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Affordable housing options studied

City eyes vacant lots, private-public subdivision

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The city is continuing to look for ways to bring affordable housing to the area. Affordable housing means something a little different for everyone as housing needs change over a person's life.

The Common Council adopted a 153-page housing needs assessment and strategy plan in March 2022 that lays out

themes from community input, which noted the lack of existing houses on the market, material costs that started rising in 2020 and a major need for houses in the \$200,000-\$300,000 range.

Director of Community Development Kelly Nieforth said a year later the city staff is looking for guidance "on the next efforts that city staff should be starting."

This could include a new subdivision were developing infill lots, which is when the city steps in and buys undesirable lots due to their size or location. An affordable home is labeled as rent or mortgage, plus

utilities, that is no more than 30% of a household's gross income.

"How can we attract affordable workforce housing?" Nieforth said. "We know that we need lots of different types of housing."

The area median income (AMI) in Winnebago County is \$94,600. AMI is used as a midpoint for defining a regions income distribution and is calculated by adding up the gross income based on a family of four people.

SEE **Housing ideas** ON PAGE 19

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West names field, track after longtime coach
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Photo by Michael Dempsey

Live at the Leach

Waterfest featured longtime American rock band 38 Special as its headline act last week with an appreciative crowd at the Leach Amphitheater. The July 13 lineup is led by another rock veteran group Pablo Cruise along with The Jimmys and Lil' Davy Max.

Safe Streets Initiative strives for recovery options

Crime penalty alternatives showing better results

By Cheryl Hentz
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Wisconsin has struggled with the ongoing problem of how to reduce drunken driving cases. As drug use and associated crimes have also become more prevalent, the state has been challenged by that as well.

Winnebago County has stood out with its alternative programs for these kinds of offenders and others. Some of them are

some of the longest-running programs in the state and all fall under what's known as Safe Streets Initiative.

"There's a state Supreme Court rule that requires all counties to have a Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee. That's what Safe Streets is for us," said Winnebago County Circuit Judge Scott Woldt.

"Whenever anyone wants to start a criminal justice program, Safe Streets has the ultimate de-



Woldt

cision-making power."

Under the initiative are three sections: the Winnebago County Safe Streets Drug Court, SSTOP (Safe Streets Treatment Options Program), and other Alternative/Diversion programs.

Drug Court

The Drug Court was started by Woldt after he and several others from the county who wanted to reduce drug cases, including then-Sheriff Mike Brook and then-District Attorney Bill Lennon, visited La Crosse and St. Paul, where drug courts had been established. After seeing

how the programs were run there, a Safe Streets committee was formed, under which Woldt started the Drug Court in January 2006 and the SSTOP program four months later.

The Safe Streets Drug Court Program is aimed at drug and alcohol offenders through an intense and monitored program of treatment, rehabilitation and strict supervision. It is a sentencing option for nonviolent felony offenders who committed a crime under the influence of drugs or alcohol, reside in Winnebago County

SEE **Safe Streets** ON PAGE 18



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West track, football field named for Meronk

Former teacher, coach honored for his impact

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

A former West High School coach and teacher is being honored with having the track and football field named after him after the Board of Education approved the proposal last week.

Robert H. Meronk was a physical education teacher at West from 1974 to 2003 when he retired. He also coached track and football for years at the school and was inducted into the Oshkosh West Hall of Fame in 2013.

Jason Fahrney, a physical education teacher at West and former boys basketball coach, was joined at the meeting by Meronk's wife, Ruth, and son Greg along with two granddaughters. Fahrney sat in the office with Meronk for years and like so many considered him a mentor.

"Bob had a positive impact on literally thousands of kids during his time as a coach," he said. "I sat in the desk next to him in the PE office for many years and I saw all the kids come through to talk to coach, to look for encouragement or to simply thank him for helping them."

Board member Barbara Herzog said Meronk had an enormous influence on the school district and the Oshkosh community during his lifetime.

"His values first and foremost were about students. He was not only a track coach and a football coach, but also a teacher," Herzog said.

She said Meronk was a gentleman that cared about each and every student.

Fahrney said as a track coach he led the



Oshkosh Media

Oshkosh West physical education teacher Jason Fahrney talks about the contributions of former coach and teacher Robert H. Meronk.

team to 11 conference titles, eight regional championships and five sectional championships.

"He truly built a track and field dynasty," he said. Meronk also led the football team to the team's first three playoff appearances in 1996, 2000 and 2002. He was named Fox Valley Association Football Coach of the Year in 1996 and 2000.

Fahrney said Meronk didn't just coach the biggest, fastest and strongest kids but all the students, including those at the end of the bench or those who came from humble homes or backgrounds.

Meronk passed away in January 2015.

The request to have the facility named after Meronk came from his children, who said in an email to the district, "Over his three decades of service, Bob Meronk made a powerful and positive impact on

the lives of thousands of students, parents, and colleagues throughout the Oshkosh West High School community. Our father set high expectations for students and athletes alike and taught thousands of West High School students the value of effort, character and commitment."

City bus agreement

The board voted to continue a contract with GO Transit to allow students to get to school using city buses. This is additional coverage for students and families that do not live in the areas served by the Kobussen School bus service lines.

The school district began this partnership with the city in 2020. It is paid for by the city and school district at no cost to students riding the bus to school.

Students in sixth through 12th grade can obtain a pass to ride through an app on their smartphone or by getting a paper pass at their school's office. These students also need their student ID to ride. Early-childhood students through fifth-graders can ride the bus without a pass.

Herzog said this partnership has increased attendance and increased graduation rates across the district.

"It benefits so many students in the district," she said.

The new contract begins Sept. 1 as the initial contract expires and will run until Aug. 31, 2026.

Both resolutions passed last week with no opposing votes.

The board also approved the appointment of two new principals to North and West high schools. Michelle Last is the new North principal and Lewis Malczewski is new principal at West. Both began their new roles this week.

Rotary names new president, other leadership posts

Oshkosh Herald

The Rotary Club of Oshkosh introduced its new leadership for 2023-2024 during its June 26 installation ceremony, with Nikole Vergin inducted as this year's president.

Vergin, a mortgage lending specialist with Fortifi Bank, has been a club member for seven years where she has coordinated fundraising activities, served as club secretary and president-elect. She has participated in several community projects such as Breakfast with the Bunny, preparing and

serving meals at the Day By Day Warming Shelter, and in the club's Souper Bowl collection for local food pantries.

"Community involvement has always been a top priority for me," Vergin said. "I am grateful for the relationships I have built and the friendships I have gained with a



Vergin

group of people passionate about giving back to their community."

Others accepting Rotary leadership roles include Tom Simon, president-elect; Sara Muhlbauer, secretary; Jim Stahl, treasurer; Jim Power, sergeant at arms; Jolene Heuchert, immediate past president; and board members David Sennholz, Bryan Davis, Alyson Zierdt, Sue Panek, Matthew Ringenberg, Aaron Haller, Ben Thompson, Eric Sparr and Kathy Propp.

Also recognized at the meeting was E. Arthur Rehbein for his nearly 60 years as a member.

The Rotary Club of Oshkosh is currently engaged in service projects that include the warming shelter, Back 2 School Fair, South Park Middle School, Breakfast with the Bunny and volunteering for the Shared Harvest program at the Oshkosh Farmers Market.

Correction

JUNE 28, PAGE 2: The Back in the Day article from June 24, 1950, about the Miss Wisconsin pageant that year had the incorrect heading date.



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Sadly missed by Linda & Family

Oshkosh police looking at future K9 options

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Police Department is having initial conversations around bringing a new K9 unit on patrol in the department after the loss of a K9 in June.

K9 Lando was euthanized last month due to an autoimmune disease diagnosis. Lando worked with Officer Roberto Martinez on second shift and started with the department in 2018.

K9 Odin is working with Officer Brad Fox on first shift and K9 Fritz works with Officer Cody Ruklamp. Odin started with the department in September 2017 and Fritz started in May 2022.

“We are currently discussing this and that factors that go into implementation of adding a K9,” said Kate Mann, public affairs and crime prevention officer.

Sgt. Chris Romanowicz said some of those factors include funding as well as areas of need or coverage in the city.

“Meaning do we have a lapse in coverage right now where a K9 would be helpful,” he said.

Mann said the timeline for bringing on a new K9 will depend on available funding. There are estimated initial costs of up to \$25,000 for bringing on a police dog. That includes the animal, handler and initial training and basic equipment.

That dollar amount does not include costs such as the squad car with some added equipment.

Romanowicz said some residents include K9 units in their wills and estate planning documents.

“Having a K9 unit is a very important piece of effective policing. K9 units have a unique skill set that allows them to sniff out drugs, locate people through tracking or building searches, and protect both citizens and their handlers from danger,” he said.

A memorial service was held for Lando in June at the Leach Amphitheater, where he was honored for his service starting in March 2018 and working with Officer Clint Fetting.

Over the last five years he had 283 deployments and helped detect and seize large amounts of methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana.

“They can be a deterrent to criminal activity but also be a tool to use in public relations and education through demonstrations,” Romanowicz said. “Our K9 unit has been very effective in all of their roles and have no doubt made an impact on the safety and security of the city of Oshkosh.”

The department has a K9 Kare fund set up and people wanting to donate can make checks payable to Oshkosh Police Department K9 Kare Fund. Donations are tax deductible as a charitable donation.

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Direct Connect gets help matching food pantries, retailers

Oshkosh Herald

Regional food pantries are partnering with local retailers through Feeding America of Eastern Wisconsin to help fill the grocery bill gap that has grown since the pandemic-related public aid boost ended earlier this year.

The Direct Connect program allows pantries to get food directly from partnering stores such as Walmart, Pick 'n Save, Aldi, Kwik Trip and Target.

A \$54,000 grant from the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation helped Feeding America hire a retail sourcing assistant to support and increase Direct Connect partnerships between retailers and local pantries.

Winnebago County food pantries in Oshkosh and their retailer connections:

Father Carr's Place 2B: Kwik Trip, Pick 'n Save

Salvation Army Oshkosh: Target, Aldi, Pick 'n Save

Oshkosh Area Community Pantry: Walmart, Kwik Trip, Pick 'n Save, Aldi, Costco, Sam's, Meijer



Submitted photo

Oshkosh Area Community Pantry provides food directly from retailers through Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin's Direct Connect program.

Lutheran Food Pantry: Kwik Trip
 "Historically, the movement of food was retail to food bank to pantry and now we are focusing on retail to pantry," said Patti Habeck, chief executive and president of Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin, which operates food banks in Appleton and Milwaukee. "This has increased the amount of perishable items available through the food pantry system."

The federal government ended extra benefits through FoodShare Wisconsin at the end of February that were put in place in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Feeding America warned at that time that all 700,000 recipients would lose about half of their benefits.

Ann Kriegel, an economic support supervisor at the Winnebago County Human Services Department, said the emergency FoodShare allotments during the COVID public health emergency brought \$2,024,129 to county residents.

"Probably the population that got hit the hardest with the change in the FoodShare were the disabled and elderly, who get about \$20 a month normally, and were

getting over \$200 a month (during the pandemic)," she said.

The Oshkosh Farmers Market helps boost food access with up to a \$10 match when shopping with a Wisconsin QUEST card for items eligible under FoodShare.

The cuts came at a time when standard groceries are costing up to 10 percent more than they did a year ago. Consequently, pantries are seeing as many as four times as many people since the FoodShare reduction.

"Our usage peaked in November 2022 at 2,035 families served," said Ryan Rasmussen, executive director of the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry. "And while numbers have come down a bit since then, our number of first-time visitors is higher than ever. In 2022, we were seeing 50 to 80 new families a month. In 2023, we've already registered 209 new families just in January and February."

The pantry has been hearing about the challenges from its visitors.

"Money is tight," said Samantha, a mother of five and regular guest at the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry. "Food, gas, rent...well just about everything is more expensive right now. The pantry is helping us make ends meet."

Another goal of Direct Connect is to provide healthy food for a nutritious diet, making perishable items like fruit and vegetables quickly available to pantries.

Phone scam warning issued by police

The Oshkosh Police Department is warning the public of a scam that has affected several city residents where the victim receives a computer alert prompting them to call a phone number.

The alert appears to come from a legitimate organization and indicates there is some sort of problem with the victim's computer, bank account or other account. When the number is called the scammer may persuade the victim to give them access to the computer or provide money to

resolve the issue. The scammer may also convince the victim they have already fallen victim to some sort of scam and ask for more money to overcome the scam.

Police said in their alert that many of these scams originate outside of the United States and are encouraging anyone unsure if something is a scam to contact law enforcement.

Oshkosh police can be reached at 920-236-5700.

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Oshkosh Herald

Investigators work on the scene Thursday morning on Mill Street after an officer-involved shooting earlier in the day.

Officer shoots man pointing rifle

Oshkosh Herald

An Oshkosh police officer shot a man near Mill Street on Thursday morning who was pointing a loaded rifle at officers while allegedly intoxicated.

The department received information at 6:18 a.m. of an intoxicated male walking in the area carrying a loaded rifle along Mill Street between Poplar Avenue and Bayshore Drive.

Public affairs officer Kate Mann said the department confirmed the rifle was loaded.

“Officers began talking with the subject in an attempt to de-escalate the situation and to try to get the male to put down the

rifle, which he refused to do,” police said in a statement. “Officers attempted to use less-lethal rounds but the subject continued to hold the rifle in his hands.”

Authorities said that’s when the man began to raise the rifle and point it at officers on the scene.

“At this time an officer fired his duty-issued rifle, striking the subject one time.”

The man was transported to a hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. The officer was not injured.

The Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office is conducting the investigation. Mann said the department is not releasing any information at this time about the officer.



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Dream of healthy monarch populations chased

By Rob Zimmer
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Over the last few years, Mary Young of Oshkosh has developed quite a passion for raising monarch butterflies at home, as well as growing beautiful flowers for them to enjoy in her own garden.

Her yard, full of colorful blooms from spring right through fall, features beautiful zinnias and other flowers that supply a rich source of nectar for adult butterflies. Milkweeds provide a food source for caterpillars, the only host plant these butterflies will use.

Now, as she waits patiently for her first monarch of the year to emerge as a winged adult, Young reflects on her growing passion.

“My interest in monarch butterflies blossomed after going to hear Rob Zimmer give a seminar about monarchs for the Oshkosh Recreation Department,” she said.

While at the program, Young made a special friend, a kindred spirit and fellow monarch savior.

“I was blessed to meet my new friend Cindy at the class. She gifted me a special butterfly cage with a monarch chrysalis and a butterfly ready to be set free.”

The miracle of watching a monarch emerge from its chrysalis is one of life’s greatest joys and experiences.

It is one that Young will never forget. And it is the inspiration that keeps her new hobby growing strong.

“I was overjoyed to experience this special moment. I released the butterfly at UBloom along with Brian Pribbernow, the owner,” she said.

Young credits UBloom and their cre-



Photo by Mary Young

One of Mary Young’s butterfly cages holds a monarch chrysalis.

ative designs and unique plants for the stunning floral displays, containers and in-ground plantings that fill her home garden.

Young was thrilled to learn that zinnias are among the best nectar sources for monarchs, as these are among her favorite summer blooms. She now plants them throughout the garden, as well as in containers for their long-lasting color and show.

“When the next monarch was ready to be set free, we released her in my neighbor Kay’s zinnia garden,” she said.



Photo by Mary Young

A monarch caterpillar crawls along a leaf.

“This time there were six of us witnessing the release of Baby Girl. It was a beautiful moment we will all treasure forever.”

A new monarch year is underway and Young’s dream of raising these regal butterflies continues to grow.

How to help monarchs

- Grow milkweed varieties to provide a food source for caterpillars.
- Plant an array of native wildflowers and colorful annuals as nectar plants for adults.
- Avoid using pesticides and herbicides in garden and yard.
- Encourage friends and neighbors to do these things.
- Educate children on importance of taking these steps to help monarchs.
- Visit the ongoing monarch display at the Paine Art Center & Gardens.



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Public library calendar

Some programs require registration. Visit oskoshpubliclibrary.org for details.

July 5

High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
 Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3-7 p.m., kids of all ages

July 6

High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3-7 p.m., kids of all ages

July 7

Jazz Hip Hop Dance, 10 a.m., ages 9-12
 Jazz Hip Hop Dance, 10:30 a.m., ages 5-8
 Teen Book Club, 1 p.m., Grades 6-8
 Young Adult Book Club, 1 p.m., Grades 9-12
 Comic Book Character Drawing, 2-4 p.m., all ages
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3-5 p.m., kids of all ages
 Tween Book Club, 4:30 p.m., ages 9-11

July 8

LEGO Wall Open Build, 9 am.-noon, kids of all ages
 Stay and Play Saturdays: Giant Floor Crossword & Other Games, 10 a.m.-noon, kids and families

July 10

Family Storytime, 9:30 a.m., preschoolers
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3-7 p.m., kids of all ages
 Animanga Club, 3 p.m., grades 6-12

July 11

Smart Starts Play Stations, 9-11 a.m., ages 1-4
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3-7 p.m., kids of all ages
 Adult DIY: Suncatcher, 6 p.m., adults

July 12

High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
 Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults
 Memory Cafe, 1:30-3 p.m., adults
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3-7 p.m., kids of all ages

July 13

High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 & 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3-7 p.m., kids of all ages
 Wonderlab: 3D Printing sponsored by Oshkosh Corp., 6:30 p.m., ages 5-8

July 14

Jazz Hip Hop Dance, 10 a.m., ages 9-12
 Jazz Hip Hop Dance, 10:30 a.m., ages 5-8
 ChickQuest, 2 p.m., Grades 2-8
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3-5 p.m., kids of all ages
 Elementary Book Club, 4:30 p.m., ages 5-8
 Tween S.T.E.A.M.: 3D Printing sponsored by Oshkosh Corp., 4:30 p.m., ages 9-12

July 15

LEGO Wall Open Build, 9 am.-noon, kids of all ages
 Stay and Play Saturdays: Dr. Seuss Shenanigans, 10 a.m.-noon, kids and families

July 17

Family Storytime, 9:30 a.m., preschoolers
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3-7 p.m., kids of all ages
 Animanga Club, 3 p.m., grades 6-12

July 18

Exotic and Native Live Animals, 10 a.m., kids and families

Zine-Making, 2-4 p.m., all ages
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3-7 p.m., kids of all ages
 Winnebago Free Legal Assistance Clinic, 4:30-6:30 p.m., adults
 Banned Book Club at Planet Perk: Whale Talk, 5 p.m., adults

July 19

High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
 Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults
 Superhero Books & Friends, 2-4 p.m., ages 5-12
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3-7 p.m., kids of all ages

July 20

High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3-7 p.m., kids of all ages
 Not Your Classic Book Club, 6 p.m., adults

July 21

Librarian Learns: Twentieth Century Club, 9 a.m., YouTube
 ChickQuest, 2 p.m., grades 2-8
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3-5 p.m., kids of all ages

July 22

LEGO Wall Open Build, 9 am.-noon, kids of all ages
 Stay and Play Saturdays: Obstacle Course Medley, 10 a.m. to noon, kids and families

July 24

Family Storytime, 9:30 a.m., preschoolers
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3-7 p.m., kids of all ages
 Animanga Club, 3 p.m., grades 6-12

July 25

Crafternoon, 2-4 p.m., adults
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3-7 p.m., kids of all ages

July 26

High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
 Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3-7 p.m., kids of all ages
 Sawdust City Environmental Book Club, 5:30 p.m., adults

July 27

High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 & 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3-7 p.m., kids of all ages
 Wonderlab: 3D Printing, 6:30 p.m., ages 5-8

July 28

ChickQuest, 2 p.m., Grades 2-8
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3- 5 p.m., kids of all ages
 Tween S.T.E.A.M. 3D Printing, 4:30 p.m., ages 9-12

July 29

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9 a.m.-noon, kids of all ages
 Stay & Play Saturdays: Modge Podge Magnets & Story Stones, 10 a.m.-noon, kids and families

July 30

Harry Potter Movie at the Time Theater, 2 p.m., all ages

July 31

Family Storytime, 9:30 and 10:30 a.m., preschoolers
 LEGO Wall Open Build, 3-7 p.m., kids of all ages
 Animanga Club, 3 p.m., grades 6-12



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The Grand shows and events

- Aug. 9**
The Grand's 140th Birthday Celebration
The Shari Lewis Legacy with Mallory Lewis & Lamb Chop
- Sept. 29**
Uptown
- Oct. 5**
Trapper Schoepp
- Oct. 14**
Summoning Spirits with Peter Boie
- Oct. 15-18 and 20-21**
Spirits of The Grand tours
- Oct. 27**
Chris Moon, psychic medium/paranormal investigator
- Nov. 17-18**
Fancifool! with Ananda Bena-Weber
- Dec. 2**
The Looney Lutherans: Hold the Lutfisk, It's Beginning to Smell a Lot Like Christmas
- Dec. 23**
The Night Before Christmas Carol
- Dec. 29**
Substitute – Tales from The Who
- Jan. 13**
Piano Men II: Still Rock 'N Roll to Me starring Jim Witter
- Jan. 27**
Missoula Children's Theatre: "King Arthur's Quest"
- March 2**
The Fourth Wall – Hybrid Arts Ensemble "Fruit Flies like a Banana"
- March 21-23**
The Four Phantoms in Concert
- April 7**
The Red Hot Chilli Pipers
- April 11-12**
"Assisted Living: The Musical"
- April 20**
Rhinestone Cowgirls
- April 27**
Mutts Gone Nuts
- April 28**
The Amazing Max
- May 3**
Broadway's Chrissy Whitehead: In My Own Little Corner – My Journey with Bipolar Disorder

Guest presenters

- Sept. 21-23: "The Alibis" presented by Oshkosh Community Players
- Dec. 15-16: The Nutcracker presented by Valley Academy for the Arts
- April 4-6: "Death of a Salesman" by Oshkosh Community Players
- May 23-26, 30-31 and June 1: "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" by Oshkosh Community Players

Grand Oshkosh reveals new entertaining season

Oshkosh Herald

Performances from childhood favorites, tribute concerts, shows back by popular demand and a "spooky season" lineup were part of The Grand Oshkosh's 2023-24 season announced Friday.

A special happening announced was a PBS special to be recorded at The Grand during The Four Phantoms concert in March in front of a live audience that is to be released nationwide during the June pledge cycle in multiple PBS markets.

Cumulatively, Brent Barrett, John Cudia, Franc D'Ambrosio and Ciaran Sheehan have performed the title role in Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera" more than 6,000 times. The show features solo and group numbers celebrating the music of Broadway. Kaley Ann Voorhees, who played the role of Christine in the Broadway production, is a special guest star.

The production is under the music supervision of two-time Grammy Award-winner David Caddick and music direction of Ryan Shirar.

"When you stop to consider this project it's really quite remarkable," said Grand director Joseph Ferlo. "First, Franc D'Ambrosio, on a solo engagement, suggests to the producer that The Four Phantoms would be tremendous in our venue. We spend months of planning in order to adapt this production, which typically tours 2,500-seat theaters, to work in our jewel box theater.

"An impressive group of sponsors helps it to happen and, after its first sellout run, the show returns three more times – each time, adding special features specifically for our audiences – student outreach, a holiday set of songs, a contemporary set of songs, and now, the taping of their PBS special. It's not only improbable, but audacious, for a venue our size to forge a lasting



Thompson Photo Imagery

The historic Grand Oshkosh theater has rolled out its 2023-24 performance lineup.

relationship with a production this size."

The new season begins with The Grand's 140th "Birthday" celebration Aug. 9 with special guests Mallory Lewis & Lamb Chop in The Shari Lewis Legacy Show and tickets being a pay-what-you-can donation.

Adding to the season lineup is the ArtReach series, which allows The Grand to bring artists out into the community to connect with people who may not otherwise have access to the arts. This season, it is projected to impact more than 15 organizations and groups reaching youth, seniors and underserved communities.

Haunted Happenings returns in October, this time with 31 days of Halloween-themed events that allow The Grand to embrace its 140-year history and haunted past.

The Amcor Student Discovery Series marks the 30th anniversary of the longest-running educational arts program in the Fox Valley.

Discounted package options are available for select performances including the family four-pack ticket package to the Family Series' performances and a "Pick 3+" package to three or more season shows.

Until Aug. 1, tickets are now on pre-sale to Grand donors. Event details and ticketing information can be found at TheGrandOshkosh.org.

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A remarkable compromise emerges at state Capitol

On June 21st something remarkable, at least in Wisconsin's divisive political climate, occurred.

Democratic Gov. Tony Evers signed a bipartisan compromise bill to reform local government funding in Wisconsin. The bill was not perfect, and contained many measures specific to Milwaukee, but nonetheless provided substantial funding increases for local governments across the state.

More importantly, the bill indexes future growth in funding to local governments to increases in state sales tax revenue. In other words, when the Wisconsin economy is growing, local governments will see funding increases too.

As I have detailed in this column, state shared revenue – the money collected via the state sales and income tax that gets distributed back to local governments – has been frozen since 2004. The pressures of inflation and increasing service demands meant that Wisconsin communities became increasingly reliant on property taxes, fees, and budgetary tricks to balance their budgets while the state accumulated a \$7 billion surplus.

No doubt the intent of state lawmakers was to save taxpayers money, but in



Michael Ford
Oshkosh
Common Council

reality they merely shifted, and increased, the overall financial burden placed on Wisconsin taxpayers.

For years local government leaders across Wisconsin advocated for more funding, worked to educate the public on the shortcomings of the current approach, and pleaded with their state representatives to take action.

Why did these efforts fall short until now? There is no single answer, but I think the primary reason was a failure of local government advocates to present a unified front. I do not blame them. Wisconsin's big cities have different priorities than rural towns, counties have different needs than cities and villages, etc. Leaders of different types of communities logically advocated for themselves first, and the general population of local governments, second. Hence any local government funding reform was piecemeal rather than

comprehensive.

I also think it took time for legislators and the general public to fully grasp the severity of the fiscal challenges facing local governments. Whenever I would bring up shared revenue people would ask me about bankruptcy, or a fiscal cliff. My honest response, that local government financial challenges are like a gradually worsening disease rather than a dramatic event, failed to impress.

But I think we finally reached the point where municipalities of all sizes and scopes were noticing increasing property taxes and fees, as well as the growing challenge of meeting service demands.

The new bill is good for Oshkosh. The city will receive a 20 percent increase in state aid, up to \$11.5 million from \$9.6 million. The additional aid is required to go toward public safety and/or public works, which will not be a problem, as they together account for 67.2 percent of the city's operating budget.

The practical impact of new aid will be less pressure on local fees and property taxes to fund basic city services. The benefits will compound over time due to the annual aid increases tied to statewide economic activity.

The budgeting nerd in me is even more excited about the ways the new funding system will improve the budgetary process. Budgeting is all about making predictions and plans based on imperfect information. Now the largest factor in our budgeting, the amount of state aid being sent to Oshkosh, will be known well in advance of our formal budgeting process.

The city will have a better idea of what it can and cannot do, and communicate that to the public in way it could not before. More information will mean more transparency, which in turn, should increase trust and performance.

As I stated at the beginning, the bill is not perfect. As a true compromise such imperfection should be expected. The important thing is that state Democrats and Republicans were able to do something substantive, together, that will markedly improve local government in Wisconsin. It is amazing what can be accomplished when people of different political stripes work together toward a common goal.

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.



Submitted photo

National mission convention

A group of women from Grace Lutheran Church and other Lutheran congregations in Oshkosh joined more than 1,000 others at the 60th annual Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) convention recently in La Crosse. LWMS board president Patsy Kramer is shown speaking at the convention in front of the "Peace like a River" banner marking this year's mission theme. Members from Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synods (WELS) attended and were presented with more than \$130,000 in funding for mission projects.

Equine therapy program added at Beaming

Beaming Inc. has launched a new equine-assisted learning program called Pony Power Academy, a children's literacy program that helps children ages 4-12 with diverse learning abilities or who have struggled learning to read and write.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 4 million children younger than 18 have learning disabilities in the U.S.; they account for 47% of children receiving special education.

Beaming's certified instructors, qualified staff and trained volunteers will guide children through learning activities and adventures that make reading fun, using curriculum that was developed based

on Wisconsin Literacy Standards. These skills help children build confidence and enhance their learning aptitude. Learning opportunities about horses are also integrated into the programming, along with arts, crafts and barn activities.

The next sessions of Pony Power Academy will be at the Beaming Barn, 2692 County GG in Neenah, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 10 and Aug. 14, with additional sessions set later this year. A \$15 donation is requested for a child to participate and \$5 for each additional child in the same family. Contact Wendy Stabler at wendy.beaming@gmail.com for more information.

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UW Oshkosh Today

A drone photo taken June 28 of UWO's Oshkosh campus highlights the impact of poor air quality (left) compared with a more typical view taken June 8 (right).

Environmental expert notes air quality factors

By Natalie Johnson
UW OSHKOSH TODAY

Poor air quality, an issue Wisconsinites don't usually have to worry about, has been making headlines across the country.

"The Midwest is getting hit by this poor air quality due to a low-pressure system in Canada that is forcing air southward



Kleinheinz

and carrying pollutants with it," said Greg Kleinheinz, director of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh's Environmental Research and Innovation Center.

"Wisconsin generally has very good air quality. However, there are occasional ground

level ozone alerts in southeastern Wisconsin or along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Much of this is due to both local impacts of population as well as movement of air from industrial centers in Wisconsin and beyond, but due to meteorology and geography it settles along the Lake Michigan shoreline."

The difference today, however, is the high particulate matter (PM 2.5) from the Canadian wildfires.

"These are very small, less than 2.5 microns in size, and are capable of moving to lower depth of a person's respiratory system and causing more severe adverse

Protect yourself from contaminated air

With smoke from wildfires in Canada traveling into the region, the air quality has deteriorated rapidly, leading the state Department of Natural Resources to issue an air quality alert.

Those whose age or health conditions such as asthma puts them in a higher-risk category are encouraged to limit exposure as much as possible. Tips to protect health:

- Pay attention to local air quality reports and the U.S. Air Quality Index at airnow.gov. Pay attention to public health messages and take extra safety measures such as avoiding spending time outdoors.
- If told to stay indoors, stay indoors and keep indoor air as

clean as possible. Keep windows and doors closed unless it is very hot outside. Run an air conditioner if you have one but keep the fresh-air intake closed and the filter clean to prevent outdoor smoke from getting inside. Seek shelter elsewhere if you do not have an air conditioner and it is too warm to stay inside with windows closed.

health effects," Kleinheinz explained. "This situation shows how climate change and increasing temps and drier conditions can impact people in direct ways, such as fires, and in indirect ways, such as poor air thousands of miles away."

Kleinheinz recommends that people who are susceptible to air pollution due to a medical condition like asthma or chronic

obstructive pulmonary disease stay inside and consider wearing an N95 mask when outside.

- Use an air filter. Use a freestanding indoor air filter with particle removal to help protect people with heart disease, asthma or other respiratory conditions and the elderly and children from the effects of wildfire smoke. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on filter replacement and where to place the device.

When conditions are poor, people should reconsider heavy outdoor physical activity. While inside, using high energy particulate air (HEPA) filters can help.

Relief from the poor air quality depends on the weather both in Wisconsin and in

- Do not add to indoor pollution. When smoke levels are high, do not use anything that burns, such as candles and fireplaces. Do not vacuum, because vacuuming stirs up particles already inside your home.

Follow your doctor's advice about medicines and about your respiratory management plan if you have asthma or another lung disease or cardiovascular disease.

- Do not rely on dust masks for protection. Paper "comfort" or "dust" masks commonly found at hardware stores trap large particles, such as sawdust. These masks will not protect your lungs from smoke. An "N95" mask, properly worn, will offer some protection.

Canada.

"Hopefully, some rain in Canada and movement of the low-pressure system will provide relief in the next few days," he said.

Air quality has improved and the state Department of Natural Resources' air advisory ended at noon Friday. Conditions continued to improve throughout the holiday weekend.

UWO police chief cited for Special Olympics work

UW Oshkosh Today

Chris Tarmann, acting chief of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Police Department, recently was honored with the 2023 Dale Brunner Hall of Fame Award, a service honor granted to law enforcement members supporting Special Olympics Wisconsin.

Tarmann and Dane County Deputy Shari Kaczmariski were honored in June at the opening ceremony of Special Olympics Wisconsin's Summer Games at UW-Whitewater.

For 11 years, Tarmann has worked

alongside Special Olympics Wisconsin as both an advocate and volunteer. At the 2022 USA Games, he carried the Flame of Hope with athletes from across North America as part of the LETR Final Leg tour of southern Florida.

Tarmann organized the first ever cauldron-lighting ceremony at Spring Games in Oshkosh, following a successful Oshkosh-based Run with the Cops the previous October. He has attended several International LETR Conferences and actively pursuing new and improved ways to get more LETR involvement across the state.

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From the Deli

Beer Dip



\$3.99

per Pound

Cookies & Cream Fluff



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per Pound

From the Bakery

J. Skinner Coffee Cakes



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Fresh Express Salad Blends
7-11-oz.
3/\$10

Fresh Bi-Color Sweet Corn
3/\$1.98

California Summerripe Nectarines, Plums or Peaches
SUMMER RIPE READY TO EAT!
\$3.99 lb.

Fresh Cut Seedless Watermelon
99¢ lb.

6-Count Tray Mini Cucumbers or Juno Bite Grape Tomatoes
2/\$5

Zucchini & Yellow Squash or Vidalia Onions
\$1.29 lb.

Jumbo Sugar Sweet Cantaloupe
\$3.99 ea.

Pint Fresh Blueberries
\$3.99

8-oz. Sliced White Mushrooms
2/\$4.50

California Romaine Lettuce
\$1.69 lb.

Fancy Lemons
69¢ ea.
Limes.....3/99¢

Gold Pineapple
\$3.99 ea.

5-oz. - Fresh Gourmet Salad Croutons
\$1.99

2-lb. Package Bolthouse Farms Baby Carrots
\$2.89

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Early Garden Bouquet
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<p>9-Mega Roll Charmin Ultra Soft Bath Tissue SALE PRICE \$11.99 Less Digital Coupon Offer - 0.50 \$11.49 FINAL COST</p>	<p>4-Triple Roll Bounty Paper Towels SALE PRICE \$12.99 Less Digital Coupon Offer - 0.50 \$12.49 FINAL COST</p>	<p>14 to 24-Count Quart or Gallon Simply Done Zipper Freezer or Storage Bags \$1.49 WITH CARD</p>
<p>180-Count Bounce Fabric Softener Sheets SALE PRICE \$12.99 Less Digital Coupon Offer - 2.00 \$10.99 FINAL COST</p>	<p>20.10-oz. Downy Scent Booster or Unstoppables SALE PRICE \$11.99 Less Digital Coupon Offer - 3.00 \$8.99 FINAL COST</p>	<p>64-oz. That's Smart Liquid Bleach \$1.29 WITH CARD</p>
<p>20-oz. Softsoap or Irish Spring Body Wash \$4.99 WITH CARD</p>	<p>13.5-oz. Old Spice 2 in 1 Shampoo & Conditioner \$4.99 WITH CARD</p>	<p>190-Count Simply Done Facial Tissue \$1.79 WITH CARD</p>
	<p>25 to 30-Count TopCare Makeup Remover \$2.99 WITH CARD</p>	<p>100-Count TopCare Pain Relief \$3.99 WITH CARD</p>

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<p>6-Pack, 18.5-oz. Bottles Lipton Pure Leaf Tea 2/\$12</p>	<p>12-Pack, Half-Liter Bottles Lipton Tea 2/\$12</p>	<p>2-Liter Bottles Coke, Sprite or Diet Coke 2/\$4</p>

DAIRY & FROZEN

64-oz. Food Club Orange Juice **\$2.99** WITH CARD

5.3-oz. Dannon Oikos or Two Good Greek Yogurt **4/\$5** WITH CARD

1-lb. Package Old World Creamery Butter Quarters **\$3.49** WITH CARD

52-oz. Tropicana Premium Drinks **2/\$6** WITH CARD

5.3-oz. Ratio Keto Yogurt **3/\$4** WITH CARD

32-oz. Wide Awake Coffee Creamer **\$2.99** WITH CARD

8-oz. - With Canola Food Club Spreadable Butter **\$1.99** WITH CARD

6-Count - Select Crystal Farms English Muffins **\$1.99** WITH CARD

3-Pack Food Club Cheese Snacks **\$2.69** WITH CARD

12-Count Food Club Pancakes **\$1.99** WITH CARD

16-oz. Prairie Farms Cottage Cheese **\$2.29** WITH CARD

8-oz. Crystal Farms Cream Cheese **\$2.29** WITH CARD

24-oz. Food Club Frozen Vegetables **\$1.99** WITH CARD

64-oz. Hashbrown or 80-oz. Food Club Crinkle Cut Potatoes **\$6.49** WITH CARD

13-oz. Aerosol Can Food Club Whipped Topping **\$3.99** WITH CARD

24 to 31-oz. Marie Callender's Meals to Share **\$6.29** WITH CARD

21-oz. Birds Eye Chicken Viola! **\$5.99** WITH CARD

24 to 30-oz. Banquet Chicken **\$4.99** WITH CARD

YOUR EVERY DAY GROCERY ESSENTIALS

10 to 12-oz. or 10 to 12-Count - Select Dunkin' or Folgers K-Cups or Coffee **\$6.99** WITH CARD

4-Pack Food Club Fruit Bowls **\$2.29** WITH CARD

11.5 to 18.7-oz. - Select Varieties Food Club Cereal **2/\$5** WITH CARD

6-Count Deluxe or Brat and Sausage Buns or 20-oz. Italian, Whole Grain White or Honey Wheat Bread **\$2.89** WITH CARD

24-oz. Country Hearth Split Top White Bread **\$3.59** WITH CARD

24-oz. - Select Brownberry Bread **\$3.79** WITH CARD

28-oz. Food Club Peanut Butter **\$2.99** WITH CARD

38-oz. EZ Squeeze Bottle Food Club Ketchup **\$1.69** WITH CARD

18-oz. Open Pit Barbecue Sauce **2/\$3** WITH CARD

15 to 16-oz. Hunt's Manwich **4/\$5** WITH CARD

24-oz. Hunt's Pasta Sauce **2/\$3** WITH CARD

6 to 8-Pack Quaker Chewy Granola Bars **\$2.99** WITH CARD

8-Count Piggly Wiggly Hot Dog or Hamburger Buns..... **\$1.59** WITH CARD

6-oz. - Hunt's Tomato Paste..... **99¢** WITH CARD

9-oz. Old Dutch Kettle Chips **2/\$7** WITH CARD

15.5-oz. Fritos Scoops, Lay's Kettle Cooked or Potato Chips **3/\$11** WITH CARD

22.6 to 30.5-oz. - Select Food Club Coffee **\$7.99** WITH CARD

12-Pack Food Club Toaster Pastries **\$2.49** WITH CARD

9-oz. Sour Punch Bites **2/\$5** WITH CARD

12-Quart Food Club H2O to Go **\$2.49** WITH CARD

24 to 32-oz. Pearl Milling Company Pancake Mix **\$3.69** WITH CARD

15-oz. - Without Beans Food Club Chili **\$2.29** WITH CARD

15-oz. With Beans Food Club Chili **\$1.79** WITH CARD

18-Count Food Club Color Cake Cones **\$1.99** WITH CARD

SUMMER GROCERY ESSENTIALS!

16-oz. - Select Twizzlers Strawberry Twists **\$2.89** WITH CARD

24-oz. - Select Varieties Food Club Pickles **\$2.99** WITH CARD

6-Pack - Select Hershey's Milk Chocolate Bars **\$6.29** WITH CARD

19 to 20-oz. Famous Dave's Barbecue Sauce **2/\$6** WITH CARD

16-oz. Food Club Sweet Relish..... **\$2.29** WITH CARD

14-oz. Squeeze Bottle Food Club Yellow Mustard **99¢** WITH CARD

28-oz. Food Club Baked Beans **\$2.39** WITH CARD

100-Count That's Smart Paper Plates **\$2.69** WITH CARD

12-Inch, 25-Foot That's Smart Aluminum Foil **99¢** WITH CARD

44 to 90-Count - Select Dixie Everyday or Ultimate Plates or Bowls **\$6.49** WITH CARD

250-Count Simply Done Napkins **\$2.99** WITH CARD

15.40-lb. Bag Charling Briquets **\$9.99** WITH CARD

32-oz. Charling Lighter Fluid **\$3.79** WITH CARD

JULY IS ICE CREAM MONTH

48-oz. Dean's or Kemp's Ice Cream **2/\$7** WITH CARD

4-Quart Food Club Ice Cream **\$6.99** WITH CARD

24-oz. or 10-oz. - Food Club Chocolate Syrup or Maraschino Cherries... **\$1.99** WITH CARD

14-oz. or 3 to 4-Pack Häagen-Dazs Ice Cream, Bars or Cones **\$3.99** WITH CARD

LOAD'D CONES 4-Pack - Select Blue Bunny Load'd Bars or Cones, or Twist Cones **\$3.99** WITH CARD

18-Pack Assorted Varieties Popsicle **2/\$9** WITH CARD

12 to 24-Pack - Select Dean's Ice Cream Bars, Juice Stix or Pops **2/\$7** WITH CARD

12-Pack Crav'n Flavor Ice Cream Sandwiches **2/\$7** WITH CARD

6-Pack Lindy's Italian Ice **\$1.99** WITH CARD

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\$20.99 LOWEST LEGAL RETAIL

30-Pack, 12-oz. Cans
Hamm's
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12-Pack, 12-oz. Cans or Bottles
Leinenkugel's
\$12.29 ea.

AFTER \$2 MAIL-IN REBATE

12-Pack, 16-oz. Cans
Miller Lite
\$9.99

WHEN YOU BUY MULTIPLES OF TWO

6-Pack, 12-oz. Cans or Bottles
Blue Moon Craft
\$7.49 ea.

AFTER \$2 MAIL-IN REBATE

12-Pack, 16-oz. Cans
Coors Light
\$9.99

WHEN YOU BUY MULTIPLES OF TWO

18-Pack, 12-oz. Cans or Bottles
Miller Lite, MGD or Miller 64
\$13.29 ea.

WHEN YOU BUY MULTIPLES OF TWO

12-Pack, 12-oz. Cans or Bottles
Coors Light or Banquet
\$8.99 ea.

AFTER \$2 INSTANT SAVINGS

12-Pack, 12-oz. Cans
Topo Chico
\$15.49

Our Meat Department Welcomes You

<p>Whole Pork Tenderloin \$2.99 lb.</p>	<p>19-oz. - Assorted Varieties Brats \$4.99 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>	<p>Rump Roast \$4.99 lb.</p>
<p>18.4-27.2-oz. - Assorted Flavors Seasoned Pork Fillets or Tenderloins \$6.49 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>	<p>Bone-In Pork Butt Steaks \$2.49 lb.</p>	<p>16-oz. - Butterball Fresh 85% Lean Ground Turkey \$4.49 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>
<p>19-28-oz. - Assorted Varieties Tyson Heat N Eat Chicken \$8.99 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>	<p>13-14-oz. - Assorted Varieties Hillshire Farms Smoked Sausage \$3.99 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>	<p>14-oz. - Original or Garlic Klement's Ring Bologna \$5.49 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>
<p>5-7-oz. - Assorted Varieties Jones Dairy Farm - All Natural Links or Patties \$2.99 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>	<p>4.5-4.8-oz. El Monterey Breakfast Burritos or Chimichangas 5/\$5 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>	<p>10-12-oz. - Assorted Varieties - Klement's Summer Sausage..... \$4.99 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>
<p>12-16-oz. - Swaggerty Pork Sausage Rolls, Patties or Links.... \$3.99 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>	<p>14-16-oz. - Assorted Varieties Old Wisconsin Snack Sticks \$9.99 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>	<p>16-oz. - Assorted Varieties Land O' Frost Deli Shaved Lunchmeat \$5.99 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>

Scrumptious Seafood Specials!

<p>41-50-Count - 16-oz. - Whole Cooked Shrimp \$8.99 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>	<p>26-30-Count - 16-oz. - Whole EZ Peel Raw Shrimp \$8.49 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>	<p>32-oz. - Whole Tilapia Fillets \$11.49 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>	<p>Fresh - Wild Caught Lake Trout Fillets \$6.99 lb.</p>
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Deli • Homemade Taste Some items may not be available at all locations.

<p>Assorted Varieties - Kretschmar Turkey & Chicken Breast \$8.99 lb.</p>	<p>Patrick Cudahy Virginia or Honey Ham \$6.99 lb.</p>	<p>8-pc. Hot & Fresh Fried Chicken \$7.99</p>
<p>Cady Creek Colby Cheese \$5.99 lb.</p>	<p>Land O Lakes American Cheese \$6.99 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>	<p>Steakhouse Coleslaw \$3.49 lb.</p>
<p>8-oz. We Guac Guacamole \$3.99 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>	<p>6-oz. - Athenos Feta Crumbles \$3.99 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>	<p>Seafood Delight \$6.49 lb.</p>
		<p>Red Potato & Herb Salad \$3.49 lb.</p>
		<p>Potato Wedges \$2.49 lb.</p>

Bakery • Homemade Fresh Some items may not be available at all locations.

<p>14-oz. Fresh Baked French Bread \$2.49</p>	<p>14-oz. - Assorted Varieties J. Skinner Strip Danish \$4.99 <small>WITH CARD</small></p>	<p>8-Inch Fresh Baked Peach Pie \$6.99</p>
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piggly wiggly Beverage Headquarters Some items may not be available at all locations.

<p>24-Pack, 12-oz. Cans Budweiser or Bud Light \$18.99 <small>LOWEST LEGAL RETAIL</small></p>	<p>12-Pack, 12-oz. Cans White Claw Hard Seltzer \$14.99</p>	<p>30-Pack, 12-oz. Cans Michelob Ultra \$22.98 <small>LOWEST LEGAL RETAIL</small></p>	<p>6-Pack, 12-oz. Bottles New Glarus Craft \$8.69</p>
<p>1.75-Liter Bottle Skyy Vodka \$22.99</p>	<p>1.75-Liter Bottle Southern Comfort \$24.99</p>	<p>1.75-Liter Bottle Bacardi Rum \$19.99 <small>AFTER \$6 COUPON WHEN YOU BUY TWO BOTTLES</small></p>	<p>1.75-Liter Bottle Evan Williams Bourbon \$29.99</p>
<p>1.75-Liter Bottle Canadian Mist Whisky \$12.99</p>	<p>4-Pack, 187 ML Bottles Sutter Home Wines \$6.99</p>	<p>5-Liter Box Franzia Wines \$14.99</p>	<p>750 ML Bottle Stella Rosa Wines \$10.99</p>

While supplies last. We reserve the right to limit quantities and correct all printed errors. Not all varieties available at all locations. Prices subject to state and local taxes, if applicable. No sales to dealers. Purchase requirements are calculated after promotional discounts, and before tax, and does not include gift cards, lottery, tobacco, bottle deposits or other service desk services. All prices with card are discounted by using your Piggly Wiggly Rewards Card. Free promotions will be applied to item of least value. Gluten free information comes direct from the manufacturer (Always check the label, as ingredients may change. Contact the manufacturer with additional questions).

Calendar of events

Ongoing

“Rodin: Contemplation and Dreams” exhibit, Paine Art Center & Gardens

Wednesday, July 5

Music on Main: Tae & the Neighborly, 5:30 p.m., Opera House Square

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

Backstage Pass, 6 p.m., Water City Pub, 216 N. Main St.

Thursday, July 6

Lifest music festival, Sunnyview Expo Center

Live at Lunch: Jazz for '90s Kids, noon, Opera House Square

Waupaca Boatribe Volleyball Tournament, Brighton Acres, 4057 Fisk Ave.

Friday, July 7

Lifest music festival, Sunnyview Expo Center

Park Dance, 6:30 p.m., South Park Pavilion

Waupaca Boatribe Volleyball Tournament, Brighton Acres, 4057 Fisk Ave.

Wayne Neuman, 5:30 p.m., Fox River Brewing Co.

Until Dawn, 7 p.m., Revs Bowl Bar and Grill, 275 N. Washburn St.

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

Saturday, July 8

Oshkosh Farmers Market, 8 a.m., downtown

Jambalaya Arts: Art in the Alley, 8 a.m., 413 N. Main St.

Lifest music festival, Sunnyview Expo Center

Lifest 5K Benefit Run, 7:30 a.m., Winnebago County Community Park

Family Discovery Days, 11 a.m., Oshkosh Public Museum

Nekimi Fire and First Responder Picnic and Mud Run, noon, 3790 Pickett Road

Waupaca Boatribe Volleyball Tournament, Brighton Acres, 4057 Fisk Ave.

Shlock the Block, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Kenny James, 5:30 p.m., Fox River Brewing Co.

Sunday, July 9

Faire on the Green, 9 a.m., Paine Art Center & Gardens, 1410 Algoma Blvd.

Oshkosh Garden Club's Garden Walk, 11 a.m., six locations

Kate Voss & The Hot Sauce, noon, Parker John's BBQ & Pizza, 30 Wisconsin St.

Waupaca Boatribe Volleyball Tournament, Brighton Acres, 4057 Fisk Ave.

Mike Sullivan, 5:30 p.m., Fox River Brewing Co.

Minus One, 2 p.m., Winkler's Westward Ho

Sarah Day, 2 p.m., TJ's Harbor Restaurant

Wednesday, July 12

Carnival Day at Menominee Park, 1 p.m.

Brews on the Bay, 5 p.m., Menominee Park

On Broadway concert, 7 p.m., Oshkosh North High School Auditorium

Plastic Knives, 6 p.m., Water City Pub, 216 N. Main St.

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

Thursday, July 13

River East Neighborhood Association rummage sale, 8 a.m., various locations

Stevens Park Neighborhood Association garage sales, 8 a.m., various locations

Live at Lunch: Sly Joe & A Smooth Operator, noon, Opera House Square

Chris Okkerse, 5:30 p.m., Fox River Brewing Co.

Waterfest: Pablo Cruise, The Jimmys, Lil' Davy Max, 6 p.m., Leach Amphitheater

Waterfest: Pablo Cruise, The Jimmys, Lil' Davy Max, 6 p.m., Leach Amphitheater

Friday, July 14

River East Neighborhood Association rummage sale, 8 a.m., various locations

Stevens Park Neighborhood Association garage sales, 8 a.m., various locations

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

RedFish, 5:30 p.m., Fox River Brewing Co.

RedFish, 5:30 p.m., Fox River Brewing Co.

Saturday, July 15

River East Neighborhood Association rummage sale, 8 a.m., various locations

Stevens Park Neighborhood Association garage sales, 8 a.m., various locations

Community Blood Center drive, 8:30 a.m., National Guard Armory, 1415 Armory Place

Sawdust City Classic basketball tournament, UW Oshkosh Student Recreation and Wellness Center

Wisconsin Army National Guard 1157th Transportation Company open house, 9 a.m., 1415 Armory Place

Hunter, 5:30 p.m., Fox River Brewing Co.

Wisconsin Glo vs. Indy All Stars, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Oshkosh Alleycat Race, 6 p.m., Opera House Square

Oshkosh Alleycat Race, 6 p.m., Opera House Square

Sunday, July 16

Wisconsin Glo vs. Indy All Stars, 3 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Sawdust City Classic basketball tournament, UW Oshkosh Student Recreation and Wellness Center

Oshkosh Summer Fun Runs, 6 p.m., Winnebago County Community Park

Mandy Mae, 5:30 p.m., Fox River Brewing Co.

Mandy Mae, 5:30 p.m., Fox River Brewing Co.

Tuesday, July 18

Boogie and the Yo-Yoz, 5:30 p.m., Leach Amphitheater

Boat responsibly this summer

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds Wisconsinites and visitors to put safety first by boating sober and wearing a life jacket when they cast off.

Nearly 80% of fatal boating incidents involve drowning. Drowning can happen to even the most experienced swimmers. Most people who drown in boating accidents know how to swim but become incapacitated in the water, such as being injured, unconscious, exhausted or weighed down by clothing.

So far this year, two people have died from boating incidents, and another 20 died in 2022.

Operator inexperience, inattention, recklessness and speeding are the four leading causes of tragic watercraft crashes.

The easiest and most important thing is to boat sober and wear a life jacket. Statistics show boaters who wear life jackets and take boater safety courses are most likely to stay safe on the water.

New life jackets are much more com-

fortable, lightweight and stylish than the bulky orange style most boaters know. There are innovative options, such as inflatable life jackets, allowing mobility and flexibility for boating, fishing, paddling or hunting and are much cooler in the warmer weather.

Water safety tips:

- Sign up now to take an online boater education course.

- Always wear a properly fitted life jacket with a snug fit and fastened when you're on or near the water. Life jackets will keep you on top of the water if you walk off an unexpected drop-off, if a wave or current overpowers you or if you fall out of a boat.

- Enjoy the waters sober and know your limits. Alcohol blurs a person's judgment, reaction time and abilities.

- River shorelines and sandbars pose unseen dangers. Higher, fast-moving water can tax an individual's boating, paddling and swimming skills.

- Keep an eye on the weather and let someone know where you are going.

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County considers youth group home property purchase

By Bethanie Gengler
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors will vote this month on whether to purchase the Silvercrest Group Home in Neenah from the Winnebago County Housing Authority.

Winnebago County has been renting the group home from the housing authority since 1995 and recently learned it will be listed for sale, with the county offered the first opportunity to purchase.

Human Services director Bill Topel gave a presentation on the potential purchase at the county board's Tuesday meeting.

Silvercrest is a live-in group home for boys ages 12-17 at 1021 Green Acres Lane. Silvercrest partners with Winnebago County to help troubled youth who are exhibiting harmful behaviors. The boys are court ordered to stay at the home for six months to a year.

"It's a type of facility that we need in our child welfare system so that when a judge decides that a child needs to be placed outside of home, there's different levels of care," Topel said.

Teenage boys are referred to Silvercrest from Winnebago County. The facility is licensed to serve up to eight clients at a time.

The boys may be experiencing mental, emotional, behavioral or academic problems, according to the Silvercrest website. The group home also serves those with multiple diagnoses, sexual offenders and children with delinquent behaviors.

The 4,300-square-foot building is an unlocked, open facility that is staffed 24 hours a day. It features eight beds, four bathrooms, a new fully functional kitchen, finished basement with a recreation area and a three-car garage.

The cost is \$240,000; with an extra \$100,000 needed for repairs. Under the



Oshkosh Herald

Silvercrest Group Home at 1021 Green Acres Lane is being looked at for purchase by Winnebago County, which has been renting the property.

existing arrangement, Winnebago County is paying between \$36,000 and \$38,000 per year to rent it.

Topel said under state law the county is required to either have a group home or must be able to contract for that level of group home service. Silvercrest is already zoned and licensed for that purpose.

"We have been using this home, as I said, for well over the last 20 years and it's served Winnebago County well," he said.

Topel said if the county acquires the property, it may request to change the property to be licensed co-ed, so that it could also provide shelter for girls in need.

The board will vote next month on whether to approve spending a total of \$340,000 on the home, including repairs, funded by the general fund or borrowing. The county will continue contracting with the existing company that's operating it.

Most of the supervisors who spoke after the presentation were in favor of the purchase, although some questioned future expenses such as unexpected repairs and the potential need for additional county staff.

In response to a question about the location, Topel said the facility has been operating in Neenah for years and the neighbors are comfortable with it.

"I can tell you in 15 years as director, I have never had one person complain, as a neighbor, about the facility or anything that was going on there," he said. "That says a lot to me."

If approved, Silvercrest Group Home will join a 16-bed home for troubled youth in Oshkosh that the county board agreed to purchase for \$1 million last November, with repairs included in that expense.

Topel said the existing lease is through the end of the year. Operations at the group home would be unchanged if the county takes over ownership.



Oshkosh Media

Human Services director Bill Topel talks about the potential purchase of the group home at a recent county board meeting.

DHS expands its harm reduction efforts

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary-designee Kirsten Johnson joined attendees at the state's inaugural Harm Reduction Conference in Green Bay on Friday to announce expanded efforts to deal with the overdose epidemic and its impact on communities.

She announced increased efforts to support harm reduction strategies, which aim to minimize the harmful effects of substance

use, reduce risk behaviors that can lead to injury or communicable disease, and prevent the progression to a substance use disorder.

DHS has awarded one-time funding of up to \$55,000 to 28 local partners to support the purchase and installation of public health vending machines, which can include items such as overdose prevention education, naloxone, fentanyl test strips and other harm reduction products.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

July 3, 1899

Fourth at Electric Park: A very pleasant Fourth of July program has been arranged for Electric Park where many will doubtless spend at least a portion of the day at the charming resort. The entertainment will include music, boating, bathing, and a fine display of fireworks in the evening. The pieces

will be set off from the steamboat H.O. Warren which will be anchored off the park so that residents of the Pau-ko-tuk summer resort may get a good view as residents have contributed to furnishing a portion of the pyrotechnics. The summer theater will be open where a talented troupe will give performances. The race of double catboats which was postponed on Sunday, due to lack of wind, will be held on the fourth at three o'clock in the afternoon (Note: A catboat is a sailboat with a single sail and single mast set well forward in the bow)

Source: *Oshkosh Northwestern* July 3, 1899



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 Russell Beier, Management Development (Leadership Development)
 Alyssa Benner, Accounting
 James Beno, Food Service Production
 Laura Binning, Legal Studies/Paralegal
 Hunter Blackburn, Metal Fabrication/Welding
 Nathan Bohlman, Electro-Mechanical Technology
 Owen Braatz, Criminal Justice Studies
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 Kayleigh Cayce, Business Analyst
 Nkuthalo Chonco, Substance Use Disorder Counseling
 Allan Church, Aircraft Electronics
 Ty Cianciolo, IT - Web Development and Design Specialist
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Safe Streets

FROM PAGE 1

and would otherwise be sentenced to jail or prison.

Those eligible are referred by the District Attorney's office and must be accepted by the Safe Streets coordinator. By working with the Safe Streets team, offenders stay out of jail, allowing them to maintain their jobs and family lives while getting their lives on track.

SSTOP

SSTOP was started to reduce repeat drunken driving offenses. It allows second- and third-time offenders who reside and are convicted in Winnebago County the option of participating in a probation and treatment program, while reducing jail time. Like Drug Court, SSTOP participants are referred to the program by the DA's office. Enrollees need to comply with treatment, community service and monitoring requirements.

Alternative/Diversion

Several other crimes fall under the Alternative/Diversion umbrella. They include Post-Charge Drug Diversion Program, Post-Charge Overdose Diversion Program, Pre- and Post-Charge General Felony or Misdemeanor Diversion Program, UW Oshkosh Drug Diversion Program, Failure to Pay Child Support Diversion Program, Pre- and Post-Charge Healthy Interactions Group, Drivers License Recovery Diversion Program, and Worthless Check Diversion Program.

Among other criteria, participants with crimes tied to drugs or alcohol must complete the program and any recommended follow-up treatment, re-

main crime-free, have a minimum of six months of clean urinalysis tests, and meet other conditions based on the individual.

For more significant drug-related cases there is the SOAR (Stimulant Opioid Addiction Recovery) program for low-level felony cases, such as possession of methamphetamines, heroin and fentanyl.

"Those are Class I felonies, which is the lowest level of felonies. Traditionally what would happen is those people would be convicted and given the option of essentially probation or jail," District Attorney Eric Sparr said. "Jail doesn't necessarily help the situation, long-term, if that's all that's happening."

"But (the probation department) was lacking the resources to do all the things we wanted to do. They weren't regularly drug testing people in a lot of situations. There were some situations where they weren't even requiring that people go to treatment."

The DA's office wrote a grant to get money to be able to do testing every other day where the misdemeanor-level drug program tested about twice a month. If participants can't test clean in the long term they are exposed to additional penalties or more intense services.

"With the rising overdose rates, the increased presence of fentanyl and the fact that it's killing a lot of people, it has forced us to prioritize this," Sparr said, adding that they still see a lot of domestic violence cases. "The historical approach was often probation or jail. If the person



Sparr

didn't have a prior record, it could've been a fine. But those things simply weren't proving real effective at curbing the behavior. Part of that was that the type of counseling that was available was historically not that great."

Around 2010, they started using alternative counseling for about half the cases and the traditional model for the others. The traditional model focused on character traits or deficiencies that led to the problem in their relationships, whereas the more experimental model within family violence settings looks at problems between the two individuals that tend to cause conflict.

"It's a different way of approaching the problem and we saw a lot more effectiveness with that model," Sparr said. "Often the way we get people into that programming is to have them on a diversion agreement that (lays out the) conditions of it. It isn't used for all domestic violence cases. Some of them are just too violent and require something different, such as jail time. But when we're pushing for counseling, that's kind of the direction we were trying to get things to go."

24/7 programs

"The drug monitoring program looks very similar to the program where we require every other day testing," Sparr said. "The alcohol monitoring program requires the person to have a device that they must blow into multiple times a day. It registers their blood alcohol level. It takes a picture of their face as they're blowing so they can't have someone else blow into it for them."

Other parts of these alternative programs are overseen by other agencies, including the Oshkosh Police Department.

"The big thing about all of this is that it's collaboration among many of the players in the (law enforcement) system," Sparr said. "Fifteen or 20 years ago, everybody was just kind of doing their own thing - here and in a lot of different places. They may have had ideas how to address the problems, but they weren't necessarily doing a great job of working with these other players. But once we started getting together with the schools, human services, the judges, the jail, law enforcement, it opened up a lot more opportunities and things were being done collaboratively that we simply couldn't have done individually."

The goal of diversion programs is a more productive citizen, thereby lowering the rate of recidivism for which Winnebago County has seen success.

SSTOP has had 1,534 referrals since 2006. A total of 1,174 have successfully completed the program and only 17% have reoffended since 2006, while recid-

ivism has been reduced by 20%; 41,793 hours of community service have been completed; and 41,793 inmate jail days have been avoided, resulting in notable public savings.

Between January 2006 and May 2017, 376 individuals were referred to the Drug Court. Of those who participated, half graduated from the program. Graduates are less likely to commit a subsequent offense and the average cost of their substance abuse treatment is under \$8,000. The cost of treatment for those terminated early due to noncompliance is significantly higher.

Through 2022, participants in the Drug Court completed just over 42,677 hours of community service work in Winnebago County.

Woldt, the only original member still on the committee, proposed and gained approval at its April meeting that the Drug Court team develop a framework and transitional plan for selecting and training new Drug Court judges.

"So, after five years, we can start transitioning in new judges and can keep on training judges," Woldt said. "When judges reach that seven-year mark, there is another trained judge who can take over the Drug Court."

Woldt would also like to have the group start thinking about working with local prisons on inmates' re-entry into the general population. That would include more support for them when released - specifically help with housing and employment.

"When people are getting out of prison, instead of just opening the doors and telling them to meet their parole and probation agent the next week, have some more support for these people when they first get out," he said. "If we can do things to help people who are getting out of prison change their lives around, that's what I'd like to see."

Woldt believes more money from the fines paid should go toward treatment.

"When you get an OWI, the fine for the first time is \$850 minimum. The fine itself is \$150 but the remaining \$700 is for costs," he said. "Only \$50 of this money goes toward treatment. The rest of it goes toward legislators' pet programs. I just don't think that's right."

Woldt has suggested putting a 1-cent tax on every bottle of beer that's sold. People who drink would essentially pay for their own treatment if they commit crimes while under the influence.

"Right now, next to nothing from the taxes that the state gets for alcohol sales goes to any type of treatment program. I think that's backwards," he said. "It'd be hard to change that, but it makes a lot of sense; it makes the most sense."



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Housing ideas

FROM PAGE 1

Nieforth explained there are five income tiers based on AMI that range from extremely low income, at or below 30% (about \$28,000) of the AMI, to an upper income tier that is classified as more than 120% of the AMI.

The workshop last week focused on the middle-income group making between 80% and 120% of the AMI, or a household that makes somewhere between \$75,600 and \$113,500. These buyers qualify for workforce housing.

“What can we do, what solutions can we implement to attract workforce?” is what Nieforth said was what the workshop was asking.

Developers have told city staff there is a struggle building new homes that comes from the initial costs of purchasing the land, putting in infrastructure and engineering fees at costs that can reach almost \$70,000. Then construction costs could total about \$362,000 for a overall new home cost of \$430,000.

These numbers were based on the average cost of a new home in Wisconsin. Nieforth said it was similar to costs in Oshkosh.

The city's Redevelopment Authority (RDA) has been acquiring lots for infill development and has also been reactive with houses that need to come down.

Nieforth said the RDA owns about half a block of houses on 8th and 9th avenues between Nebraska and Oregon streets. There are 17 residential lots and eight are owned by the RDA. There are less costs in developing and building houses on these vacant lots because the infrastructure is in place.

Nieforth said the city would like to continue acquiring vacant lots that need to be



City of Oshkosh

A block of houses sits on 8th and 9th avenues between Nebraska Street and Oregon Street with the city owning almost half the lots. City staff believe this block could be a good site for infill development.

razed due to code violations or other factors.

Mark Lyons, city planning services manager, introduced the idea of a design book the city has been developing with ideas for architects.

“We know it can be a challenge to build infill housing as the lots typically have different challenges than green field residential development,” he said. “The goal of the design book is to help show what can be constructed on infill lots that meet both the needs of workforce housing and are compatible with the existing neighborhoods.

“The homes that we’re showing people are appropriate in scale size and are as economic as possible. New construction is always going to be more expensive, but (the goal is) trying the best to show what can you build that meets the neighborhood that won’t be adding a \$400,000 house to a \$100,000 house neighborhood.”

Nieforth said the design book could be shown to developers or homeowners.

Council member Joe Stephenson brought up a housing option being used in Sheboygan Falls and asked if the city was looking into developing a similar subdivision.

Nieforth was ready for the question and said that in Sheboygan Falls the Founder Pointe subdivision will feature 54 entry-level homes between 1,300 and 1,500 square feet. Each home will have three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a full basement and a two-car garage. The project is being built with \$8 million from four private companies and \$2 million from Sheboygan County.

She said there are options for Oshkosh to buy land and build affordable homes with public-private partnerships. Lyons said that at this time no one in the housing market is filling the lower-end needs, with most developers focused on \$400,000 homes.

“The more control we have, the more we are able to meet the goals we have in our housing study,” Nieforth said. “We need to invest more in the initiative, but we also know that we need partners.”

Stephenson said he’s in favor of the idea of a subdivision and adding 50 new homes.

Council member Paul Eslinger said that in any housing project the developer needs to make money or they’re not going

to do anything. He added that whatever the city does will need to be heavily subsidized and could require state funds.

Council member Karl Buelow brought up the idea of putting up tiny houses for infill developments. Nieforth said that is an option if that’s what the homeowner wants, but added it’s a niche market.

Mayor Matt Mugerauer also said he liked the idea of what Sheboygan Falls is building.

“Controlling the outcome is the biggest part for me,” Mugerauer said. He asked council members to send their input to Nieforth and Lyons as they continue their plans.

In other action:

- A liquor license for Pioneer Tiki Bar at 1000 Pioneer Drive was approved.
- The council approved cutting the size of advisory boards, commissions and committees from nine to five members, except the Sustainability Advisory Committee, which will have seven members.
- The council will meet in executive session this month to discuss a proposal for signage at the Boys & Girls Club as part of its \$16 million expansion on East Parkway Avenue.

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Oshkosh Legion suffers loss to Appleton Post 38

By Dustin Riese
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The first month of the season has been a struggle for the Oshkosh Legion baseball team.

Despite outhitting Appleton Post 38, Oshkosh suffered a 10-5 loss on the road Thursday night.

Oshkosh hit the ball much better than it had in the past, but the squad struggled with pitching depth and some costly errors opened the floodgates for Post 38 runs.

It's those little things that Oshkosh needs to fix for them to get back to playing winning baseball.

"We out-hit Appleton today and that is something we haven't been able to do much of this season," head coach Brian Burgert

said. "This was a very winnable game for us tonight. Unfortunately, we continue to make mistakes at the wrong times and it has been costing us."

Oshkosh mounted a two-out rally in the first inning with Colton Angell and Jeremiah Houstworth picking up a pair of singles to put runners on the corners.

That set the stage for Cormac Sammons, who took a pitch off the edge of the plate and drove it over the right-field fence to put Oshkosh in front 3-0.

"That pitch came off the end of my bat and I didn't think I got enough of it," Sammons said. "Their pitcher continued to work me on the edges of the plate and I just had to be patient. He finally threw one that I could get to and I put a good swing on it."



Photo by Dustin Riese

Oshkosh Legion's Cormac Sammons is greeted at home plate by teammates after belting a three-run home run in the first inning on Thursday.

Oshkosh's lead didn't last long as the Post 38 offense got right to work in the bottom half of the first.

Appleton plated five runs in the first inning off Legion starter Avery Mosloski, who was making his first Legion start after anchoring the JV Legion pitching staff this season. Mosloski lasted just 1 1/3 innings but only two of the five runs he allowed were earned.

Erik Grey came on in relief of Mosloski and allowed four runs 2 1/3 innings, but all of those runs were unearned.

Oshkosh finished the night with five errors, which led to the seven unearned runs in the game.

"I can live with a young team giving their all and losing games," Burgert said. "What is so frustrating is the amount of mental mistakes we have made so early in the season. It would be one thing if we could move on after making those mistakes, but it seems like things get out of hand once that first error comes."

Trailing 9-3 in the fifth inning, Oshkosh

put together another two-out rally, Shaun Gavin doubled followed by a Dominic Kane single before Angell drilled a two-run double to pull Oshkosh to within four runs.

The Legion nearly pulled even closer in the sixth as they loaded the bases on a Post 38 error, a single by Evan Kriz and a walk to Ben Boelter, but couldn't push any runs across.

Angell and Sammons both led the way offensively with two hits and combined for all five RBIs.

Oshkosh is back on the field tonight as it will host Sheboygan at EJ Schneider Field, looking to turn things around as the regular season winds down.

"We don't have a lot of season left, but we still have plenty of time to turn this around," Burgert said. My message for the guys after this one was to continue to grind and maybe some of these results will turn into wins. I'm hopeful we can have one stretch of good baseball in us and maybe that is what it will take to get us going."

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The Elite 2004 Girls Green team consisted of (front, from left) Lainey Holmes, Megan Nelson, Gabby Kempf, Grace Senkbeil, Taylin Heiman, Jenna Brewer, Brenna Gehri, Ariana Gonzalez; (back) Coach Chris Guido, Bella Jones, Laney Wiebel, Nicole Schmidt, Caroline Van Der Loop, Katie Scharenbroch, Lindi Boeck, Hailie Drawenek and Kayla White.

United girls team shines at regional tourney

The Oshkosh United 2004 Elite Girls Green team won three matches at the Midwest Regional Presidents Cup in West Chester, Ohio, earlier this month but fell just short of advancing to the national tournament.

Oshkosh won its first three matches by a combined score of 12-0, shutting out teams from Kansas, Kentucky and Minnesota to reach the semifinals of the tournament.

The tournament run ended in the semi-finals in a 3-0 loss to a team from Illinois.

The Elite 2004 Girls finished their season last fall with a 6-1-1 record in the Wisconsin Premier 19U Division State League allowing them to finish first in this division. The girls also won the Presidents Cup 19U Girls Championship, which allowed them to advance to the Midwest Regional Tournament.



Submitted photo

The Oshkosh United Elite 2009 Boys consisted of (front, from left) Tyler Nimis, Jackson Buttk, Cooper Snell, Tripp Lang, Jacob Allen, Landon McCollan, Lungwe Ramadhani, Jamie Koutnik, Liam Buttke; (back) Klayton Fleege, Wapole Misembo, Brady Ott, Ethan Cuff, Josue Valtierrez, Asher Connelly, Elijah Troiber, Cole Bartlett, Mckeon LeClair, Mason Callahan and Coach Toby Bares.

United 2009 boys team falls in regional play

The Oshkosh United Elite 2009 Boys team went 1-2 at the Midwest Regional Presidents Cup in West Chester, Ohio, earlier this month.

Playing in the 14-2 bracket, the United team lost to a team from Nebraska in the first round, 4-0, before dropping a 2-1 decision to a team from Indiana.

The squad bounced back in its final

match to score a 4-2 win over a team from Ohio.

The Elite 2009 Boys finished their season this spring with a 3-3-1 record in the Wisconsin Premier 14U Division State League, allowing them to finish third in their division. The boys were Presidents Cup Finalists, which allowed them to advance to the Midwest Regional Tournament.



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Obituaries

Barbara Kay Demler

Barbara Kay Demler, age 81, of Oshkosh, died on June 29, 2023, at her residence. She was born on June 7, 1942, in Oshkosh to the late Alfred "Sonny" and Helen (Leinweber) Spanbauer. On April 20, 1963, she married Dennis Demler. They were married for 52 years before he passed away.

Barbara graduated from Oshkosh High School in 1960. She started her long nursing career at Fox Valley Technical College, where she went on to get her degree as a licensed practical nurse. As her career expanded, she went to get her associate degree as a registered nurse and her bachelor degree in nursing from the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. Later in life she received her master's in hospital management, and from there she started her own consulting business working as a contractor for General Electric for their health

care division. Barbara did all of these things while being a devoted wife to Dennis and raised two daughters, Dawn Unger and Pamela Lang. Barbara is survived by two daughters: Dawn (David) Unger and Pamela Lang; grandchildren: Derek (Kayla) Unger, Deidra (Colton) Fernstrum; one great grandchild, Mae Fernstrum; sister, Maureen Krueger; brother, Mark (Leslie) Spanbauer; sister-in-law, Joan Freund; and many nieces and one nephew. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Dennis; and brothers-in-law, Russell Krueger and David Freund.

Per Barbara's request, she will be cremated and placed at Riverside Cemetery next to her husband. Private family services will be held.

The family would like to thank the caregivers: Amy M., Penny, Tina, Brandi, Amy W. for their care and compassion given to Barbara in her final months.



Jerome F. Peterson

Peterson, Jerome (Joe) F., age 86, of Circle Pines, formerly of Worthington, MN and Fond du Lac, WI.



Joe passed away peacefully on June 25, 2023. Joe enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He is preceded in death by wife, Lola Peterson; parents, Olaf and Rose Peterson; siblings, John Peterson, Jim Peterson, Edward Pe-

terson, Wayne "Pete" Peterson, and Irene Peterson; son-in-law, Brian Korthals. He is survived by children, Lorraine Korthals, Richard Peterson, Nancy (Allen) Franscella, David (Cathryn) Peterson; grandchildren, Sarah (Robert) Korthals, Marin Korthals, Brady and Courtney Peterson; great-granddaughter, Alice Micek; siblings Mike (Marcia) Penny, Mary (Dave) Hove, Rosie (Todd) Christensen; many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. A Celebration of Joe's Life will be held at a future date. Private family interment at Garden of Memories in Worthington, MN. www.gearty-delmores.com

Mark A. Toshner

Mark Allen Toshner, age 63, passed away on Monday, June 26, 2023. He was born on July 1, 1959, in Oshkosh to the late Harold and Florence (Horejs) Toshner. Mark was united in marriage to Wanda Sue on October 22, 1999.



Mark was employed by several manufacturing companies in the area during his working career. His most enjoyment came when he could spend time on the water fish-

ing or out in the field hunting. Later in life, he became interested in beekeeping and was adept at building beehives and keeping bee colonies. His sense of humor will be missed.

Mark is survived by his siblings: Ron (Karen) Toshner, Gary (Sandy) Toshner, Paula (David) Younk; stepchildren: Gwendolyn, Christina, Sarah, Elizabeth; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was further preceded in death by his wife, Wanda Sue Toshner in 2009.

Private family services will be held.



Workforce profiles for each county updated

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has published updated workforce profiles for all 72 counties. Each profile provides county-level information, analysis, and data to help employers, job seekers, economic developers, and other workforce partners make decisions related to the labor market economy.

Every two years, DWD's Office of Economic Advisors compiles and distills local data on all 72 counties into individual county workforce profiles. The 2023 profiles cover Wisconsin's bounce-back from the COVID-19 pandemic among other statistics and patterns.

Visit the DWD WisConomy page, select a county from the dropdown list and click on Go.

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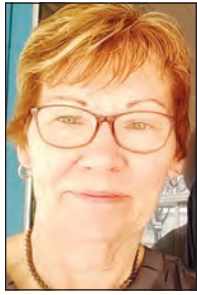
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Obituaries

Vicki Lynn Willer

Vicki Lynn (Drake) Willer, 71, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, passed away Saturday, June 24, 2023, at her home in Oshkosh.



Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m. Monday, July 3, 2023, at St. John's Lutheran Church - Preston Township, rural Akron, Iowa.

Reverend Trish Underberg will officiate. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Visitation with the family present

will be from 1:00 p.m. until service time on Monday, July 3, 2023, at the church. Arrangements are with the Rexwinkel Funeral Home in Le Mars, Iowa. Expressions of sympathy can be extended to the family through www.rexwinkelfh.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made in Vicki's name to St. John's Lutheran Church - Preston Township, rural Akron, Iowa.

Vicki Drake was born on October 13, 1951 in Hawarden, Iowa, the daughter of Edward and Mildred Drake. She was baptized at St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Chatsworth, Iowa and was confirmed

Makalie Lynn Groff-Vincent

Makalie Lynn Groff-Vincent age 21 of Grand Chute, passed away unexpectedly on June 16, 2023.



Kalie was born in Oshkosh on April 8, 2002, the daughter of Stacy Lynn Groff. Kalie graduated from Oshkosh North in 2020. She was pursuing a degree as a Horticulture Technician.

Kalie loved music and attending all concerts possible, traveling to Arizona was always her heaven. Kalie was fun loving, polite, kind, humble, loved hard and musically gifted. The world was a better place if you met her. Her smile lit up a room and her sass put you in your place if need be. She was an old soul ahead of her time. To know her was to love her.

Kalie is survived by her mother, Sta-

cy Groff-Vincent, Judy Groff 'Fun-Sized Gammie'; uncle & aunt, Travis & Renne Groff; her step-siblings, Rafer & Fallon Vincent (all of Oshkosh); her special friend, Lori Michard of Milwaukee.

If you were a special friends of the family, Kalie would refer to them as an extended aunt and uncle.

She was preceded in death by Scott R. Vincent, whom she considered her father. Kalie was quoted as saying, "Fatherhood requires love, not DNA."

A celebration of Kalie's life will be held on Thursday, July 13 at St. Andrews, 1100 E. Murdock Ave., Oshkosh. Visitation will be from 3pm to 6pm, followed by the service at 6pm. The family requests that colorful, casual apparel be worn. Kalie requests that you wear your best KICKS. In lieu of flowers, a memorial is being established in her name. Following the service, the family invites you to join them for a dinner to be held at the church.

at St. John's Lutheran Church in rural Akron, Iowa. Vicki graduated from Akron High School in 1970 and she then attended beauty school. She was united in marriage to Darrell Willer on January 25, 1969. This union blessed them with two sons. After her sons graduated, she went back to college and received an accounting degree. She worked for the Town of Spruce; she also worked at a local dental office as office manager, at an auto dealership, and an attorney's office.

Vicki and Darrell moved to Wisconsin in 1972. Their dream was to own and operate a dairy farm. They first settled near Gillett, then they moved to Cecil. They bought a dairy farm near Oconto Falls and worked hard until 1999. They later moved to Oshkosh.

Though she lived in many locations and worked a variety of jobs, Vicki's foundation was always her family. Her husband, children, and extended family were her 'home' and she loved being with them.

Vicki was a wonderful cook and enjoyed hosting her loved ones for the

holidays. She enjoyed sewing and embroidering, so much that every child and grandchild will still feel mom/grandma Vicki's hugs each night as they all sleep under her hand-crafted quilts.

Survivors include her husband of 54 years, Darrell of Oshkosh, WI; a son, Todd (Megan) Willer of Freedom, WI and their children Colin (Jessica), Nathan, Emily, and Linnea; a son, Chad (Traci) Willer of Pulaski, WI and their children, Paige and Cade; special bonus daughter, Rosemary (Ken) Rosenthal and their children Levi and Luci of So-bieski, WI; sisters: Marilyn Neyens of Le Mars, IA, Marlus Mammen of Sioux City, IA, and Linda Rodriguez of Murfreesboro, TN; sister in law, Darlys Willer of Salina, KS; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents; father and mother-in-law, Don and Elwanda Willer; sisters in law: Dianna Willer and Patty Willer; brothers in law, Dennis Willer, Melvin Neyens, and Maynard Mammen; and nephew, Tony Neyens.

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Blueberries do not ripen after they have been picked.
 TRUE FALSE
2 + 2 + 2 + 2 =

Blueberries are good for your heart.
 TRUE FALSE
8 + 3 + 3 + 4 =

A single blueberry bush can produce up to 6,000 berries in one year.
 TRUE FALSE
6 + 4 + 1 + 5 =

Berry Challenging

Billy and Betsy are picking blueberries. But what's this? There is more than just blueberries in the bushes. Can you find a **car**, a **bird**, a **shoe**, a **crayon**, a **fish**, a **cat** and a **glove** while finding your way through the maze?



Blueberry Roots

Blueberries have roots that go way back in history. In fact, they have been growing in North America for about 1,300 years.

Native Americans found many uses for these tasty little blue balls. They ate the ripe berries and made a tea from the leaves. They said this tea was good for the blood. Blueberry juice was used to treat coughs.

The juice of the blueberries made an excellent dye for baskets and cloth. The berries added flavor to stews, soups and meats.

Standards Link: History/Social Science; Students understand Native American customs and traditions.

Star Berries

The blossom end of each blueberry forms the shape of a perfect five-pointed star. A Native American legend tells how the Great Spirit sent "star berries" to end the children's hunger during a famine.

Find the two star berries that match.

Standards Link: Finding similarities and differences in common objects.



Blueberry Boo-Boo

Chef LeBloo baked a dozen delicious blueberry pies, but can't remember where he left them to cool. Can you find all 12 on this page?

Standards Link: Visual Discrimination



Ask Barry Blue

To figure out the answer to this important question, number the parts of the sentences in order. Then, write the answer on the lines below.



Dear Barry, I have a plant with blue berries in my yard. Can I eat them?

- berries without
- can be poisonous. Do not
- touch or eat any wild
- mushrooms, some berries
- an adult's permission.
- are safe to eat but others
- Absolutely NOT! Like

Extra! Extra!

How Blue Are You?

If someone says he is blue, it usually means he is sad, not painted. Look through the newspaper and find pictures or words that mean the same as *sad*. Then cheer yourself up by finding a word that means the opposite of each *sad* word.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Students understand synonyms and antonyms.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

In the 1600s, when settlers arrived in North America from England, they had to find food. The Wampanoag people showed them how to plant corn and how to gather and use native plants. An important native plant was blueberries! These could be eaten fresh or dried and stored for the winter.

Unscramble the letters on the label of each jar to discover what kind of jam is inside it.

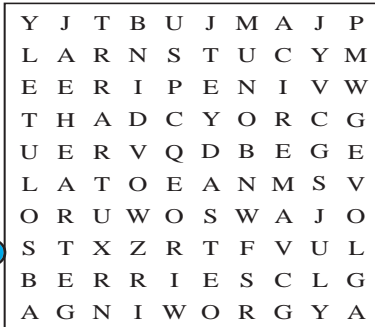


Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple directions; spell common sight words.

Double Double Word Search

- ABSOLUTELY
- AMERICA
- BERRIES
- DYE
- EAT
- GLOVE
- GROWING
- HEART
- JUICE
- JULY
- LEAVES
- RIPEN
- ROOTS
- SAFE
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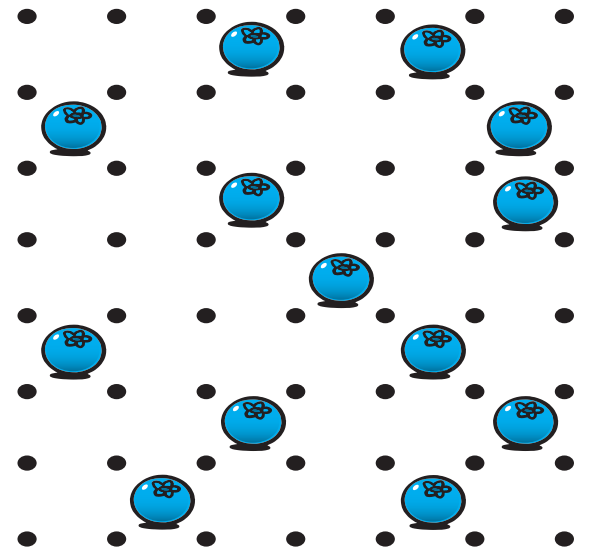
Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?



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

Kid Scoop Together Blueberry Game

Play this game with a friend or family member. Take turns drawing horizontal or vertical lines to connect two dots. Each time your line closes a square, that's worth 1 point. If the square contains a blueberry, that's worth 3 points!



Kids in Action

Replace the missing words.

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In March of 2023, the blueberry became the state fruit of Mississippi—thanks to a group of fourth grade _____ from Manssdale Upper Elementary School.

They _____ about how students in Kansas persuaded their state legislature to name the Sandhill plum as their state fruit.

The students started by researching which major fruit _____ is produced in Mississippi. They discovered it was the blueberry. Just under 2,000 acres of land is used to _____ the fruit and produces around 8.5 million pounds of blueberries.

The class reached out to Jill Ford who _____ their area in the Mississippi State Legislature.

"Nothing thrills my soul like having children get _____ in the process," said Representative Ford after the bill making the blueberry the state fruit was signed.

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