the county to spend the money in different ways rather than only for pandemic-related expenditures.

County Executive Jon Doemel referred questions about the use of the money to director of Administration Mike Collard, who did not respond by press deadline to a request for information.

The ARPA commission was created to make recommendations to the county board on how the ARPA funds would be used. At a meeting last week, the commission discussed a resolution to change its name to the Spirit Fund Commission and establish a Spirit Fund.

Collard said the name Spirit Fund was chosen because the money will be spent "in the spirit of ARPA."

The money currently designated as ARPA funds would be moved to a general fund, then pulled back out and placed into the Spirit Fund.

"The tricky part, the reason we're changing the name, is the auditor says if you just pull back into an ARPA fund, it's going to give the auditors from the federal government fits." Collard said. "They're going to look at that and say you have to now spend that as ARPA money; it's not your money to spend as you please and it's going to get tied up in knots. At least that's what our county auditors are concerned about."

Collard said the auditor's recommendation is to not put an ARPA label on the funds because it would require additional ARPA reports.

"Our objective is to free ourselves from those entanglements, which is perfectly in accordance with the law and regulations that they have for use of ARPA money," he said. "If we just call it the Spirit Fund, we kind of know what that means but the auditors won't look at that and see that it's governed by the federal regulations on grant distributions."

Doemel told the commission that technically the county doesn't have any ARPA dollars left because it claimed the money as lost revenue.

"By doing this, by creating the Spirit Fund after the first of the year, which is what the auditors wanted, and by changing, it takes that technical aspect that we no longer have a job to do and addresses that," Doemel said.

District 27 Supervisor Morris Cox expressed concerns that the transfer plan was a manipulation of funds.

"It doesn't sound to me that it's something that you really should be doing," he said.

ARPA commission member Tim Galloway said the wording in the proposed resolution is a red flag.

"To me that just raises the issue or elevates the issue and you're trying to avoid that issue," he said, recommending that the commission remove the clause stating that the Spirit Fund dollars are no longer properly considered ARPA dollars. The commission voted to approve the recommendation.

District 30 Supervisor Chuck Farrey requested reassurance that the ARPA funds will not be commingled with undesignated funds.

"Because administration and the (coun-

ty executive) have certain authority within those funds, I do not want those commingled," he said.

The commission voted in favor of renaming and establishing a Spirit Fund. The proposal will be voted on by the county board in January.

The commission also discussed where to allocate the ARPA dollars, only making a few spending decisions. The commission agreed to spend \$3 million on projects with local governments and to allocate the money equally among the municipalities in the county, regardless of their size.

The commission also agreed to spend \$850,000 on an emergency generator for Sunnyview Expo Center.

According to a resolution approved at a board meeting last month, the county lacks direction on how to spend the ARPA funds. The board authorized a transfer of \$175,000 to the county executive's office for assistance with strategic planning and priority-based budgeting for the funds.

The commission's ARPA spending recommendations must be approved by the full county board.



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December 7, 2022

Elementary school naming process narrows down

By Kaitlyn Scoville OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education received word that the administration is ready to move to the second phase of the community vote to name the new elementary school that is set to open in fall 2024.

The second survey was released by the district Monday and will last until Dec. 12. Findings are expected to be reported to the board at its Jan. 11 meeting for an official vote Jan. 25.

The first survey lasted two weeks from late October into early November, and allowed students, staff, parents and community members to list what they would like to see the new elementary school named.

At the latest school board meeting, Nate Considine with Bray Architects – which is also building the new Vel Phillips Middle School – presented the results of the first survey and narrowed down the possibilities to four names: Poberezny, Webster Stanley, Jessie Jack Hooper and Menominee.

According to the data collected from the first survey, which yielded 786 participants, school staff and parents/guardians of students within the district favored Poberezny, whereas students and residents within the school district favored Stanley.

Paul Poberezny is one of the most decorated men in the international aviation community, having received hundreds of trophies, awards and honors for his contributions to the world of flight. He is best known as the founder of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), one of the world's leading aviation organizations, and EAA AirVenture.

Tom P. Poberezny, Paul's son, was also



An artist's rendering shows the design of the new elementary school to open in the fall of 2024. The school's name will be chosen with the help of an ongoing survey.

an accomplished aviator. He had an extensive career serving and leading EAA and AirVenture, including creation of the Young Eagles aviation youth program, before his death this year.

Stanley was the first white settler in what is now Oshkosh. Within several months of his arrival, Stanley built his home and soon established a trading post, tavern, and an inn. His home served as the city's first school – where six students were taught for a short period of time – as well as the site of county government until a courthouse was built in 1849.

Hooper was an American activist and suffragist, and a longtime resident of Oshkosh. A local leader in school reform and public health, she joined the women's suffrage movement in the 1910s and dedicated her life to the movement as a speaker, political leader and advocate for peace.

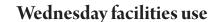
The Menominee is the only present-day

tribe in Wisconsin whose origin story indicates they have always lived in Wisconsin. Oshkosh is located on the ancestral homelands of the Menominee and was named after Menominee Chief Oshkosh. The new public elementary school will be across the street from Menominee Park.

The current Webster Stanley Elementary and Middle School building will be torn down and replaced by the new elementary school, which will accommodate students from Merrill, Washington and Webster Stanley elementary schools, whereas middle school students will attend Vel Phillips.

Once the new elementary school is named, the district will survey future students, families and staff to select the school's mascot and colors.

Those interested in taking the survey to name the new school can visit oshkosh. k12.wi.us/school-name-survey.



The school board voted to remove the district's ban on holding sports practices on Wednesday evenings.

A district memo said that historically, Wednesday evenings and Sundays were set aside for family time and religious practices. In previous years, religious classes and events were scheduled for Wednesday evenings but the practice has shifted, and classes could now potentially be held any night of the week.

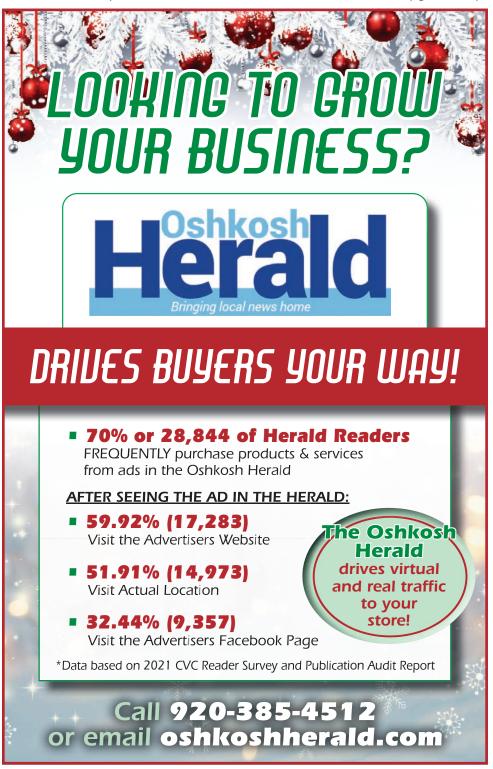
It was proposed that Wednesday evenings be opened to allow for use of facilities and practices. No actual games would be held on those dates without prior board approval.

District policy states that "the board acknowledges that it is prohibited from adopting any policy or rule respecting or promoting an establishment of religion or prohibiting any student from the free, individual and voluntary exercise or expression of the student's religious beliefs."

Board member Kristopher Karns said the intention of this was to be respectful of one's religious background, or lack thereof, and the district's growing diverse student population. The group unanimously voted to make the policy change, along with a number of others at its meeting.

"In an attempt to establish family time, no school-sponsored activity or event shall be scheduled on Sunday mornings," the policy now reads. "The superintendent or designee may waive this policy under special circumstances. The superintendent shall inform the board of any and all such waivers."

Walk-Over Footwear







Town of Oshkosh approves tax levy for new fire engine

Oshkosh Herald

Electors, or residents, of the Town of Oshkosh voted unanimously to approve its 2023 tax levy, which spiked due to the purchase of a new fire engine.

Town of Oshkosh chair Jim Erdman said the board had approved the purchase of the new vehicle from Oshkosh Corp. subsidiary Pierce Manufacturing in October with a price tag of about \$743,000.

Currently, the town's volunteer fire department engine is 27 years old, and the new truck won't be delivered to the team for another two to three years.

"Unfortunately, this means we will have to increase taxes to pay for this," a memo from the town reads. "Our plan, while not final yet, is to save \$120,000 per year for three years. This would give us \$360,000 to pay down at the time of delivery, thus saving three years of interest payments."

For every \$100,000 a property is assessed at, for example, it would mean about a \$50 increase in property taxes.

"We, the town board, do not take raising taxes lightly. Yet, we are also responsible for the safety of our citizens," the memo reads.

Erdman said the town's volunteer fire department has no full-time staff but is composed of residents and students from Fox Valley Technical College.

"We have a very good fire department, and they have a very good morale," Erdman said. "(Students) like being in our department because we have good equipment, and we offer a lot of training. We have a good team and it's working out well."

In towns such as Oshkosh or Nekimi, residents vote on the municipality's tax levy, which varies from the city of Oshkosh with the Common Council setting it. Erdman said about a dozen people showed up to the Town Board meeting last week to vote.

"They trust us," Erdman said. "Every year, the people still have to approve the levy; it's a big annual thing that towns do. You, the people, get to vote on what the taxes are."



Submitted photo

Club collaboration

The Oshkosh Elks Club spent \$4,161 outfitting 65 children from the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh. The children received 65 pairs of boots, five pairs of sneakers and 25 packages of socks.



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Salvation seeks bell ringers ahead of match days

The Salvation Army of Oshkosh has been in need of enough bell ringers to secure its \$10,000 match day challenges with as little as 34% of its ringing locations reserved by volunteers.

Last Thursday was the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation challenge and Tuesday was the Oshkosh Corp. Foundation challenge. The JJ Keller Foundation challenge is the last one scheduled on Dec.

"All Salvation Army bell ringers in the

Oshkosh area are volunteers," said Oshkosh Salvation Army's Maj. James Mungai. "We rely entirely on individuals, businesses, churches and civic groups for the volunteer manpower necessary to meet major match challenges."

Salvation Army officials say the holiday campaigns set a fundraising goal that accounts for half of their annual budget.

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December 7, 2022

March-Torme ready to hit The Grand

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Steve March-Torme knows what happens at many holiday or Christmas shows.

It's 90 minutes of traditional arrangements of the familiar holiday songs all wrapped up nice and neat for the audience to enjoy.

"Usually you will come away saying 'That was nice,'" March-Torme said. "The music was nice, everybody played well. You just kind of know what to expect."

But March-Torme's "For Kids From 1 to 92," which will hit The Grand in downtown Oshkosh for a pair of shows, isn't set up to be like every other holiday show.

And the longtime performer, who is the son of singer and composer Mel Torme, doesn't want those attending his shows to leave simply happy because it was another nice show.

"The comment I've heard the most from people who have seen the show – and it's what I wanted to hear – is that they have never seen a show like that," March-Torme said in a phone interview last week. "Our show is so diversified and so different because of the instrumentation and the fact that we play so many different kinds of songs."

It's not that the show, which is playing around the state during the month of December, doesn't have the traditional Christmas fare.

March-Torme's band just may not perform those songs the way people expect to hear them.

"We do play a lot of the songs people want to hear, but the way they are presented, the arrangements – we don't do 90 minutes that all sounds the same," March-Torme said. "The musicianship with this



Photo courtesy of Steve March-Torm

Steve March-Torme will be bringing his holiday show titled "For Kids From 1 to 92" to The Grand for a pair of shows this weekend.

band is killer. These are all ringers from our region and I think people will love that."

March-Torme wouldn't divulge everything in the show's lineup of songs, but he did drop one item that attendees can expect to hear.

"One of the songs we have added this year is 'Little Drummer Boy,'" March-Torme said. "But you haven't heard it like this before. It is quite the large production."

March-Torme is insistent on putting on a show that attendees have not seen before and so from one year to the next, the array of songs changes.

"If you are going to do the exact same show and people know that, they aren't going to come out," March-Torme said. "You have to change your opener or change your closer, look out for stuff that might be unusual. There are a couple of numbers that no one will be expecting, which will be fun, especially at The Grand."

March-Torme is no stranger to The Grand's cozy, fan-friendly environment that he said is ideal for this type of show. Plus, he has performed at the venue and in the area enough that he is starting to recognize familiar faces.

"I think we have a pretty nice following there," March-Torme said. "We want to fill The Grand for both shows. We want people to come out and at the end say that was time well worth spending in the theater. They can come out expecting a wonderful, professional show and that's what we will deliver."

"For Kids From 1 to 92" will perform Thursday and Friday at The Grand, with shows beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Carol Sing at Grand

The annual Christmas Carol Sing will be held at The Grand at 7 p.m. Sunday. Madrigal singing groups from Lourdes Academy and Oshkosh West and North high schools will perform and lead the audience in singing classic carols of the season.

The Oshkosh Area Community Band, under the direction of David Berndt, will also perform music of the season as well as a sing-along medley as part of the hourlong concert. A jazz group from the band, led by Jon Basten, will entertain before the sing-along.

There is no admission charge, but donations will be taken for the Salvation Army of Oshkosh.

Christmas concert set at Time Theater

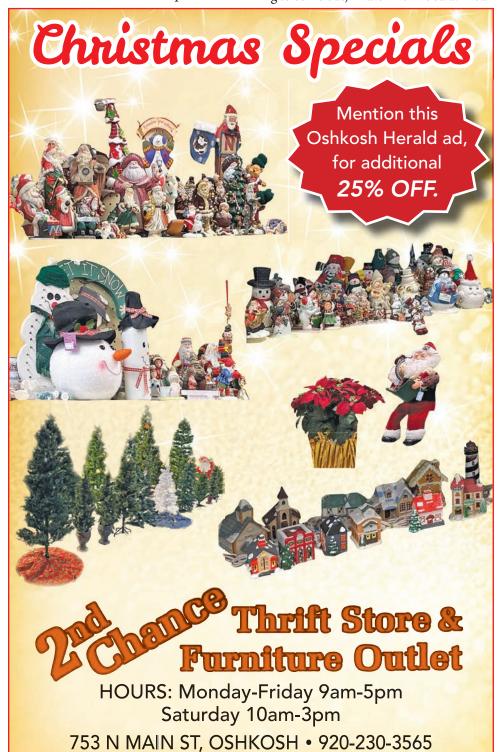
An evening of uplifting holiday harmonies is in store with the Christmas in Oshkosh concert in the downtown Time Community Theater on Dec. 16, featuring Franki Moscato, Jenna Kopitske and Mary Farmer

Performing as the new band Shoot the Moon, the group will take the stage at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. for raffles and cash bar. Tickets are \$15 apiece or \$25 for two.

Youth Choirs offers two holiday concerts

The Oshkosh Youth Choir has two upcoming free holiday concerts Friday at Oshkosh North High School and Saturday at the Oshkosh Public Library.

Under the direction of Jennifer Jensen, the first Night Before concert under the library dome starts at 12:30 p.m. The performance at the North High auditorium begins at 7 p.m. with doors open at 6:30.







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Church houses one of world's largest nativity collections

By Cheryl Hentz HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Nativity scenes are commonplace this time of year, whether as part of people's Christmas displays or at churches world-

If you've seen one nativity, you've seen them all, right? Wrong. Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church is home to one of the most unique of these collections and happens to be one of Oshkosh's bestkept secrets.

Known simply as the "Nativity Collection," it is one of the largest, permanently displayed nativity collections in the world. With more than 1,000 sets, all collected by one person – longtime church member Mildred Turner, who passed away in December 2007.

Turner began her collection in 1988 after some personal setbacks that year. She became very ill, forcing her to retire as an Omro kindergarten teacher after more than 34 years and many other years of teaching before that and her beloved mother passed away.

Despite that year being devastating and life-altering, she began thinking about the Christmas story and its meanings of love, peace and hope. From that moment on, Turner told her friends, "I shall not be blue at Christmas." To help her find - and keep - the joy, she was going to start collecting nativities.

That first Christmas, Turner received 15 nativity sets as gifts from friends. Turner also found nativities in gift shops when she traveled, at flea markets, rummage sales, department stores and antiques

By 1996, Turner had more than 600 nativities. She had a large home where she had lived with her parents until their passing, but nativity scenes eventually filled it up. It also would take two weeks to set them up and another two weeks to take them down. Turner eventually decided to keep them up year-round.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Dec. 4, 1978

Steiger Dies in Sleep at Capital: Rep. William Steiger of Oshkosh died in his sleep at his Washington D.C. home this morning. The 40-year-old Steiger died at about 8:30 a.m. EST. Steiger was diabetic but there was no immediate confirmation that the condition was related to his death. The 6th District congressman served this area for 12 years and was recently re-elected on November 7 by a landslide margin gaining 70% of the vote. Wisconsin Gov. Martin Schreiber called Steiger's death "a great loss to his constituents, to our state and to our nation." Steiger was generally considered the Republican Party's strongest prospective candidate for a Senate seat. Steiger was the youngest member of Congress when he was elected to the House at the age of 28 and because of his youthful appearance, he was mistaken for a page several times and had to show his identification to get on the House floor. The popular congressman is survived by his wife, the former Janet Dempsey of Oshkosh, his 9-year-old son, William, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Steiger of Oshkosh.

> Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Dec. 4, 1978

A Fontanini nativity scene from Italy is one of many elaborate sets on permanent display at Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church thanks to the work of Mildred Turner and Karen Fonstad.

Karen Fonstad, a friend of Turner's and fellow congregation member, helped her display some of the nativities at the church during the holidays. The women got the idea of finding a permanent "home" for the collection, but it was important to Turner to share the Christmas story with people through her nativities.

But no one, including the Oshkosh Public Museum, would be able to have the whole collection permanently displayed.

The Rev. Gordon Lind, United Methodist's pastor from 1986-1999, suggested that Turner donate her collection to the church.

"One condition was that none of the nativities could be sold or removed from the church premises," said Lisa-Marie Wesenberg, Connections coordinator and children's director. "It also needed to be

open to the public, so people could see it any time. So, any time the church is open, so is the collection for viewing."

The original donation of 668 nativity sets was consecrated in December 1997. In summer 2002, cabinets were built to display another 400-plus sets. Fonstad designed the display cases for the collection and also was head carpenter overseeing a team of volunteer builders.

Turner didn't just buy nativity sets to acquire more of them. She had a goal of collecting examples from around the world. They had to be unique, especially the material they're made from: crystal, porcelain, wood, precious metals, banana husks, rope, paper, terra cotta, ivory, olivewood, needlework, alabaster - even Coke cans, Popsicle sticks and marshmallows.

"Some are extremely valuable, some are just kind of silly, some are handmade by children, there's even a set made by WWII German POWs who were held in Green Lake, Wisconsin," Wesenberg said. "It runs the gamut. There's some by the Franklin Mint, and some by the House of Faberge, and a beautiful, large display of Fontanini nativities made in Italy. It's just every kind of design and material you can imagine."

Several are from Italy and Africa. There's even one Turner got when she traveled to Bethlehem. The sets represent many cul-

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tures and range in size from life-size to one no larger than a thumb.

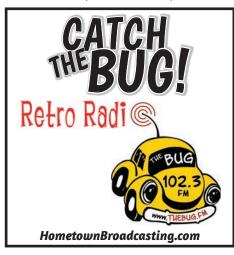
"Someone is always trying to give us additional nativities. But it is a closed collection and we do not accept any more sets," church member Kate Yarbro said.

"You can look at this collection over and over, and every time you look you will see something you didn't see before."

An open house will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday with guided tours offered. Visitors also can take a self-guided tour with printed descriptions of the collection. That event will coincide with the United Women in Faith fundraiser, which will feature a cookie sale. Hot chocolate and hot cider will be available.

The collection can be seen during normal church hours or through a guided tour by calling 920-231-2800. There is no cost, but goodwill donations are welcome to help offset upkeep and maintenance

Turner's nativity collection and the Christmas stories they tell live on forever, which is exactly what she always wanted.









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Submitted photo

Rising regional leaders

Forward48, a regional leadership development collaboration among New North Inc., the Greater Milwaukee Committee and the Hoan Group, graduated its fall group of Rising Leaders recently. Oshkosh attendees who completed the program included (from left) Marlo Ambas, Drew Mueske, Jenna Thiel, Shawn Dockry, Jose Elijah Jr., Theresa Menting and Mai Krenzke.

YMCA joins school milk program

The Oshkosh Community YMCA School Age Department recently announced its participation in the Special Milk Program at Carl Traeger Elementary, Franklin Elementary, Oaklawn Elementary, Oakwood Elementary and Read Elementary schools.

The Special Milk Program, which receives funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is administered by the state Department of Public Instruction, provides financial assistance to any public or nonprofit tax-exempt agency providing nonresidential child

care, early education care, and/or schoolage child care, as well as nonprofit camps for children and homeless feeding sites.

The program encourages consumption of milk by children receiving care and training in participating agencies.

The amount of reimbursement received by the program sponsor is based on the current USDA rate of reimbursement or the reported average cost per half pint, whichever is the lesser of the two. The current rate of reimbursement is 27 cents per half pint served to eligible children.



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Chamber names development leader

Colan Treml has been hired as the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce's new economic development director.

Most recently, Treml was a real estate agent with First Weber, and previously held positions with J.J. Keller and other roles at the Chamber.

Treml will be responsible for developing and executing the economic development program,

which includes existing business development, development of entrepreneurial and start-up endeavors, business recruitment,

regional economic development and community preparedness.

Originally from Sycamore, Ill., Treml attended the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh where he also played baseball for four years and graduated in 2019.

"We are very excited to welcome (Treml) back to the Oshkosh Chamber team," incoming chief executive Rob Kleman said. "Having worked with us over the course of the past few years and growing up with a mother who is the president of his hometown's chamber, he is no stranger to the work we do here. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience that will be very beneficial in advancing our economic development efforts."

Facility updates

"Our plan is to work on the design for the filtration plant in 2023 and construction will probably be 2024-25, wrapping up by 2025 or 2026," Rabe said. "That'll give us time to fine tune, and by 2027 everything will be functioning as it needs to."

The rest of the \$250 million will be used to continue replacing sewer lines with ongoing road work and regularly occurring costs for such, Rabe explained.

Projects and maintenance costs for water utilities in Oshkosh are typically covered by the bills residents pay. Rabe said there will not be an increase in wastewater utility rates for 2023, however, but there will be for water and stormwater utilities.

The city's Common Council will be voting on the 2023 utility budget and setting rates for sewer and storm at its Dec. 13 meeting.

In the city's correspondence with finan-

cial adviser Ehlers and Associates, Rabe said wastewater utility rates would increase, on average, 4% each year of the updated facilities plan that runs through 2042. But regardless, he said, other utility rates are expected to increase because of inflation. Chlorine rates have quadrupled this year

"Last year around this time, we were paying \$550 per ton of chlorine," Rabe said. "Now, we're paying about \$2,200. The chemicals have had a tremendous cost increase for both treatment plants. We feel the crunch more on the cost of the stuff that we need to maintain it more than personnel costs.

"The wastewater plant and the water filtration plant, they function a lot more like an industry. So those two utilities in particular, their cost structure is a lot different because they are much more like a factory than other typical municipal services."

Questions and comments can be sent to DPW@ci.oshkosh.wi.us. More information is at ci.oshkosh.wi.us/PublicWorks.





Lakeland Care gains funding for PEP program

Lakeland Care Inc., which provides long-term care services and support to those with physical and intellectual or developmental disabilities, has received \$120,000 from the state Department of Health Services (DHS) through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that the state delegated for home and community-based services.

Lakeland Care, which has a location in Oshkosh at 520 N. Koeller St., was one of 43 among 700 organizations to receive funding in the first round of grants from DHS, which focused on the direct care workforce.

Lakeland will use the funds to allow 84 providers the opportunity to participate

FROM PAGE 1

years We Energies has asked for a base rate

increase, and only the third time in eight

"Our rate requests are driven mainly by

our efforts to strengthen the power grid

and our investments in clean energy. We

project long-term customer savings of

nearly \$2 billion from our investments

in renewable energy. Our proposals also

allow us to focus on additional grid-hard-

ening projects to keep the lights on when

According to WPS's website, local distri-

bution services are made up of both fixed

and volumetric charges. Fixed charges

cover the "safe, reliable delivery of natural

gas," such as the piping through which it

flows, labor and supplies to maintain gas

mains, labor and supplies to read meters

"The volumetric charge on your bill

varies each month based on how many therms of gas you use," the WPS website

reads. "The volumetric charge includes lo-

and the service's employees.

severe weather hits."

years for WPS," Cullen said in an email.

"This is only the second time in eight

Rate increase

in its program PEP Up Your Organization, which utilizes Gallup engagement research to provide tools for employee recruitment, retention and engagement. Led by Lakeland's organizational impact coaches, PEP supports organizations in identifying strategies that increase commitment to their mission.

"We're excited DHS sees the value in our plans for this funding," stated Misty Pickett, mission impact and community engagement director. "We intend to leverage this grant to offer a series of workshops and coaching sessions to help 84 HCBS providers strengthen their workplaces throughout 2023 and 2024 at no cost to them."

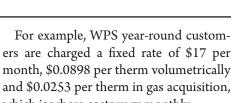
which is where costs vary monthly.

In Oshkosh, according to the site Natural Gas Local, residents used an estimated 29 million cubic feet of natural gas in August of this year alone among about 21,000 residential natural gas WPS customers.

U.S. Census Bureau data show that about 65% of Wisconsinites - about 1.5 million households - use natural gas to heat their homes.

Cullen said the PSC decides how rates commission to make a decision on each

"Last month, we reached broad-based amount of revenue it will take to operate next year," he said. "In fact, more parties supported these settlements than any other settlement we've reached over the



are set for customers and expects the proposal by the end of the year, with new rates taking effect Jan. 1.

rate agreements with multiple customer, environmental and labor groups on the

"As part of these agreements, we are writing off tens of millions of dollars in costs incurred during the COVID-19 pan-



Gabby Hostettler (left) and Katie Kuhaupt are shown at Avian Acres Rescue near Redgranite where they did one of their Silver Award service projects.

Troop 2279 Girl Scouts earn Silver Award

Girl Scouts Katie Kuhaupt, a freshman at Oshkosh West, and Gabby Hostettler, a freshman at Winneconne High, were recently given Silver Awards, the highest

honor that a Cadette Girl Scout can earn. The girls are members of Troop 2279 of Winneconne, which completed a series of badges and a Take Action project during the pandemic. They later came up with a variety of ideas to help their community, including helping foster children, providing food for those in need, doing a follow-up

project for the school forest, hygiene kits for girls and animal welfare projects.

Silver Award projects are self-funded, sustainable and require at least 50 hours of service. The girls created and shared a website to support the efforts of Avian Acres Rescue. After touring the rescue organization near Redgranite, they also ensured that the goats had a new shelter and play area by planning and working on the project.

The website can be seen at avianacresrescue.weebly.com.

Wild Winter Read Off set to begin on Dec. 19

The Oshkosh Public Library welcomes the public to sign up and start tracking reading minutes starting Dec. 19 to help reach a community goal of 300,000 minutes by Feb. 25.

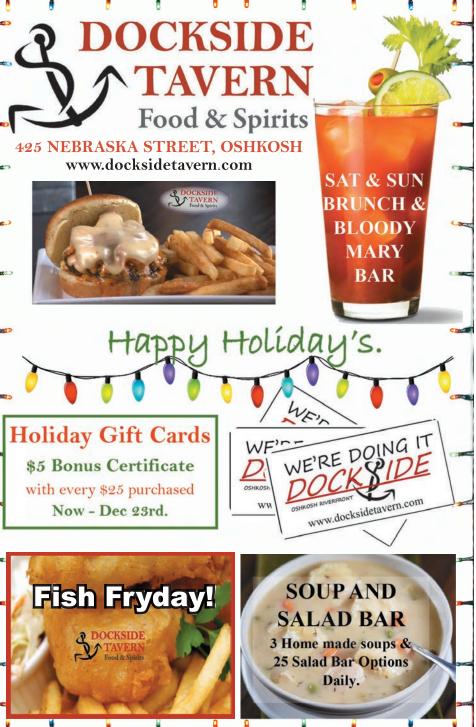
The Wild Winter Read Off also offers

an opportunity to vote for and add a lawn game to the library collection: ladder toss, slam ball or giant kick croquet.

For more information, go to oshkoshpubliclibrary.org or call 920-236-5205 (adults and teens) or 920-236-5208 (children).



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John Denver tribute artist Ted Vigil visits The Grand on Dec. 16.

Ted Vigil brings music of John Denver to Grand

In the midst of winter, Ted Vigil's John Denver Tribute brings some holiday cheer from the West to The Grand Oshkosh with "A Rocky Mountain Christmas" at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16.

Vigil has wowed crowds and sold-out theaters around the globe, including twice at Denver's own "Windstar Foundation" in Aspen, Colo. Denver's former lead guitarist Steve Wiesberg once said, "Apparently, the audience thinks (other tribute artists) all look and sound like John. I don't see it. I see it with Ted."

This holiday season, The Grand presents a special addition to Vigil's tribute with his take on "A Rocky Mountain Christmas" that includes Denver favorites like "Christmas for Cowboys," "Christmas Like a Lullaby" and other

This performance is part of the Alberta S. Kimball Foundation series. Tickets can be purchased at TheGrandOshkosh.org, calling The Grand Oshkosh Box Office at 920-424-2350 or at 100 High Ave. during regular hours of operation.



Calendar of events

Ongoing

Oshkosh Celebration of Lights, 5:30 p.m., Menominee Park, through Dec. 31 Nutcracker in the Castle, Paine Art Center and Gardens, through Jan. 9

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

Wednesday, Dec. 7

Oshkosh Public Arts Forum, 5:30 p.m., Becket's, 2 Jackson St.

Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony, 7:55 a.m., Elks Lodge, 175 W. Fernau Ave.

"My Genius of Humanity" staged performance reading, 7:30 p.m., UW Oshkosh Experimental Theater

Thursday, Dec. 8

"My Genius of Humanity" staged performance reading, 7:30 p.m., UW Oshkosh Experimental Theater

Disney Princess Concert, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Bingo, 7 p.m., American Legion Hall, 1332 Spruce St.

Dark Nights in The Grand lounge -Karaoke, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Friday, Dec. 9

Oshkosh Youth Choir Holiday Program, 7 p.m., Oshkosh North High School

For Kids from 1 to 92 concert, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

"My Genius of Humanity" staged performance reading, 7:30 p.m., UW Oshkosh Experimental Theater

EAA's Wright Brothers Memorial Banquet, 5 p.m., EAA Aviation Museum

An Evening with Oshkosh North Madrigals, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Masonic Center, 204 Washington Ave.

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

Holiday Open House Dance Party, 5 p.m., Venue 404, 404 N. Main St.

Saturday, Dec. 10

Gnome for Your Home: Family Discovery Days, 11 a.m., Oshkosh Public Museum

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

Reindeer in the Square presented by Wisconsin Herd, noon, Opera House Square

Oshkosh Youth Choir Holiday Program, 12:30 p.m., Oshkosh Public Library

Mason Street Band, 8 p.m., Revs Bowl, Bar & Grill, 275 N. Washburn St.

"My Genius of Humanity" staged performance reading, 7:30 p.m., UW Oshkosh Experimental Theater

"The Muppet Christmas Carol," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

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

Sunday, Dec. 11

The Howard Holiday Market, 10 a.m., The Howard, 405 Washington St.

Piano Christmas Concert with Lily Tropilski and Steve Howard, 6 p.m., Plymouth Church, 1325 Georgia St.

Tuesday, Dec. 13

Emily Conrad author chat and book signing, 5 p.m., Caramel Crisp Bookstore, 200 City Center

Wednesday, Dec. 14

Wisconsin Herd vs. Fort Wayne Mad Ants, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Thursday, Dec. 15

Perspective Drawing Class, 5 p.m., Jambalaya Arts Inc., 413 N. Main St.

Bingo, 7 p.m., American Legion Hall, 1332 Spruce St.

Friday, Dec. 16

Christmas in Oshkosh concert, 6:30 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Ted Vigil: A Rocky Mountain Christmas, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Wisconsin Herd vs. Fort Wayne Mad Ants, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

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

Saturday, Dec. 17

Dueling Pianos Family Christmas, 5:30 p.m., The Howard, 405 Washington

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, 2 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 311 Division St.

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

"Home Alone," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Ice Skate With Santa: Family Night, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Community YMCA, 3303 W. 20th Ave.

Sunday, Dec. 18

Cantata Worship, 9 a.m., Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1860 Wiscon-

Nelly in concert, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Are-

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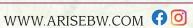
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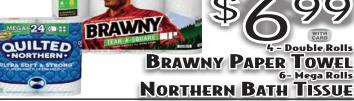
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West expecting big contribution from Johanknecht

By Tim Froberg HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Tristan Johanknecht is a mathematical whiz who enjoys dealing with numbers.

When he's not solving complex math problems, Johanknecht is delivering oncourt numbers that could make him a college basketball recruit and part of a winning equation at Oshkosh West.

The 6-foot-9 senior post player is the top returning big man in the Oshkosh area this season. A third-year starter, Johanknecht received all-Fox Valley Association honorable mention as a junior. He's ex-



Johanknecht

pected to make a major jump this season and the Wildcats will lean on him for interior scoring, rebounding and post defense.

Johanknecht has already showed signs of becoming a breakout performer. He scored 16 points, grabbed

eight rebounds and blocked two shots in West's season opener against Xavier and followed with a 20-point performance Friday against Oshkosh North.

"Tristan is a hard-working, big-bodied great young man," said Dan Weisse, West's new head coach. "He's an intelligent guy and a great teammate who would do anything to help someone in need. He's as good an ambassador for Oshkosh West basketball as it gets."

Johanknecht averaged 9.8 points - second-best on the Wildcats - and a teamhigh 6.3 rebounds last season. He blocked 10 shots and led the team in field-goal percentage at 52.5 percent.

"My only gripe about him is that sometimes he's too nice," said Weisse. "But we're lucky to have Tristan. I'm excited to get to learn together with him and help him grow."

West opponents are hoping Johanknecht doesn't grow any more physically. The big fella already has the size and skills to become a dominant performer. He's also looking to help West improve on a 7-19 season and 4-14 mark in the FVA. The Wildcats play road games at Kaukauna on Friday night (7:30 p.m.) and at Menasha on Saturday (2:30 p.m.).

"I'm just trying to play my best game and help the team out - whether it's through scoring, rebounding, passing or providing leadership," Johanknecht said. "We're kind of a young team, but I like our chemistry. I think we have potential."

Johanknecht entered high school standing about 6-3 and has sprouted 6 inches



Tristan Johanknecht received all-FVA recognition last season and is set to be a big factor for Oshkosh West this year.

during the past three years.

"I've always been one of the tallest kids and I feel it gives me an advantage on the court," said Johanknecht. "It's been a blessing."

Johanknecht has a chance to play the game at the next level and has been working on his ballhandling and outside shooting to become a more complete player.

"I spent a lot of time in the off-season trying to expand my game," he said. "We have a new offense here – a four-out, onein offense. It's a Villanova-style motion offense with me in the post, looking to kick out the ball to our shooters and wings. It's going to be interesting to be involved in this offense."

Johanknecht has been a Wildcats' starter since his sophomore year when he averaged 5.7 points and 4.5 rebounds.

"I looked up to the older guys that season like Jaquez Overstreet and learned a

Senior Spotlight

lot from them" Johanknecht said. "Hopefully I can do the same this season for some of our younger players."

It's easy to see where Tristan gets his size. His father, Scott Johanknecht, stands 6-6 and was a former prep basketball player at Waupaca. Athleticism also runs in the Johanknecht family. Tristan's sister, Natalie, was a standout volleyball player at West and is currently playing Division 1 college volleyball at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Basketball is Johanknecht's lone sport at West. He began playing the game in the third grade.

"I started out with the Oshkosh West basketball club," Johanknecht said. "I've had to put in a lot of work with it over the years, but I always loved playing. I played a lot of other sports when I was younger, but I always liked basketball the best."

Johanknecht doesn't abandon the game when the prep season is over. He switches over to AAU basketball with the Wiscon-

"It takes up a lot of time," Johanknecht said. "Almost every weekend you're in a different state. It's a lot but you meet a lot of good people and it's just something I love to do. When you have good teammates like I've had, it just makes it so much more enjoyable."

Unlike many seniors, Johanknecht may have competitive basketball in his future. He hopes to play college basketball and has already drawn the interest of several Division 2 and 3 schools.

"It's something I'm going to look to do," Johanknecht said. "I've had a lot of conversations with schools, but haven't made any decisions yet. It' a very exciting time for me. To get the opportunity to tour some high-level programs has been a lot of fun."

Johanknecht shouldn't have any trouble holding his own academically. He's an all-star in the classroom, carrying a 3.98 grade-point average.

"I had a 4.0 last year, but got an A-minus this year so it dropped a little," said Johnk-

Johanknecht plans to pursue a major in the math field.

"I'm interested in actuarial science, which involves a lot of math," Johanknecht said. "I've learned a lot about it from my math teacher. People who do it normally work for insurance companies. They calculate risks and probability and help set insurance prices. I've always liked math and have been good at it."





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December 7, 2022

Balanced attack helps carry Wildcats past Spartans

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

After a strong charge late in the first half lifted Oshkosh North to a 22-16 half-time lead over Oshkosh West, Spartans head coach Jayme Engen had a message for his team in the locker room.

As pleased as he was with the performance of his team in the first half, he knew the game was not over.

"It was a good feeling coming into the locker room," Engen said. "When we talked, we said the score was 0-0 and we had to win the second half. We just didn't do that."

West tied the game in the first two minutes of the second half and then used a 10-0 run a few minutes later to seize control of the game and went on to collect a 59-48 win in the Fox Valley Association girls basketball game Friday.

It was the seventh straight win for the Wildcats against the rival Spartans and evened West's record in the FVA to 1-1. North drops to 0-2 in league play.

"It was our first conference win of the year which is huge," West head coach Keniesha Phillips said. "Any win you can get in the conference is amazing, but the fact that it was here against the rival makes it a little sweeter."

Braelee Jodarski, who went scoreless in the first half while sitting out because of some early fouls, scored eight of the Wildcats' first 10 points of the second half with her two free throws tying the game at 26.

Two free throws from North's Mallory Ott broke the tie, but West's Maddie Choinski drained a 3-pointer on the next possession to ignite a 10-point run that

Laina Hammen – who had six points in the outburst – capped with a layup to give the Wildcats a 36-28 lead.

"We were down at half, and I was a little worried, but I knew our team could fight back," said Hammen, who finished with a game-high 18 points. "You can feel (the momentum). Its electric. Once one person makes a shot, everyone has an energy. We are taking it to the defense and then we are ready to push it up the court to score next."

West took its biggest lead at 47-35 with 6:39 remaining after back-to-back baskets by Paige Seckar, but North trimmed that lead in half over the next three minutes.

Two baskets from Emma Niemczyk and a driving layup from Ana Hanson brought North within six points, but Hammen answered with a 3-pointer to push the lead back to nine and the Spartans never got closer than seven points the rest of the way.

"I thought the first half, we really had them moving and were getting some takes to the rim and some drive opportunities," Engen said. "And in the second half, we played a little more stagnant. We just couldn't get it rolling to the rim."

Ott led the Spartans with 16 points, while Niemczyk added 15 and Hanson 11. Gabriella Kempf was the only other Spartan to score, knocking down a pair of 3-pointers.

"We needed more off our depth tonight to help out those who were out there for a long time tonight," Engen said. "We have to grow our bench. Our top five or six, need time off the court so we can do what we want to do the entire game."

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Photo by Jim Koepnick

Oshkosh West's Braelee Jodarski puts up a shot between a pair of Oshkosh North defenders in the second half on Friday night.

Phillips credited her team's pounding the offensive glass in the second half as the reason for the turnaround in the game and she was pleased to see her squad pull out the win.

"I think rebounding really got us going. We have a few girls who can hit the boards hard and their ability to get in there and put it back to get those second-chance points," Phillips said. "In games where you are struggling or high-intensity games, you just need to hit the boards, get gritty. That's what we did."

Phillips would just like to see her team come out of the game playing like it did facing a halftime deficit.

"We have to get it going sooner in the game and not wait until the second half. That's always been our Achilles' heel," Phillips said. "We had better shot selecting in the second half – we settled for some 3's in the first half – and got the ball moving better. Once we started to play a little better on defense in the second half and that led to our offense playing better."

West had three players finish in double figures behind Hammen's career-high point total.

Seckar finished with 14 points, followed by Jodarski with 13 and Choinski with 12.

"We work really well as a team. We have been together for a couple of years so we know each other's strength and we can work really well together," Hammen said. "Our conference is extremely strong so we are happy to get every win."





Co-op gymnastics team loaded with depth heading into season

By Steve Clark OSHKOSH HERALD

There was a time when the Oshkosh Coop gymnastics team had to stretch its roster to cover every spot in a lineup.

That's not a concern for the team or head coach Leah Levine anymore.

With more than 20 gymnasts on the roster entering the 2022-23 season, Levine has plenty of flexibility with her lineup and is looking forward to what the team can accomplish.

"That's been one of my goals, to build the program. We used to be very small (in numbers), so ever since I have been coaching we've wanted to get the number in the high teens and 20s," Levine said. "It keeps the girls motivated at practice because there is constant movement going on. They don't get as tired, it keeps the morale up and people are always cheering them on. It helps."

It could also help the squad when it comes to competitions.

Instead of needing four or five competitors to perform in all four events for every meet, some of the athletes can focus on just one or two of the apparatus and spend more time perfecting those routines.

"This year we will get to do that more, let the girls shine at what they are really good at," Levine said. "In years past, it was we need you here so you are going, so that will be different. It's kind of an exciting year."

What is also exciting for Oshkosh is that the team brings back one of the conference's top gymnasts in senior Olivia Navin, who has the potential to return to the state meet.

Navin qualified for state last year on the vault and narrowly missed going in the allaround, where she fell just eight-tenths of a

Gymnastics PREVIEW

point short.

Levine said Navin accomplished those feats despite dealing with an injury a year ago and being back healthy this season means there are some lofty goals for the team's lead-

"She's doing great and looking great this year so I would expect another good season," Levine said. "She's wanting to improve some of her routines and she's got a lot of motivation. Olivia is a great kid."

Navin is expected to be the team leader again this year and will have a core group of teammates to rely on.

Oshkosh returns its entire lineup – which includes senior Sarah Penzenstadler, juniors Rayleigh Okon, Lily Van De Hey and Ellis Coe and sophomore Emma Jezwinski - that competed at the WIAA Division 1 sectional meet last year, which is a good base for the team to start from.

"Everyone is back from last year and then we have a lot of new faces with our freshmen and sophomores," Levine said.

The team will open its season Saturday at the Manitowoc Lincoln Invitational and then return to the practice room for nearly a month to get ready for the rest of the season.

"It's a lot to get ready for meets for these kids so getting ready for this first one is a bit of a push," Levine said. "Then I love having a month before the next meet. It gives us a chance to improve and work on a lot of

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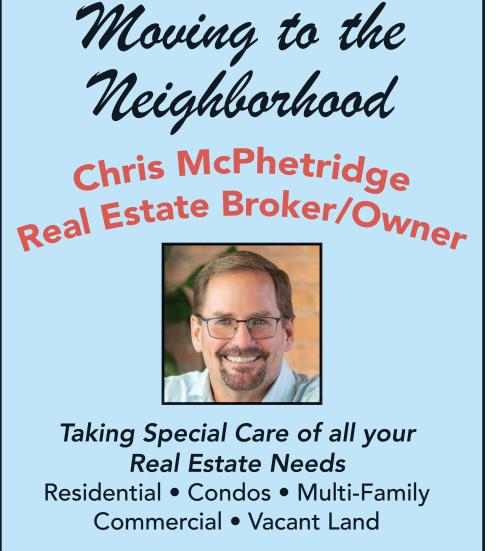
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December 7, 2022

Potent North pulls away from West in second half

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

There is no doubting the star power of Oshkosh North's talented duo of Xzavion Mitchell and Steven Clark.

But for the Spartans to reach their lofty goals this season it's going to take more than two dynamic players to get them there.

On Friday night, in a 70-48 thumping of rival Oshkosh West, the abilities of Quintin Fisher, Fred Ware, Ari Giannopoulos and Drake Moxon were just as much on display for the Spartans as the talents of Mitchell and Clark.

"Steven and Xzavion have to shoulder the offensive load for us and everybody knows that, but it's freeing for them to know they have teammates who can step up and knock down shots," North head coach Brad Weber said. "Steven and Xzavion, everyone in the state knows who they are. But people are starting to figure out we have a really good complementary group as well."

It was that group that put North into the lead for good against the Wildcats.

West's Tristan Johanknecht – who turned in a strong effort with a game-high 20 points – opened up the second half with a basket to tie the game at 32.

North then answered with a 12-4 run without any points coming from Mitchell or Clark. Not that they didn't play a role in the scoring.

Moxon scored four points on lay-ins off Mitchell assists, while Fisher knocked down back-to-back 3-pointers – off passes from Mitchell and Clark – and had eight points in the outburst.

"Everybody knows they are great scor-



Photo by Jim Koepnic

Oshkosh North players (from left) Xzavion Mitchell and Steven Clark surround Oshkosh West's Tristan Johanknecht during Friday night's game.

ers, but they are great passers at the same. They have insane vision that they can find anybody anywhere," said Fisher, who finished with 14 points. "Everybody feeds off those two."

A steal and layup by Clark gave the Spartans their first double-digit lead at 46-36 before consecutive fast break dunks from Mitchell and Clark pushed the lead to 14.

North continued to extend its lead over the final 12 minutes and never let West threaten its advantage.

"It means a lot to start off the season

beating our rivals by that much," Fisher said. "I think it puts an impact statement on what we plan to do this season and what kind of tone we set for ourselves this season and to show everyone that even in a rivalry game – even though rivalry games are usually close – we are here to beat these teams and get the job done."

Despite the dominant performance, Weber said there is still a lot of work to be done with this group but he looks forward to facing the challenges.

"Those guys work so well together, and it gets to the point where whatever the defense decides to do, they're wrong," Weber said. "It's not there on a consistent basis yet but I told them that if we peaked in November it would be a pretty sad season. They are young kids trying to figure it out and that's the fun of coaching these guys."

Mitchell finished with 19 points to lead the Spartans, while Clark and Ware – who hit two key first-half 3-pointers – each finished with 10 and Ari Giannopoulos added nine.

"We still have to get better at playing our game. Don't let other teams speed us up," Fisher said. "We can compete with anybody in the state as long as we play our game. If we let another team make us play their game, they might have us where they want us. So we have to focus on getting better on that."

West first-year head coach Dan Weisse also sees plenty of room for improvement with his squad.

Although the team put together a strong run to close the first half – trimming an 11-point deficit down to a two-point margin over the final 6:13 of the opening stanza – the Wildcats are looking to play with more consistency over the course of the game.

"I did like how we fought in the first half. I don't know if we ran out of gas, but we have to keep that mentality to keep competing. That's what we'll work on to have a belief about us," Weisse said. "I thought we saw some off that belief in that first half and then a couple of things go their way and we start to struggle a bit. We just have to fight through those things."

Behind Johanknecht's game-high total, Dylan Taylor was the only other Wildcat to reach double figures with 11 points. Drew Blair was the next highest scorer with six.

West dropped to 0-2 with the loss but Weisse remains encouraged by what he's seen from his team so far and believes brighter days are ahead for the program.

"I just like how they are buying in and have accepted me into their program. It's a great group of guys. I love who they are," Weisse said. "I believe this team has a high ceiling, but we have to believe in ourselves. We haven't won a ton of games the last however many years, but if we continue to get buy-in, we can raise the bar."



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Wildcats take down Spartans to retain Andrew Wallace Cup

By Steve Clark Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh North notched the first pin of the night in its tussle with Oshkosh West last Thursday.

After that, the night pretty much belonged to the Wildcats.

West rattled off four straight pins following the opening loss, added three more over the course of the match and rolled to a 60-18 win over the Spartans to retain the Andrew Wallace Cup - which is awarded to the winner of the dual meet between the two public Oshkosh high schools.

"We've won it for the past few years which is great," said West 145-pounder Lukas Schroeder. "It's always good to get that first win under our belt and it's our cross-town rivals, so we have a lot of history."

The Andrew Wallace Cup has been getting comfortable in the West wrestling room.

After North had earned the cup for seven of the first 12 years it was battle for, West has now won the dual meet the last six years, meaning three straight classes of Wildcat seniors have not known a season without the cup.

"It's amazing honestly," said West senior 182-pounder Vinny Bird. "It's an honor with what that represents. To have in up in our (practice) room for all four years, it shows we own that cup and we know what having that cup means."

Wildcats head coach Matt Cuadra, a former West standout wrestler, said that keeping the cup was something he talked about with the team leading up to the meet and he was glad to emerge from the match with a win.

"I think I have the most anxiety going into this match as a West grad and everything. This rivalry means a lot to me and opening up the season with this match is tough," Cuadra said. "But now we can move on."

Although Oshkosh West would end up with the win, it was Oshkosh North who struck first as Anthony Berger picked up a pin at 120 pounds to start the dual meet.

The Spartans would also get pins from An- L. Schroeder thony Nguyen (152)



and Jamual Ragland-Schreck (170) to account for the 18 points, but North - which was able to fill only 11 of the 14 weight classes - came up short in Michael Kositzke's first match as head coach.

"We have a lot of work to do. We made some young mistakes, but that's to be expected. The good thing is, most of the mistakes we made today - and we made a lot of mistakes - but they are all correctable and in areas we can get better," Kositzke said. "I was impressed with the fight a lot of the kids had. Yes, you want to win every match, I get it, but the regular season is about identifying what we need to work on and then fixing it."

Following Berger's opening win, it didn't take long for West to seize control.

Edwyn Schroeder got West on the board when he stopped Jonathon Burk in 3:05 at 126 pounds, while Michael Mueller rolled Ruben Falcon on to his back on the second-period restart and earned the pin in 2:45 at 132 pounds.

The best match of the night may have been at 138 pounds where West's Ryland Schneider and North's Jonathon Molash were each on their backs in the first period but were able to battle back to stay alive. Schneider eventually got the better of Molash, earning the pin in 3:36.



Bird

Lukas Schroeder then capped the run of four straight pins for West by stopping Tyler Farnsworth in 1:01.

"After that match, my brother (Edwyn Schroeder) got the pin and that started us rolling and we started to getting more pins

and it carried on the whole night," Lukas Schroeder said. "I think people get more confident as they see others getting pins, they have more confidence to go get a pin and go get a win."

Jaiden Fronczak earned a pin at 160 pounds between a pair of North wins. Bird then worked into the third period before stopping Brayden Klauer at 182

Bird had Klauer on his back multiple times in the match and was leading 14-0 when he finished off the win.

"I have a couple of moves that I have been working for a while and I'm just going through if this one doesn't work, then I will try another one and then another one and then maybe go back to the first one because he's more tired now," Bird said. "It was really nice to put up that many points in getting the win for our team. It felt really good to start senior year like that."

Kieran Patrick (195) and Garth Martell (285) won the final two contested matches of the night, with Patrick earning the fastest pin of the match in 44 seconds. Joshua Booth (106) and Nelson Fournier (220) won by forfeit for the Wildcats.

Although West racked up seven pins on the night, only two came in the first period and Cuadra was happy to see that his wrestlers had a chance to get some mat time in the first match of the season.

"I liked to see that. We were able to work things here and there and get some mat time," Cuadra said. "It was great to open up with a good win. There were definitely some unknowns in there, but the kids showed up when we needed them to."









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Prep sports roundup

BOYS BASKETBALL

Spartans handed first loss at Terry Porter Classic

Oshkosh North took a two-point lead against Pewaukee but couldn't hold off the Pirates in the second half as they suffered their first loss of the season in a 60-52 defeat at the Terry Porter Classic in South Milwaukee on Saturday.

Xzavion Mitchell finished with 23 points to lead the Spartans, who led 26-24 at intermission. Steven Clark added 13 points and Ari Giannopoulos chipped in

Pewaukee, which is ranked second in Division 2, went 11-of-11 at the freethrow line to help close out the win.

Oshkosh North is ranked seventh in Di-

Valley Christian drops pair of contests

Valley Christian dropped a pair of Trailways Conference home games last week, falling to Hustisford 66-51 on Thursday and 72-32 to Princeton/Green Lake on

Against the Falcons, Dennis Thur led the way for the Warriors with 18 points, including hitting 10 of Valley Christian's 19 free throws in the game. Brady Patterson added 11 points and Eli Humiston chipped in seven points.

In the loss to the Tigersharks, the Warriors were held to just nine points in the second half after trailing 32-23 at halftime.

Humiston scored 15 points to lead the way for Valley Christian, while Josiah Lehman chipped in eight.

WRESTLING

Spartans compete at Gunslinger Invite

Jamaul Ragland-Schreck finished sixth at 170 pounds to lead Oshkosh North at the Gunslinger Invitational, hosted by Slinger High School.

Ragland-Schreck finished 2-2 on the day with one pin to grab the Spartans top

Carson Johnson (195) and Hunter McKay (285) each placed eighth for the Spartans.

Oshkosh North finished 14th among the 15 teams at the invite, which was won by Arrowhead with Neenah taking second.

BOYS HOCKEY

Ice Hawks' rally comes up short against Lancers

The Oshkosh co-op hockey team rallied from a 5-1 deficit early in the second period but fell short of a win in an 8-6 loss in Madison on Saturday.

Evan Neitzel and Brennon Kraft scored about three minutes apart midway through the second period, while another Neitzel goal later in the period brought the Ice Hawks with 6-4.

Leo Ulrich and Winston Knobloch scored in the third period for the Ice Hawks, but they never got closer than the two-goal margin.

Kaleb Winter scored the first goal for Oshkosh. Seven different players tallied assists in the loss.

Gage Bauer made 34 saves in goal for the Ice Hawks.



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Oshkosh Ice Hawks' Kaleb Winter looks to gain control of the puck during a 7-6 win over the Fox Cities Stars last Tuesday at the Oshkosh YMCA Ice Arena.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Big second period helps lift Warbirds

The Warbirds co-op hockey team scored three goals in the second period to break open a close game and went on to collect a 5-1 win over Brookfield last Thursday.

The Warbirds took a 1-0 lead on Petra

Bukor's power play goal in the first period but scored twice in the first 2:12 of the second period - on goals by Allison Waara and Sydriha Retzlaff - to extend the lead to 3-0. Ella Spies then gave the Warbirds a four-goal cushion later in the period.

Spies also scored in the third period, while Josie Kooima and Kayla Digs each

SEE Prep roundup ON PAGE 21









Titan men run win streak to five straight

All five starters reached double figures as the UW Oshkosh men's basketball team ran its winning streak to five straight with a 92-69 rout of UW-Stout last Friday.

Levi Borchert posted a double-double to lead the Titans, finishing with 19 points and 14 rebounds.

Eric Peterson finished with 16 points, Hunter Plamann had 15, Cole Booth had 14 and Jonah Rindfleisch added 10 as the five starters combined for 74 of the team's 92 points in the game. Quinn Steckbauer added 14 points off the bench, while Carter Thomas was the only other Titan player to score, finishing with four points.

Stout scored the first seven points of the game and led early on in the first half but with the score tied at 21, the Titans went on a 10-0 run to seize control. UW Oshkosh led 47-39 at halftime and Stout never got closer than eight points the rest of the

The Titans are now 7-2 overall this season and won't play again until Dec. 17 at Ripon College.

Women fall to Blue Devils

The UW Oshkosh women's team scored just five points in the fourth quarter and fell to UW-Stout 66-58 on Friday.

The Titans took a 53-49 lead into the final period and took a 57-54 lead with 8:22 remaining but scored only one point the rest of the way as the Blue Devils rallied for the win.

Bridget Froehlke scored 17 points off the bench to lead the Titans, who also got 10 points and 10 rebounds from Kayce Vaile in the loss.

UW Oshkosh will travel to the Daytona Beach Shootout on Dec. 19 and 20 before returning home at the end of the month to host the BSN Winter Classic at the Oshkosh Arena.

Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 20

had two assists in the win.

Hailee Scheier stopped 14 of the 15 shots she faced to earn the win in net.

BOYS SWIMMING

North/Lourdes ties for fourth at West invite

The Oshkosh North/Lourdes Academy swim team tied for fourth place with Two Rivers at the Oshkosh West Wildcat Invitational held Friday and Saturday.

The host Wildcats finished seventh among the nine teams.

Leading the way for North/Lourdes was the duo of divers Caedmon Golackson and River Reeves, who finished second and third, respectively.

Owen Konop had North/Lourdes' top finish in the pool, placing third in the 100yard butterfly, while Rusty Everhard was fifth in the 100-yard freestyle. The North/ Lourdes 400-yard freestyle relay team of Everhard, Trip Kujawa, Dylan Anderson and Konop also finished fifth.

Other top 10 finishers at the meet for North/Lourdes were: Konop, seventh in 100-yard individual medley; Sawyer Sharratt, ninth in the 100-yard breaststroke; Everhard, 10th in the 50-yard freestyle; and Trip Kujawa, 10th in the 200yard freestyle relay.

North/Lourdes was also eighth in both the 200-yard medley relay and 200-yard freestyle relay.

The Wildcats were led by Caleb Bergin, who placed third in the 200-yard freestyle and ninth in the 100-yard butterfly. West's Connor Yakes added a 10th place in the 500-yard freestyle and Caeden Moon was 10th in the 100-yard freestyle.

The West foursome of AJ Kohl, Brandon Treibold, Moon and Aaron Panske placed fifth in the 200-yard freestyle relay, while the Wildcats were also seventh in both the 200-yard medley relay and 400yard freestyle relay.

Bay Port won the team title with a total of 622 points, followed by Neenah with 409 and Chilton with 233.





Obituaries

Peter Hansen

Peter Joseph Hansen was called home to be with his Lord in the early morning





Pete was born the youngest of seven children on April 6, 1967 in Oshkosh to Earl and Carol Hansen. (Ganzyk) He began working at a young age, first as a paperboy on the south side of Oshkosh, and then for Hughes' Chocolates. He graduated from Oshkosh West in 1985 and was very proud to join the U.S.

hours of December

3rd, 2022, surround-

ed by his family.

Postal Service on the day that he graduated from high school. In his 37+ years as a mail carrier, he delivered to almost every address in Oshkosh. He was especially fond of his mail routes on the southside of Oshkosh, as well as his current route on the far northside. He truly loved his job and treated the people on his route like family. He especially enjoyed the wonderful men and women at the post office, who made it a joy to go to work each day, and who were so incredibly supportive during his recent health battle.

Pete is survived by his wife of 32 years, Michelle, and their children McKenna and Jonathan, both of California. He is also survived by his sisters, Mary (Joe) Poklasny and Ann (John) Fickau; brothers, David (Kathy) Hansen, Michael (Gloria) Hansen, Andrew (Amy) Hansen, and

Tony (Terry Werner) Hansen; father-inlaw, Harold Singstock, as well many nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. Preceding him in death were his parents, Earl and Carol Hansen, paternal and maternal grandparents, and motherin-law, Helen Singstock.

He loved his neighborhood in the Town of Algoma and never missed an opportunity to chat with a neighbor or take a walk or bike ride on a beautiful day. Pete loved football in any form and looked forward to the NFL draft all year long. He enjoyed a good bonfire, a great meal, sitting on his deck, pickleball, traveling throughout the Caribbean, and spending time with his family. Pete never met a stranger; everyone he talked with was simply a friend he hadn't met yet. He had an unwavering faith, a wonderful sense of humor, and he showed unparalleled kindness and respect to all people.

Pete's family would like to extend a very special thank you to the staff at the Vince Lombardi Cancer Centers in Oshkosh and Milwaukee, especially Karin and Beau, for their kindness, loving care, and dedication to his health and to him as a person.

Funeral services will take place at 12:00 pm on Saturday, December 10, 2022 at Plymouth Congregational Church, 1325 Georgia Street, Oshkosh. Visitation will take place at the church on Friday, December 9, 2022 from 4:00-6:00 pm, and beginning at 11:00 am on Saturday until the time of service.

I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. - 2 Timothy

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sons, Kenneth (Tiffany Turner) Root of

Norman R. Root

Norman R. Root, 68, passed away from heart complications and multiple myelo-



ma on November 6, 2022. He was born on March 12, 1954 in Corry Pennsylvania to Betty (Jewel) and Theodore Root.

He attended Corry High School, he married Cindy Jones on February 23, 2010 in

Oshkosh, WI. He worked as an Electronic Technician and later worked as a school bus driver for nine years until he retired.

Norman greatly enjoyed his cabin up north, he spent as much time as possible there, hunting, fishing with his children, camping, cribbage, and spending time with family and friends. He was always willing to give a helping hand. Norman loved to shoot pool with his buddies at the Varsity Club. Most times if he wasn't up to his cabin, he could be found there shooting pool.

Norman is survived by his wife, Cindy Root; mother, Betty Jewel of Duncan, OK; sister, Tammy Prince of Duncan, OK; daughter, Ronya Dehn, of Oshkosh,



Teachers, Veterans, Volunteers, or any way you

help someone in need.

Oshkosh, and Glenn Root of Oshkosh; step-children, Tisha Leyh of Fond du Lac, Laura Leyh of Appleton, Vernon Oppermann of Oshkosh; step-sisters, Gloria, Lynn, and Lori; he is further survived by 23 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren, all of which deeply loved him.

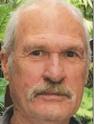
He was preceded in death by his sister, Sandy Bates; step-father, Kenneth Jewel; and brother, Owen Jaggi.

A celebration of life was held from 12pm to 3pm, November 19, 2022 at the Varsity Club, 570 N. Main, Oshkosh WI 54901.

Funeral & Cremation Services

Steven Brownlea

Steven Brownlea, 74, of Oshkosh, Wi passed away October 31, 2022 in Hilo, Hawaii.



Born on November 24, 1947 to Bill and Kathleen Brownlea, he graduated from Oshkosh High School in 1965. He married Linda (Warner), and they had 3 children; Jeff, Lo-

ren and Andrew. Steve graduated from Rollins College, and was proud to have worked at the Kennedy Space Center.

Steve loved living on Big Island of Hawaii where he moved in 2001 and married Vera (Matsura) Brownlea in 2003.

Steve is survived by his wife Vera, siblings; William Brownlea, Mary Sanders, Janet Miller, Dan Brownlea, and Candace Dahlk, his 3 children, many nephews and nieces, and his grandson Jevah.

Obituaries

Robert E. Hughes

Robert E. Hughes, age 90, of Oshkosh, passed away on Saturday, November 26, 2022 at his home in the care of loved ones. He was born in Oshkosh on November 16, 1932, the son of William and Bertha Anderson Hughes. Bob married Lois Stadler of Oshkosh on April 23, 1955. He was preceded in death by his wife and son, Stevie.

Until the time of his retirement Bob was the second generation owner/operator of Hughes' Home Maid Chocolates, LTD in

Harold R. Salzer

Harold R. Salzer Sr, age 85, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family



on Sunday, November 27, 2022, in Oshkosh. He was born on September 26, 1937, to the late Carl and Alice (Stearns) Salzer Sr. in Oshkosh. Harold was united in marriage to Nancy Kuehl on Feb-

ruary 27, 1960.

Harry enlisted and served in the national guard. He was a baker for Heiss Bakery in Oshkosh and continued his baking career for 30 more years at Winnebago Mental Health Institute until his retirement. He loved fishing at his parents' home on the lake with his Pa. He was an avid outdoorsman and took much joy in owning property on Rush Lake. He and Nancy spent many summer days at their cottage, and he enjoyed annual hunting trips there with his boys. Known affectionately as "Bubba" by his grandkids, family meant everything to him. He was the family chef and made sure everyone was taken care of. He loved getting everyone together for

fish frys, cracking jokes in the kitchen over a beer, and making his famous potato salad. In his later years he enjoyed his small vegetable garden and harvest every summer, baking fresh bread, and daily scratch off tickets. He will be deeply missed by all

Harold is survived by his wife, Nancy Salzer; children: Harold (Pam) Salzer Jr., Frank Salzer, Jenny (Pat) Tratz, David Salzer; grandchildren: Eric (Christopher), Lindsay (Charles), Mitchell (Robyn), Rachel (Jake); great grandchildren: Levi, Cora, Ava, Waylon, Amelia; siblings: Carl (Barb) Salzer Jr., John (Nancy) Salzer Sr., Elaine Hansen; and sisters-in-law, Judy Kuehl and Sadano Salzer. He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Alice Salzer; mother and father-in-law, Edna and Frank Kuehl; his brothers: Robert (Nancy) Salzer, Gerald Salzer; brothersin-law: Strep Kuehl and Jerry Hansen.

A heartfelt thank you to Danielle and Eva with Compassus Hospice for assisting Harry & his family this past year.

Private family funeral services were held.



Oshkosh. He and his wife Lois sacrificed and worked countless hours to help build the business to what it is today. Even after Bob retired from candy making, he enjoyed helping out by being the doorman at Hughes' during the Christmas busy season...he "directed traffic" making sure everyone got in and out in an efficient and safe manner. He loved seeing the legacy of Hughes' Chocolates continue. And, he never grew tired of eating those chocolates!

Bob enjoyed spending time with his family, traveling, country music, faithfully riding his bicycle to stay in shape, and planting and tending flowers. Each year his backyard

was an array of gorgeous blooms.

Bob is survived by two sons, Tom (Pauline) Hughes of Oshkosh, Bill (Maggie) Hughes, Madison, four grandchildren: Bret Hughes, Oshkosh, Rachel (Bret) Lugo, Fairfax, VA, Michael (Audra) Hughes, Milwaukee, and Amanda (Alex) Hagen, Madison. Bob is further survived by eight great-grandchildren and sister-inlaw Carol Stadler of Oshkosh.

In keeping with Bob's wishes, a private family service was held.

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Ethan A. Davis-Krebs

Ethan A. Davis-Krebs a.k.a. Moonshadow to his online gaming friends, was born



on September 12, 1995 and passed away unexpectedly on October 13, 2022. Ethan was an avid gamer. He could be heard shouting directions to his online team playing his favorite game Apex. Ethan loved

spending time with his two younger sisters Sophia and Autumn. He enjoyed working Packer games, fundraising for them, and most of all being their best friend.

Ethan loved the outdoors including hunting, fishing, and going for long walks. He also was very active playing Oshkosh youth baseball, swimming, and basketball. Most importantly he was loved by his parents Scott Krebs and Rachel Davis-Krebs and his grandparents Darlene and Greg Pasch.

He leaves behind many family and friends who dearly loved him. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, December 17, 2022 at 2:00 pm in the Fiss & Bills-Poklasny Funeral Home, 865 S. Westhaven Drive in Oshkosh with the Rev. Robert Rosenberg officiating. A time of visitation will be held at the funeral home from 1 pm until the time of service. In lieu of flowers a memorial fund has been set up in honor of Ethan Davis-Krebs at West Pointe Bank, 1750 Witzel Avenue P.O. Box 2266 Oshkosh, WI 54903.

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Obituaries

Nicholas Kuske

Nicholas Kuske, our beloved son, brother, and grandson, passed away unexpected-



ly on Oct. 31, 2022 in Missoula, MT. From a very young age, Nick's dream was to become a firefighter. Through hard work, tenacious determination, steadfast perseverance, he first realized his dream the summer

of 2019, working out west as a wildland firefighter. Based in Montana and Nevada for four years, Nick dedicated his summers to fighting wildfires across eight western states, working for the US Forest Service for 3 of those years. Nick, known as Nicky to his colleagues and friends, worked sideby-side with his teammates in difficult terrain and challenging conditions, forming enduring bonds based on the mission to protect lives and land. In the offseason he worked various jobs from welding to arbory to waiting tables - anything he could do

to hold him over until the next fire season when he could get back in the field with a new crew and focus on the next assignment doing the work he loved.

A 2016 graduate of Oshkosh West High School, Nick enjoyed snowboarding with the ski club and throwing shot and discus for the track and field team. As a Cub Scout and Boy Scout, he most enjoyed camping and being outdoors. In high school, Nick joined the Grand Chute Fire Explorer program where he was introduced to the work that became his passion. Following high school he attended FVTC, completing coursework and certifications in the wildland firefighter program.

An avid outdoorsman, fisherman and hunter, he spent countless hours with his dad, brother and uncle waiting for the perfect buck. He was so proud when he got his 10-pointer at the age of 15. Nick was an accomplished snowboarder and enjoyed the hills in the UP with his mom and brothers, and he knew the terrain park at Nordic Mountain like the back of his hand. As a boy, he spent many summer days exploring and riding mini-bikes with his brother, Ryan, on his grandparents land in Ripon. Wherever he was, he would take the time to stop, admire a cool-looking rock, and bring it home to show his parents.

Nick's smile, laughter, and boundless energy could light up a room and he displayed enthusiasm, grit, and high pain tolerance playing rugby on the Oshkosh Pigs, Reno Zephyrs and Missoula Maggots rugby clubs. Nick enjoyed working out with his friends, playing video games, cheering on the Green Bay Packers, and teaching himself to play the guitar.

Nick will be sadly missed. He is survived by his dad and stepmom, Mark Kuske and Lori Dumke; mom and stepdad Marie and Brett Miller; brothers, Ryan Kuske and Ian Miller; grandparents, Mary Lou Kuske, Sandy Grignon, and Dennis and Karen Miller, uncles Craig Kuske (Renee Skulan), Steve Dumke, Steve Grignon (Kristi), John Ehrhardt (Trish), and Troy Miller (Brandy); aunts Elizabeth Ehrhardt (Mark Mirick), Yvonne Grissman (Darrin), Donna Recker (Thomas), Karie Huttner (Mark), and Julie Lange (Erik); cousins near and far; and many close friends

Classifieds

that he met throughout his travels.

A celebration of Nick's life will be held on Sunday, Dec. 18, from 1:00 to 3:00 at Chalice Restaurant, 1741 N Main St, Oshkosh, WI.

In lieu of flowers we ask that donations be made in Nick's memory to the Wildland Firefighter Foundation at wffoundation.org. This group generously supports the families of injured and fallen wildland firefighters and has given Nick's family endless support and compassion during this very difficult time. A special thank you to Burk Minor of the Wildland Firefighter Foundation in Boise, ID, and the many team members of the US Forest Service Helitack team based in Missoula, MT.

Please keep Nick in your hearts and memories as we wish him much love and peace on his next journey. We will love you forever, Nick, and miss you every moment of the day. Your big hugs, kind nature, mischievous smile, sparkling blue eyes, and fiery spirit will be with us al-

Gerald P. Kloiber

Gerald P. Kloiber, "Jerry" was called home by God, to be with Grandma &



Grandpa on Tuesday November 22, 2022. Jerry was born in Oshkosh on October 22, 1940, the son of the late Thomas and Eleanor Zarda Kloiber. After High School, Jerry joined the Air Force where

he spent 4 years stationed in Ohio, as an inventory specialist. Returning home Jerry worked and retired from the UW-O Maintenance Dept. His most important task was taking care of his Mom Eleanor for decades after his Dad passed away in 1972. Jerry loved to read, and keep himself educated, especially in history.

Enjoying the wildlife in his yard, and feeding the birds daily. While taking care of his pride & joy as an avid Gardener. He grew many vegetables and had several fruit trees in the yard, sharing his rewards with family and neighbors. Other enjoyments were drawing, painting, and his puzzle books, and watching old movies. Along with his trips to Las Vegas and Upper Michigan sightseeing and gambling. Which he did several times a

Making Rosaries for over 35 years,

sending many to Third world countries and to any place that requested them. Jerry also donated his time for years working at Fr. Carr's during the Holiday seasons. He also donated to several Charities which he's remembering in the end. Along with Most Blessed Sacrament & St. Jude's of Oshkosh.

Ierry is survived by one brother; Thomas J (Marlene) Kloiber, of Kimberly WI., one sister; Karen (Mike deceased 2/22) McKinney, Dallas TX: Preceded in death by his sister Marilyn E. (Thomas) Schettl.

A special thanks to nephew Tommy, who helped Jerry for months before his passing, along with many other nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

will be held on Friday December 9, at 11:00 AM in St Jude The Apostle Catholic Church (Sacred Heart worship site) with the Rev Lou Golamari officiating. At 10:45 AM a Rosary recital will take place prior to the Mass. Full Military Honors will follow the Mass outside of church. Burial will be in Sacred Heart

Family and friends may call at the church on Friday from 10:00 AM until

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Country singer O'Neal to play at Arena

Country singer and songwriter Jamie O'Neal takes the Oshkosh Arena stage for a concert at 7 p.m. Friday as she prepares to release her new album "Now and Then."

The multiple Grammy nominee had back-to-back hits singles in 2001 with "There is no Arizona" and "When I Think

About Angels" that were followed by other hits. She has also written hit songs for singers such as Reba McEntire, Martina McBride, Leann Rimes, Cece Winans and Idina Menzel.

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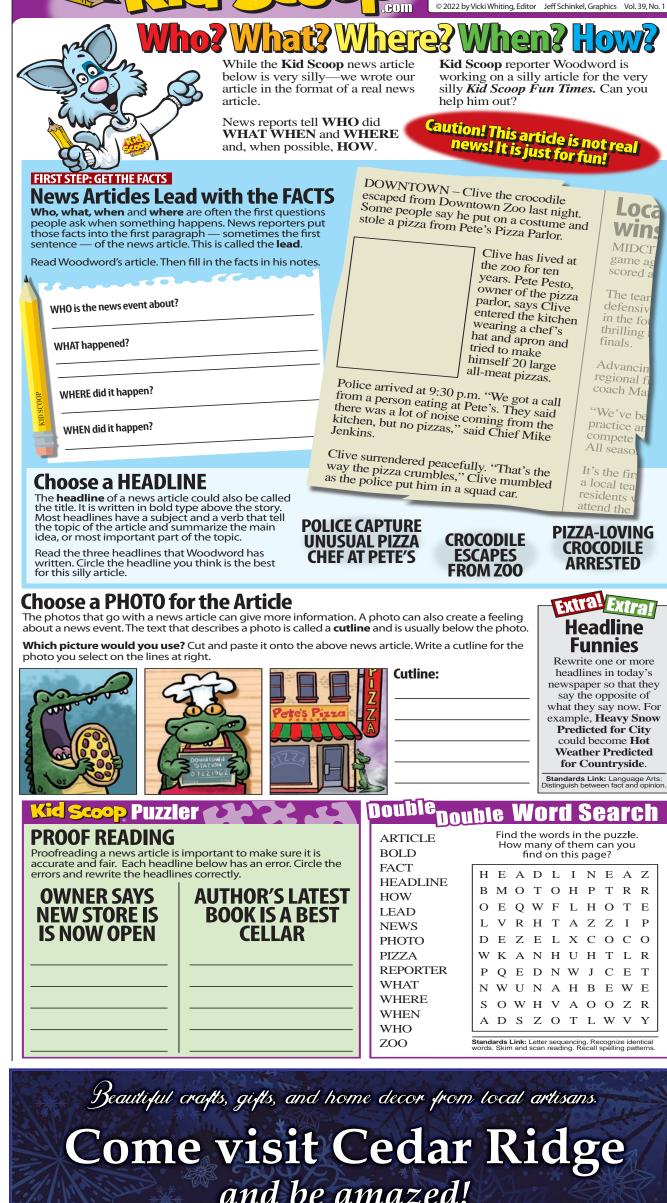
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