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VOLUME 6, ISSUE 10



# Water rates increase for city users

### 18% boost connected to rising supply costs

By Kaitlyn Scoville Oshkosh Herald

City residents may see an approximate 18% jump in their water bills in the coming months, the first since 2018, following updated regulations from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC).

A Water Rate Application and Rate Case was prepared and submitted to the PSC by financial advisers Ehlers, and the recommendation was reviewed and approved by the Common Council.

Finance Director Russ Van Gompel said the PSC will hold a public hearing and determine the final amount of the increase in the future, and that the whole process could take another three to six months to complete.

"The revenue requirement necessary

to meet the operations of the water utility show that an average 18% increase in rates is necessary," a memo from city staff

Ehlers and city staff went through a review process with PSC staff on the city's rate case, and PSC staff developed and released the revenue requirement for the water utility. The revenue requirement shows a \$2,720,166 increase to existing

See Water rates ON Page 7

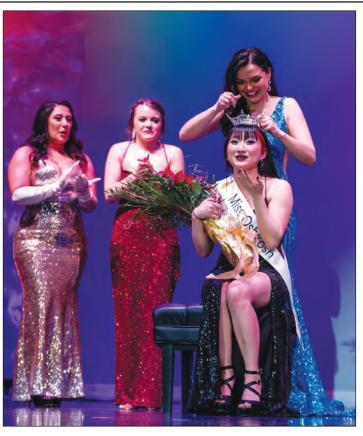
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Photos courtesy of Oshkosh Area Women's Association

### **Pageant winners**

Taylor Swanson (left photo) was crowned Miss Oshkosh 2023 and Madelyn Rutkowski won the title of Miss Oshkosh Teen on Saturday night at the Miss Oshkosh Scholarship Competition at Alberta Kimball Auditorium. See story on Page 5.

### Local candidates in place for open election seats

### Mayor, council, school, judicial posts contested

Oshkosh Herald

With the spring election less than a month away on April 4, Oshkosh candidates for Board of Education, Common Council and Winnebago County Branch 2 judge squared off in public forums March 1 with the League of Women Voters of Winnebago County.

The forums can be viewed at oshkoshmedia.org.

### Mayor

Deputy Mayor Matt Mugerauer and council colleague Aaron Wojciechowski have been campaigning for Oshkosh mayor after Lori Palmeri announced she will not seek re-election after winning a Wisconsin Assembly seat

in District 54 in Novem-

Palmeri will finish her term through the end of April while she starts her time in Madison this month. She took over the spot of Rep. Gordon Hintz, who departed from his seat in January.

Mugerauer Mugerauer, a lifelong

resident, is in his third term on the council, starting in 2018.

Wojciechowski is in his first term on the

council after time on the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors.

Topics discussed included tax incremental finance (TIF) districts, modernizing land zon-

ing, tax levy increases, and the addition of diversity and sustainability positions to city staff. Mugerauer and Wo-

jciechowski share many values for what they see is best for the city. Mugerauer said a ma-

jor role and challenge of a city council is to make an environment welcome and accessible to development with proper use of TIFs.

Wojciechowski

Wojciechowski said TIFs were a key tool for economic development of all kinds in the city, and that restrictions on them could produce negative outcomes.

Both candidates also emphasized the importance of their roles as public servants, being involved outside meetings, and encouraged residents to get involved and attend them so they are heard.

### Common Council

Six candidates are running for three twoyear positions.

Council members Courtney Hansen and Bill Miller have expiring terms for which they

SEE Local elections ON PAGE 18

### ON APRIL 4TH ELECT RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP OSHKOSH COMMON COUNCIL



**HUDAK** 



BILL **MILLER** 



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March 8, 2023



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Advertising deadline is noon Friday for the following Wednesday. The classified line ads deadline is 4 p.m. Friday for Wednesday.

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### Corrections

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

### About the newspaper

Published weekly and mailed free of charge Tuesdays for Wednesday delivery (may vary based on U.S. Postal Service and holidays) to more than 31,000 homes and businesses in the Oshkosh area.

Oshkosh Herald LLC, 36 Broad St., Suite 300, Oshkosh. An E-edition of the newspaper can be accessed at www.oshkoshherald.com.

### Parent resource hours offered in county

The Winnebago County Health Department is offering twice-monthly Parent Resource hours in Oshkosh and Neenah for breastfeeding support, developmental screenings, child vaccines, and guidance on safe sleep and car seat safety.

The casual environment allows caregivers to chat with staff and other new parents about the stages of nutrition, socialization and mental health. No appointment is necessary unless interested in vaccines or a car seat check.

Parent Resource hours are from 1 to 4 p.m. every second Tuesday in Oshkosh at 112 Otter Ave. (next one is March 14) and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every fourth Thursday in Neenah at 211 Commercial St. (next one is March 23).

This month's focus is developmental

screenings that help identify a child's progress through milestones by looking at the ways they play, learn, speak and act. The screenings are not a diagnosis but can help indicate if a child is on track developmentally or if a specialist should take a closer look.

Additional resources offered:

- Learn about childhood development, early signs of autism and other developmental disorders. Find checklists to monitor a child's development, information on how to talk to a doctor, and other resources.
- Track a child's milestones from age 2 months to 5 years with easy-to-use illustrated checklists; get tips for encouraging child development; and receive texts with age appropriate activities to do with chil-

dren.

• First 5 Fox Valley connects families to developmental services and provides resources to help children ages 0-5 reach their potential.

For more information, visit winnebago-publichealth.org or call 920-232-3000.

# Bus connection retained with pact

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh is retaining its GO Transit link to the Fox Cities and Valley Transit through an agreement with Winnebago County to replace the Route 10 service that had been connecting the greater metro area bus systems.

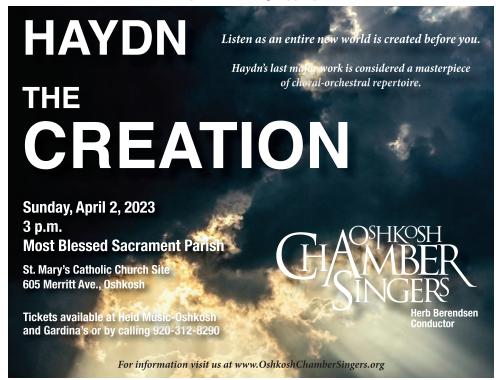
The new yearlong agreement that goes into effect April 3 is intended to be a pilot program using a private vendor for on-call shared ride service to and from the Oshkosh downtown transit center and Neenah's Valley Transit center, which relocated in November to the corner of Walnut Street and East Doty Avenue next to the City Hall building.

Service hours will be from 6:15 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The estimated cost of the program is \$170,100 with \$90,153 provided by the city of Oshkosh through state and federal grant money.

Fare income at \$5 per ride is estimated to bring in \$27,000 over the 12-month period.

The remaining \$52,947 will be paid by Winnebago County to Oshkosh on a quarterly basis.



### **VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE APRIL 4, 2023 ELECTION**

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may request to vote an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot. Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued.

### TO OBTAIN AN ABSENTEE BALLOT YOU MUST MAKE A REQUEST IN WRITING

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the APRIL 4, 2023 Election. You may also submit a written request in the form of a letter. Your written request must list your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different, and your signature. You may make application for an absentee ballot by mail, email or in person.

### MAKING APPLICATION TO RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL

The deadline for making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail is 5:00 p.m. on March 30, 2023 apply in clerk's office or online at https://myvote.wi.gov

Note: Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined to home or a care facility, in the military, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

### **VOTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT IN PERSON**

You may also request and vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office or other specified location during the days and hours specified for casting an absentee ballot in person.

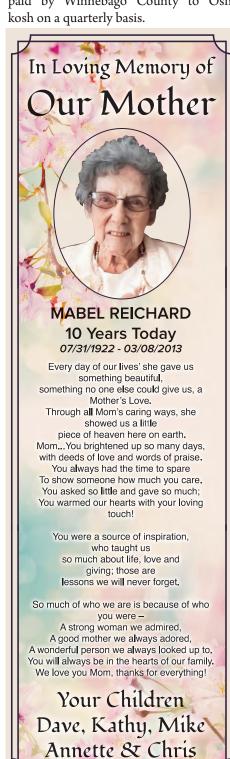
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View more information at website: www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us Hours: Tues – Fri, (March 21 to March 24, 2023) 8 am-4:30 pm Mon – Thurs, (March 27 to March 30, 2023) 8 am-4:30 pm Fri, (March 31, 2023) 8 am-5 pm

No in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election.

The municipal clerk will deliver voted ballots returned on or before Election Day to the proper polling place or counting location before the polls close on APRIL 4, 2023. Any ballots received after the polls close will not be counted.

Published: 3/8/2023



### Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

### March 5, 1953

**Oshkosh Pilot Dramatically Rescued** in Korea: An Oshkosh Navy pilot, shot down for the second time in two weeks over Wonsan Harbor on the Korean east coast, was dramatically rescued by helicopter while under fire yesterday. Sniper bullets kicked up sand around the copter as it snatched Lt. James Overton from a beach where he landed by parachute after anti-aircraft fire brought down his Corsair fighter. A few weeks earlier, Overton crash-landed on an allied-held island while on a spotting mission. He was not injured. Lt. James B. Overton is the 27-year-old son of Mathilda Overton and the late George Overton. Acting under pressure is not uncommon for this Oshkosh native. Last summer he was forced to bring down a training plane without power in Hawaii because of mechanical difficulty. Overton was absolved of any blame in the incident after a naval hearing.

> Source: The Daily Northwestern, March 5, 1953

### **Send business bits**

Our readers are looking for information on what businesses are doing in Oshkosh. Help us share the news by emailing businessbits@oshkoshherald. com or calling 920-385-4512.

### Radio group expansion could add station for Oshkosh

By Randall Davidson HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Madison-based Civic Media is continuing to build a statewide network of commercial radio stations and has entered into a purchase agreement with Magnum Media to acquire existing stations in four media markets. Pending approval of the sale by the Federal Communications Commission, one of the new stations will be serving Oshkosh.

Once in operation, the Oshkosh out-

let will be at 102.5 FM and will be a repeater for the group's WVXN in New Holstein, offering a format of oldies. The station, known as "The Vixen," is at 1520 on the AM dial in its home city and will also be heard on 96.5 FM in Appleton.

Also part of the purchase are an FM station in Eau Claire and its FM repeater in Chippewa Falls, an AM station in La Crosse and two AM stations in Racine, one of which has FM repeaters in both

Racine and Kenosha. Purchase price for the package of stations was \$3.65 mil-

If approved, these acquisitions will bring Civic Media's network to 17 stations, covering nearly all of Wisconsin.

Last fall, Civic Media added WISS in Berlin to its group, serving the Oshkosh area at 1100 on the AM band and 98.3 on FM. Known as "Oshkosh Air Support," the news/talk outlet also carries Milwaukee Brewers baseball.

### Toxic release brings penalty to CB Manufacturing from EPA

Oshkosh Herald

651-1919

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and CB Manufacturing Co., which also operates as Pepsi Beverages Co. on West 20th Avenue, reached a consent agreement and final order dealing with a 2020 hazardous substance release with a civil penalty of more than \$30,000.

The agreement and final order, according to a late February release from Mitchell Williams Law, took up the alleged violation of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Li-

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ability Act (CERCLA).

"On July 29, 2020, at around 12:01 a.m., a release occurred from CB's facility of approximately 1,035 pounds of anhydrous ammonia," the release said. "Further, in a 24-hour time period the release of anhydrous ammonia exceeded 100 pounds. In addition, the release included the escape of 735 pounds into the ambient air."

Documents from the EPA note that anhydrous ammonia is classified as a "physical or health hazard" and "a simple asphyxiant," as well as hazardous chemical.

Section 103 of CERCLA requires a facility to immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC) of any release of hazardous substances in an amount equal to or greater than the reportable quantity for that substance.

For a release to be considered reportable, it must be into the environment, be equal to or exceed the RQ for that particular hazardous substance and occur within a 24-hour period.

The decided civil penalty was settled at \$30,524.

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MAR



DiscoverOshkosh.com

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### District staff restructuring awaits more diversity input

By Kaitlyn Scoville OSHKOSH HERALD

Oshkosh Area School District Superintendent Bryan Davis's plan to restructure his administrative cabinet was tabled until this week after community members urged him and the Board of Education to consider the addition of a diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) coordinator.

Earlier this school year, Deputy Superintendent Dave Gundlach and executive director of administration Andy Jones announced their retirements, both effective

A report from Davis notes that the reorganization includes the renaming and redistribution of duties for five administration office positions – including Jones and Gundlach's - and the addition of a director of technology.

Furthermore, the director of curriculum and instruction position, which is held by Julie Conrad, will fill the renamed director of secondary schools position; the director of learning, held by Kim Brown, will fill one of the renamed director of elementary



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schools position; and the second director of elementary schools position will be posted for internal or external applicants.

The director of elementary school position also will be posted alongside the assistant superintendent of operations, assistant superintendent of instruction and director of technology to be hired later.



This restructuring was ultimately halted after community members stepped up to ask the Board of Education to reconsider after there was little mention of equity work being embedded into its composition.

Jennifer Considine said that among the 12 administrative cabinet positions, only one was directly tasked with equity work. She said other schools in the area have a full-time DEI coordinator, including Appleton and Fond du Lac.

Mashebe Subulwa, who has two Black students in the district, also spoke at the meeting to ask the group to reconsider Davis' structure.

"Those who do not share my lived experience, or that of my children, may not see the importance of such work. If you have new resources as this plan lists, please consider funding a DEI professional at the district level," Subulwa said.

His wife, Angela, also asked the group to put a hold on the vote because of a "missed opportunity to more seriously engage with the very real racial inequities in there is this constant refrain about equity work being everywhere but it's really hard to see when one reads this particular plan," she said. "The language and the framing of all those responsibilities lands on one position. To prioritize the equity work that needs to be done requires investment, and there's room for that.

"As a mom of kids who have encountered and been harmed in this district by racism, this is worth it. I am tired of coming and talking about it. How much time should they wait? How many things should they encounter before the grownups in this space do better?"

Davis said the reorganization was structured in such a way to embed equity measures in every position, and that a revised version of the plan has been made.

"The original plan was that we had equity as one bullet knowing that it's baked into everything that we do," Davis said. "This is the reinforcement that equity is all our responsibilities, and that we all have to grow from where we are. All those things need to be done with an equity lens, and that's not one person's responsibility."

Many board members collectively agreed that equity work continues to be worked into day-to-day activity, which was noted as a key factor to why Davis was hired.

"It's critical that this is an area that we continue to address," board vice president Beth Wyman said. "We have some wonderful community members here and I think they speak for many others. To be the school district we want to be on so many levels, we need to ensure that all of our students are excelling and can become a whole student."

Davis said part of the district's emphasis is to diversify its staff to be more representative of students, "so we have more racial diversity related to some of the experiences some of our students are having."

"It's not necessarily a shortage of positions, it's making sure we can cast our net wide to recruit and retain a diverse staff," he said. "The four positions can bring in lived experiences and expertise. It doesn't rule out that (a DEI coordinator) is a bad idea, this is just the proposal at this time."

Board president Barb Herzog also said that embedding an equity statement into each of the job descriptions precludes the board from hiring a DEI Coordinator.

"We've become a more diverse student population overall. We can still embed these equity statements and still look at hiring a DEI coordinator," Herzog said.

The vote this week also will be aligned with Davis' key performance indicators (KPIs) as part of his Continuous Improvement Plan. He said he hopes to have this returned to the board on an annual basis for a reassessment of goals.

"The idea is that it would be an evolution of our current strategic plan into a new model which would honor the past work that our community and boards and staff have done but put it in a format that I would consider more consumable," Davis said. "This is an important key when we're looking at communicating with our staff internally. I like to think of it from the boardroom to the classroom and what measures are important for us moving forward."

A workshop will be held this week for board members to review the material before it's adopted as the district's strategic

and marbled rye.



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A map marks in red the pending downtown bridge project for the Oregon and Jackson link.

# DOT endorses fixed span design for Oregon/Jackson St. bridge

Oshkosh Herald

A high-level, fixed bridge for the Oregon/Jackson Street span is the preferred design announced by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Northeast Region.

The DOT's recommendation last week followed coordination and outreach with stakeholder groups, businesses, industry, the public and city leaders. A Bridge Environmental Study was launched to deal with noted deficiencies in the aging structure.

A high-level fixed bridge on a partially offset alignment was chosen among dozens of alternatives provided to the public for comment. It will maintain safe access and passage for all users – motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, people with disabilities and waterway users – and meet the transportation needs of the city, according to the design recommendation.

The fixed span design will change the bridge alignment on its north end at Jackson Street and impact driveway connections to the City Center and other businesses along Jackson.

"It's through this collaborative process of sharing concerns and comments that we were able to come to a consensus on a structure that will meet the needs of Oshkosh for decades to come," said Tom Buchholz, Northeast Region director. "I'd like to thank the residents and leaders of Oshkosh for all their time and effort devoted to this important design decision."

Some of the benefits cited by the DOT:

- A high-level fixed bridge will increase width to accommodate 11-foot travel lanes, 5-foot bicycle lanes and 6-foot sidewalks on both sides.
- Improved navigation clearance for boaters and less travel delay for motorists with a 23-foot vertical clearance allowing for all boaters to pass under the bridge without a lift span that delays motorists.
- Better accommodations for bicycle and pedestrian travel and links to the river walks on both shores, including the potential to separate the river walks under a new bridge.
- New bridge will provide roughly 75 years of life before the next major improvement.
- Current estimate for a fixed bridge is in the \$19 million to \$23 million range. Lift bridge would cost roughly \$20-\$25 million more to construct and have significantly higher maintenance costs. The city will be responsible for maintenance costs.
  - Provides a continuous river crossing

without interruptions for emergency services.

The DOT initiated a study in 2015 to develop and evaluate a range of potential Fox River crossing alternatives to replace the nearly 70-year-old structure as it nears the end of its service life.

The study paused in late 2017 and resumed in 2021. While the bridge is considered safe and structurally sound, regular inspections have confirmed that maintenance operations will only extend the bridge life a limited number of years and replacement is needed.

The bridge built in 1956, with an estimated 8,500 vehicle crossings per day, was closed to road traffic for about six months from May to November last year as broken gears needed to be ordered and replaced on the lift span.

The DOT plans to submit a draft environmental document for review this summer to the Federal Highway Administration. Environmental approvals are anticipated in 2024 and design will continue through 2027.

Construction is expected to begin in 2028. Future public meetings will be scheduled to present design refinements, real estate needs, construction elements, possible traffic impacts and information for businesses affected by road closures.



### Swanson crowned Miss Oshkosh

Oshkosh Herald

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh student Taylor Swanson was crowned Miss Oshkosh 2023 on Saturday night, competing against five other women for the title and earning a \$3,500 scholarship.

First runner-up was Addyson Wachholz and second runner up Bella Vanderloop.

The Miss Oshkosh Scholarship Competition at Alberta Kimball Auditorium awarded almost \$11,000 in scholarships. Swanson won the highest overall interview award and the Spirit of Miss America Award, earning an additional \$300.

Swanson, who majors in psychology at UW Oshkosh, performed a cello solo of Sonata in C Major and her social impact initiative is mental health mindfulness. She said she is excited to work with the community and encourage people of all ages to discuss mental health.

"I am ready to make my mark and presence known," Swanson said. "If you see me out and about, come say hi."

Miss Oshkosh's Teen 2023 is Madelyn Rutkowski, who competed with two other young ladies for the title. Rutkowski performed a baton-twirling routine to the music of "Set Fire to the Rain."

Rutkowski's social impact initiative is PEBBLES (Providing Educational Building Blocks for Lower Economic Schools).

"I'm looking forward to spreading community awareness about schools in need here in Oshkosh," she said. "I'd like to create a discussion on how we as a community can work with our school district to eliminate some of the inequities."

Both women will compete at the Miss Wisconsin Scholarship Competition on June 21-24 at the Alberta Kimball Auditorium

Both are available for community and charity events, parades and fairs, emcee and speaking engagements, school programs, fashion shows, and sporting and holiday events. Contact info@missoshkosh.com for more information.

### Stephan named National Merit finalist

Faith Stephan, a senior homeschool

student from Oshkosh, has been named a finalist in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. This recognition represents less than 1 percent of high school seniors in the United States.

As a finalist, Stephan will have the opportu-

nity to be considered for scholarships being awarded to talented high school seniors

Stephan

nationwide worth more than \$31 million.

In addition to her academic achievement Stephan is a member of FIRST Roament.

ment, Stephan is a member of FIRST Robotics team 2826 (Wave Robotics), the Oshkosh Youth Symphony Orchestra and the UW Oshkosh Putnam Math team. She also volunteers at the Oshkosh Area Food Pantry and has received Gold Presidential Volunteer Service Awards for her volunteering.

After graduating this spring, she plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and pursue degrees in engineering-physics and mathematics.





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### Housing development on 20th Avenue advances

By Kaitlyn Scoville OSHKOSH HERALD

A 208-unit apartment development on the city's south side is one step closer to starting despite continued efforts by neighboring residents to curb it.

Oshkosh's Common Council last week approved both a zone change and general development plan for a multifamily site across from the 20th Avenue YMCA. The city's Plan Commission will now see its specific implementation plan at a future meeting to hash out specifics of the overall development with Wesenberg Architects representatives.

Residents who live nearby attended the council meeting to express their concerns with additional traffic that may come as a result of the high-density build with a drive-thru element.

"A really big pushback is the traffic around this area," Renee Richards told city officials. "If you don't live there and experience it every day, it'd be hard to take that in. We moved to this area because it was semi-rural. Give thought to the people that invested in the property because of that."

She also noted a conversation she had

with a police officer where she observed driving speeds at 55-60 miles per hour in a 30-35 mph zone.

Another resident, Karen Hafemeister, was concerned with a drive-thru development at an apartment complex that will have families with children present.

"I don't think a business with a drive-thru and children on bikes, roller blades, skateboards - I don't think that's a good mix," Hafemeister said. "Our neighborhood isn't opposed to development, but this doesn't seem like a good fit to have a drive-thru business with an apartment that might have a lot of children in it.

"Traffic is horrendous in our neighborhood as it is," she added. "We're on the edge of town. Everybody that comes out to us is either on a city bus or in their car. It's not conducive to the pedestrian thought."

Council member Bill Miller asked to remove a traffic study that had been added as a condition during the Plan Commission meeting on the basis that three have been done in that area in the last 15 years.

Transit director Jim Collins and City Manager Mark Rohloff said they don't



think such a study would show any change in traffic patterns as a result of the proposed development. The amendment to remove the traffic study from the general development plan was approved.

"I don't think this kind of development would trip any trigger for that kind of need out there," Rohloff said. "Our experience is that these developments don't have a lot of children. It generates working adults."

### **Business news roundup**

Winnebago County Foster Closet recently rebranded itself to Form the Family to extend its outreach and include the six other counties it serves. "We wanted to make sure the community knows we provide resources far beyond tangible items, which include support groups, family nights out, resource sharing and more," a statement from the organization said.

Hoffmaster Group Inc., a manufacturer of premium disposable tableware, announced the acquisition of Paterson Pacific Parchment Co., a producer of foodservice paper and parchment products. Hoffmaster will assume operations for Paterson as part of its family of production facilities. Founded in 1923 in San Francisco, the company is based in Sparks, Nev.

Oshkosh Corp. was recently named to Fortune's 2023 World's Most Admired Companies list. Oshkosh was one of 324 companies to earn this designation and ranked in the top three in its category. This is the fifth year the company has been included on the list.

Among the New North finalists among

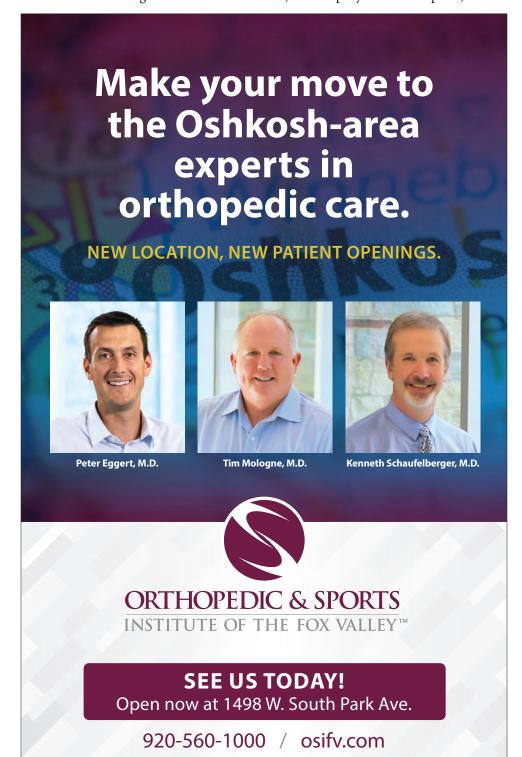
49 entries from 25 state municipalities that have advanced to the semifinals of the Wisconsin Governor's Business Plan Contest was Flip Outfit of Oshkosh. The top dozen contestants will give live presentations at the annual Wisconsin Entrepreneurs' Conference May 31 in Milwaukee. Category winners will be announced June 1.

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### Banquet keys on future of pheasant, habitat programs

By Rob Zimmer
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Each year, the annual Pheasants Forever Fox River Valley Chapter banquet shapes the future of the organization's mission and goals for the coming year. Funds raised at this popular event, held in March, help realize several different local projects and programs the group dedicates itself to year round.

This year's event will be held March 24 at the Oshkosh Convention Center downtown.

Pheasants Forever is more than a hunting organization. Group members and volunteers dedicate themselves to projects and programs that benefit much more than ring-necked pheasants. Habitat preservation, conservation and restoration projects help many other species.

Pollinators such as monarch butterflies, bumblebees and other insects benefit from

native plantings and restoration. Wildlife such as whitetails, red fox and many other species benefit from habitat projects as well. Many other birds, from plant species to wetland species, benefit from the work the group performs each year.

The annual Rooster Fest banquet of the Fox River Valley Chapter of Pheasants Forever is one of the most popular and well-attended events in the area. Showcasing the different projects the group is involved in, as well as the ever-popular prize drawings, raffles and auctions, the banquet draws an eager and passionate crowd.

Local chapter president and banquet chairperson Ryan Seeley promises a great time for all, with all of the perks and excitement the annual event is known for and all for a tremendous cause.

"All funds raised, like all Pheasants Forever-Fox River Valley Chapter events, remain here in the Valley, except national member-



Photo by Rob Zimmer

Ring-necked pheasants and their natural habitat are the focus of a conference in Oshkosh.

ship dues," he said. "This means that you, and the local pheasant population, benefit directly and also guarantees that donations

are being spent based on local input. Pheasants Forever is a nonprofit organization and all the workers you see here are volunteers, generously donating their time and energy to our worthy cause.

"This truly will be a celebration of friends for a common cause – habitat. The evening will be filled with camaraderie and plenty of fun."

Seeley notes that urban areas in the region have been expanding at an ever-increasing rate. He said this urbanization has increased the need for organizations such as his that are committed to increasing and improving the habitat of the area for pheasants and all wildlife.

"Pheasants Forever's unique system of local chapters allows 100% of net funds raised by chapters to remain at the chapter level for local habitat projects," Seeley said.

For more information visit foxvalley-pheasants.com.

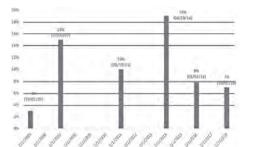
### Water rates

FROM PAGE 1

water user rate revenues, or 18%, is needed to meet the total operations expense of the water utility.

Public Works director James Rabe said the rate increase is necessary mostly because of the large increases in supply costs.

"I think especially in the last 18 months, chemical costs have been a huge driver. We have seen the chemical supply change the way they do governmental entities, and they treat us the same as everybody else, charging us with commodity rates," Rabe said. "For example, both wa-



ter and wastewater utilize chlorine in the disinfection process. We have seen the rates that we pay for chlorine more than quadruple in the past 16 months."

Ehlers developed two rate proposals, one of which is the city's current declining block rate structure, and the second includes the development of a lifeline

block for residential customers.

The lifeline rate proposal, according to Ehlers, would include an inclining block rate structure for the residential class with the smallest block being a lifeline block and representing basic water use for an average residential customer. The multifamily and nonresidential customer classes would continue to be on a declining block rate structure under this proposal.

For lower-use customers, the lifeline rate proposal shows a small difference in the monthly user rates compared with the current rate structure.

City staff recommended to keep the rate structure consistent with what it has been with the declining block rate.

"There are things out of our control. This isn't because we're giving outlandish and lavish upgrades to vehicles and payroll costs," Deputy Mayor Matt Mugerauer said. "This is to make sure we are providing safe, clean, reliable drinking water to anybody that turns on a tap, and that costs money. It has to happen."

In other action, the council approved allocation of \$225,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the Oshkosh Kids Foundation for its Tiny Homes project, which has recently housed its first families.

Among the non-infrastructure-related projects dedicated from the ARPA funds, Rohloff said there is about \$2.3 million left to be allocated by the end of next year.

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### Oshkosh's voice on the Best in Oshkosh

#### VOTING

Phase 2 voting is now open through 5pm March 20, 2023.

Phase 2 voting is between the top 3 nominees in each category unless there is a tie.

CIRCLE your nominee in each category.

A minimum of 30 categories must be completed for your ballot to count.

#### RULES

Phase 2 rules are simple: One ballot per person per phase. No photocopies. No ballot stuffing.

Herald Name Address Phone

Mail or drop off ballot to 36 Broad St., Suite 300 Oshkosh WI 54901

### CITY PICKS 2023 FINALISTS

### MUSEUM/ART GALLERY

EAA Museum Jambalaya Arts, Inc Oshkosh Public Museum Paine Art Center

#### **NEW RESTAURANT** (opened after Feb. 2022) PARM

Teriyaki Madness The Taquria

#### BEST SUB/SANDWICH SHOP

Subway Firehouse Jersey Mike's

#### LATE-NIGHT FOOD

Niko's Gyros Pete's Garage Taco Bell West End Pizza

Dockside Tavern Fletch's Local Tap House Fox River Brewing Co/Fratello's Ground Round at River's Edge

#### BREWERY

Bare Bones Brewery Fifth Ward Brewing Co Fox River Brewing Co

#### COFFEE SHOP

Elsewhere Market & Coffee House New Moon Cafe Planet Perk

### Starbucks

BREAKFAST Delta Restaurant Mike's Place Family Restaurant Piloras Cafe Two Brothers Family Restaurant

Mike's Place Family Restaurant The Hangar The Roxy Supper Club Two Brothers Family Restaurant

### BEST CHILI

Parnell's Place The Hangar The Roxy Supper Club West End Pizza

### BAKERY

Festival Foods Piggly Wiggly Thunderbird Bakery Tamara's The Cake Guru

### **FINE DINING**

Becket's

Gardina's Kitchen Bar The Roxy Supper Club TJ's Highland Steakhouse

Ground Round at River's Edge Jeff's on Rugby The Roxy Supper Club TJ's Highland Steakhouse

VEGAN/VEGETARIAN Gardina's Kitchen Bar Market The Chalice

Carrot & Kale

West End Pizza JUICE/SMOOTHIE Big Apple Bagel

#### Kwik Trip Rhapsodies Frozen Custard PIZZA

Dr. Benzie's Pizza Pizza King Ratch & Deb's Pizza West End Pizza Zaroni's A Macaroni & Pizza Pub

reserves the right to determine if ballot stuffing has transpired.

PANCAKES Delta Restaurant Mike's Place Family Restaurant Perkins Restaurant Two Brothers Family Restaurant

#### OMELETTE

Delta Restaurant Mike's Place Family Restaurant The Roxy Supper Club Two Brothers Family Restaurant

#### BURGER

Culver's Pete's Garage Red Robin Ruby Owl Tap Room

TACOS Big Daddy's Pub Cozumel Mexican Restaurant Taco John's

The Taqueria BARBECUE Chester V's Leons Frozen Custard

#### Mile High Pub

Parker John's BBQ & Pizza FISH FRY Jeff's On Rugby Northside Bar N Grill Parnell's Place

### The Hangar The Roxy Supper Club

NOODLES/RAMEN Bangkok Thai Cuisine Mama's Noodle Bar Noodles & Co

### Zaroni's A Macaroni & Pizza Pub

SUSHI Festival Foods Fuki Steakhouse & Sushi Manila Resto

### Sakura Japanese Steak House

ITALIAN Gardina's Kitchen Bar Market

Olive Garden The Roxy Supper Club

### MEXICAN

Cozumel Mexican Restaurant Los Jaripeos Los Rivera's Mexican Grill Los Tres Amigos Authentic Mexican Food

### CHICKEN

Jeff's on Rugby Mike's Place Family Restaurant

Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen

### WINGS

Buffalo Wild Wings Players Pizza & Pub The Bar

### West End Pizza

ICE CREAM/FROZEN TREATS Dairy Queen Leons Frozen Custard Rhapsodies Frozen Custard

Caramel Crisp Café Festival Foods LaSure's Bakery

#### Tamara's The Cake Guru CHEAP DATE

Ardy & Ed's Bob's Trails End Pete's Garage West End Pizza

### MEAT MARKET/ BUTCHER SHOP

Beck's Meats Festival Foods Wagner Market

#### KIDS PARTY PLACE

Fire Escape Precision Athletics The Mineshaft West End Pizza

#### CHILD CARE

YMCA

Arts For Kids Kids Are Us Family Child Care Tracy's Tots

### SUMMER CAMP/YOUTH

PROGRAM Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh EAA Airventure

#### BIRTHDAY CAKES Dairy Oueen

Festival Foods LaSure's Bakery Tamara The Cake Guru

### **FAMILY RESTAURANT**

Delta Restaurant The Mineshaft Two Brothers Family Restaurant West End Pizza

COCKTAIL BAR Bar 430 The Roxy Supper Club

### TJ's Harbor Restaurant

DIVE BAR Evil Roy Slades Jerry's Bar

### Leroy's Bar

Pete's Garage SPORTS BAR Evil Roy Slades Game Time Sports Bar

West End Pizza HAPPY HOUR

### Friar Tuck's

Jeff's on Rugby The Hangar The Roxy Supper Club The Varsity Club

### MARGARITA

Cozumel Mexican Restaurant Los Rivera's Mexican Grill Jaripeos Los Riveros The Taqueria

### OLD FASHIONED

Jeff's on Rugby The Chalice The Roxy Supper Club West End Pizza

BARTENDER Jordan M – The Roxy Pete H – Pete's Garage Pete M - The Roxy

### Scott E – Jerry's Bar Scott C – West End Pizza PLACE FOR SOBER

SOCIALIZING Menominee Park/Beach Solutions Recovery, Inc. The Venture Project

### JUKEBOX

Barley & Hops Pub & Beer Garden Evil Roy Slades Jerry's Bar Nigl's Chieftain

### TRIVIA NIGHT

Barley & Hops Pub & Beer Greene's Pour House at The Granary Ruby Owl Tap Room The Hangar

Email

### LGBTQ BAR

Barley & Hops Pub & Beer Garden Cheatin' Heart Deb's Spare Time Pete's Garage

BILLIARDS Fletch's Local Tap House Game Time Sports Bar Retro's Pub

#### The Varsity Club DARTS

Evil Roy Slades The Bar The Varsity Club

### BEER BAR (multi-tap)

Fifth Ward Brewing Co Greene's Pour House at The Granary Oblio's Lounge

#### Ruby Owl Tap Room **BLOODY MARY**

Big Daddy's Pub The Chalice The Roxy Supper Club West End Pizza

#### MEN'S CLOTHING Duluth Trading Co. Fleet Farm

Target

WOMEN'S CLOTHING Brinkley's Boutique Market Boutique on Main

#### 2 Blondes TJ Maxx

VINTAGE/CONSIGNMENT CLOTHING AtomicKatz Frugal Fashion Turquoise Door

### St. Vincent de Paul

**JEWELRY** Alyssa & Anna Fine Jewelry Dream Jewelers Reimer Jewelers Tennie's Jewelers

### FURNITURE/ACCESSORIES

Ashley Furniture Great Estates Furniture WG&R Furniture

### USED FURNITURE/ANTIQUES

Great Estates Furniture

### St. Vincent de Paul

GIFT SHOP Caramel Crisp Café Market Boutique on Main Hallmark The Artful Gift

### GARDEN/NURSERY

Fernau's Greenhouse Hrnak's Flowerland & Roe Nursery Stein's Garden & Home

### FLORIST

House of Flowers Hrnak's Flowerland & Greenhouse Pick 'n Save **UBloom Florist** 

#### GROCERY

Festival Foods Pick 'n Save Piggly Wiggly

### LIQUOR/WINE

Festival Foods Liquorland McKnight & Carlson/Gardina's Kitchen Bar

#### Market Pick 'n Save PET STORE

PetCo PetSmart. The Pampurr'd Pet **SPORTING GOODS** 

Nashville Pet Products

### Dick's Sporting Goods

Hergert Sport Center Play It Again Sports GAME/GAMING Adventure Games Game Stop

#### Start Over Games The Mineshaft

RECORD/MUSIC

Eroding Winds Heid Music Target The Venture Project

#### **ARTS & CRAFTS** Fire Escape

Hobby Lobby Joann Fabric & Craft Store SHOES Britton's Walkover Footwear

### Dick's Sporting Goods Fusion Footwear Rogan's Shoes

BARBERSHOP Jerry's Barbershop Handlebar Barbershop Starstruck Artistry LLC The Barbershop, A Hair Salon

### for Men

SALON/SPA Luxe Hair Studio Mane Attraction Salon & Day Spa Starstruck Artistry LLC

### Urban Esque Salon

MANI/PEDI Family Nails & Spa NY Nail Bar Oshkosh Nail Salon

#### Starstruck Artistry LLC TATTOO

920 Tattoo Big Guns Tattoo Good Girl Tattoo Oshkosh Tattoo

#### **DOGGIE DAY CARE** A Touch of Class Pet Spa Aurora Kennels & Pet Shoppe Curve Crest Kennel

WEDDING VENUE Becket's Oshkosh Country Club/TJ's Highland Steakhouse The Gibson Social Club

### The Waters

PLACE TO HANG WITH YOUR PET Barley & Hops Pub & Beer Garden Evil Roy Slades Jerry's Bar Winnebago County Park

GOLF COURSE Far Vu Golf Course Oshkosh Country Club Utica Golf Club Westhaven Golf Club

### Jet Functional Fitness

Planet Fitness O-Town Iron YOGA

### Arise Balanced Wellness Center Inner Sun Yoga Studio

**ALTERNATIVE SPORTS** Blades & Boards Glow in the Park Mini Golf Winnebagoland BMX

### LOCAL DELIVERY/CURBSIDE

Ratch & Deb's Pizza The Chalic West End Pizza NEIGHBORHOOD BAR

Deb's Spare Time

Evil Roy Slades Jerry's Bar

PICKUP

### Leroy's Bar Pete's Garage LIVE MUSIC VENUE

Leach Amphitheater Revs Bowl Bar & Grill Waterfest **OUTDOOR VENUE** Fletch's Local Tap House Fox River Brewing Co

Fletch's Local Tap House

#### Leach Amphitheater Twisted Roots

HOME IMPROVEMENT Dan Binder Construction JRP Construction Kitz & Pfeil Ace Hardware Lowes Menards

### AUTO SERVICE

Bergstrom Automotive Dante Automotive J&R Auto Service, Inc. Jacobson Auto Service, Inc.

Fox Community Credit Union Nicolet Bank

#### US Bank Verve A Credit Union Westpointe Bank

BANK/CREDIT UNION

VIRTUAL SHOPPING EXPERIENCE Brinkley's Boutique Kitz & Pfeil Ace Hardware Spanbauershop.com

> **Every Vote** Counts!

Nominees in each category that appear on the final ballot were chosen by the amount of nominations received from our readers in Phase 1. Nominations for Phase 2 will be accepted from Mar 1 - Mar 20, 2023, Ballots mailed must be at the Oshkosh Herald office by 5pm March 21, 2023. Nominations are limited. You can choose one nominee in each category during Phase 2 of City Picks voting Your name and address must appear on the ballot. Our office is located at 36 Broad St. Suite 300, Oshkosh WI 54901. Off-site ballot boxes will be picked up by NOON, March 17, 2023.

Again, only one vote per name and address. The ballot publishes three times so three voters per household is possible. No ballot stuffing, in the appearance of ballot stuffing the person, place, thing or business may be disqualified. The Oshkosh Herald

Vote on as many categories as you'd like, but your ballot must include a minimum of 30 category nominations for your ballot to count. Totals registered by our analyst will be considered final. This is a paper ballot contest. No funny stuff can happen online nor will photocopied or downloaded ballots be accepted. Please find a paper issue of the Herald to complete a ballot.

Winners will be announced in the April 19, 2023 Oshkosh Herald.

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### Kiwanis chapter serves kids with clothes

Mid-Morning Kiwanis of Oshkosh delivered on its mission to serve children in the community with its largest distribution to date of socks and underwear for school students.

This is the sixth year for Project Undercover, which provides socks and underwear to local schools for children in need. What started as a small project serving two schools has grown to include every school in the Oshkosh Area School District. This year's delivery to 23 schools in late January included 13,000 pairs of underwear and 7,000 pairs of socks, a total value of \$15,000.

The club works with district social workers to determine each school's needs and collaborates with Jake's Network of Hope, a nonprofit organization based in Neenah that distributes hygiene and other daily living products, to secure the items. Kiwanis members spent an afternoon at the Jake's warehouse in December boxing up the packages.

"This has become a labor of love for club members," said Art Rathjen, former club president and lead coordinator for Project

Undercover. "From raising funds, to packing up thousands of items, to making deliveries to schools, our club has stepped up to make sure this project serves as many kids as possible."

District staff say that meeting this type of basic need has a significant impact on students' well-being and breaks down barriers to learning.

"We want students and families to have their basic needs met so they can focus on learning and be successful in school," social worker Becky Holmes said.

The club's successful NEW Top Dog fundraiser was a major factor in the club expanding Project Undercover. In addition to funds from Top Dog and the Oshkosh Mid-Morning Kiwanis Foundation, Project Undercover received community support and donations from the West Side Business Association, Oshkosh Herald, Payton Gorr at Fox Valley Apparel, Teele At Studio24 Salon and Tina Bartram.

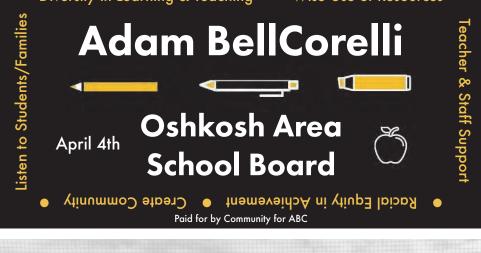
Those interested in contributing to Kiwanis projects or learning more about the group can visit oshkoshkiwanis.org.



Submitted photo

The Mid-Morning Kiwanis club delivered socks and underwear to schools.

Diversity in Learning & Teaching • Wise Use of Resources Listen to Students/Families **Adam BellCorelli** Oshkosh Area April 4th **School Board** Racial Equity in Achievement • Create Community Paid for by Community for ABC





### ENHANCING TITANS BASEBALL

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### **Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh** gets \$1 million boost from Verve

Oshkosh Herald

Verve, a Credit Union pledged \$1 million to the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh's capital campaign for its building expansion and community center project that is underway.

"It is because of contributions like Verve's that this project is off the ground and running," said Tracy Ogden, chief executive of the Boys & Girls Club. "We are beyond grateful for the generosity of our sponsors."

The capital campaign includes classroom and program space expansions and renovations; a second gym; a new outdoor space with playground, courtyard and sports field; and a new administrative wing and community center to provide local agencies and organizations with collaboration spaces.

"By making impactful giving a priority, we hope to encourage others to be attentive to the needs in our community and generous in responding to them," said Kevin J. Ralofsky, Verve president. "We are proud to support the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh and the work they do in the Fox Cities."

Verve's \$1 million donation will be distributed over the next five years toward the club's ultimate fundraising goal of \$18



Boys & Girls Club photo

WineFeast returns to the Convention Center on April 22.

### WineFeast fundraiser for B&G Club set April 22

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh's largest fundraiser of the year is back April 22 at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center for the event's 30th anniversary.

WineFeast, presented by Community First Credit Union, includes a five-course dinner and wine experience that begins with a champagne reception at 5 p.m. There includes a live auction and short program, including a story from our Youth of the Year about the impact the Boys & Girls Club has on Oshkosh youth and families.

Guests will receive a Riedel red wine glass and enjoy a post-dinner Night Cap event beginning at 8 p.m. with music by the Mike Kubicki Quartet. Guests can bid on a silent auction with more than 40 items and purchase tickets for several raf-

All proceeds will benefit children and families in the community who are in need of the services the Club provides. This includes healthy meals and snacks, homework help, basic needs support, mentoring and quality programming.

Tickets are \$150 per person or \$1,200 for a table of eight. Reservations include the Cellar Select dinner and the Night Cap. Visit the Boys & Girls Club online at bgcosh.org/WineFeast.

Rooms are available at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel, accessible from the Convention Center by skyway.

To contribute to silent or live auctions or become a Night Cap food or beverage sponsor, contact Katie Talken at 920-233-1414, ext. 129 or katiet@bgcosh.org.



Financing Available - Call for Details 920-232-5600 WrightwayBuilt.com

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### Process, flexibility important in dealing with government

Why do things have to be done this

If you have ever interacted with a government bureaucracy you have likely asked yourself this question. The answer in local government is often that it is a matter process. In other words, that is just the way

I do not think that is a satisfying answer, nor is it one that builds trust between residents and their government.

As I tell my students, all of us working in government need to be proactive about telling residents the why regarding process, both broadly and in specific circumstances. You might hear the word process and think red-tape. It does not have to be that way. In fact, process is one of the most powerful tools we have for building a fair and effective government that is responsive to resident needs.

First and foremost, a good process provides clarity to residents and public employees. For example, let's say you are a homeowner and you need a permit to put an addition on your house. It should be easy to find who to contact at the city, what you need to do, and when you need to do it.

It is as important that all the public employees you interact with are clear and consistent regarding the process. That way, nobody is giving, or given, conflicting

A clear process also ensures fairness. Democratic governance only works if residents are treated equally in their interactions with government. When a process is vague, inconsistent, not understood, or absent, it opens the door for government to pick winners and losers.



It is common, for example, for authoritarian regimes to purposely adopt confusing and/or conflicting processes to concentrate power in the state rather in the citizenry. When confusing and/or conflicting processes are adopted here, it is not for nefarious reasons, but it nonetheless strips residents of their agency. It also feeds the toxic narrative that government will do what it wants to do regardless of how people feel about it.

In reality, some government processes are not clear, understood or accepted. Too often we fall into the collective trap of assuming process means rigidity. In fact, a good process requires both flexibility and a feedback loop.

Consider a recent example here in Osh-

kosh. The city has a policy of incorporating sidewalks into road reconstruction projects. The logic behind the policy is sound, it is consistent with our long-term plans for connectivity, and it is cost-effective to link road and sidewalk projects. For the majority of situations, i.e., the typical ones, sidewalks are a no-brainer. But on occasion atypical situations present themselves.

Such an occasion arose a few weeks ago when residents of a dead-end street bordering the Fox River objected to the construction of new sidewalks. Per process, residents were able to voice their objections to the Common Council before us voting. The residents made a compelling case that their situation was unique, presented a petition signed by all impacted residents, and ultimately got their desired outcome when the council voted against including sidewalks in the project. After the vote a colleague joked to me that folks will remember this next time I speak about the importance of consistency. I hope they do!

Consistency in process includes a commitment to building flexibility into all processes so that atypical cases can be accommodated. I am pleased that is exactly what happened in this case. There is nothing inconsistent in that unless other residents in the same situation are denied the opportunity to make their case.

It is as important that every process has a feedback loop so it can be updated, redone, or eliminated as circumstances change. Local government policies should evolve as the needs of residents evolve. Hence it is good practice to review policies at regular intervals, and those of us working in government should not be afraid of making changes when circumstances show policies are no longer working.

A little bit for foresight and planning can make a policy-driven government fair, flexible and effective.

Michael R. Ford is an associate professor of public administration at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, where he teaches graduate courses in budgeting, state and local government, and nonprofit management. He currently serves on the Oshkosh Common Council.







### Drop in Every Second Saturday

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\$4.79 Tate's Bake **Shop Cookies** 7 oz. Expires Mar. 14, 2023

### fresh deals (thru Mar. 14)



Organic Kiwi



4/\$5 Organic Honey



\$1.99/lb **Honeycrisp Apples** Redmond's Apple Basket Orchard, Ripon

### Pi Day - March 14

St. Patrick's Day - March 17



Apple and Mixed Berry Pies Valley Bakers Cooperative, Appleton \$4.99/Freshly Baked Slice \$9.99/Whole Pie - Frozen

Pie available 3/13-3/18



Half or Whole Reuben Sandwiches (Corned Beef or Tempeh) - \$5.29-\$8.99

Corned Beef & Cabbage with Colcannon Heat-and-Eat Meals - \$12.99

Product shown is example. Actual product not shown

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### Skilled trades can launch company career path



Marty Baker worked his way into a superintendent role at CR Meyer after starting as a millwright apprentice.







Store Hours: Mon 9am-8pm Tues-Fri 9am-4pm Sat 9am-1pm

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### Apprenticeships often lead to bigger things

By Julie Davids OSHKOSH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In recent times there has been renewed interest in the skilled trades as a career opportunity out of high school.

It's no secret that the trades offer good-paying jobs without the college

But what some people may not realize is that the skilled trades have a career path that goes beyond getting a journeyman certificate.

Marty Baker started his career with Local 1056 of the Fox River Valley Millwrights in 2007. He was indentured as a millwright apprentice with CR Meyer and learned his trade through a fouryear apprenticeship program.

This program consisted of classes through the local union hall as well as on-the-job learning experiences at CR Meyer project sites, being mentored by journeyman millwrights.

The majority of his experience was learned while working on heavy industrial machinery located at a local, large manufacturing facility.

After Baker earned his journeyman's certificate, he advanced in his career with CR Meyer to a superintendent position. In addition to his hands-on knowledge, he gained experience with the administrative side of construction projects.

As a superintendent, he started working more with computers and supervising other tradespeople. His added

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responsibilities included ordering tools, completing time sheets, supervising a small team of four to six tradespeople and making sure his part of projects was

After growing in his superintendent role, Baker has recently taken his next step into project management. Moving into the corporate office at CR Meyer, Baker has assumed additional responsibility for managing multiple construction projects, customer relationships and supervising multiple teams of tradespeople throughout various job

completed within CR Meyer standards

related to quality, schedule and budget.

When asked what Baker's advice to a new apprentice would be, his response was, "Broaden your horizons." There are many opportunities for skilled millwrights to gain as much knowledge as you can. It will lead your career to places that you may not have imagined before.

Baker's story is not alone at CR Meyer. There are many examples of skilled tradespeople moving through career paths that lead to superintendent and/ or project management positions.

The company has made a significant investment in its Charles R. Meyer Leadership Center over the past few years. This program encourages growth from within through training and mentoring opportunities that are above and beyond the union apprenticeship programs.

For more information on skilled trades positions at CR Meyer, visit crmeyer.com or submit a resume to careers@crmeyer.com.

### **Reward offered** in case of missing Oshkosh woman

The family of Nina Anderson is offering a \$10,000 reward for information that leads to her safe return, Oshkosh police announced last week.

Anderson, 36, was last seen the evening

of Feb. 18 at her residence in the 800 block of Minnesota Street. She is described as a 36-year-old Caucasian female who is 5 feet 5 inches tall, 156 pounds with brown hair and green eyes.



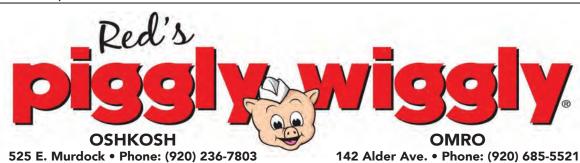
She was wearing a dark colored sweatshirt, black yoga pants

and had a light blue and pink colored

Police said her disappearance did not seem suspicious at the time.

Individuals with information can call 920-236-5733 or 920-236-5700.





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### Chamber Singers to present Haydn's 'The Creation'

The Oshkosh Chamber Singers will perform Josef Haydn's masterpiece oratorio "The Creation" on Palm Sunday, April 2.

The performance will begin at 3 p.m. at Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, St. Mary site, 605 Merritt Ave., with choir, soloists and an orchestra of regional musicians.

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 will be the conductor. The oratorio depicts and celebrates the seven days of the biblical creation of the world as described in the Book of Genesis, and is an ode to the goodness of God. The libretto draws material from the beginning of Genesis, the Psalms and Milton's "Paradise Lost," and the score includes the popular "The Heavens are Telling"

Tickets are available from singers, at Gardina's on Main Street and Heid Music at 1750 S. Park Ave.

Further information is available at 920-312-8290, OshkoshChamberSingers.org or the Oshkosh Chamber Singers Facebook page.

### Marine Corps League scholarships available

The Winnebago Detachment No. 357 Marine Corps League, its auxiliary unit and state Marine Corps League are accepting applications for their scholarship programs.

Monetary scholarships are available to the son or daughter of a parent, grandparent or guardian who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces either active or reserves.

The applicant must need financial help, exhibit good character, show academic promise and leadership qualities.

Applications are available at local high schools, the Winnebago Detachment at 4715 Sherman Road in Oshkosh, and at scholarship.winnebagodet357.org.

The deadline is June 1.





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# Calendar of events

### Wednesday, March 8

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

### Thursday, March 9

"Peter and the Star Catcher," 7:30 p.m., UW Oshkosh Theatre Arts Center

#### Friday, March 10

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

"Peter and the Star Catcher," 7:30 p.m., UW Oshkosh Theatre Arts Center

"James and the Giant Peach" by Lourdes Academy, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Steve Augeri Band, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

#### Saturday, March 11

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

Shamrock Shuffle 5K Fun Run/Walk, 9 a.m., UW Oshkosh Student Recreation and Wellness Center

Blown Away: Family Discovery Days, 11 a.m., Oshkosh Public Museum

AmazSpring Shopping & Craft Show, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Winter Beerfest, noon, Bare Bones Brewery, 4362 County S Flight at the Museum, 5:30 p.m., EAA Aviation Museum, 3000 Poberezny Road

"Peter and the Star Catcher," 7:30 p.m., UW Oshkosh Theatre Arts Center

"James and the Giant Peach" by Lourdes Academy, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Fox Cities Roller Derby, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

"Logan's Run," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

### Sunday, March 12

"Peter and the Star Catcher," 2 p.m., UW Oshkosh Theatre Arts Center

"James and the Giant Peach" by Lourdes Academy, 2 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

#### Monday, March 13

Irish Fun(s) Party, 5 p.m., Oshkosh Seniors Center, 200 N. Campbell Road

Wisconsin Herd vs. Memphis Hustle, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

#### Tuesday, March 14

Winter Warm Up community meal, 11:30 a.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 370 Bowen St.

Oshkosh Mayoral Candidate Forum, 11:30 a.m., Venture Project, 210 N. Main St.

#### Wednesday, March 15

Nature Series: The Great Migrations of March, 10 a.m., Oshkosh Seniors Center, 200 N. Campbell Road

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

Wisconsin Herd vs. Main Celtics, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

#### Thursday, March 16

Red Cross blood drive, 2 p.m., Calvary Lutheran Church, 2580 W. 9th Ave.

#### Friday, March 17

Harmonious Wail, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Shamrock Dinner & Luck of the Irish Bingo, 5 p.m., La Sure's Banquet Hall, 3125 S. Washburn St.

Spicy Tie Band, 8 p.m., Dublin's Irish Pub, 2070 W. 9th Ave.

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

Red Cross blood drive, 1 p.m., YMCA Downtown, 324 Washington Ave.

### Saturday, March 18

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

The Big Thaw Craft & Vendor Event, 9 a.m., Venue 404, 404 N. Main St.

Winnebago Home Builders Association's Everything Spring Expo, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Corn Hole Tournament, 8 a.m. registration, Military Veterans Museum, 4300 Poberezny Road

Oshkosh Area Community Band Spring Concert, 7 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

Danny & Michelle of Copper Box, 8 p.m., Becket's, 2 Jackson St.

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

#### Sunday, March 19

Winnebago Home Builders Association's Everything Spring Expo, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

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March 8, 2023

### **Local elections**

FROM PAGE 1

are seeking re-election, while Wojciechowski and Mugerauer are pursuing the mayoral position

Four other challengers have emerged:

Karl Buelow, Oshkosh Area Community Pantry operations manager, has been part of the not-for-profit organization since 2021 and has recently taken a new position at Day By Day Warming Shelter as director of operations.

Former city mayor Paul Esslinger served on the council from 2000 to 2011 and as mayor from 2009 to 2011. He has since been a real estate agent with Real Marketing Real Estate.

Devon Hudak of ARC Contracting has been part of the Oshkosh Kids Foundation, the city's Advisory Parks Board and Propel Oshkosh.

Local planner Joe Stephenson is currently president of the Midtown Neighborhood Association and has served on the Oshkosh Food Co-op.

Topics discussed include funding the city budget, the city manager form of government, attributes of city manager and administrator positions, public-private partnerships, housing and TIFs.

### **Board of Education**

Seats held by board president Barbara Herzog and newly appointed member Angie Lee are up for election. Lee filed her declaration of noncandidacy and will not run to retain her seat

Herzog is seeking to retain her post and has been a board member since 2013. Two school board challengers have filed paperwork for their candidacy, including Kelly DeWitt and Adam BellCorelli.

BellCorelli, a planner with the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, said he would bring experience with non-profits, leadership development, and racial and economic equity issues to the board. He said student access to basic needs is a priority that needs to be expanded in schools, which he said provide the safest and most uplifting place environment in the community.

DeWitt, a social services case manager, counselor and mother of two young children, campaigned last fall against board members Liz Szilagyi and Stephanie Carlin but fell short. She said she would bring a new outside voice to the board with her passion for

students while seeking accountability among teachers, staff and parents for academic achievement in English and math skills that have seen a decline in recent years as the result of the pandemic.

Herzog said her priorities as a board member and president have included expanding student learning options, updating facilities, fiscal responsibility within the district, and overall equity and transparency in school policies.

Questions submitted included the topics of academic achievement, the Oshkosh Civility Project, equity initiatives, curriculum, private vouchers and how the new school projects can best be optimized.

#### County circuit court

Judge Scott Woldt in Branch 2 is up for re-election and former Branch 4 Judge LaKeisha Haase is challenging him.

Haase was appointed in December 2020 by Gov. Tony Evers after Judge Karen Siefert's retirement and took the bench in January 2021. She lost her election bid in 2021 to Michael Gibbs

Woldt has been a circuit court judge since his appointment in 2004, then re-elected in 2005, 2011 and 2017. In 2021, he was given a

week of unpaid suspension by the Wisconsin Supreme Court for six incidents of judiciary misconduct dating to 2009.

Haase and Woldt share sentiments of a judge's role remaining impartial, but disagree on what their involvement within the community should be with such a position.

"I am a community servant; I am a public servant. I owe everything to the community," Haase said. "My independence as a judge and the balance I must make is based on the oath that I have, it's based on the law and never based on my personal outcomes that I wish to have happen. You can have that balance to be an elected official where you answer to your community and meet their expectations. You have to maintain that independence and you have to be a strict applicant of law."

Woldt drew a distinction in maintaining a separation from public activity.

"The Supreme Court mandates that judges shall avoid impropriety ... the judge shall uphold the integrity and integrity of the judiciary," he said. "That's why we can't become party members. A judge's life is a lonely life in that you can't really participate with the public in normal activity, normal conversations, because there are so many people that try to influence a judge."











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### Investment in early care, education essential to communit

By Amy Geurden CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL

All children deserve high-quality early education.

Families should be able to go to work each day knowing their child is in a quality learning environment. Those working in the field of early care and education should have access to benefits and fair wages.

Today these expectations are far from reality. Child care programs are struggling to keep their doors open and parents are leaving the workforce and not returning. The root of the problem is a broken child care system:

- Parents cannot work to support their families without child care options.
- Child care programs cannot find qualified workers, or pay competitive wages.
- Businesses cannot find/retain/attract workers due to the lack of available child care.

It is difficult to separate how to fix one issue without simultaneously

tackling the others, but addressing the staffing shortage among child care programs is a significant start.

A Winnebago County child care provider survey showed that more than 950 children are on wait lists for child



care. Nearly half of the programs surveyed are not at licensing capacity due to staffing shortages, and 300plus slots for children could

be added if group child care programs were fully staffed. Not having an adequate amount of qualified staff means closing classrooms, decreased revenue and increased waiting lists for parents looking for child care.

A high turnover rate of child care employees also means less stability for children. A high-quality program without a stable workforce does not provide the same advantages as a high-quality

program with child care teachers invested in their profession.

The Preschool Development Grant Program, a discretionary grant program co-administered by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provided Wisconsin Department of Children and Families funding for the Dream Up! grant program. Through this state-wide program, communities received strategic planning support and \$75,000 in grant funding. Additionally, child care providers received \$5,000 stipends if they submitted an updated business plan during the strategic planning process.

Oshkosh Area United Way, serving

Oshkosh and Winnebago County, was awarded a Dream Up grant to begin addressing child care issues at the local level. One of their goals was to increase community awareness on child care issues.

Through a collaborative community approach, Dream Up teams of community stakeholders, have worked to evaluate, plan, sustain, and expand existing child care and support new child care programs.

Community investment is essential to dealing with the child care crisis. The Oshkosh community must support the needs of young children and families and recognize the importance of those who work in the field of early care and education.

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Page 20 I oshkoshherald.com March 8, 2023

### Spartans season comes to stunning end in loss to Terrors

### North can't get offense rolling in regional defeat

By Steve Clark

The outburst that the Oshkosh North boys basketball team needed just never came.

Despite trailing Appleton West by double digits for the majority of the second half, there was the sense that a momentum-changing run - something that the talented Spartans were certainly capable of – was just around the corner.

"Pretty much until there were about two minutes left, I was waiting for us to do what we are capable of doing. It just didn't happen," Oshkosh North head coach Brad Weber said. "We could never get ourselves into a flow on offense. We never quit, but we just couldn't get over the hump."

And the stunning 78-64 loss to the Terrors at Oshkosh North on Friday night in a WIAA Division 1 regional semifinal ended the Spartans' season.

North had beaten Appleton West in both regular-season meetings - including a 95-43 thrashing on Jan. 14 on the same court - but the Spartans couldn't rack up a third win over the Terrors. Even with some talented members set to return who could learn from the loss, Weber said there was little positive he could take from the loss.

"My heart goes out to our five seniors who had their high school careers come to an end," Weber said. "I don't think there are any kind of moral victories at this point because there are a lot of broken hearts in that locker room."

Oshkosh North's best stretch came in



Oshkosh North's Ari Giannopoulos drives to the basket in the second half against Appleton West last Friday.

the final third of the second half when the Spartans were able to whittle away at the Terrors' 16-point lead.

Xzavion Mitchell converted on a drive to the basket and then set up Carter Strange for a 3-pointer that cut the Terrors' lead to 60-49.

After a defensive stop by North, Steven Clark knocked down a jumper from the free-throw line that got the Spartans' deficit into single digits for the first time since early in the second half.

Clark and Mitchell, who combined to score 19 of North's final 25 points, answered Terror baskets on the next two

SEE North boys ON PAGE 24



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Xzavion Mitchell grabs a rebound in front of an Appleton West player in the first half of Friday's WIAA Division 1 regional semifinal.



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### **Prep sports roundup**

### **GYMNASTICS**

### Navin, Barr compete at WIAA state meet

Oshkosh co-op gymnasts Olivia Navin and Lydia Barr competed at the WIAA Division 1 state gymnastics meet at Wisconsin Rapids High School on Saturday.

Both gymnasts competed on the balance beam where Navin finished 19th (8.2) and Barr was 23rd (8.0). Navin also participated in the floor exercise where she finished 21st (8.7).

Barr was 24th in the all-around at the state meet where she finished with a total of 32.650. In addition to her score on the beam, she posted an 8.35 on floor exercise, 8.2 on the vault and 8.1 on the uneven bars.

Barr was just one of four freshmen to qualify for state in the all-around.

#### **BOYS BASKETBALL**

### Wildcats' season ends in overtime loss

The 16th-seeded Oshkosh West boys basketball team won a pair of games last week and nearly walked away with a Division 1 regional title.

The Wildcats opened the week with a 71-42 win over Wisconsin Rapids on Tuesday, then upended top-seeded Eau Claire Memorial, 78-71, on Friday before falling in overtime, 47-41, in Superior on Saturday.

"Our guys really believed and the fight they showed (on Friday and Saturday) was great," Oshkosh West coach Dan Weisse said. "I feel sorry for our seniors and for



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Lourdes Academy senior Molly Moore goes up for a layup as teammate Addy Hafemeister looks on during last Thursday's sectional semifinal against Oakfield.

our guys but at the same time I'm proud as heck in the belief they had. I think we learned how to have fun playing the game and competeing"

Weisse said West became just the second No. 16 seed to beat a No. 1 seed since

the Division 1 tournament started seeding sectionals when the Wildcats topped the Old Abes. The Wildcats hit 9-of-17 3-pointers and had three players in double figures in the win.

"That game we made big-time plays and got big-time rebounds and made free throws down the stretch against a really good team," Weisse said.

Dylan Taylor led the way with 27 points, followed by Devonte Kershaw with 20 and Tristan Johanknecht with 18.

Instead of driving back to Oshkosh after the game, the team stayed in Eau Claire to make the trip shorter to Superior on Saturday. Weisse credited the administration at Oshkosh West for its flexibility with the weekend travel.

West was unable to hold a late fourpoint lead against the Spartans as Superior sent the game into overtime tied at 41. Johanknecht scored the first points of the extra period, but they were the only ones for West in the added time and Superior was able to outscore the Wildcats 8-2 to collect the win.

"We wish we had a plaque to bring home. We were right there to keep playing and that's what's a little bitter," Weisse said. "We didn't execute perfectly and there are things that maybe we would have done different but our guys battled for the whole game."

Taylor and Johanknecht each had 12 points in the win, while Kershaw finished with eight.

In the tournament opener on Tuesday, West had no trouble dispatching Wisconsin Rapids as Taylor and Johanknecht

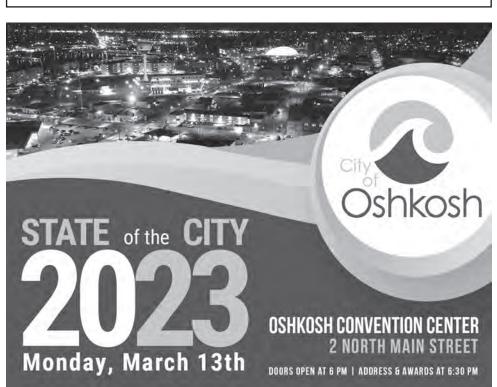
SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 24

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### Titan men advance to Sweet Sixteen with dramatic win

The UW Oshkosh men's basketball team went scoreless for the final 4:25 but held on to beat Hope College, 51-50, in NCAA Division III tournament



Mahoney

game at the Kolf Sports Center on Saturday night.

The Titans will advance to the national quarterfinals where they will face Rowen College on Friday at Mount Union University. If UW Oshkosh wins, it will play the

following night for the chance to go to the Final Four.

North Park and Mount Union will play in the other quarterfinal.

This will be the fifth trip to the Sweet

### **UWO** roundup

Sixteen in program history.

Jonah Rindfleisch's layup with 4:25 remaining gave the Titans a 51-48 lead in Saturday's game. The Flying Dutchmen scored with 1:29 left to pull within a point but neither team could add to their total the rest of the way.

The Titans missed the front end of the bonus free-throw situation with 10 seconds left to give Hope College a final opportunity but the Flying Dutchmen's shot at the buzzer missed the mark and gave the Titans the win.

Will Mahoney finished with 23 points and nine rebounds off the bench to lead the Titans. Levin Borchert added 12 points and 11 rebounds, while Rindfleisch chipped in eight points.

UW Oshkosh didn't take its first lead

of the game until the 11-minute mark, when Mahoney drained a 3-pointer off an assist from Rindfleisch.

The Titans stayed in front the rest of the first half taking a 30-26 lead at inter-

The Titans won despite shooting just 35 percent from the floor, while making just 5-of-24 from 3-point range.

The victory marked the 100th career win for both starting guard Eric Peterson and head coach Matt Lewis.

UW Oshkosh advanced to Saturday's game with a convincing 86-58 win over Fontbonne University on Friday.

The Titans hit 12 3-pointers in the win, while holding Fontbonne to just 36 percent shooting.

UW Oshkosh had four players finish in double figures in the win with Hunter Plamann leading the way with 13 points. Borchert added 12, and Mahoney and Rindfleisch each chipped in 11.

The Titans led 47-25 at halftime.

Plamann and Rindfleisch hit 3-pointers to open the game as UW Oshkosh never trailed. The Titans used a 7-0 run midway through the half to extend the advantage to 19-10.

The Griffins would get as close as five before the Titans went on a 13-2 run to seize control late in the half and took a 47-25 advantage into intermission.

UW-Whitewater also advanced to the quarterfinals and will face Johns Hopkins University on Friday.

### **UWO** women ousted from tournament

The Titan women were knocked out of the NCAA Division III womens tournament with a 71-60 loss to Ohio Northern University on Saturday.

Kayce Vaile finished with 15 points and 14 rebounds, while Jenna Jorgensen added 14 points for the Titans, who went 20of-21 from the free-throw line in the loss.

UW Oshkosh shot just 30 percent from the field and hit only 8-of-32 attempts from 3-point range. Ohio Northern shot 43 percent from the floor and went 10-of-25 from 3-point range.

The game was tied at 17 after the first quarter but the Titans were outscored 20-11 in the second to allow Ohio Northern to break the game open.

The Titans advanced with a dramatic win Friday night, getting a 3-pointer from Jorgensen with three seconds left to take a one-point lead before Kennedy Osterman hit two free throws with a second left to clinch a 58-55 victory over Washington &

UW Oshkosh led 49-36 early in the fourth quarter but was held scoreless for more than seven minutes, allowing Washington & Lee back in the game.

Jorgensen finished with 17 points to lead the Titans, while Ava Douglals added 14 points and six assists. Vaile also reached double figures for UW Oshkosh, finishing with 11 points.

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hoto submitt

The Oshkosh West girls bowling team finished fourth at the recent state tournament. The team consisted of (front, from left) Laila Wesson, Mia Torres; (middle, from left) Ashley Kozel, Mackenzie Anderson, Cheyanne Hanford, Emily Pankau. The team is coached by Chuck Anderson (back).



Submitted photos

The Oshkosh North girls team that competed at the state bowling meet consisted of (from left) Caleigh Schleicher, Abigail Freyermuth, Samantha Brown, Morgan Nuetzel and Cheyenne Daugherty.



The Oshkosh West boys that qualified for state included (from left) Mason Seager, Logan Egnoski, Zander Calo, Jacob Cornell, Luke Schaefer and Lucas Soda. Not pictured were Lucas McWilliams and Jacob Schaefer.



The Oshkosh North boys bowling team that competed at the state meet consisted of (from left) Ayden Dombrowski, Connor Kuehn, Peter Blank, Zachary Splittgerber, Hayden Spanbauer and Walker Dietzen.

# Oshkosh West girls finish fourth at state bowling meet

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh West girls bowling team brought home a fourth-place plaque from the Wisconsin High School Bowling Club State Championship held at Weston Lanes this past weekend.

The West girls were fifth among the 15 teams after the 15 games of qualifying to advance to the semifinals. West finished with a total of 2,360 in qualifying to finish 26 pins ahead of La Crosse Coulee Area for the final qualifying spot.

In the semifinals, which is a stepladder playoff among the top five teams, West beat Beaver Dam/Waupun in the first match 347-280 to advance. The team then lost to the Sheboygan co-op team 387-341 to land in fourth place.

A co-op of both Sun Prairie high schools, Marshall and Cambridge won the Division 1 girls title, beating the Sheboygan co-op team 349-294 in the final.

The Oshkosh West team consisted of Ashley Kozel, Laila Wesson, Mackenzie Anderson, Emily Pankau, Mia Torres and Cheyanne Hanford.

In the Division 2 girls competition, Oshkosh North finished seventh in qualifying, narrowly missing advancing to the five-team semifinals. North finished with a qualifying total of 2,241, which was just 20 pins behind final qualifier Antigo.

The North girls team consisted of Abigail Freyermuth, Caleigh Schleicher, Morgan Nuetzel, Samantha Brown and Cheyenne Daugherty.

Both Oshkosh West and Oshkosh North competed in Division 1 in the boys/coed

division, with ranking 11th among the 25 teams after qualifying, with North finishing in 22nd.

West posted a total of 2,609 pins in its 15 qualifying games, which was only 55 pins out of seventh place. The team would have needed to score 2,767 pins to advance to the semifinals. North finished qualifying with a total of 2,432 pins.

Bowling for Oshkosh West were Luke Schaefer, Jacob Cornell, Logan Egnoski, Mason Seager, Zander Calo, Lucas Soda, Lucas McWilliams and Jacob Schaefer. For North, the team consisted of Tyler Kolaski, Zachary Splittgerber, Connor Kuehn, Ayden Dombrowski, Walker Dietzen, Peter Blank and Hayden Spanbauer.

Both teams also had individuals competing at the state meet. The individual competition is not broken up in divisions.

Kozel of West rolled a 516 series in qualifying to place 20th among the 58 individuals. She was 13 pins out of 15th place, which would have earned her a spot in the semifinals. North's Brown finished 57th after bowling a 406 series in qualifying.

On the boys side, LukeSchaefer of West bowled a 560 series to tie for 57th place among the 106 qualifiers, while North's Blank bowled a 462 to rank 103rd. The top 27 advanced to the semifinals.

Campbellsport edged Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah by eight pins to win the Division 2 girls title.

The Division 1 boys/coed crown was won by Watertown, which beat Oak Creek, 440-389 in the final. In Division 2, Marinette topped Antigo, 358-341.



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Photo from ORD

### **Tourney champs**

A team sponsored by Oblio's and managed by Frank Seckar clinched titles in the Thursday Rec League and also were champions of the City Basketball Tournament held Feb. 19 at the Recreation Gym. Team Oblio's, who defeated Team Manila 61-38 in the title game, includes (from left) Ashtin Busching, John Flanigan, Frank Seckar, Paul Wojahn, Jake Mosling, Andrew Kretsch, Bryan Clark, Mike Johnson and Matt Sonnleitner. Ball boy is Nolan Flanigan. Not pictured was Ryan Wolf.











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### North boys

FROM PAGE 20

North possessions before Clark's threepoint play with 2:18 remaining narrowed the gap to 66-59.

But that was as close as the Spartans would get.

The Terrors finished the game with a 12-3 run, getting 10 of their 12 points from the free-throw line as the Spartans were forced to foul. West made 10 of 12 free-throw attempts in the final three minutes and finished 17 of 23 for the game.

"We never quit. There were chances tonight where we could have, but we never quit," Weber said. "We just made too many mistakes on our end and credit Appleton West - they played well."

Mitchell, who saw limited minutes because of foul trouble and fouled out with about four minutes to play, finished with 24 points and 14 rebounds to lead the way for the Spartans. Clark added 15 points and seven rebounds, while Quintin Fisher chipped in 10 points.

North finished just 4-of-19 from 3-point range in the game but it was the Spartans' 22 turnovers and the Terrors work on the offensive glass that proved too much for North to overcome.

"We killed ourselves with turnovers and allowing offensive rebounds," Weber said. "We have been a good rebounding team and that was something we did well against Appleton West (in the regular-season wins)."



Oshkosh North's Carter Strange hoists a 3-pointer in the second half of last Friday's loss to Appleton West.

### Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 21

each scored 22 points and Kershaw had 11. Johanknecht also finished with a teamhigh 12 rebounds.

The Wildcats finished 8-19 in Weisse's first season.

### **Lourdes Academy suffers** tourney loss to Hilbert

The Lourdes Academy boys basketball team lost its regional opener at home to Hilbert last Tuesday, falling to the Wolves

The Knights trailed 25-20 at the half but were unable to rally after intermission.

JJ McKellips finished with 21 points and eight rebounds to lead the Knights, who made nine 3-pointers in the game. Mitchell Wing added 14 points and Jok Machiros finished with nine.

Hilbert used an advantage at the freethrow line to secure the win, going 20-of-27, while the Knights were 7-of-11.

### **Valley Christian ousted** by Wayland Academy

The Warriors couldn't keep pace with the Big Red in their tournament opener and lost 86-54 on Tuesday.

Brady Patterson led the Warriors with 13 points.

Eli Humiston added nine points for Valley Christian while Caleb Stertz and AJ Richardson each had eight and Joshua Johnson finished with seven.

### **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

### Oakfield upends Lourdes **Academy in sectionals**

The Knights were unable to keep the momentum from regionals rolling as they fell to Oakfield, 52-47, in a sectional semifinal at Central Wisconsin Christian on Thursday.

Lourdes Academy had beaten Oakfield twice during the regular season.

No other information was available from the game.



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### Occupational licensing backlog brings audit approval

### DSPS amassed a surplus as call center service fell

By Matthew DeFour

Republican lawmakers have authorized an audit of the state Department of Safety and Professional Services after years of rejecting Democratic Gov. Tony Evers' requests to add staff — a standoff that has led to long waits for licenses, a huge surplus of agency funds and frustrated applicants flooding legislative offices with pleas for help.

Sara Wuorinen, 32, is one of those applicants. She first contacted DSPS in September 2021 to get licensed to be a substance abuse counselor and a mental health counselor in training in northern Wisconsin, which is struggling with a rise in suicides and drug overdoses.

More than 16 months later, Wuorinen still doesn't have the necessary license.

Wuorinen spent hours on hold with the department, faxed and mailed in application materials multiple times and logged conversations with 13 different department officials. She is licensed as an alcohol and drug counselor in Minnesota and has a 2020 master's degree in rehabilitation and addiction counseling from St. Cloud State University. But Wuorinen found out months into the process she had to take additional classes at the University of Wisconsin-Superior to qualify for her state license.

She said she moved to rural Wisconsin to qualify for up to \$100,000 in student loan forgiveness, but the three-year commitment doesn't start until she gets her



WiWatch photo

Sara Wuorinen sought licensing in 2021 as a substance abuse and mental health counselor in training in northern Wisconsin but had not received approval as of February of this year.

Wisconsin license. Wuorinen took a lower-paying job at the clinic that hired her but went from living comfortably in Minnesota to visiting food pantries to make ends meet in Wisconsin. The experience has taken a toll on her mental and financial well-being.

"This experience has been so negative and so discouraging, it's really defeating," she told Wisconsin Watch. "I don't think they realize that these are people's lives — people's livelihoods."

After Wuorinen testified in November before a special committee the Legislature created to study occupational licensing, DSPS legislative liaison Mike Tierney reviewed her case. He found several reasons for Wuorinen's ordeal: the application was submitted under an old computer system currently being replaced and a 2017 Re-

publican law that increased standards for licensing substance abuse counselors.

In a memo to the study committee, Tierney wrote that it comes down to better staffing at the agency. "This includes having adequate call center staff to not only answer incoming calls, but to ensure that information provided to callers is ac-

SEE **Licensing backlog** ON PAGE 26







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### Licensing backlog

FROM PAGE 25

curate," he wrote.

Pressure on DSPS has mounted as Republicans have refused to fully authorize the department's requests for more staff over the past four years — even though the agency's \$62.5 million budget comes almost entirely from fees. The agency runs on revenue from construction permits and 200-plus types of professional licenses from nearly half a million license holders — not taxpayer dollars.

In fact, the department has amassed a \$47 million surplus from those fees, according to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau. The surplus was \$4.4 million a decade ago. However DSPS can't use that money to pay for more staff or technology upgrades without legislative buy-in.

The Joint Legislative Audit Committee voted to have the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau review all aspects of the department. The committee's Republicans voted in favor and the Democrats voted against, with Sen. Tim Carpenter, D-Milwaukee, decrying the Legislature for not adequately funding the department.

"It's a shame that we needed to have this audit done," Carpenter said. "We could have taken care of the problem ourselves."

Marc Herstand, executive director of the Wisconsin chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, told the committee in his 30 years following licensing issues, the department has always been chronically understaffed. But frustration among his members seemed to have peaked in the past two years despite efforts by the Evers administration to improve the agency.

"(DSPS) has plenty of money to hire the staff like any other business would do in that kind of situation, but they're not given the authority to do so," Herstand said. "This makes no rational sense."

Rep. Mark Born, R-Beaver Dam, a member of the audit committee and co-chair of the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee, declined to comment on whether the Legislature would add positions in the

The audit comes amid high tension between the Republican-controlled Legislature and Evers over agency administration. It also dovetails with a broader push by conservative activists and some GOP lawmakers in Wisconsin and elsewhere to get the government out of the business of licensing and regulating some professions such as music, art and dance therapists, cosmetology trainees and interior design-

In August, new DSPS Secretary-designee Dan Hereth told the Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licensing the agency is processing new license applications in 45 days on average — the fastest rate in six years and down from 79 days in 2021. But committee members also heard from license applicants who spent hours on hold when they called the agency and months waiting for licenses to be processed.

"We have gotten an abundance of calls, contacts, constituent cases over the last 12 months," said Sen. Rob Stafsholt, R-New Richmond, who led the committee. "My office just for my Senate district has handled literally dozens of cases of people who are frustrated and trying to get licenses they qualify for."

The agency's call center performance began to drop in 2017 under then-Gov. Scott Walker, a Republican, according to data obtained by Wisconsin Watch through a public records request. The department data show just over half of all calls were "agent answered" in 2018.

The rate improved dramatically in the second half of 2022 after Evers used federal funding to hire an outside firm in June to increase the agency's call center staff from six to 26. The department also switched to a new phone system with a higher capacity in December 2021, so fewer people now get a busy signal, which wasn't logged as a call under the old system. A department spokesperson said that explains why the number of received calls under the new system nearly doubled to 400,000 in 2022.

The data show 36% of calls were answered in the first half of 2022, 71% of calls were answered in the second half and 98% of calls were answered in December. The new system makes it difficult to compare the 2022 data with previous years.

The funding from the American Rescue Plan Act for extra call staff runs out at the end of June.

The improvements happened as DSPS launched its new online system, LicensE, in May to begin replacing decades-old systems and paper applications. The department expects to have all professions moved to the new system by the end of this year.

The Legislature has authorized \$14.4 million for the technology update, and Evers allocated another \$6 million in ARPA funds this past year to replace a computer system that dates to 1998.

"What I think we will get to when we're fully automated is much faster turnaround times for most," DSPS Assistant Deputy Secretary Jennifer Garrett told the committee in November. "We can move that (45-day) average down lower if we are adequately staffed and when the platform is fully implemented."

Garrett also told study committee members the department has struggled to hire and retain license review and call center staff because of pay and working conditions. She said the agency had failed twice to recruit a lawyer to conduct legal reviews. But when the position was opened to remote work, DSPS hired an attorney from Green Bay, reducing the legal review time from nine weeks to six.

Hereth told the committee: "Even with new technology and continuous efforts to improve efficiency, our volume of work routinely exceeds staff capacity and resources. The bottom line is that we need more than efficiency to deliver the kind of service our applicants want and expect."

Republicans only authorized one new net position in each budget. The department has six fewer positions than it did when it was created in 2011 under Walker.

Department officials have asked for 70 new positions across the agency in their 2023-25 budget request. Evers released his proposal in February.

The DSPS surplus is on top of the \$85 million in license fees transferred from the department to the state's general fund over the past 15 years. About \$31 million of that is an automatic annual 10% transfer enshrined in statute, but the other \$54 million was lapsed under Walker and his predecessor, Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle, to help balance the general fund budget. The 10% transfers remain, but the lapses ended in the 2017-19 budget.

Rep. Shae Sortwell, R-Two Rivers, chair of the Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform, said in an interview the agency probably needs more positions. But Sortwell wants more data to support why the positions are necessary — especially in light of the new LicensE system, which should reduce the agency's

Sortwell is also skeptical about allowing DSPS employees to work from home up to three out of five days a week. And he claimed the Evers administration failed to properly manage the workload, especially during the pandemic.

In announcing a list of nine bills the committee is recommending the Legislature to take up this session, Stafsholt accused the agency of stonewalling and sending "misleading emails" to license applicants "rather than providing us with the information we requested."

The nine bills would, among other things, require the department to post how long it takes to process each license on its website, increase renewal periods for some licenses from two to four years, allow more professionals from other states to obtain a temporary license during a department review and have Wisconsin join an interstate compact to recognize counselor credentials from participating states.

Meanwhile, Wuorinen feels stuck trying to qualify for a job she had already done for a year in Minnesota.

"In any way you put it, this is a crisis," she said. "When we have a workforce shortage already and we have people waiting nine to 12 months to get a license, it's not productive."

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### **Obituaries**

### Lawrence E. Hoppe

Lawrence E. Hoppe, age 91 of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully, with family



by his side at Aurora Medical Center on Saturday, March 4, 2023. He was born August 25, 1931 to the late Edward and Myrtle (Clark) Hoppe in kosh. Lawrence married Delores

ender) on October 15, 1960 in Oshkosh. Their marriage was blessed with three children, Julie, Sheila and Greg.

Throughout his childhood, he farmed with his family in Omro, WI. As a young adult he enjoyed roller skating where he met his bride to be on a blind date. He also bowled with friends on bowling leagues and a couple's league with his wife.

Lawrence was a member of Iron Workers Local 8, worked for Griese & Ross and retired in 1993. Following retirement, his love for antique tractors became his fulltime hobby which led him to become a member of the Pickett Steam and Gas Engine Club. He also enjoyed creating lifelong memories with his family. He was a faithful member of Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Lawrence is lovingly survived by his wife, Delores; children, Julie (Jeff) Leichtfuss, Sheila Franzen and Greg (Kara) Hoppe; grandchildren, Jason Leichtfuss, Jennifer Krueger, Jamie (Cullen) Raasch, Jessica (Chris) Lee, Ashley Franzen (Kevin Garza), Corey Franzen and Lizzie Hoppe; great grandchildren, Ethan, Kaden, Jaxson, Ava, Ella, Hudson, Mason, Charlotte and Brynlee; sister, Carole (Don) Wissink; sisters-in-law, Lucille and Frankie Hoppe. He is further survived by many nieces, nephews, and

In addition to his parents, Lawrence was preceded in death by his brothers, Howard, Gaylord (Rita), Richard and Kenneth

A funeral service for Lawrence will be held at Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1526 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 11:00 AM with Rev. Tom Voss officiating. Visitation at the church will be held from 10:00 AM until the time of the service. Following the service, interment will take place at Lake

View Memorial Park located at 2786 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be es-

The Hoppe family would like to extend their deep appreciation to the staff of Aurora Medical Center, Aurora Hospice, and Lake Pointe Villa for the care provided to Lawrence. Also, thank you to his good neighbor, John Kolb, for your friendship and help throughout the years.

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### Winnebago ice report

By Jim Nobbe Payne's Point Hook and Spear Fishing Club

The ice season on Lake Winnebago is coming to a close with rain, warm temperatures and a sun getting higher in the sky daily taking their toll on the lake ice. The ice on the lake is becoming really water logged and soft.

As far as I know, almost all of the fishing clubs on the lake have removed their ATV bridges. Payne's Point Hook and Spear Fishing Club removed its ATV bridge Sunday. The landing at the clubhouse is in real rough shape. I would suggest only walking out.

Where the water is shallow the lake bottom has been warming up with the sun so high in the sky and it is melting the ice from the bottom up as well as the top down, making these areas unsafe.

I was on the east shore of the lake this past weekend and the ice is holding up a

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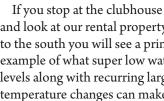
touch better than it is on the west shore, but it is still not in real good condition.

The other thing I noticed this year is that with the lake water levels so low is a lot of people have had substantial damage to their shoreline.

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### Garage/Estate Sales

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### Miscellaneous

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FREE to the PUBLIC "Constitution Alive" Video Presentations. The class will run for 7 weeks on Tuesday 6:00-7:30PM at the Copper Hall in Oshkosh (203 Otter Ave) beginning March 14. Entertaining, inspiring, and educational format to learn the Biblical, Historical, and Constitutional Foundation of Freedom in our Country. More information at

Facebook page "Fast WI Convention of States for Liberty" Events section. Text 920-267-0890 to reserve seating.

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work) and/or the member publications review ads to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money! PLEASE BE **CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT** SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! For more

WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Net-

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YOUR CAR, BOAT OR MOTORCYCLE helps Rawhide provide mental health services that redirect local Wisconsin youth & adults from

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### Memory Care Respite



A safe and engaging activity for people with memory loss. A chance to rejuvenate for their care partners.



- Two hours of respite
- Care provided by Valley VNA Senior Care
- Volunteer-led program includes activities, music, and snacks
- Care partners can participate or take time for themselves
- **FREE**

Fourth Tuesday of each month 1:30-3:30 p.m. **Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church** 1860 Wisconsin Street, Oshkosh Call 920-727-5555 to Pre-register

Brought to you by Valley VNA Senior Care in collaboration with Memory Care Respite Partners.

March 8, 2023



long sleeves and stiff collars. They were expected to wear jackets, heavy shoes, and even broad-brimmed hats.

What's a corset?

A corset is a tight-fitting undergarment worn under a blouse.

Two women, Mrs. Edwards and

Miss Kussin, boxed

each other and showed

Aileen Riggin

became the

first female

Olympian to

same Olympic Games. She medaled in both swimming and diving. Some say she was the first athlete, male or

female, to win two medals in the same Olympic Games

Billie Jean King beats

=4

=2

the No. 1-ranked men's tennis player, Bobby Riggs, showing women can compete with men.

### Title IX Changes Girls' Lives

Today, girls have equal access to playing sports at public schools because in 1972, the United States Congress signed into law that everyone in the United States, regardless of their gender, has equal rights to play sports. This law is called **Title IX**. (*Title IX* is the same as *Title 9*. The number 9 is written in Roman numerals.

### **Before and After Title IX**

Before 1972, less that 300,000 girls participated in school sports in the United States. Write down the numbers on the correct path through the maze to discover how many



Double

### Roman Numerals

Title IX uses the Roman numerals IX to show the word nine.  $\parallel \parallel = 3$ IV = 4Look through the V = 5newspaper for VI = 6five numbers and VII = 7rewrite each one as a Roman numeral. VIII= 8

Word Search

Standards Link: Math: Understand the use and extem of Roman numeral

win medals in two different sports at the

## Picture Puzzles

A rebus is a puzzle that uses pictures to reveal a word or phrase. Can you solve this rebus puzzle?







Standards Link: Find similarities and differences in common objects

**ATHLETE** COMPETE **FIRST** HATS **HEALTH OLYMPIC SCHOOL** SHOES

Double.

**SLEEVES SPORTS TENNIS** THROW

WOMEN

WORN

YEAR

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

LCCTYSRAEY O V O R J M H A T S LUMOSINNET YNPPARHNXK MEESOTTOVP PMTWLSHOES IOEATHLETE CWEVSCHOOL WHSEVEELSY

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

### **The Amazing Babe Didrikson Zaharias**

Kid Scoop Together

greatest athletes of the last century. Few, if any, have matched her achievements in sports.

Babe was born on June 26, 1911. When she was young, most girls did not participate in sports. Babe loved sports. In her lifetime, she was an Olympic gold medalist in track and field, an All-American basketball player, a champion golfer and an extraordinary baseball player, swimmer, bowler, diver and tennis player.

### A Running Start

When the news of the 1928 Olympic Games filled the newspapers, Babe decided to begin her own training. She practiced hurdles by soaring over seven hedges in her neighborhood. When one of the hedges was a bit too high, she asked the people who lived there to cut it down to the right size, and they did!



How many differences can you find between these two pictures?



### **Golfing Great**

Babe was an excellent golfer. From 1946-47, Babe won 13 tournaments in a row. Babe would go on to win 113 golf tournaments.



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