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County alters health rules oversight

Director loses some COVID-tied authority

By Bethanie Gengler
OSHKOSH HERALD

In a move that some residents are calling political, the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors voted last week to strip the health director of some of the powers granted during the COVID-19 pandemic to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.

The county board passed an ordinance in November 2020 that gave Health Director Doug Gieryn the ability to enforce orders

that do not include a general workplace shutdown in order to suppress communicable diseases.

The process works like this: The Health Department drafts an order and then releases it publicly as an advisory. The order then goes to the county board for a vote. If it passes by a majority, the order goes into effect.

The ordinances considered by the board last week were brought forward by Supervisors Brian Defferding, Conley Hanson and Jacob Floam. They first proposed an ordinance to change the definition of an individual order to remove its applicability for groups of people or gathering spots, limit-

ing enforcement to one person only.

The second ordinance made it so that general orders require a two-thirds majority vote to pass; or 24 of the county's 36 districts voting in favor.

Whereas general orders issued by the Health Department previously had a duration of 60 days, the amendment limits orders to seven days unless otherwise authorized by the county board.

While the existing ordinance required the county board to vote on orders at its next regularly scheduled meeting date or

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High school boys teams back in action

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Photo by Michael Cooney

New holiday site

The 22nd annual Oshkosh Celebration of Lights has a new home this year at the Experimental Aircraft Association's grounds at 1858 Neunteufel Ave. Open daily from 5:30 to 9 p.m. until the end of the year, the display supports the Salvation Army and other nonprofit groups that are helping local families in need. Santa can be found in Young Eagles building through Dec. 23. General admission is \$20 per carload or \$5 off with donation of a sealed hygiene item or nonperishable food item.

Lake Butte des Morts housing plan advanced again

Commission forwards 522-unit proposal

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

A controversial development plan is back in front of city officials. The Lake Butte des Morts housing project has residents and developers back at city hall pleading their respective cases on the size of the project.

Red Earth Development submitted plans to build a 522-unit complex off Lake

Butte des Morts Drive earlier this year. The Plan Commission is reviewing plans for phase one of the development, which is part of a six-phase plan. The first phase includes a clubhouse and two 40-unit apartment buildings.

The Plan Commission last week reviewed and endorsed the same site implementation plan (SIP) it approved in March after the Red Earth Development was brought back to the commission at the council's direction.

Council member Karl Buelow said there was new information presented at a

council meeting in October.

Dan O'Callaghan, a zoning lawyer for the developers, gave the Plan Commission a recap of the project by explaining phase one plans were forwarded by the commission to the council, where it was amended from four-story to three story buildings and would lose about 102 units of the original 522 proposed.

O'Callaghan explained that Jake Buswell of Red Earth, with the developers, was "put on the spot" in front of the council when asked if the project was still feasible at three stories. The developers spent

months putting the plan together and eventually learned, according to O'Callaghan, that the project was not financially feasible with three-story buildings.

Conversations were had between the development team and city staff about the potential of using tax increment financing (TIF) money to bridge the budget gap. O'Callaghan said they were requesting \$5 million in TIF funds to complete the project because the project would lose money if they didn't get the funds.

SEE **Housing plan** ON PAGE 5

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Renter concerns aired to council

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Several people spoke during citizen statements ahead of a Common Council meeting earlier this month from the housing advocacy group ESTHER about the need for more housing options for people and the need for more rights for renters in the city.

Dakota J. Degroot, a convicted felon, told the council that while preparing to leave prison he noticed there was a need for housing for people getting out of prison.

"There's a lot of landlords that won't rent to felons," he said.

Degroot asked the board if it was possible to consider some type of policy that would give tax credits to landlords who are willing to rent to felons.

"That would hopefully open up more landlords to rent to felons," he said.

Jennifer Considine, who runs the ESTHER Task Force looking into housing in Oshkosh, asked the council to work with housing developers and suggested a tax increment financing (TIF) district for low-income housing.

ESTHER isn't just helping felons find housing but also homeless individuals looking for a place to stay. Housing advocate Bill Van Lopik is working on a project to interview homeless people or people

that have housing insecurities and so far Van Lopik has spoken to more than 175 people in Oshkosh.

These people are immigrants, students, formerly incarcerated people and anyone that is housing insecure, according to Van Lopik. One of the takeaways the group has heard is that tenants are afraid to speak with their landlords.

"Tenants are extremely afraid of their landlords about raising any stink about anything happening because they know housing is tough and housing is expensive" Van Lopik said.

Van Lopik told the Herald his work in interviewing people about homelessness is funded through a grant with the Department of Human Services. The Mobilizing Communities for a Just Response grant program looks at the after-effects of the pandemic.

"We're working on talking to people and getting their stories to provide the whole spectrum of people facing housing insecurity," he said.

Of the approximately 175 interviews Van Lopik has conducted, some are formerly homeless and have found a place to live, while some are living in their vehicles or sleeping on a friend or family member's couch.

Van Lopik said one way the city could

help would be to designate an area where people can park overnight if they're living in their vehicles.

In Green Bay, there is a Safe Place Parking program offered by the Wise Women Gathering Place. The Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition website states the lot is monitored by security staff and volunteers throughout the night.

People will often be living in their car with children, and having a safe place at night to park their car would be something the city could investigate, according to Van Lopik. Another suggestion he had was to reinstate annual inspections of rental properties.

The DHS grant is set to expire in May but ESTHER is looking into other funding sources to continue the project.

"People in Oshkosh know this is an issue that needs to be addressed," Van Lopik said. "There's a growing interest to understand this issue and the things surrounding it."

AMVETS to host Pearl Harbor ceremony

Oshkosh AMVETS Post 7 will host a Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony starting at 7:33 a.m. Dec. 7 at the Elks Lodge, 175 W. Fernau Ave.

Master of ceremonies will be retired Lt. Col. Michael Hert and guest speaker is Chris Kolakowski, director of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison. Kolakowski will offer special insight regarding the attack by the Japanese Imperial government that claimed the lives of more than 2,400 American service members Dec. 7, 1941.

Franki Moscato will lead the singing of patriotic music and a rifle salute will be conducted at the conclusion of the ceremony.

AMVETS Post 7 meets the second Tuesday of each month with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and meetings at 7 p.m. at the Winnebago Detachment Marine Corp League, 4715 Sherman Road.

Metro area jobless rate drops to 2.3%

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area and Winnebago County saw a drop in its unemployment rate from 3.0% to 2.8% between September and October, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Workforce Development.

Last September's jobless rate in Oshkosh-Neenah and the county was at 2.3%.

The non-seasonally adjusted data shows jobless rates in Metropolitan Statistical Areas declined in all of Wisconsin's 12 metro areas over that period. Unemployment rates also decreased in 33 of Wisconsin's 35 largest cities and in all but one county.

Estimates of unemployment and employment statistics are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Oshkosh Fire Department food, toy drive underway

The Oshkosh Fire Department Local 316's Annual Food & Toy Drive starts today (Wednesday) on the south side of the city and is marking 25 years of collecting non-perishable food items, new, unwrapped gifts, wrapping paper/tape, and cash donations along the routes or at any fire station.

The cash donations go to the Gary Kasube Scholarship Program to fund two graduating Oshkosh seniors enrolled in police or fire science programs.

All routes start between 5 and 5:30 p.m. Check the Oshkosh Fire Department Food and Toy Drive Facebook page for the exact routes and details.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Nov. 25, 1919

Historical Society is Organized: Steps are being taken for the formation of a Winnebago County branch of the State Historical Society. Preliminary steps toward organization took

place in the office of C.T. Olen. The new society would hold meetings at stated periods, the first to be on Wednesday evening at the offices of the university extension division. The purpose of the organization will be to mark historic landmarks in the county, of which there are a number. The society will be open to all who are interested (This is the birth of the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society).

Source: *Oshkosh Northwestern*, Nov. 25, 1919

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20th Avenue subdivision receives key approval

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

A new city subdivision could be under construction soon after it cleared a recent hurdle with the Plan Commission.

The proposed subdivision would include 208 units in 16 buildings on the north side of 20th Avenue across from the YMCA. The plans show ten 16-unit buildings, six 8-unit buildings and a clubhouse that will have a coffee shop with a drive-thru.

The plans include 9,000 square feet of recreational space due to the number of units, with three designated areas for outdoor green space.

The Plan Commission was reviewing the site implementation plan (SIP) after general development plans were previously approved by the Common Council. Chet Wesenberg of Wesenberg Architects is the applicant for the project with Castle Rock Land Co. owning the land.

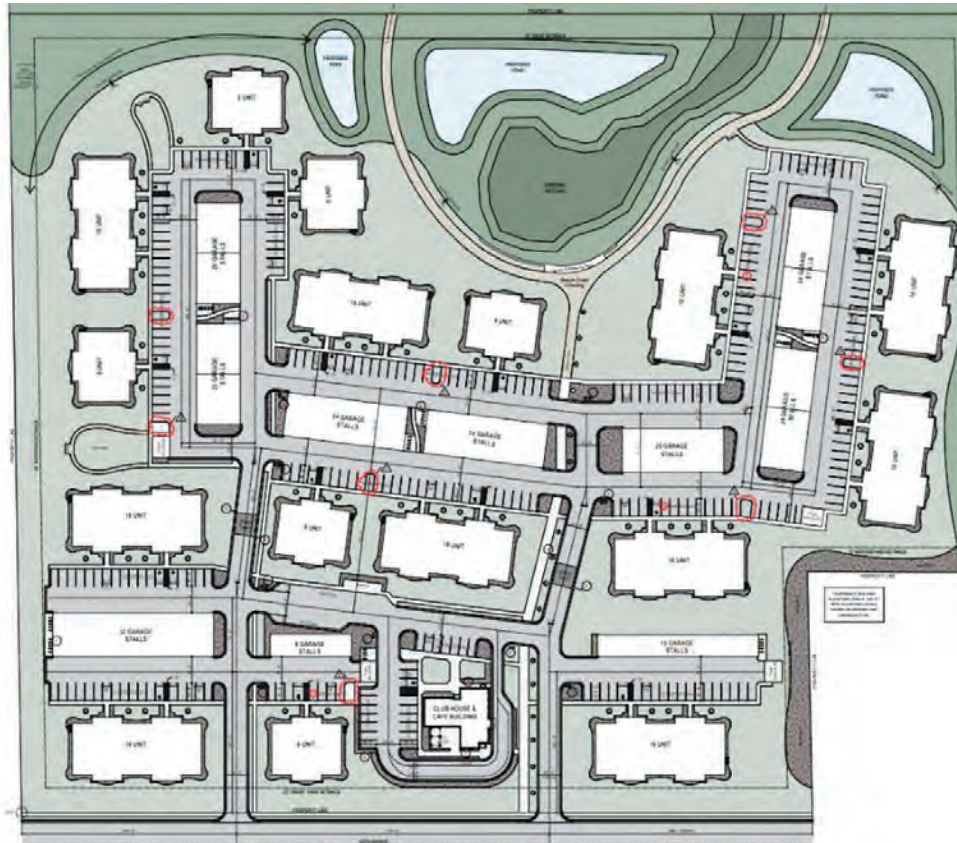
Oshkosh Planning Services manager Mark Lyons requested the council review the SIP on Dec. 12.

During public comment on the project, a couple of area residents noted issues they had with the SIP.

Raymond Carver, president of the Preserve at Sawyer Creek condominium association, said there are issues in the area with water drainage.

"We are concerned about the elevation of the property and where the water is going to come towards us," Carver said. He said Wesenberg Architects built the Preserve and there are continuing issues with drainage at the building.

Nancy Bongert also noted there is a water problem in the area. She asked the developer to make the project more pal-



Wesenberg Architects

This 208-unit development off 20th Avenue near the YMCA was recommended for council approval.

atable for existing residents, "because we want to be good neighbors and I think we missed an opportunity but let's see what we can do now to make it a good neighborhood and a good fit for all of us."

Cory Wallace with Wesenberg Architects said the developers are open to adjusting the landscape to provide a better buffer for current residents.

Plan Commission member Edward Bowen had questions about the recreational space. He noted the majority of the recreational spaces are on the west half of

the property. Bowen proposed an amendment for the developer to shift recreational areas to the east side of the property.

City staff recommended approval of the SIP with six added conditions mostly related to landscaping. Bowen's amendment made it seven and a final condition was added to add more landscaping to deal with light pollution affecting current residents.

The Plan Commission voted 7-1 to recommend the SIP to the Common Council, which is expected to vote on the plan at an upcoming meeting.

Business news roundup

Omni Glass & Paint, a paint and glass service provider based in Oshkosh, has announced the promotion of **Matt Petersen** to general manager of contract glass. Petersen has been an integral part of the Omni team for more than 15 years. Starting as a project manager, he has grown within the company and most recently held the position of project executive. In his new role, Petersen will take on divisional responsibilities for pre-construction, project management, fabrication and field operations.

A locally owned and operated **Crumbly Cookies** location opens its doors Friday at 2241 Westowne Ave. A grand opening week menu will consist of six of the more than 250 weekly rotating flavors. Customers can order in person during the first five business days of the grand opening. Starting Dec. 6, delivery, curbside pickup, catering and nationwide shipping will be available. Store owners are Jensen Robarge and Seth Luca, and are providing more than 35 job opportunities. Crumbly was founded in 2017 in Logan, Utah, by Jason McGowan and Sawyer Hemsley, and has grown to a franchise with more than 900 locations.

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City, school board, judicial candidates lining up

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Election season is just around the corner with candidates having a little over a month from today to file official paperwork to get on the ballot for the spring election.

There are three seats on the Oshkosh Common Council up for election along with three seats on the Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education.

The judicial seat for Winnebago County Circuit Court's Branch 1 is also up for election with Judge Teresa S. Basiliere not seeking a new term. Circuit Court Commissioner's Eric Heywood and Michael Rust have announced their respective candidacy in the upcoming race. Heywood announced he has been endorsed by Basiliere.

For the city council there are three seats currently held by Lynnsey Erickson, Mike Ford and LaKeisha Haase.

Ford has announced on social media he will not be seeking another term. He wrote in a post on Facebook that it has been an honor to serve the community.

"I've always said we are simply renting

these seats on council with the consent of the electorate. I've done my best to live up to the expectations of that electorate and will continue to do so until my term is up in April," Ford wrote.

Erickson currently serves as deputy mayor and Haase was appointed to her seat when Mayor Matt Mugerauer left his council seat after being elected mayor. Erickson told the Herald she will not be seeking re-election in the spring.

Haase did not respond to emailed questions about re-election plans.

Kris Larson, DJ Nichols, Hollie Poupart and Kristopher Ulrich have announced they plan on running for the contested council seats. In Oshkosh there are no districts for members so each candidate is elected at large.

Board of Education

All three board members have announced their plans for re-election on social media over the last few weeks. Board president Beth Wyman wrote on Facebook that her priorities, if elected to a second term, will be literacy scores, having trans-

"Great idea" to have a discussion on the topic after Mugerauer made the request.

Mugerauer is serving his first term as mayor after being elected to the position in April by defeating former council member Aaron Wojciechowski. He had served five years on the council and two years as deputy mayor under former Mayor Lori Palmeri.

The mayor said he would have more information regarding the agenda item at the Dec. 12 meeting for a discussion among council members.

parent long-term facilities plan for taxpayers and supporting the students and staff.

School board members Kristopher Karns and Christopher Wright also posted on social media they intended on running for re-election in 2024.

Candidates who are not running for re-election need to file their notification

of noncandidacy by Dec. 22. Candidates running for office can begin collecting signatures on Dec. 1 to earn a spot on the ballot with the deadline to file declaration of candidacy is 5 p.m. Jan. 2.

If a primary election is needed it will be held Feb. 20 with the spring election on April 2.

Utility rates adjusted for WEC Energy

Oshkosh Herald

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin last week reviewed requests by Wisconsin utilities to increase electric rates, including limited requests by We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) to modify 2024 rates that were set last year.

Wisconsin Public Radio reported that the commission approved a 2.5 percent electric rate increase for We Energies and a 2.6 percent rate decrease for WPS.

Regulators last year authorized WEC Energy Group, which owns We Energies and WPS, to seek recovery from projects going into service this year and in 2024, as well as operations and maintenance costs at retiring coal plants. WPS, which services Oshkosh and a majority of Winnebago County, had sought an overall rate hike of nearly 15% that was originally reduced to 8.8% and now sits at 6.2%.

An average WPS residential customer will see an estimated \$3.14 decrease in their monthly electric bill.

We Energies customers in Neenah and other parts of northern Winnebago County will see their electricity bills rise by nearly 13.5% after the adjusted rate increase, which according to parent company WEPCO will help fund new utility-scale solar and natural

gas generation.

The average residential customer for We Energies can expect an estimated \$3.89 increase in their monthly electric bill next year.

The PSC was not able to modify profits in the WEC cases due to their limited scope, Wisconsin Public Radio reported. But regulators reduced profits for We Energies and WPS last year.

"Energy affordability and energy burden is always an important part of our decision as we work to balance the interests of customers and the utility companies," commission chair Rebecca Cameron Valcq said last week.

The Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin (CUB) asked the PSC to slash utility profits and provide more manageable rate increases for customers in all of the state rate cases.

Tom Content, the organization's executive director, said he's encouraged by regulators' focus on affordability. CUB had advocated for profit rates closer to 9.3 percent.

Content said the PSC told We Energies and Alliant that it wants to see customer savings from coal plant retirements rather than seeing utilities profit off dead coal plants. The commission asked We Energies for a comprehensive analysis on how to save customers money as coal plants retire.

Mayoral selection process reviewed

Oshkosh Herald

At the end of last week's Common Council meeting, Mayor Matt Mugerauer requested an agenda item for how residents elect the city's mayor.

"Under council discussion in regard to moving away from an elected mayor position in the city of Oshkosh," Mugerauer said in describing the agenda topic. "I'll have background material available for council prior to that meeting."


Council member Mike Ford added,

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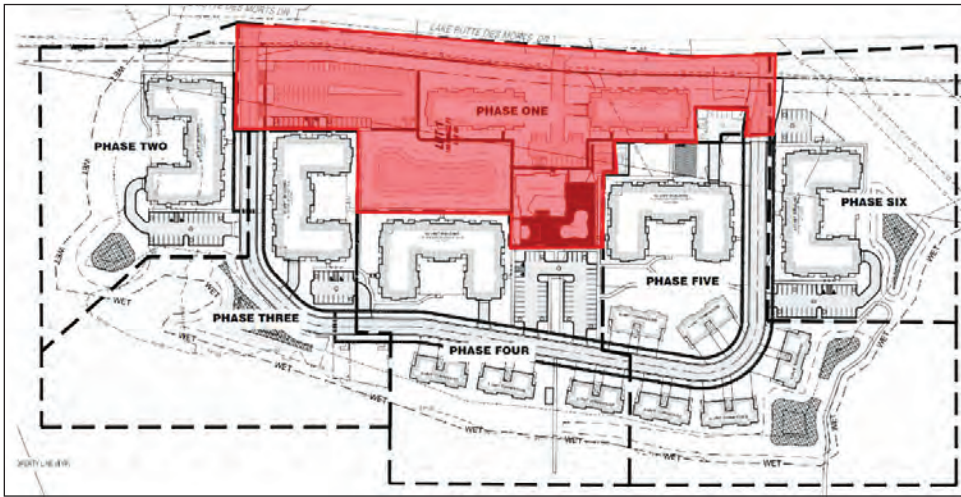


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City of Oshkosh

The Red Earth LLC plans show the six phases the developer has planned with plans filed with the city earlier this year.

Housing plan

FROM PAGE 1

Another attorney, Stephen Cox of Halling & Cayo, is working with the group Protect our Wetlands Inc., a group of Oshkosh residents that live adjacent to the proposed development. Cox said the plans have been kicked back to the Plan Commission because developers didn't get the TIF assistance.

"Frankly, with these high-end developments, they need to stand on their own," Cox said. "It's not the city's job to make sure the development is profitable or that it can move forward."

Cox argued the amended plan of three-story buildings fits in best with the surrounding area. The corridor where the development is planned does not have any other four-story buildings, so the amendment was the right decision, Cox said.

He continued to say nothing has changed with the plans and asked the Plan Commission to recommend denying the application.

Commission member Kathleen Propp said she was in favor of the development even though she opposed it in March. Propp said she didn't think it was the council members' place to amend the plan to three-story buildings and said that's a decision for a developer to make. For that reason, she was in favor of the development.

Concerned residents also spoke during the meeting last week.

Town of Oshkosh chairman Jim Erdman said the buildings were too tall. He noted the current farmhouse on the site sits 14 feet above the flood plain and the planned four-story buildings, about 52 to 59 feet tall, will reach more than 70 feet in height.

"Seventy-three feet sticking up above in the middle of a wildlife area, it's just too tall," Erdman said. "Good project, bad lo-

cation."

He said the town bought three acres of land from the state Department of Transportation that borders the proposed development. He spent time on the site this summer clearing ash trees due to the emerald ash borer, and noted the noise in the area.

"Wow - the noise," Erdman said, noting there is an off-ramp for U.S. 45 with trucks constantly going through that area.

"It's a roar and that's what you're going to have with phase one," Erdman said.

Kathy Brewer said building these apartments could saturate the high-end housing market in the city. She also called for more transparency.

"Trust has been eroded and the perceived favoritism towards this developer and the lack of continued transparency are concerning," Brewer said. She said if the SIP is being approved by the Plan Commission and council that any other plans regarding this development should be reviewed and approved by the commission and council.

"There was no new information that causes the Plan Commission to reverse the amendment made by the city council," Brewer said.

Dana Hartel voiced concerns about the wetlands in the vicinity of the project. She does not live in the area but often drives through it, noting that phase one is not on wetlands but the added noise pollution and light pollution could be a disturbance to the wetlands.

Other residents contended there wasn't enough communication among the city, developers and citizens.

The Plan Commission voted to recommend approval by a vote of 6-1 with chair Thomas Perry voting against and council member Paul Esslinger abstaining, stating he would only be voting when the project comes to the full council.

The council is set to discuss and vote on the project Dec. 12.

Fentanyl sales in county lead to arrests of two

Oshkosh Herald

Police have arrested two Milwaukee people in connection with drug deals in Oshkosh and Neenah.

The arrests stem from a Lake Winnebago Metropolitan Enforcement Group investigation that included a confidential informant who bought fentanyl from the suspects.

According to the criminal complaint, an informant purchased three grams of fentanyl for \$390 during a prearranged drug transaction at the Kwik Trip in Neenah on Oct. 6 and six grams of fentanyl for \$700 at the Washburn Street Kwik Trip in Oshkosh on Nov. 2.

During the Oshkosh drug buy, the woman selling the drugs first met another individual at the gas station to procure

the drugs before selling them to the informant.

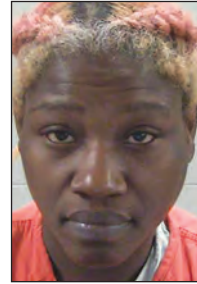
Both the woman who sold the drugs and the man who supplied them were subsequently arrested during traffic stops

and identified as Dominique Edwards, 38, and Aloysius Sartin, 23, both of Milwaukee.

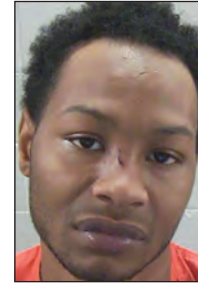
A search of Sartin's vehicle uncovered commercial cannabis and a prescription bottle with seven Schedule IV prescription pills. He has been charged

with manufacturing or delivering fentanyl as party to a crime and possessing an illegally obtained prescription.

Edwards has been charged with two counts of manufacturing or delivering fentanyl. Both parties are due back in court Thursday.



Edwards



Sartin

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Pickleball facility reactivates Oregon Trail space

By Dan Roherty
OSHKOSH HERALD

Pickleball popularity continues to surge nationwide with the most visible examples in outdoor public park settings where they have either replaced or share space with traditional tennis courts.

Jeff Ehrike's new Pickle and Bags indoor facility at Oregon Trail Commerce Center is adding to the sport's year-round access with a 14,000-square-foot area that includes four pickleball courts and cornhole competition space among its offerings.

Pickleball play started Nov. 13 and a full-service bar opened a few days later that adds an extra social aspect for visitors. A regional cornhole tournament also broke in the new space and drew more than 130 people.

There is also room for a planned pro shop and hospitality room that can be rented out.

As the owner and head trainer at JET Functional Fitness on State 44, Ehrike has an extensive background in strength and conditioning that he recognized was part of pickleball's allure. The UW Oshkosh graduate with a degree in kinesiology was the school's sprints and jumps coach after being an NCAA Division 3 All-American sprinter there.

"One of the reasons it's the fastest growing sport in the country is because not only is it incredibly fun and has something for all different levels – all different levels and all different age groups – but it's something that is healthy," Ehrike said.

While he has been training athletes and the general public since college, the pandemic first introduced him to pickleball and he soon picked up on the growing



Submitted photos
Pickle and Bags sports facility is accepting at Oregon Trail Commerce Center.

demand.

"As I personally moved up the ranks, people would come to me for advice and ask for lessons," he said. "The more I got into it, the more I realized what a demand is out there, not only for good pickleball lessons but just some place to play."

There are some dedicated outdoor courts in Oshkosh, such as at South Park, but demand is outstripping supply and weather and lighting limitations are a constant factor. Indoor courts can also be hard to get on and may lack another important feature that Pickle and Bags now offers – air conditioning – something that is a real consideration in hot summer months.

Indoor floors also impact pickleball play, Ehrike points out, with more player slippage and irregular ball bounces on



wood floors and other hard surfaces.

"If you're playing on a court like a wood surface or a tennis court that has multiple different lines, unfortunately the balls don't take natural bounces," he noted. "You just don't know what you're going to get."

"I realized the demand for really nice, premium, dedicated courts around here indoors."

Ehrike applied a PickleRole surface on his courts, which is a layer of acrylic with the measured lines. It's a surface made for a standard pickleball instead of the softer versions of the hollow plastic balls often

used on wood floors to avoid skids, which he said also makes it come off the paddle differently.

"Having a dedicated pickleball court – there are multiple reasons why it's just nicer for the user," he said.

The facility has been almost a year in the making, with Ehrike spending long nights helping renovate the former Oshkosh Defense offices at 20th Avenue and Oregon. Ehrike said he faced what have become common delays for new businesses in lining up trade workers in the right order, such as waiting on the flooring until electricians could install overhead lighting.

A friend and JET member got him connected to the cornhole community that had been looking for space for weekly tournaments. The marriage of the two sports in one facility fell into place.

"They tell me it's the nicest place in the state for their cornhole tournaments," Ehrike said.

He credits family, friends and training associates with the overall effort needed to make the sports facility happen, including Oshkosh native and former semi-pro basketball player Taylor Cameron, who Ehrike had helped with back injury rehab years ago and is now a close friend.

"Over the years I have developed a really good family of people at JET. When you meet so many amazing people and they all have little niches that they are good at, they love to help," he said.

"Collectively it's just been a large group of people all coming together to help out in multiple different ways. The last year has been pretty much a blur."

Ehrike said he and his partner Erika Pepler also welcomed a baby boy six months ago.

"My first kid, on top of all of this," he said.

"Luckily she can see the big picture and know that sometimes you just have to grind for a short time hopefully to be able to enjoy it for a long time."

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 Please visit OshkoshChamberSingers.org and on Facebook for more information



Discover Oshkosh

Holiday light recycling encouraged

Oshkosh Herald

Winnebago County Solid Waste, which began collecting holiday string lights for recycling in 2019 through a drop-off program, is encouraging county residents to use the service again this Christmas season.

Holiday lights should not go in recycling carts as they will tangle and damage sorting equipment. In an effort to divert more materials from the landfill and recycle this material, county municipalities offer drop-off locations for residents to recycle broken or unwanted holiday string lights.

The program doesn't include other decorations such as ornaments, bulbs, tinsels, beads or house light displays. There is no charge at any of the listed participating locations. String lights, extension cords and power strips will be accepted.

Last year, Winnebago County collected about 300 pounds of Christmas Lights for recycling.

Here are some of the municipal partner and county drop-off locations:

- Town of Algoma, 15 N. Oakwood Road
- Town of Black Wolf, 380 E. Black Wolf Ave.

- Village of Fox Crossing Municipal Building, 2000 Municipal Drive
- Neenah, City Hall, 211 Walnut St.

- Town of Neenah, 1600 Breezewood Lane

- Oshkosh, field operations, 639 Witzel Ave., and City Hall, 215 Church Ave.

- Town of Vinland, 6085 County T
- Winnebago County Solid Waste, 100 W. County Y

Holiday parade time

The sixth annual Downtown Oshkosh Holiday Parade begins at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at North Main and Ceape streets downtown with this year's theme "The Nutcracker." The Tree Lighting Ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. and the first annual Jolly Jog will kick off the parade at 6:15 p.m. The parade features more than 65 floats, lighted parade balloons, five marching bands and other festive fun.

Chamber Singers presenting 'Lessons and Carols'

"A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols," an Oshkosh tradition for more than 30 years, will be presented Dec. 16 by the Oshkosh Chamber Singers at 2 and 5 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 203 Algoma Blvd.

The Oshkosh Chamber Singers, directed by Herb Berendsen, will be accompanied by Jared Stellmacher on organ and a brass ensemble led by Marty Robinson.

The harpist will be Tammy Kazmierczak and the cellist will be Nancy Kaphaem. Audience members will join the choir in song. Community members will read Scripture passages celebrating the Advent and Christmas story.

Selections will include traditional carols; works by John Rutter, Dan Forrest and Sir David Willcocks; and "Christmas Cantata," by Daniel Pinkham; "There

Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob," by Felix Mendelssohn; "Gabriel's Message," by Stephen Paulus; and "The Lamb," by John Tavener.

Tickets are \$20 in advance for adults and \$25 at the door; and \$5 for students. They are available from singers, at Heid Music or Gardina's, and by calling 920-312-8290. More information is at oshkoshchambersingers.org.

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Local aviation pioneer family had ties to Wright Brothers

By Randy R. Domer
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Nestled peacefully in a quiet little farming community in northwest Winnebago County is a place where early aviation history began in Wisconsin.

In 1922, four brothers from a local farming family had a growing interest in aviation. Because aviation was still in its infancy, airports and landing areas had not yet been established this far north of Milwaukee. It was here and then, the Larson Brothers decided to build an airstrip. Roy Larson and his three younger brothers Clarence, Newell and Leonard worked to build their own landing strip which would become known as one of the first airports in the state outside Milwaukee.

Roy Larson, the eldest of five sons born to Charles and Julia Larson, had just returned from war in 1919. The war had changed Roy in many ways. One being his passion to someday fly. During the war, Roy marveled at the flying machines soaring overhead in France, dreaming someday it would be him up there.

Shortly after arriving home from war, Roy shared his dream with his brothers. Clarence, Newell and young Leonard listened in awe as Roy described his plan that included taking flying lessons, buy a plane, and build a hangar and an airstrip. Funds, he calculated, could be earned by giving flying lessons and rides...maybe take aerial photos to sell to people and business.

"We will be known as the Flying Larson Brothers!" Roy exclaimed.

Roy purchased his first plane in 1922 – a Curtiss Canuck (a Canadian built model of the American JN4 or "Jenny." Later that



Photo from Ben Joas

The Larson Brothers Airport is shown in this photo dated from the 1920s.

Memorial banquet

The Experimental Aircraft Association's annual Wright Brothers Memorial Banquet is set for Dec. 8 at the EAA Aviation Museum.

summer he purchased two more planes: standard J-1 bi-planes, which arrived at the Larson farm on Dec. 22. Roy then decided to clear an 80-rod-long sod landing strip behind their barn just east of Winchester in the Town of Clayton. The brothers then built a hangar in 1924, cutting the wood from nearby land.

To further their knowledge on how to build and maintain these new flying machines, Roy and his brother Clarence attended the Sweeney Mechanics School in

Kansas City, Mo. Then, as promised, Roy taught his brothers how to fly.

They started out in business by giving flying lessons and selling rides – \$5 for 10 minutes. For an extra \$5 they would do some acrobatics or barrel rolls, which must have been an exhilarating experience. Soon they expanded their interests and traveled around the Midwest "barnstorming" county fairs and special events. Each brother flew except Newell. He would go ahead of his brothers on barnstorming tours and sell tickets in advance for rides.

The Larson Brothers Airport enjoyed a statewide reputation. Though modest in size and appearance, the facilities were comparable to larger metropolitan airports despite its rural location. Giving flying lessons was one of the many ways the Larson brothers generated income to keep the business going.

Student Clyde Lee, first cousin of Leonard's wife Viola, took flying lessons here and went on to manage airports in the Milwaukee area. Lee became a stunt pilot and wing walker. One time he even

flew his plane UNDER the Winneconne bridge.

In 1929 tragedy struck. Brother Clarence passed away at age 30 from a heart affliction on June 6. Then in November, Roy was giving a lesson to a Neenah student. During the lesson, the plane was intentionally put into a series of spins and stalls. Its correction is something a pilot must know to obtain a license. It appears the student panicked as his efforts failed to bring the plane back on level. It is believed that Larson took hold of the control stick in the front cockpit, only to find the student was holding the stick in the opposite direction in the rear cockpit so firmly the controls could not be budged.

The student died on impact. Roy Larson was taken to Theda Clark hospital in Neenah, where he died three days later on Thanksgiving Day.

After Roy's death, brother Leonard Larson continued to work on planes, give lessons and do most of the things he and his brother Roy had always done. He was too old to enlist during World War II so

SEE Larson brothers ON PAGE 9

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ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) READINESS PLAN PUBLIC MEETING

To prepare the Oshkosh area for electric vehicles (EV) on a wider scale, the Oshkosh Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is developing the "Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan" (EVRP). The planning work will include:

- Documenting the number of EVs in the region and estimating growth into the future
- Identifying where public use EV chargers provide benefits
- Providing the public and EV stakeholders with information about EVs, grant programs, etc.
- Preparing a plan for how the cities can participate through including supporting public charging station installation through actively participating in grant programs and addressing EV charging in zoning and building codes.

PUBLIC INFORMATION/INPUT MEETING

December 5, 2023 - 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
Oshkosh Public Library
106 Washington Avenue
Room A and B

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Photo from Ben Joas

Leonard Larson's 1930 pilot's license was signed by Orville Wright.

Larson brothers

FROM PAGE 8

he served his country by teaching military pilots to fly gliders. Leonard was born in 1903, the same year as the Wright Brother's historic flight. He was 87 years old when he passed away in 1990.

Recently Leonard's great-grandson, Ben Joas, showed me his great-grandfather's pilot license.

"Take a look at the signature" Ben prodded me. I looked closer and under the line of 'Chairman' was the signature of Orville Wright. Both Leonard and Roy's licenses were signed by the famed Wright brother.

The hangar can be seen today from County II, near Winchester, alongside the sod landing strip that is still occasionally used. The landing strip and hangar are marked with a historical marker located at the roadside.

On Oct. 30, 1988, Leonard was inducted in the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame. Brother Roy was inducted Oct. 13, 2001. The Larson Brothers Airport is listed as a historical site with the State of Wisconsin Historical Society and in 1984 was added to the National Historical Register.

Nutcracker Ballet coming to The Grand

Valley Academy for the Arts will be presenting its inaugural production of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Ballet on Dec. 15 and 16 at The Grand Oshkosh. The performance will feature youth and adult students of Valley Academy for the Arts and professional dancers from the Minnesota Ballet.

Additional professional dancers have been selected from the area who have

choreographed and will perform pieces native to their culture and ethnicity. They include Anindita Anaam, an internationally acclaimed Indian classical Kathak artist; Lu Zhang, culture ambassador of the Northeast Wisconsin Chinese Association and classical Chinese dance performer; and Kerensa DeMars, professional flamenco choreographer, performer and educator.

Valley Academy is a not-for-profit arts school that has served the Fox Valley since 2002.

Founded by Anne Marie Brunner-Abderholden, the not-for-profit dance school provides opportunities for dance instruction for students whose families might not otherwise be able to afford it.

For more information email info@valleyacademyarts.org.

State park, forest, trail passes for 2024 available

State park and forest annual admission stickers and trail passes for 2024 are now on sale from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which recommends purchasing stickers by Dec. 8 to receive them before the holidays.

Resident and nonresident annual admission stickers are available online and at individual state park and forest properties via drive-up window service, self-registration kiosks or over the phone. State trail passes are available only at individual

properties or licensed vendors.

Vehicle stickers provide access to more than 60 state parks, forests and recreation areas across Wisconsin. An annual sticker or a daily admission pass is required on all motor vehicles visiting state parks and recreation areas. Some state forest and trail parking areas also require the annual sticker or daily admission pass. A state trail pass is not required for walking or hiking.

An annual vehicle admission sticker

costs \$28 for Wisconsin residents or \$38 for nonresidents. If more than one vehicle is registered to the same household, additional vehicle stickers are available for \$15.50 for residents and \$20.50 for nonresidents. A senior citizen annual sticker is available for \$13 for Wisconsin residents 65 and older. Annual trail passes are \$25 for residents and nonresidents.

Both 2024 annual vehicle admission stickers and trail passes are valid through Dec. 31.

Police department mourns service dog

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Police Department's K9 Magic died unexpectedly last weekend after being diagnosed with cancer and had to be euthanized.

The golden retriever was almost 4 years old and was acquired by the Police Department in March 2022 from Journey Together. Magic was the department's therapy dog and helped provide emotional support to members of the community and officers.

She worked with behavioral health of-

ficer Scott Sopata and the mental health crisis specialist co-responder Kayla Rodriguez on behavioral health-related calls, sensitive calls for service, as well as being used to support employees of the Police Department after critical incidents.

Magic had 364 deployments during her 20 months of service. She attended Magic Moments once a month at Oshkosh North High School, Coffee with a Cop at Oshkosh West and various visits to other locations.

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Youth anthology explores friends' challenges and joys

By David Gallianetti
LAKELAND COLLEGE DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS

It started about a decade ago over a lunch discussion and notes on a napkin.

This past September, two instructors in Lakeland University's master of arts in counseling program – former Oshkosh school colleagues Wendy Falk and Jen Kennedy – celebrated the publication of “The Adventures of Jeff and Reed.”

This four-story anthology explores the many anxieties, insecurities and thrills tweens experience as they transition from elementary to middle school.

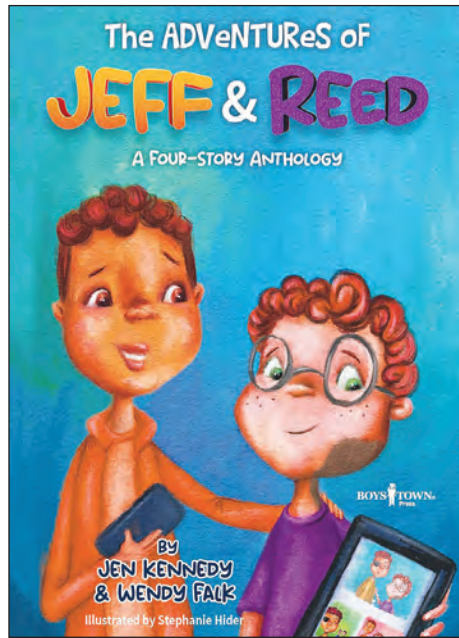
Jeff is a popular athlete who hangs with the cool kids. Reed is a brainy overachiever who is a social outcast. When Jeff and Reed are paired together in a class assignment, it's the beginning of a friendship journey that will challenge, surprise and reward them in the most unexpected ways.

The stories reflect the real-life experiences of the students that have been served by Falk, currently the lead counselor for the Appleton School District, and Kennedy, social worker at North Greenville Elementary in the Hortonville School District.

When they were working with elementary school students, they often used books with their children, especially those with relatable characters. But the number of books that told relatable life stories was limited.

“We weren't finding books that ended like our children live,” said Kennedy, who's been teaching for Lakeland's counseling program for five years. “Most had fairy tale endings and that's not how life is. It's not real and that frustrated us.

“We were having lunch one day and all



of a sudden Wendy said ‘If we want to use what we do every day, let's write a book. We know how our kids work.’ We got out a napkin and wrote down topics. We still have that napkin.”

The stories of Jeff, Reed and their peers don't pull punches, much like life for many of their own students.

Falk, who's been teaching for Lakeland for a dozen years, had her brother, a school district administrator, read the book.

“He read the first story and said, ‘Are you sure you want to print this? This is traumatizing,’” Falk said. “That's the whole point. We want people to feel what our kids feel. We wrote in a way to evoke feeling, to elicit empathy and, similarly, we worked with our illustrator so the pictures would tell the story actively. This is all about building empathy.”

Kennedy said one of her school's read-



Photo from Lakeland College

Jen Kennedy (left) and Wendy Falk have created a four-part story anthology.

ing coaches read the book and had a similar reaction. “This is a little much ... do you want to go that far?” Kennedy said. “I was super excited when she said that. I knew what we set out to do and we did it.”

The stories also reflect the approach of these two educators, who initially met in 2011 when Falk, an Oshkosh native, was hired into her first school counseling role at Carl Traeger Elementary School and Kennedy, an Omaha, Neb., native, was serving the Oshkosh Area School District as a school social worker.

The two became fast friends, often tag-teaming situations in their building and attending professional development opportunities together.

“Principals referred to us as the dream team,” Falk said. “It was very flattering. We've gotten mistaken as sisters. We're both pretty loud and outspoken.”

“We both want to get the job done,” Kennedy quickly added. “We're bottom-line people and we tell it like it is.”

Their anthology, which weaves in themes of courage, overcoming fear, self-respect, perseverance and the value of true friendship, is designed for children in grades 3-7.

They created teaching materials for fellow educators and parents who want to use the book at home. The lessons are linked to state learning standards and follow teaching strategies developed by celebrated education researcher Robert Marzano. The stories and lessons are designed to teach students to be empowered

to safely problem solve and self-advocate.

The authors are friends with a mother with boys in second, fourth and sixth grade. The family read the book together. “She said it sparked a lot of conversations,” Kennedy said. “That's exactly what we wanted.”

Like any first-time author, they'll never forget publication day this past September. “When I first saw it listed on Amazon, that blew my mind,” Kennedy said. “That was the big holey moly.”

Falk loved seeing her college-age children tell their friends to go on Amazon and type in their mom's name. “What hit me was when I shared the news on social media and the reactions of family and friends,” Falk said. “We hadn't talked about this whole lot outside of my immediate family. That's what made it real for me.”

They've started writing a second anthology that chronicles Jeff and Reed and their middle school adventures. They're also exploring some stand-alone books that don't involve Jeff and Reed that tackle some of other challenges they see with the students they serve.

“We know how hard this work is,” Falk said. “Nobody wants to have the hard conversation, a genuine, real, sincere, tough conversation. It's about negotiating that path safely. It's a labor of love to empower people to have courageous conversations safely. And you don't have to do it alone, which is a message we share with our students every day.”

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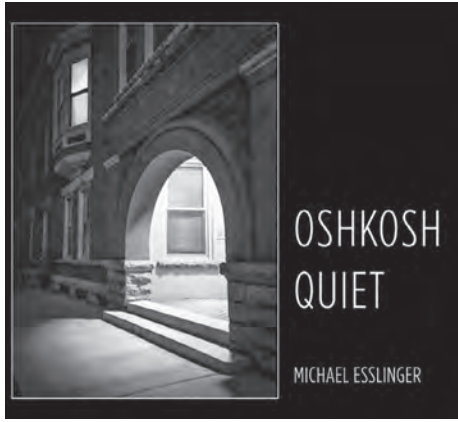


Photo book released by local native

Oshkosh Herald

“Oshkosh Quiet,” a book of black-and-white images capturing local history with contemporary photos, has been self-published by a longtime Oshkosh resident.

Michael Esslinger’s photos reflect on his days growing up in Oshkosh in the 1960s and expressive of that era. He includes an introduction author describing his life growing up in his hometown.

“Creating art is a selfish, self-centered, self-serving act. But through a simple, self-ish individual’s artistic expression a single thread in the fabric of the human condition can be discovered, interpreted and appreciated,” Esslinger stated in the book. “I made these photographs to reflect and understand the influence my hometown has had on me.”

He attended South Park School and Oshkosh West High School, graduating in 1976 before attending UW Oshkosh before leaving early for a full-time job. He went back to school in 1991 and obtained a degree in English education.

“I took an introductory photography course with Ray Spicer. Ray’s passion for photography and teaching revived the love I had for photography that began when I was given a Kodak Brownie Hawkeye camera as a kid,” Esslinger said. “I’ve been photographing ever since I first walked into Ray’s classroom in 1991.”

He also credits his wife, Kim, for guidance and assistance with book design and photo/text editing.

The book is available for purchase through blurb.com.

Public library calendar

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

- Dec. 1**
Archive Dives, 9 a.m., YouTube
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 3-5 p.m.
Tween Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades 3-5
Teen Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades 6-8
Young Adult Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades 9-12
- Dec. 2**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9-4 p.m.
Oshkosh Youth Choir, 1 p.m., all ages
- Dec. 3**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 1-4 p.m.
Everyday Tech: Drop-in Tech Help, 1:30-3 p.m., adults
- Dec. 4**
Family Storytime, 9:30 a.m., preschoolers
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 3-7 p.m.
- Dec. 5**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 3-7 p.m.
- Dec. 6**
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 for Kids, 3-7 p.m.
- Dec. 7**
High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 3-7 p.m.
- Dec. 8**
Great Reads 2023, 9 a.m., YouTube
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 3-5 p.m.
Elementary Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades K-3
- Dec. 9**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9 am.-4 p.m.
- Dec. 10**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 1-4 p.m.
Movies with Friends, 1 p.m., all ages
- Dec. 11**
Family Storytime, 9:30 a.m., preschool-

- ers
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 3-7 p.m.
- Dec. 12**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 3-7 p.m.
- Dec. 13**
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 for Kids, 3-7 p.m.
- Dec. 14**
High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
Afternoon Book Club, 1:30-3 p.m., adults
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 3-7 p.m.
- Dec. 15**
Librarian Learns: The Day They Gave Babies Away, 9 a.m., YouTube
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 3-5 p.m.
Tween S.T.E.A.M: Astronaut Lander, 4:30 p.m., grades 4 & 5
- Dec. 16**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9 am.-4 p.m.
- Dec. 17**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 1-4 p.m.
- Dec. 18**
Family Storytime, 9:30 a.m., preschoolers
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 3-7 p.m.
- Dec. 19**

- LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 3-7 p.m.
Winnebago Free Legal Assistance Clinic, 4:30-6:30 p.m., adults
- Dec. 20**
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 for Kids, 3-7 p.m.
- Dec. 21**
High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 3-7 p.m.
Chess Club, 5-7 p.m., all ages
Not Your Classic Book Club, 6 p.m., adults
Wonderlab: Snowball Cannon, 6:30 p.m., ages 5-8
- Dec. 22**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 3-5 p.m.
- Dec. 23**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9 am.-4 p.m.
- Dec. 24-25**
Library closed
- Dec. 26**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 3-7 p.m.
- Dec. 27**
Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 3-7 p.m.
- Dec. 28**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 3-7 p.m.

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Photo by Michael Cooney

Thanksgiving opener

Runners start the 5-mile race as one of the Festival Foods Turkey Trot run and walk events on Thanksgiving Day outside the Oshkosh Seniors Center. Proceeds benefited the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh and the Oshkosh YMCA. There were more than 2,700 registered.

EAA Education Center gains three-year grant

Youth aviation education in the Oshkosh area is receiving a major boost as the Adam R. Scripps Foundation has approved a grant to the EAA Aviation Foundation in support of the EAA Education Center and the Experimental Aircraft Association's online AeroEducate program.

The three-year grant totaling \$1.5 million is focused on activities at the Education Center, which opened in July 2022 and serves both youth discovery of aviation and proficiency for current pilots. The grant also will support the AeroEducate program, a free resource with age-based activities and clear pathways to aviation and aerospace careers.

"The Adam R. Scripps Foundation reviewed the work that EAA was doing at the Education Center, especially with young

people on-site and through AeroEducate, and was motivated to support these expanding efforts," said Margaret Brill, Aviation Foundation director. "We are grateful for this major grant, as it comes at a time when tremendous opportunities exist to reach young people with the possibilities within aviation for achievement in STEM education and in possible future careers."

The grant also helps complete the "Project 21" effort that led to the construction and opening of the EAA Education Center, which welcomed thousands of young people for aviation discovery in the past year. The exterior courtyard will be named the Adam R. Scripps Courtyard in honor of the foundation's namesake and his enthusiasm for the world of flight during his life.

Boys & Girls Club community center leader named

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh has named Michelle Rector as its director of the Hyde Family Community Center, which is scheduled to open in February.

She is the club's link to partners in the Hyde Family Community Center.

Rector joins the club staff after working in K-12 and university settings, in addition to nonprofit and for-profit organizations in Oshkosh for



Rector

more than 20 years. She has a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and a master's in student affairs administration from Indiana State University.

She is a board member of the Oshkosh Youth Symphony and the Power Team of the Women's Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.

"Michelle is a great fit for our team," said chief executive Tracy Ogden. "Her skillset and background makes her a strong asset to the future growth of the Hyde Family Community Center."

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for
OSHKOSH Youth Symphony

Saturday, December 9, 2023 1:00pm
Alberta Kimball Auditorium
375 N. Eagle St., Oshkosh
GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS \$10 ~ AT DOOR ~ ONLINE
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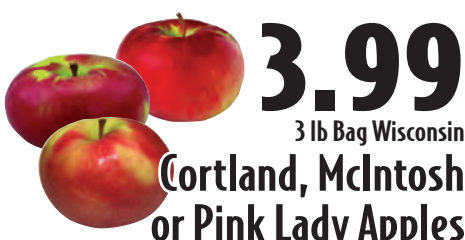
1.89 lb
Fresh
Broccoli
Crowns



2.29
8 oz
Sliced
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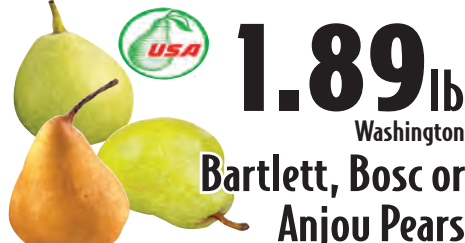


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 <p>5.49 8 PK, 12 oz BOTTLES PEPSI OR MTN DEW</p>	 <p>11.99 24 PK, 12 oz CANS COKE, SPRITE OR DIET COKE</p>	 <p>9.99 1.75 Ltr Bottle Admiral Nelson's Spiced Rum</p>	 <p>12.49 5 Ltr Select Varieties Franzia Wines</p>	 <p>10.99 750 ml Bottle Stella Rosa Wines</p>
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8 oz Sliced Mushrooms



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3.99
9.7-11.75 oz Fresh Express Kit Caesar or Chopped Salad Kits




1.69 lb
Garden Fresh Zucchini or Yellow Squash



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California Lemons



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1.89 lb
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1.69 ea
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Snow Crab Clusters



9.99
26-30 ct 16 oz Wholey Cooked Shrimp



5.99
10 oz Wholey Shrimp Ring

Calendar of events

Ongoing

Oshkosh Celebration of Lights, 5:30 p.m., EAA AirVenture grounds and expo hangars, through Dec. 31

Nutcracker in the Castle, Paine Art Center & Gardens, through Jan. 8

Wednesday, Nov. 29

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

Cocoa & Carols in the Square, 7 p.m., Opera House Square

Thursday, Nov. 30

Downtown Oshkosh tree lighting ceremony (6 p.m.), Jolly Jog (6:15) and Holiday Parade (6:30)

Friday, Dec. 1

December Reindeer Roundup begins at Winnebago County Community Park

Morgan House tours, 5 p.m., 234 Church Ave.

Janet Planet and Friends, 7:30 p.m., Becket's 2 Jackson St.

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

Saturday, Dec. 2

Area 51 Ultimate Frisbee Tournament, 8 a.m., UW Oshkosh, 140 Osceola St.

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

Race for the Light 5K, 4:30 p.m., EAA grounds

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

Cookie Walk, 9 a.m., St. John Nekimi, 491 Old Oregon Road

Morgan House tours, 2 p.m., 234 Church Ave.

Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra: Hearten, for the Holidays, 7 p.m., UW Oshkosh, 1001 Elmwood Ave.

The Looney Lutherans, 2 and 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Power Play Trio, 7 p.m., Angie's Bar, 413 Ohio St.

Gin and Sonics, Water City Pub, 8 p.m., 216 N. Main St.

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

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

Sunday, Dec. 3

Howard Holiday Market, 10 a.m., The

Howard, 405 Washington Ave.
Snow Ball, 10:30 a.m., Algoma Club, 103 Algoma Blvd.

Tuesday, Dec. 5

Wisconsin Herd vs. Windy City Bulls, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Wednesday, Dec. 6

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

Thursday, Dec. 7

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

Friday, Dec. 8

Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo, 1 p.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Christmas Gala with Mara's, 6 p.m., Becket's 2 Jackson St.

EAA Wright Brothers Memorial Banquet, 6:30 p.m., EAA Aviation Museum

Bobby Evans and the Alimony Blues Band, 7 p.m., Anjie's Bar, 413 Ohio St.

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

Blind Date with a Book, 4 p.m., Caramel Crisp Bookstore, 200 City Center

Saturday, Dec. 9

Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Cookie Walk of the United Women in Faith, 9 a.m., United Methodist Church, 1174 Algoma Blvd.

Holiday Market and Bazaar, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Arena

Cocoa and Canvas Social, 9:30 a.m., Oshkosh Country Club

"Elf," 2 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Christmas Spectacular, 6:30 p.m., La Sure's Banquet Hall, 3125 S. Washburn St.

The Presidents, 8 p.m., Revs Bowl Bar & Grill, 275 N Washburn St.

Sunday, Dec. 10

Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Oshkosh Area Community Band Christmas Sing, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Tuesday, Dec. 12

Deck the Runway Holiday Fashion Show, 5 p.m., Oshkosh Country Club

Friday, Dec. 15

The Nutcracker Ballet, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Wisconsin Herd vs. Grand Rapids Gold, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Saturday, Dec. 16

The Nutcracker Ballet, noon, The Grand Oshkosh

Elvis Tribute Christmas Show, 6 p.m., Anjie's Bar, 413 Ohio St.

ThedaCare names VP for new hospital

Oshkosh Herald

ThedaCare leaders have named Jenny Nikolai as a vice president supporting health care services at the new community hospital campuses being built in Oshkosh and Fond du Lac.

"I am incredibly excited to help lead the expansion of convenient access and exceptional high-quality care in the Fond du Lac and Oshkosh communities," Nikolai said.

"This is an opportunity to join an outstanding team committed to improving the health and well-being of the communities we serve."

ThedaCare and Froedtert Health announced plans last year to create two health campuses that include hospital and outpatient care services in Oshkosh and Fond du Lac that will be collectively delivered to patients and coordinated between ThedaCare and the Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin health network pro-

viders.

Earlier this year, ThedaCare and Froedtert Health announced plans to merge as one organization with the goal of launching the combined health system at the start of the new year.

Nikolai most recently served as director of strategy for Mayo Clinic and brings more than 15 years of experience in the health care industry.

She also has experience with Froedtert Health and the Medical College of Wisconsin, holding several positions with the organization, including director of network operations, director of ambulatory network operation and manager of practice development.

Nikolai has a master's degree in business administration from the University of St. Thomas and a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

She is a fellow of the American College of Health Care Executives, is certified by the Project Management Institute and obtained her Six Sigma Green Belt from UW-Milwaukee.



Nikolai




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Hospital leaders named at Ascension Wisconsin

Three new hospital presidents are joining Ascension Wisconsin's leadership team, including Shane Carter, who has returned to Ascension Mercy in Oshkosh as its president nearly 20 years after serving as a nurse in the intensive care unit.



Carter

The health system announced plans earlier this year to transform its operational framework by concentrating leadership resources at the local level.

As a leader for more than two decades at Advocate Aurora Health, Carter served most recently as vice president and chief

nursing officer at Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh. Before that, he served in clinical and nursing leadership roles at that facility, including as a registered nurse in the intensive care unit, house supervisor, clinical nurse manager and nurse educator.

Carter has a master's degree in nursing as a family nurse practitioner and a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. He has worked with medical group operations, cardiology, oncology and women's health service lines, and led imaging and several support services.

Andre Storey was named president of Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Hospital in Milwaukee and Kurt Schley is the new president of Ascension SE Wisconsin Hospital in Elmbrook.

County health

FROM PAGE 1

within 14 days, whichever is sooner, the new ordinance removes any time requirements, meaning a health order could be strung along for weeks without a county board vote.

County resident Deb Martin told the board that politics should not be involved in the decision-making process and the supervisors need to consider the health of the entire county.

"I don't understand these amendments," she said. "I think they look politically motivated, totally, because of people mad about what happened during the pandemic."

Lois Gruetzmacher, a citizen member of the Board of Health, said there are 1,000 reportable diseases that the health department is expected to respond to.

"Changing these ordinances to this degree that makes them so at odds with what state statute has is just totally irresponsible," she said. As she continued speaking, a county board supervisor interjected and cut her off, citing a two-minute time limit for speakers.

Oshkosh resident Mary Ann Offer said the county board making politically motivated decisions comes with the added effect of risking people's lives.

"It is a really serious time, serious concern for our community, and that's when we need to turn to our public health officials – the people who are the most up to date about what needs to be done," she said.

While the majority of speakers during the public forum were opposed to the ordinances, Rosemary Barnard was one of several who spoke in support.

"We the people need a voice as well," she said.

Defferding, who represents District 6 in Neenah, posted on social media about the topic in October in advance of a Board of Health meeting. Defferding cited a 2021 state Supreme Court decision in Becker v. Dane County that affirmed local health officers have the power to issue health orders without first obtaining permission from city and county officials.

"I'm not happy with it, period," he said. "And I've been speaking with other supervisors around the county to talk about what we can do from here."

Defferding told the Board of Health that it's important that the county isn't impinging on the public's right to free assembly and civil liberties.

In his social media post, Defferding said the ordinances were intentionally written to make it challenging for the Health Department to issue a general order such as the Safer at Home order the county issued in May 2020 that put strategies in place to protect residents.

"Yes, indeed, that's going to make it difficult to issue a general order – that's the point," he wrote. "It's difficult by design. I feel we need better guardrails for our local government, we need better checks and balances, we need public health officers to provide constant justification to the people."

In advance of the vote, Supervisor Paul Eisen tried to send the first ordinance back to the Board of Health, which failed.

Supervisor Andy Buck, who wore a mask during the discussion, attempted to limit the effectiveness of the second ordinance by proposing an amendment that would require a majority of those present and voting, rather than a two-thirds majority, for a health order to pass the board. That amendment also failed.

The board voted 19-15 in favor of passing both ordinances.

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OSHKOSH

Historic buildings attracted 'Public Enemies' to Oshkosh

By Gerald Jacklin
OSHKOSH LANDMARKS COMMISSION

This year is the 15th anniversary of the filming of "Public Enemies" about John Dillinger, the notorious bank robber in the 1930s during the Great Depression who the FBI named their first Public Enemy No. 1.

Universal Studios Hollywood – founded by Carl Laemmle who lived in Oshkosh and was bookkeeper at Continental Clothing Co. from 1894-1906 – began filming the movie here in April 2008.

For those who were not living in Oshkosh at that time, this was a big deal. Johnny Depp portrayed Dillinger with a cast of other well-known Hollywood actors.

Director Michael Mann had been a film student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Familiar with the state, he scouted cities with historic buildings as potential sites and chose to film in Oshkosh, Baraboo, Beaver Dam, Columbus, Darlington, Madison, Milwaukee and at the Little Bohemia Lodge in Manitowish Waters.

The decision to shoot parts of the film in Oshkosh was attributed to the high quality of historic buildings downtown, most of which were built in 1875 and subsequent years after the last Great Fire. Many of those build-



Photos by Oshkosh Public Library

The former First National Bank at 404 N. Main St. (right) and Oshkosh Masonic Temple at 204 Washington Ave. were two of the historic buildings in "Public Enemies."

ings have been preserved and are still standing.

Prior to the filming, downtown Oshkosh was transformed into a 1930s movie set with refaced buildings, '30s era billboards, window displays, awnings and marquees incorporating period fonts. Even realistic street pavers were installed.

Universal Studios filmed two famous Dillinger bank robberies in Oshkosh. First National Bank, 404 N. Main St., an eight-story bank/office building built in 1926, was used to film the March 6, 1934, robbery of the Security Bank & Trust in Sioux Falls, S.D. The Oshkosh Masonic Temple, 204 Washington Ave. – designed by Auler, Jensen & Brown and built in 1925 – was chosen for depicting the Nov. 20, 1933, robbery of the American Bank and Trust Co. in Racine.

Filming also occurred at the EAA Museum's Pioneer Airport, which stood in for Chicago's Midway Airport where Dillinger was flown after his arrest in Tucson, Ariz. A restored Ford Trimotor aircraft owned by EAA was featured in several scenes. These vintage airplanes were manufactured from 1926-1933.



Oshkosh was one of the chosen sites because the filmmakers said they "felt strongly about the authenticity of the setting." Outside of watching the film, a YouTube video titled "Public Enemies Bank Clip" shows good examples of the downtown architecture.

The positive reaction to seeing our downtown recognized for its historic architecture set off a wave of public projects that were facilitated with grants for remodeling storefront facades. There are so many reasons to invest in preserving our historic build-

ings and districts: an increase in heritage tourism, community pride in our history and its buildings, a source for creating skilled jobs, a means to keep our history alive for future generations, increased property values in historic districts, and the impression of a well-kept environment.

Another reason to preserve and maintain our historic buildings is that Hollywood might consider a return visit to film another production. Let's make sure we are authentic and prepared to be on the big screen.



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AI starting to affect elections; state has yet to take action

By Phoebe Petrovic
WISCONSIN WATCH

Heading into the 2024 election, Wisconsin faces a new challenge state lawmakers here have so far failed to address: generative artificial intelligence.

AI can draft a fundraising email or campaign graphics in seconds, no writing or design skills required. Or, as the Republican National Committee showed in April, it can conjure lifelike videos of China invading Taiwan or migrants crossing the U.S. border made entirely of fictional AI-generated footage.

More recently, a Super PAC supporting a Republican presidential candidate's bid to make the Milwaukee debate stage on Aug. 23 used an AI-generated video of that candidate to fundraise — which one campaign finance expert called an “innovative” way around campaign finance rules that would otherwise ban a Super PAC and candidate from coordinating on an ad.

Technology and election experts say AI's applications will both “transform” and threaten elections across the United States. And Wisconsin, a gerrymandered battleground that previously weathered baseless claims of election fraud, may face an acute risk.

Yet Wisconsin lawmakers have not taken official steps to regulate use of the technology in campaigning, even as other states and Congress introduce and begin to implement guardrails.

Rep. Scott Krug, R-Nekoosa, chair of the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections, told Wisconsin Watch he hasn't “related (AI) too much to elections just yet.”

In the Senate's Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protection, “it just hasn't come up yet,” said Sen.

Jeff Smith, D-Brunswick.

Election committee members in both chambers expressed interest in possible remedies but doubt that they could pass protections before the next election cycle.

Rep. Clinton Anderson, D-Beloit, is drafting a bill that would mandate disclosure of AI, sometimes called “synthetic media,” in political ads, something experts call a basic step lawmakers could take to regulate the technology.

“If we wait til 2024, it's gonna be too late,” Anderson said in an interview. “If we can get this minimum thing done, then maybe we can have a conversation about, ‘What's the next step?’”

“No matter where you fall politically, I think you should want some transparency in campaigns,” he added.

The Wisconsin Elections Commission declined to comment.

Several lawmakers said AI repackages old problems in new technology, noting voters have encountered deceptive visuals and targeted advertising before.

But generative AI makes such content cheaper, easier and faster to produce. New York University's Brennan Center for Justice notes that Russian-affiliated organizations spent more than \$1 million a month in 2016 to produce manipulative political ads that could be created today with AI for a fraction of the cost.

Dietram Scheufele, who studies science communication and technology policy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said that while some of the doomsday predictions about AI are overblown, “we're definitely entering a new world.”

The technology, he said, “gets real creepy real fast.”

Scheufele cited a prior study in which re-



Wisconsin Watch photo

Rep. Scott Krug, R-Nekoosa, chair of the Assembly elections committee, is open to regulating the use of AI in elections, but legislation may not be ready in time for the 2024 election.

searchers morphed candidates' faces with the participant's own face in a way that remained undetectable to the participant. They found that people who were politically independent or weakly partisan were more likely to prefer the candidates whose faces had been — unbeknownst to them — morphed with their own.

“This was done a long time ago before the idea of actually doing all of this in real time became a reality,” Scheufele said. But today, “the threshold for producing this stuff is really, really low.”

Campaigns could micro-target constituents, crafting uniquely persuasive communications or advertisements by tailoring them to a person's digital footprint or likeness. Darrell West, who studies technology at the nonpartisan Brookings Institution, calls this “precise message targeting,” writing AI will allow campaigns to better focus on “specific voting blocs with appeals that nudge them around particular policies and partisan opinions.”

AI will also quicken the pace of communications and responses, permitting politicians to “respond instantly to campaign developments,” West wrote. “AI can scan the internet, think about strategy, and come

up with a hard-hitting appeal” in minutes, “without having to rely on highly paid consultants or expert videographers.”

And because AI technology is more accessible, it's not just well-funded campaigns or interest groups that might deploy it in elections. Mekela Panditharatne, counsel for the Brennan Center's Democracy Program, and Noah Giansiracusa, an assistant professor of mathematics and data science, described several ways outside actors might use the technology to deceive or influence voters.

Aside from using deepfakes to fabricate viral controversies, they could produce legions of social media posts about certain issues “to create the illusion of political agreement or the false impression of widespread belief in dishonest election narratives,” Panditharatne and Giansiracusa wrote. They could “deploy tailored chatbots to customize interactions based on voter characteristics.”

They could also use AI to target elections administrators, either through deluges of complaints from fake constituents or elaborate phishing schemes.

“There is plenty of past election dis-

SEE **AI in elections** ON PAGE 21



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AI in elections

FROM PAGE 20

formation in the training data underlying current generative AI tools to render them a potential ticking time bomb for future election disinformation," Panditharatne and Giansiracusa wrote.

For Scheufele, one major concern is timing. It can take seconds for AI to create a deepfake; it can take days for reporters to debunk it. AI-driven disinformation deployed in the days before an election could sway voters in meaningful ways.

By the time people realized the content was fake, Scheufele said, "the election is over and we have absolutely no constitutional way of relitigating it."

"This is like making the wrong call in the last minute of the Super Bowl and the Patriots win the Super Bowl, even though they shouldn't have," Scheufele said. "They're still going to be Super Bowl champions on Monday even though we all know that the wrong

call was made."

In the abstract, every single aspect of AI is "totally manageable," Scheufele said.

"The problem is we're dealing with so much in such a short period of time because of how quickly that technology develops," he said. "We simply don't have the structures in place at the moment."

But Wisconsin lawmakers could take initial steps toward boosting transparency.

In May, Washington state passed a law requiring a clear disclaimer about AI's use in any political ad. Anderson's team looked to Washington's law as a model in drafting a Wisconsin bill.

Printed ads with manipulated images will need a disclosure "in letters at least as big as any other letters in the ad," according to The Spokesman-Review. Manipulated audio must "have an easily understood, spoken warning at the beginning and end of the commercial." For videos, a text disclosure "must appear for the duration" of the ad.

A similar bill addressing federal elections has been introduced in both chambers of

Congress. A March 2020 proposal banning the distribution of deepfakes within 60 days of a federal election and creating criminal penalties went nowhere.

Krug called Washington's law a "pretty interesting idea."

"If (an ad is) artificially created, there has to be some sort of a disclaimer," Krug said.

However, he indicated Republicans may wait to move legislation until after Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, convenes a task force later this year on AI in government.

Sen. Mark Spreitzer, D-Beloit, another elections committee member, noted Wisconsin law already prohibits knowingly making or publishing "a false representation pertaining to a candidate or referendum which is intended or tends to affect voting at an election."

"I think you could read the plain language of that statute and say that a deepfake would violate it," he said. "But obviously, whenever you have new technology, I think it's worth coming back and making explicitly clear that an existing statute is intended to apply

to that new technology."

Scheufele, Anderson, Spreitzer and Smith all said that Wisconsin should go beyond mandating disclosure of AI in ads.

"The biggest concern is disinformation coming from actors outside of the organized campaigns and political parties," Spreitzer said. Official entities are easier to regulate, in part because the government already does.

Additional measures will require a robust global debate, Scheufele said. He likened the urgency of addressing AI to nuclear power.

"What we never did for nuclear energy is really have a broad public debate about: Should we go there? Should we actually develop nuclear weapons? Should we engage in that arms race?" he said. "For AI, we may still have that opportunity where we really get together and say, 'Hey, what are the technologies that we're willing to deploy, that we're willing to actually make accessible?'"

The nonprofit Wisconsin Watch (www.WisconsinWatch.org) collaborates with WPR, PBS Wisconsin, other news media and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Wildcats drop pair at Steven L. Randall Classic

Oshkosh West opened its season by hosting the Steven L. Randall Classic last weekend, dropping games to Eau Claire Memorial, 88-67, on Friday and to Oconomowoc, 90-58, Saturday.

Against Oconomowoc, the Wildcats put together a strong first half and led 42-40 at halftime. Two 3-pointers from Sam Gibson and another by Drew Blair helped Oshkosh West erase a five-point deficit and take a 38-37 lead late in the half.

Oconomowoc edged back in front with a 3-pointer before two free throws apiece from Collin Carns and Blair pushed West ahead at the break.

The Wildcats were unable to carry the momentum into the second half as Oconomowoc started the half with a 20-4 run to seize control of the game and held West to just 16 points.

Blair finished with 18 points, including 16 in the first half, to lead the Wildcats, while Dylan Taylor chipped in 13 points.

In Friday night's loss, West trailed just 40-37 at halftime but were outscored 48-30 in the second half as the Old Abes pulled away to the win.

The Wildcats had four players in double figures in the game with Blair leading the way with 16 points, followed by Taylor who added 15 points and eight assists. Gibson and Carns each added 13 points in the game.

Tough first half stings Valley Christian

The Warriors fell behind 33-16 at halftime against Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah and were dealt a 71-46 loss in their season-opener last week.

Joshua Johnson finished with 14 points and Brady Patterson added 10 points and eight rebounds to lead Valley Christian.

The Warriors struggled from behind the 3-point line finishing 4-of-23.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wildcats hold on to beat Sussex Hamilton

Maddie Rasmussen led three players in double figures as Oshkosh West edged Sussex Hamilton, 54-53, at the Kettle Moraine Thanksgiving Classic on Saturday.

Paige Seckar added 11 points and Morgan Toman finished with 10 for the Wildcats. Rasmussen and Seckar were also the leading rebounders for West with eight and seven, respectively, while Seckar led the team with five assists.

Oshkosh West, which improved to 2-1, led 25-22 at halftime.

Spartans improve to 2-0 with win over Menasha

Oshkosh North pulled away in the second half to beat Menasha, 53-42, last week in a nonconference contest.

Awut Alic led the Spartans with 14 points, while Ava Hanson and Morgan Kolodzik each chipped in 12 points. Hanson also finished with eight assists, six rebounds and four steals.

The Spartans hit 10 3-pointers in the game, with Kolodzik leading the way with four treys.

North led 30-25 at halftime before holding the Bluejays to just 17 points in the second half.

Lourdes Academy rolls past Hustisford

Hailee Bauer and Delaney Ruedinger each scored 17 points as the Knights topped Hustisford, 79-13, last week to improve to 2-0 on the season.

Charley Mullen also reached double figures with 11 points, with Hannah McDowell and Ella Slusarski chipping nine and eight points, respectively. Ten players scored in the game for the Knights.

Slusarski led the Knights with six re-

bounds, while Bauer led the team with seven steals.

BOYS HOCKEY

Ice Hawks open season at Sheboygan tournament

The Oshkosh Ice Hawks co-op hockey team went 1-2 at the Sheboygan Tournament over the weekend.

The lone win for Oshkosh came in a 9-1 thumping of Green Bay United with Dayton Briski leading the way with a hat trick. Briski, who also had an assist in the game, scored a goal in each period.

Oshkosh jumped to a 6-0 lead after the first period with six different players finding the net in Mason Monhen, Jack Toonen, Isaiah Koeppen, Reid Polak, Briski and Braden Vossekuil scoring. Vossekuil and Briski tallied the goals in the third period.

Alex Beck finished with three assists in the win, while Leo Ulrich and Polak each had two.

Chase Magadanz and Gage Bauer combined to make 11 saves.

Oshkosh opened the tournament with a 7-1 loss to Ashwaubenon as Nolan Thurn tallied the lone goal.

The Ice Hawks also lost to Waupaca 5-2 on Sunday with Ulrich and Evan Neitzel scoring goals.

Oshkosh was also scheduled to play Kenosha on Saturday but results of that game were not available.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Warbirds win first three games

Oshkosh West's Kristi Binder registered one assist for the Warbirds co-op hockey team in a 6-0 win over the Icebergs on Saturday.

The Warbirds also beat the Icebergs 7-0 on Friday after scoring a 3-1 win over Beaver Dam earlier in the week.

Titan volleyball headed to Elite Eight

Oshkosh Herald

The UW Oshkosh volleyball team will be heading to the NCAA Division III Elite Eight for the first time since 2009 after winning the regional tournament it hosted.

The Titans, who are the top seed among the eight teams vying for the national title, will face Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges in a national quarterfinal on Wednesday in Claremont, Calif., at 9 p.m. CST.

UW Oshkosh (34-1) has placed in the top five in the NCAA Division III tournament five times since 1990, with its best finish coming in 1994 when the Titans were national runners-up. They also finished third in 2009.

The Titans will be the last of the national quarterfinals to take to the court Wednesday. The first match of the day will pit third-seeded New York University against sixth-seeded Northwestern-St. Paul, followed by second-seeded Juniata

vs. seventh-seeded Trinity (Texas).

The winner between UW Oshkosh and Clare-Mudd-Scripps will face either fourth-seeded Hope College or fifth-seeded Johns Hopkins in a national semifinal Thursday. The title match will be held Saturday.

Six of the eight teams from last year's Elite Eight are returning this season, including defending champion Juniata and runner-up Trinity (Texas).

Hope College, Johns Hopkins, Northwestern-St. Paul and NYU are also returning. Northwestern-St. Paul and NYU also reached the semifinals last season.

The last time a WIAC team reached the Elite Eight was in 2021 when UW-Eau Claire won the national title by beating Calvin College in the championship match.

UW Oshkosh has faced two of the other eight teams still playing, having beaten both Trinity (Texas) and Hope College earlier this season.

The Titans advanced to the Elite on Nov. 18 with a four-set win over the University of La Verne. UW Oshkosh dropped the first set in the match played at the Kolf Sports Center but rallied for an 18-25, 25-20, 25-17, 25-22 win.

Senior Riley Kindt, who racked up 23 kills on 49 attacks against La Verne, was named the Regional Tournament Most Outstanding Player. She was joined on the all-tournament team by freshman Sami Perlberg and junior Abby Fregien on the all-tournament team.

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Legal Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF:
LONDYN LOVE GERONIMO
Case No. 2023CV000858

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Londyn Love Geronimo
To: Londyn Love Lucore
Birth Certificate: Londyn Love Geronimo

IT IS ORDERED: This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin:
Judge's Name: Hon. Michael Gibbs
Place: Winnebago County Courthouse Branch 4 Room 211, 415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54903
Date: December 15, 2023
Time: 11:00 am

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Oshkosh Herald a newspaper published in Oshkosh, Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin.

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: October 31, 2023
/s/ Hon. Michael S. Gibbs
Run November 15, 2023, November 22, 2023 and November 29, 2023

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Talent-rich Spartans take aim at memorable season

By Dustin Riese
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The Oshkosh North basketball team is no stranger to success and the 2023-24 season has the makings to be another memorable year.

With some key pieces returning from last year's team that went 16-9 and finished third in the Fox Valley Association, the Spartans open the season ranked in the top five of the Division 1 coaches poll and have high expectations entering the year.

"I was proud of the year we put together last year," head coach Brad Weber said.

Boys Basketball PREVIEW

"The ranking is a great nod towards our players and the time they put into their skills, craft and habits. Our goals this year are to build toward March."

Headlining the Spartans' roster are senior Steven Clark and junior Xzavion Mitchell, who have each played at the varsity level since their freshmen years. Both players were first-team all-FVA selections a year ago, while Mitchell was also selected to the league's all-Defensive Team.

Clark, who is committed to NCAA Division I Colgate University, averaged 23.6 points per game last year while shooting better than 50 percent from the floor and leading the team with 46 3-pointers made.

Mitchell scored an average of 22.4 points per game and led the Spartans in rebounds and assists.

North's roster is more than just those two though.

Seniors Carter Strange and Iban Jennings will look to take on a bigger role this

season, as will junior Stefan Stolicovic and sophomore Bryce Ott. Strange and Ott played key roles off the bench last season with each averaging more than four points per game.

Ott and Stolicovic also join Mitchell and Clark in giving the Spartans three players at 6-foot-5 or taller.

"The fun thing about this year's group is that I think you will see a different group closing out games each week," he said. "That is a testament to our depth and how close the competition level is. It will also be an indication of some of our inexperience and how the learning process will happen throughout the year."

Like in most instances, North will once again endure a challenging schedule that will begin and end with the Fox Valley Association.

Despite being seen as one of the favorites in the league, Kaukauna, Neenah and Hortonville are emerging as top challengers, while Kimberly also appears primed to be among the league leaders again as the conference is about as deep as any league in the state.

That alone will make for some great games this season with the Spartans aiming to be at their best come March.

"While everyone makes the playoffs, we are aiming to be at our best come March," Weber said. "Records help with seeding, but every year we see that the teams that are at their best in March make it the furthest. If we are the best version we can be by March we should be in a good place."

From a talent side of things, North has all the talent in the world to not only contend for the league title but also make another deep playoff run. That is their goal

from day one, but for that to happen a lot of things need to fall into place as Weber and his group continue to take things one day at a time.

"So many things would need to go right because winning a conference title is a daunting task and success in the playoffs is a wild mixture of talent, being hot, and a little bit of Lady Luck on your side," Weber said. "I believe we have the talent to be in consideration for these achievements. To maximize our opportunities, we will have to be a team that defends at a high level, plays through each other on offense, and competes at an elite level."

Wildcats look to build off of strong finish

A strong WIAA tournament run – a stretch in which they took out the sectional's top seed and nearly advanced to sectionals – has set the stage for this season, the second under head coach Dan Weisse.

"I thought we made good progress last year," Weisse said. "Our guys really bought in and hung in through the tough times. This season will be an entirely different team as we were a very senior heavy group a season ago. Despite that, we have a group of seniors and returning players that understand what we are looking to do and will be the ones to set the tone this season."

Senior guard Dylan Taylor will again be one of the leaders this season after a breakout year as a junior. Taylor is the top returning scorer for the Wildcats after averaging 13.7 points per game, while leading the team with 40 3-pointers made.

SEE **Boys basketball** ON PAGE 24



Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh North junior Xzavion Mitchell was a first-team all-FVA selection and an all-Defensive Team selection last season.



2023-2024 Oshkosh High School Boys Basketball Schedules

LOURDES ACADEMY 	OSHKOSH NORTH 	OSHKOSH WEST 	VALLEY CHRISTIAN 
<p>Home Games Played at Lourdes Academy Castle Gym</p> <p>Nov 28 @ Hustisford 7:15pm Dec 1 Dodgeland 7:15pm Dec 5 Wayland Academy 7:15pm Dec 7 Wautoma 7:00pm Dec 9 @ Valley Christian 2:15pm Dec 15 Horicon 7:15pm Dec 19 @ Winneconne 7:00pm Dec 28 @ Roncalli 5:00pm Dec 29 Holiday Tournament Jan 2 @ North Fond du Lac 7:15pm Jan 5 Oakfield 7:15pm Jan 9 @ Omro 7:15pm Jan 11 Central Wisconsin Christian 7:15pm Jan 16 Laconia 7:00pm Jan 19 @ Wayland Academy 4:00pm Jan 20 Trailways Crossover 9:00am Jan 25 Hustisford 7:15pm Jan 26 @ Wayland Academy 6:00pm Jan 30 @ Dodgeland 7:15pm Feb 1 @ Central Wisconsin Christian 7:15pm Feb 5 @ Randolph 7:15pm Feb 9 Coleman Cougars 7:00pm Feb 13 @ Horicon 7:15pm Feb 16 Valley Christian 7:15pm Feb 22 @ Oakfield 7:15pm</p>	<p>Home Games played at Oshkosh North Main Court</p> <p>Dec 1 @ Kaukauna 7:30pm Dec 8 @ Oshkosh West 7:45pm Dec 12 Appleton East 7:30pm Dec 15 @ Appleton North 7:30pm Dec 16 @ Stoughton TBD (Madison College) Dec 19 @ Madison East 7:15pm Dec 22 Neenah 7:30pm Dec 27 @ St. Thomas More TBD Dec 28 WBV Tournament @ Concordia TBD Jan 2 @ Kimberly 7:30pm Jan 5 Hortonville 7:30pm Jan 9 @ Fond du Lac 7:30pm Jan 12 Appleton West 7:30pm Jan 16 Milwaukee Academy of Science 7:15pm Jan 19 Kaukauna 7:30pm Jan 20 Oshkosh West 7:45pm Jan 26 @ Appleton East 7:30pm Jan 27 @ Germantown TBD Jan 30 Appleton North 7:30pm Feb 2 @ Neenah 7:30pm Feb 9 Kimberly 7:30pm Feb 13 @ Hortonville 7:30pm Feb 16 Fond du Lac 7:30pm Feb 22 @ Appleton West 7:30pm</p>	<p>Home Games played at Oshkosh West Main Gym</p> <p>Nov 24 Invitational 6:00pm Nov 25 Invitational 4:30pm Dec 1 Appleton West 7:30pm Dec 8 Oshkosh North 7:45pm Dec 12 @ Appleton North 7:30pm Dec 15 Kimberly 7:30pm Dec 18 @ Menasha 7:30pm Dec 22 @ Fond du Lac 6:00pm Dec 29 @ Stevens Point 7:45pm Dec 30 Tournament 5:00pm Jan 2 Kaukauna 7:30pm Jan 5 @ Appleton East 7:30pm Jan 9 Neenah 7:30pm Jan 12 Hortonville (Oshkosh Arena) 6:30pm Jan 19 @ Appleton West 7:30pm Jan 20 @ Oshkosh North 7:45pm Jan 26 Appleton North 7:30pm Jan 30 @ Kimberly 7:30pm Feb 2 Fond du Lac 7:45pm Feb 3 @ Rhinelander 1:30pm Feb 9 @ Kaukauna 7:30pm Feb 13 Appleton East 7:30pm Feb 16 @ Neenah 7:30pm Feb 22 @ Hortonville 7:30pm</p>	<p>Home Games Played at Valley Christian</p> <p>Nov 21 Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah 7:00pm Nov 28 @ Central Wisconsin Christian 7:15pm Nov 30 @ Marion 7:00pm Dec 1 Oakfield 7:00pm Dec 4 Hilbert 7:00pm Dec 7 @ Hustisford 7:15pm Dec 9 Lourdes Academy 2:15pm Dec 11 Dodgeland 7:00pm Dec 15 @ Wayland Academy 7:30pm Jan 5 @ Horicon 7:15pm Jan 9 @ Green Lake/Princeton 7:15pm Jan 18 Central Wisconsin Christian 7:15pm Jan 19 @ Wayland Academy 4:00pm Jan 20 Trailways Crossover 9:00am Jan 23 @ Rio 7:15pm Jan 25 @ Stockbridge 6:00pm Jan 27 Saint Anthony 2:30pm Jan 30 @ Oakfield 7:15pm Feb 2 Hustisford 7:30pm Feb 5 North Fond du Lac 7:00pm Feb 8 @ Dodgeland 7:15pm Feb 13 Wayland Academy 7:00pm Feb 16 @ Lourdes Academy 7:15pm Feb 19 Sheboygan Christian 7:00pm Feb 22 Horicon 7:00pm</p>

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**Schedules subject to change*

Boys basketball

FROM PAGE 23

Fellow senior Drew Blair also returns after averaging about six points per game last season and will be counted on to score both inside and outside for the Wildcats.

Juniors Noah Gelhar and Collin Carns also return after playing regular minutes for the Wildcats last season, while juniors Sam Gibson, Chase Brandl and Sam Benesh saw limited varsity action.

Weisse will also look to junior Connor Gibbs and sophomores Joey Ware and Braydon Kufel to contribute for the Wildcats.

“We need to be able to stack good days – we need to be more consistent and play with a positive attitude when things do not go our way,” Weisse said. “Most of the players on our roster have improved their game in some aspect over the summer, but now it is time for their games to come together to form the best team possible.”

Even if the goal is to improve by 1 percent every day, the results may not always show that improvement, especially when you look at the FVA. Not only do you have a pair of top five teams in the state, but several other teams have gone to state the past few seasons, making this one of the best leagues across the board.

The goal for the Wildcats will be to improve every day and be competitive in the talent-laden FVA. While wins are ultimately the best way to show improvement, being competitive will go a long way by the end of the season.

“We need to get 1 percent better every day and stack good days and keep buying in,” Weisse said. “If we can shoot the

ball a bit better and take care of it and keep being solid defensively we’ll give ourselves chances to win games. We have great kids in our program and we’ll compete night in and night out.”

Knights poised for big things in 2023-24

Second-year Lourdes Academy head coach Brett Baehman will bring a more experienced roster to the court this season and is looking for the Knights to be improved as they vie for a top finish in the Trailways East.

“Going into last season, we only had two players that played varsity basketball before,” Baehman said. “We got off to a hot start but then those growing pains started to show. The biggest takeaway was that our program gained valuable experience that we needed.”

That experience is going to be vital for the Knights success this season as Lourdes returns a plethora of talent and could be one of the deeper teams in the Trailways East. That alone leads to some lofty expectations and there are expectations that Baehman and his club are ready to meet that challenge.

“It is a totally different feeling heading into this year,” Baehman said. “Our coaching staff and players have all been through a varsity season together. We are a very experienced team, almost the exact opposite of last season. We have to make sure we do not get complacent. It is a long season and when we are in the middle of the grind, we need to embrace it and continue to get better every day. We are a senior-heavy team and I expect us to compete for the Trailways East title.”

Once again, the success of the Knights is going to start and stop with senior JJ

McKellips as the 6-5 senior is entering his fourth year of varsity basketball with three of them coming as a starter. McKellips averaged 17.7 points per game last season while also grabbing a team-high 5.2 rebounds per contest and, when healthy, is one of the top players in the conference.

He certainly will have some help.

Senior Mitchell Wing averaged 11.1 points and a team-best four assists per game last season and could take on an even bigger role.

In addition to Wing, seniors Jok Machiros, Calvin Tollard and Dom Bauer, who helped anchor the varsity squad a year ago.

Junior Braden Studinski is expected to be a bigger contributor this season, while sophomores Brady Ridenour and Quin Ruark are also expected to play key roles after seeing limited varsity action last season.

“It will be up to (our seniors) to lead the way this season as their experience and leadership will be crucial to the success of this team,” Baehman said. “Our league is very deep this year. We have to find a way to win the tightly contested games in the league and make sure to show up every night. We also need to out-hustle and out-work everyone on the court in order to make up for some of the things we lack.”

Lourdes could once again be near the top of the conference standings, although the Knights are likely to face challenges from Central Wisconsin Christian, Oakfield and Horicon.

Baehman knows that the 14-game conference slate mixed with another tough nonconference schedule is going to go a long way to help them reach their goals.

“We need to truly buy in as a team,” Baehman said. “Our players are an absolute blast to be around and they make coaching them a true joy. However, to win the Trailways East and make a playoff run, we need to stay together. That

means picking each other up during the tough stretches, trusting that the guy next to you will do their job and truly wanting to be successful as individuals but more importantly as a team.”

Young Valley Christian squad eyes improvement

Valley Christian had a rough road through the 2022-23 season but with the start of a new year, head coach Louis Giannopoulos believes this year’s path should run a little smoother.

“Last year we only had one senior on our roster and we struggled with our shooting and turnovers,” Giannopoulos said. “We are excited for this. I believe we will be stronger physically and mentally, our football coaches did an amazing job training our athletes which I feel is going to benefit our upcoming season.”

The Warriors return three of their top four scorers from last year in juniors Brady Patterson, Dennis Thur and Joshua Johnson, who combined to average about 17 points per game a year ago.

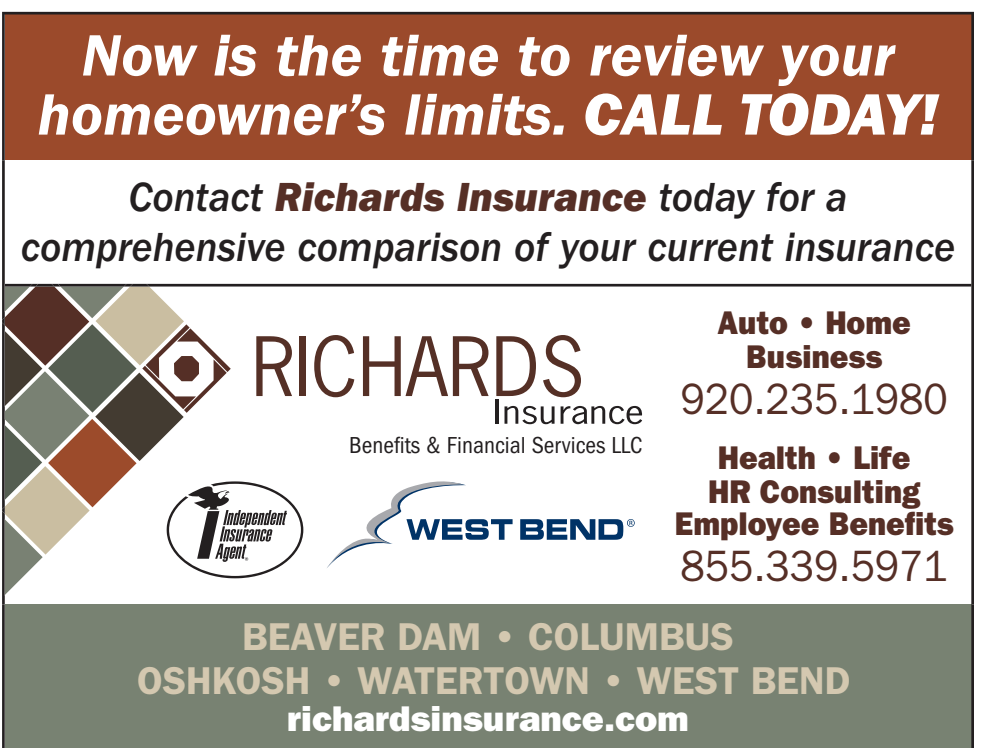
Giannopoulos expects those three to lead the Warriors this season with senior Hampton Henderson and junior Cade Krause rounding out the projected starting lineup.

“I think speed should be one of our strengths this season,” he said. “We are hoping that all of the offseason work that everyone has put in, will help us improve in our shooting and taking care of the ball.”

Along with that lead group, Valley Christian should be able to bring some talent off the bench in sophomores Isaiah Hyvonen, Derek Wallace, Mathias Behling, Kaleb Richardson and Ian Kuhlowl.

“Our goal is to grow throughout the season as our roster is very young,” Giannopoulos said. “We have some high hopes to surprise some teams along the way and get ready for the playoffs. ‘Ready to Rise’ is our motto and that is something we want to do as a program this season.”



Obituaries

LaVerne Hoffman

LaVerne "John" Hoffman, age 91, passed away peacefully at home on November 21,



2023. He was born on August 25, 1932, to parents, LaVerne Milton and Alycee (Goodearle) Hoffman, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

He attended St. John's Military Academy and UW Oshkosh, where he obtained a

Business Degree. John was also deployed overseas during the Korean Conflict while serving in the Army.

On September 30, 1956, he married the love of his life, Audrey Ardell (Hansen) in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. They spent many wonderful years together, until her passing in 2009.

John's strength of faith and love of his family were exemplified in everything that he did. He was a proud member of Grace Lutheran Church for over 60 years and loved attending Bible class, decorating for Christmas, and volunteering with thr children. He

also enjoyed painting, walking, playing computer games, doing Tai Chi, and attending various classes at UW.

He is survived by his three daughters, Kimberly Balas, Pamela Isaksson, and Stephanie Davis; grandchildren, Megan (Jeff) Key, Kaitlin (Tim) Heuer, Erin (Jared) Putz, Ben (Shannon) Davis, Haley (Manuel) Muñoz; great-grandchildren, Kendell and Parker Key, Samson and Gideon Putz, and Gabriel Muñoz; his brother, Curtis (Nancy) Hoffman; along with many other family and friends.

John is preceded in death by his parents; his loving wife, Audrey Hoffman; mother-in-law, Ardell Hansen; and son-in-law, Scott Davis.

Visitation will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, 913 Nebraska St., Oshkosh, WI 54902, on, December, 1st, 2023, from 11:30am to 1:00pm, with service to follow. Burial will be held at a Riverside Cemetery in the Spring.

In lieu of flowers, the family has set up a memorial fund in his honor.



Richard Hobbs

Richard Hobbs (Dick) unexpectedly passed away on November 11, 2023 surrounded by his family.



Dick was born on June 4, 1945 in Oshkosh to Harold Sr. and Rosalie (Monroe) Hobbs. Dick met the love of his life, Billie Van Malsen. Dick and Billie were married on December 21, 1966.

They went on to raise two daughters and six grandchildren.

Dick proudly served in the U. S. Army during the Vietnam War from 1966-1968. He was stationed at Fort Sill, OK where he trained soldiers in artillery combat. In Dick's younger years he loved to race cars and his love of cars continued throughout his life. He was a classic car enthusiast. Some of his happiest days were spent cruising in whatever car was lucky enough to have him as its owner. The '55 Chevy was one of his favorites, but he graduated to the Corvette in his retirement.

He was a hard-worker and had a long

career in the water conditioning business. He retired from Culligan in 2012 and has since enjoyed time with his family. Dick was a loyal and faithful husband and family man who always did the right thing.

Towards the end of his life, he joined the Catholic Church with Billie and never missed a week.

Dick is survived by his loving wife Billie, his two daughters, Jodi (Mike) Blank of Neenah, Nicole (Gary) Meyer, Neenah; a brother Harold Jr. (Judy) Hobbs of Appleton; his grandchildren, Braiden, Rylin, Liz, Alex, Colton and Nora. He is further survived by sister-in-law Robin (Rob) Thayer, and many other aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A Christian Mass will be celebrated for Dick on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 12:00 pm in St. Peter's Parish Most Blessed Sacrament, 435 High St., in Oshkosh with Father Jerry as celebrant. A time of visitation will be held at church prior to the mass starting at 10:00 am until the time of Mass, followed by military honors.



June 16, 2014. They had a wonderful and happy marriage.

Beverly is survived by her two sisters, Carol Soffa and Donna Draves; 12 nieces and nephews; numerous grandnephews and six grandnieces; several great-grandnieces and nephews and some great-great grandnieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and her husband, Beverly was preceded in death by her sister, Arlene (Henry) Winkler; father and mother-in-law, Roy, and Esther Rose; Brothers, Milton, and David Munding; brothers-in-law Edwin Soffa and Dale Draves; nephews Timothy (Sandy) Winkler and John Munding.

A funeral service for Beverly will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church (370 Bowen St) on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at 2PM. A visitation will be held from 12PM until the time of service. A burial will take place at Riverside Cemetery.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Bella Vista, especially Haley, Valerie, Maren, Genesis, and Lora, and staff from Compassus Health, especially, Julie and Stephanie.



Randall E. Zakrzewski

Randall E. Zakrzewski, age 80 of Oshkosh, passed away on Monday, November 20, 2023.



He was born in Milwaukee on March 26, 1943 to the late Edwin and Sylwestra (Nowicki) Zakrzewski. He married Linda Niederstadt and together had two children.

After a brief career with the Milwaukee Police Department and also serving with the Marine Corps Reserves for over 5 years, he began his 40 year career with Staff Electric company as a journeyman electrician. After retirement he spent the last 15 years helping people in the electrical department of the local Menards.

Randy was best known for his love of crossword puzzles and sipping a hot cup of coffee. He had a love for travel, especially to the white sand beaches of St. Maarten.

Randy is survived by his wife of 53 years, Linda Zakrzewski; children, Lisa

(Ed) Korevec and Jason Zakrzewski; grandchildren, Billy and Addison; brother, Curt Zakrzewski.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Glenn and Les Zakrzewski.

A memorial service for Randy will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Dr. on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 11:00 am officiated by Fr. Tom Long. Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 9:00 am until the time of the service.

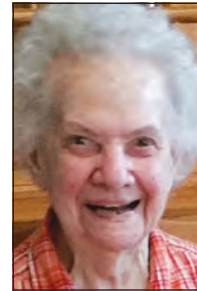
In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Good Samaritan Catholic Community Fund and sent to St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church, 830 S. Westhaven Dr. in Randy's name.

Thank you to the compassionate staff of Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport emergency team, as well as the staff of St. Lukes Medical Center for the compassionate care provided to Randy and his family.



Frances Hixon

Frances Hixon, left this world November 14, 2023, surrounded by God's merciful love and peace.



She lived a long life and spent much of it helping others. Frances' career included telegraph operator for the railroad during World War II, and telephone operator in Dallas, where she

met a co-worker who traded shifts with her one night in exchange for her going on a blind date with the co-worker's brother. She married that blind date, and his military career took her around the country and introduced her to lifelong friends, returning at last to her native Texas.

She retired from food service work in her local school district. Frances moved

to Oshkosh in 2012, to be near her daughter, Brenda. With her experience in food service and her legacy of helping others, Frances was always interested in knowing what was happening at the local Salvation Army kitchen.

Her remains are going home to Texas in the spring, where her family and friends will gather to celebrate her life and mourn our loss. Those remains will be reunited with her husband, Burton, and her daughter, Sharon, as she is now celebrating her reunion with them and so many other friends and family who've gone on before.

If you'd like to mark her memory with a donation to the Oshkosh Salvation Army kitchen, she would have liked that. Oshkosh Salvation Army Kitchen, 417 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

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Beverly J. Rose

Beverly J. Rose, age 91, passed away on Monday, November 20, 2023, at Bella Vista. She was born to the late Alvin and Esther (Behm) Munding on December 1, 1931, in Oshkosh, WI.

Beverly worked as a clerk at JJ Newberry then later taking a clerk position with Wisc. Bell Telephone Company where she worked for over 31 years before her retirement. She was a member at Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church since she was 4 years old. She was baptized Bethlehem Lutheran Church. She was a member of the Jr Choir for several years and served on the church board and alter committee. Beverly was a member of the Dorcas circle, the Marine Corps League Auxiliary, and the American Legion Auxiliary. She bowled on the Wisc. Bell Bowling Team and golfed on the Thursday morning league at Far Vu. Beverly enjoyed going out to lunch with her sisters, niece, and friends. She also enjoyed family get togethers, especially Thanksgivings at Tim and Jeanie's house with family.

Beverly met the love of her world, Roger P. Rose on Labor Day 1952. They were married on October 11, 1958, and were together for 55 years until Rogers passing on

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Obituaries

Robert James Albright, Sr.

February 9, 1940 to November 20, 2023

There's no doubt about it – dad is going to be very mad about the fact that we're penning this obituary. Saying goodbye to a life he so dearly loved was something he did not want to do—absolutely not—but after a brief and difficult illness and a debilitating fall at home, it was time to allow him to sail away from us at age 83. And when we say “us”, we mean everyone who loved him. We felt that collective love throughout this past month, and are sincerely grateful for every bit of it.

Bob was the third child born to Herbert and Marie (Erdman) Albright, entering the world on a cold February 9th day, 1940. There was no hospital for Bobby though, he came into the world at home, on his family's farm in Borth. His parents and two siblings—Arden and Arlene—were there to welcome him. Herbert worked as a journeyman carpenter and Marie worked on the farm to help support the family.

That farm in Borth likely began Bob's deep appreciation for small-town, Wisconsin life. Though he would travel many times in adulthood, he was most content with the simple pleasures life in the Midwest afforded him. He really loved it here.

Bob attended a one room schoolhouse in Borth until his family moved to Oshkosh during his grade school years. He went on to Dale, then Merrill schools, and graduated from Oshkosh High School in 1957. He attended UW-Oshkosh for three years, then entered the Army National Guard and was activated to service during the Berlin Crisis.

In addition to serving his country, Bob also worked diligently in the family business—Albright & Sons—along with his father and brother, practicing his skills as a journeyman mason.

In 1963 Bob married a young woman by the name of Nancy Glidden. Bob met Nancy through his older brother Arden; Arden bought a house next to Nancy's parents and she was their neighborhood babysitter (though she never really liked the job). The two hit it off, and the rest, as they say, is history. Bob and Nancy tied the knot on May 4, and remained married for 60 happy years.

Bob and Nancy had four children—Cary (Robert) Garofalo; Rebecca (Jim) LaDue; Robert Jr. (Amy) Albright and Michael Albright. He liked to have his family close by, clearly making that known, and ultimately had his immediate family around him for most of his happy life. Those four children gave him 10 grandchildren—Bob, Cal, Julia, Charlie, Libby, Cami, John, Victoria, Bobby, and Charlotte—and he liked them close by too, with endless Sunday suppers serving as weekly check-ins (and a good chance of scoring some homemade desserts).

Bob went on to own and operate R.J. Albright Construction for 53 years, the latter part of those years alongside his two sons, Bob and Mike. He was a guy who truly loved to work, and kept his hands full with an endless string of projects until his very last days. Nancy says it best when she describes him as a “builder, developer, property owner, and a man of many enterprises.” He can also be described as a man of few words, with a kind heart and a dedication to everything he did; he always showed up when you needed it.

But no matter how busy Bob kept him-

self between his rising hour of 4 a.m. and that night's sleep (his son Bob Jr. claims his superpower was “to just keep going”) he loved making time for his friends. And he had a lot of them—from the fearsome foursome of his younger years to his bar/card buddies at Tilly's, or his Circle of Knowledge group in the village—he would find you for a sit and a visit over a black coffee or a “white gas” (always a tub, never a pint...that's just more soda, not booze). We know how much he'll miss that—and how much he'll be missed.

A visitation for Bob will be on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at Mueller Funeral Home 904 E. Main St. Winneconne, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with services beginning at 1:00 p.m. A private burial will follow in the Winneconne Cemetery with a Celebration of Life at the Fin 'n' Feather immediately following the services.

If you wish, please submit online condolences/memories to muellerfh.net.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be directed to the Albright Next Generation Fund within the Winneconne Area Community Foundation (<https://tinyurl.com/27zys257>).

The family sincerely thanks the staff members of ThedaCare Regional Medical Center for their kind care of Bob during these last weeks, most especially Dr. Hamed, nurses Jean and Lisa and hospice nurse Jolene Hasse.

“Like a rock, I was strong as I could be
Like a rock, nothin' ever got to me
Like a rock, I was something to see
Like a rock.”

Mueller Funeral Home
904 E. Main Street
Winneconne, WI 54986
920-582-4242



Roger J. Loos

Roger J. Loos, age 82, passed away surrounded by family members on Friday, November 17, 2023. He was born on November 28, 1940 in Oshkosh to Emil Loos and Bernette (Matsche) Loos.

Roger was a very talented musician and was occasionally hired as a background player for famous performers, including Johnny Cash and Frankie Avalon. He was featured as the “World's Fastest Saxophone Player” on the Knight Records 7” 45 RPM recording of “Yakety Sax Express” with the traveling band “Golden Catalinas” in 1965. He was also a member of several other local Oshkosh bands, including “Corrugated Glass” and “Sundance” for many years.

Roger was a man of all trades, a very good cook, and a huge fan of the outdoors; he enjoyed fishing, traveling to scenic parts of the US and Canada, and,

most recently, took great pleasure in going on daily drives down to the shore of Lake Winnebago in various Fox Valley cities.

Roger was preceded in death by his wife, Betty (Schmude) Loos; his parents; his son, James Roger Loos; his brothers, Thomas Loos, and Gerald Loos.

He is survived by his children, Scott Loos, Randee (Eberhard) Loos-Herzog, Laurie (Michael) Drexler, Jason (JJ) Loos, Jennifer (Christopher) Stelzner, and Nathan (Katarina) Loos; his grandchildren, Nicolas (Mimi) Herzog, Nathaniel Stelzner, Joshua Stelzner; and his great grandchildren, Eleanora Herzog and Bennet Herzog. He is further survived by his siblings, Robert (Sandy) Loos, Howard (Kathleen) Loos, Arthur (Roni) Loos, Christine Schroeder, Jeffrey (Kathy) Loos, Janet (Dennis) Radig; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A private memorial will be held for close friends and family at a later date.



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Obituaries

Clyde W. Zielke

Clyde W. Zielke, age 98, passed away at Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh, WI on Friday, November 17, 2023. Clyde was born on July 8, 1925, in Oshkosh, WI, the son of the late William G. and Gertrude M. (Baker) Zielke. He married Rose Mary Grunwald, April 23, 1994. Rose Mary passed away on February 19, 2019.

Clyde graduated from Oshkosh Senior High School in June 1943, then attended Marquette University for a semester and a half when he entered the United States Army to serve in World War II. His army stint as a corporal included war service in France and Germany. After the war, he attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After graduating as a Chemical engineer, he worked for Consal energy for 33+ years in the Pittsburgh, PA area. There he did research work which encompassed coal desulfurization, coal gasification, coal liquefaction, and coal combustion. He had many publications and patents related to his research work that he authored or reauthored. Clyde retired from Consal energy in 1985 and return to Oshkosh to live in 1988.

Clyde was a member of Martin Luther Church in Oshkosh from birth to

age 26 and after returning to Oshkosh in 1988. He taught Sunday school, served as church treasurer for a time, served on the trust committee, and attended Bible class for many years in addition to counting money contributions.

Clyde like fishing, boating, bowling, golfing, and attending Packer games in Green Bay. He had especially fond memories of fishing with his dad and helping his mother. Clyde also loved to travel and had many trips and ocean and river cruises with his beloved wife, Rose Mary.

Clyde was preceded in death by his wife, his sister is Evelyn Lehner, and Violet Zielke of Oshkosh, Myra Behm of Neenah, Ethel Crane of San Clemente, CA; nephew, Thomas Lehner of Oshkosh and stepsons, Gerald (Christine) and Mark (Susan) Grunwald.

Clyde is survived by his stepson's, Thomas (Diane) and Timothy Grunwald. He's also survived by one brother-in-law, Al Vandenberg of Green Bay as well as niece, Carol Casse' and nephews Michael, Peter, and William Crane.

A funeral service for Clyde will be held at Martin Luther Church on Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 11 AM. Rev. Tom Voss will be officiating the service. A time of visitation will be held from 10 AM until the time of service. A burial will follow at Lake View Memorial Park.



Blaize M. Turzinski

Blaize M. Turzinski, age 15, passed away due to an accident on Friday, November 17, 2023. He was born to Josh Turzinski and Trisha Benbo on January 27, 2008, in Oshkosh.



Blaize was a Sophomore at Omro High School. He also had a part time job at Shady KR Farms (Kevin and Kim Radloff) and he loved working around the farm with Aaron Radloff. Blaize was looking forward to exploring a possible career in auto body and pulling car frames.

Blaize enjoyed spending time outside with friends and family especially camping, biking and swimming in the family pool, and really loved wearing his boots and working on and riding his 4 wheelers and dirt bike. He had a true passion for trail riding, goofing around with friends in the yard and trying out tricks at the track. From Legos, tiny magnets, and Rubik's cubes, to drawing and tinkering with engines Blaize was always on the move. He spent lots of time creating things with his 3-D printers after becoming interested in them through his Fab Lab class his freshman year and was working on a model car he was especially proud of in the weeks preceding his passing.

Throughout his school years Blaize was involved in Football, Baseball and Band where he played the trumpet.

Blaize spent a lot of time in the shop working on project vehicles with his dad. He was very excited about getting his driver's license so he could show off his first truck, a project they were building together. Blaize was also a great carpenter and recently helped to build his mom her dream she-shed. When not busy with some project Blaize enjoyed playing video games and snuggling with his sister for movie nights.

Blaize is survived by his parents, Josh and Trisha, and his little sister, Shelby Turzinski. Blaize is also survived by his grandparents, Linda Renner and Steve and Judy Turzinski, loving aunts and uncles, many great-aunts and uncles, cousins and so many wonderful friends as well as his four-legged fur babies.

Blaize is preceded in death by his grandfather's Andy Ritchie and Dennis Renner.

A celebration of Blaize's life will be held from 12PM until 3PM on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Homes-Westside (100 Lake Pointe Dr).

In lieu of flowers and other keepsakes, donations given will be used to plant a tree at Omro High School in memory of Blaize and a scholarship will be established in his name.

The world is a little less bright now and Blaize will be deeply and forever missed by many. Fly High Buddy.



Gwen Panske

Gwen Panske, age 65, passed away on November 16, 2023, in Oshkosh. She was born on January 4, 1958, to the late Vincent and Barbara (Krueger) Panske.



Gwen adored the trip she took to New Orleans with her mother and sister. Immersed in the vibrant music and rich culture, they created treasured memories that would be cherished forever. Gwen also found solace and tranquility in nature. Whether it was spending peaceful hours at Menominee Park or immersing herself in the beauty of Lake Winnebago, the serenity of these places filled her soul

with joy. With her warm and compassionate nature, Gwen was always ready to lend a helping hand to those in need. Gwen will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Gwen is survived by her sisters: Cindy (Wayne) Simpson, Crystal (Scott Morrell) Panske-Morrell; brothers: Guy, Gaylord (Sherry), and Greg (Marian) Panske; and seven grandchildren: Keagan, Ryley (Chelsea), Ethan (Jordan), Hunter (Brittney), Hailey (Malik), Brock (Abby), and Brice (Ashlyn). She was further preceded in death by her daughter, Angelique "Angie" Remer.

Private services were held. She is at peace at last.



Conrad A. Wald

Conrad A Wald, age 21, of Oshkosh, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday November 15, 2023 in Oshkosh.

Funeral services for Conrad were held in Fiss & Bills-Poklasny Funeral Home on Saturday November 22.



Vern Klicko

Vern Klicko, 96, of Oshkosh, passed away on November 23rd, 2023.

He is survived by his daughter Lori Klicko as well as extended family and friends.

Details at Konrad-Behlman.com.



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Is it catching?

There are ways we can try to avoid catching a cold and the flu, like washing our hands and getting vaccinated.

But, there is something you can't stop yourself from catching.

What is it? It's **YAWNING!**

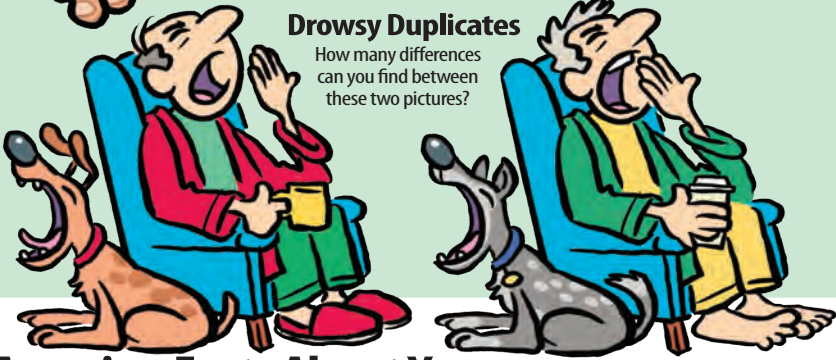
Give it a try! Start yawning and watch to see if people around you start to yawn. Even reading about yawning can sometimes cause a person to yawn. Are **you** starting to yawn yet?

Animals Yawn, Too!

Many animals also yawn. And some animals "catch" yawning from each other. Some people say when they yawn, their dog will often yawn, too.

Drowsy Duplicates

How many differences can you find between these two pictures?



Amazing Facts About Yawns

Use the secret code to reveal these facts!

How long does the average human yawn last?

8 18 3 8 22 24 12 13 23 8



The longest known yawn was made by a small Pomeranian dog named Belle. How long did her yawn last?

7 4 22 13 7 2 7 19 9 22 22 14 18 13 6 7 22 8



What time of year do people yawn the most?

4 18 13 7 22 9

SECRET CODE

- 26=A
- 25=B
- 24=C
- 23=D
- 22=E
- 21=F
- 20=G
- 19=H
- 18=I
- 17=J
- 16=K
- 15=L
- 14=M
- 13=N
- 12=O
- 11=P
- 10=Q
- 9=R
- 8=S
- 7=T
- 6=U
- 5=V
- 4=W
- 3=X
- 2=Y
- 1=Z



What is the study of yawning called?

Do giraffes yawn? So far, they've never been observed yawning by scientists.



Kid Scoop Puzzler

Number the paragraph parts in order to reveal facts about hippopotamus yawns.



- off their long, sharp teeth.
- When a hippopotamus
- noise when they yawn. This
- sign. Hippos yawn to show
- They also make a very loud
- is to scare off predators.
- yawns, it is a warning

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Understand informational text.

Double Double Word Search

- AIR
- BALANCE
- COLD
- DOG
- DROWSY
- EARS
- FACTS
- FLU
- LAST
- LOUD
- PRESSURE
- WINTER
- WORDS
- YAWN
- YEAR

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

```

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

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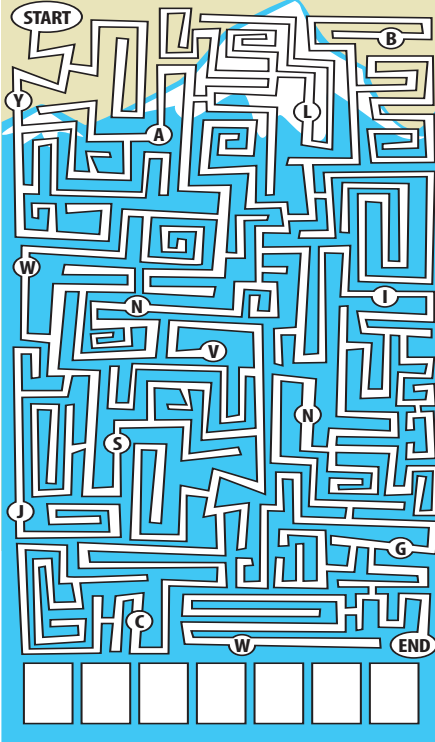
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Popping Ears

If you have traveled into the mountains, or taken an airplane ride you may have noticed your ears feeling plugged up or even hurting.

The air pressure in higher altitudes is lower than the air pressure in lower altitudes. When the pressure of the air inside your ears and outside are different, you feel a bit plugged up.

What can help balance the inside and outside pressure? The letters along the correct path reveal the answer.



Extra! Extra!

Large and Loud

Large and Loud both start with the letter 'L'. When more than one word in a sentence starts with the same letter, that is called an alliteration. Look through the newspaper for words that start with the same letter. Use these words to write a new sentence.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify alliteration in text.

Kid Scoop Together

Proof It

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Circle the five errors in the article below. Then, rewrite the article correctly on the blank lines.

Do your eyes close when you yawn?

Your eyes will usuallee close or squint during a yawn. The bigger the yawn, the more tightly your eyes squeeze clozed.

By forcing your eyes to stay opens, you can actually stop or slow down a yawns.

Scientists think closing the eyes helps the muscles in your face to relaxed, making it possible to yawn bigger.

Blank lines for rewriting the article.

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Yawn!

One day, I yawned REALLY big and ... Finish this story.

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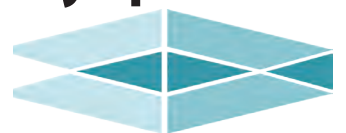
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