

VOTE

MATT MUGERAUER

MAYOR

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Area teams boast plenty of talented players
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Retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Hal Fritz meets with veterans Saturday at the Operation Cabin Fever-3 event held at the Oshkosh Convention Center where he was the featured speaker.

Photo by Michael Cooney

Military hero brings support to veterans

Oshkosh Herald

Operation Cabin Fever's return to the Oshkosh Convention Center on Saturday may have been affected by heavy snowfall earlier in the day, but still close to 100 disabled military veterans from the city and points beyond attended, along with others helping raise funds to support local veterans.

Retired Lt. Col. Hal Fritz, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, was a featured speaker who related his experiences in Vietnam among other missions he served.

Fritz said he chose to be in Oshkosh on Medal of Honor Day while fellow honorees were in Washington, D.C., to mark the occasion because Lt. Col. Michael Hert had previously asked him to appear and he felt this area is "the heartbeat of America" whose residents are patriotic and love their country.

"I believe that every American has a role to play," Fritz said at the event, "whether there's a small contribution or a major contribution to help maintain the free-

SEE **Veterans event** ON PAGE 9

Drinking water rules evolving

EPA's PFAS standards could impact utilities

By Kaitlyn Scoville
OSHKOSH HERALD

New guidance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is anticipated to roll out by the end of the year for municipalities across the country to regulate the amount of PFAS in public drinking water.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are widely used, long-lasting chemicals – components of which break down slowly over time, according to the EPA, and are typically found in water, air, fish and soil across the nation. PFAS chemicals can be found in many consumer, commercial and industrial products, which "makes it challenging to study and assess the potential human health and environmental risks," the EPA states.

Earlier this month, the EPA released its intentions to roll out the first national standard for PFAS levels in public water supplies.

"If finalized, the proposed regulation will require public water systems to monitor for these chemicals. It will also require systems to notify the public and reduce PFAS contamination if levels exceed the proposed regulatory standards," the release states. "EPA anticipates that if fully implemented, the rule will, over time, prevent thousands of deaths and reduce tens of thousands of serious PFAS-attributable

SEE **Drinking water** ON PAGE 25

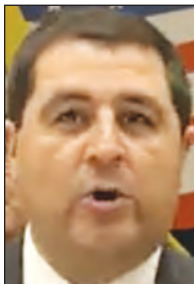
Growing fentanyl presence in region emphasized

Oshkosh Herald

Wisconsin's attorney general was in Oshkosh last week to support the efforts of the region's task force targeting illegal drug trafficking, specifically fentanyl and opioid-based cases that have led to a steady increase in overdose deaths in recent years.

Members of the Lake Winnebago Area Metropolitan (LWAM) Enforcement Group's drug unit, composed of 15 police agencies in Winnebago, Outagamie, Fond du Lac and Calumet counties, held a press conference at the Oshkosh Police Department to highlight the surge in fen-

tanyl-tainted drug seizures both in the area and statewide.



Kaul

Attorney General Josh Kaul said Thursday that the LWAM alliance reported an "alarming rise in fentanyl seizures" with some 6,300 grams of illegal substances containing the drug last year in the four-county region. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid similar to morphine but 50 to 100 times more potent and a major

contributor to fatal and nonfatal overdoses.

"The volume that we have seen is a serious concern because we know that while law enforcement is working hard to intercept packages and to hold drug traffickers accountable, that there are going to be drugs that get through and that puts the safety and health of Wisconsinites at risk," Kaul said.

There were 41 overdose deaths in Winnebago County reported in 2021 – half of those occurring in Oshkosh – with 28 of them having fentanyl involved. That follows 11 fentanyl-related county deaths

in 2019 and 28 in 2020, according to the Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review Team.

Wisconsin overdose deaths related to opioids more than doubled from 680 in 2019 to 1,427 in 2021, according to the Department of Health Services.

Jeremiah Winscher, LWAM project director, said that while methamphetamine and heroin seizures have remained constant, fentanyl-laced drugs in the form of counterfeit prescription pills that resemble oxycontin or oxycodone pills are

SEE **Fentanyl surge** ON PAGE 11

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Corrections

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Elderly resident shares carry bags with thousands

Oshkosh Herald

A 96-year-old Oshkosh resident has completed 3,000 walker bags that are serving people locally, statewide and beyond by holding phones, glasses, books or tablets on a walker or wheelchair.

Nora Miller Bartels started making the fabric bags when her husband was in an Oshkosh nursing home and she saw a need and hasn't stopped since. The former telephone switchboard operator continues to live in and keep up her own home while producing the bags by the dozen before sending them off.

Her nieces Ronda Krause and Joy Blechacz said she celebrated reaching the

3,000 mark with a turtle sundae with her cousin Ruthie, who helps supply the materials.

"What an amazing ministry to seniors and others with mobility issues," Krause and Blechacz said in an email. "She has brought smiles to many faces over the years. Nora has been a great example and inspiration for her family and friends."

Walker bags have been donated to nursing and assisted living centers in Oshkosh as well as southern Wisconsin, Albert Lee, Minn.; and Butte, Mont. They also have gone to people in Canada, Zambia and Japan.



Submitted photo

Nora Miller Bartels creates fabric walker bags from her Oshkosh home.

New We Heart You app focused on substance use issues

A new We Heart You App that will make navigating local resources related to substance use was launched this week.

The regional app for Winnebago, Outagamie and Calumet counties is targeted

to individuals struggling with substance use, family members or friends who want to connect to loved ones, or professionals. Resources include treatment information, support meetings, access to Narcan and

harm reduction tools, outside support services, mental and behavioral health screeners, and a live chat feature.

The app was unveiled today (Wednesday) at Solutions Recovery.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

March 20, 1970

Symbol of the Past Comes Down:

Time has taken its toll on the beautiful stone and mortar entrance to Osh-

kosh's Riverside Cemetery. The stone and mortar has deteriorated making it necessary to having it bulldozed down. The work is being done by George Gunther, cemetery superintendent. It is estimated the entrance has been there about 50 years and was formerly used as a waiting station for the streetcar line that extended to the cemetery.

Source: *Oshkosh Northwestern*, March 20, 1970

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PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL CUSTOMERS OF THE CITY OF OSHKOSH WATER UTILITY

The City of Oshkosh Water Utility has filed an application with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) to increase water rates. The increase is necessary due to a 12.86 percent increase in gross plant investment and a 17.87 percent increase in operating expenses since the last water rate case was completed in 2018.

The total increase in water revenues requested is \$2,720,166 which will result in an estimated overall rate increase of 18.14 percent over the water utility's present revenues. If the request is granted, the water bill for an average residential customer with a 5/8-inch or 3/4-inch meter who uses 400 cubic feet of water per month will increase from \$32.46 to \$38.41, or 18.33 percent, including the public fire protection charge.

A public hearing on the application has been scheduled for Friday, April 7, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. This hearing has no physical location. Parties and Commission staff appear by Zoom. Parties and Commission staff may use the telephone connection as a backup or if no practicable internet connection exists. Members of the public attend by Zoom or by audio-only telephone connection. If anyone needs assistance, City Staff will be available at the Lower Level meeting room at the Oshkosh Library to assist with participation.

Join Zoom over the internet at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/my/pschearings>

To join Zoom telephone:
1. Dial: +1 312 626 6799
2. Enter: 809 513 2930 # (Meeting ID)

The Commission intends to livestream and record this hearing on YouTube. To access the livestream, go to the Commission's website at <http://psc.wi.gov>, click the dropdown menu labeled "News & Events", and select item labeled "Broadcasts".

A person may testify in this proceeding without becoming a party and without attorney representation. A person may submit this testimony in only one of the following ways:

- **Web Comment.** File a comment on the internet. Go to the Commission's web site at <http://psc.wi.gov>, click the dropdown menu labeled "Commission Action". Select the item labeled "File a Public Comment". On the next page select the "File a comment" link that appears for docket number 4480-WR-112. Web comments shall be received no later than the Tuesday, April 11, 2023.
- **Live Comment.** Make a live comment at the hearing. The ALJ may receive live comments from any member of the public in attendance after the close of any party and Commission staff testimony. The ALJ will receive such comments by stating the name of each member of the public connected to the hearing one at a time and asking if they would like to comment.
- **Mail Comment.** Send a comment by U.S. Mail. All comments submitted by U.S. Mail shall be received no later than Tuesday, April 11, 2023, and shall be addressed to: Attn: Docket 4480-WR-112 Comments, Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854.

To access the documents, schedule, and other information about this docket, go to the Commission's web site at <http://psc.wi.gov>, select the dropdown menu labeled "eServices". Select the item labeled "Docket Search (CMS)". On the next page enter 4480-WR-112 in the spaces labeled "Case #" and select "Search".

If you have any questions, please contact the City of Oshkosh Water Utility at (920) 232-5321.

WNAXLP

Yard waste center hours adjusted

Seasonal hours for the city's yard waste drop-off center on 3rd Avenue will go into effect Saturday. Operating hours will be from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Permits are required to use the center. The cost of a single vehicle permit for a resident is \$25, the cost to a nonresident is \$125 (including towns of Algoma, Black Wolf, Nekimi, Oshkosh and Vinland). Permits are valid from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 of the year issued and can be purchased at City Hall or Kitz and Pfeil Ace Hardware.

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Tree planting efforts across county reviewed

Oshkosh Herald

The Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department helped plant more than 15,000 trees in the county and surrounding areas as part of its annual tree sale with the state Department of Natural Resources.

In the Conservation Department's 2022 annual report, 10,640 trees were planted in county lines specifically, whereas 5,600 were planted on land outside the county. The trees came mostly from the DNR's Wilson Nursery in Boscobel.

As part of the tree distribution, Land and Water Conservation offers homeowners and landowners with the materials and tools to ensure a healthy tree.

Last year, the department sold 40 bags of root gel, 1,275 fertilizer tablets and 99 four-foot tree shelters. It also offers tree planter rentals for landowners with large numbers of trees. Five landowners took advantage of the rental tree planter last year to plant 14,100 trees.

"Landowners may purchase the trees and shrubs for installing riparian buffers, creating a wildlife enhancement area or for tree production," the annual report reads. "Often, landowners purchase trees as part of an incentive program which may include the Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program or Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law."

Additionally, the Land and Water Conservation Department installed three shoreline habitat restorations for developed areas, funded through the county's Water Quality Improvement Program.

These restorations reduce pollutants entering lakes and streams by stabilizing the bank and filtering runoff from neighboring yards through native planting. They typically have a width of 20 to 35 feet landward and can be combined with other practices like a rock riprap.

"Native plantings provide beautiful color throughout the warm months as well as an attractive draw for pollinating insects, birds and animals," the report said. "The projects completed in 2022 varied from 616 square feet to over 10,000 square feet."

The installation process begins with the killing of the existing vegetation to prepare the site and the planting of native plant plugs or a seed mix. Mulch or other materials can be used between plant plugs to deter weeds.

"Part of the appeal of shoreline restorations such as these is that landowners can install them on their own or with the help of a contractor," the report reads. "Landowners also get to select a mix of native plants that suit their needs and desired appearances that will blossom throughout the year."

For the first few years following installation, maintenance must be done regularly to aid in establishment of the plants. Landowners can expect blooms and benefits within a year of planting, which will provide years' worth of decreased pollutants to water bodies and native plants for birds, butterflies and animals.

The Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department can be reached on Facebook or at co.winnebago.wi.us/LWCD.

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Jericho Road Ministries closer to starting hydroponics facility

By Kaitlyn Scoville
OSHKOSH HERALD

Jericho Road Ministries, a service ministry of Zion Lutheran Church, is a step closer to starting a hydroponics and mushroom-growing facility to expand access to fresh produce for its food pantry.

The Rev. Ritchie Cole applied for a conditional use permit at 714 Division St. to allow for the vertical growing machines, which was reviewed at the latest Plan Commission meeting.

The building was formerly known as Aurora Candles, but according to city documents it's been most recently used as personal storage.

Cole, in his application to the city, said hydroponics is a method of growing plants without soil and can be accomplished indoors with no visible impact outside of the building. He added that the mushroom-growing operation functions entirely inside a sealed grow tent with its air being filtered before entering and leav-

ing the tent.

The greens to be grown include lettuce, spinach, basil and other vegetables as needed for the Jericho Ministries food pantry. A majority of what will be grown is anticipated to be sold to members of Zion Lutheran Church and at the Oshkosh Farmers Market to raise funds to support Jericho Road charitable programs.

The operation, according to Cole, likely will be worked on for 10 hours a week by one or two employees and a few volunteers.

"The proposed use is in conformity with 'green' principles and will make more efficient use of land as substantially more plants can be grown in water per square foot than can be grown in soil," the application reads. "This project will provide food to low-income people (and reduce) their dependence upon government support.

"Employees are likely to be selected from unemployed, low-income populations residing in the area."



Submitted photo

Humane Society boost

Oshkosh Elks Lodge 292 delivered a check for \$628 to the Oshkosh Area Humane Society recently. Pictured are (from left) Elks member Diane Groff, shelter director Jessica Miller and Elks Exalted Ruler Greg Mezera.

Officer-involved shooting under review

Oshkosh Herald

The person and officers involved in a March 17 officer-involved shooting in downtown Oshkosh have not been named yet, with the state Department of Justice (DOJ) citing victims' rights obligations as the reason.

The injured individual has been released from a hospital and arrested for a parole violation warrant issued before the incident.

The DOJ said in a press release Friday that a preliminary investigation indicates the person drove a vehicle at police officers and one officer fired their gun, striking the person. Officers began lifesaving

measures and the person was taken to a local hospital.

No law enforcement officers were injured and the involved officers have been placed on administrative leave, the DOJ reported.

Early in the morning of March 17, officers were dispatched to the 500 block of North Main Street to a person in a vehicle. One officer opened fire and struck the individual when the person drove toward the officers.

The Department of Criminal Investigation has been leading the case with assistance from Wisconsin State Patrol and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.



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- April 15 **Cocktail Hour: The Show**
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- April 18 **Dark Nights: Trivia Tuesday**
- April 20 **Six Appeal Vocal Band**
- April 21 **Dave Damiani & The No Vacancy Orchestra**
 Presented by the Oshkosh Jazz Festival
- April 25 **Dark Nights: Trivia Tuesday**
- April 27 **Craft Cocktail Class: Modern Classics**
- April 28 **STEEM with Special Guest Pegasis**
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Miss Volunteer ambassador keys on foster care

Oshkosh Herald

Liberty Mugerauer from Oshkosh was recently selected Miss Wisconsin Volunteer to represent the state for the next year as well as this July in the Miss Volunteer America program, a nonprofit organization developed by the Miss America program.



Mugerauer

The Oshkosh West graduate and former Miss Oshkosh Outstanding Teen, now a sophomore at the University of Alabama, is spending the year working to provide opportunities and build communities around children in foster care and bring awareness to children waiting to be adopted.

Adopted from China when she was 11 months old, Mugerauer said her passion has always been helping children find forever families.

"I have really started to focus on foster care because I saw that I was able to make a

tangible real difference," she said in an email.

She also represented the United States as a Twirling Ambassador for the International Spring Festival in Trujillo, Peru, one of 10 young women who traveled throughout that country doing appearances, parades and charity work at senior centers and orphanages.

"After going to Peru I realized that I want to help children feel loved and important," Mugerauer said by email. "I love seeing how happy they can be, even with the simplest things in life. When I heard about the Miss Wisconsin Volunteer system I knew this was the right opportunity for me."

While studying public relations at Alabama with a minor in digital consumer engagement, Mugerauer is also a member of the Million Dollar Band as a Crimsonette. She won the WOW award at America's Youth on Parade as the top collegiate performance out of 185 collegiate twirlers.

Mugerauer plans to continue her Twirling for Fosters program that matches bakers with families to provide treats while starting



Submitted photo

Liberty Mugerauer, shown kneeling with a child, was one of 10 Twirling Ambassadors who traveled throughout Peru doing appearances, parades and charity work at senior centers and orphanages.

FOR OSHKOSH AREA SCHOOL BOARD

VOTE DEWITT

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a new initiative and website for foster family mentors. Those who participate in the mentor program can either provide monthly food, treat or game boxes, or spend quality time with their matched family.

"When I started college I took a break from pageants to try to find myself and discover what I wanted to do with my life on my own," she said. "(Miss Wisconsin Volunteer) focuses heavily on volunteer-

ism, which is one of the five points of the crown. Volunteering has always been a huge part of my life."

During the pandemic, Mugerauer started doing "princess deliveries" for foster families where they could order a cake or cookie decorating kit to get delivered to them by Disney princesses. She said that while staying socially distanced, it was enjoyable to see children's faces light up.

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Spirit Fund plan for county ARPA funds approved

Update pay package for employees OK'd

Oshkosh Herald

Winnebago County supervisors last week approved establishing a "Spirit Fund" to consolidate \$33.4 million in federal pandemic relief funds after months of discussion on how to best use the money for countywide purposes.

Among the expenditures immediately approved after the Spirit Fund's establishment was to grant each of the county's 21 towns and municipalities \$145,000 for general purposes, totaling \$3.04 million.

A special American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) commission had recommended spending 25% of the federal money on nongovernmental community projects, 25% on county government projects and 50% on community projects designated by the county. An amendment to remove the nongovernmental portion – which includes nonprofit groups and

quasi-governmental entities – and split the money between government and community projects in general was approved 21-11.

Introduced by District 1 Supervisor Rachael Dowling and supported by several supervisors after discussion before the Spirit Fund vote, the amended resolution merges community projects into one funding source for the county board to work from.

The county is using 2022 expenditures as lost wages or revenue, similar to what other Wisconsin counties are using to line up ARPA funds as general service expenditures.

The designation creates a surplus of \$18.2 million in the general fund and \$15.2 million in the Park View Health Center fund.

County executive Jon Doemel's chief of staff Ethan Hollenberger assured supervisors at the meeting that the move would not affect \$5.4 million in supplemental payments to Park View from the state after consultations with the Wis-

consin Department of Health Services and other officials.

Director of finance Paul Kaiser has noted that this special revenue fund allows it to be tracked, reviewed, maintained and presented to the board, rather than placing it into the general fund. The money needs to be spent by December 2024.

Some of the expenditures recommended by the commission and approved by the board:

- \$145,000 to each of the 21 towns or municipalities in Winnebago County.
 - \$925,000 for purchase and installation of an emergency generator at Sunnyview Expo Center.
 - \$3.03 million for land and water conservation projects.
 - \$2.725 million for digital subscriber radios for county departments.
 - \$300,000 for a countywide building condition assessment study.
 - \$175,000 for the County Executive's Office for assistance with strategic planning and priority-based budgeting.
- Supervisors also unanimously ap-

proved a county pay proposal to upgrade employee compensation and benefits intended to meet the average market minimum and help attract and retain employees. Cost-of-living adjustments and merit pay considerations will be made with a final package estimated at \$2.9 million annually to be completed in June or July.

Director of administration Mike Colard said the updated structure would boost the pay to about 85% of county employees and will be seen immediately on paychecks. The new pay structure re-slots employees into different ranges where the minimum pay has increased.

The compensation schedule, formed by a consultants' study and the county Human Resources department, looked at comparable positions in other counties. An amendment was approved that reduced executive assistant Hollenberger's proposed salary increase by \$13,000, which will move his annual pay from \$68,297 in 2021, when he was brought on by Doemel, to \$82,458.

Diseased tree removal process detailed

Property owners with a diseased and potentially hazardous tree that has the potential to either affect streets and sidewalks or damage neighboring properties may be notified by the city that they must remove the tree.

For residents planning on having a diseased ash tree removed, they are asked to start planning ahead. The Wisconsin Arborist Association (waa-isa.org) has resources for finding arborists and tree re-

moval contractors.

The costs associated with removing ash trees have increased due to inflation, as well as the hazards and risks that ash trees pose. It can cost \$1,500 or more to hire a contractor for removal. The city has the authority to have a tree removed at the property owner's expense.

Residents can attempt to save healthy ash trees by administering treatments if the tree is generally in good condition.

These treatments need to be done every two years.

A systemic approach, like trunk injections, has the best results and keeps all the treatment product in the tree.

More information about treatments and other related topics can be found at emeraldashborer.info/homeowners. For more information about nuisance trees, contact Travis Derks, landscape operations manager/city forester, at 920-232-5314.

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Multicultural Day highlights global diversity at North

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh North High School celebrated Multicultural Day recently with a student-driven program of dances, songs, discussions and cuisine representing several countries and cultures.

The students presented programs representing Tanzania, Syria, Afghanistan, Palestine, Kurdish, African and Arabic culture, along with Hmong dances and women empowerment. Two foreign exchange students from Pakistan and Ukraine enlightened the audience about their countries and culture, and another student sang a song in Swahili while playing her guitar.

During lunch time, staff and students enjoyed the various cuisines prepared by English as a Second Language (ESOL) teachers and students.

Huma Malik, an ESOL teacher at the high school, said the presentations and performances were just a snapshot of the students' multicultural identity. She said the district has seen an exponential increase of English language learners from all over the world in the past decade.

There are an estimated 606 English language learners in the district, including more than 100 from 18 different countries and about 14 different languages at North High School alone.

Malik said that as these students are learning to navigate their new place "they are teaching educators new paths to creativity, flexibility and adaptability to meet the needs of students."

Former ESOL teacher Margo Goff built



Photo from Huma Malik

Gulsom Rezai enlightened her North audience about the culture of Afghanistan and the current struggles the country is facing.

the North program and initiated Multicultural Day, which is now being led by ESOL coordinator Dawn Shimura.

WRITING OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have the pulse on the community? Interested in feature stories or prep sports?

We are looking for writers interested in creating community features, news stories or sports reporting on a freelance basis for either the Oshkosh Herald or Neenah News weekly newspapers. Submissions would need a local focus that also can connect to broader topics. Compensation is on a story-by-story basis.

Contact editor@oshkoshherald.com to get more details.

Neenah News **Oshkosh Herald**

Veterans event

FROM PAGE 1

dom we have not only for the present but for the future generation so they can enjoy what we're enjoying today."

Sponsored by Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 17 Ray H. Fuller Winnebago County, the event raised funds supporting mental health activities through veterans participating in therapeutic recreation programs.

Days before the event, Hert organized two community events, the first held at Evergreen Manor where Fritz and Oshkosh author Ron La Point spoke. Fritz also spent time Thursday at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King in Waupaca County.

Fritz talked about his military career, especially during that day in 1969 when he served with his 11th Calvary Regiment in South Vietnam with courage in the face of intense enemy fire. He was awarded the highest military decoration for helping force the enemy to abandon their ambush site and withdraw while ensuring his troops received the necessary medical care despite being wounded.

Dottie Muza, whose husband, John, fought in World War II's Battle of the Bulge and other European combat until Germany surrendered, was surprised with a copy of La Point's "Oshkosh Veterans of Foreign Wars," featuring stories of 30 veterans who served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The second event was at the local VFW headquarters on Rosalia Street on Friday evening. Hert accompanied Fritz to the social event where veterans asked about his military career and that fateful day in 1969 in South Vietnam.

Hert said the concept of Cabin Fever came about after previous DAV gatherings were held during the warmer months between Memorial Day and Veterans Day. DAV members decided they also wanted to meet during the colder months starting in 2016.

Adam Alexander, DAV National Veteran of the Year and member of DAV Chapter 17 in Oshkosh, was given recognition. While serving in Afghanistan, Alexander experienced enemy forces attempting to overrun his combat outpost and was severely wounded by an enemy sniper.

Ron La Point and Michael Cooney contributed to this story.

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Public library calendar

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April 3
Book Buzz: Shadows Reel, 8 a.m., YouTube
Family Storytime, 9:30 a.m., preschoolers
Read to a Dog, 4-5 p.m., ages 5-12

April 5
High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults

April 6
High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
Write Now! Series: The Exciting Part of Writing a Poem: Revising!, 6 p.m., adults
Art Fest Elementary Art Exhibit; through April 28, all ages

April 7
Tween Book Club, 4:30 p.m., ages 9-11
Teen Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades 6-8
Young Adult Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades 9-12

April 10
Family Storytime, 9:30 a.m., preschoolers

Read to a Dog, 4-5 p.m., ages 5-12
April 11
Smart Starts Play Stations, 9-11 a.m., ages 1-4
Adult DIY: Moss Wall Art, 6 p.m., adults

April 12
High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults
Memory Cafe: Love to Laugh, 1:30 p.m., adults
Budget Listening Sessions, 5:30-7 p.m.

April 13
High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
Everyday Tech: Fun with Photos, 2 p.m., adults
Drop-in Tech Help, 3-4 p.m., adults
Wiki Tree: A Family History Program, 6 p.m., adults
Write Now Series: Filling Your Poetry Toolbox, 6 p.m., adults

April 14
Elementary Book Club, 4:30 p.m., ages 5-8

Spring Genealogy Lock In, 6:30 p.m., adults

April 17
Family Storytime, 9:30 a.m., preschoolers
Read to a Dog, 4-5 p.m., ages 5-12

April 18
Winnebago Free Legal Assistance Clinic, 4:30 p.m., adults
Banned Book Club at Planet Perk, 5 p.m., adults

April 19
High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults

April 20
High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
Not Your Classic Book Club, 6 p.m., adults
Wonderlab: Build a Bottle Raft, 6:30 p.m., ages 5-8

April 21
Tween S.T.E.A.M.: Confetti Cannon, 4:30 p.m., ages 9-12
Open Mic at New Moon Coffee Shop, 7 p.m., teens & adults

April 22
Think Outside the Trash: Upcycling & Recycling for Earth Day, 10 a.m., all ages

The Curious Chemistry of Amazing Algae, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., ages 6 and older

April 24
Family Storytime, 9:30 a.m., preschoolers
Read to a Dog, 4-5 p.m., ages 5-12

April 25
OAMTA Presents: Spring Recital, 6:30 p.m., all ages

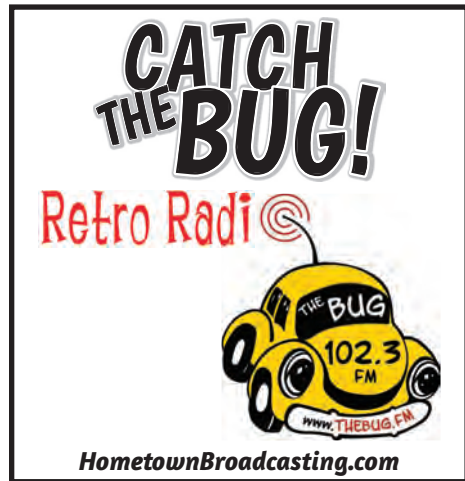
April 26
High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults

April 27
High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
Everyday Tech: Email Basics, 2 p.m., adults
Drop-in Tech Help, 3-4 p.m., adults
Art By Librarians Public Reception, 6-8 p.m., all ages



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Spring election information available in city

With the spring election set Tuesday, visit myvote.wi.gov to find a voter's polling place, district and ward, as they may have changed since the last election or since the last time a person voted.

The city of Oshkosh recently purchased electronic poll "Badger Books" that will be used at a few polling places to replace the paper poll books but will not change the voting process.

Once the voter has completed this process, they will be issued a ballot. Badger Books will make the process more efficient and less prone to human error.

Early absentee voting is offered in person at the City Clerk's office (Room 108) in City Hall through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



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New North Inc. forms partnership to give microgrants to support diverse businesses

New North Inc., in partnership with The Business Council (TBC) and the Ethnic & Diverse Business Coalition (EDBC), has established a microgrant fund to help fund nonprofit organizations in the region that support ethnic and diverse businesses in their startup or growth phase.

The application for grants up to \$20,000 – for initiatives or events taking place before Dec. 31 – is available at thenewnorth.com until April 30. A second round of applications may be funded later this year.

Examples of projects eligible include training, supplier diversity and business

events, entrepreneurial support, classes to remove language barriers for business customers, workshops on sales and marketing, an ethnic business showcase, and other initiatives that work to remove barriers and promotes success.

TBC is a business membership organization, serving as the architect of high-quality resources, education and tools to assist ethnically diverse businesses. Members of the TBC include the EDBC, whose respective organizations work to improve the business environment in Wisconsin.

Business Expo returns to Convention Center

The 2023 Oshkosh Business Expo will be held from noon to 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Oshkosh Convention Center and features nearly 100 local business exhibitors who represent a variety of industries.

Network Health is returning as presenting sponsor of the expo, which is the area's largest networking and business-to-busi-

ness trade show.

Business professionals and the general public are welcome to attend. Exhibitors will be featuring and showcasing their latest products and services. There are also multiple businesses hiring.

The price of admission is \$5 or free with a business card.

Business news roundup

Sunken Paddle Ciderworks, 544 W. 17th Ave., is reopening this Saturday for the season. The tasting room will be open from noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays. The cidery first opened last July. More information can be found at SunkenPaddle.com.

The Oshkosh location of **Orthopedic & Sports Institute of the Fox Valley (OSI)** has moved into a newly remodeled building on the city's southwest side at 1498 W. South Park Ave. OSI's previ-

ous location on Koeller Street closed in December. OSI has four orthopedic surgeons and a group of physician's assistants or nurse practitioners who see patients in Oshkosh five days a week.

Honkamp P.C. recently was named a 2023 Top 10 Midwest CPA firm in Accounting Today's annual ranking of CPA firms. Honkamp is a CPA and business advisory group with about 260 employees based in Dubuque, Iowa, with a location in Oshkosh.



Oshkosh Media photo

Attorney General Josh Kaul speaks at the Oshkosh Police Department surrounded by law enforcement agencies involved in Lake Winnebago Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group's drug unit.

Fentanyl surge

FROM PAGE 1

showing "an exponential rise." He said the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has found that six of every 10 of the counterfeit pills have lethal doses of fentanyl.

Oshkosh Police Chief Dean Smith, whose department is providing more officer support to the task force that focuses on larger-scale drug traffickers, said there were 13 overdose deaths in the city last year that represent more than just a number.

"That's 13 families changed forever," he said, "forever with a hole that cannot be filled. The faces of these deaths could be a neighbor, they could also be a friend, they could be a sister or a brother, a daughter or a son."

Smith said city police investigated 64 overdose cases last year, eight so far this year and three overdose deaths this month alone that were likely related to fentanyl. Police reported \$800,000 worth of narcotic seizures in 2022.

Without the lifesaving abilities of Narcan (naloxone) used by law enforcement and emergency medical teams responding to overdose cases, Smith said those numbers would most certainly be much higher.

Winnebago County District Attorney Eric Sparr said prosecutors and law enforcement have been working more closely with substance use agencies such as Solutions Recovery and county Human Services to get additional support to residents at risk "in ways that we just haven't before because the risks are so much more tremendous than they were."

"One of the scariest parts of this compared to the risks that drug users had in the past is that fentanyl can be present in things where they just don't expect it," Sparr said. "Fentanyl test strips are one way to make that determination and assess the level of risk that is there."

He said prosecutors' response to this high-risk crisis is to seek harsh penalties such as prison time for the drug traffickers and to deal with drug users with more emphasis on treatment needs.



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Low-income residents share fears of renting in city

By Jennifer Considine
ESTHER FOX VALLEY

In 2022, a city of Oshkosh housing study reported a large deficit of units for households making less than \$25,000.

There are almost 6,000 households in Oshkosh at this income level but only 3,500 affordable units available. This means 2,500 households in our community are pushed into homelessness, substandard housing or shared-living situations.

Some of our community members make other sacrifices, giving up food or a working vehicle in order to afford an apartment that costs most of their monthly income.

Because there are few affordable options on the market, renters often take any unit available, regardless of its condition. This is particularly the case for residents with fixed and limited incomes, college students or refugees newly arriving in the community.

While there is a rental inspection program in Oshkosh, many residents are unaware of the process or terrified to use it, lest they find themselves losing the only shelter they can afford.

Over the past six months, housing advocates with ESTHER-Fox Valley have been inviting community members to share their journeys finding and keeping housing in Oshkosh. Often these stories convey a sense of powerlessness, as residents feel trapped in substandard housing conditions.

Here's just a few of the stories we have heard.

A mom and her daughter, interviewed at a local nonprofit, reported that their current apartment is infested with roaches and has no locks on the outside doors of the building. Yet, they are afraid to report this to the landlord or the city inspectors for fear the rent will be raised or they will be asked to leave.

They already pay \$975 for the apartment, and they understand the lack of choices in the community having been forced from their last rental house when the roof began leaking and the landlord couldn't afford to fix it.

A local college student reported being woken up by the bedroom ceiling collaps-

ing onto her bed. She had reported water spots on her ceiling and the landlord stated that they were old stains and the problem had been fixed. When she called to report the fallen ceiling, she got no response and had no idea what steps to take next.

A newly settled refugee family living in a rental house in the community reported that all their young children had tested positive for lead poisoning due to old and flaky paint throughout their rental unit. In addition, the basement of the house flooded, and mold was beginning to grow. Yet, the family was reluctant to call for inspection or report to the landlord as they were afraid of retaliation. They were seeking resources from a local church to repair the problems.

While the above residents were afraid to report the problems they experienced in their housing, Dee's story provides a chilling narrative of what can happen when one does report. Dee reported a hot water leak in her shower to her landlord numerous times, but nothing was done about it.

After several weeks, Dee reported the problem to the city housing inspector, who told the landlord to fix the plumbing, a costly repair. The landlord verbally threatened Dee, giving her one month to leave the apartment or face a \$300/month increase in rent. Dee moved but struggled to find adequate housing without a reference from her landlord.

Many renters are afraid or uncertain where to seek help when housing conditions are insufficient. Yet, building all new housing in Oshkosh is simply not an affordable option and many small landlords struggle to afford costly repairs. What can be done?

First, additional training and support for renters is needed. The Tenant Resource Center in Dane County provides service statewide to help renters understand and advocate for their rights.

Rent Smart, a program offered by UW Extension, can teach renters to understand their own rights and responsibilities as well as the rights and responsibilities of landlords.

The city's Rental Inspection program (920-236-5050) provides inspections (at no cost to renters) of the rental unit if problems arise. As the stories above note, this program may be underutilized given that it forces renters to seek redress of problems with landlords before requesting an inspection, a process which is often avoided for fear of retaliation.

Changes to the rental inspection program could help alleviate some of these concerns. In 2018, state law changed to prohibit cities from requiring rental inspections and the city had to roll back its program to be voluntary.

Although state law protects renters from landlords who retaliate against them for trying to use their rights, there can still be fear around reporting issues and there are few resources to help landlords fix and maintain their properties.

The city of Oshkosh has some housing rehabilitation loans to help with improvements, and the Winnebago County Health Department has a Lead-Safe Home Program to cover most of the costs to make qualified rental properties lead-safe.

However, policies need to exist to better identify safety and maintenance issues, support landlords in making improvements, and preserve affordable housing units.



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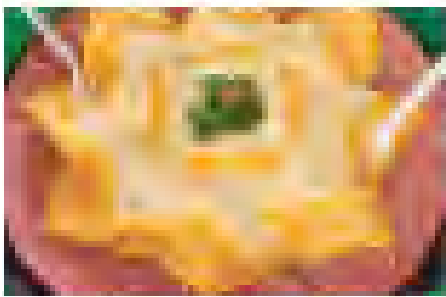


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\$6.99

From the Deli

Cheddar and Sausage Tacos



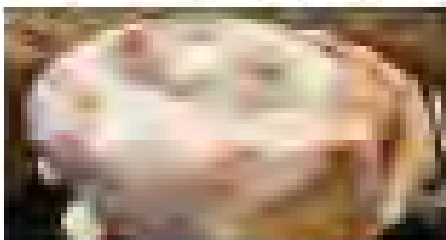
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<p>Honeydew or Cantaloupe Honeydew or Cantaloupe \$3.99 lb.</p>	<p>Honeycrisp Apples Honeycrisp Apples \$2.49 lb.</p>	<p>Mini Cucumbers Mini Cucumbers \$2.49 lb.</p>	<p>Baby Portabella Mushrooms Baby Portabella Mushrooms \$5.99</p>
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<p>Red Fuji Apples Red Fuji Apples \$3.99 lb.</p>	<p>Honeycrisp Apples Honeycrisp Apples \$3.99 lb.</p>	<p>Sweet Oranges Sweet Oranges 99¢ lb.</p>	<p>Peaches Peaches \$2.99 lb.</p>
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<p>Lacoste \$22.99</p>	<p>Lacoste \$9.99</p>	<p>Lacoste \$9.99</p>	<p>Lacoste \$9.99</p>

Calendar of events

Wednesday, March 29

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

Thursday, March 30

2023 Business Expo, noon, Oshkosh Convention Center

State of the Community Address, 8 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

Oshkosh Craft Beer Week, at local breweries through April 8

Friday, March 31

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

"Night Tide," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

That's What She Said, 7 p.m., Anjie's Bar, 413 Ohio St.

Saturday, April 1

Oshkosh Art Collective Show, 6 p.m., The Gibson Social Club, 537 N. Main St.

BAGO Athletic Swap & Sale, 9 a.m., Oaklawn Elementary School, 112 Viola Ave.

Rummage and bake sale, 8 a.m., Peace Lutheran Church, 240 W. 9th Ave.

Learn to Paddle, 9 a.m., Oshkosh North High School (pool door 1)

"Ed Gein: The Musical," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Sunday, April 2

Fancy This! The Wedding Decor Expo, 11 a.m., Venue 404, 404 N. Main St.

Oshkosh Chamber Singers, 3 p.m., Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 605 Merritt Ave.,

Mutts Gone Nuts: Canine Cabaret, 2 and 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Tuesday, April 4

John Harmon and Marty Robinson, noon, First Congregational Church, 135 Algoma Blvd.

Wednesday, April 5

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

Friday, April 7

Downtown Oshkosh Comedy Night, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

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

A Tribute to Jim Hart, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Saturday, April 8

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

Oh Snap! Family Discovery Days, 11 a.m., Oshkosh Public Museum

Breakfast with the Bunny, 8 a.m., Menominee Park Zoo

Bunny in the Barn, 11 a.m., Menominee Park Zoo

Cottontails & Cocktails, 100-700 blocks of North Main Street

A Tribute to Jim Hart, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Ask Your Mother, 7 p.m., Revs Bowl Bar & Grill, 275 N. Washburn St.

Tribute shows to honor theater mainstay Hart

Oshkosh Herald

The family of Jim Hart, a longtime theater teacher, director and organizer who died in January, is presenting a tribute to him with April 7 and 8 performances at The Grand Oshkosh, which hosted many of his productions.



Hart

Hart was known in the community for the past 30 years for providing theater classes and performances for students and residents through various groups such as Theatix, Mainstage Productions, Act II Theatre, Little Sandwich Theatre in the Mall and most recently Jubricosa.

The Oshkosh native and North High graduate also started the existing theater programs at various schools during those years: Two Rivers, St. Mary's Central High School, Valley Christian School and at Winneconne schools.

Chamber Singers present 'The Creation' in concert

The Oshkosh Chamber Singers will perform Josef Haydn's oratorio "The Creation" on Palm Sunday, April 2, at 3 p.m. at Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 605 Merritt Ave.

Soloists will be Erin Bryan, soprano, of Ripon College; Zach Durlam, tenor, of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and Nathan Krueger, bass, of UW Oshkosh. Herb Berendsen is the conductor.

The oratorio depicts and celebrates the seven days of the biblical creation of the world, and is an ode to the goodness of

Hart's daughter Britni Adams said she and her siblings spent much of their childhood in The Grand, notably every Easter for performances of "Jesus Christ Superstar" and every summer for the student summer performances.

She said the tribute will be focusing on songs and stories from her father's favorite musicals that he either directed or performed in over the years with past students and peers performing.

"We are wanting to pack the theater for both performances and really do justice to his legacy," Adams said. "He has touched so many lives over the 30 years of teaching and directing.

In October 2020, Hart was paralyzed in a fall at home, was hospitalized for eight months before coming home. Adams said he passed away at home with his wife and family at his side.

Both shows start at 7 p.m. and tickets range from \$18 to \$24.

God. The libretto draws material from the beginning of Genesis, the Psalms and Milton's "Paradise Lost."

The oratorio is scored for three vocal soloists, a chorus and orchestra, and is in three parts. Haydn was inspired to write a large biblical oratorio after hearing "The Messiah" and "Israel in Egypt," by George Frederic Handel.

Tickets are available from singers, at Gardina's on Main Street and Heid Music on South Park Avenue. Further information is available by calling 920-312-8290.

County sets Saturday warning siren tests

Winnebago County's outdoor warning sirens will be tested every Saturday at noon starting this weekend and continue through September.

The Winnebago County Office of Emergency Management said the sirens are designed to warn people who are outdoors that a severe weather situation is happening or likely to happen soon. They should

then seek shelter immediately inside a sturdy building.

Tests will be canceled if severe weather or other serious conditions are imminent.

Residents can enhance their severe-weather readiness by purchasing a NOAA Weather Radio from local retailers.

The county will participate in the statewide mock Tornado Drill on April 20.

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(920) 235-7412

A psychological thriller which **KIRKUS** Reviews describes as 'engrossing tale of deception with a worthy payoff.'

Set in an opulent background of the privileged few, it shows humanity at its lowest and at its most human element. Unlike books of the same genre, readers know who the serpent is from the beginning. The crux is how each of the three protagonists - a famous writer, his personal chauffeur and the unwitting biracial sex worker - manipulate each other. Like a game of chess, a charade, a cat and mouse game. A cliff hanger to the very last page, it keeps the readers guessing what happens next: **who wins, who lives, and who dies.**

Available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Outskirts Press in soft and hardcover, soon in Kindle and Nook editions. Planned audio version soon.

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NYC dance troupe ready to toast Grand again

'Cocktail Hour' is back and it's bringing Beer

By Dan Roherty
OSHKOSH HERALD

Marilyn Klaus is continually updating and perfecting the theatrical mixology that flows from her Ballets with a Twist team out of a Manhattan studio in New York, keeping the special dance menu both fresh and classy.

The return of "Cocktail Hour: The Show" to The Grand at 7:30 p.m. April 15 after its pandemic interlude promises "a completely new program" from its 2019 show, Klaus said in a phone interview, while keeping some of the classic creations intact with its original mix of choreography, music and costume design.

In a longtime collaboration with Grammy-nominated composer Stephen Gaboury and costume designer Catherine Zehr, Klaus creates cocktail-inspired vignettes with the glamour of Hollywood's Golden Age and some modern twists.

"All of the pieces have a little story," Klaus said, "and it takes a long time to develop those because I don't start with a script. It takes time to pull the narrative out of the material. But that's what is great about dance – it just speaks to everyone and it's definitely a family show."

Opening with a soiree of Pink Lady, Swimming Pool and Lemon Drop creations, later mixed with an infusion of Hot Toddy, Absinthe, Mescal and Bloody Mary among others, the Oshkosh program is unveiling the premiere of "Beer" along with a Brandy Alexander performance featuring the University of Wis-

consin Oshkosh Titan Thunder Marching Band.

Grand executive director Joe Ferlo connected Ballet with a Twist's Gaboury, who has collaborated musically on projects such as Cyndi Lauper's Tony Award-winning "Kinky Boots," with the UW Oshkosh band to accompany Brandy Alexander for an energetic take on the theme.

The collaboration is part of The Grand's ArtReach program sponsored by First Business Bank that connects visiting artists with community groups.

"We've sent the scores on ahead (to the UWO band)," Klaus said, "which we have done in the past as well as a recording of the piece."

Another ArtReach connection was made with Valley Dance Academy students who will participate in a Ballets with a Twist master class the day before the show.

Ferlo said the addition of the Beer piece featuring a quintet of male dancers was one of those great moments when a theater presenter gets a chance to collaborate with the artist.

"We were in the balcony, setting up for a morning TV promo, when I remarked to Marilyn that our Wisconsin audience might be disappointed that there was no 'Old Fashioned' cocktail piece," Ferlo recalled. "Her comment, without missing a beat, was, 'We will create a beer dance just for you, when you bring us back!'"

Klaus credits her steady partnership with Gaboury and Zehr – the artistic force behind the colorful costuming – for expressing the story of each dance/cocktail without words.

"Every piece has its own little inner narrative," she said. "There are lots and lots of social references that people can pick up on."

"We do it all together, and we're just very lucky that we see eye to eye and are crazy."

Featured are the dancers, who joined on with the Manhattan studio from across the United States, South America and elsewhere, many of them for 10 or more years and some now coaches and assistants.

"New York is still the mecca for dance in terms of coming to look for jobs," said Klaus, who took a similar path in her career.

Klaus grew up in a Hollywood neigh-



Photos courtesy of Ballets with a Twist

Above: "Cocktail Hour" at The Grand will feature a series of drink-themed dances, including Brandy Alexander accompanied by the UW Oshkosh Titan Thunder band.

Below: Hot Toddy is brought to life by Ballets with a Twist dancers in their "Cocktail Hour" performance.



borhood with an early fascination with dance while taken with the Busby Berkely era of movie musical extravaganzas. Early tap and hula dance classes, along with her father's interest in ballet and parents' ballroom dancing, led her across the country to New York City at age 18.

Performing, studying and creating dances brought her to Europe on theatrical tours and back to the East Coast with her own production ideas.

"Our show has a night life and a glamour feel that we really don't have that much anymore around the world like the 1930s, '40s, '50s feel."

With a universal cocktail theme being

taken on the road, Klaus learns about regional tastes and cultures that inform the show's evolving drink menu.

"It has resonance everywhere," she said. "Our composer is actually in the process of making an album called 'American Bar.' He is also working on one for the European cocktails like absinthe."

Throughout the evening, The Grand Lounge will offer a special selection of cocktails and mocktails. A private donor event in the theater lounge Thursday night will feature some of the dancers.

Single tickets are \$29-\$35 at thegrandoshkosh.org or by calling 920-424-2350.

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Area softball teams poised for successful seasons

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

With as much talent as Oshkosh West has returning to its roster for the 2023 softball season, the Wildcats would be easy favorites to win the conference title in many leagues across Wisconsin.

Welcome to life in the Fox Valley Association.

Coming off a state tournament appearance in 2022 and with a veteran-laden roster ready to take the field, Oshkosh West

head coach Tim Kohl is looking forward to seeing what his squad can do this season, but knows exactly what lies ahead for his team.

“There’s a lot of pride among the coaches in the FVA and rightfully so. It’s got to be one of the best conferences in the state,” Kohl said. “With Kaukauna, Hortonville and the teams in our conference, we set ourselves up with a tough schedule that will prepare us for a state run if we get a chance to get there.”

West’s state appearance last year ended in a quarterfinal loss to eventual champion Kaukauna and seven players who started that game are returning for the Wildcats this season.

Topping the list of returning players is junior Braelee Jodarski, who was a first-team all-FVA selection a year ago as a utility player. Jodarski, who played both shortstop and left field in the Wildcats’ season-opener, batted .402 last season while leading the team with seven home runs and 40 RBIs.

Senior outfielder Kadence Saladin batted .392 a year ago, while senior pitcher/



Junior Braelee Jodarski, playing shortstop in the Wildcats’ season-opener last week, was a first-team all-Fox Valley Association selection last season.

shortstop Brianna Bougie will bring back a .353 average from a year ago. Bougie was a second-team all-FVA selection last year,

while Saladin earned honorable mention honors.

Three other Wildcats return after mak-

ing the all-FVA honorable mention list in senior infielder/outfielder Kathryn Bergin, junior third baseman Chloe Tritt and junior catcher Laina Hammen.

Kohl certainly likes the look of his lineup which averaged nearly seven runs per game last season, but believes this group is focused on being even better this season.

“They know they can become smarter hitters,” Kohl said. “We didn’t walk very often last year and that is something we can do better. We have to take advantage of pitchers who can’t hit the strike zone instead of chasing bad pitches and putting ourselves down in the count. We can be very tough outs. That’s one area where I think we can get better.”

Kohl also said that he believes West’s power numbers could increase from last year as well.

“We have a lot more power this year so I think we could surprise some people,” Kohl said.

In the circle, Bougie will again be the Wildcats’ lead after striking out 97 batters in 94 innings, while walking only 13 hitters and finishing with a 3.13 earned run average.

This will be Bougie’s third season standing in the varsity pitcher’s circle and Kohl expects his star hurler to be up to the challenge.

“People know who she is now. That’s going to be one of things she has to work with is that people are familiar with her,” Kohl said. “She’s going to have to be a smart pitcher and hit her spots but we expect big things from here.”

Kohl also expects junior Alayna Sad-

SEE **Softball preview** ON PAGE 20



2023 Oshkosh High School Girls Softball Schedules



LOURDES ACADEMY		OSHKOSH NORTH		OSHKOSH WEST	
Mar 27 @ Eikhart Lake 4:30pm		Mar 31 Pacelli Catholic 4:30pm		Mar 23 West De Pere 4:30pm	
Mar 30 @ Oakfield 5:00pm		Apr 4 @ Oshkosh West 4:30pm		Apr 4 Oshkosh North 4:30pm	
Apr 4 @ Montello 5:00pm		Apr 6 Appleton North 4:30pm		Apr 6 @ Neenah 4:30pm	
Apr 6 Montello 5:00pm		Apr 11 @ Kimberly 4:30pm		Apr 8 @ Beaver Dam (DH) 10:00am	
Apr 11 Pardeeville 5:00pm		Apr 13 Appleton East 4:30pm		Apr 10 Stevens Point (SPASH) 4:30pm	
Apr 13 @ Pardeeville 5:00pm		Apr 14 Menasha 4:30pm		Apr 11 Kaukauna 4:30pm	
Apr 15 Roncalli (DH) 10:00am		Apr 15 @ Manitowoc Lincoln (DH) 11:00am		Apr 13 @ Appleton West 5:00pm	
Apr 17 Cambria-Friesland 5:00pm		Apr 18 @ Fond du Lac 4:30pm		Apr 17 @ Pulaski 5:00pm	
Apr 20 @ Cambria-Friesland 5:00pm		Apr 20 @ Neenah 4:30pm		Apr 18 Hortonville 4:30pm	
Apr 22 @ Wayland Academy (DH) 10:00am		Apr 21 Kaukauna 4:30pm		Apr 20 Fond du Lac 4:30pm	
Apr 25 Omro 5:00pm		Apr 22 @ West Bend West 5:00pm		Apr 21 @ Appleton North 4:30pm	
Apr 27 Green Bay NEW Lutheran 5:00pm		Apr 25 @ Appleton West 5:00pm		Apr 24 Watertown 4:30pm	
Apr 28 @ Rosholt 4:30pm		Apr 27 Hortonville 4:30pm		Apr 25 Kimberly 4:30pm	
May 2 @ Princeton / Green Lake 5:00pm		Apr 28 Oshkosh West 4:30pm		Apr 27 @ Appleton East 4:30pm	
May 4 Princeton / Green Lake 5:00pm		May 2 @ Appleton North 4:30pm		Apr 28 @ Oshkosh North 4:30pm	
May 8 Markesan 5:00pm		May 4 Kimberly 4:30pm		May 2 Neenah 4:30pm	
May 9 @ St Mary Catholic 4:30pm		May 5 @ Appleton East 4:30pm		May 4 @ Kaukauna 4:30pm	
May 11 @ Markesan 5:00pm		May 8 @ Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln 4:30pm		May 5 Appleton West 4:30pm	
May 16 Berlin (DH) 4:00pm		May 9 Fond du Lac 4:30pm		May 9 @ Hortonville 4:30pm	
		May 11 Neenah 4:30pm		May 11 @ Fond du Lac 5:00pm	
		May 12 Kaukauna 4:30pm		May 12 Appleton North 4:30pm	
		May 16 Appleton West 4:30pm		May 16 @ Kimberly 4:30pm	
		May 18 @ Hortonville 4:30pm		May 18 Appleton East 4:30pm	

Home Games played at Spanbauer Park until UWU is available Home Games played @ Oshkosh North Softball Field Home Games played @ Oshkosh West Softball Field

BOLD designates home games *All schedules and locations are subject to change. Please check school's website for updates.

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Softball preview

FROM PAGE 19

owska to get plenty of work this season for the Wildcats and provide a nice 1-2 punch in the circle.

“Elaina has experience pitching at a high level. She didn’t get many innings last year but she has been working hard,” Kohl said. “I’m looking forward to seeing her come in and throw some games and give Brianna a break, because she’s a great shortstop as well.”

Spartans still young, aim to be improved

Without a senior on the roster, Oshkosh North will be bringing a young but talented group to challenge the rugged Fox Valley Association roster.

The Spartans return nearly its entire roster from last year as well, which means head coach Keith Koslowski will be trotting out a lot of the same faces from last year’s team that went 8-15 overall and 7-11 in the FVA. But those faces will be more ready for what they are seeing on the diamond.

“We’re young again this year but we are learning,” Koslowski said. “I’m hopeful everyone can up their level of play and if we stay healthy we could surprise some teams who could be looking past us.”

The Spartans will return its top hitter from last year in junior Emma Niemczyk, who batted .412 with three home runs and a team-leading 14 RBIs. Niemczyk, who plays centerfield, was a second-team all-FVA selection a year ago.

Two other Spartans earned honorable mention all-FVA honors a year ago and are returning in sophomore catcher Anna Borst – the team’s second-leading hitter –

and junior Ava Hanson, who is expected to make a move from infield to outfield this season, according to Koslowski.

Junior Lauren Geer is also expected to take on an added role with the squad and will play multiple positions for North.

“Anna has a really strong arm and had a really good summer for us and we expect her and (Hanson) to make a big jump this year,” Koslowski said. “Lauren is one of our leaders and I think shes going to have a good year, too.”

One position where the Spartans will have to replace a graduated senior is in the pitching circle, where North said goodbye to Ashley Borowitz, a first-team all-FVA selection. Borowitz pitched roughly 124 out of a possible 140 innings last season.

Sophomore Kara Cummings is expected to step into the No. 1 pitcher’s role for the Spartans this season. Cummings saw limited action last year (11 innings), allowing 18 hits with seven walks and six strikeouts.

Despite the limited experience, Koslowski said that Cummings was able to learn from Borowitz last year and expects her to do well in her first full season pitching at the varsity level.

“As a freshman in the FVA, it’s tough to find your way so we are expecting Kara to make a big jump this year and I think she’s up to the task,” Koslowski said. “Ashley did a nice job of mentoring her and how to approach certain situations and how to stay mentally tough when things don’t always go right.”

With such an experienced roster, the Spartans will understand the rigors of playing an FVA schedule and Koslowski hopes the team can learn from going through it last season.

“Playing in the FVA, there are no nights off and no gimme games and hopefully

being resilient is one of the things they learned and will carry over from last year,” Koslowski said. “Also, taking success in stride and being able to deal with the difficult things the season puts forth. Just keeping yourself mentally ready is one of the things I’m looking for this team to deal with and move forward on.”

If the Spartans are able to use the experience from last year to better withstand the taxing FVA schedule, Koslowski believes his squad can be competitive in one of the best leagues in the state.

He identified Kaukauna, Hortonville, Oshkosh West and Neenah as the favorites in the league and among the state’s best. Oshkosh North may not be ready to go 8-0 against that group – not many teams would be able to – but being more competitive is definitely something he sees from this group.

“We had a good offseason and a good first two weeks of practice,” Koslowski said. “I think our ladies are more than capable of getting to that .500 level or above this year.”

Knights look to compete again in Trailways North

Replacing a talented, experienced pitcher is never an easy thing for a high school softball coach, but for Lourdes Academy’s Jim Johnson the process of doing that this year is made a little bit easier.

The Knights’ lost all-conference pitcher Saraah Blanchard to graduation last year and will turn to senior Riley Kuklinski to take over in the circle. Kuklinski is a veteran of varsity softball and earned second-team all-conference honors last year as one of the team’s top hitters, but pitched only seven innings at the varsity level.

But that doesn’t mean Kuklinski is new to pitching.

“Riley has been pitching since middle school softball and playing travel softball for several years. She’s been working hard and putting time in the gym,” Johnson said. “She pitched a little for us last year and she will be getting the majority of the innings this year so we have to make sure we take care of her and she takes care of

herself and that our defense plays well behind her.”

Lourdes Academy was a solid defensive team a year ago and returns one of its anchors on the infield in junior shortstop Reagon Proud, who was a first-team all-Trailways North selection a year ago.

Proud led the Knights in batting with a whopping .554, while leading the team with three home runs and 29 stolen bases. She also drove in 25 runs for the Knights.

“We are going to put her where her production can most benefit the team,” Johnson said. “She had a great year last year and I am looking for her to continue that type of progress, not only offensively, but she plays shortstop and she’s dynamic at that position.”

Kuklinski is the returner with the next highest batting average last year at .491 with 19 RBIs, while Johnson also sees returners Ella Slusarski, Faith Blanchard and Reagon Jabor improving on last year’s performances.

“Ella Slusarski plays third base and she locked down that corner last year and I’d look for her to continue to do that and improve on her offense as well,” Johnson said. “(Faith and Reagon) had good years last year and I look for them to improve and build off of that.”

Lourdes Academy finished in a three-way tie for third place in the Trailways North a year ago with Cambria-Friesland and Markesan. All three teams finished with 9-7 records, one game ahead of Pardeeville.

Johnson figures Oakfield and Randolph will once again be the top two teams in the league but he expects the Knights to be in contention with the same group of teams to finish behind the Oaks and Rockets.

“I’m hoping we are able to pick up where we left off last year and hopefully we can have another good year or even better as we go along,” said Johnson, whose team finished 11-11 overall. “There were four teams who were in a game of each other and we would be in that group again this year. No week is going to be easy. There is no team to look past. We will have our hands full week in and week out.”

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Bougie powers, pitches Wildcats to win in opener

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Brianna Bougie helped Oshkosh West open its season with a win.

The senior allowed one run over six innings of work in the circle and belted a solo home run to cap the scoring in the Wildcats' 3-1 win over West De Pere in a game played last Thursday inside the UWO RecPlex.

The two teams regularly start the season off facing each other in a nonconference tussle; however, this time the two teams weren't battling chilly temperatures, frigid winds or snow around the periphery of the softball diamond.

"Considering the weather and everybody itching to get a game in, we're lucky we have the chance to play here," Oshkosh West head coach Tim Kohl said. "We've always had this as our lead-off game and it's always been exciting."

It may have been exciting from Kohl's perspective, but Bougie did a nice job of tempering any joy from the Phantoms.

After surrendering a lone run in the second inning, Bougie allowed just three hits over the final five innings and never allowed a West De Pere runner past first base.

The Phantoms best chance to threaten after the second inning came in the fourth when, with a runner on first base, a single to right field had the potential to produce a runner in scoring position. But Kadence Saladin threw out the West De Pere run-



Oshkosh Herald

Brianna Bougie fires a pitch to the plate against West De Pere last Thursday.

ner trying to go to third on the hit for the final out of the inning.

Saladin also threw out a runner trying to stretch a single into a double in the sev-

enth inning.

"I did feel pretty good and it's just so easy pitching when you know you have a good defense," said Bougie. "It's really nice

to have the first game done and everything to get out those first-game jitters."

Bougie did not walk a batter in her six innings of work, while scattering four hits – all singles. She also picked up five strikeouts.

Alayna Sadowska pitched a scoreless seventh inning and recorded a strikeout to earn the save.

"Brianna looked good. She's always confident and I think that's something she has going for her," Kohl said. "I'm excited about Alayna who came in there to finish. To have a 1-2 punch like that (at pitcher) is big and it could make Brianna even better."

The West offense was limited to six hits and did leave eight runners on base in six innings, but did enough with the bats to scratch out a win.

Kohl attributed the somewhat quiet offensive output to it being early in the season and as a credit to West De Pere hurler Leah Kocken.

"We didn't get the timely hits today but I think that comes with the (nonconference) season hitting," Kohl said. "We also had some (nonconference) season baserunning. We are going to push ourselves to be more aggressive with our baserunning this year."

It took only three batters for West to get on the scoreboard, though, as Laina Hammen opened the bottom of the first with a single and advanced to second when Col-

SEE **West softball** ON PAGE 22

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Herd close out season with road loss

The Wisconsin Herd closed out the 2022-23 season with a 114-104 loss to the Capital City Go-Go last Thursday.

The game was tied at 21 after the first quarter before the Go-Go outscored the Herd in each of the final three quarters to collect the win.

Five players finished in double figures for the Herd led by Jontay Porter and Par-

is Bass each scoring 23. Deividas Sirvydis followed with 22 points, while Iverson Molinar and Blake Marquardt each finished with 12.

Marquardt, an Oshkosh North alum, also finished with five rebounds.

The Herd finish with an 11-21 record and fell short of making the G League playoffs.

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INSURANCE COMPANY; and
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Defendants.

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You are hereby notified that the Plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you.

The complaint, which is also served on you, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within Forty (40) days after March 15, 2023, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in

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If no complaint accompanies this summons you must respond within the 40 day period with a written demand for a copy of the Complaint by mailing or delivering said written demand to the court and to the Plaintiffs attorneys at their respective addresses listed above. If you do not provide a proper answer to the Complaint or provide a written demand for said complaint within the 40 day period, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated: January 13, 2023
APEX ACCIDENT ATTORNEYS, LLC
Electronically signed by
/s/ George W. Curtis
George W. Curtis
Attorney for Plaintiff
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Runs March 15, 22 and 29, 2023

WNAXLP



Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh West third baseman Chloe Tritt tags out a West De Pere runner in the Wildcats season opener at the UWO Dome last week.

West softball

FROM PAGE 21

leen Fitzpatrick followed with a walk.

After a wild pitch advanced both runners, Braelee Jodarski plated a run with an RBI-groundout to give West the lead.

West De Pere tied the game with its lone run in the top of the second but West regained the lead in the fourth inning. One-out singles by Chloe Tritt and Sadowska sandwiched around Kathryn Bergin's fielder's choice loaded the bases for No. 9 hitter Savannah Swanke. Swanke proceeded to lift a deep fly ball to center field for a sacrifice fly that plated Tritt with the go-ahead run.

"I'm hoping that's a confidence builder for her," Kohl said. "She's at a position where there is some competition and she's been able to step up. She had some nice plays on defense and so it's good she got a couple of good at-bats, too. I'm hoping that builds her confidence for the rest of the season."

The Wildcats added their final run one inning later when the left-handed hitting Bougie obliterated a ball over the right field fence to give West a 3-1 lead.

"It felt pretty nice. I didn't know if it was out or not. I don't like to look just in case," said Bougie, who sped around second base before finding a nice trotting speed to complete the circling of the bases. "It's nice to start on a good foot for the season. You always have to make sure you are playing your best and keep working on everything."

Sadowska finished 3-for-3 in the game to pace West's offense, while Bougie's home



Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh West outfielder Kadence Saladin fires a throw to the infield during last Thursday's win over West De Pere. Saladin had two outfield assists in the game.

run was the team's only extra-base hit.

Although West was able to get their season-opener played, it will be a bit before the Wildcats take the field again.

West is not scheduled to play again until April 4 against rival Oshkosh North and Kohl believes his team can build on what it showed against the Phantoms.

"We know the competition we are going to face coming up the rest of the season and we have a couple of weeks to get ready for that now," Kohl said. "This was a good test."

Prep roundup

TRACK AND FIELD

Brandl, Blaskowski post wins at Ripon meet

Oshkosh West boasted two of the fastest runners in the large school division at the Ripon College Showcase Meet on Saturday.

The Wildcats sported the winners of both the boys and girls 60-meter races at the meet. Senior Emily Blaskowski won the girls race with a time of 8.33 seconds, while sophomore Chase Brandl posted a time of 7.25 to win the boys race, edging out the runner-up by .03 seconds.

Olivia Navin nearly made it a sweep of the girls 60-meter races as she finished second in the 60-meter hurdles. Margaret Kriege finished fourth in the girls 60 meters, while adding a fifth place in the 200 meters. Carrigan Tank also added a fourth place in the 400 meters.

In the field events, Lauren Hable took second in the pole vault with Hailey Mynyk finishing third.

The West girls also added a second place in the 800-meter relay, while taking third in the 3,200-meter relay and fifth in the 1,600-meter relay.

On the boys side, Kieran Patrick picked up a pair of top five individual finishes, taking third in the 60-meter hurdles, while placing fifth in the long jump.

Alex Dyken in the 200 meters and Ethan Pinkerton in the pole vault were each third, while Connor Wisneski in the 60 meters, Collin Haese in the 400 meters and Parker Fontaine in the shot put each posted fourth places. Celso Collins added a fifth place in the 3,200 meters.

The Wildcats posted a pair of third-place finishes in the 800-meter and 3,200-meter relays, while West was also fourth in the 1,600-meter relay.

UWO gymnasts capture second straight national title

The UW Oshkosh gymnastics team captured its second straight national title on Saturday, posting a team score of 192.525 at the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association national meet in Winona, Minn.

The Titans edged UW-La Crosse by two-tenths of a point, while another WIAC school, UW-Stout finished third with a total of 190.275. The other three teams competing in the national event were Springfield College, which took fourth with 190.1 points; Brockport, which took fifth with 189.225 points; and Ithaca College, which took sixth with 187.925 points.



McGibboney

It was UW Oshkosh's fourth NGCA national title and sixth national crown overall.

Five Titans earned All-American honors – finishing in the top eight – at the meet, led by freshman Reanna McGibboney. McGibboney placed third with a season-high score of 9.8 on the floor exercises and then added a fifth place on the vault with a score of 9.75.

Lydia Hayden notched the best finish on an apparatus, tying for third place on the balance beam with a score of 9.775 to garner All-American honors. Also earning All-American honors on an apparatus were Trinity Sawyer, who tied for seventh on the uneven bars (9.625), and Mia Lucero, who tied for eighth on the vault (9.7).

UW Oshkosh's lone all-around competitor also earned All-American honors as Emily Buffington finished fourth overall with a score of 37.65.

The Titans scored at least 47.525 on each apparatus and topped the 48-point mark on three of the four disciplines.

UW Oshkosh posted its highest score on the beam with a mark of 48.550. Hayden led the charge on the beam, while Delaney Cienkus and Liz Romano each posted a score of 9.725 to tie for ninth place – missing all-American honors by .25 points. Mady Bellmore added a score of 9.7 to tie for 12th place.

The Titans scored 48.4 on the floor exercises, led by McGibboney. Buffington and Sawyer tied for 15th place in the event with a score of 9.7, while Delaney Cienkus and Kennedy Springer were each at 9.6, tying for 33rd.

On the vault, UW Oshkosh racked up a total of 48.050 with McGibboney and Lucero leading the way. Haley Volstad and Rahdea Jarvis provided the other two scores in the Titans' total with each posting a mark of 9.550 to tie for 22nd place.

Finally, on the uneven bars, UW Oshkosh finished with a total of 47.525. Behind Sawyer's score, Jarvis scored a 9.575 to finish 12th, Kaylie Berens tallied a 9.55 to tie for 14th and Sam Zellinger posted a 9.425 to place 20th in the event.

The WIAC boasted a pair of individual national champions as UW-Whitewater's Kara Welsh won the vault and UW-La Crosse's Rachel Chesley finished first on the uneven bars.

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YMCA Tennis & Pickleball Center hires new pros



Submitted photo

Bob Downey Jr. (left) and Brian Hornburg have recently joined the Oshkosh YMCA Tennis & Pickleball Center as new tennis pros.

By Susie Brautigam
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The Oshkosh YMCA Tennis & Pickleball Center has added two new tennis professionals to its staff.

Brian Hornburg became the new head tennis professional in January. He played college tennis and eventually became the assistant coach at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse during his fifth year at the school.

After college he took a position at Pleasant Valley Tennis & Racquet Club in Jackson, where he stayed for 18 years.

“In just the short few months I have been at the Y Tennis Center it is already starting to feel like home,” Hornburg said. “The atmosphere and especially the members have made the move smooth and painless.”

He said he hopes “to provide a service and maintain an atmosphere where friends and family of all ages and abilities can come to the club and have a great time while also getting some exercise.”

For more serious players he said the goal is to elevate their games as high as they want to take them.

With the high demand for lessons and programs, the YMCA also has added a second full-time tennis professional. Robert “Bob” Downey Jr. recently joined the staff and along with Hornburg is USPTA certified, and worked together previously at Pleasant Valley.

Downey has more than 30 years of experience teaching at all levels.

“Teaching alongside Brian, my hope is to make the Tennis Center a destination

for learning the sport of a lifetime,” he said.

Sheila Counts, Tennis Center director, said, “Together they bring many years of quality teaching experience to our tennis programs.”

She said the small family facility offers “the personal attention that members receive is one of our strong suits. Also, we offer a variety of program for both pickleball and tennis for all ages and abilities.”

Originally called the Oshkosh Sports Center, the facility was built in the 1970s by a group of avid tennis enthusiasts and area business people. The original space had a disco-themed bar in the lobby along with outside courts.

In the early 1980s, the facility was sold to the Oshkosh YMCA. The outside courts no longer exist as they had structural issues when built and had to be removed.

Last May the name was changed to the Oshkosh Y Tennis & Pickleball Center due to the increased number of pickleball players that use the facility.

Pickleball, a cross between ping pong, badminton and tennis, was invented around 1965 and is considered America’s fastest growing sport. In the past four years the YMCA has lined all the tennis courts to provide a total of eight pickleball courts.

Hornburg and Downey will share duties in teaching group lessons, cardio tennis and doubles drills, and be involved in the annual Summer Camp for youth and adult players.

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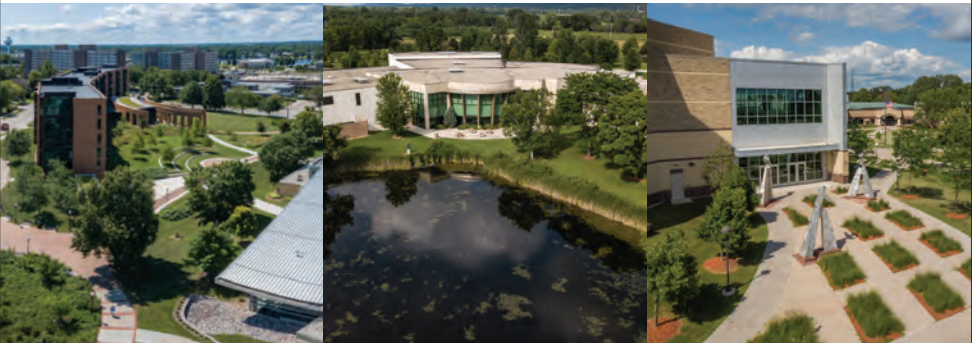
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Drinking water

FROM PAGE 1

illnesses.”

Oshkosh Public Works Director James Rabe said while these rules and regulations seem to change often, and are more restrictive than current state Department of Natural Resources recommendations, that’s the beauty of science.

“We’re constantly learning, and we have to adapt to what we learn,” Rabe said. “We learned a lot more over time. That’s the challenge with something that’s evolving as fast as this is. We are learning at a very fast rate on these compounds right now, and the recommendations are going to change based on what we’ve learned.”

Federal regulations for PFOA and PFOS may be set at 4 parts per trillion (ppt), and the health-based water concentration (HBWC) of other chemicals to be set at “1 unit.”

Background testing that the DNR did in 2020 had PFOA and PFOS around 1.5 to 2.0 parts per trillion in the Fox River and Lake Winnebago, Rabe said. He said those levels in the city are half or less of the pro-

posed regulatory requirements after three tests since last August, which lies in the range of what the DNR found.

HBWC in the city’s drinking water is also at 0.05 units, Rabe said.

Oshkosh began testing for PFAS in August and continued in October and February. Until rules are changed, Rabe said the city will be testing its drinking water “at least quarterly,” and will continue to monitor the guidance as it evolves.

“The only way (the city’s processes) would change is if our numbers were above those regulatory limits, and then we’d be looking at what we need to do from a treatment standpoint. But based on the results that we’re getting right now, we’re not seeing any issues with it,” he said.

“This EPA proposed rule would be significantly more stringent than what the Department of Natural Resources adopted last year. My understanding of the science would be that it’s a good thing.”

Outside of PFAS found in water supplies, most fire departments around the state – including Oshkosh – have phased out and properly disposed of fire-extinguishing foams that have contained PFAS chemicals.



Wisconsin Watch photo

A water sample is collected to test for detection of PFAS chemicals.

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Obituaries

Sharon Panske

Sharon Panske, coach, athletic trainer and friend to many, passed away March 25, 2023 after a courageous journey with uterine cancer. She was 61.



Sharon's love of competitive sports started at an early age in her hometown of Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The youngest child of Mary and Jerome "Jim" Panske, Sharon was a key player in the neighborhood games, usually taking place in the big, vacant field next to her house on a dead-end street. Softball was her favorite sport, and there was never a shortage of players vying for the day's bragging rights.

Kids' games turned into organized sports once she reached middle school, and Sharon was a standout in volleyball and basketball. Although she played summer slow-pitch softball, school softball wasn't added until her sophomore year in high school. Her athletic accomplishments continued at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, where she played volleyball and softball, and was on Oshkosh's first-ever conference championship teams in both volleyball and softball. She graduated in 1986 with a degree in physical education, and minors in athletic training and health. She was certified as an athletic trainer in 1994.

Sharon joined the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Athletics Department staff in 1986 as assistant volleyball coach and head softball coach, directing the softball program for 17 years. One of her most treasured memories was in 1988 when the Titans won NCAA regionals to advance to the NCAA Division III Championship final six. Sharon was recognized as the NCAA Division III Midwest Coach of the Year.

In 2004, Sharon moved to Richland Center, Wisconsin, to work as an athletic trainer in the Richland Hospital Therapy Department, a position she held until retiring in 2022. Throughout her career, her most favorite aspect was mentoring student-athletes and teaching them the importance of hard work in reaching their life's goals.

Sharon also gave of herself, donating time and fundraising efforts to G.R.A.C.E. (Greater Richland Area Cancer Elimination), and 13 years volunteering for the Ovarian Cancer Community Outreach - Connie Rutledge Legacy Fund. She was an active member of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association for more than 30 years, and served on NCAA championships committees at regional and national levels. A devoted dog lover, Sharon's cher-

ished dog Jackson, a basset/golden retriever mix, died at 17 years of age in 2020. Her dog Bud, a black lab that she adopted from a friend is 11. Sharon always said, "Jackson saved me, and I saved Bud."

In 2022, she received the great honor of being inducted into the Richland Center High School Hall of Fame as a contributor. She was also the proud recipient of the Donna Newberry Perseverance Award from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association during their national convention in San Antonio, Texas. Other accolades include the 2006 UW Oshkosh Chancellor's Medallion for Pioneers of Women's Sport,

Sharon was preceded in death by parents Mary and Jerome Panske; grandmother Clara Cottrell; grandparents Catherine and August Panske; aunts and uncles Dorothy and State Boehm; Lawrence "Tunny" Lambert, Marion Lambert; Marvin and Connie Lambert, Syl and Lorain Panske, Grace Panske, Jerry and Jane Panske, Tony and Opal Panske, Mercedes and Norman Poklasny, Arnold Panske and Vincent Panske. She is survived by her brother David Panske and sister-in-law Yvonne, her sister Gail Panske and brother-in-law Jim Evans, niece Caroline Panske and great nephews Oliver and Otis, nephew Erik Panske, aunt & uncle Barb and Raymond Panske, and many cousins. Sharon was also grateful for the friendship, support and encouragement she received from her coworkers, the coaches, student athletes and their parents, neighbors, especially John and Phil, and many other friends, former team mates and players from around the country.

Before her passing, Sharon established a scholarship for graduates of Richland Center High School. Donations sent in her memory will support the annual distribution of "The Rock Scholarship, in honor of Sharon Panske".

Thank you to the UW Carbone Cancer Center (Dr. Kushner, JoAnne Resh), The Richland Hospital Kraemer Center (Michele, Jane, Angela, Kimmy and Jodi) for such great care; oncologists: Dr Chen and Dr Siddiqui; and Agrace Hospice Care (especially Kari and Katie) for their support and compassionate care.

A private burial will take place at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Celebrations of life will be held in both Richland Center and Oshkosh, Wisconsin at a later date. The Pratt Funeral and Cremation Service is assisting the family with their arrangements. prattfuneralservice.com

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Duane Moore

Duane "Dewey" Moore passed away on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, in Bradenton, Florida.



He was born in Madison, Wisconsin on November 27, 1937, to the late Harley and Dorothy Moore.

Upon completing his education Dewey moved to Oshkosh where he started his business career establishing Moore Ambulance Service, Moore Funeral Livery, and Moore Camping Center. It was in Oshkosh that he met and married Marcelline Rothenbach in 1964. Together they had 3 sons. Marcelline preceded Dewey in death on September 23, 1970. Dewey continued operating his businesses and raising his young family and in 1973 married Helen Ciesielczyk. In 1975 Dewey and Helen established Accurate Security Ltd (Accu-Com) which he operated until his retirement in 2000, when he sold the business to his sons.

Dewey was involved in the community, serving as a County Supervisor, a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Oshkosh Public Museum, was past president of the Oshkosh Humane Society and served as Winnebago County Coroner for many years.

John R. Rohner

John Robert Rohner 94, a long-time businessman of Oshkosh, died on February 21, 2023. John was 94 years old. John was born Jan. 25, 1929 in Oshkosh to Adam and Wilhelmina Rohner. He graduated from Oshkosh High School in 1947.



He married Joan R Struthers of Oshkosh in 1952. They were always together until her passing in 1997.

He operated Rohner's Home Furnishings on Oregon Street from 1950 thru 1980. He also was a long-standing board member of the Oshkosh Savings & Loan. Upon his retirement he became heavily involved with the restoration of early Corvettes and was a charter member of the National Corvette Restorers Society. John and Joan were also members of the Oshkosh Country Club for many years. The family was also long-time members of Grace Lutheran Church on Nebraska Street.

John and Joan moved to San Diego in the early '80s to pursue their love of golf and escape the harsh Wisconsin winters. Golf and traveling became their main ad-

Dewey was a season ticket holder for the Green Bay Packers and Wisconsin Badgers. He loved being at the football games with family and friends, cheering for his teams. He also enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren in their many sporting events and was very proud of all their accomplishments.

Dewey is survived by his wife of 49½ years, Helen; his children, Matthew (Elizabeth), Timothy (Pauline), and Marcus. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Dan (Molly), Sam, Abigail, Angela, T. Jackson, Ellen, Molly, Erin, Anne, Kaden, and Jacob.

A visitation for family and friends will be on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. until Noon at St. Raphael Catholic Church 830 S. Westhaven Drive Oshkosh. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, March 29 at Noon at the church with the Rev. Bob Stegmann officiating. A luncheon will follow. A private family burial take place at Riverside Cemetery, Oshkosh.

Mueller Funeral Home-Winneconne is assisting the family. If you wish please submit online condolences to muellerfh.net.

The family would like to thank the doctors and nurses at Manatee Memorial Hospital (Bradenton FL) for their compassion and care.

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ventures. They especially liked traveling back to Oshkosh in the summer to visit friends and family.

John died peacefully in no real pain and was eager to be with his family and maker in heaven.

John is survived by his daughter Mary Jo Rohner and son Tom Rohner and his longtime friend Rudi Toman, all of San Diego, CA.

Walter A. Payne

Walter Arthur Payne, "Papa, Walt, Wally" to many, at 95 years young, eternally



went to be with the love of his life on Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

Funeral services will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home Westside on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, with visitation from 3-6 pm and service starting at 6 pm. He will be laid to rest next to his soul mate at Lake View Memorial Park.

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Obituaries

Christine Anne Misterek

Christine Anne Misterek, age 75, passed away at her Oshkosh home after a seven-year battle with metastatic pancreatic cancer on Wednesday, February 22, 2023. She was born in Oshkosh on July 10, 1947, to the late Edgar R. and Rosemary T. (Montag) Newell and grew up in Fisk and Oshkosh.

Chris graduated from Oshkosh High School in 1965 and spent her entire career as a dedicated and highly respected, skilled, and admired nurse (LPN/RN).

She was very proud of her years at Bethel Home and many years at Mercy Medical Center.



Chris married David L. Misterek on August 31, 1996, at the Red Mill wedding chapel in Waupaca two years after meeting while country western line dancing. Chris was a much loved and adored wife, mother, and Grammie. She loved Elvis, green apples, fishing, cross-country skiing, Betty Boop, black licorice, collecting recipes and pig-themed items, ditch asparagus, crossword puzzles, antique stores, ice cream, the color green, being an amazing Grammie to her grandson and six step-grandchildren, and spending many fun-filled days fishing, canoeing, and pontooning with family at their Post Lake cottage.

Chris's hobbies over the years included singing and competing with the Sweet Adelines singing group, dancing with the Western Country Line Dance group and the Yellow Rock Cloggers, and cake decorating. She and her husband were actively involved with the Fox Valley Wild Ones Prairie Restoration Group, annually assisted the DNR with guarding the spawning sturgeon on the Wolf River and moni-

tored a bluebird trail of 43 houses weekly at the Utica Golf Club for the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW). She absolutely loved feeding the birds, turkeys, and neighbor's chickens that flocked to her yard.

Chris is lovingly survived by her husband David L. Misterek; daughter Melissa K. "Missy" (Robert Anderson) Jolin; sons Scott D. Nikolaus and Steven J. (Berlyn) Nikolunauer; grandson Cody S. (Tess) Jolin; siblings Edgar J. "Skip" Newell, Linda M. Behlman, Michael R. (Connie) Newell, Robert A. (Pamela) Newell, Kathleen R. (Joul) Molinski, Gene L. (Mary) Newell, and James N. Newell; stepchildren Michael (Laura) Misterek and Jennifer (Mark) Seering; son-in-law Robert Christensen; step-grandchildren Madison and Jordan Misterek, Ella and Ben Seering, and Caleb and McKenzie Christensen; many nieces and nephews; step-aunt Ruth Esther Stryzewski (who at 111 years old is the oldest person in Wisconsin); and good friends Julie, Mary "Shirley," Sally,

and Rose.

In addition to her parents, Chris was preceded in death by her step-daughter Christine Christensen, former daughter-in-law Vicki Nikolaus, brother Lynn E. Newell, sister-in-law Nancy Newell, and brother-in-law Bernie Behlman.

A memorial service will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Drive on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 2:00pm with Pastor Dean Desilet officiating. Visitation will be held from 12:00pm until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established for the continuing education of Chris's seven grandchildren.

The Misterek family would like to extend their deep appreciation to the doctors, nurses, specialists, and staff at Froedtert Hospital, the Michael D. Wachtel Cancer Center, and Compassus Hospice for their great care and support of Christine.



Anita M. Deininger

Anita Merle Deininger, 92, Marathon, WI, died peacefully on Monday, March 20, 2023, at her home at Copperleaf Assisted Living of Marathon under the loving care of Copperleaf staff and Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services.

She was born October 27, 1930 in Oshkosh WI, daughter of the late Edmund R. and Marie Basing Wislinsky. She married the late Charles Deininger on June 1, 1957 at St. Josaphat Catholic Church in Oshkosh.

Anita earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Wisconsin State College (now the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh). She taught Biology and Health at Marathon High School and later Physical Education at St. Mary's Catholic School.

Anita loved sports and for many years attended Marathon High football and basketball games with Charlie and their friends. She seldom missed local events in which her children or grandchildren participated. Anita enjoyed gardening, solving challenging crossword puzzles, listening to music, and was an avid reader. She had a sharp wit and enjoyed good company and a good laugh.

Survivors include her 6 children: Lisa (Jim) Hurtis, Wausau, Andrew (Teri) Deininger, Edgar, David (Evy) Deininger,



Appleton, Amy Horton, Northville, Michigan, Matthew Deininger, Hartland, and Beth (Chuck) Altfillisch, Marathon; 12 grandchildren: Elise (Jon) Turner, Blake (Marie) and Adam Hurtis, Megan (Chad) Reemtsma, Michael Deininger, Brianna (Chris) Mauney, Declan Horton, Tyler, Bailey, and Bryn Deininger, Alanie (Luke) Mucha, and Ella Altfillisch; 2 step-grandchildren: Dustin (Rachel) Altfillisch, and Ryan (Johanna) Stieber; 9 great-grandchildren: Warren and Samuel Turner, Kyleigh Wert and Taylor Reemtsma, Kinsley, Bailey, and Landon Mauney, and Levi and Addy Mucha; 4 step-great-grandchildren: Landen and Bayze Altfillisch, and Marty and Jensen Stieber.

In addition to her parents and husband, Charlie, Anita was preceded in death by her sisters Mabel Crimmings, Betty Wislinsky, Doris Wislinsky, Mary Jane Konrad, and Joan Wislinsky, and her brother, Edmund J. Wislinsky.

A Funeral Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church and inurnment in St. Mary's Cemetery will be held at a later date.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.petersonkraemer.com

In lieu of flowers, Anita has requested that friends and family make donations to benefit St. Mary's Catholic Church or the Marathon County Humane Society.



Rudolph H. Hoffman

Rudolph H. Hoffman, 86, of Channing, Mich., passed away Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at Marshfield Medical Center-Dickinson, Iron Mountain, Mich.

He was born December 14, 1936, in Oshkosh, Wis., son of the late Rudolph and Anna (Wolf) Hoffman. Rudolph grew up and attended school in Oshkosh. He worked as a body mechanic for Russ Darrow in Milwaukee until his retirement in 2006.

He married Marlys Process on June 29, 1989. She preceded him in death on December 1, 2021.

Rudolph was a member of Grace Pres-



byterian Church in Sagola. He enjoyed bowling, going to the casino, working on cars, and his Elvis trips to Memphis.

Survivors include his five sons: Rex, Kenny, Joey, Scotty, and Mikey Hoffman; one daughter, Vicki Hoffman; stepchildren: Douglas Hurkmans, Kay Ann Hurkmans and Kelly Ann Hood; and two sisters: Sylvia Karow and Marcella Ryckman (Oshkosh).

In addition to his parents and wife, Marlys, Rudolph was preceded in death by a brother, Eddie Hoffman.

In accordance with Rudolph's wishes, private family services will be held.

You may leave a condolence for the family at www.jacobsfuneralhomes.com.

The family has chosen Jacobs Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Iron Mountain, Mich., to honor Rudolph's legacy of life.

Scott E. Bork

Scott E. Bork, age 50 of Oshkosh, passed away on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at his residence. He was born August 11, 1972 at Theda Clark of Neenah.

Scott is survived by his life partner Meredith Hammond, Oshkosh; two sisters, Tammy Hill and Melissa (Dick) Linke; niece, Misty Hill; nephew, Christopher Bork and a great-nephew, Xavier.



He is preceded in death by his mother, Dianne Knorr; father, John Bork and grandmother, Laura Hegaman.

Scott was very passionate about music and playing guitar. He also loved his dogs Bailey, Scruffy and Cutie Pie and enjoyed spending time with them. He enjoyed helping others when he could and was seen by others as a genuinely nice guy.

A Celebration of Life will be held on April 1 from 1PM to 4PM at Cheatin Heart bar. In lieu of flowers, please send any cards to 1929 Olive Street, Oshkosh WI 54901.

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Community art show returns with fresh expectations

By Kaitlyn Scoville
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Arts Collective (OAC) is preparing for its second annual art show at the Gibson Social Club, 537 N. Main St., from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday.

Jessica Lomena began the OAC in 2019 after moving back to Oshkosh from Denver. She said the inaugural event last year “blew (her) expectations away.”



Lomena

“I’m a little apprehensive to say that, because I’m hoping that this year is as good if not better. There’s a lot of excitement building,” she said. “Last year, I had no idea what to expect.”

This year will host nearly 40 artists and demonstrations with special effects makeup, pottery and drawing.

Thunderbird Bakery and Sweet Jules also will be vendors, “which is something I’m really excited about because they’re both women-owned small businesses, and as a woman that owns a small business, I’m always happy to support other fabulous hard-working women trying to do stuff in the world,” Lomena said. “I am hoping and anticipating another great turnout.”

Chris Williams, who showcased his art last year under William Lee Twitch Art, said last year’s event went well after he hadn’t attended an art show since 2009.

“I found people that liked my work, made a few sales and got to meet other artists in the community,” Williams said. “Not bad at all.”



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Community members visited last year’s inaugural Oshkosh Arts Collective at the Gibson Social Club.

This year he will be bringing original drawings, paintings, art cards, prints and stickers featuring his style of “Saturday morning cartoons, horror, slapstick and early ’90s comic books.”

“Joining the OAC has helped me get more confidence in my artwork and skills,” Williams said, “enough to where this is my fourth art event I’ve displayed my work and have also become a member of a local art gallery.”

Jana Nehila got involved with the OAC as a way to find an art community in the city. She signed up to participate in last year’s art show on a whim and was “extremely happy” with the outcome, and looks forward to this show.

“Last year’s show was one of the highlights of my year,” she said. “I had never

been in a community art show before, so it was a new experience. I was able to make connections with other artists, sell some work and gain some more followers for my digital art space.

“I remember feeling intense happiness during and after the show. I am very grateful for OAC because the community fueled my soul inside and outside the art community.”

Nehila said just attending is great for the arts community and raising awareness of what’s happening.

“Artists are extremely welcoming, friendly people who love to have any conversation,” she said. “We find inspiration in anything, any time and in any type of person. You don’t have to know the names of every famous artist to consider going

to this event. This show is special because there are so many types of artists, art and people. Similar to a farmers market but with an art focus, there is something for everyone to appreciate and learn.”

Lomena said the amount of support the greater community had for local artists was a pleasant surprise.

“One thing that made me so happy last year was the amount of support people showed to artists, not only in just talking to artists, but also a lot of people bought art last year, which just made my heart happy for the artists because it can be a hit or miss,” Lomena said. “I was happy to hear from a lot of the artists that they sold quite a few pieces.”

More information can be found at OshkoshArtCollective.com.

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